TO EXAMINE YOUTH PERCEPTIONS ON THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHP. A STUDY OF WARD 1 AND 2 CHIKOMBA DISTICT.

Bindura University of Science Education

Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Science

Department of Agricultural Economics, Education and Extension

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Agricultural Science Honours Degree in Agricultural Economics and Management.

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Submitted in partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Agricultural Science Honors Degree in Agricultural Economics and Management.

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my whole family. Thank you for all your support.

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the research project entitled, "*to examine youth perceptions on their willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship. A case of Chikomba District Ward 1 and 2",* submitted to Bindura University of Science Education, Department of Agricultural Economics, Education and Extension is a record of an original work done by me and this work is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Bachelor of Agricultural Science Honors Degree in Agricultural Economics and Management. The results presented in this dissertation have not been submitted to any University or Institute for the award of any degree or diploma.

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ABSTRACT

The foundation of Zimbabwe's economy is agriculture, which also creates jobs, economic growth, and food security. But it has been beset by a number of issues, including an aging farmer population, urban migration, and the widespread belief that agriculture is an outdated and unappealing career path. To guarantee inclusive and sustainable agricultural growth, it's critical to investigate young people's perspectives on agricultural entrepreneurship. Identifying youth perceptions on their willingness to participate in Agricultural Entrepreneurship was the main aim of this study which was assessed in Chikomba District Ward 1 and 2. 80 youths out of a population of about 10,000 people were selected using the stratified random sampling. Quantitative and qualitative data was collected from the youths through the use of structured questionnaires. Multinomial logistic regression analysis model was used to identify factors influencing youth to participate in Agricultural entrepreneurship. The results show that Land ownership, Agro-machinery ownership, Background, and Locality are significant predictors of youth willingness to participate in agriculture-related entrepreneurship. Specifically, Land ownership (Chi-Square = 24.067, $p < 0.001$), Agro-machinery ownership (Chi-Square = 11.626, $p = 0.003$), Family background (Chi-Square = 7.603, $p = 0.022$), and Locality (Chi-Square = 16.143, $p < 0.001$) significantly improve the model fit. This suggests that youth who have access to land, own agricultural machinery, come from a relevant background, and reside in certain localities are more likely to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship. These factors are critical and should be prioritized in policies and support programs to enhance youth engagement in agriculture. Ranking and Scoring was the analytical tool used to identify challenges and barriers that are faced by the young entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector. Challenges like lack of information, with a mean of 4.3 and a standard deviation of 0.81753, indicating that most respondents strongly agree that it is a challenge, limited access to markets, with a mean score of 4.2 and a standard deviation of 1.4768 indicating that it is a major challenge and also limited access to credit, with a mean a mean score of 3.9 and a standard deviation of 1.51030 also poses a significant challenge. Likert scale was used to identify the level of willingness for youths to participate in agriculture. The enthusiasm is completed by the neutral to willing categories, comprising 18.75% neutral, 26.25% willing and 40% very willing participants. Such positive attitudes suggests a promising outlook for youth involvement in agricultural entrepreneurship.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- AGRITEX…… Agricultural Technical and Extension Services
- SPSS……. Statistical Package for the Social Science

CHAPTER 1

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Agripreneurship, or entrepreneurship in agriculture, is the term used to describe agriculture-related entrepreneurship (Jena et al., 2018). Agripreneurship is the process by which people launch, plan, and oversee businesses with an emphasis on agriculture. It might also mean investigating and participating in fresh, creative approaches to launch a successful, long-lasting agricultural enterprise that will promote economic expansion. Agribusiness endeavors can take many different forms, including input, production, processing, transportation, and marketing. In actuality, an agribusiness agripreneur takes chances, participates in value-adding agricultural chains, and launches new goods (Ezen and Chinedu-Eze, 2016).

Komolafe et al. (2022) report that despite the agricultural sector's profitable potential to generate income-generating work possibilities, over 420 million youngsters in Africa remain victims of high unemployment, underemployment, and poverty. Magagula and Tsvakirai (2020) state that young people are still hesitant to engage in agricultural entrepreneurship despite all of the government's attempts to encourage them to do so. According to data released by the African Development Bank in 2021, one in six young people in Africa who enter the labor market finds employment each year. In Africa, young people are driving economic change and sustainable development (Mmbengwa et al., 2021; Mthi et al., 2021). African youth make up approximately 70% of the population, and the majority of them are impoverished, according to Adesina, (2021), the president of the African Development Bank. As such, the youth need to receive training that goes beyond what is required for the labor market in order to reveal their untapped entrepreneurial potential and generate jobs through expanding financing programs for youth innovation (African Development Bank, 2021).

Zimbabwe is a signatory to the Africa Youth Charter, which defines youths as anyone between the ages of 15 and 35. This definition is found in Section 20 of the Zimbabwe Constitution Amendment (No.20) Act 2013. The foundation of Zimbabwe's economy is agriculture, which also creates jobs, economic growth, and food security. But it has been beset by a number of issues, including an aging farmer population, urban migration, and the widespread belief that agriculture is an outdated and unappealing career path. To guarantee inclusive and sustainable agricultural growth, it's critical to investigate young people's perspectives on agricultural entrepreneurship.

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Youth unemployment is still a problem worldwide, and it is particularly high in Sub-Saharan Africa because of the region's fast population growth, sluggish economic expansion, larger proportion of unskilled laborers, and low agricultural output (Geza et al., 2021). According to Mmbengwa et al. (2021), older farmers predominate in the smallholder agricultural sector, which means that despite the industry's attraction owing to lower capital investment, young people do not view it as an investment opportunity. Activists claim that the official youth unemployment rate, which is 12.37% (defined as the labor force aged 15 to 24 actively seeking employment) drastically underrepresents the number of young Zimbabweans in need of jobs (Moyo, 2023). These startling statistics make it abundantly evident that in order to unleash the entrepreneurial potential of Zimbabwean youth and generate jobs, they need to be trained and given skills that go beyond the labor market. According to Komolafe et al. (2022), the factors limiting youth to participate in Agriculture entrepreneurship are not documented in the literature; therefore, this study seeks to examine youth perceptions on willingness to participate in agriculture entrepreneurship and create income-generating opportunities.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the factors influencing youth willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship?
2. What are the barriers and challenges faced by young entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector?
3. What are the levels of youth willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship?

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.4.1 Main objective

The study’s main objective is to examine youth perceptions towards agriculture as a potential entrepreneurial endeavor.

1.4.2 Specific objectives

1. To identify the factors influencing youth willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship in Chikomba District in Zimbabwe.
2. To identify challenges faced by young entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector in Chikomba District in Zimbabwe.

3. To identify the level of willingness of youth to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship in Chikomba District in Zimbabwe.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In Zimbabwe, the agricultural sector is the primary industry with the most significant potential for creating jobs for the youth. In Chikomba District, in Chivhu and Mashonaland East Province at large, tobacco and maize farming are mainly practiced. In most rural regions, young people are the change agents and drivers of sustainable economic growth (Mmbengwa et al., 2021). Consequently, to end poverty and unemployment among youths, they must be encouraged to participate in agripreneurship and make their way out of poverty by creating real income-generating business opportunities. In line with the National Development Plan goals for 2030, which include the first, second, and eighth Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of eradicating poverty, achieving zero hunger, and promoting sustainable economic growth, employment, and decent work for all, it is imperative that young people be included in agripreneurship (United Nations, 2015). Because agripreneurship is a voluntary career choice influenced by cognitive mechanisms, this study focuses on perceptions and willingness as a beginning point to engage adolescents to participate (Ephrem et al., 2021). Furthermore, the results of this study will fill in some of the gaps and ambiguities in the literature on policy development aimed at assuring future succession in agribusiness and encouraging youth entrepreneurship in agriculture.

1.6 SCOPE/DELIMITATIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The research study is limited to investigating the factors influencing youth willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship in Chikomba District, therefore the findings might not be generalized to the whole Mashonaland East Province. To add more, the research was limited due to lack of funds to travel to many wards since the research was self-funded, there was also lack of cooperation and ignorance from other youth members.

1.7 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This study consists of five chapters. Chapter one is the introductory chapter, consisting of the background, problem statement, the research questions, study objectives, specific objectives, significance of the study as well as its limitations, and organization of the study. The second chapter presents the literature review on theories surrounding collective action benefits and

challenges. Explanation of the methodology used during the study is presented in chapter three. The results and general discussion of the study are in chapter four. The conclusion from the study and recommendation are presented in chapter five of the project.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter review theoretical and empirical literature relevant to the current study with a critical focus on the perceptions of youth on their willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship in Chikomba District. This chapter begins with defining key terms and concepts of the study, namely youth, perceptions, agricultural entrepreneurship and willingness to participate.

2.2 Definition of key terms

There are some words which are going to appear frequently in this chapter as well as the whole thesis. Therefore, to make it easier for the readers, the meaning of the words is compiled as follows: -

2.2.1 Youth

The Africa Youth Charter, to which Zimbabwe is a signatory, defines youths as anyone between the ages of 15 and 35. This definition is found in Section 20 of the Zimbabwe Constitution Amendment (No.20) Act 2013. Regarding the notion of youth, the Zimbabwe Youth Policy is consistent with the national Constitution.

2.2.2 Perceptions

It is the organization, identification and interpretation of sensory information in order to represent and understand the presented information or environment.

2.2.3 Willingness to participate

An alternate definition of willingness to participate would be the desire and/or intention to investigate and take advantage of agricultural opportunities along the commodity value chain. Because agripreneurship is a voluntary career choice influenced by cognitive factors, this study focused on "willingness" as a starting point to engage adolescents to participate (Ephrem et al., 2021).

2.2.4 Agriculture entrepreneurship

Agripreneurship, or entrepreneurship in agriculture, is the term used to describe agriculture entrepreneurship (Jena et al., 2018). Agripreneurship is the study and application of novel, creative approaches to launch a successful, long-lasting agricultural enterprise with the goal of promoting economic expansion. Agribusiness endeavors can take many different forms in terms of input, production, processing, transportation, and marketing. In actuality, an agribusiness agripreneurs takes chances, participates in value-adding agricultural chains, and launches new goods (Ezen and Chinedu-Eze, 2016).

2.3 Agriculture entrepreneurship in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA)

Many authors have expressed a strong interest in the developing field of agriculture entrepreneurship, particularly in the context of smallholder farming in Sub-Saharan Africa (Mmbengwa et al., 2021, Wale and Chipfupa, 2021a). Since most smallholder farming operations evolved into autonomous agribusinesses—which are more producer market-oriented than merely producing for subsistence—the notion of entrepreneurship is appropriate to the agricultural sector (Baloyi, 2010). Stevens (2017) argues that combining agribusiness and entrepreneurship can increase the agricultural sector's GDP growth by using innovation to overcome the production and marketing limitations faced by smallholders and to increase revenue through market-oriented farming. The National Development Plan goals for 2030, such as the first, second, and eighth Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of eradicating poverty, reaching zero hunger, and promoting sustainable economic growth, employment, and decent work for all, are made possible by encouraging entrepreneurship development in agriculture, according to additional literature (United Nations, 2015, Díaz-Pichardo et al., 2012; Sinyolo and Mudhara 2018). Agripreneurship is the main focus of policy initiatives because, according to Wale and Chipfupa (2021a), the development of rural entrepreneurship is essential to the future of agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa.

However, as young people are the human resource that will propel the agriculture sector in the twenty-first century, they must be included if agricultural entrepreneurship is to prosper in the future (Abdullahi et al., 2010). Adesina (2021), the head of the African Development Bank, states that young people in Africa make up roughly 70% of the population overall and that just one out of every six who enter the labor market finds employment each year. As a result, one could argue that African youth need to be trained in skills that go beyond the labor market in order to unleash their potential as entrepreneurs. The National Youth Development Agency in South Africa, the Pan-African Youth Entrepreneur Development (Magagula and Tsvakirai 2020), the Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation Multi-Donor Trust Fund (YEI Trust Fund)

program, the Ghana Youth Social Entrepreneurship Program, Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship in Zimbabwe, and other youth-led initiatives have been launched by governments to support the development of entrepreneurship among young people in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Because agriculture in Africa has the potential to employ young people, it must be made profitable. In order to ensure the farming business's future succession and continuity, it is crucial to support and train young people to engage in agricultural entrepreneurship. This will also help to lower youth unemployment and increase the appeal of agriculture to the next generation (Magagula and Tsvakirai, 2020).

2.4 CONCEPTUAL/THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

Several theories in literature explain the concept of entrepreneurship, however, this research focus on entrepreneurial theories applicable to smallholder farming in Zimbabwe, including the economic theory, collective entrepreneurship, resource-based theory, opportunity-based theory, subsistence theory as well as psychological theories, particularly the planned behavior theory (Wale, and Chipfupa, 2021).

2.4.1 The economic theory

Harris (1971) asserts that financial incentives play a major role in encouraging people to engage in entrepreneurial activity. Therefore, restoring economic equilibrium and maximizing profits are the goals of entrepreneurs, who are logical business owners who distribute resources in response to possible earnings. Furthermore, maximizing market share and gaining a competitive edge over rivals in the industry are the goals of an entrepreneur (Wale and Chipfupa, 2021b). Thus, the economic theory may be used to explain how young people might operate off-farm agribusiness and benefit financially from things like profits, asset diversification, and the provision of job possibilities.

2.4.2 Collective entrepreneurship theory

Cook and Plunket (2006) introduced the theory of collective entrepreneurship, which is relatively new in the field of economics, to the agricultural sector with an emphasis on agricultural cooperatives. By pooling produce and negotiating with buyers for competitive pricing, it refers to the collective merging of smallholder farmers into investment-driven entrepreneurial businesses as a response to the shifting market conditions. The paradigm of collective entrepreneurship is deemed most appropriate for the African agricultural sector, given the recent political shift away from colonial rulers. Africa's economic development

depends on collective entrepreneurship, yet the idea of producer-owned businesses, such as smallholder farming operations, has received little attention in the literature (Mudiwa, 2017).

2.4.3 Opportunity based theory

The recognition of accessible or underutilized opportunities is the foundation of the opportunity-based theory of entrepreneurship (Anderson and Miller, 2003). Since entrepreneurship is the pursuit of opportunities that are greater than the capability of available resources, it necessitates both the creation and identification of opportunities as well as the utilization of those that are already present. The hypothesis is the result of identifying opportunities for growth in the product value chain and market, then planning a strategy to take advantage of those gaps. Because there are high-breed crops that are underutilized in agriculture production and because the value addition chain in the agricultural market system in Sub-Saharan Africa is undeveloped, many agricultural goods are sold as raw commodities with no value addition. These factors make this theory applicable to the field of agribusiness. Consequently, the existence of these market gaps offers young people room and opportunity to launch agribusinesses (Wale and Chipfupa, 2021).

2.4.4. Resource based theory

The sustainable livelihood paradigm is the source of the resource-based theory of entrepreneurship (Chamber and Conway, 1992). It makes the claim that having actual assets or having access to institutional services either encourages or discourages someone from pursuing an entrepreneurial career (Wale and Chipfupa, 2021b). Thus, the theory clarifies how young inclination to engage in agricultural entrepreneurship is influenced by both psychological and financial capital.

2.4.5. Factors influencing youth willingness to participate in agriculture entrepreneurship

An alternate definition of willingness to participate would be the desire and/or intention to investigate and take advantage of agricultural opportunities along the commodity value chain. Because agripreneurship is a voluntary career choice influenced by cognitive factors, this study focused on "willingness" as a starting point to engage adolescents to participate (Ephrem et al., 2021). The theory of planned behavior will be used in the study to explain the causal relationship between perceptions and young people's readiness to engage in agripreneurship.

2.4.6 Moderating factors

The association between youth perspectives and readiness to engage in agripreneurship is thought to be moderated by a number of factors (variables), including age, gender, education level, financial support, household size, income, experience, high unemployment, government assistance, and loan availability. Youths' inclination to engage in agripreneurship was positively impacted by gender and their goal of becoming employers, according to a study conducted in Nigeria by Komolafe (2022) using the Logit regression model. However, factors like excessive unemployment and a lack of government assistance had a detrimental impact on young people's interest in agribusiness.

In a different study, Linen et al. (2011) examined all of the nations that took part in the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor project and used the Logit regression model to estimate the impact of socioeconomic and demographic variables on the intentions of aspiring entrepreneurs. They found that the intent to start an agribusiness was negatively correlated with income, but that age, gender, and higher education level had positive effects. Additionally, another study conducted in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) by Ephrem et al. (2021) found a negative correlation between youth access to credit and their intention or willingness to engage in agribusiness. As a result, the study came to the conclusion that financial support alone is insufficient to encourage young agripreneurship.

2.4.7 Mediating factors

Perceptions are taken into account in this study as the mediating explanatory elements (variables) that directly affect young people's propensity to engage in agripreneurship. In Mpumalanga province, South Africa, Magagula and Tsvakirai (2020) studied youth perceptions of agriculture and how these influenced their intent or willingness to engage in agripreneurship. The findings showed that the youth had favorable economic perceptions of agriculture, which were tempered by education and financial support. These perceptions positively impacted the youth's intentions to engage in agripreneurship. Another study on the impact of perceived social norms on youth participation in the agricultural value chain, carried out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), by Ephrem et al. (2021), discovered that potential agripreneurs are not significantly influenced by sociocultural perceptions on their own unless perceived behavior control (individual perception and economic perception) plays a mediating role, as well as demographic factors are taken into consideration.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Figure 1: Theory of Planned Behavior. (Adapted from source: Ephrem et al., 2021)

Theory of planned behavior

Numerous researchers have employed the theory of planned behavior in their studies to explain young people's intents and/or readiness to engage in agripreneurship (Magagula and Tsvakirai, 2020; Ephrem et al., 2021). According to the idea, a person's perceived behavioral control, subjective norm factors, and perceived favorability of the conduct all influence their behavioral willingness or purpose (Ajzen, 1991; David, 2017). The behavioral readiness to engage in agripreneurship is regarded in this study as deliberate, rational, and regulated in the expectation of the outcome. In other words, youth are more likely to engage in agripreneurship if their intentions are higher. Thus, the impact of young views and socio-economic factors on willingness to participate in agripreneurship will be explained by the idea of planned behavior.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

In some literature it has been noted that some researchers use the terms methods and methodology interchangeably. Methodology is usually considered as an overall study approach that is undertaken and methods refers to various means by which data is collected and analyzed. This section explains the methods of data collection, data analysis and the presentation of results. It also provides the description of the different instruments that were used by the researcher in the process of data collection. Research design, a brief description of the study area, analytical framework and model specifications are some of the issues that were clearly explained and discussed in this section.

3.2 Description of the study area.

The study is to be conducted in Chikomba District which is located in Mashonaland East Province of Zimbabwe. It is 142km from Masvingo and 144 km from Harare along the highway to Harare. It is a rural district center and has a population of 10,000 people. It is one of the districts in the province and it is well known for its agricultural activities which include crop farming which is the main economic activity in the district. Farmers mainly practice tobacco and maize farming. However, cattle ranching, piggery, small livestock farming, poultry and fishery constitute some of the agricultural activities in the district. The district is in Agro ecological region 3 which experiences infrequent rainfall between 570 and 750 mm a year and high temperatures 15-30 degrees (Mukwada and Manatsa, 2013). Mid -season dry spells are common during the rainy season.

However, limited access to resources like fertilizers, improved seeds and equipment can hinder agricultural productivity and discourage participation in the district. To add more, knowledge and skills gaps and limited access to markets can also cause low agricultural production in the district.

3.3 Data collection methods

This study employed both primary and secondary data collection techniques. According to Nyariki (2009), primary data is the original, unprocessed information directly from the interviewees, whereas secondary data has already been processed and may be kept in soft or hard copies of publications, reports, or other materials.

3.3.1 Secondary data

Review of the literature was the main technique utilized to get secondary data. The literature review aids in establishing the research study's framework and offers proof of other models' application to data analysis in other contexts and the ways in which their outcomes are employed to identify knowledge gaps. Secondary data, as defined by Saunder et al. (2009), is information gathered for reasons other than the researcher's intended use.

3.3.2 Primary data

Survey questionnaire

The household survey was conducted in February 2024. Randomly selected 80 youths were interviewed at their homestead or in the field as they will be conducting their farming operations. The questionnaire collected both qualitative and quantitative data from the youths concerning their perceptions towards willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship. Open ended questions offered youths the opportunity to describe the challenges they are encountering in the agricultural sector as young entrepreneurs, the factors influencing their willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship. In trying to achieve this aim the researcher took time to explain the nature of the study and discuss pertinent issues of interest to youths.

A pre-test survey was conducted first, with required modifications made by identifying and rephrasing difficult questions and those with multiple meanings. A permission to conduct a research study was requested and granted by the District Agricultural Technical and Extension Services Officer prior to the pre-survey. The goal of the study was explained to the scheme's responsible authorities, which include the Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX) Officers at the District Offices.

The questionnaire was written in English and then distributed and interpreted in Shona (the local language) to young individuals who do not understand English properly. Youth demographics, factors influencing their participation, were all included of the structured questionnaire. The questionnaire helped to acquire information about young individuals'

attitudes, thoughts, and perceptions towards agriculture as a potential entrepreneurial endeavour. Information on the reasons why would one opt to or not participate in agricultural entrepreneurship as well as the challenges which are being faced by the young entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector were also gathered by the questionnaire.

3.3.4 Sampling procedure

A simple random technique was used to select the respondents to participate in the study. Simple random sampling is a probability sampling technique in which every member of the population has an equal chance of being selected. The study selected 80 youths between the legal working age of 18 to 35 years old. The suitable sample size for the study was calculated using the Yamane formula at 90% confidence level due to the large population size in the district and the absence of absolute sampling frame. The sampling method involves randomly administering structured questionnaires to respondents, and all the target respondents will have the same probability of being chosen until the required sample size is met (Bless et al., 2006). The selection of respondents relies on the willingness to participate in the research study.

3.4 DATA ANALYSIS METHODS

Microsoft Excel programs and the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 24 were used in the data processing and analysis for this study. One benefit of SPSS is that it is a data repository with robust and user-friendly analysis tools. Checking for errors, inconsistent data, and duplicate entries are all part of the cleaning process. Basic frequencies, percentages, significance testing with regression analysis and analysis of variance, along with tables and conversations, were all included in the data analysis.

3.5 Analytical framework

The analytical framework outlines the analysis procedures that shall be employed per each and every objective as specified below.

3.6 Factors influencing youth willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship

Multinomial regression was used to analyze factors influencing youth willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship. It includes dependent and independent variables.

3.6.1 Dependent Variable

This is the variable the researcher was trying to predict and it was in three categories namely

- Not interested

- Interested
- Very interested

3.6.2 Independent Variables

These are the factors the researcher believed influenced the dependent variable and they include

- Attitude
- Acceptance
- Land ownership
- Government support
- Credit facilities
- Knowledge
- Parental support
- Agro-machine ownership
- Background
- Locality

3.7 Challenges faced by young entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector.

The researcher used ranking and scoring method as an analytical tool to identify challenges faced by young entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector. The researcher developed a scoring system where points were assigned to each challenge based on its perceived severity, higher points indicated a bigger challenge. The researcher calculated a score for each challenge based on the data collected. Ranking and scoring is a method easy to implement and understand allowing customization to specific regions or agricultural sectors. It also helped the researcher to identify the biggest hurdles young entrepreneurs face, allowing for targeted solutions and resource allocation.

3.8 Levels of willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship

The researcher used Likert Scale as a tool to analyze the levels of youth willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship. The researcher developed statements that capture different levels of willingness towards agricultural entrepreneurship. The researcher assigned a corresponding level of agreement to each response option on the Likert scale using five points stated below,

- Strongly Agree (5)

- Agree (4)
- Neutral (3)
- Disagree (2)
- Strongly Disagree (1)

3.9 Methodology Summary

OBJECTIVE	DATA TO BE COLLECTED	DATA ANALYSIS TOOL
To identify factors influencing youth perceptions on willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship.	Attitude, acceptance, parental support, credit facilities, background, locality, knowledge, government support	Multinomial regression
To identify challenges faced by young entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector	Lack government support, limited access to credit, lack of land, lack of information, limited access to markets, limited water and irrigation	Ranking and Scoring
To identify the level of willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship	Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree	Likert Scale

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS

4.1 Demographic Characterization of Respondents

The following section contains the results presentation and discussion of demographic characteristics of the respondents.

4.1.1 Gender

The data in figure 4.1 indicates the gender distribution among participants, with 56.3% male and 43.8% female. This suggests a slightly higher representation of males in agriculture-related entrepreneurship activities. However, it's essential to recognize that gender disparities persist in the sector, with females facing various challenges such as limited access to resources, land tenure insecurity, and cultural barriers. Efforts to promote gender equality and empower female entrepreneurs in agriculture are crucial for fostering inclusive and sustainable development (Ephrem et al., 2021; Magagula and Tsvakirai, 2020)

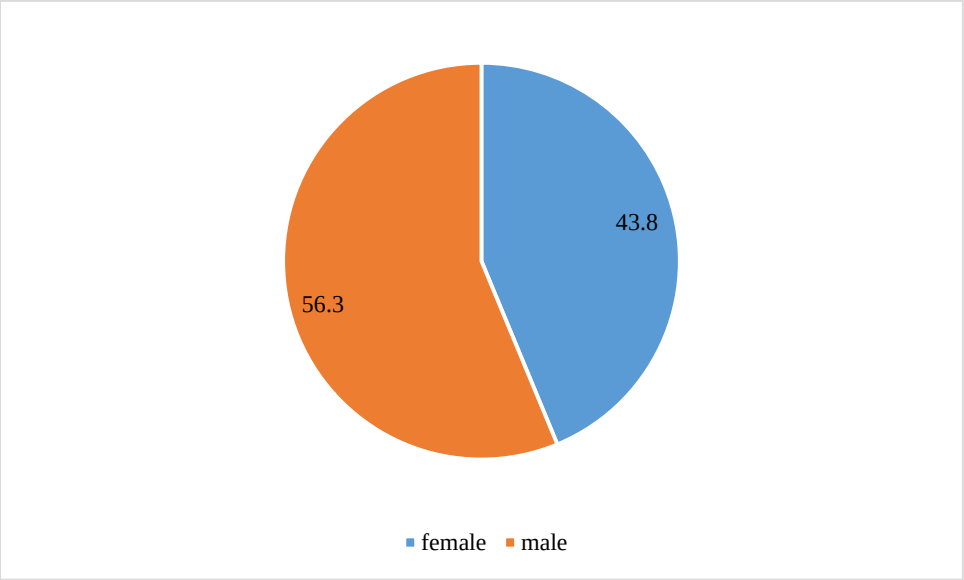

Figure 2: Gender distribution of respondents

4.1.2 Age

The data presented in figure 4.2 presents the age distribution of participants, with 22.5% falling in the 18-25 age group, 33.8% in the 25-30 age group, and 43.8% in the 30-35 age group. This distribution indicates a relatively balanced representation across different age brackets, with a slight majority in the 30-35 age group. Understanding the age demographics of participants is

crucial for designing targeted interventions and support programs tailored to the specific needs and aspirations of different age cohorts (Ephrem et al., 2021; Magagula and Tsvakirai, 2020).

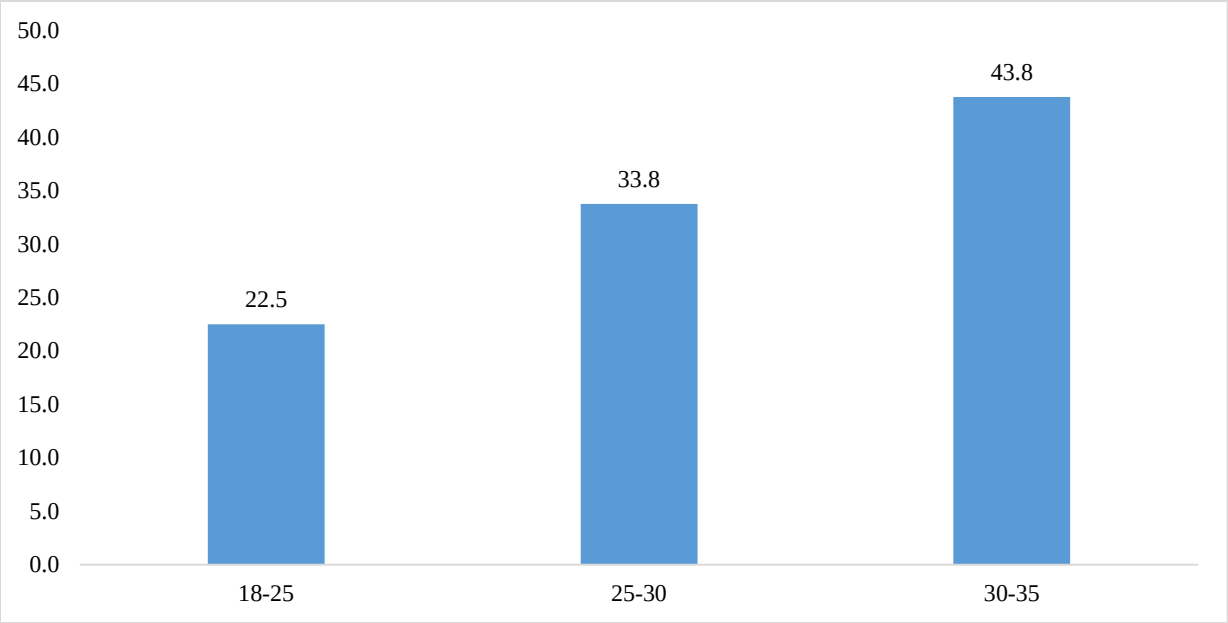

Figure 3:Age distribution of respondents

4.1.3 Educational Qualification

Table 4.1 shows the distribution of educational qualifications among respondents, with 56.3% having secondary education, 27.5% primary education, 11.3% tertiary education, and 5.0% other qualifications. This indicates that the majority of the youth in the study have completed secondary education, a finding that aligns with Komolafe (2022), who highlighted the critical role of education in shaping youth participation in agricultural entrepreneurship. Similarly, Ephrem et al. (2021) and Magagula and Tsvakirai (2020) emphasized the importance of secondary and tertiary education in equipping youth with the skills and knowledge necessary for successful agricultural ventures.

Table 1: Educational qualification of respondents

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Other	4	5.0	5.0	5.0
primary	22	27.5	27.5	32.5
secondary	45	56.3	56.3	88.8
tertiary	9	11.3	11.3	100.0
Total	80	100.0	100.0	

4.1.4 Marital Status

Figure 4.3 illustrates the marital status of the youth participants, with 67.5% being single, 30% married, and 2.5% divorced. This suggests that the majority of the youth involved in agricultural entrepreneurship are single, which could influence their willingness to take risks and invest time in new ventures. Komolafe (2022) and Wale and Chipfupa (2021) found that marital status can significantly impact entrepreneurial activities, as single individuals often have fewer family responsibilities and greater flexibility to engage in entrepreneurial endeavors.

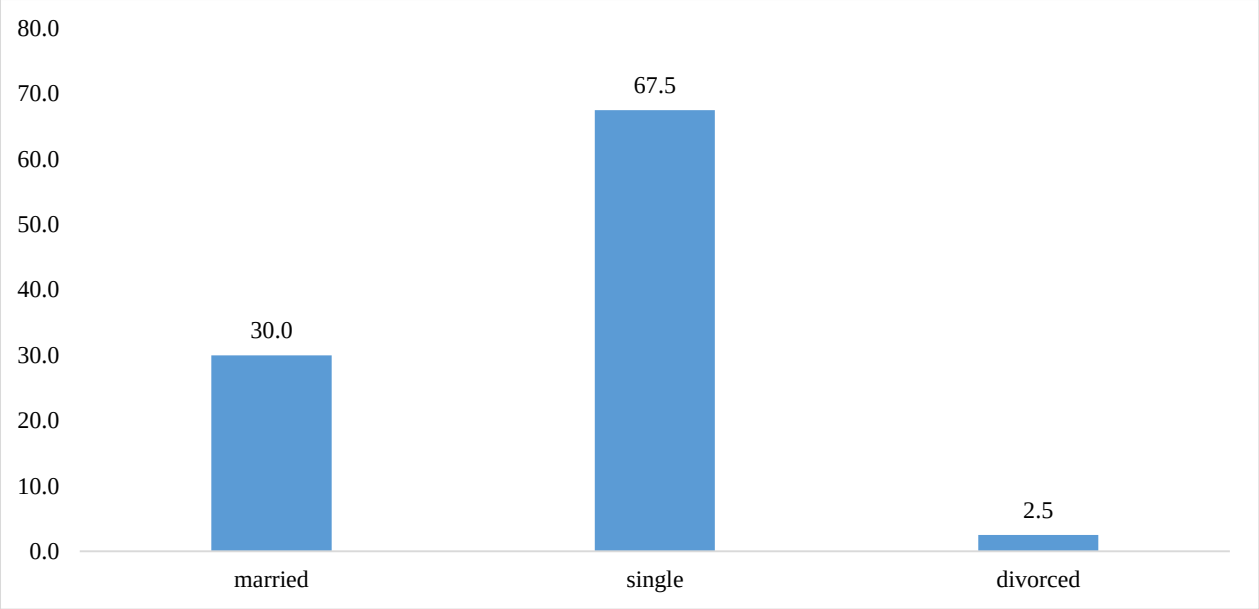

Figure 4:Educational qualification of respondents

4.1.5 Descriptive Demographic characteristics

The descriptive statistics for the youth participants shown in Table 4.2 reveal an average income of 217.16 with a standard deviation of 115.111, a household size mean of 4.63 (SD = 1.578), an average of 5.63 years of experience in agriculture (SD = 2.229), and an average land size of 5.69 hectares (SD = 3.327). These statistics suggest that the participants generally have moderate incomes and household sizes, with a fair amount of agricultural experience and access to a reasonable amount of land. Komolafe (2022) and Ephrem et al. (2021) emphasize that income, household size, experience, and land size are critical factors influencing the capacity and willingness of youth to engage in agricultural entrepreneurship, as they affect resource availability and risk-taking ability.

Table 2: Descriptive demographic variables for respondents

Variable	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Income	80	25	500	217.16	115.111
household size	80	3	9	4.63	1.578

Experience	80	1	10	5.63	2.229
size of land	80	1	15	5.69	3.327
Valid N (listwise)	80				

4.1.6 Formal training in Agriculture

The data presented in Figure 4.4 shows that 58.8% of the youth participants have formal training in agriculture, while 41.3% do not. This indicates that a majority of the participants possess specialized agricultural knowledge and skills, which likely enhances their competence and confidence in engaging in agricultural entrepreneurship. According to Komolafe (2022) and Magagula and Tsvakirai (2020), formal training in agriculture is crucial as it equips young entrepreneurs with the necessary expertise to adopt innovative practices and improve productivity, thereby increasing their willingness to participate in agricultural ventures.

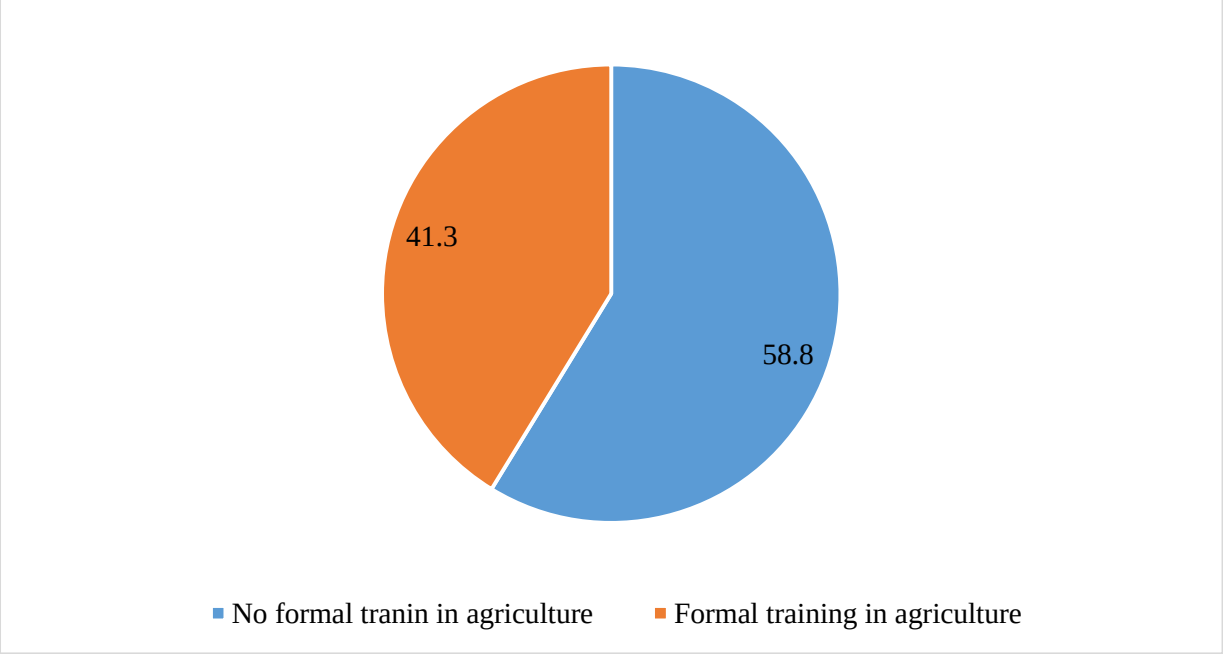

Figure 5:Distribution of Formal agriculture for respondents

4.1.7 Confidence in Entrepreneurial skills

Table 4.3 illustrates the confidence levels of youth participants in their entrepreneurship skills, with 55.0% expressing no confidence and 45.0% affirming confidence in their skills. This indicates a significant portion of participants may require additional support or training to

bolster their confidence in entrepreneurial endeavors. Similar findings were reported by Wale and Chipfupa (2021) and Ephrem et al. (2021), who emphasized the importance of confidence-building initiatives and skills development programs to empower youth entrepreneurs and enhance their participation in various economic sectors, including agriculture

Table 3: Confidence in entrepreneurial skills

Confidence in entrepreneurship skills	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	44	55.0	55.0	55.0
Yes	36	45.0	45.0	100.0
Total	80	100.0	100.0	

4.2 Levels of willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship

This section contains the presentation and discussion of the findings on the levels of willingness of the youth to participate in agriculture entrepreneurship and the factors that increase the willingness.

4.2.1 Rating of willingness

The findings in Figure 4.5 reveal that 40% of the participants express a high level of willingness to engage in agriculture-related entrepreneurship, indicating a significant inclination towards this field. This enthusiasm is complemented by the neutral to willing categories, comprising 18.75% neutral, 26.25% willing, and 40% very willing participants. Such positive attitudes suggest a promising outlook for youth involvement in agricultural entrepreneurship. These results resonate with the research of Komolafe (2022) and Magagula and Tsvakirai (2020), emphasizing the importance of fostering a supportive environment and providing necessary resources to harness the entrepreneurial potential of youth in the agricultural sector.

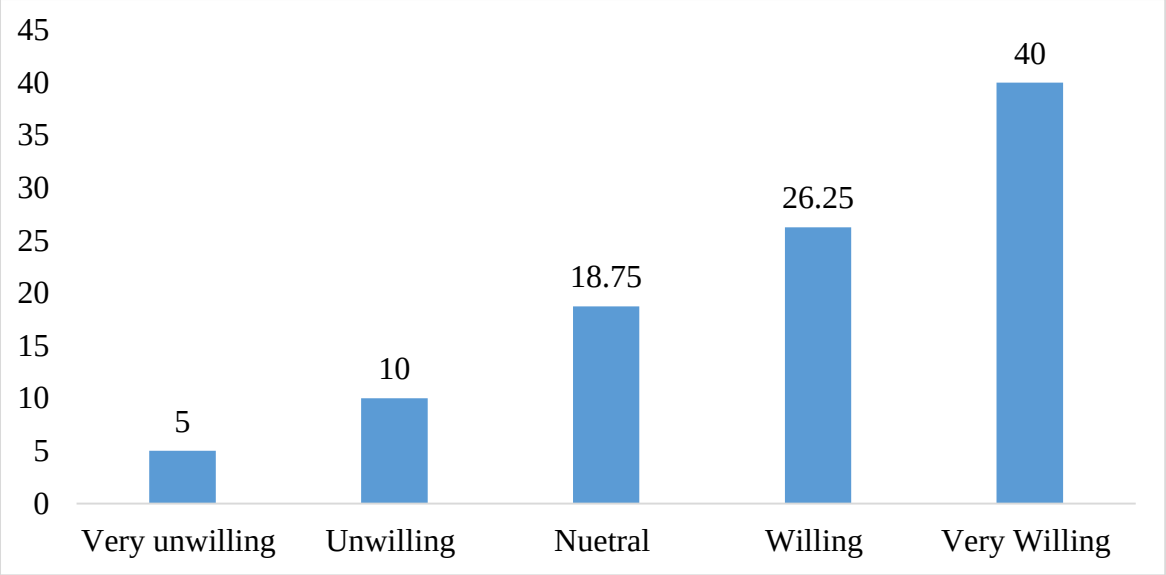

Figure 6: Willingness to participate in agriculture entrepreneurship

4.2.2 Factors that increase willingness

The data in Table 4.4 reveals several factors perceived to increase youth willingness to participate in agriculture-related entrepreneurship.

Table 4: Factors that increase willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship

Factor	Frequency	Percentage
Technology Integration	57	71.3
Financial Incentives	63	78.8
Training and education	41	51.3
Access to land	61	76.3
Market Access	59	73.8
Networking opportunities	37	46.3
Social Entrepreneurship	55	68.8
Access to credit	60	75.0

Government and policy support	41	51.3

Financial Incentives

With 78.8% of respondents acknowledging its importance, financial incentives stand out as a crucial motivator. This finding resonates with the works of Ephrem et al. (2021) and Magagula and Tsvakirai (2020), who highlight the significance of financial support in encouraging youth entrepreneurship in agriculture. Financial incentives can include subsidies, grants, or tax breaks, which alleviate financial constraints and incentivize youth to invest in agricultural ventures.

Access to Land

Similarly, access to land, identified by 76.3% of respondents, plays a pivotal role in fostering youth participation in agriculture. Land ownership or secure access provides a foundation for agricultural activities, enabling youth to establish and expand their enterprises. This finding aligns with the research of Komolafe (2022) and Wale and Chipfupa (2021), emphasizing the importance of land tenure security in encouraging youth involvement in farming.

Market Access

Market access emerges as another significant factor, with 73.8% of respondents recognizing its importance. Effective market linkages enable youth entrepreneurs to sell their produce at competitive prices and access lucrative markets, thereby enhancing profitability and sustainability. This finding is consistent with the findings of Magagula and Tsvakirai (2020) and Ephrem et al. (2021), who underscore the critical role of market access in stimulating youth engagement in agriculture.

Access to Credit

Access to credit is identified by 75.0% of respondents as a key facilitator of youth participation in agricultural entrepreneurship. Adequate credit enables young farmers to invest in inputs, machinery, and technology, thereby improving productivity and competitiveness. This finding corroborates the research of Wale and Chipfupa (2021) and Ephrem et al. (2021), highlighting the significance of financial support mechanisms in empowering youth in agriculture.

Technology Integration

Technology integration, recognized by 71.3% of respondents, emerges as a crucial determinant of youth willingness to engage in agriculture-related entrepreneurship. Embracing modern agricultural technologies enhances efficiency, productivity, and resilience, attracting tech-savvy youth to the sector. This finding resonates with the works of Komolafe (2022) and Magagula and Tsvakirai (2020), emphasizing the transformative impact of technology on youth participation in agriculture.

Networking Opportunities

Despite its potential benefits in knowledge exchange and collaboration, networking opportunities are acknowledged by only 46.3% of respondents. While networking can facilitate access to markets and resources, its perceived importance may vary among respondents, as noted by Ephrem et al. (2021) and Wale and Chipfupa (2021), highlighting the need for targeted interventions to enhance its effectiveness.

Training and Education

Surprisingly, training and education, recognized by 51.3% of respondents, are relatively less emphasized. This finding contrasts with the established importance of capacity-building initiatives in empowering youth entrepreneurs, as emphasized by Magagula and Tsvakirai (2020) and Ephrem et al. (2021). Strengthening training and educational programs tailored to the needs of young farmers could enhance their skills and competencies, thus fostering greater participation in agriculture-related entrepreneurship.

4.2.3 Government Support that encourages willingness to participate

The data in Table 4.5 presents various forms of government support perceived to influence youth willingness to participate in agriculture-related entrepreneurship.

Table 5: Government support that increase willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship

Government Support	Frequency	Percentage
Financial support	71	88.8
Training and development programs	65	81.3

Infrastructure development	43	53.8
Land Access	68	85.0
Research and Innovation	42	52.5
Incubation and entrepreneurship programs	45	56.3
Recognition and awards	21	26.3
Networking platforms and opportunities	34	42.5
Information dissemination and centres	47	58.8

Financial Support

The overwhelming acknowledgment of financial support by 88.8% of respondents underscores its significance in facilitating youth engagement in agricultural entrepreneurship. Financial backing from the government can include subsidies, grants, or low-interest loans, which alleviate financial constraints and encourage investment in agricultural ventures. This finding aligns with the works of Ephrem et al. (2021) and Magagula and Tsvakirai (2020), emphasizing the pivotal role of financial support in empowering young farmers and stimulating economic growth in the agricultural sector.

Training and Development Programs

Training and development programs, recognized by 81.3% of respondents, emerge as a critical aspect of government support. Such programs equip youth with the necessary knowledge, skills, and capabilities to navigate the complexities of agricultural entrepreneurship successfully. This finding resonates with the research of Wale and Chipfupa (2021) and Ephrem et al. (2021), highlighting the transformative impact of capacity-building initiatives in enhancing youth participation and productivity in agriculture**.**

Land Access

Land access, acknowledged by 85.0% of respondents, is identified as a fundamental determinant of youth involvement in agriculture. Secure land tenure and access provide the foundation for agricultural activities, enabling young farmers to establish and expand their enterprises. This finding is consistent with the findings of Komolafe (2022) and Wale and

Chipfupa (2021), emphasizing the importance of land tenure security in fostering youth entrepreneurship and sustainable agricultural development.

Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure development, recognized by 53.8% of respondents, is crucial in providing the necessary physical and logistical support for agricultural activities. Investments in rural infrastructure such as roads, irrigation systems, and storage facilities enhance market access, productivity, and resilience, thereby promoting youth engagement in agriculture. This finding corroborates the research of Magagula and Tsvakirai (2020) and Ephrem et al. (2021), emphasizing the pivotal role of infrastructure in unlocking the potential of rural economies and empowering young farmers.

Research and Innovation

Research and innovation, acknowledged by 52.5% of respondents, play a vital role in driving agricultural transformation and fostering youth entrepreneurship. Government support for research and innovation initiatives enables the adoption of modern technologies, practices, and solutions tailored to the needs of young farmers. This finding resonates with the works of Komolafe (2022) and Wale and Chipfupa (2021), highlighting the importance of innovation ecosystems in enhancing agricultural productivity, sustainability, and competitiveness

4.3 Factors affecting youth willingness to participate in agriculture

The following section contains the multinomial regression results on the factors affecting willingness of youth to participate in agriculture entrepreneurship

4.3.1 Model Fitting Information

The significant Chi-Square value ($p < 0.001$) presented in the results in Table 4.6 indicates that the final model, which includes the predictor variables, provides a significantly better fit than the intercept-only model. This implies that the factors included in the final model have a substantial impact on the willingness of youth to participate in agriculture-related entrepreneurship. The low -2 Log Likelihood value of the final model (69.424) compared to the intercept-only model (133.569) further supports this conclusion, suggesting that the predictors meaningfully contribute to explaining the variability in youth willingness to engage in agricultural entrepreneurship.

Table 6: Model Fitting information

Model Fitting Information				
Model	Model Fitting Criteria	Likelihood Ratio Tests		
	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Intercept Only	133.569			
Final	69.424	64.145	20	.000

The Pseudo R-Square values for the multinomial logit regression model shown in Table 4.7 indicate a strong explanatory power. The Cox and Snell value of 0.751 suggests that the model explains 75.1% of the variability in the willingness of youth to participate in agriculture-related entrepreneurship. The Nagelkerke value of 0.836 further supports this, indicating an 83.6% explanatory power, which is considered very high. The McFadden value of 0.597, while slightly lower, still signifies a substantial fit of the model. These high Pseudo R-Square values collectively demonstrate that the factors included in the model are highly effective in predicting the willingness of youth to engage in agricultural entrepreneurship, underscoring the importance of addressing these determinants to foster greater participation.

Table 7: Model Explanatory power information

Pseudo R-Square	
Cox and Snell	.751
Nagelkerke	.836
McFadden	.597

4.3.2 Likelihood Ratio Test

The Likelihood Ratio Tests assess presented in Table 4.8 show the significance of each factor in the multinomial logit regression model by comparing the -2 Log Likelihood values of models with and without each factor. The Chi-Square values and corresponding p-values (Significance) indicate the importance of each effect in predicting the willingness of youth to participate in agriculture-related entrepreneurship. Significant effects have lower p-values (typically < 0.05), indicating they contribute meaningfully to the model.

The results show that Land ownership, Agro-machinery ownership, Background, and Locality are significant predictors of youth willingness to participate in agriculture-related entrepreneurship. Specifically, Land ownership (Chi-Square = 24.067, $p < 0.001$), Agro-machinery ownership (Chi-Square = 11.626, $p = 0.003$), Family background (Chi-Square = 7.603, $p = 0.022$), and Locality (Chi-Square = 16.143, $p < 0.001$) significantly improve the model fit. This suggests that youth who have access to land, own agricultural machinery, come from a relevant background, and reside in certain localities are more likely to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship. These factors are critical and should be prioritized in policies and support programs to enhance youth engagement in agriculture.

On the other hand, factors such as Attitude ($p = 0.073$), Acceptance ($p = 0.397$), Government Support ($p = 0.095$), Credit Facilities ($p = 0.129$), Knowledge ($p = 0.114$), and Parental Support ($p = 1.000$) were not found to be statistically significant in this model. While they may still play roles in influencing youth participation, their impacts were not strong enough to be deemed significant in this analysis. This implies that while these factors should not be neglected, resources and efforts might be more effectively allocated towards enhancing land access, agro-machinery availability, and addressing locality-specific needs to significantly boost youth involvement in agriculture-related entrepreneurial activities

Table 8:Likelihood ratio Tests

Likelihood Ratio Tests				
Effect	Model Fitting Criteria	Likelihood Ratio Tests		
	-2 Log Likelihood of Reduced Model	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Intercept	69.424[a]	.000	0	.
Attitude	74.655	5.231	2	.073**
Acceptance	71.272	1.848	2	.397
Land ownership	93.491	24.067	2	.000*
Government Support	74.133	4.709	2	.095**
Credit Facilities	73.516	4.092	2	.129
Knowledge	73.766	4.342	2	.114
Parental Support	69.424	.000	2	1.000
Agro-machinery ownership	81.050	11.626	2	.003*
Background	77.027	7.603	2	.022*
Locality	85.567	16.143	2	.000*

4.3.3 Multinomial regression output for factors affecting youth participation

The multinomial logit regression analysis in Table 4.9 provides insights into the factors affecting youth willingness to participate in agriculture-related entrepreneurship, with "Very Interested" serving as the reference category. The coefficients (B), standard errors, Wald statistics, significance levels (Sig.), odds ratios (Exp(B)), and 95% confidence intervals for Exp(B) are presented for two levels of willingness: "Not Interested" and "Somewhat Interested."

For youth who are "Not Interested" in agriculture-related entrepreneurship, significant factors include Land Ownership, Government Support, Credit Facilities, and Knowledge, each with a significance level below 0.05. Land Ownership has an odds ratio (Exp(B)) of 1.334, suggesting that youth who own land are more likely to be interested in agriculture entrepreneurship compared to those who do not. Government Support has a high odds ratio of 2.838, indicating

that perceived or actual support from the government greatly influences interest. Credit Facilities also show a strong positive effect with an odds ratio of 3.515, highlighting the importance of financial resources. Knowledge, with an odds ratio of 4.827, underlines the critical role of agricultural knowledge and skills in fostering interest. Other factors such as Attitude, Acceptance, Parental Support, Agro-machinery Ownership, Background, and Locality were not significant in predicting disinterest, indicating their lesser or indirect roles in influencing this category.

For the "Somewhat Interested" category, significant factors include Land Ownership, Government Support, Credit Facilities, and Knowledge. Land Ownership remains crucial with an odds ratio of 0.933, which, despite being significant, shows a slightly lower likelihood compared to the "Very Interested" category. Government Support is again a significant predictor with an odds ratio of 1.334, confirming the importance of supportive policies. Credit Facilities are significant with an odds ratio of 0.626, indicating that access to credit positively affects youth's moderate interest in agriculture entrepreneurship. Knowledge is also significant, with an odds ratio of 1.751, emphasizing the need for adequate agricultural education and training. Factors such as Attitude, Acceptance, Parental Support, Agro-machinery Ownership, Background, and Locality did not significantly influence the "Somewhat Interested" category, suggesting these factors might play more complex roles or be more influential in combination with other variables.

Table 9: Multinomial Regression output

Willingness to participate		B	Std. Error	Wald	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% Confidence Interval for Exp(B)	
							Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Not interested	Intercept	-1.642	1.212	1.837	0.175			
	[Attitude=1]	15.476	1421.887	0.000	0.491	1.900	0.933	0.473
	[Acceptance=1]	14.674	1705.067	1.223	0.393	4.236	1.334	0.223
	[Land ownership=1]	26.486	1068.050	0.001	0.001*	1.334	2.112	0.321
	[Government Support=1]	10.254	2323.223	1.771	0.006*	2.838	2.863	1.231
	[Credit Facilities=1]	1.257	1.023	1.510	0.001*	3.515	0.473	26.102
	[Knowledge=1]	16.065	1421.887	1.021	0.011*	4.827	0.223	1.998
	[Parental Support=1]	38.336	2916.242	1.201	0.490	2.243	0.321	1.112

	[Agro-machinery ownership=1]	29.985	1947.842	0.980	0.588	2.112	1.231	0.223
	[Background=1]	29.023	3268.426	0.881	0.693	2.863	0.556	0.023
	[Locality=1]	15.265	2788.432	0.270	0.396	2.346	0.887	0.320
Somewhat interested	**Intercept**	**0.819**	**0.827**	**0.981**	**0.322**			
	[Attitude=1]	16.100	1421.887	1.744	0.691	1.018	1.998	0.119
	[Acceptance=1]	15.287	1705.067	1.332	0.793	2.296	1.112	0.023
	[Land ownership=1]	30.048	1068.049	1.445	0.001*	0.933	0.223	0.320
	[Government Support=1]	28.802	748.152	1.223	0.009*	1.334	0.883	1.122
	[Credit Facilities=1]	0.468	0.847	1.345	0.022*	0.626	0.119	3.297
	[Knowledge=1]	15.376	1421.887	0.453	0.011*	1.751	0.023	1.344
	[Parental Support=1]	43.992	0.000			7.841	0.320	1.998
	[Agro-machinery ownership=1]	15.255	748.152	0.112	0.984	4.219	0.122	1.112
	[Background=1]	8.583	3735.628	0.123	0.998	5.341	0.889	0.223
	[Locality=1]	6.631	3323.802	0.998	0.998	758.570	1.112	2.112

a. The reference category is: Very Interested.

b. * Significance at 5% significance level

Land Ownership

Land ownership significantly impacts youth interest in agriculture entrepreneurship, with an odds ratio indicating a positive effect. This finding aligns with the results of Komolafe (2022), who emphasized that land access is a fundamental prerequisite for youth to engage in farming activities. Similarly, Ephrem et al. (2021) highlighted that secure land tenure enhances the willingness of young people to invest in agricultural ventures, as it provides them with the necessary resources and security to undertake long-term projects.

Government Support

Government support also emerged as a significant factor, with high odds ratios underscoring its importance. This is consistent with the findings of Wale and Chipfupa (2021), who found that government initiatives and policies, such as subsidies, training programs, and infrastructure development, significantly boost youth participation in agriculture. Magagula and Tsvakirai (2020) similarly noted that supportive government frameworks create an enabling environment for young entrepreneurs, facilitating their entry and sustained involvement in the agricultural sector.

Credit Facilities

The availability of credit facilities is another critical factor influencing youth willingness to engage in agriculture. The significance of credit facilities in the model highlights the role of financial resources in overcoming initial investment barriers. This is corroborated by Ephrem et al. (2021), who observed that access to affordable credit is crucial for youth to start and expand their agricultural enterprises. Wale and Chipfupa (2021) also pointed out that financial constraints are a major impediment for young farmers, and addressing these through credit support can significantly enhance their entrepreneurial activities.

Knowledge

Knowledge and education in agriculture significantly affect youth interest in this sector. The analysis shows that agricultural knowledge greatly boosts the likelihood of youth participation. This finding is in line with Komolafe (2022), who argued that education and training are vital in equipping youth with the skills needed for successful agricultural entrepreneurship. Additionally, Magagula and Tsvakirai (2020) found that knowledge dissemination through training programs and agricultural extension services plays a crucial role in encouraging youth to engage in agricultural ventures by increasing their confidence and competence in farming activities.

4.4 Barriers and challenges faced by youth entrepreneurs in agriculture sectors

Table 10 reveals the results of the analysis of the challenges and barriers faced by youth in **their pursuit of participation in agriculture entrepreneurship.**

Table 10: Challenges and barriers affecting youth to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship

Challenge	SD		DA		N		A		SA		Mean Score	Std. Deviation
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Lack of information	1	1.3	4	5.0	0	0	40	50.0	35	43.8	4.3	0.81753
Limited Access to markets	1	1.3	6	7.5	7	8.8	32	40.0	34	42.5	4.2	1.47468
Limited Access to credit	1	1.3	21	26.3	20	25.0	20	25.0	38	47.5	3.9	1.51030
Lack of inputs	24	30	28	35.0	1	1.3	12	15.0	15	18.8	2.6	1.51595
Limited government support	1	1.3	21	26.3	20	25.0	20	25.0	38	47.5	3.9	1.28471
Limited water and irrigation	19	23.8	38	47.5	0	0	6	7.5	17	21.3	2.6	1.40433
Lack of meaningful incentives	3	3.8	31	8.8	1	1.3	17	21.3	28	35.0	3.5	0.95599

SD=Strongly Disagree; DA=Disagree; N=Neutral; A= Agree; SA=Strongly Agree

Lack of Information

Lack of information is a significant challenge, with a mean score of 4.3 and a standard deviation of 0.81753, indicating that most respondents strongly agree that this is an issue. This challenge is highlighted by the fact that 50.0% of respondents agreed and 43.8% strongly agreed. The findings are consistent with Komolafe (2022), who emphasized the critical role of information access in agricultural entrepreneurship. Information gaps hinder youth from accessing essential knowledge about modern farming techniques, market trends, and funding opportunities, limiting their potential for success in agriculture (Ephrem et al., 2021). Addressing this challenge requires the establishment of robust information dissemination channels and agricultural extension services to equip young farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills.

Limited Access to Markets

Limited access to markets, with a mean score of 4.2 and a standard deviation of 1.47468, is another major challenge, as 40.0% of respondents agreed and 42.5% strongly agreed. This barrier prevents young entrepreneurs from selling their produce at competitive prices, reducing their profitability and discouraging further investment in agriculture. Wale and Chipfupa (2021) found that market access is crucial for the sustainability of agricultural ventures. Improving market access through infrastructure development, market linkages, and supportive policies can significantly enhance the viability of agricultural entrepreneurship (Magagula and Tsvakirai, 2020).

Limited Access to Credit

Limited access to credit, with a mean score of 3.9 and a standard deviation of 1.51030, also poses a significant challenge, with 25.0% of respondents agreeing and 47.5% strongly agreeing. Financial constraints are a well-documented barrier to youth engagement in agriculture. Ephrem et al. (2021) highlighted that access to affordable credit is essential for overcoming initial investment barriers and enabling the expansion of agricultural enterprises. Enhancing access to credit through financial reforms and targeted credit schemes can empower young farmers to invest in modern technologies and expand their operations.

Lack of Inputs

The lack of inputs is a critical challenge, with a mean score of 2.6 and a standard deviation of 1.51595, reflecting a high level of disagreement among respondents. A significant proportion of respondents (30% strongly disagree and 35% disagree) indicates variability in experiences or perceptions of input availability. This issue, as noted by Komolafe (2022), can severely limit productivity and profitability in agriculture. Ensuring the availability of quality inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and equipment is crucial for enhancing agricultural productivity and encouraging youth participation in the sector (Wale and Chipfupa, 2021).

Limited Government Support

Limited government support, with a mean score of 3.9 and a standard deviation of 1.28471, indicates that 25.0% of respondents agreed and 47.5% strongly agreed that this is a challenge. Government support through policies, subsidies, and infrastructure development is essential for creating an enabling environment for agricultural entrepreneurship. Magagula and Tsvakirai (2020) found that government interventions significantly impact youth engagement in

agriculture by providing the necessary resources and support structures. Strengthening government support mechanisms can enhance the attractiveness and viability of agricultural entrepreneurship for young people.

Limited Water and Irrigation

Limited water and irrigation, with a mean score of 2.6 and a standard deviation of 1.40433, highlights significant disagreement among respondents, with 23.8% strongly disagreeing and 47.5% disagreeing. This variability suggests differing levels of access to water resources among respondents. Adequate water and irrigation facilities are vital for sustainable agricultural practices, especially in regions prone to drought. Komolafe (2022) emphasized the need for investment in irrigation infrastructure to support consistent agricultural production. Addressing this challenge through improved water management systems can boost agricultural productivity and resilience (Ephrem et al., 2021).

Lack of Meaningful Incentives

Lack of meaningful incentives, with a mean score of 3.5 and a standard deviation of 0.95599, shows that 21.3% of respondents agreed and 35.0% strongly agreed with this challenge. Incentives such as subsidies, tax breaks, and recognition programs can motivate youth to engage in agricultural entrepreneurship. Wale and Chipfupa (2021) found that providing meaningful incentives is crucial for sustaining youth interest in agriculture. Implementing targeted incentive programs can enhance the appeal of agricultural ventures and encourage sustained participation (Magagula and Tsvakirai, 2020).

4.4 Chapter Summary

The results section presents a comprehensive examination of factors influencing youth engagement in agriculture entrepreneurship. It highlights the prevalence of secondary education among participants and a predominant representation of single individuals. Socio-economic variables like income, household size, and land ownership shed light on the participants' backgrounds. Formal agricultural training is common, emphasizing its importance. While confidence in entrepreneurship skills varies, financial incentives, land access, and technology integration are perceived as key motivators. Government support, particularly in financial aid and training, is crucial. Gender and age demographics underscore the need for inclusive strategies. These findings provide valuable insights for crafting targeted interventions to promote sustainable agricultural entrepreneurship among youth.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

The results section provides a comprehensive overview of various factors influencing youth participation in agriculture-related entrepreneurship. Educational qualification analysis reveals a predominant presence of individuals with secondary education, indicating a baseline level of educational attainment among participants. Marital status data suggests that the majority of participants are single, potentially indicating greater flexibility and autonomy in pursuing entrepreneurial ventures. Descriptive variables such as income, household size, experience, and land size shed light on the socio-economic context of participants, highlighting moderate income levels, moderate household sizes, and significant agricultural experience.

Formal training in agriculture is prevalent among participants, underscoring the importance of specialized knowledge in agricultural entrepreneurship. Confidence in entrepreneurship skills varies, with a notable proportion expressing uncertainty, indicating the need for confidence-building initiatives. Factors perceived to increase willingness to participate in agriculture-related entrepreneurship include financial incentives, access to land, market access, access to credit, and technology integration, while networking opportunities and training and education are comparatively less emphasized.

Government support, particularly financial support, training and development programs, land access, research and innovation, and infrastructure development, is recognized as critical for fostering youth engagement in agriculture.

The multinomial regression analysis reveals significant associations between various factors and youth willingness to participate in agriculture-related entrepreneurship. The model fitting information indicates a significant improvement in model fit compared to the intercept-only model, with a likelihood ratio chi-square of 64.145 ($df = 20$, $p < 0.001$), suggesting that the predictors collectively contribute to explaining the variance in willingness levels. The pseudo R-squared values indicate a moderately strong fit, with Cox and Snell at 0.751, Nagelkerke at 0.836, and McFadden at 0.597. Likelihood ratio tests further demonstrate the significance of individual predictors, with variables such as land ownership ($\chi2 = 24.067$, $p < 0.001$), government support ($\chi2 = 4.709$, $p = 0.095$), and access to credit ($\chi2 = 4.092$, $p = 0.129$) showing notable associations with willingness levels.

The findings of the study reveal several significant challenges hindering youth participation in agriculture-related entrepreneurship. Lack of information emerges as a notable issue, with most respondents strongly agreeing that it poses a barrier, supported by a mean score of 4.3 and a standard deviation of 0.81753. Similarly, limited access to markets, evidenced by a mean score of 4.2 and a standard deviation of 1.47468, significantly impacts profitability and discourages investment. Access to credit is identified as a major constraint, with a mean score of 3.9 and a standard deviation of 1.51030, highlighting the financial barriers faced by youth entrepreneurs. Additionally, the lack of inputs, with a mean score of 2.6 and a standard deviation of 1.51595, underscores challenges in ensuring productivity and profitability. Limited government support, with a mean score of 3.9 and a standard deviation of 1.28471, further exacerbates these challenges, emphasizing the need for policy interventions and support structures.

5.2 Conclusions

Based on the results of the study, several conclusions can be drawn regarding the willingness of youth to participate in agriculture-related entrepreneurship, the factors affecting them, and the challenges they face. Firstly, the findings indicate a generally positive attitude among youth towards engaging in agricultural entrepreneurship, with a significant proportion expressing willingness to participate. This enthusiasm suggests a promising foundation for fostering youth involvement in the agricultural sector. However, several factors influence this willingness, including access to resources such as land, credit, and technology integration, as well as supportive government policies. These findings underscore the importance of addressing these factors to encourage and facilitate youth participation in agriculture. Additionally, challenges such as limited access to information, markets, credit, inputs, and government support pose significant barriers to youth engagement. Overcoming these challenges requires targeted interventions aimed at improving information dissemination, market access, financial inclusion, input provision, and policy support. Overall, fostering youth participation in agriculture-related entrepreneurship is crucial for sustainable agricultural development and economic growth, highlighting the need for comprehensive strategies that address both the opportunities and challenges faced by young entrepreneurs in the sector.

5.3 Recommendations

- Based on the findings of the study, several recommendations can be made to enhance youth participation in agriculture-related entrepreneurship.
- Firstly, policymakers should prioritize the development and implementation of supportive policies that promote youth engagement in agriculture. This includes initiatives to provide access to land, credit, and technology, as well as incentives for young entrepreneurs.
- Additionally, government agencies should invest in infrastructure development to improve access to markets and irrigation facilities, thereby enhancing the viability of agricultural ventures.
- Educational institutions play a crucial role in equipping young people with the necessary knowledge and skills for agricultural entrepreneurship. Therefore, curriculum reforms and vocational training programs should be tailored to address the specific needs of aspiring young farmers.
- Financial institutions should design tailored financial products and services to meet the unique needs of youth entrepreneurs, including flexible repayment terms and collateral requirements.
- Furthermore, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and development agencies can provide technical assistance, capacity building, and mentorship programs to support youth-led agricultural enterprises.
- Lastly, collaboration among stakeholders, including government agencies, educational institutions, financial institutions, NGOs, and youth organizations, is essential for creating an enabling environment that fosters youth participation in agriculture-related entrepreneurship. By implementing these recommendations, stakeholders can contribute to unlocking the potential of young people as drivers of agricultural innovation and economic development.

5.4 Recommendations for further study

Further research in this area could focus on exploring the effectiveness of specific interventions aimed at addressing the challenges identified in this study. For example, conducting longitudinal studies to evaluate the impact of government policies, educational programs, and financial initiatives on youth participation in agriculture-related entrepreneurship could provide valuable insights into the most effective strategies for promoting youth engagement in

the sector. Additionally, qualitative research methods such as interviews and focus group discussions could be employed to gain a deeper understanding of the perspectives and experiences of young entrepreneurs, as well as the specific barriers they face. By building upon the findings of this study, future research can contribute to the development of evidence-based policies and interventions that effectively support youth empowerment and sustainable agricultural development.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

DEMOGRAPHIC SECTION

1. Age 18-25 25-30 30-35

2. Gender Female Male

3. Educational qualification Primary Secondary Tertiary Others

4. Employment status Employed Unemployed

5. Status Single Married Divorced

6. Monthly income

7. Household size

8. Have you received any formal training or education related to agricul Yes No

9. Do you own or have access to land suitable for agricultural activiti Yes No

10. Do you have access to financial resources (loans, grants, and savings) to invest in agricultural entrepre Yes No

11. How do you rate your level of confidence in your entrepreneurial sk

Low | Medium | High

12. Are there any specific or cultural norms that affect your decision to participate in agricultural entrepre

Yes | No

FACTORS AFFECTING YOUTH WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

NO	FACTOR	RESPONSE YES/NO
1	**Attitude**	
2	**Acceptance**	
3	**Land ownership**	
4	**Expected government support**	
5	**Credit facilities**	
6	**Knowledge**	
7	**Parental support**	
8	**Agro-machine ownership**	
9	**Background**	

10	**Locality**	

Barriers and challenges faced by young entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector

CHALLENGES	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of information					
Limited of access to markets					
Limited access to credit					
Lack of inputs					
Limited government support					
Limited water and irrigation					

Rating scale

Strongly disagree – 1

Disagree – 2

Neutral – 3

Agree – 4

Strongly agree - 5

Levels of youth willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship.

1. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 indicates "not willing at all" and 5 indicates "extremely willing," how willing are you to engage in agricultural entrepreneurship?
2. What factors would increase your willingness to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship?
3. Are there any specific types of support or assistance that would encourage you to pursue agricultural entrepreneurship further?