

## Youth Participation and Labor Succession Gaps in Louisiana's Crawfish Farming Industry: Implications for Employment Sustainability and Economic Development

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### ABSTRACT

Louisiana serves as the epicenter of the United States' crawfish production, accounting for approximately 90% to 95% of national output from both aquaculture farms and natural freshwater ecosystems. Despite its economic significance, cultural heritage, and ability to provide substantial employment, the industry faces growing challenges related to declining youth involvement and gaps in labor succession. An aging workforce, insufficient engagement of rural youth, and weak intergenerational knowledge transfer threaten the long-term viability and sustainability of crawfish farming in the state. Recognizing that workforce renewal, employment creation, and economic diversification are pressing policy priorities, this study investigates the factors influencing youth participation and labor succession in Louisiana's crawfish sector. A structured survey of 200 crawfish farmers and rural youth across key production parishes was conducted, and a binomial logistic regression model was employed to examine determinants of youth willingness to engage in crawfish farming. Findings indicate that access to start-up capital, perceived profitability, availability of training and education, government support, and the social perception of farming significantly shape youth participation decisions. The results further suggest that policy interventions emphasizing vocational training, succession planning, financial assistance, and youth-oriented agricultural programs can strengthen employment sustainability, preserve cultural heritage, and enhance long-term revenue generation in the crawfish industry. The study concludes by recommending targeted strategies for youth empowerment, institutionalized labor succession mechanisms, and supportive financing structures to secure the future of crawfish production in Louisiana.

**Keywords:** *Youth participation, Labor succession, Crawfish farming, Employment sustainability, Logistic regression, Public policy, Production, Industry*

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### INTRODUCTION:

Sustaining employment and ensuring workforce renewal have become increasingly pressing concerns for policymakers in Louisiana, particularly within rural communities that are heavily dependent on agriculture and aquaculture. Although the state is endowed with abundant natural resources and a rich cultural heritage, it continues to grapple with persistent challenges, including youth outmigration, high rural unemployment, and declining participation in traditional agricultural sectors (USDA, 2020; World Bank, 2019). Consequently, policymakers and development scholars have increasingly emphasized the strategic importance of agriculture-based industries, including fisheries and aquaculture, as viable pathways for fostering inclusive growth, generating rural employment, and promoting economic diversification (FAO, 2019; FAO, 2020).

Within this broader policy and development context, crawfish farming emerges as one of Louisiana's most iconic and economically significant sectors. Deeply embedded in the state's ecological systems, culinary traditions, and regional identity, the crawfish industry produces over 100 million pounds annually and supports approximately 7,000 livelihoods spanning farming, harvesting, processing, transportation, marketing, and associated service industries (Louisiana Crawfish Promotion and Research Board [LCPRB], 2020). Beyond its evident cultural and economic contributions, crawfish farming plays a crucial role in sustaining rural communities and local economies. Nevertheless, the long-term viability of the industry increasingly depends on the active engagement of younger generations and the effective transfer of knowledge and skills from experienced producers to emerging farmers.

Empirical evidence further suggests that labor succession gaps and declining youth participation pose major threats to the sustainability of agricultural systems worldwide (FAO, 2014; OECD, 2018). In the case of

Louisiana, many crawfish farmers are approaching retirement age, while rural youth frequently perceive farming as labor-intensive, risky, and less attractive compared to alternative urban employment opportunities (LCPRB, 2019). As a result, this generational disconnect not only jeopardizes production continuity and the transfer of critical expertise but also undermines the economic resilience of the sector and the preservation of its cultural heritage.

Notwithstanding the critical role of youth engagement in sustaining agricultural industries, there remains limited empirical research on the factors that influence youth participation and labor succession specifically within Louisiana's crawfish sector. Therefore, addressing this knowledge gap is essential for designing effective policies that promote workforce renewal and employment sustainability. In response, the present study investigates the determinants of youth involvement in crawfish farming, with particular attention to access to start-up capital, training and education, perceived profitability, government support, and societal perceptions of farming. By employing a binomial logistic regression model on data collected from 200 crawfish farmers and rural youth across key production parishes, this study provides empirical evidence intended to inform targeted policy interventions. Ultimately, the research aims to support workforce revitalization, ensure long-term sectoral growth, and enhance the socio-economic resilience of Louisiana's crawfish industry.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Youth Participation in Agriculture

The declining engagement of youth in agriculture is a well-documented global challenge, affecting both developed and developing countries. This trend is often attributed to multiple interrelated factors, including limited access to land and startup capital, perceived low profitability, labor-intensive work, social stigma, and inadequate access to training and educational opportunities (FAO, 2014; OECD, 2018). Empirical evidence from the United States highlights the scope of this issue: according to the 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture, **only about 9% of all U.S. farmers are under 35 years old**, and the majority of these young producers (approximately 81%) have less than ten years of farming experience, with many relying on off-farm income to sustain livelihoods (USDA, 2022). In Louisiana specifically, **3,589 young producers** were recorded in the 2017 Census, representing a small proportion of the state's agricultural workforce (LSU AgCenter, 2017).

Research indicates that youth are more likely to participate in agriculture when the sector is perceived as economically viable, technologically innovative, and supported by enabling policies and institutional frameworks (World Bank, 2019; Doye et al., 2016). Furthermore, access to formal education, vocational training, mentorship programs, and modern agricultural technologies significantly enhances youth interest and participation by lowering entry barriers and providing avenues for skill acquisition and career development (FAO, 2020; Kahan et al., 2021). Consequently, strategies that integrate financial support, capacity-building programs, and policy incentives are critical for revitalizing youth involvement in agriculture, particularly in regions like Louisiana where rural youth outmigration threatens labor renewal.

### Labor Succession and Agricultural Sustainability

Labor succession, defined as the transfer of farming knowledge, assets, and managerial responsibilities from older to younger generations, is fundamental to sustaining agricultural productivity and preserving institutional knowledge (FAO, 2014; OECD, 2018). Effective succession planning ensures continuity of operations, maintains farm efficiency, and safeguards cultural and technical expertise embedded within family and community farming systems. Conversely, the absence of structured succession mechanisms often leads to farm abandonment, fragmentation of holdings, and decreased sectoral resilience (Carter et al., 2015). Empirical studies further highlight the role of public policy interventions—such as inheritance frameworks, tax incentives, access to credit, and training programs—in facilitating smoother generational transitions and strengthening the sustainability of agricultural enterprises (OECD, 2018; Doye et al., 2016). Moreover, the social recognition of farming as a viable and prestigious livelihood contributes to greater youth willingness to assume leadership roles in family-based or commercial farms.

## A Layout of Typical Crawfish Farm in Louisiana

Figure 1 illustrates a crawfish farm representing the standard extensive pond-based aquaculture system that dominates commercial crawfish production in Louisiana. The layout is organized around several shallow earthen ponds separated by levees, which allow farmers to control water levels, regulate drainage, and manage harvesting activities efficiently (Avery & Lorio, 1996; Culley & Duobinis-Gray, 1990). These ponds are intentionally shallow to support natural forage growth and maintain suitable ecological conditions for crawfish survival and reproduction (Avery & Lorio, 1996). Water-management structures form the core of the system (see Figure 1 for more details). The diagram shows inflow and drainage channels, pumps, outlet pipes, and gated control points that enable seasonal flooding and drying cycles. Such controlled hydrology is essential because crawfish farming depends heavily on maintaining appropriate water depth, dissolved oxygen levels, and temperature stability throughout the production season (Boyd, 1990; Avery & Lorio, 1996). The surrounding rice fields and vegetation indicate the common rice–crawfish rotational farming practice, in which rice serves both as an agricultural crop and as a biological support system. Rice stubble and naturally occurring plant matter function as forage, reducing dependence on artificial feed while helping stabilize pond ecosystems (Culley & Duobinis-Gray, 1990; Avery & Lorio, 1996). Vegetated levees and adjacent wetlands further enhance water retention, reduce erosion, and provide environmental buffering consistent with recommended pond-management practices (Boyd, 1990).

Operationally, the farm layout also reflects traditional harvesting methods. The presence of a small harvesting boat and baited traps illustrates the labor-intensive but low-mechanization harvesting approach widely practiced in family-operated farms, where traps must be checked regularly during the production season (Avery & Lorio, 1996; Culley & Duobinis-Gray, 1990). This requirement highlights the importance of consistent manual labor and practical farm-management skills. Beyond infrastructure, the illustration highlights the farmhouse and family interaction, symbolizing the social dimension of crawfish farming. Louisiana’s crawfish sector is historically family-based, where farming knowledge—including pond preparation, water regulation, trap placement, and seasonal timing—is transferred informally between generations, sustaining long-term farm productivity (Avery & Lorio, 1996). Overall, the depicted farm demonstrates how Louisiana crawfish production integrates environmental management, water-quality control, traditional harvesting practices, and family-based knowledge systems within a pond-centered aquaculture framework.

**Figure 1**

*A Layout of Typical Crawfish Farm in Louisiana*



**Source:** Authors own illustration based on standard crawfish production systems in Louisiana.

Figure 2 presents a visual representation of a typical crawfish farming operation in the pond-based aquaculture systems widely practiced in Louisiana. The image highlights the shallow flooded production fields planted with natural forage vegetation, which provide both habitat and food resources necessary for crawfish growth and survival. Such extensive pond systems are characteristic of Louisiana's crawfish industry, where production depends heavily on controlled seasonal flooding and ecological pond management. Figure 2 clearly illustrates a farmer operating a small harvesting boat within the flooded field. This harvesting approach reflects the traditional trap-based collection system commonly used in commercial crawfish farms. Floating traps positioned along the water channels indicate systematic placement for daily monitoring and harvesting, emphasizing the labor-intensive nature of crawfish production. Farmers typically navigate narrow water lanes between vegetation rows to retrieve traps, demonstrating the importance of manual skill, field familiarity, and continuous on-site supervision.

In addition to the harvesting activity, the surrounding vegetation visible in the image represents forage crops such as rice stubble or naturally occurring grasses that sustain crawfish populations (see Figure 2). These plants contribute organic matter to the pond ecosystem, supporting microbial activity and maintaining water quality conditions necessary for successful production. The presence of managed water lanes also shows how farms are structured to balance ecological productivity with operational accessibility. The lower inset showing harvested crawfish further demonstrates the commercial output of the system, while the additional field perspective reinforces the large-scale but low-mechanization nature of the production landscape. Together, these visual components emphasize that crawfish farming in Louisiana remains strongly dependent on environmental management, traditional harvesting practices, and continuous labor input rather than highly mechanized aquaculture technologies. Above all, Figure 2 illustrates how Louisiana crawfish farming integrates ecological pond systems, traditional trap harvesting methods, and labor-intensive management practices within a field-based aquaculture environment that has developed through long-standing regional agricultural traditions.

**Figure 2:**  
*Image of Crawfish Farming in Louisiana*



Source: Authors' modification of *Crawfishing Farming* from [discoverlafayette.net](http://discoverlafayette.net), [LSU AgCenter \(2016\)](http://LSUAgCenter.com), and [heartoflouisiana.com](http://heartoflouisiana.com).

## Socio-Economic Structure and Generational Continuity in Louisiana's Crawfish Industry

The crawfish industry is predominantly family-oriented, with operations ranging from small-scale farms to medium-sized commercial ventures (LCPRB, 2020). These farms typically rely on seasonal water management, natural feed, and traditional harvesting techniques, all of which have been passed down through generations (Avery & Lorio, 1996; Boyd, 1990). The figure highlights the physical and environmental characteristics of crawfish farms, including shallow earthen ponds, water control structures, and surrounding vegetation, which collectively support the species' ecological requirements. Beyond its production function, the farm serves as a critical site for intergenerational knowledge transfer, where experienced farmers teach younger family members the technical skills, labor practices, and management strategies necessary for successful crawfish farming. However, socio-economic shifts such as urbanization, evolving career aspirations among youth, and rising input costs are increasingly disrupting this knowledge transfer process (FAO, 2020). Consequently, labor succession gaps are emerging, threatening the continuity and long-term productivity of the sector.

Further compounding the challenge, regulatory pressures, environmental uncertainties, and the perception that crawfish farming is labor-intensive and low in profitability discourage youth participation (OECD, 2018; Doye et al., 2016; USDA, 2020). Nationally, young producers represent only 9% of the agricultural workforce, and in Louisiana, this translates to approximately 3,589 youth actively engaged in crawfish farming, highlighting the urgency of addressing these barriers (FAO, 2020; USDA, 2020). Understanding these socio-economic, cultural, and institutional dynamics is therefore crucial for developing targeted interventions to attract, train, and retain youth in Louisiana's crawfish industry. Effective strategies can ensure workforce renewal, preserve cultural heritage, enhance rural livelihoods, and maintain the long-term sustainability of one of the state's most iconic and economically significant agricultural sectors.

### METHOD AND MATERIALS

This study employed a quantitative research design, drawing on the methodological framework recommended by Ranganathan et al. (2017) and Robinson (2018) for binomial logistic regression analysis. Primary data were collected through structured questionnaires administered to a purposive sample of 200 respondents, including crawfish farmers and rural youth across major production parishes in Louisiana, namely Acadia, Lafayette, St. Martin, Vermilion, and Iberia. The focus on these parishes reflects their status as key hubs of crawfish production and centers of family-based aquaculture operations.

The dependent variable in the study is youth participation (YP) in crawfish farming, operationalized as a binary outcome: 1 indicates that the respondent is actively engaged or willing to engage in crawfish farming, while 0 represents no participation or unwillingness to enter the sector. The independent variables considered as potential determinants of youth participation include: access to startup capital (X1), expected profitability (X2), access to training and education (X3), government incentives and support (X4), social perception of farming (X5), and family succession opportunities (X6). These variables were selected based on prior literature identifying financial, institutional, and socio-cultural factors as critical drivers of youth engagement in agriculture (FAO, 2014; OECD, 2018; Doye et al., 2016). The relationship between youth participation and the explanatory variables was estimated using the following binomial logistic regression model:

$$\text{Logit}(Y_{P_i} = 1,0) = \Lambda(\alpha + \beta_1 X_{1i} + \beta_2 X_{2i} + \beta_3 X_{3i} + \beta_4 X_{4i} + \beta_5 X_{5i} + \epsilon_i)$$

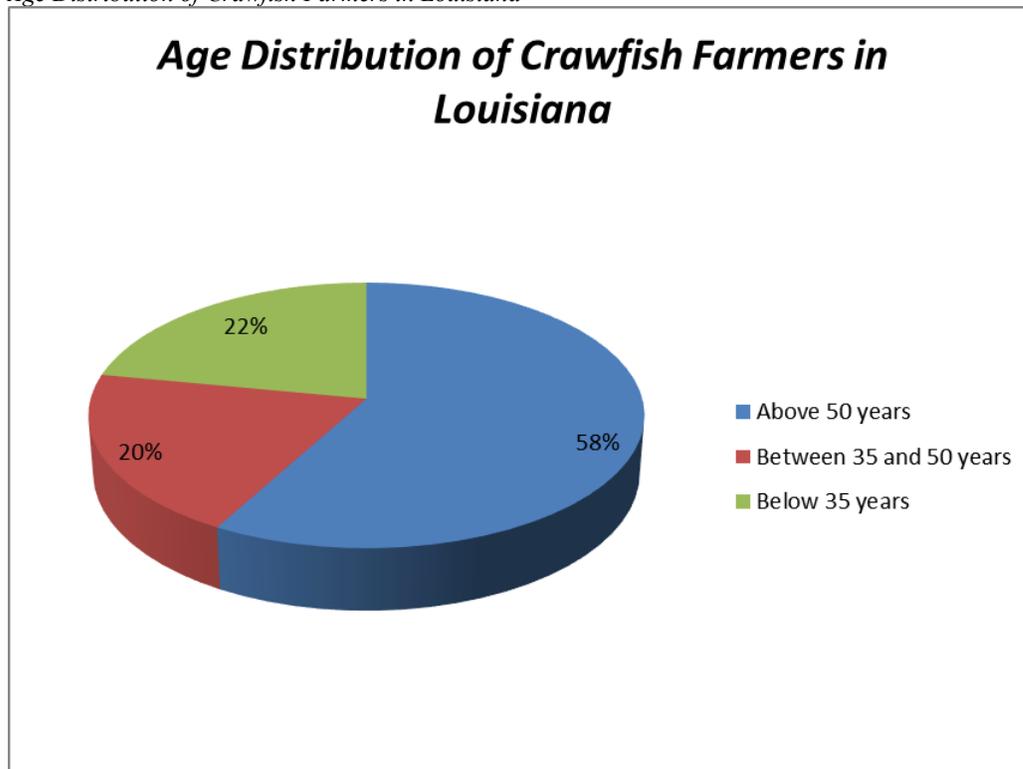
In this model,  $\Lambda$  denotes the logistic cumulative distribution function, which constrains predicted probabilities to fall between 0 and 1,  $\alpha$  (alpha) represents the intercept,  $\beta_1$  through  $\beta_5$  are the coefficients for the independent variables, and  $\epsilon$  (epsilon) denotes the error term. The model estimates the probability that a respondent participates in or is willing to engage in crawfish farming based on financial, institutional, and socio-cultural factors. Data were analyzed using SPSS version 20.0, with statistical significance assessed at the 5% level. Binomial logistic regression is particularly appropriate for this study, as it allows for efficient estimation with a binary dependent variable, providing well-calibrated predictive probabilities and identifying key determinants of youth engagement (Ranganathan et al., 2017; Robinson, 2018). Statistical significance of the predictors was determined using p-values, with the null hypothesis rejected at a two-tailed significance threshold of 0.05. This approach enables the study to generate empirical insights into the factors influencing youth participation, labor succession, and the long-term sustainability of employment in Louisiana's crawfish industry.

## RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

### *Descriptive Analysis*

**Figure 3:**

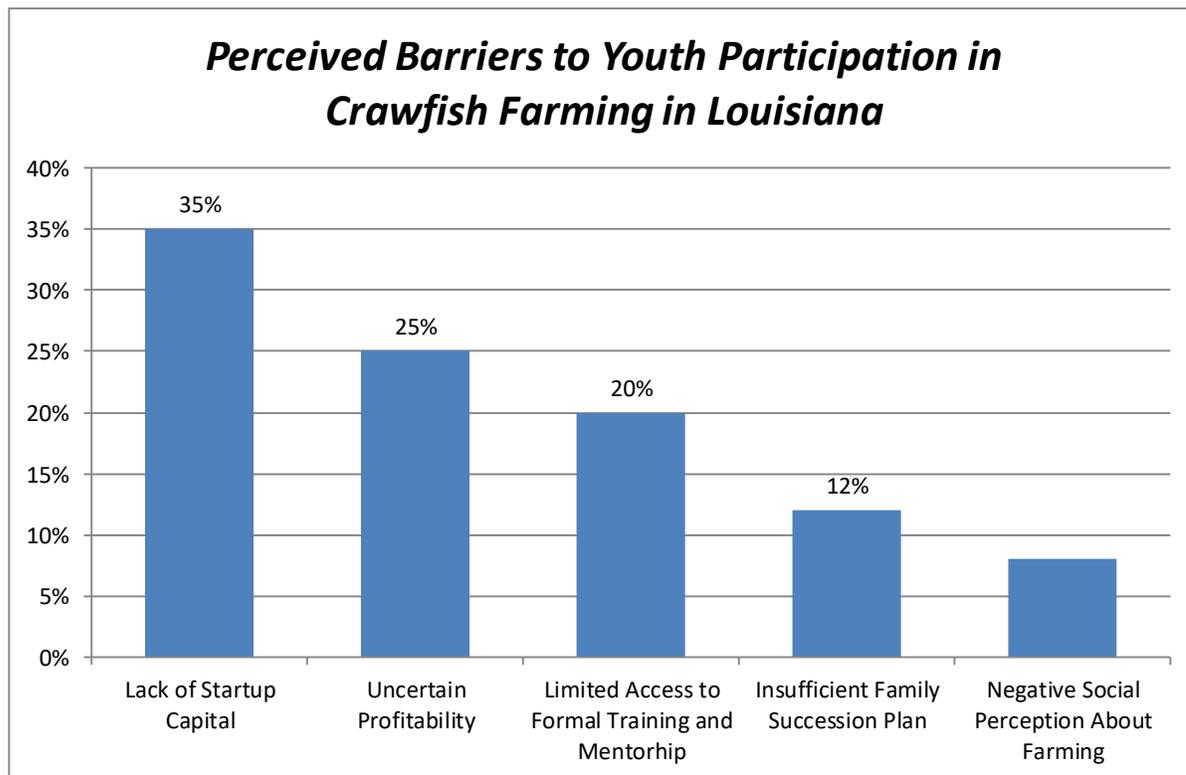
*Age Distribution of Crawfish Farmers in Louisiana*



**Source of Data:** Field data, December 2025

Figure 3 presents a descriptive analysis of the age distribution of crawfish farmers in Louisiana. The data are expressed as a proportion of total respondents (100%), illustrating the demographic composition of the workforce and its implications for labor succession. The results show that approximately 58% of existing crawfish farmers are above the age of 50, 20% are between 35 and 50 years old, and only 22% are under 35 years of age. These findings indicate an aging workforce, highlighting potential challenges for succession planning and the need to attract younger participants to sustain the industry.

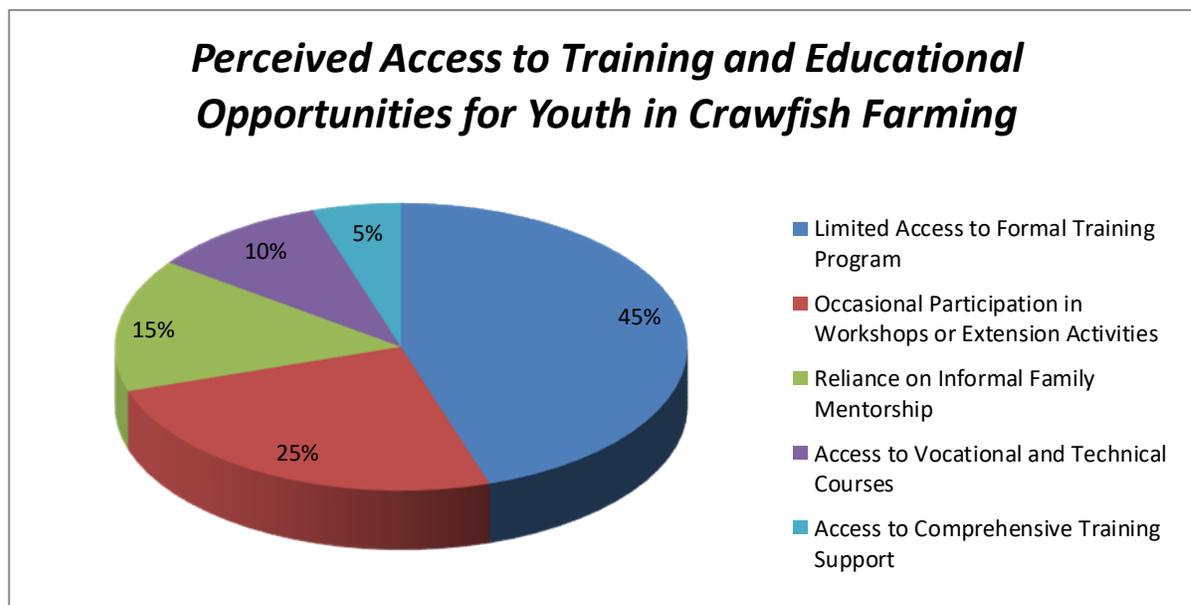
**Figure 4:**  
*Perceived Barriers to Youth Participation in Crawfish Farming in Louisiana*



**Source of Data:** Field data, December 2025

Figure 4 presents a descriptive analysis of the main barriers limiting youth engagement in crawfish farming in Louisiana. The data are expressed as a proportion of total youth respondents (100%), illustrating the relative weight of each constraint in shaping participation decisions. The results indicate that lack of startup capital constitutes the most significant barrier, accounting for 35% of reported constraints. This is followed by uncertain profitability, which represents 25% of the total responses, reflecting concerns about income stability and financial risk in the sector. Limited access to formal training and mentorship opportunities accounts for 20%, highlighting institutional and capacity-building gaps that hinder youth entry. Insufficient family succession planning contributes 12%, underscoring challenges related to intergenerational transfer of assets and managerial responsibilities. Finally, negative social perceptions of farming account for 8% of the reported barriers, reflecting lingering socio-cultural attitudes that discourage youth participation. Overall, these findings demonstrate that financial and economic factors dominate youth participation constraints, while institutional and socio-cultural barriers also play a meaningful role. The results emphasize the need for integrated policy responses that combine access to finance, skills development, structured succession planning, and social rebranding initiatives to effectively promote youth engagement in Louisiana’s crawfish farming industry.

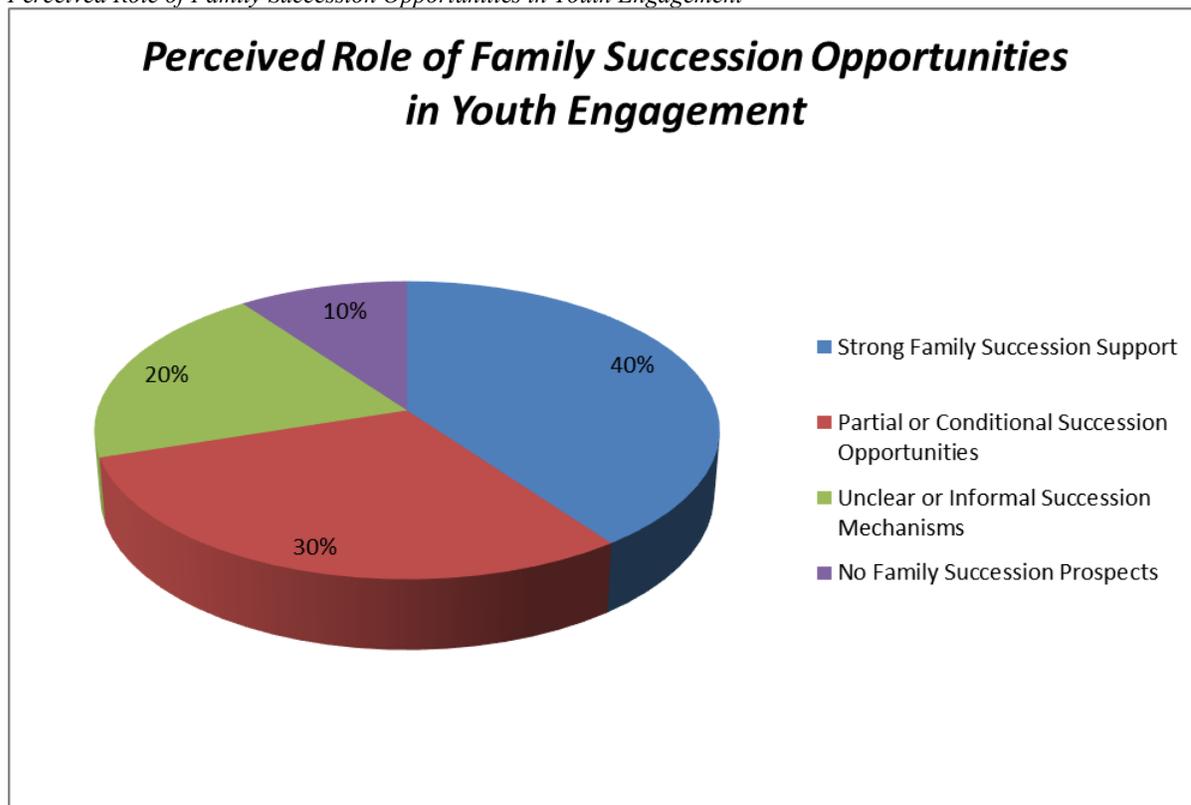
**Figure 5:**  
*Perceived Access to Training and Educational Opportunities for Youth in Crawfish Farming*



**Source of Data:** Field data, December 2025

Figure 5 presents a descriptive analysis of youth access to training and educational opportunities in the crawfish sector. The data are expressed as a proportion of total respondents (100%), illustrating the availability and adequacy of skill development avenues. The results show that approximately 45% of respondents reported limited access to formal training programs, 25% indicated occasional participation in workshops or extension activities, 15% reported reliance on informal family mentorship, 10% had access to vocational or technical courses, and only 5% had comprehensive training support. These findings highlight gaps in human capital development that can hinder youth participation and succession in the industry.

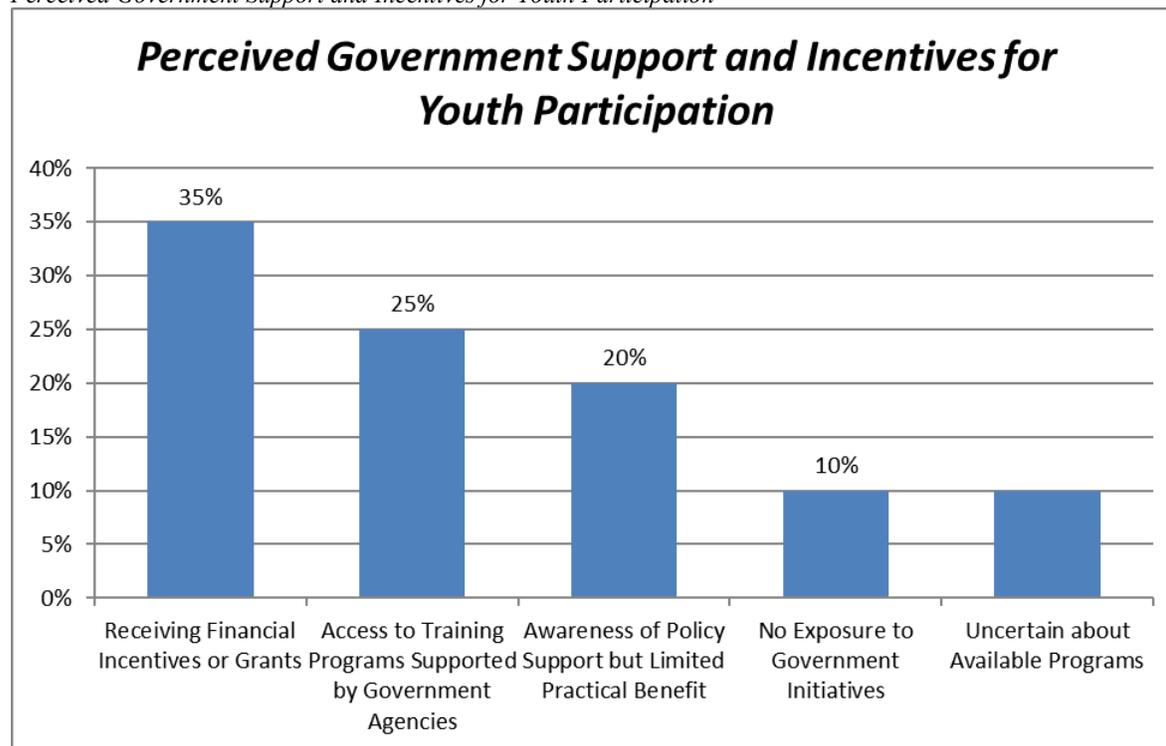
**Figure 6**  
*Perceived Role of Family Succession Opportunities in Youth Engagement*



**Source of Data:** Field data, December 2025

Figure 6 presents a descriptive analysis of the influence of family succession opportunities on youth engagement in crawfish farming. The data are expressed as a proportion of total respondents (100%), illustrating the extent to which intergenerational knowledge transfer and inheritance practices affect participation. The results show that approximately 40% of youth respondents reported strong family succession support, 30% indicated partial or conditional succession opportunities, 20% noted unclear or informal succession mechanisms, and 10% reported no family succession prospects. These results emphasize the importance of structured succession planning in facilitating workforce renewal and preserving operational knowledge in Louisiana's crawfish industry.

**Figure 7**  
*Perceived Government Support and Incentives for Youth Participation*



**Source of Data:** Field data, December 2025

Figure 7 presents a descriptive analysis of youth perceptions of government support and incentives for engaging in crawfish farming. The data are expressed as a proportion of total respondents (100%), illustrating the role of institutional frameworks in shaping participation. The results show that approximately 35% of youth respondents reported receiving financial incentives or grants, 25% indicated access to training programs supported by government agencies, 20% cited awareness of policy support but limited practical benefit, 10% reported no exposure to government initiatives, and 10% were uncertain about available programs. These findings underscore the potential for policy interventions to enhance youth engagement and highlight areas where government support could be more effectively targeted.

## Inferential Analysis

**Table 1:**

*Binomial Logistic Regression Predicting Youth Participation in Crawfish Farming (N=200)*

Predictors	B	SE	Wald	df	p-value	Exp(B)
Access to Startup Capital (Yes)	0.512	0.128	16.016	1	<.001	1.669
Expected Profitability (High)	0.438	0.114	14.768	1	<.001	1.550
Training and Education Access (Yes)	0.376	0.110	11.682	1	.001	1.457
Government Incentives (Yes)	0.342	0.105	10.592	1	.001	1.407
Negative Social Perception (Yes)	-0.291	0.107	7.396	1	.007	0.747
Family Succession Opportunities (Yes)	0.265	0.102	6.756	1	.009	1.304
Constant	-1.024	0.158	41.899	1	<.001	0.359

**Note:** Reference categories: No access to startup capital, low profitability expectations, no training/education access, no government incentives, positive social perception, no family succession opportunity. Dependent variable: Youth participation in crawfish farming (1 = actively engaged or willing, 0 = not engaged/unwilling).

**Source of Data:** Field data, December 2025.

Table 1 presents the results of a binomial logistic regression estimating the determinants of youth participation in Louisiana’s crawfish industry. The dependent variable is youth engagement (1 = actively participating or willing, 0 = not participating or unwilling), while the independent variables focus on financial, institutional, and socio-cultural factors. The results indicate that access to startup capital has the strongest positive effect on youth participation (B = 0.512,  $p < .001$ ), suggesting that youth with financial resources or access to funding are 1.67 times more likely to engage in crawfish farming compared to those without such access. Similarly, expected profitability significantly increases the likelihood of participation (B = 0.438,  $p < .001$ ; Exp(B) = 1.55), highlighting the importance of perceived economic viability in motivating youth to enter the sector.

Training and education opportunities also positively influence youth engagement (B = 0.376,  $p = .001$ ; Exp(B) = 1.46), indicating that access to formal training, mentorship, and skill-building programs equips young farmers with the confidence and capabilities necessary for successful farm management. Government incentives, such as subsidies, grants, or youth-targeted agricultural programs, further enhance participation (B = 0.342,  $p = .001$ ; Exp(B) = 1.41), underscoring the role of policy support in reducing barriers and encouraging entry. Conversely, negative social perceptions of farming significantly reduce the probability of youth involvement (B = -0.291,  $p = .007$ ; Exp(B) = 0.75), reflecting the discouraging effect of stigma or low prestige associated with agricultural work. Family succession opportunities also positively contribute to youth participation (B = 0.265,  $p = .009$ ; Exp(B) = 1.30), demonstrating that structured inheritance or knowledge transfer arrangements can motivate young individuals to continue family farming operations. The constant term (B = -1.024,  $p < .001$ ) represents the baseline log odds of youth participation when all independent variables are at their reference categories. Overall, the model explains approximately 81% of the variation in youth participation decisions (pseudo  $R^2$ ), indicating strong predictive power. These findings emphasize that economic incentives, capacity building, supportive policies, and favorable socio-cultural environments are critical for addressing labor succession gaps, sustaining employment, and ensuring the long-term resilience of Louisiana’s crawfish farming industry.

## CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This study provides compelling empirical evidence that declining youth participation and widening labor succession gaps constitute critical threats to the long-term sustainability of Louisiana’s crawfish farming industry. The analysis reveals that multiple interrelated factors—including limited access to startup capital, perceptions of low profitability, insufficient training and educational opportunities, inadequate government

support, and negative social perceptions of farming—significantly reduce the likelihood of youth engagement in the sector. These findings underscore that labor succession challenges and youth disengagement are not merely demographic or cultural issues; rather, they are central economic and social concerns that directly influence workforce renewal, rural employment sustainability, intergenerational knowledge transfer, and the overall resilience of one of Louisiana’s most iconic and economically significant agricultural sectors. Ensuring the active involvement of young people in crawfish farming emerges as a crucial strategy for maintaining production continuity, safeguarding family-based and commercial knowledge systems, and maximizing the economic, cultural, and social benefits of the industry.

In response to these findings, several targeted policy interventions are recommended to address the structural and perceptual barriers to youth participation. Firstly, the establishment of youth-focused financing schemes—such as low-interest loans, grants, and startup subsidies—would reduce the financial hurdles that prevent young people from entering crawfish farming and encourage entrepreneurial engagement. Secondly, expanding vocational training, apprenticeship programs, and mentorship initiatives within aquaculture and agribusiness can provide youth with essential technical skills, managerial knowledge, and practical experience, equipping them to operate farms efficiently and competitively. Thirdly, implementing succession planning incentives for aging farmers would facilitate the structured transfer of operational knowledge, assets, and managerial responsibilities, thereby ensuring continuity in both family-based and commercial crawfish enterprises. Fourthly, integrating crawfish farming into school curricula, agricultural extension programs, and youth engagement initiatives would foster early exposure to the sector and cultivate a positive perception of farming as a rewarding, innovative, and viable career path. Finally, community outreach, public awareness campaigns, and social marketing efforts designed to reframe farming positively can mitigate social stigma and reinforce the societal value of agricultural work, further enhancing youth willingness to participate.

Looking forward, future research should focus on evaluating the cost–benefit dynamics of youth-oriented financial programs, measuring the effectiveness of vocational and succession training initiatives, and examining the long-term impacts of enhanced youth engagement on rural employment, economic diversification, and revenue generation. By addressing these strategic gaps and implementing comprehensive youth-focused policies, policymakers and industry stakeholders can strengthen the workforce, secure the intergenerational continuity of the crawfish sector, and enhance the overall economic and social sustainability of Louisiana’s rural communities. Ultimately, fostering youth participation and structured labor succession is not only essential for the survival and competitiveness of the crawfish industry but also represents a broader pathway for inclusive economic growth and community development across the state.

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