



THE BENEFITS OF PROPERLY TRAINING AND EMPOWERING FARMERS, YOUTH AND WOMEN



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BENEFIT OF PROPERLY TRAINING:

- Understanding the job
- Problem solving
- Knowledge of new technology
- Ideas of storage facilities and packaging of their products
- Developing knowledge in new areas

EMPOWERING FARMERS:

- To increase productivity
- Taking production where the market is
- Make farming more accessible for farmers, youth and women
- Providing good input for farmers

Capacity building in agriculture has become imperative in Nigeria due to the high rate of youth unemployment, over-dependence on white collar job and the need to prepare a replacement for the aging local subsistence farmers. To achieve this trend, some states in Nigeria established youth training farms to empower the youth in agricultural sector. **Integrated Youth Training Farm Program** was established by the Kwara State government as a youth empowerment strategy to reduce unemployment and associated social problems.

About 418 youths were trained through the capacity building program between 2006 and 2013 as new generation of modern commercial farmers. In this regard, this study show the impact of the Integrated Youth Farm Training Program on youth in Kwara State. Using qualitative case study technique, 30 informants who included the youth participants, implementers and government officials were interviewed. Also, documents, Focus Group Discussion and observation were used as the researchers remain the main instrument.

The findings is that, the capacity building program has made tremendous impact directly and indirectly on the lives of the youth in Kwara State. Eventually, the success of the program has led to multiplier effects that will subsequently go a long way in empowering the teeming youth population socially, economically and if the challenges of sustainability are adequately addressed. Capacity building is a process of improving the ability of individual or group with a view to empower them with a new knowledge or to add to their existing knowledge.

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UNESCO (2006) described capacity building in the same context; as individual, organization or system ability to perform some functions more appropriately, effectively, efficiently and sustain such ability. The idea behind capacity building program is to give what is lacking or what is causing a set-back in achieving a task or goal so that the task or goal will be achieved. In other word, UNDP (2009) defined capacity development as the process through which individuals, organizations, and societies acquire, strengthen

and maintain the capabilities to set and achieve their development objectives over time. Therefore, developing youth capacity in this study can be described as a community capacity building targeted to improve the youth ability in agriculture as a community. From the above definitions of UNESCO and UNDP, it can be observed that, building capacity was wrapped with sustainability. In this case, the role of government and other stakeholders is needed and becomes imperative for a successful empowerment outcome in a

program that is youth oriented for it to be sustained. The marriage between capacity building and empowerment is not far fetch because when capacity is built or developed one becomes empowered. Therefore, capacity building program is a process while empowerment is the output. The outcome is the result of the output overtime and this depend on effective monitoring and evaluation system. However, knowing the impacts of empowerment is an important factor in determining the

effectiveness and sustainability level of the program upon which capacity is built. Consequently, youth capacity building on agriculture have multi-facet dimension depending on the mind-set of the government as the mastermind of the program. From the face value, it can be know that, building youth capacity in agriculture is to empower them to become able economically, socially, and by extension, politically .

The process of capacity-building goes in line with the nature of the empowerment program or what it intends to achieve.

The Impacts of Integrated Youth Training Farm as a Capacity Building Center for Youth Agricultural Empowerment in Kwara State, Nigeria.

Technological change has been the major driving force for increasing agricultural productivity and promoting agriculture development in all countries. In the past, the choice of technologies and their adoption was to increase production, productivity and farm incomes. Over many decades, policies for agriculture, trade, research and development, education, training and advice have been strong influences on the choice of technology, the level of agricultural production and farm practices.

Agriculture is becoming more integrated in the ago-food chain and the global market, while environmental, food safety and quality, and animal welfare regulations are also increasingly impacting on the sector. It is faced with new challenges to meet growing demands for food, to be internationally competitive and to produce agricultural products of high quality. At the same time, it must meet sustainability goals in the context of on-going agricultural policy reform, advisors and policy makers are faced with complex choices.

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They are faced with a wide range of technologies that are either available or under development; they must deal with the uncertainties of both the effects these new technologies will have throughout the agri-food chain and the impact that a whole range of policies will have on the sustainability of farming systems. In addition, there is increasing pressure on agricultural research and advisory budgets that must be accommodated.

TRAINING ON PROCESSING OF TOMATO PASTE, JUICE, PLUM AND KETCHUP



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TRAINING ON TOMATO AND OTHER VEGETABLE PRODUCTS “COMMUNITY SERVICE TAKUNSHARA - ABUJA”



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CONCLUSION

Based on the above findings and discussion, it can be concluded that the youth capacity building in agriculture at tomato farm is a success and has impacted the teeming youth accordingly. However, there is a need to ensure sustainability of the program through legislations. Capacity building should also be extended to the implementers in line with the vision and mission of the center while other stakeholders in youth development from

Non-Government Organization should be considered for collaboration. Moreover, the internal structure of the center needs to be improved to reflect transformative development with ethical discipline for the center to be self-sustaining. However, the program is also faced with some challenges that could threaten its sustainability. These include poor maintenance of equipment, inadequate monitoring and evaluation system, inconsistent credit facility schedule, infrastructural decay, a weak collaboration with stakeholders, lack

of institutionalization and politicization. It is the opinion of the authors that a general overall of the Training Center through the use of community development experts could re-energize the sustainability level and also improve the impacts beyond the current level.

