)ETERMINANTS OF RURAL YOUTHS' PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE-BASED LIVELIHOOD PORTFOLIO IN ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

BY

IDOWU, OLAROTIMI PAUL (PG 18/0174)

NCE (FCE Okenne), HND (FECA), PGD (FUNAAB)

A Dissertation submitted to the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, College of Agricultural Management and Rural)evelopment, Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta in partial fulfilment of the)uirements for the award of degree of Master in Agriculture and Rural Development.

OCTOBER 2025

ABSTRACT

ricultural sector in Nigeria is facing a critical challenge in ensuring sustainability due to farming population and limited youth participation in agriculture. This study therefore, d the determinants of rural youths participation in agriculture-based livelihood portfolios o State, Nigeria. A simple random sampling technique was used to select 177 youths from geria Community Action for Resilience and Economic Stimulus Programme (NG-Care) in ture for the study. A structured questionnaire was used to elicit data on socio-economic eristics of the youths, participation of rural youths in agriculture-based livelihood ios, factors influencing as well as and constraints affecting rural youth participation and outh attitude towards agriculture-based livelihood portfolios. Data were analyzed using ıcy counts, percentages, means, standard deviation and Multiple Linear Regression. reveal that 66.1% of the respondents were male, 71.2% were married and 94.7% had iteracy education with an average age, farming experience and monthly income of s, 5years and ₦80,000 respectively. Results further show that crop farming ($\bar{x}$ =0.91) and production ($\bar{x}$ =0.81) were the agriculture-based livelihood portfolios most practiced by ɔondents. Also, the major factors that influenced youths' participation in agriculture-based ɔod portfolios were access to credits and farm inputs ($\bar{x}$ =1.86) and adequate infrastructure hnologies ($\bar{x}$ =1.84). High cost of transportation ($\bar{x}$ =1.89), lack of storage facilities ($\bar{x}$ and lack of irrigation facilities (($\bar{x}$ =1.77) were the major challenges encountered by in agricultural activities. Most (93.8%) of the respondents had a positive attitude towards ture-based livelihood portfolio. Linear regression model reveal a significant ($p<0.05$) ıship between access to credit and farm inputs (β= 2.046), adequate infrastructure and logies (β= 2.722) and rural youths' participation in agriculture-based livelihood portfolio.

study concluded that access to credits, farm inputs and adequate infrastructure and ologies influenced youths' engagement in agriculture. Therefore, there is a need for ment, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to institute youth friendly facilities and farm input supply schemes as well as other critical infrastructure such as ion systems, storage facilities, and rural roads to encourage their participation in ltural-based livelihood portfolio.