EFFECT OF ACCELERATED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME ON EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AMONG YOUTHS IN YENAGOA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF BAYELSA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study analyzed the effect of the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme (AADS) on employment generation in Yenagoa Local Government Areaof Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Purposive, systematic random and snowball sampling techniques were used to select 80 youths from eight communities in the study area. Data were collected using structured questionnaire and were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics such as (ANOVA) and multiple regression analysis. Two null hypotheses were tested at 5% level of significance. The findings showed that the participants had a mean age of 28 years, 60.0% of the participants were males while 40.0% were females. The result showed that provision of short and medium form funding ($\bar{x}$= 3.34), provision of fund ($\bar{x}$= 3.23)and promotion of food security among stakeholders in the agricultural value chain ($\bar{x}$= 2.95) were the various programmes initiated by the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme in order to reduce unemployment in the study area. There was also high ($\bar{x}$= 2.75) level of youth participation in most programmes of the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme. The Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme had positive effect ($\bar{x}$= 2.93) on employment generation among participants in the study area. The study further showed that youths had positive perception ($\bar{x}$= 2.71) of the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme in the study area. The result shows that lack of agricultural insurance ($\bar{x}$= 2.51) was the only constraint faced by the youths in accessing the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme The ANOVA result showed that there was significant difference in the level of participation of youths in the Accelerated Agricultural Development scheme in the study area at 5% level of significance. The multiple regression analysis revealed that provision of short and medium term funding (2.857***) and provision of hectares of land to beneficiaries (4.725***) influenced employment generation among participants in the study area at 1% level of significance. The study concluded that the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme had positive effect on employment generation among participants in the study area. Hence, it recommends that The Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme should be sustained and expanded for continued promotion of employable skills and opportunities.

Keywords: Accelerated, Scheme, Employment generation, Agricultural development and Youths

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is considered the oldest occupation of man, is one aspect of the society that cannot go into extinction (Ogbalubi andWokocha, 2013).Agricultural development is critically important for ensuring food and nutritional security, income and employment generation, and for stimulating industrialization and overall economic development of any developing nation (Ogbanga and Allwell, 2018).

The Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme is a CBN/state government empowerment program for youths to venture into agriculture on three (3) comparative area: rice farming, cassava farming, and fish farming which is cardinal to the development of most States in Nigeria with enormous potentials for sustainable economic growth and export promotion. African Development Bank reveals a burgeoning population of agriculturists in Africa who are employed by the different nodes of the Agri systems and food value chain (Asogwa and Onyegbulam, 2021). For instance, the World Bank (2018) indicated that 65% of Nigerians are directly or indirectly employed in the agricultural sector.

The grouped unemployment by sex further reveals that the share of the ratio of unemployed youths to unemployed female youths consistently grew greater than the male youths. The share of male youths employed by agriculture when this programme was initiated was 57.59%, while the female employed youths in agriculture was 57.11%. This represents a gradual decline from 69.57% for females and 65.23% for male youths employed since the 1980s. Therefore, the current state of unemployment growth continues in the recent times with more than 10 million youths entering the labor market every year and such pose a huge threat to social cohesion and political stability, (Woldemichael, Salami,Mukasa, Simpasa and Shimeles, 2017).

The approach addresses the challenge of youth employment in the Niger Delta. It also supports the employment generation drive of the federal government to redirect youths towards agriculture as a viable and profitable occupational choice, in line with the ATA (International Fund for Agricultural Development, 2015).

Thisprogramme has stimulated business-oriented agriculture, bringing about a change in the mindsets of rural youth and key actors in the public sector. More than 40,000 jobs have been created (in agribusinesses or as service providers) for young women and men across the nine states of the Niger Delta region. Up to 15,000 small agribusinesses, such as aquaculture, poultry and piggery operations, vegetable and rice production, and palm oil processing enterprises, have been set up by previously unemployed young men. Studies conducted by (Asogwa and Onyegbulam, 2021; Allwell, Ogbanga, 2018) concentrated their studies on agricultural value-added output to employment creation and agricultural development in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is therefore, obvious that little or nothing has been done on the effect of accelerated agricultural development scheme on employment generation among youths in Yenagoa local government area of Bayelsa State, Nigeria.In view of the forgone, the study was conducted to analyze the effect Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme on employment generation among youths in Yenagoa Local Government area of Bayelsa State, Nigeria. The objectives of the study were

todescribe the socio-economic characteristics of youths who participated in AADS, ascertain the various programmes initiated by the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme (AADS) in order to reduce unemployment among youths, ascertain the level of participation of youths in the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme, examine effect of the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme on employment generation among participants and examine the perception of youth on Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme in the study area. The study, therefore, hypothesized that the Accelerated agricultural development scheme does not significantly influence employment generation among participants and there is no significant difference on the level of participation of youths accelerated agricultural development scheme in the study area.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted inYenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State. Yenagoa Local Government area is geographically located between latitude 4° 47‟ 15‟ and 5°11‟ 55” North and Long. 6°07‟35” and 6°24‟00” East. The Yenagoa Local Government area has an area of 706 km and a population of 353,344 comprising of 187,791 males and 165,553 females with an annual exponential growth rate of 2.9 as at the 2006 National Census. Yenagoa Local Government Area is bounded by Mbiama communities of Rivers State on the north and East, Kolokuma/OpokumaLocal Government area on the north west, OgbiaLocal Government area on the south and Southern Ijaw on the west, OgbiaLocal Government area on the South East and Sourthern Ijaw on the South west.Yenagoa Local Government Area is located on the banks of Ekole Creek the latter being one of the major river courses making up the Niger Delta's river.The population of the study comprised all youths in Yenagoa local Government. Purposive, systematic random sampling and the snowball sampling methods were adopted. The systematic random sampling technique is used to select eight (8) communities which are Swali, Azikoro, Agbora, Opolo, Okaka, Amarata, Zarama, Igbogene and Edepie.Snow ball sampling was employed in select ten (10) youths from the selected communities above.

Model Specification

The ordinary least square multiple regression model used by Agbarevo and Okringbo (2020) is specified thus:

$Yi= b + b, x, + b_2 x_2 + b_3 X_3 + b_4 X_4 + b_5 X_5 + ei$

Y= participant income (Naira equivalent used as proxy for employment generation).
X= Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme program.
X_1= provision of short and medium term funding.
X_2= provision of food security among stakeholders in the agricultural value chain.
X_3= provision of hectares of land to beneficiaries
X_4= provision of access roads,
X_5= provision of water sources and infrastructure that will enhance Agricultural production.
X_6= provision of fund.
X_7= provide periodic report of the program.

F= statistics= Between group mean square (BGMS)
Within group mean square (WGMS).
Decision Rule: with a computed value of F-test (ANOVA) greater than the tabulated f-value of at 5% levels significance, we reject null HO and accept the alternative.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Distribution of youths by their socio-economic characteristics

Variables	Frequency (n=80)	Percentage (%)	Mean
Age (years)			
18- 25	26	32.5	
26- 33	40	50.0	
34- 40	14	17.5	28 years
Sex			
Male	48	60.0	
Female	32	40.0	
Marital status			
Single	38	47.5	
Married	36	45.0	
Divorced	6	7.5	
Household size			
1 – 3	27	33.8	
4 – 6	34	42.5	
7 – 9	19	23.7	4 persons
Educational qualification			
No formal education	12	15.0	
Primary education	3	3.7	
Secondary education	29	36.3	
Tertiary education	36	45.0	
Farming experience (years)			
1 - 10	49	61.3	
11 – 20	28	35.0	
21 and above	3	3.7	10 years
Farm size (hectares)			
0.1 – 0.5	26	32.5	
0.6 - 1.0	40	50.0	
1.1 – 1.5	14	17.5	0.8 hectare
Estimated monthly income (N)			
10,000 - 30,000	15	18.8	
30,001 - 50,000	37	46.2	
50,001 - 70,000	15	18.8	
70,001 and above	13	16.2	N45,500.00

Source: Field survey data, 2021

The result in Table 1 showed that 50.0% of the youths were within the age bracket of 26-33 years old while 32.5% of the youths were within the age bracket of 18-25 years. The mean age of the youths was 28 years. This implies that the youths were at the economically active age where

their energies can be channeled to employment generating opportunities that would impact positively on their lives. This finding is in tandem with those of Oyediran, Omoare, Osinowo and Onabajo (2018) who reported a mean age of 28 years among sampled youths in Ogun State. The result further showed that 60.0% of sampled youths were males while 40.0% were females. This is a clear indication that males are more involved in the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme than females in the study area. This finding is in agreement with those of Odey and Sambe (2019) whose study showed that a greater proportion (58.7%) of N-power beneficiaries were males. The result still showed that 47.5% of the youths were single while 45.0% were married. This implies that unmarried individuals dominated among the sampled youths in the study area. This result is not in agreement with that of Ndamu (2017) who reported that the majority (56.1%) of sampled youths in Adamawa State were married. Moderate proportion 42.5% of the youths had a household size of between 4 and 6 persons per household. This implies that the majority of the sampled youths had responsibilities to shoulder either as household heads or as members with obligations to other members of the household. This finding is in agreement with those of Adesina and Eforuoku (2016) who reported a mean household size of 4 persons among youths participating in the youth in agriculture programme in Ondo State.

Table 2: Distribution according to the various programmes initiated by the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme (AADS) in order to reduce unemployment among youths

S/N	**AADS Programmes**	Strongly agree 4	Agree 3	Disagree 2	Strongly disagree 1	Score $\sum F\bar{x}$	Mean $\bar{x}$	Remarks
1.	Provision of short and medium form funding	37(148)	34(102)	8(16)	1(1)	267	3.34	Agree
2.	Promotion of food security among stakeholders in the agricultural value chain	19(76)	41(123)	17(34)	3(3)	236	2.95	Agree
3.	Provision of hectares of land to beneficiaries	16(64)	28(84)	27(54)	9(9)	211	2.64	Agree
4.	Provision of access roads	9(36)	29(87)	25(50)	17(17)	190	2.38	Disagree
5.	Provision of water source and other infrastructure that will enhance agricultural production	16(64)	47(141)	10(20)	7(7)	232	2.90	Agree
6.	Provision of fund	35(140)	34(102)	5(10)	6(6)	258	3.23	Agree
7.	Provision of security for farm lands	11(44)	21(63)	21(42)	27(27)	176	2.20	Disagree
8.	Training of beneficiaries on best agronomic practices and other value chain support information	34(136)	21(63)	14(28)	11(11)	238	2.98	Agree
	Grand mean score						**2.83**	**Agree**

Source: Field survey, 2021

Decision: ≥ 2.50 = agree; < 2.50 = disagree

Table 2 shows themean scores distribution according to the various programmes initiated by the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme in order to reduce unemployment among youths in the study area. The result shows that provision of short and medium form funding ($\bar{x}$ = 3.34), provision of fund ($\bar{x}$ = 3.23), promotion of food security among stakeholders in the agricultural value chain ($\bar{x}$ = 2.95) and provision of hectares of land to beneficiaries ($\bar{x}$ = 2.64) were the mean responses of youths on the various programmes initiated by the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme in order to reduce unemployment in the study area. These mean ratings were above the bench mark mean score of 2.50. This implies thatprovision of short and medium form funding, provision of fund, training of beneficiaries on best agronomic practices and other value chain support information, promotion of food security among stakeholders in the agricultural value chain, provision of water source and other infrastructure that will enhance agricultural production, and provision of hectares of land to beneficiaries were programmes of the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme made available for youths in the study area. This finding is in tandem with those of Inyang and Asa (2020) who reported that provision of adequate business start-up cash, preparing participants for global competitiveness economically and facilitating acquisition of basic inputs for business start-ups were some of the activities of the Youth Empowerment Scheme in Oyo State.

Table 3: Distribution according to the level of participation of youths in the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme

S/N	**AADS Programmes**	Always 4	Occasionally 3	Rarely 2	Never 1	Score $\sum F\bar{x}$	Mean $\bar{x}$	Remarks
1.	Agricultural production (cassava, plantain, yam and livestock)	11(44)	55(165)	10(20)	4(4)	233	2.91	High
2.	Job creation	15(60)	37(111)	25(50)	3(3)	224	2.80	High
3.	Ensure food security	28(112)	31(93)	19(38)	2(2)	245	3.06	High
4.	Provision of security for farm land	18(72)	13(39)	28(56)	21(21)	188	2.35	Low
5.	Training of beneficiaries on best agronomic practices and other value chain support information	18(72)	40(120)	14(28)	8(8)	228	2.85	High
6.	Provision of access roads	10(40)	19(57)	19(38)	32(32)	167	2.09	Low
7.	Programme management team with the clusters	25(100)	41(123)	10(20)	4(4)	247	3.09	High
8.	Logistics support for the effective operation of the programme	11(44)	52(156)	8(16)	9(9)	225	2.81	High
	Grand mean score						**2.75**	**High**

Source: Field survey, 2021
Note: Decision: ≥ 2.50 = high; < 2.50 = low

Table 3 shows themean scores distribution according to the level of participation of youths in the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme in the study area. The result shows that programme management team with the clusters ($\bar{x}$= 3.09), ensuring food security ($\bar{x}$= 3.06), agricultural production ($\bar{x}$= 2.91), logistics support for the effective operation of the programme ($\bar{x}$= 2.81) and job creation ($\bar{x}$= 2.80) were the mean responses of youths on their level of participation in the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme. These mean ratings were above the bench mark mean score of 2.50. This implies that there was high level of youth participation in various programmes of the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme in the study area. This finding corroborates that of Ndamu (2017) who reported a high level of participation in entrepreneurial activities of selected government empowerment programmes among sampled youths in Adamawa State.

Table 4: Distribution according to the effect of the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme on employment generation among participants

S/N	**Effect of AADS on Employment Generation**	VE 4	E 3	Ine 2	V Ine 1	Score $\sum F\bar{x}$	Mean $\bar{x}$	Remark
1.	Provide agricultural land in contiguous in all the clusters	19(76)	34(102)	26(52)	1(1)	231	2.89	Effective
2.	Provide access roads, water source and other infrastructure that enhanced agricultural production	11(44)	37(111)	31(62)	1(1)	218	2.73	Effective
3.	Enhanced off-take to be in cash	9(36)	53(159)	15(30)	3(3)	228	2.85	Effective
4.	Ensure that contiguous nature of farms should reduce their logistics associated with aggregation	17(68)	30(90)	27(54)	6(6)	218	2.73	Effective
5.	Represent programme management team	17(68)	46(138)	14(28)	3(3)	237	2.96	Effective
6.	Provide regulatory and supervisory oversight	33(132)	28(84)	14(28)	5(5)	249	3.11	Effective
7.	Monitor, evaluate and conduct impact assessment of the programme	34(136)	28(84)	14(28)	4(4)	252	3.15	Effective
8.	Provide periodic reports on the programme	28(112)	34(102)	13(26)	5(5)	245	3.06	Effective
	Grand mean score						**2.93**	**Effective**

Source: Field survey, 2021
Note: VE= Very effective, E= Effective, Ine= Ineffective and V Ine =Very ineffective.
decision: ≥ 2.50 = effective; < 2.50 = not effective

Table 4 shows themean scores distribution according to the effect of the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme on employment generation among participants. The result shows that monitoring, evaluating and conducting impact assessment of the programme ($\bar{x}$= 3.15),

providing regulatory and supervisory oversight ($\bar{x}$ = 3.11), representing programme management team ($\bar{x}$ = 2.96), ensuring that contiguous nature of farms reduces logistics associated with aggregation ($\bar{x}$ = 2.73) and providing access roads, water source and other infrastructure that enhanced agricultural production ($\bar{x}$ = 2.73) were the mean responses of youths on the effect of the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme on employment generation among participants. These mean ratings were above the bench mark mean score of 2.50. This implies that the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme had positive effect on employment generation among youths through providing access roads, water source and other infrastructure that enhanced agricultural production and provision of enhanced off-take in cash. This finding is similar to that of Nweke (2015) who reported that disbursement of long and short term loans ($\bar{x}$ = 3.95), provision of vehicles to the youth for transport scheme ($\bar{x}$ = 3.75) and adequate supply of computer equipment and accessories for the training of youths ($\bar{x}$ = 3.45) were strategies employed by youth empowerment programmes for employment generation in Abia State.

Table 5: Distribution according to the perception of youth on Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme

S/N	Perception of youth	Strongly agree 4	Agree 3	Disagree 2	Strongly disagree 1	Score $\sum F\bar{x}$	Mean $\bar{x}$	Remarks
1.	Youths express interest to participate in the AADS lose their comparative advantage	18(72)	31(93)	19(38)	12(12)	215	2.69	Positive
2.	Enabling environment to participate in programme made difficult by organizing ministry	4(16)	31(93)	43(86)	2(2)	197	2.46	Negative
3.	Provision of contiguous farms	9(36)	31(93)	33(66)	7(7)	202	2.53	Positive
4.	There are accessible road and water sources	8(32)	38(114)	26(52)	8(8)	206	2.58	Positive
5.	Provide security for farm lands	9(36)	22(66)	25(50)	24(24)	176	2.20	Negative
6.	Enroll extension officers to coordinate production and disseminate information on best agronomic practices	42(168)	23(69)	10(20)	5(5)	262	3.28	Positive
7.	Programmes objective should be reviewed from time to time	42(168)	25(75)	10(20)	3(3)	266	3.33	Positive
8.	Undertaking that is signed is not adhered to according to the scheme terms and conditions	12(48)	33(99)	30(30)	5(5)	212	2.65	Positive
	Grand mean score						**2.71**	**Positive**

Source: Field survey, 2021
Note: Decision: ≥ 2.50 = positive; < 2.50 = negative

Table 5 shows themean scores distribution according to the perception of youth on Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme. The result shows that review of programme objectives from time to time ($\bar{x}$ = 3.33), enrolment of extension officers to coordinate production and disseminate information on best agronomic practices ($\bar{x}$ = 3.28), loss of comparative advantages as a result of expression of interest to participate ($\bar{x}$ = 2.69), accessible road and water sources ($\bar{x}$ = 2.58) and provision of contiguous farms ($\bar{x}$ = 2.53) were the mean responses of youths on their perception of the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme. These mean ratings were above the bench mark mean score of 2.50. This implies that the youths had positive perception of most activities of the AADS such as review of programme objectives from time to time, enrolment of extension officers to coordinate production and disseminate information on best agronomic practices, accessible road and water sources and provision of contiguous farms. The result also shows that provision of enabling environment to participate in programme made difficult by organizing ministry and providing security for farm lands were the mean responses of youths on their perception of the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme. This finding is in consonance with that of Gbede (2021) who reported that youths had positive perception ($\bar{x}$ = 3.44) on the activities of the Osun Youth Empowerment Scheme in Osun State.

Table 6: Distribution according to the constraints faced by the youths in assessing the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme

S/N	**Constraints**	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	Score $\sum F\bar{x}$	Mean $\bar{x}$	Remark
1.	Lack of agricultural insurance	18(72)	19(57)	29(58)	14(14)	201	2.51	Constraint
2.	Poor returns to agriculture investment	11(44)	23(69)	31(62)	15(15)	190	2.38	No constraint
3.	Lack of basic farming knowledge	9(36)	15(45)	42(84)	14(14)	179	2.24	No constraint
4.	Poor implementation of agricultural policies	10(40)	20(60)	28(56)	22(22)	178	2.23	No constraint
5.	Poor transportation system	10(40)	16(48)	36(72)	18(18)	178	2.23	No constraint
6.	Poor participants attitude towards AADS	8(32)	17(51)	30(60)	25(25)	168	2.10	No constraint
7.	Poor collaboration among state government, central bank of Nigeria and stakeholders	8(32)	16(48)	33(66)	23(23)	169	2.11	No constraint
8.	Poor periodic reports on the programme	13(52)	10(30)	34(68)	23(23)	173	2.16	No constraint

9.	Poor regulatory and supervisory service	13(52)	9(27)	40(80)	18(18)	177	2.21	No constraint
10.	Comparative advantages are not considered	7(28)	18(54)	31(62)	24(24)	168	2.10	No constraint
	Grand mean score						**2.23**	**No constraint**

Source: Field survey, 2021

Note: SA = Strongly agree, A= Agree, D = Disagree and SD = Strongly Disagree. Figures in

Decision: ≥ 2.50 = constraint; < 2.50 = no constraint

Table 6 shows the mean scores distribution according to the constraints faced by the youths in accessing the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme. The result shows that lack of agricultural insurance ($\bar{x}$ = 2.51) was the only constraint faced by the youths in accessing the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme. This mean rating was above the bench mark mean score of 2.50. This implies that lack of agricultural insurance was perceived by youths as the only constraint they face in accessing the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme. This further implies that there should be an expected high level of youth participation in the Scheme as a result of few encountered constraints. This finding differs from that of Isonguyo(2021) who reported that lack of crop insurance ($\bar{x}$ = 1.89) was a minor constraint faced by beneficiaries of the Rural Finance Institution Building Programme in AkwaIbom State.

Table 7: Ordinary Least Square (OLS) multiple regression result of influence of the Accelerated agricultural development scheme on employment generation among participants in the study area

Variables	Linear	Exponential	Double-log	Semi-log+
Constant	78306.309	11.668	10.295	11.181
	(4.761)***	(34.535)***	(17.431)***	(30.102)***
Provision of short and medium term funding	9804.583	0.190	1.396	1.173
	(2.312)**	(2.307)**	(1.858)*	(2.857)***
Provision of food security among stakeholders	4267.964	0.055	-0.471	-0.024
	(1.107)	(0.666)	(-1.417)	(-0.374)
Provision of hectares of land to beneficiaries	1224.385	0.123	0.834	0.233
	(2.263)**	(3.422)***	(2.567)**	(4.725)***
Provision of water sources and infrastructure	2178.673	0.072	0.391	1.135
	(3.573)***	(1.857)*	(2.200)**	(3.900)***
Provision of periodic report of the program	-3154.064	-0.063	0.419	-0.027
	(-0.859)	(-0.861)	(0.781)	(-0.363)
Provision of access roads	742.808	0.310	0.464	1.133
	(2.395)**	(1.928)*	(0.955)	(2.650)**
Provision of funds	34605.398	0.702	0.589	1.061
	(1.978)*	(2.846)***	(3.138)***	(2.622)**
R-square	**0.652**	**0.631**	**0.643**	**0.693**
Adj. R^2	**0.639**	**0.620**	**0.631**	**0.682**
F- statistic	**6.832*****	**6.423*****	**6.641*****	**7.145*****

Source: Field survey data, 2021

NB: ***, ** and * represents 1%, 5%, and 10% significance level respectively. Figures in brackets are t-values.

The result of the ordinary least square multiple regression analysis used to test the hypothesis that the Accelerated agricultural development scheme does not significantly influence employment generation among participants in the study areais presented in Table 7. The result shows that the semi log model was selected as the lead model based on the magnitude of the coefficient of multiple determinations (R^2), the signs of the regression coefficients as they conform to *a priori* expectation and the number of significant variables. The model shows that the explanatory variables included in the model explained about 69.3% of the observed variation in employment generation indicating goodness of fit of the regression model. The coefficient of provision of short and medium term funding (2.857***) was positively related to employment generation among participants in the study areaat 1% significance level, an indication that a direct relationship exists between the provision of short and medium term funding and employment generation among participants in the study area.

The regression analysis shows that the computed F-statistic value of 7.145 was significantly higher than the tabulated F- value of 2.56 at 1% level of significance and 1.96 at 5% level of significance, therefore the null hypothesis that "Accelerated agricultural development scheme do not significantly influence employment generation among participants in the study area" was rejected and the alternate accepted. The study concluded that provision of short and medium term funding, provision of hectares of land to beneficiaries, provision of funds, provision of access roads and provision of water sources and infrastructure for enhanced agricultural production influenced employment generation among participants of the Accelerated Agricultural Development scheme in the study area.

Table 8: Analysis of variance results showing difference in the level of participation of youths in the Accelerated Agricultural Development scheme in the study area

Variable		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F-cal	F-tab
Level of participation	Between Groups	3.840	9	.682	2.027	2.02
	Within Groups	14.736	70	.211		
	Total	18.576	79			

Source: Field survey data, 2021
Ho_2: rejected at 5% level

The result of the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) f-test used to test for significant difference in the level of participation of youths in the Accelerated Agricultural Development scheme is presented in Table 8. The result in Table 8 showed that the calculated Anova f-value of 2.027 was higher than the tabulated Anova f-value of 2.02 at $P \leq 0.05$, suggesting that there was significant difference in the level of participation of youths in the Accelerated Agricultural Development scheme in the study area. This further implies that the level of participation of youths in the Accelerated Agricultural Development scheme differed significantly across sampled communities in the study area. This might be attributed to factors such as the attitude of

programme facilitators and participants, poor returns to agriculture investment and poor implementation of agricultural policies that may affect the participation of youths in the Accelerated Agricultural Development scheme in the study area.Given that the computed Anova f-value of 2.027 is higher than the critical Anova f-value of 2.02 at 5% level of significance, the study therefore concludes that there is significant difference in the level of participation of youths in the Accelerated Agricultural Development scheme in the study area.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study concluded that there were various programmes of the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme made available for youths in the study area. There was also high level of youth participation in most programmes of the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme in the study area.The study further concluded that youths generally had positive perception of the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme in the study area. Youths also faced few constraints in accessing the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme in the study area.

Finally, the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme had positive effect on employment generation among participants in the study area through provision of short and medium term funding, provision of hectares of land to beneficiaries, provision of access roads and provision of water sources and infrastructure for enhanced agricultural production. Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. The Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme should be sustained and expanded for continued promotion of employable skills and opportunities since the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme had positive effect on employment generation among youths in the study area.
2. In view of the positive effect of the Scheme on the participants, there is need for all tiers of government, private bodies, non-governmental organizations and religious bodies to engage in similar empowerment programmes in order to increase employment generation among youths since there was positive perception and high level of youth participation in the programme.
3. There is the need for constant appraisal of the activities of the Scheme and a follow-up and monitoring of beneficiaries by coordinating agencies to ensure that they judiciously utilize incentives and grants provided by the Scheme.
4. The implementation of similar intervention programmes that would provide agricultural insurance for participants should also be considered since lack of agricultural insurance was the major constraint faced by the youths in accessing the Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme.

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