

Entrepreneurship Intention and Involvement in Agribusiness Enterprise among Youths in Gombe Metropolis, Gombe State, Nigeria: Potentials of Agribusiness in Nigeria

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Abstract

The study examines the Entrepreneurship Intention and Involvement in Agribusiness Enterprise among Youths in Gombe Metropolis, Gombe State, Nigeria. Questionnaires were distributed to 440 respondents within the 11 wards in the metropolis, in which 40 respondents were randomly selected from each of the wards with 20 questionnaires distributed to those who have the intention and 20 also to those who were involved. The wards comprises of Bolari south, Bolari East, Nasarawa, Ajiya, Dawaki, Shamaki, Jekadafari, Herwagana, Kwunbiyakwunbiya, Pantami and Bajoga where data were collected from them. Descriptive statistic was used to analyse the data. The result revealed that the youths that had the intention of engaging themselves were within the age of 23-27, had the highest percentage of 45 for the respondent of age ranging from 28-32, most of them were single constituting 84% for those that had the intention while those that were involved had same percentage of 50 each, those with tertiary educational level that had the intension had 43 percent while the percentage of those that were involved constituted 45 of those with secondary education and majority of them are male with 57% of the respondents that had the intention of engaging themselves in agribusiness entrepreneurship while 59% that were involved were also male. It was also revealed that the respondent who had intention on engaging in fish enterprise in livestock production and marketing had the highest percentage of 23 while those that were involved the same enterprise constituted 56%. Orchid had been the most preferred enterprise for those respondents that had the intention of engaging in crop production and marketing with 14 percentages among other enterprises while those that were involved were on cowpea production and marketing. Lack of fund was identified as problem with the highest percentage of respondent constituting 71% and inadequate extension services with 12%. It was recommended that government and nongovernmental organization should intervene by providing fund to youth in order to encourage them to involve in agribusiness and adequate extension services should be provided.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Agribusiness, Youths, intention and involve

1.1 Introduction

Entrepreneurship, value chains and market linkages are terms that are being used more and more when talking about agriculture and farming. Many small-scale farmers and extension organizations understand that there is little future for farmers unless they become more entrepreneurial in the way they run their farms. They must increasingly produce for markets and for profits. Becoming more entrepreneurial can be a challenge for small-scale farmers. They will need help from extension workers and other institutions (Kahan, 2012).

An entrepreneur is someone who produces for the market. An entrepreneur is a determined and creative leader, always looking for opportunities to improve and expand his business. An entrepreneur likes to take calculated risks and assumes responsibility for both profits and losses. An entrepreneur is passionate about growing his business and is constantly looking for new opportunities. Entrepreneurs are also innovators. They always look for better and more efficient and profitable ways to do things. Being innovative is an important quality for a farmer-entrepreneur (agribusiness man/woman), especially when the business faces strong competition or operates in a rapidly changing environment (FAO, 2012)

Small-scale farmers are entrepreneurs (Agribusiness men/women) because all over the world they have shown a remarkable ability to adapt various production and marketing strategies. Such strategies includes: better ways to organize their farms; trying new crops and cultivars; better animals and alternative technologies to increase productivity; diversification of production and marketing; reduce risk and profits maximization. They have become more market oriented and have learned to take calculated risks to open or create new markets for their products. Many small-scale farmers have many of the qualities of an entrepreneur. For small-scale farmers to become entrepreneurs they need all of these qualities and more. They need to be innovative and forward-looking. They need to manage their businesses as long-term ventures with a view to making them sustainable. They need to be able to identify opportunities and use them (kahan, 2012).

Some small-scale farmers do have these qualities, but they still focus on maintaining their traditional way of life. Their production decisions are based on what they need -- not on what is possible. An agribusiness

man/woman produces a clear picture in his or her mind of what is possible and the future he/she wants. He knows that what is possible is determined by the market. The farmer-entrepreneur is always looking for new opportunities. He/she knows that new opportunities are found in the market. The farmer-entrepreneur wants to make profits. He/she knows that profits are made in the market. An entrepreneurial farmer has the initiative, drive, capacity and ability to take advantage of opportunities (FAO, 2012).

Smallholder farmer's intentions and reasons for farming includes: exclusively for home consumption with rarely any surpluses produced; mostly for home consumption, but with the intention of selling surpluses on the market; partly for the market and partly for home consumption and lastly, exclusively for the market (Kahan, 2012).

1.2 Problem Statement

The study came up as a result of observation made on the resource endearments in the study area which were not effectively utilized in study area. Such resources were land for cultivation that was left uncultivated and youths that were in their productive but unemployed. The need for food availability was also a reason for conducting the research paper.

1.3 Justification of the Study

Agribusiness is been in existence since the history of human civilization. But it has been associated with poverty of which reverse is the case. If the uncultivated land and youths are utilized effectively, the issue of food scarcity will be a thing of the past. And poverty and unemployment will reduce.

1.4 Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study is to examine the entrepreneurship intention and involvement in agribusiness enterprise among youths in Gombe metropolis, Gombe state. While the specific objectives are as follows:

- i. To examine the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents in the study area.
- ii. To examine the intention of youths in involving themselves in the Agribusiness in the study area.
- iii. To examine the involvement of youths in Agribusiness in the study area.
- iv. To identify the problems facing Agribusiness in the study area.

2.1 Methodology

2.1.1 The Study Area

The study area is Gombe metropolis in Gombe State which is located on longitude 110 10'E and 100 15'N of green witch meridian above sea level with the sudan savannah ecological zone of Nigeria. The mean annual rainfall ranges from 600mm-1200mm and the maximum and minimum temperature of 22.70C and 33.50C respectively. The vegetation cover is open savannah wood land with trees up to six meters or more. Gombe Local Government Area is bounded in the north by Kwami L.G.A., in the south by Akko L.G.A. and east by Yamaltu Deba L.G.A.

2.1.2 Sampling Techniques

Random sampling was used to select the sample size which was 440 respondents in the study area.

2.1.3 Types and Sources of Data

The data relevant to the research are those that revealed the entrepreneurship intention and involvement of youth in agribusiness enterprise in Gombe metropolis, respondent socio-economic characteristics; production and marketing constraint.

2.1.4 Data Analysis

Description statistics such as percentage was used to analyses the entrepreneurship intention and involvement in agribusiness enterprise among youths in Gombe metropolis, Gombe state.

3.1 Results and Discussion

3.1.1 Socio-economic Characteristics of Respondents

The socio- economic characteristics of the respondents covered by this study include; age, educational level, sex and marital status. Those factors play a significant role in the entrepreneurship intention and involvement of youth in agribusiness enterprise in Gombe metropolis.

3.1.1.1 The Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Intention on Engaging in Agribusiness in the Study Area

The socio-economic characteristics of intended youths that have interest in Agribusiness is shown and discussed below using charts as follows:

3.1.1.1.1 Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Age in the Study Area

The figure 1 below shows that an appreciable number of youths that fell within the age bracket of 28-27 years representing 37% of the total respondents in the category of those that have the intention of involving themselves

in agribusiness enterprises. With an insignificant difference of only 1% between second age rang and the third one. This implies that youths are ready and have interest in agribusiness during their economically active age, where they are willing to adopt new technologies that may improve their social status. This has agreed with the views of Amanze & Ohaka (2013) and Mbah (2013) ; Adamu, Ibrahim & Bapeto (2011) who said that age plays a significant role in agriculture where youth in their productive age are involve, because they want to be self sufficient and were ready to take risk.

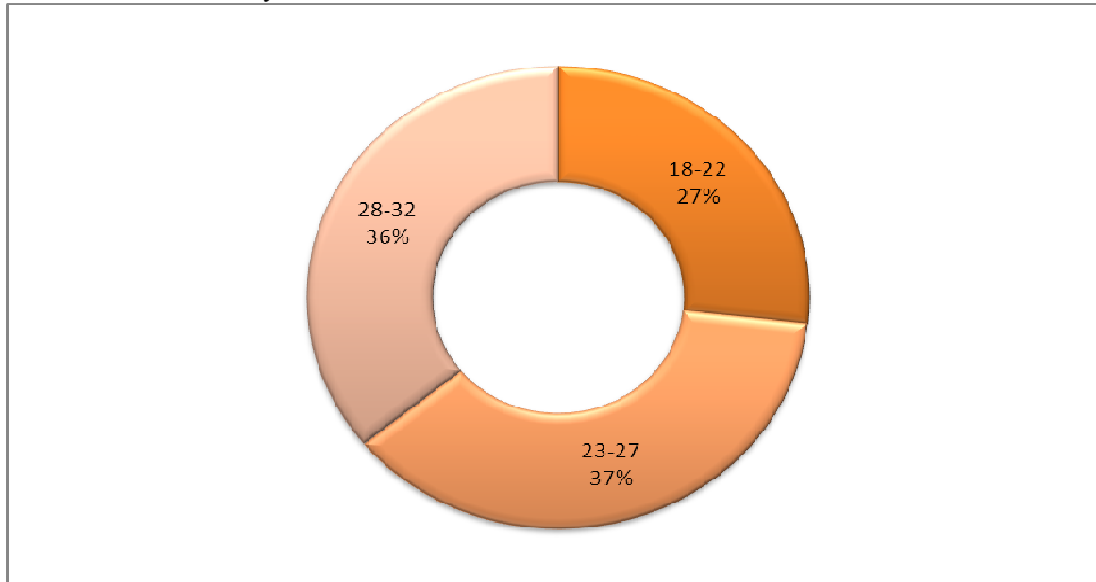


Figure 1: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Age

3.1.1.1.2: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Marital Status in the Study Area

Figure 2 below shows that respondents who were single constituted the highest percentage with 84% while those that were constituted 16% only. The study indicates that young people who do not have much responsibility had more interest in engaging in agribusiness than those that were married. And the implication was that the youth had identified the potential that were there in agribusiness; in spite its risk and uncertainties. This is contrary to Akinagbe & Ugwu, (2011) who said that agriculture was dominated by married people who were want to have means of food security.

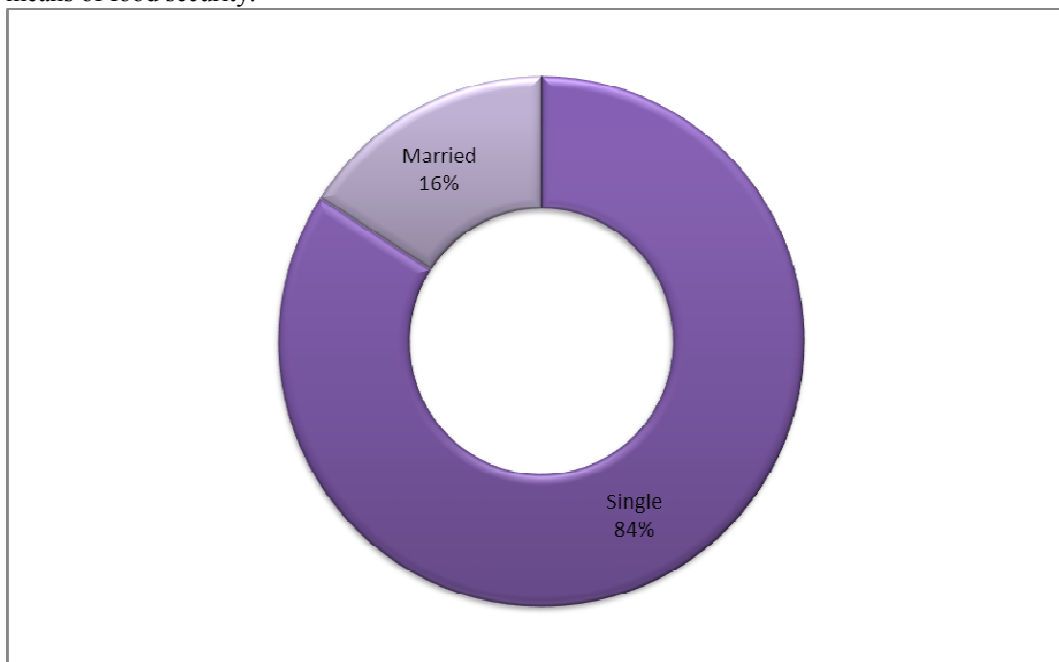


Figure 2: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Marital Status in the Study Area

3.1.1.1.3: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Educational Level in the Study Area

Figure 3 below shows that respondents with tertiary level of education constituted 44 percent of the respondents who want to engage themselves in agribusiness, secondary certificate holders with 40% while with primary and

non formal education had 9% and 7% respectively. The study revealed educated youths were interested in agriculture more than before. And this indicates that the illiteracy level in farmers will reduce with time. This is not in line with Adeogun & Agbeniyi (2011) who had the ideas that agribusiness was dominated with those who had either non-formal or primary education. Therefore, illiteracy level was on the high side.

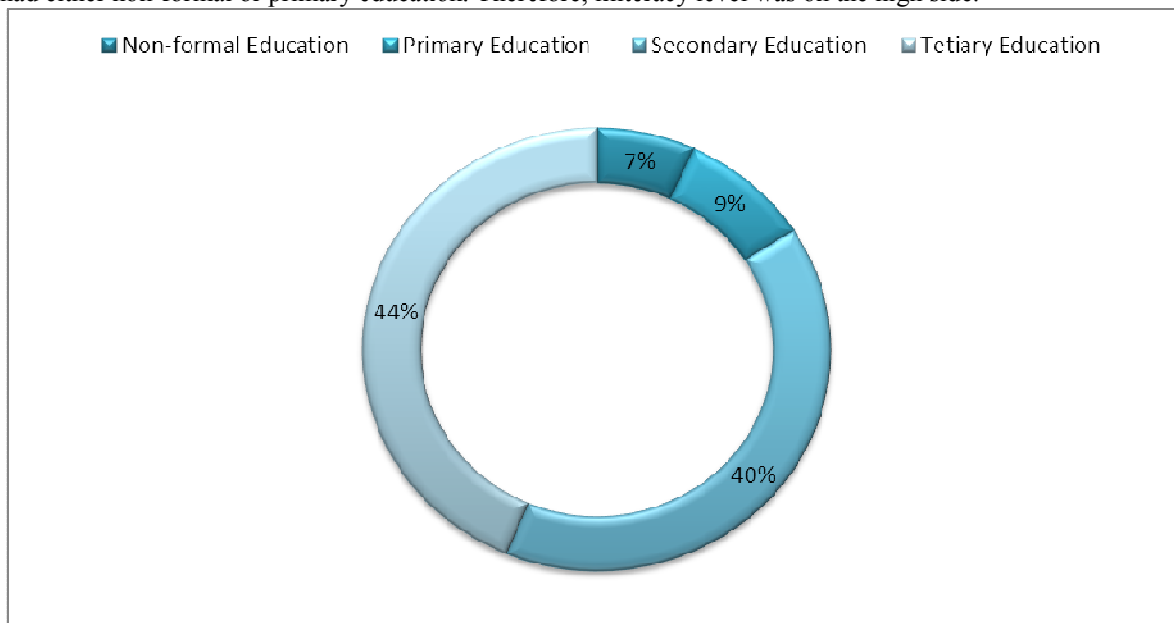


Figure 3: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Educational Level in the Study Area

3.1.1.1.4: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Sex in the Study Area

Figure 4 below shows that male were more interested to go into agribusiness than female in which the result revealed that male had 57 percent while female had 43 percent. This implies that agribusiness was an income generator. This is in line with Arifolo & Ayilaran (2011) who said that agribusiness was dominated by male. And this would be attributed to the nature of the production and marketing of the study area.

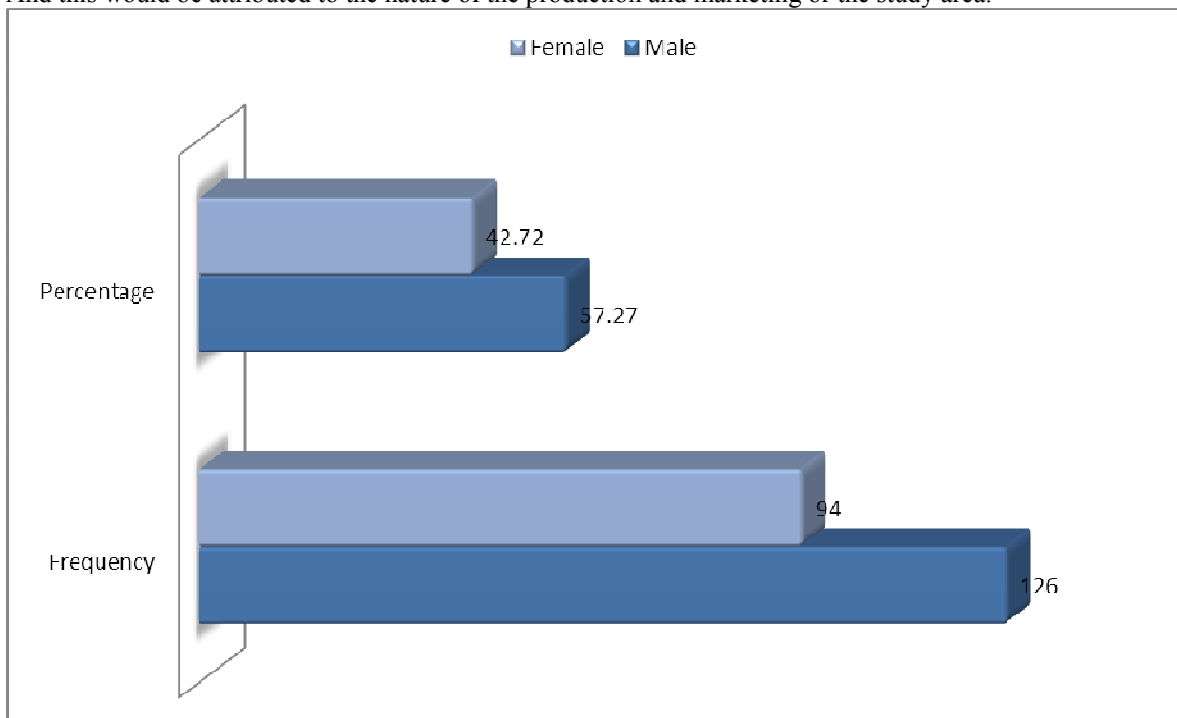


Figure 4: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Sex in the Study Area

3.1.1.2: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Involvement in Agribusiness in the Study Areas

The socio-economic characteristics of youths that were involved in Agribusiness is shown and discussed below using charts as follows:

3.1.1.2.1: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Age in the Study Area

Figure 5 below shows that 45 percent of the respondents in the study area were within the age of 28-32 followed by those who were within the age of 23-27 with 36%. This indicates that youth were more into agribusiness who are in their active age which was contributing significantly to food security in the study area and the country at large. The finding was contrary to Ogunbameru & Okeowo (2013) who had the view of middle age were those that were more engaged in agribusiness.

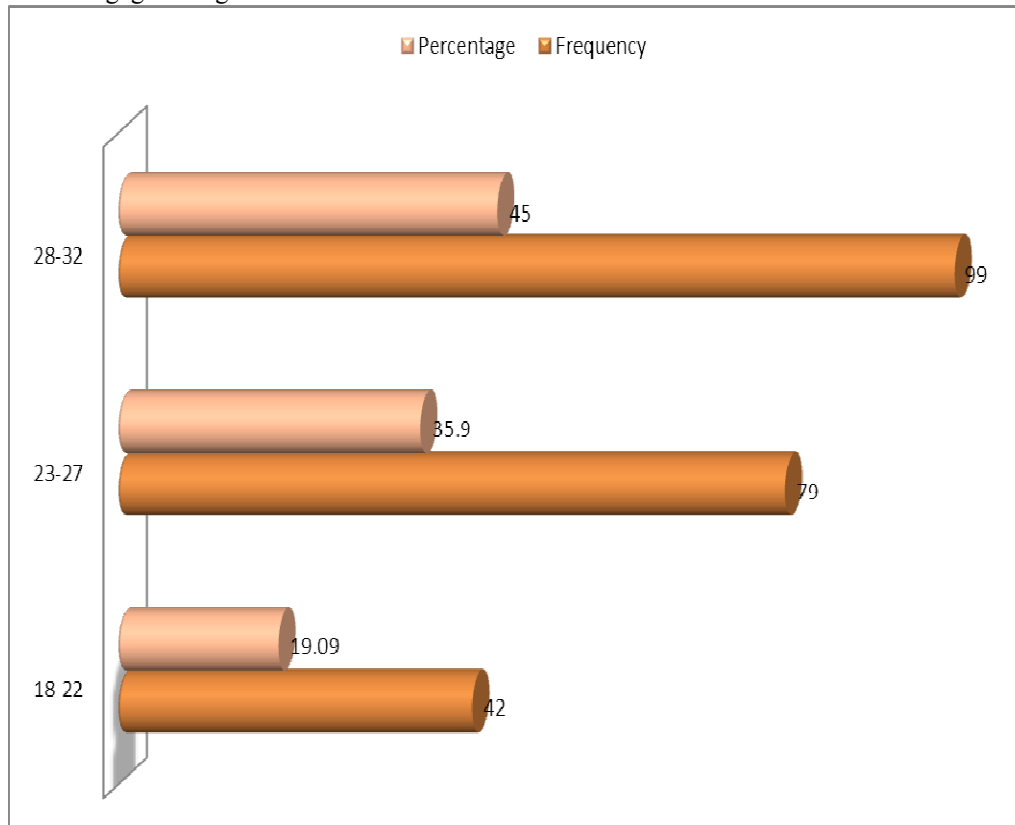


Figure 5: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Age in the Study Area

3.1.1.2.2: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Marital Status in the Study Area

Figure 6 above shows that there were an equal proportion of men and women who were involved in agribusiness in the study area with 50% each. This indicates that there was not gender difference in the involvement of both sexes in the study area. And this was because women were enlightened on the potentials of agribusiness through poverty alleviation programmed. This is in line with Okwusi, Nwakor & Azoro (2013) whose findings revealed that women were equal, or even more than men in agribusiness.

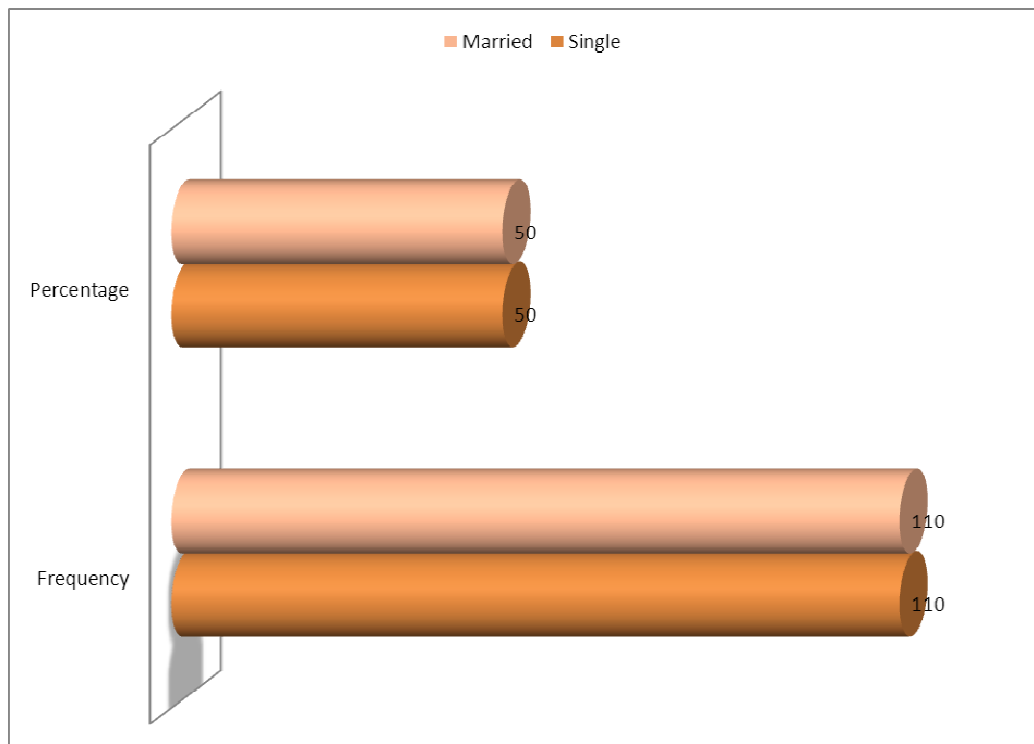


Figure 6: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Marital Status in the Study Area

3.1.1.2.3: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Educational Status in the Study Area

Figure 7 below shows that 45 percent of the respondents had secondary school educational qualification and those with tertiary education had 25%. While those with non-formal and primary educational level had the least percentages of 16 and 14 respectively. This implies that literacy level in nowadays farmers was high. And there will be adequate production and marketing of agricultural products. Ogunyemi, Akinlade & Adejobi (2011) also had the same views of high literacy level among farmers and the implication was that the respondents would be very receptive to new innovations in their production and marketing.

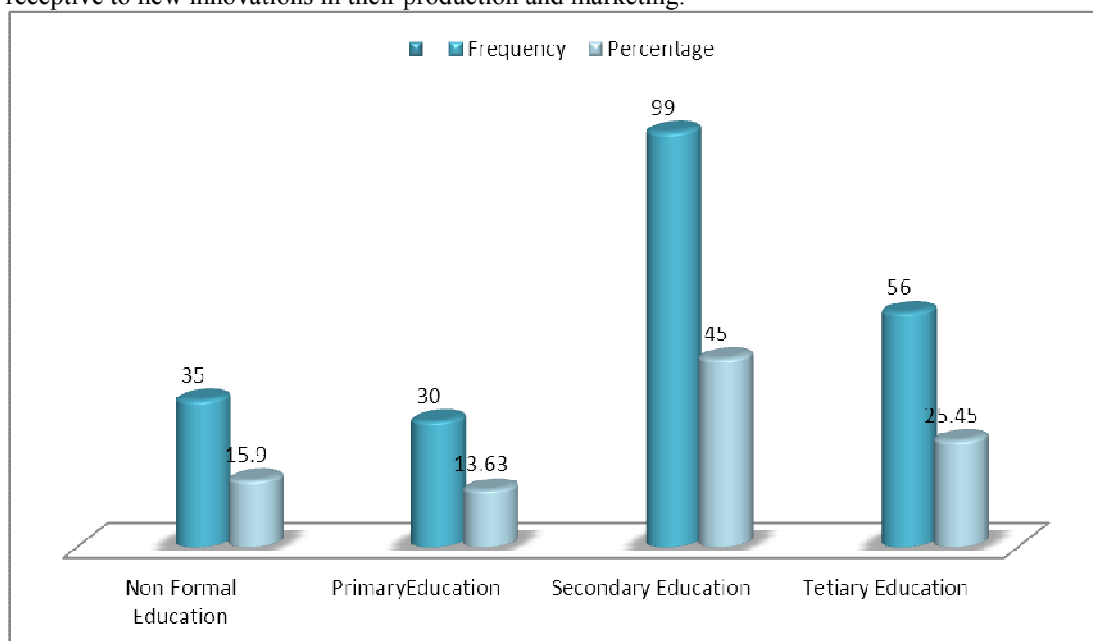


Figure 7: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Educational Status in the Study Area

3.1.1.2.4: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Sex in the Study Area

Figure 8 below shows that men were more involved in agribusiness than women. Male constituted 59% while female had 41 percent. This was attributed to the nature of the study area and also the lack of unawareness of women on the potential of agribusiness. This is in line with Agom, Ohen, Etuk & Opogen (2011) whose findings revealed that agribusiness was mostly dominated by men.

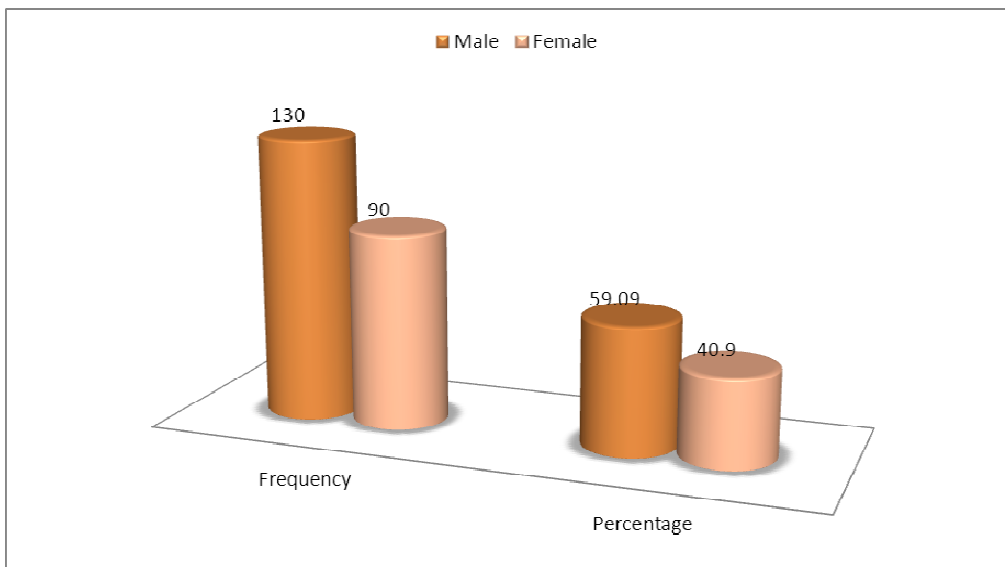


Figure 8: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Sex in the Study Area

3.1.1.3: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their intention in engaging in enterprenuehsip in Livestock Production and Marketing in the Study Area

Figure 9 below shows that 23% of the respondents in the study area had the intention of engag ing themselves in fish production and marketing. Where poultry production and marketing follows with broiler, layer and quals having 19%, 16%, 14% respectively. Than sheep with 13% , cattle 11% while goat and rabbit had 3% and 2% respectively. This implies that those who were interested in white meat production and marketing were the majority in livestock enterprise and this might be attributed to level of education of the respondents who were more aware of the potential of white meat to human health due to its low cholesterol level. This is in line with Ajibade, Lamidi, Ojelade, Umaru, Agbaye, Oladipo, Falade, Oginnin, Ekeogu & Olajide (2013) who were with the view that in catfish farming educational plays a significant role due to its technical expertise that may be lean on a good level of education. Rabbitary had the lowest percentage inspite of its low cholesterol level that was lower than poultry.

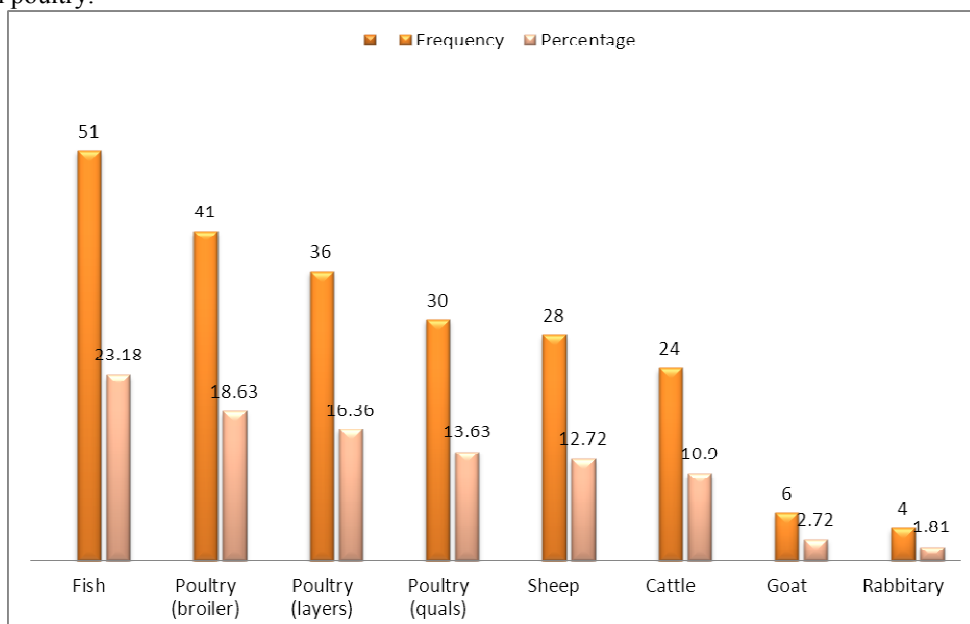


Figure 9: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their intention in engaging in enterprenuehsip in Livestock Production and Marketing in the Study Area

3.1.1.4: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their intention in engaging in enterprenuehsip in Crop Production and Marketing in the Study Area

Figure 10 below shows that 31percent of respondents who had the intention of engaging themselves in crop agribusiness were interested in orchard, 24% Moringa Olifera, gum arabic and groundnut 21% each. While those that want to go into ornamental plant production and marketing had the least percentage of 3.

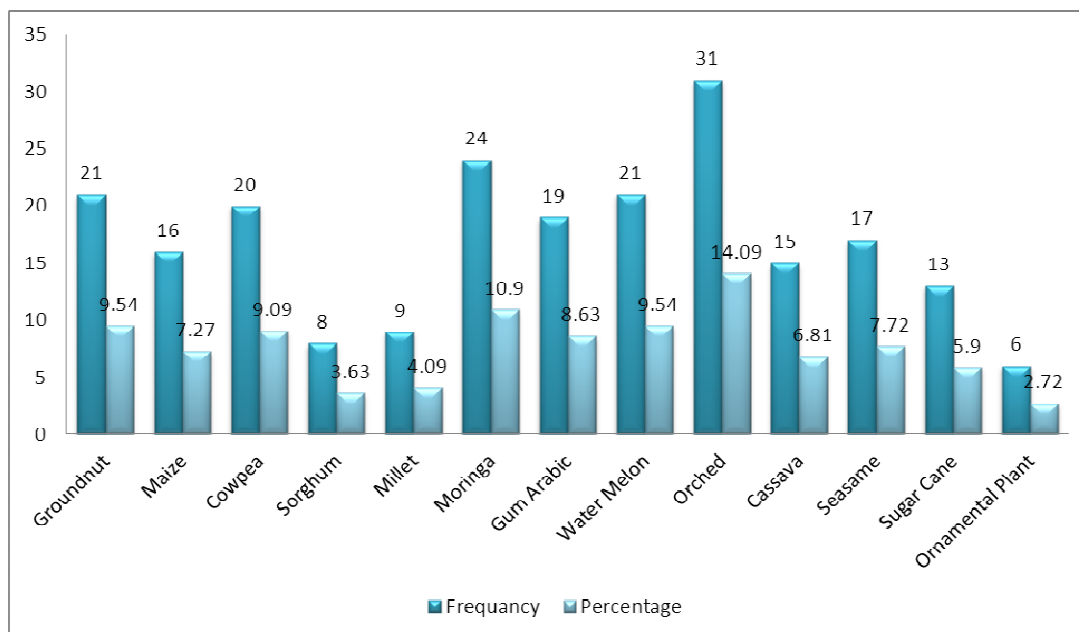


Figure 10: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their intention in engaging in enterprenueship in Crop Production and Marketing in the Study Area

3.1.1.5: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their involvement in Livestock Production and Marketing Entreprises in the Study Area

Figure 11 below shows that 25 percent of respondents that were involved in livestock agribusiness in the study area were into fish entrepreneurshp. Followed by sheep enterprise with 19%, while goat and cattle had 14 and 13 percent respectively. In poultry enterprise ; broiler had 8%, layers 11% and quals 7%. Rabbitary had the lowest percentage with 3%. This has agreed with Nasiru, Haruna & Halilu (2011) who said that the low level of rabbit production was attributed to inavailability of its market in the study area where the research was conducted.

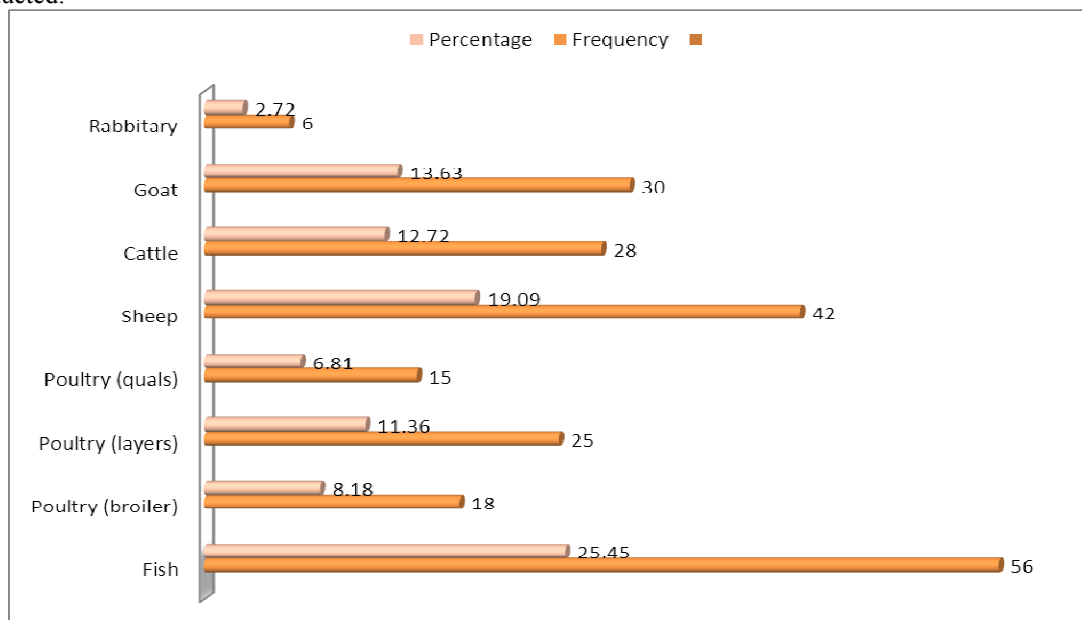


Figure 11: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their involvement in Livestock Production and Marketing Entreprises in the Study Area.

3.1.1.6: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their involvement in Crop Production and Marketing enterprises in the Study Area

Figure 12 above shows that 20 percent of the respondents that were involved in crop production and marketing of agricultural produced were engaged in maize production in the study area. This may be attributed to family size in the study area. This is in line with Emehute, Emehute, Okoroafor & Ejenma (2013) who siad that maize consumption is more among large sized family probably because of large farm size and availability of family

labour associated with large family. Cowpea 17%, groundnut 11%, sorghum 9% and millet also had 9 percent. Ornamental plant had 2% and moringa oleifera had 1%. This is in line with Adenekan, Okpeze, Ibrahim & Salako (2013) who reported that the potentials of moringa which is its insecticidal effect on cowpea in storage among others but still is not produced in large quantity.

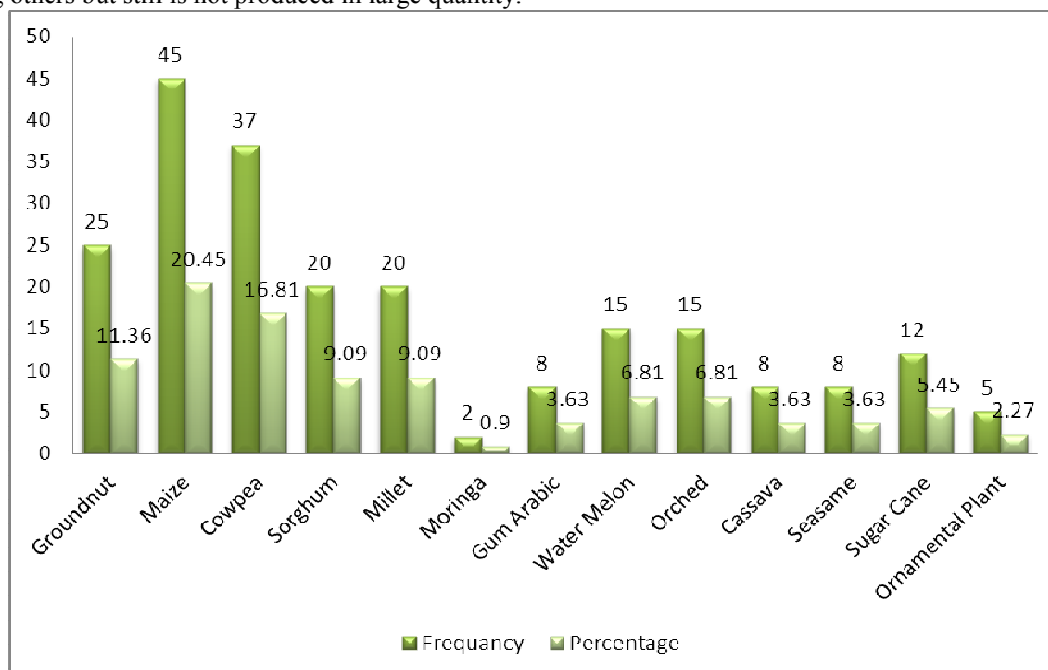


Figure 12: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their involvement in Crop Production and Marketing enterprises in the Study Area.

3.1.2 Constraints to Agribusiness Entrepreneurship intention and involvement in the study Area

The result shows that 98% of the respondents that had the intention of engaging themselves in agribusiness account for those with lack of capital as their problem while those that were involved had 90 percent same problem. 10% was accounted for inadequate extension service for those who were already involved in various agribusiness enterprises in the study Area.

4.1 Conclusions and Recommendations

In conclusion the study reveals that youth in Gombe metropolis in Gombe State were interested in agribusiness in both livestock and crop production and marketing. And the youth were predominately educated with both sexes involved.

It was recommended that private sector should invest in agriculture in order to absorb the unemployed youths. Extension services should be emphasised in order to train, enlighten and encourage the farmer and non farmers on the potential in agribusiness.

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