

Influence of information usage and entrepreneurial skills on job creation in farm settlement in Lagos State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined the influence of information usage and entrepreneur skills in job creation in farm settlement at Agric Yes, Araga, Epe in Lagos State, Nigeria. The impact of Agricultural sector to the development and economic growth of a country is immeasurable. Information play important roles in opportunity creation especially in entrepreneurial skills. The population consisted of three hundred and twenty five (325) individuals at the farm settlement located at Araga, Lagos State, Nigeria. Using Glenn Model (1992) of tabulated arrangement of determining sample size in research activities in the Social Sciences, a sample of 154 was used for the study. The study adopted a descriptive research design with the use of self structured questionnaire as instrument for data collection. Frequency, percentage and linear regression were used to analyse the data. The finding revealed that a significant positive relationship between information use and job creation ((R-squared) value of 0.353 indicates that approximately 35.3%) in farm settlements in Lagos State, and a significant positive relationship between entrepreneurial skills and job creation (R-squared) value of 0.305 implies that approximately 30.5% of the variation in job creation) in farm settlements in Lagos . The study concluded that information usage and entrepreneurial skills play important roles in job creation in farm settlement. It was recommended that farmers should endeavor to always seek relevant information that can enhances their entrepreneurial skills, thereby exploiting various opportunities available to expand their job productivity and increasing their income.

Keywords: Information role; information usage; entrepreneur skills; job creation; farm settlement

Introduction

In most developing countries, the agricultural sector remains the largest contributor providing inputs, food, employment opportunities, raw materials for other industries, provision of foreign earnings from exportation of the surpluses, and more importantly the enormous advantage derived from job creation. Agriculture is a compound word which describes various means through which crops and animals sustain world human population through the provision of food products and other consumables. Agricultural sector in Nigeria is more than just a sector, it can be regarded as a lifeline, shaping the nation economics landscape and providing sustenance for its burgeoning population. The impact of agriculture on job

creation in Nigeria is profound, weaving of employment opportunities that span from lush fields to the bustling markets. Agriculture is the bedrock of economic growth, development and poverty eradication in the developing countries. In most of the developing nations of the world in terms of economic growth and development, agriculture is known to be the bedrock of these nations. Agriculture has also been regarded to as the engine and panacea to economic prosperity.

The role of agriculture in generating employment in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized because it occupies a strategic position in the economies of this continent. This sector positions itself as a principal propeller of growth, asset of wealth creation, provider of employment

and means of poverty reduction at the same time. Agriculture is an important occupation in Nigeria with over 70% of her population depending on indirectly or directly for livelihood. It provides the bulk of employment in the rapidly growing population as well as supplying raw materials for production in the society. Agriculture serves as the primary employer for significant portion of Nigerian population in rural and urban areas. Starting from a smallholder farmer, from planting to have sting to post-harvest processing, each stage in the agriculture value chain is a potential source of employment. However, recently [Adetuyi, Tarbert and Harrison \(2023\)](#) revealed that it is finding it very difficult to provide sufficient food for the teeming population which has resulted in the majority of the country's citizens slipping into poverty. The role of agro-processing industries serves as a diversification of the agricultural landscape contributes to a more robust and resilient economy. The government establishing farm settlement in various states in the nation is to enhance agricultural production and to creates more job opportunities that will promote the growth of economy in the society.

Farm settlement is a government initiative for promoting rural development by providing small holder farmers resources and land for commercial farm operations. Farm settlement scheme can also be described as an intervention of the government to promote efficient utilization of land resources and dignity in farming by the provision of basic social needs (Omotilewa, 2021) Farm scheme can be seen as a method of advancing rural development in a rapid speed by the effort of the government. Farm settlement scheme can further be described as an intervention of the government to promote efficient utilization of land resources and dignity in farming by the provision of basic social

needs. In Nigeria, this type of settlement scheme has been in operation since the 1950's. Each of the three Geo-political zones that is the Hausa's, the Igbo's and the Yoruba's had its own system of operation with respect to the prevailing religious and cultural atmosphere of such a place. Improvement of farming methods by farmers for the market as well as transforming subsistent agriculture into small scale commercial farming were the driving force. In this project, spatial arrangement and rearrangement of farm plots or resettlement of population by the locals together with government intervention, supervision and intensive agricultural guidance through the appointment of extension agents and dispersal into such regions make for effective campaign or project exercise.

Information has received a wide range of acceptance as an essential resource of this century. It has been described as a simulating creativity, resulting in new outcomes and processes. All human societies depend very much on information for existence that is information is life. Ojo, (2022) have highlighted the importance of information access and utilization in improving agricultural practices and productivity. The proper identification and use of information sources are prerequisites for objective decision making. Consequently, the possession of awareness and use of appropriate information guarantee individual and organizational functioning. The major function of information is to increase the knowledge of the user, to reduce his level of uncertainty or reduce the varieties of choices available to the users of information. For information to be effective, it must be accurate, timely and relevant. Ayanyemi (2016) referred to information as an essential resource for individual growth and survival. An informed mind is an enriched mind and if one is not

informed he will be deformed. Information is a common term. It is often in the mouth of people, attracting diverse and ambivalent meanings and interpretations. Uhegbu (2007) opined that hardly can one mention the word 'information' without referring to somebody; the educated understand information from their various backgrounds.

Entrepreneurship skills in agriculture play an important role in the Nigerian economic. Kolomi, Wali & Mohammed (2021) established that entrepreneurship and need for entrepreneurship in Agriculture vis-à-vis the various subsectors of agriculture. Entrepreneurship is the catalyst for social change and works for the common good. Entrepreneurship in agricultural refers to the creation and management of new ventures in the agriculture industry. Entrepreneurship skills are those necessary skills needed for successfully running of a business or add value to work and it enable the farmer have a potential skills to promote job creation and yielding more income leading to economy growth of the individual.

Statement of the problem

The role of agriculture in nation development cannot be overemphasized as it occupies a strategic position in the economy's growth of a nation. Due to the important of agriculture, the government establishes farm settlement in states to promote economic development in rural area by providing small holder farmers resources and land for commercial farm operations leading to creation of more jobs which can increase the economic growth of the people. Adeyemi & Ogundele, (2018) identified entrepreneurial skills as a crucial tool for success in agriculture and a key to job creation. Information access and utilization improves agricultural practice and productivity, of a nation. Despite the potential for agricultural development and job creation in farm

settlements, there is a lack of comprehensive research focusing on the influence of information usage and entrepreneurial skills in enhancing job creation within these settlements in Lagos State, Nigeria. Hence, this study will focus on the influence of information usage and entrepreneur skills in job creation in farm settlement in Lagos State.

Objectives of the study

The main objective of this study is to investigate information use, entrepreneur skills as correlates of job creation in farm settlement in Lagos State the specific objectives are to:

1. examine the influence of information use on job creation in farm settlement in Lagos State
2. examine the influence of entrepreneurial skills on job creation in farm settlement in Lagos State
3. examine the combined influence of information use and entrepreneurial skills on job creation in farm settlement in Lagos State

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses will be tested at 0.05% level of significance:

1. information use has no significant influence on job creation in farm settlement in Lagos State.
2. Entrepreneurial skills have no significant influence on job creation in farm settlement in Lagos State.
3. information use and entrepreneurial skills have no combined influence on job creation in farm settlement in Lagos State.

Literature review

Information technology refers to the utilization of digital and information literacy skills aiming at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of production. Digital skills

can be described as skills required in utilizing digital tools/resources available in the technological world. These skills connote knowledge availability and skills necessary for the effective use of digital technologies and internet resources. Digital skill is the ability to utilize information from a variety of digital sources (Adeniran & Onuoha, 2018). Digital skills entail the ability to access, use and evaluate information from a variety of electronic sources. Farmer's ability to possess digital skills enables them to harness the various technological information relevant to improve production in this digital era. Farmers possessing digital and literacy skills will serve as a gateway to effectively manage the indigenous and technological knowledge on farming which will lead to great productivity. Digital skills are skills needed by individuals to access information and to learn effectively, especially in a digital environment.

DeWaard, Hoechsmann, Frau-Meigs, and Kotilainen (2020) opined that a digitally and information literacy skilled individual is a person that possesses the ability to use digital technologies, the ability to consider digital media resources objectively and to use the content to build and analyze information that can be communicable to others. Digital literacy skills require the ability to understand, identify, analyze, construct and communicate digital information through technology. Digital literacy can be viewed as the ability to understand the concept and use computer technology to search, locate, access information, and connect online with other users. A digital literate farmer can easily generate economic growth through utilizing the modern skills through technology thereby providing more job opportunities in his environment leading to job creation.

The role of agriculture in generating employment in Africa cannot be

overemphasized because agriculture occupies a strategic position in the economies of this continent. This sector positions itself as a principal propeller of growth, asset of wealth creation, provider of employment and means of poverty reduction at the same time. Agricultural sector is also the leading economic activity in the Sub-Saharan Africa which its contribution ranges between 20% and 30% to Gross Domestic Product of the continent (World Bank, 2017). In Nigeria, larger percentage of the population dwells in the rural areas that heavily rely on agricultural related activities as a means of livelihood. Before the discovery of oil, Nigerian economy so depended on agriculture that this sector alone contributed about 71% to its GDP, over 70% of its employment and about 90% of its foreign earnings within the periods in question (CBN, 1970). Ehui and Tsigas (2009) attributed the significance of agriculture in Nigeria not only to the ability of this sector to serve as the major employer of labor but also the backbone in providing food to Nigeria's teeming population, and input in the form of raw materials to the industrial sector amongst other benefits.

Farm scheme can be seen as a method of advancing rural development in a rapid speed by the effort of the government. Farm settlement scheme can also be described as an intervention of the government to promote efficient utilization of land resources and dignity in farming by the provision of basic social needs. Improvement of farming methods by farmers for the market as well as transforming subsistent agriculture into small scale commercial farming were the driving force. In this project spatial arrangement and rearrangement of farm plots or resettlement of population by the locals together with government intervention, supervision and intensive agricultural guidance through the

appointment of extension agents and dispersal into such regions make for effective campaign or project exercise.

The objectives of farm settlement scheme as enunciated by Omotola (2022) as follows:

- i. To increase agricultural productivity and demonstrate modern techniques of farming
- ii. To provide employment and income for school leavers and arrest the wave of rural migration to the urban areas to bring about rural development
- iii. To make farming efficient, lucrative and attractive to youth
- iv. To solve the land tenure problem which serves as a major constraint to agricultural development for youths and women farmers
- v. To demonstrate that by careful planning farms can be established and operated by young educated farmers and provide a comfortable standard of living comparable to other employment
- vi. To act as model for others to copy and serve as another extension method with a view to accelerating agricultural development
- vii. To enhance a steady rise in income and the general standard of living of the people especially farming households
- viii. To link agricultural institute to farm settlement to enhance technology transfer
- ix. To achieve food sufficiency, consumption of nutrition and healthy foods as well as encourage educated

young people to make a profitable career in farming

- x. For government to build farm settlements as a plan for modernizing traditional agricultural (Abiwon, 2017).

Methods

The research design for this study was a descriptive survey design which involves the use of quantitative methods. A self structured questionnaire was used to solicit for data from the respondents. The researchers developed questionnaires, drawing guidance from the existing literature for the study. The study's total population consisted of three hundred and twenty five (325) individuals at the farm settlement located at Araga, Lagos State. Using Glenn Model (1992) of tabulated arrangement of determining sample size in research activities in the Social Sciences to determine the sample size. To calculate the target population size, the precision ratio of $\pm 5\%$ and confidence level of 95% was used, 154 sample sizes was used for the study. A simple random sampling technique was used to distribute the questionnaires across the various sections in the farm. Frequency, percentage and linear regression were used to analyse the data.

Results and discussion

The study administered one hundred and fifty-six (154) questionnaires. Out of these, one hundred and five (109) questionnaires were duly completed and returned making them suitable for analysis. This represents a response rate of 70.8%.

Table 1: Demographic Information

Demographics		Frequency	%
Gender	Male	82	75.23%
	Female	27	24.77%
Age	20-30	26	23.85%
	31-40	24	22.02%
	41-50	31	28.44%
	51-60	23	21.10%
	61 and above	5	4.59%
Marital Status	Married	58	53.21%
	Single	24	22.02%
	Divorced	27	24.77%
	Windowed	0	0.00%
Level of Education	Primary	2	1.83%
	Secondary	36	33.03%
	Tertiary	71	65.14%
	Non formal	0	0.00%

Table 1 presents demographic information, providing a snapshot of the gender distribution, age groups, marital status, and level of education among the surveyed population. In terms of gender, the majority are male, constituting 75.23% of the sample, while females make up the remaining 24.77%. This suggests a notable gender imbalance in the study population. Moving on to age distribution, the largest age group falls within the 41-50 range, representing 28.44%, followed closely by the 20-30 and 31-40 age groups, each comprising 23.85% and 22.02%, respectively. The table also indicates that the older age categories (51-60 and 61 and above) constitute a smaller proportion of the sample, with 21.10% and 4.59%, respectively. This information provides insights into the age composition of the studied demographic.

Regarding marital status, a significant portion of the respondents are married, accounting for 53.21% of the total. Single individuals make up 22.02%, while divorced individuals represent 24.77%. Interestingly, there are no respondents categorized as widowed, indicating a lack of representation for this marital status in the sample. Finally, the table sheds light on the

level of education within the population. The majority have attained tertiary education (65.14%), followed by those with secondary education (33.03%). The smallest percentage is attributed to individuals with primary education (1.83%), while there are no respondents with no formal education. This breakdown underscores the educational diversity within the surveyed population, emphasizing a predominant presence of individuals with higher educational qualifications

Hypothesis one: Information use has no significant influence on job creation in farm settlement in Lagos State. The data in Table 2 are used to test this hypothesis.

Table 2 displays the results of a regression analysis conducted to examine the relationship between information use and job creation in farm settlements in Lagos State. In this analysis, information use is treated as the independent variable, while job creation serves as the dependent variable. The results indicate a significant and positive influence of information use on job creation in farm settlements. The non-standardized coefficient (B) for information use is 0.369, with a standard error of 0.048.

The standardized coefficient (Beta) is 0.594, suggesting a substantial impact. The t-value associated with this coefficient is 7.645, and

the corresponding p-value is less than 0.05, indicating statistical significance.

Table 2: Regression analysis on the effect of information use on job creation in farm settlement in Lagos State

Coefficients ^a		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
Model		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	5.476	1.719		3.186	.002
	INFORMATION USE	.369	.048	.594	7.645	.000

a. Dependent Variable: JOB CREATION

R = 0.594 R² = 0.353 AdR² = 0.347 f(1,108) = 58.453

The overall fit of the regression model was evaluated using the F-test, yielding an F-value of 58.453. This result suggests that the model is statistically significant, providing evidence to support its utility in predicting job creation based on information use. The coefficient of determination (R-squared) value of 0.353 indicates that approximately 35.3% of the variation in job creation can be explained by the variation in information use in farm settlements in Lagos State. The adjusted R-squared value of 0.347 accounts for the number of predictors in the model, indicating that around 34.7% of the variation in job creation can be explained by information use.

In essence, the findings of this study suggest a significant positive relationship between information use and job creation in farm settlements in Lagos State. The results imply that the effective utilization of information plays a meaningful role in influencing job creation within the context of farm settlements. This study support the finding of Ajayi, (2019) and Ojo, (2022) that indicated the importance of information access and utilization in improving agricultural practices and productivity. In the

same vein, of Mubofu and Malekani (2020) also affirmed that information is an important source used to enhance agricultural productivity among farmers and it improves job creation in farm settlements.

Hypothesis two: Entrepreneurial skills have no significant influence on job creation in farm settlement in Lagos State. The data in Table 3 are used to test this hypothesis.

Table 3 presents the results of a regression analysis conducted to investigate the relationship between entrepreneurial skills and job creation in farm settlements in Lagos State. In this analysis, entrepreneurial skills are treated as the independent variable, while job creation is the dependent variable. The results reveal a significant and positive influence of entrepreneurial skills on job creation in farm settlements. The non-standardized coefficient (B) for entrepreneurial skills is 0.203, with a standard error of 0.030. The standardized coefficient (Beta) is 0.553, indicating a substantial impact. The t-value associated with this coefficient is 6.858, and the corresponding p-value is less than 0.05, signifying statistical significance.

Table 3: Regression analysis on the effect of entrepreneurial skills on job creation in farm settlement in Lagos State

Coefficients ^a		Non-standardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
Model		B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
1	(Constant)	26.015	1.090		23.875	.000
	ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILL	.203	.030	.553	6.858	.000

a. Dependent Variable: JOB CREATION
R = 0.553 R² = 0.305 AdR² = 0.299 f(1,108) = 47.028

The overall fit of the regression model was assessed using the F-test, resulting in an F-value of 47.028. This suggests that the model is statistically significant, supporting its effectiveness in predicting job creation based on entrepreneurial skills. The coefficient of determination (R-squared) value of 0.305 implies that approximately 30.5% of the variation in job creation can be explained by the variation in entrepreneurial skills in farm settlements in Lagos State. The adjusted R-squared value of 0.299 accounts for the number of predictors in the model, indicating that about 29.9% of the variation in job creation can be explained by entrepreneurial skills.

Essentially, the findings of this study suggest a significant positive relationship between entrepreneurial skills and job creation in farm settlements in Lagos State.

The results indicate that possessing entrepreneurial skills plays a meaningful role in influencing job creation within the context of farm settlements. This study corroborates the findings of Adeyemi and Ogundele, (2018) that stated that entrepreneurial skills have been identified as crucial for success in agriculture and it has greatly improved job creation in the society. Adekanbi (2018) also established that entrepreneurial skills enhances agriculture which serves as a tool that motivate various job opportunities in Nigeria economy and enhances diversification to different fields.

Hypothesis three: Information use and entrepreneurial skills have no combined influence on job creation in farm settlement in Lagos State. This hypothesis is tested with the data in Table 4.

Table 4: Regression analysis on the effect of information use and entrepreneurial skills on job creation in farm settlement in Lagos State

Coefficients ^a		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
Model		B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
1	(Constant)	13.830	2.456		5.631	.000
	INFORMATION USE	.269	.050	.434	5.400	.000
	ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILL	.131	.029	.357	4.452	.000

a. Dependent Variable: JOB CREATION
R = 0.675 R² = 0.455 AdR² = 0.445 f(1,108) = 44.279

Table 4 shows the results of a regression analysis examining the combined effects of information use and entrepreneurial skills on job creation in farm settlements in Lagos State. In this analysis, both information use

and entrepreneurial skills are treated as independent variables, while job creation serves as the dependent variable. The results indicate that both information use and entrepreneurial skills have significant and

positive influences on job creation in farm settlements. For information use, the non-standardized coefficient (B) is 0.269, with a standard error of 0.050. The standardized coefficient (Beta) is 0.434, suggesting a substantial impact. The t-value associated with this coefficient is 5.400, and the corresponding p-value is less than 0.05, indicating statistical significance.

For entrepreneurial skills, the non-standardized coefficient (B) is 0.131, with a standard error of 0.029. The standardized coefficient (Beta) is 0.357, indicating a meaningful impact. The t-value associated with this coefficient is 4.452, and the corresponding p-value is less than 0.05, signifying statistical significance. The overall fit of the regression model was evaluated using the F-test, resulting in an F-value of 44.279. This indicates that the model is statistically significant, providing evidence to support its utility in predicting job creation based on both information use and entrepreneurial skills. The coefficient of determination (R-squared) value of 0.455 suggests that approximately 45.5% of the variation in job creation can be explained by the combined variation in information use and entrepreneurial skills in farm settlements in Lagos State. The adjusted R-squared value of 0.445 accounts for the number of predictors in the model, indicating that about 44.5% of the variation in job creation can be explained by the combined effects of information use and entrepreneurial skills.

In a nutshell, the findings of this study suggest that both information use and entrepreneurial skills have significant positive relationships with job creation in farm settlements in Lagos State. The results imply that the effective utilization of information and possessing entrepreneurial skills collectively play meaningful roles in influencing job creation within the context of farm settlements. The finding of this

study established the importance of information and entrepreneurial skills on job creation in farm settlement in Lagos State. The study confirms that the role of information in the development of a nation is very important and possessing entrepreneurial skills can enhance job creativity and promotes creation of more job opportunities especially in the agricultural settlements in Lagos State. Job creation will improve economic growth of the nation thereby enabling the individual to live a better life. This finding is affirmed by Suruj et al (2023) who stated that the idea of entrepreneurship in agriculture involves identifying and seizing business opportunities in the agriculture sector, such as developing new and improved products, improving supply chain management, and utilizing new technologies to increase productivity.

Conclusion

This study established the important role of information usage and entrepreneur skills in job creation in farm settlements in Lagos State. The findings established that there is a significant positive relationship between information use and job creation in farm settlements in Lagos State. This implies that the effective utilization of information plays a meaningful role in influencing job creation within the context of farm settlements. The finding further indicated that possessing entrepreneurial skills plays a meaningful role in influencing job creation within the context of farm settlements and the study conclude that both information use and entrepreneurial skills have significant positive relationships with job creation in farm settlements in Lagos State.

Based on the result of the finding of this study, the following recommendations are hereby made:

1. The provision of relevant and updated information is crucial to the

development of a nation, thereby the farmers should have quick access to various agencies responsible to the provision of relevant research updates that can improve agricultural productivities in the nation

2. The government should endeavour to establish a well equipped library in every settlement as this will enhance access to relevant information which will lead to more productivity and job creation
3. The government should employ a qualified librarian that will serve as information provision agency to every library established in the farm settlement.
4. Farmers should endeavour to always seek relevant information that can enhance their entrepreneurial skills, thereby exploiting various opportunities available to expand their job productivity and increasing their income .

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