

Analysis of Entrepreneurship Development in Agriculture among Small Scale Farmers in Taraba State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study explores entrepreneurship development in agriculture among small-scale farmers in Taraba State, with a focus on bridging the gap of dearth in research, knowledge and literature on agribusiness development in this part of North Eastern Nigeria. One hundred and fifty agribusiness entrepreneurs were selected using multi-stage random sampling technique. Data was collected from respondents using a validated and tested structured interview schedule with a reliability coefficient of 0.78 based on Cronbach Alpha formula. Four research questions guided the study. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistical tools and measure of central tendency. Result of the analysis revealed that personal intension, need for autonomy and displacement as well as disruption in life constitute the key drive to entrepreneurship development in the study area. Agribusiness Entrepreneurship enterprises have been invaluable to small scale farmers in the state. However, the Study identified poor access to entrepreneurship information, inadequate start-up capital and reoccurrence of ethno religious violence in many parts of the state as major impediment to entrepreneurship development in Agriculture in the area. Despite this shortcomings small scale farmers perceived their extent of entrepreneurship drive and participation to be high ($\bar{x}=2.80$). It was therefore recommended that effective and adequate entrepreneurship policies and programmes should be developed for farmers while urgently addressing the negative factors that hinder its growth and development in the area. Fostering entrepreneurship education at all levels to ensure capacity building for diverse enterprises in agriculture was also advocated. Ultimately, government at all levels and private sector support fund is necessary to enhance entrepreneurship spirit and development among farmers in the area. Most importantly urgent measures should be taken to curb the destructive activities of the Fulani cattle herdsmen so as to create a peaceful environment for agribusiness investors in Taraba state, Nigeria.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Agriculture, Small Scale farmers

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is naturally endowed with Agro entrepreneurship opportunities; however the realization of the full potential of these opportunities has been dampened by the adoption of inappropriate industrialization policies at different times and neglect of the small scale farmers who are the axis by which the agrarian economy revolve. Several policy interventions that were aimed at stimulating entrepreneurship development via small and medium scale enterprises promotion, based on technology transfer strategy, have failed to achieve the desired goals as it led to the most indigenous agro entrepreneurs becoming distribution agents of imported agricultural products rather than navigating to the track of rebuilding a sector whose relevance had shrunk dramatically reflecting in the lack of lending to farmers by the financial system and the dramatic levels of food imports from across the world. Agro entrepreneurial capacity of the small scale farmers for agro processing, mechanized agriculture, post-harvest management, fish and aquaculture systems, animal management including apiculture must be a top priority so as to eradicating waste and ensure import substitution, wealth creation, employment generation and food security (Adeoye, 2015)

Virtually the whole world has embraced free enterprise economic system. Entrepreneurship is the cornerstone and at the heart of the free enterprise economy (Popoola, 2014). Entrepreneurship is an activity that involves the discovery, evaluation and exploitation of opportunities to introduce new goods and services, ways of organizing, markets, processes, and raw materials through organizing efforts that previously had not existed (Shane and Venkataraman, 2000). Beetseh and Ahima (2012) posit that, the present situation in Nigeria poses serious threats and challenges to both government and well-meaning citizens. The problems facing the country center on high rate of poverty; youth and graduate unemployment; over-dependence on foreign goods and technology; low economic growth and development; among others.

The term entrepreneurship is used to describe a dynamic process of creating incremental wealth (Pulka *et al.*, 2014). This wealth is created by individuals who take the major risks in terms of equity, time and career commitment of providing value to some product and services, the product and service itself may or may not be new or unique but value must somehow be infused by the entrepreneur by securing and allocating the necessary skills and resources. In other words entrepreneurship is the application of energy for initiating and building an enterprise (Uzezi, 2014). Presently, in Nigeria an entrepreneur is an innovator who recognizes and seizes opportunities, converts those opportunities into workable ideas, adds value, effort, money, skills and assumes risks of competition to actualize the ideas and takes the reward.

Entrepreneurship is associated with innovative and dynamic developments within the Small, Micro and Medium Enterprise sector (United State Department of Agriculture, 2011). Therefore, entrepreneurship is a charismatic concept, widely used and widely defined; for example, as a creative and innovative response to the environment (Jarkko *et al.*, 2006). Onubogu and Esiobu (2014) opined that sustainable development of agribusiness requires the development of entrepreneurial and organizational competency in farmers. Developing entrepreneurial skills of farmers can take two tracks. The first is to amend the social, economic, political, and cultural frameworks that hinders, and foster those that stimulate their development. The second is encouragement of farmers, via their personalities and capabilities, to kindle the development of entrepreneurship. If farming competitiveness is to be improved by nurturing entrepreneurial behaviour, both tracks have to be considered. The improvement of entrepreneurial skills in agriculture is an important condition to generate sustainable rural development (Yaro, Gadu and Pev, 2016). If entrepreneurship is an instrument for improving the quality of life for families and communities, and for sustaining a fit economy and environment, fostering entrepreneurship skill must be regarded as an

urgently needed development component (Jarkko *et al.*, 2006). Raising entrepreneurial activity could therefore play a considerable role in promoting economic development in Taraba State. Though government development programmes are put in place to promote entrepreneurship, most agribusinesses are still encountering challenges in Taraba State such as ethno religious violence and terrorist activities of the Fulani cattle herdsman which are fast crippling the entrepreneurial activities of small scale farmers in the state. Pev (2014) recommended that the implementation of entrepreneurship Curriculum in schools in Taraba State may resolve this mayhem. Corrective measures should seek to boost the farmer's levels of entrepreneurship, adopting the most appropriate approach for producing more entrepreneurs and for getting more agribusinesses to grow. Encouraging and releasing people's entrepreneurial energies are essential keys to the achievement of greater economic prosperity in Taraba State and to the continuing regeneration of its economy over time.

Farauta, Yaro and Pev (2015) reported that the objective of farmers in the study area includes family consumption, for profit making, for leisure, to secure a piece of land property, for prestige and for food security. In the same vein, among all these objectives, profit making which involves market orientation can encourage entrepreneurial development among farmers in Taraba State. However, empirical findings of Umar, Nyameh and Jauro (2014) on agricultural management strategy on food security reveals that production for market is yet to be given adequate attention among the farmers in Taraba State. Nevertheless, most of the established entrepreneurship activities in the study area are unable to grow and formalize into viable agribusinesses. There is still a growing trend of these established agribusinesses falling off before even reaching its maturity stage. Many entrepreneurship enterprises fail to grow beyond the typical marginal existence despite the evident support available from government, private and non-governmental institutions. The challenge in the study area lies in assessing the level of

entrepreneurial drives, and key factors that would constitute a framework which can be used as a basis for building a climate in which entrepreneurial initiatives can thrive.

In Taraba State we do not know farmers socio-economic characteristics, farmer's extent of entrepreneurship drive in agribusiness enterprise, farmers' extent of intent to be involved in agricultural production and factors that influence entrepreneurship in agribusiness enterprise in the study area. Constraints to entrepreneurship development drive in agribusiness enterprise are also not known in the area. Besides, the empirical evidences emerging from few studies on entrepreneurship development in agriculture among farmers yielded mixed results that are inconclusive and contradictory (Jarkko *et al.*, 2006. Pev, 2015, Pulka *et al.*, 2014, Nwibo and Okorie, 2013).

Thus, there is need for an enquiry on entrepreneurship development in agriculture among farmers in Taraba State, Nigeria. Also, empirical evidence remains largely scanty, isolated and devoid of in-depth analysis of the entrepreneurship development in agriculture among Small scale farmers in Taraba State. This creates a deep dearth in research, knowledge and literature. Hence, to fill this gap, it becomes necessary that the study is undertaken.

The main purpose of this Study is to critically analyze entrepreneurship development in agriculture among small scale farmers in Taraba State. Specifically, the study:

1. Identified the socio-economic characteristics of farmers in the Taraba state.
2. Identified the extent of entrepreneurship intent and drive in agribusiness in Taraba state.
3. Ascertained the extent of intent to be involved in agricultural production in Taraba state.

4. Identified constraints to entrepreneurship development drive in agribusiness in Taraba state.

Research Questions

The Study attempt to answer the following research questions:

- I. What are the socio-economic characteristics of small scale farmers in Taraba state?
- II. What are the extent of entrepreneurship intent and drive among small scale farmers in agribusiness in Taraba state?
- III. To what extent have the small scale farmers intent to be involved in agricultural production in Taraba state?
- IV. What are the constraints to entrepreneurship development drive in agribusiness among small scale farmers in Taraba state?

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Taraba State of Nigeria. Taraba State is located in the North Eastern geopolitical zone of Nigeria. It is delineated into 16 local government areas and one special development Area. It is divided into three Agricultural zones: North, South and Central. These divisions are for administrative and extension services. The State had a population of about 2,300,736 people as at 2006 (NPC 2006). It lies between latitudes 6° 30'N and 8° 30'N of the Equator and between longitudes 9°E and 12°E of the Greenwich Meridian with a land mass of 54,426 km² (Oruonye and Bashir 2011). Taraba State shares boundaries with Bauchi and Gombe States in the North, Adamawa State in the East and Republic of Cameroun in the South and Nasarawa and Benue States in the South-West. It has a tropical wet and dry seasons, well drained alluvial soils, characterized by both savannah and temperate vegetation. Its dry season lasts for a minimum of five months (November to March) while the wet season spans early March to late November in the south and early April to November in the North. The mean annual rainfall ranges from 1000mm in the

northern part to over 1800mm in the extreme southern part and Mambila area (Oruonye and Bashir 2011)

Multistage random sampling technique was used for the study. First, the three agricultural zones of the State were selected. In each agricultural zone, two local government areas (LGAs) were randomly selected. In each of the selected LGA, five communities were randomly selected. Five entrepreneur farmers were randomly selected in each of the community to give a sample size of one hundred and fifty entrepreneur farmers for the study. The list of farmers in the communities, which forms the sample frame, was obtained from extension agents and community head in the communities. Primary and secondary data were used for the study. Primary data was collected through the use of a set of structured interview schedule which was validated by one expert each in Agricultural education, Agricultural extension and Agricultural economics at College of Education, Zing, Taraba Agricultural Development Programme, Jalingo and Federal University Wukari respectively. Cronbach alpa formula was used to determine the internal consistency of the instrument which gave a reliability coefficient of 0.78. The research instrument was pilot tested on fifteen randomly selected small scale farmers which were not included in the main study. Primary data collected for the study include; the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers, extent of entrepreneurship intent and drive in agribusiness, extent of intent to be involved in agricultural production and constraints to entrepreneurship development drive in the study area. Secondary data was obtained from impact journals, conference proceedings and online library. Descriptive statistics namely; frequency distribution, percentages, 3-point scale rating of highly (3), moderately (2) and low (1), flow chart and means were used for the analyses of the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research Question 1

What are the socio-economic characteristics of small scale farmers in Taraba state? From the results of the study displayed in Table 1, different socio economic variables of the respondents ranging from age distribution to farm size revealed that majority (65.33%) of the farmers fell within the age range of 41-50 years; about 31.33% fell within the age range of less than 40 years while small proportion (3.33%) fell within the age range of 51-60 years. The mean age was 38years. The finding corroborated with Farauta, Yaro and Pev (2015) who asserted that this age bracket combined the innovative, motivated and adoptable individuals. Since most of the farmers are in their productive and economic ages this could play a vital role in easy adoption of entrepreneurship skills in agribusiness in the area. The distribution of farmers according to gender is also complied in Table 1. It showed majority (80%) of the farmers are males while approximately 20% were females. This implies that both genders are involved in agribusiness production in the area but male have greater proportion. The finding is also in line with Farauta, Yaro and Pev (2015) who reported that male constitute a greater proportion of gender involved in Farming in Taraba State, Nigeria. This could be attributed to the traditional right of dominance the males have over females on issues like land acquisition and other production factors. Also, having more males in the agribusiness offers a bright hope for entrepreneurship development since men tend to be more ready to undertake some energy and risk demanding ventures of agribusiness enterprises (Pev, 2015). Egbe-Okpenge and Orhungur (2012) observed that in most of the developing world, women form the bed rock of the society because of their entrepreneurship.

However, they are always at the receiving end of negative impact of any distressed economy and “that behind every successful man is a good woman”. So, gender issues in entrepreneurial development needs investigation in view of the crucial role of women in the society.

The distribution of farmers by educational level is also reported in Table 1. It revealed that 20% had no formal education, 40% of the farmers had secondary education, and about 26.67% had primary education, while the remaining 13.33% had acquired tertiary education. The result implies that approximately 80% of the farmers had trainings in formal education institutions which no doubt increases their literacy levels. This finding is in line with Yaro, Gadu and Pev (2016) who opine that education is the greatest force that can be used to bring changes in Agriculture among youths in Taraba state. The result also support the findings of Nwibo and Okorie (2013) as well as Onubuogu and Esiobu (2014) who reported that individuals with higher educational attainment are usually faster in adoption of improved farming technologies. The findings signified that the farmers have adequate educational background that is relevant for adoption of innovations and skills in entrepreneurship development. It is expected that the higher level of education will contribute significantly to decision making of the small scale farmers for entrepreneurship development.

Table: Socio economic Characteristics of Small Scale Farmers in Taraba State

Socioeconomic Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age (years)		
< 40	47	31.33
41-50	98	65.33
51-60	5	3.33
Total	150	100
Gender		
Male	120	80
Female	30	20
Total	150	100
Educational Level		
Non formal education	30	20.00
Primary	40	26.67
Secondary	60	40.00
Tertiary	20	13.33
Total	150	100
Marital Status		
Married	127	84.67
Single	15	10.00
Widow	8	5.33
Total	150	100
Farming Experience (Years)		
< 10	20	13.33
11– 19	96	64.00
>20	34	22.67
Total	150	100
Household Size (Number of Persons)		
1 – 5	32	21.33
6 – 10	118	78.67
Total	150	100
Membership of Cooperative Society		
Member	119	79.33
Non member	31	20.67
Total	150	100
Average Income (₦)		
<50,000	15	10.00
50,000 – 99,000	60	40.00
100,000 – 200,000	65	43.33
>200,000	10	6.67
Total	150	100
Farm size (Hectare)		
<1.0	10	6.67
1.0 – 2.0	90	60.00
2.0 – 3.0	35	23.33
>3.0	15	10.00
Total	150	100

Mean age = 38 years; Average Farming Experience = 16.1 years; Mean Household size = 7 persons; Average Annual Income = ₦114,000.00 (\$45.90); Average Farm Size = 1.9 Hectares

Entries in Table 1 also show the distribution of farmers by marital status. It indicates that majority (84.67%) of the farmers were married, 10% were single while 5.33% were widowed. This implies that the farmers who were engaged in farming enterprises in the area have a relatively large household size that formed bulk of the farm labour demand of the households. Farauta *et al.*, (2015) opined that large household increases easy access to production variables such as labour which could enhance entrepreneurship development in agribusiness in the area. The distribution of farmers according to their farming experience is also addressed in Table 1. It revealed that majority (64%) of the farmers had 11 - 19 years of farming experience, 13.33% had less than 10 years of farming experience while 22.67% had over 20 years of farming experience in agribusiness in the area. The mean farming experience was 16.1 years. The study implies farmers in the area have a relatively high farming experience which would enhance easy adoption of innovations and skills for entrepreneurship development. This finding supports the study of Okoli *et al.*, (2014) who asserted that farmers with more experience in agribusiness would be more efficient, have better knowledge of climatic conditions, better knowledge of efficient allocation of resources and market situation and are thus, expected to run a more efficient and profitable enterprise. The distribution of farmers according to their household size is also seen in Table 1. It shows that majority (78.67%) of the farmers had household size of 6-10 persons while about 21.33% had household size of 1-5 persons. The mean household size was 6 persons. This implies that farmers in the study area have a large household size. Farauta *et al.* (2015) asserted that large household size ensures availability of labour for farmers to address their labour challenges. The distribution of farmers according to their membership of cooperative society is reported in Table 1. It revealed that majority

(79.33%) of the farmers in the area are members of cooperative while about 20.67% of the farmers do not belong to cooperative society. Esiobu, Onubuogu, and Ibe (2015) asserted that membership of cooperative society affords farmers the opportunity of sharing information on modern farming practices and project a collective demand. It is expected that membership of cooperative society will enhance farmers participation in entrepreneurial activities in agriculture in the area.

The distribution of farmers according to their average annual farm income is shown in Table 1. It revealed that majority (43.33%) of the farmers in the study area have an average farm income between ₦100,000 – ₦200,000, about 40% had an average farm income between ₦50,000 – ₦99,000 approximately 6.67% had an average of over ₦200,000 while about 10% have an average farm income of less than ₦50,000 respectively. The mean monthly farm income was ₦114,000.00(\$45.90). The result implied that the farmers are low income earners in spite of their large family size. However, Nwibo and Okorie (2013) opined that farmers with higher farm income would easily be involved in entrepreneur activities than those of their counterpart who have poor farm income. Farm size distribution of the farmers is also complied in Table 1. It indicates that larger proportion (60%) of the farmers in the study area had a farm size of between 1-2hectares; about 6.67% had a farm size of less than 1.0 hectare, while approximately 23.33% had farm size of 2 - 3 hectares and 10% of the sampled farmers had a farm size of greater than 3 hectares. The mean farm size was 1.9 hectares. The findings implies that farmers in the area are mainly smallholders operating on less than or equal to 2.0 hectares of farmland. This could be as a result of land tenure system or due to the increasing population in the area. However, large farm size is an important component of entrepreneurial success. Esiobu, Onubuogu and Ibe (2015) asserted that large farm size increases agricultural productivity and improves farmer's technical, allocative and resource use efficiency.

Hence large farm size is a positive variable for entrepreneurship development in agribusiness in the study area.

Research Question 2

What are the extent of entrepreneurship intent and drive among small scale farmers in agribusiness in Taraba state? Entries in Table 2 revealed small scale farmers' entrepreneurship intent and drive in agribusiness in the study area. The entrepreneurship drive in agribusiness for this study were based on asking farmers about their perceptions on entrepreneurship and what drives them to pursue entrepreneurial activities. The various drive in agribusiness that farmers reported may be profit or economic driven, rather than entrepreneurial driven.

Regardless of this dearth in knowledge, the study assumed that small scale farmer's actions were purely based on entrepreneurship driven rather than profit maximization in the study area. The findings revealed that personal intension, wanting autonomy, unstable income, displacement and disruption in life, self-realization, access to good source of fund, cooperative society support for entrepreneurs, access to huge labour, distance between home location and market area, and entrepreneurship experience and training in agribusiness were the most commonly entrepreneurial drive in agribusiness in the study as 90.00%, 86.67%, 84.67%, 73.33%, 66.67%, 62.00%, 56.00%, 53.33%, 51.33% and 50.00% of the farmers in the area respectively identified it. The positive identification of all the above drives may be attributed to the need for self-realization, experience in entrepreneurial activities, training in entrepreneurial activities, good home location, access to substantial source of fund and little or no distance between home location and market area which could enhance positive decision to pick up entrepreneurial enterprise in agribusiness in the study area.

The findings corroborates with the studies of Jonathan &Anthony (2012) who opined that the closer to market of the household head, the ease and

less cost of transporting products to the market. The implication of the finding is that increase in the above drive would automatically increase farmer's entrepreneurial drive in agribusiness in the study area. However, propensity for risk-taking, entrepreneurial opportunity, debt, access to farmland, encouraging enabling environment, and government support for entrepreneurs and access, encouraging entrepreneurial information were poorly rated in the study area. The negative identification of all the above drives may be attributed to poor access to farmland especially now that the Fulani herdsmen are in serious conflict over land resource control with farmers in Taraba state, poor entrepreneurial opportunity, poor government support, poor information, long distance between home location and market area as well as dearth in research on entrepreneurship development. The findings is in line with the studies of Umar, Nyameh and Jauro (2014) who asserted that poor entrepreneurial information and poor enabling environment is the bane of poor entrepreneurial development and drive in agribusiness among farmers in Taraba State. Ultimately, there is no doubt that all the drive farmers identified are key determinant of sustainable entrepreneurial development in agribusiness. Increase the most rated drives would promote self-realization; sustain agricultural production, enhance food security as well as alleviate rural poverty in the natures gifted state of the nation.

Table 2: Entrepreneurship Drive in Agribusiness

Drive for Entrepreneurship	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal intention	135	90.00
Wanting autonomy	130	86.67
Unstable Income	127	84.67
Displacement/disruption in life	110	73.33
Self-realization	100	66.67
Access to good source of fund	93	62.00
Cooperative support for entrepreneurs	84	56.00
Access to huge labour	80	53.33
Distance between home location and	77	51.33

market area		
Entrepreneurship experience/training in agribusiness	75	50.00
Rural location	70	46.67
Propensity for risk taking	54	36.00
Entrepreneurial opportunity	45	30.00
Debt	42	28.00
Access to farmland	30	20.00
Encouraging enabling environment	25	16.67
Government support for entrepreneurs	22	14.67
Access encouraging entrepreneurial information	15	10.00

Source: Field Survey Data 2017

Research Question 3

To what extent have the small scale farmers intent to be involved in agricultural production in Taraba state? Table 3 showed farmers level of entrepreneurial intent and drive in agribusiness in the study area. The levels of entrepreneurial drive in agribusiness for this study were based on interviewing farmers about their perceptions on their various rate of adoption of entrepreneurship behaviour in agribusiness. The assessments were rated in a three point scale of highly (3), moderately (2) and low (1). Means of the farmers in the area perceived their extent of entrepreneurship drive to be high ($\bar{x} = 2.55$), result of the analysis showed that a mean value of 0.20 were moderate in adoption of entrepreneurship behaviour in agribusiness, while a sample mean value of 0.05 of the farmers identified been fair in adoption of entrepreneurship behaviour in agribusiness in the area. The result shows that in spite of the poor enabling environment for entrepreneurial activities in Taraba State, farmers still adopt entrepreneurial activities. This finding is in line with the submission of Hamisu (2010) that there have been a consistent drive towards self-reliance in Taraba State perhaps, the continued dominance of government in the economy made rural entrepreneurship to look up to the government as the provider of labour and employment opportunities.

Most indigenes of the state did not think of self- emoluments as an alternative to government employment no doubt, the ever increasing level of unemployment and government policy on small-scale business development as well as galloping inflation of agricultural products in Taraba state has stimulated a favourable response by the private sector to the new entrepreneurial opportunities. The finding showed a greater hope for agriculture entrepreneurship development in the area. The implication of this finding is that when there is adequate enabling environment, good government and private sector support to these farmers, entrepreneurship spirit will sprout out in the area while problem of food security and rural poverty would be addressed.

Table 3: Distribution of Farmers Level of Entrepreneurship Drive in Agribusiness

Perception Levels	Frequency	Mean(\bar{x})	Remark
Highly	128	2.55	Accepted
Moderately	15	0.20	Rejected
Fairly	7	0.05	Rejected
Total/Grand mean (\bar{x})	150	2.80	Accepted

Source: Field Survey Data 2017

Research Question 4

What are the constraints to entrepreneurship development drive in agribusiness among small scale farmers in Taraba state? Results in Table 4 showed the barriers to entrepreneurship development drive in agribusiness.

Table 4: Distribution of Barriers to Entrepreneurship Development Drive in Agribusiness

Barriers	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Poor access to entrepreneurship information	140	93
Limited availability of farmland	122	81
Poor experience and training in entrepreneurship development	130	87
Long distance between home area and market area	47	31
Poor access to capital	128	85
Poor government support for entrepreneurs	105	70

Inability to cope with the task of entrepreneurship	32	21
Poor enabling environment	42	28
Poor road network	97	65
Poor managerial skills	45	30
Inability to withstand competition	23	15
Poor access to agricultural infrastructures	110	73
Poor government policies on entrepreneurial development	120	80
Poor access to market information	100	67

Source: Field Survey 2017

About 93% of the farmers identified poor access to entrepreneurship information in agribusiness as an impediment to entrepreneurship development in the area under Study. Information is a spice of life, thus lack of information could be attributed to dearth in research on entrepreneurship development in agribusiness, poor information dissemination on the part of the government and private information agencies on entrepreneurship building in the study area could lead to poor knowledge on appropriate entrepreneurship skills and development in agribusiness which may leave most of the farmers unaware of better skills to choose in entrepreneurship for agribusiness. 81% of the farmers complained of limited availability of farmland. This could be attributed to land tenure system which is prevalent in the study area as well as the increasing population and the terrorist activities of the Fulani herd's men and the prevalence of ethno religious crises in the study area. This finding is in conformity with the earlier submission of Hamisu (2010) that the communal land tenure system in northern Nigeria has a negative effect on rural agribusiness enterprises. Pev (2014) posit that the perennial Ethno religious violence in Taraba state are well conceived and executed by the indigenes which in the midst of abundant natural and human resources, high level of poverty and low level of development is still identified with the state. He recommended that implementation of entrepreneurship curriculum in Taraba state secondary schools may be a solution to this mayhem.

The implication of the findings is that farmers may have the entrepreneurship spirit but limited availability of farmland would continue to be a discouraging factor. 87% of the sampled farmers complained of poor experience in entrepreneurship development. Approximately 31% of the farmers identified long distance between home area and market area. 85.00% complained of poor access to capital.

About 70% of the farmers identified poor government support for entrepreneurs. Approximately, 21% complained of Inability to cope with the task of entrepreneurship, while 28% identified poor enabling environment. The above barriers are all in line with the result of Hamisu (2010) who asserted that poor training in entrepreneurship development, long distance between home area and market area, poor access to capital, poor government support for entrepreneurs, inability to cope with the task of entrepreneurship and poor enabling environment has been the bane of poor entrepreneurship spirit and development among prospective entrepreneurs. Others, 65%, 30%, 15%, 73%, 80% and 67% complained of poor road network, poor managerial skills, and inability to withstand competition, poor access to agricultural infrastructures, poor government policies on entrepreneurial development and poor access to market information respectively. However, the finding tallies with the results of Esiobu, Onubuogu, and Ibe. (2015) who reported that barrier to farmer's entrepreneurs' development to include: poor management skills of farmers, lack of entrepreneurial spirit, and limited access to business support, farm tenancy agreements and regulation. They concluded that these barriers will differ for different farms depending on the personal and business characteristics of the individual farm and farmer. Similarly, Pev (2015) reported that in Taraba state, lack of motivation, lack of finance, inadequate management skills, poor infrastructure, and taxation deter both youths and retirees from venturing into entrepreneurship.

Justifying inadequate credit facilities as a constraint to entrepreneurial development Wever and Agbulu (2014) inferred that low productivity in

smallholder's poultry enterprise has led to limited market surplus which prevents the prospective poultry entrepreneurs from having enough cash to procure farm input and services. Again, Onubuogu, and Esiobu (2014) submitted that the formal financial intermediaries are not helping issues as most do refuse farmers from sourcing loan from their institutions due to lack of acceptable collateral, hence, branding the farmers as non-credit worthy. From the findings of this research there is no doubt that these barriers are responsible for poor entrepreneurial spirit of farmers in the area. Critically addressing these barriers will be important in achieving positive spirit for farmers entrepreneurship development in agribusiness, boost food security and reduce incidence of poverty in this part of north eastern Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

The nature's gift to the nation "Taraba State" has potentials for a fast growing, dynamic and prosperous agribusiness economy. However, the reality of Taraba state current situation is that major impediments to entrepreneurship development in agriculture among small scale farmers which are encapsulated into insecurity challenges are threatening the citadel of agribusiness enterprises from the cradle. Despite these shortcomings farmers perceived their extent of entrepreneurship drive and participation to be high. It was recommended that an articulated entrepreneurship policy for farmers should be developed and implemented by the Taraba State rescue team, while mechanism to curb negative factors that hinder growth and development of entrepreneurship in agriculture among small scale farmers should be in action.

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