

# The Entrepreneurial and Functional Agricultural Education as a Means for Achieving Vision 2020 Nigeria

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**Abstract-** An entrepreneurial agricultural education promotes the quality, standard and sustainability of entrepreneurship towards achieving the goals of economic and technological advancement of the Nation. Entrepreneurial Agricultural Education is designed in the National Policy of Education in Nigeria to provide technological skill abilities in both practical and theoretical manpower development for self-reliance and productivity. The needs to identify major carrier opportunities available in the agricultural sector have also become very apparent to enable Nigerians undertake and become technologically sound, productive, vibrant and sustainable in order to make Nigeria great. The major roles and essential attributes of an entrepreneur in a sustainable economic environment are also exclusively enumerated. There is also the realization of entrepreneurial and Agricultural Education and contemporary issues in Nigeria. Finally, vital strategies and recommendations which are believed to contribute essentially in advancement of entrepreneurial agricultural education and contemporary issues in Nigeria have exclusively been discussed.

**Keywords:** *Entrepreneurial, Agricultural, Education and Vision 2020.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The national policy on Education (1985) in Nigeria has accords agricultural education as a vocational course which provides skill development for self-reliance, productivity, sustainability and survival for individual. Entrepreneurial agricultural education therefore serves as a basis for the development of manpower and technological abilities to meet the target of socio-economic development of the individual and the nation to ensure high level of productivity, sustainability and affordability in human endeavour. One of the reasons for high demand for entrepreneurial agricultural education is to develop and promote skill abilities in scientific and technological arena to the standard required for socio-economic advancement of individual and the Nation which is highly dependent on entrepreneurship.

Advance Learner Dictionary (1974) defined entrepreneur as a person or group of persons who organize, coordinate and manage a commercial undertaking. Tawish (1981) concluded that entrepreneur is a person or a group of persons who decide and combine other factors of production to produce or render services which has been decided upon being the risk bearer. In

the same vein Meredith et al (1987) described entrepreneurship as an action oriented which makes the person or group of persons highly motivated and is/are ready to undertake risk in order to achieve the desired objectives. Entrepreneurship inherits self confidence, determination, encouragement, task result oriented and risk bearing. In business management perspective an entrepreneur is a person who is knowledgeable, skillful undertaking and is expected to make effective decision to combine other factors of production such as capital, land and labour to produce goods and services as well as to provides training for those who can work and carryout business activities to meet the desired objectives.

Therefore the quality and quantity of products produced is highly dependent on the standard, techniques, instruments, and management applied with the view to obtain the best satisfaction. Linderstorm and Stephen in Nanchen and Bala (2009) opined that entrepreneurship is an ingredient in National Development.

The recognition of Nigerian potentials as the largest economy in the West African sub-region has given the country a considerable endowment for strong growth yet Nigeria has achieved very little of these potentials because the efforts for planning and vision have not been sustained instead there is high economic stagnation, declining in the welfare, social instability and under development in both human and material resources.

However, at present Nigeria is experiencing growth turn around making Nigeria to launch on the right direction for sustaining and rapid growth which is justified by ranking Nigeria among the eleven (11) countries identified to have the potentials for attaining global competitions based on their economic and democratic setting for reform. It is based on this fact that previous governments declared the intention to pursue the Entrepreneurial Agricultural Education and Contemporary Issues in Nigeria.

## II. MAJOR ROLES OF AN ENTREPRENEUR

Entrepreneur plays a very vital role in the state of affairs of the business enterprise. It is the sole proprietor of the business activities O. A. Lawal (1978) itemized the basic roles of an entrepreneur as follows:

1. **Decision Making:** The entrepreneur is the backbone in decision making and implementation in terms and conditions of services of workers, rules and regulations, qualifications and training of workers, grading, salaries and wages, as well as settlement of all entitlements of workers.
2. **Managerial Role:** The entrepreneur is the brain behind the business activities he/she employs, dismisses, terminates appointments, retires or retrench workers when deserved. He/she also controls all the financial and human commitment in the business to see that everything goes on normal and prospering.
3. **Risk Bearing:** The entrepreneur at a times has to bear risk when occurred on both insurable and non-insurable items. He/she has to make sure that adequate security is provided to safe-guard the welfare of the firm and the workers in order to avoid losses.
4. **Method of Production:** The entrepreneur determines the method of production to embark upon which are available, affordable and can yield profits and minimize losses.
5. **Coordination:** The entrepreneur is responsible for coordinating all the activity programmes and schedules involved in the production cycle, such as assigning responsibilities, reshufflement and preparation of duty schedules as well as the general welfare of the workers.
6. **Evaluation:** The entrepreneur carries out evaluation exercise as to ascertain the validity and vanity of the enterprise. It is based on the evaluation techniques employed that the entrepreneur can be able to interpret realities where there is progress or failure in the business before finding solutions or decisions.

### III. ESSENTIAL ATTRIBUTES OF AN ENTREPRENEUR FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

An attribute is synonymous to features or characteristics someone has possessed, it also refers to as the state of condition that is found within someone that has to do with his/her well being. In another word it is the qualities found in somebody which determine his/her personalities in the community. In any organisation there must be leadership to control the affairs of the members as the head. Leadership could be by virtue of experience, status, qualification, elderness, spiritual, trustworthiness, or personality.

However, for a business enterprise to exists and sustains there must be somebody to stands as the chief executive to control the activities of the organisation and such as person must possesses certain fundamental attributes for identification which are enumerated as follows:

1. **Personal Objectives:** The entrepreneur should possess the ability to draw comprehensive objectives on specific or general issues affecting the business enterprise particularly when it comes to policy making and implementation.
2. **Motivation:** There should be high level of motivation to serves as a leader, because the desire for leadership comes within the individual who deserves even though sometimes it can be influenced by external forces to stimulate the desire. Whichever operate the

most important element is the inner motive drive because nothing can be achieved without enthusiasm.

3. **Commitment:** The entrepreneur must be some one who is totally committed and devoted to his or her obligations or responsibilities at all times. Sometimes criticism may occur most especially at the beginning of the establishment of the business. If the business becomes successful the entrepreneur will not be blamed or involved in suspicious assumptions than when there is failure.
4. **Risk Bearing:** The entrepreneur must has the ability and readiness to undertake risk whenever it occurs even though risk is undesirable. He/she must understands and has the faith that risk is from God as a sense of contention.
5. **Self Discipline:** The entrepreneur must possess high level of moral values, discipline, patience and controls his/her impulse particularly at the beginning of the business.
6. **Good Health:** Good health status must prevail for both the workers and the general condition of the business enterprise. The workers must have life insurance and other health facilities to ensure their safety and protection in order to create conducive working environments for the achievement of the objectives of the business enterprise.

Therefore entrepreneur in the context of agricultural education connotes the inculcation of the attributes that strengthened the skills acquisition especially in the area of vocational activities with the view to enable the entrepreneur to utilize his/her endowed potentials to drive maximum advantage which can certainly compliment the effort in term of capacity building and employment opportunities for National Development.

### IV. ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND VISION 2020

Casson (1982) opined that entrepreneurship is a spontaneous and voluntary phenomenon and suggested that the behaviour of an entrepreneur tends to be unpredictable.

Nafzifer (1977) also noted that entrepreneurship is a productive resource which coordinates and organizes other resources (capital and power) for economic development. He further observed that entrepreneurship is scarce in supply in Nigerian economy. National Directorate of Employment (NDE 1987) defined entrepreneurship as an Art which involves organizing business opportunities, mobilizing resources and to exploit the opportunities in order to drive maximum satisfaction.

Thus National Director of Employment (NDE) recognizes entrepreneurship as a vary necessary ingredients for self-reliance, productivity and sustainability.

One of the recent contemporary issues in Nigeria is vision 2020 which is a mental picture of Nigerian future which is expected to present a significant improvement in the current economic status of the country. It has a clear and realistic gateway for support and realization as well as consistent and sustainable efforts for achievement. The vision entails that by the year 2020 Nigeria shall be one among the 20 largest economies in the world to consolidate its leadership rule in African sub-regions and to establish itself as a significant player in the global economy, Chukwuma (2006).

Olaitan (2005) defined vision as an imaginary and product of plan which can be achieved in future time or within a specific duration like 20 years, 30 years, 50 years etc in another development Mustapha (2009) described vision in the context of project and its benefits over time with reference to plan and effort attributed to it and should carry along with people of various interests and abilities with or without contributions. Thus vision 2020 in a real sense is government desire to make Nigeria one out of the twenty (20) front line economies in the world.

#### V. STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF ENTREPRENEURIAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Based on the above deliberations the writer find it very imperative to provide some strategies that are believed to have impact on entrepreneurial agricultural education and vision 2020 in Nigeria for national development. This is because the main aim of the entrepreneurship and the vision is to make use of the advantage of the environment and the resources for advancement and to engage individual to participate in the production of goods and services in order to maximize profit and to defeat sufferings and hunger. The strategies are as follows:

1. **Working Behaviour:** This is one of the fundamental aspect of entrepreneurship for rapid economic growth and sustainability Kazuhama (1993) enumerated four (4) main characteristics for entrepreneurship to endure as follows:
  - a. **Handwork:** Handwork ensures and uplifts the spirit of performance, confidence, courage, and accountability of the worker which influence the quality of production, for example according to Japanese “Work for work sake”, work is their life. While for Nigerians “money for money sake” money is their life. Therefore entrepreneurship in functional agricultural education and vision 2010 must accord this fundamental position to ascertain effectiveness and proficiency.
  - b. **Good Planning and Evaluation:** In entrepreneurship, innovations, changes, newness and evaluation are required to make an enduring and life busting society which create a situation called policy planning and evaluation for growth and development. Planning and evaluation range from budgeting, performances, self-support and employment for rapid growth in the quality and quantity in human and material resources in balancing growth and development.
  - c. **Good Working Relationship:** This is the entrepreneurial ability to include and engage both the top and bottom level employees in decision making and to initiate lifetime employment. It also enhances the implementation of the decision and development of corporate work ethics as a function of team work, diligence, group commitment and self-sacrifice.
  - d. **Sowing Based:** In any economic system, be an enterprise or business organisation should have a good sowing based not only in case of emergency but also at all times to ensure continuity as well

as install confidence and retention in the work place.

2. **Rural Operation Based:** Establishments like banks, Universities, ministries, and industries are not established in the rural areas due to fear of losses but prefer urban areas because they are more competitive.

Iyanda (1994) in his book review appreciates the fact that WEMA Bank plc earns more than half of its income from rural income and investment sectors. As far back as (1973) Hopkins identified household as a virile economic unit in West Africa.

3. **Support and Stability:** Entrepreneurship in functional agricultural education provides investments for survival and longevity. It tends to necessitate entrepreneurship to seek for fund for purchase of equipments and payment of salaries and wages of workers and training of personnel in order to succeed and become stable.
4. **Working Condition:** The working condition has a long way effects on entrepreneurship and subsequent production. Therefore for an entrepreneurship to be effective the working condition must be very conducive, well equipped, attractive and all entitlements of workers are paid at the right time.
5. **Patronage and Marketing:** It has been noted that one of the major setback in entrepreneurship is poor or lack of patronage, because most of government policies do not provide the required guarantee for patronage. Therefore good patronage is well deserved.
6. **Resourcefulness:** This includes both human and material abilities which are highly relegated to their background, because their inabilities will definitely affect the performance of entrepreneurship and subsequent production. Therefore there should be adequate provision of human and material resources to promote entrepreneurship to a better high.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

An entrepreneurial agricultural education occupies a very vital position in the development of manpower and technological skills and abilities to meet the demand of socio-economic development of individual and the nation, for self-reliance sustainability, productivity and affordability in human endeavour.

Entrepreneurship therefore is the process of coordinating, organizing, controlling, planning, managing and evaluating the factors of production (Land, Capital and Labour) to obtain a desirable benefits or profits it also seeks to provide skills and training to individual or group of individual to become purposeful and to exploit the hidden talents to make them gain employment in the field of economic life. While vision is a mental status one spontaneously creates to control his desire and aspiration for a given period of time. It is also regarded as a mental interpretation of desired or undesired events which are believed to occur within a time frame. In this context Nigeria has decided to create mental framework for economic activities to become one of the twenty (20) largest economies in the world by the year, 2020.

However, Nigeria has decided to face the challenges in achieving these objectives with or without success.

## VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Based on the above discussions the author has provided some recommendations to be forwarded to the government which are believed to have positive impact in advancing the noble parameter sectors of the entrepreneurial agricultural education on contemporary issues in Nigeria as follows:

- i. Entrepreneurship provides a clear link between the youngsters and the old for mastery of basic skills and carriers opportunities for employment and minimizes delinquency among unemployed. Therefore Nigerian governments be Federal, States or Local Governments should give rook to entrepreneurship for recognition.
- ii. Business enterprises, private or corporate, hospitals, schools and institutions should be established in rural areas to provide skills and training for workers and apprentices to meet the economic needs of the society.
- iii. Entrepreneurship education should be introduced into school curricula at all levels to facilitate self-reliance, and sustainability.
- iv. Federal University Commission (NUC) National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) National Board for Technical Education (NABTE) Private Institutions and Allied Educational Organisation should take the responsibilities to draw plans and programmes in entrepreneurship.
- v. Enlightenment bodies should be formed as committees, association or societies, at Federal, States, and Local Government levels as coordinating bodies to participate in activities that can provide skills development in the sector parameters of the national objectives for their achievement.

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