

Youths Economic Empowerment through Vocational Agricultural Enterprises (Entrepreneurship) for Sustainable Agriculture in Nigeria: Constraints and Initiatives for Improvement

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Abstract : This paper presents agricultural education as a vocational study, an impetus for youths, economic empowerment. The survival of Nigeria's agriculture rests squarely on the youth who are the farmers and leaders of tomorrow. Hitherto, the teaching and learning of agriculture has proceeded in such a manner that graduates of such programs have failed to make the successful launch into the world of agricultural enterprises (entrepreneurship). Major constraints that predisposed this anomalous situation were identified to include poor policy framework, socio-economic pressures, undue parental and peer influences, improper value orientation and of course, the nature of curricula. In response to the situation, some programs and/or initiatives aimed at inculcating entrepreneurial skills were proposed by this paper with identified target beneficiaries. The initiatives bordered on curricular reorientation that integrate entrepreneurship/enterprise education, retraining of graduates, financial support system among others.

Keywords : Program initiatives, vocational agriculture, youths' empowerment, introduction

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