

Promoting Entrepreneurship in Home Based Organic Farming in the Era of Society 5.0 in Lagos State Nigeria

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Abstract: The study identified measures for promoting entrepreneurship in Home Based Organic farming in the era of Society 5.0 in Lagos State Nigeria. It adopted a survey design. The population of the study comprised of 508 registered farmers in Lagos State Nigeria. A sample of 200 registered farmers residing in Ikorodu, Epe and Badagry were used for the study. Mean and standard deviation were used in analyzing the data. Factors that affected Home Based organic farming as well as the problems associated with the farming were determined. Measures for promoting entrepreneurship in Home Based organic farming in Lagos state included government support for adequate funding, workshop for old and new farmers on the benefit of organic produce. Based on the finding, recommendations were made which include among others that farmers and general public should be given Non-formal and informal education on Home Based Organic farming in this era of Society 5.0 in Lagos State Nigeria.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Home base, Organic, Farming, Society 5.0

1. INTRODUCTION

In the teacher training program, educational practice occupies a research trend that is in demand to create a reliable profile of future educators [1]–[4]. Reliable means having competent and adaptive competencies along with the development of science and technology which of course has an impact on changing characteristics from generation to generation, the sophistication of learning systems, speed of change, and access to information [5], [6]. The profile of educators is not only formed from their mastery in various educational subjects and fields of study, but the process in learning also provides valuable and actual experience in the teaching and learning process itself [7]. This is the background of previous research in the development of a teaching simulation project model to optimize the pedagogical and professional competencies of prospective teacher students [8].

Organic farming is a system which avoids and largely excludes the use of synthetic, manmade chemicals in farming and relies upon crop rotations, crop residues, animal manures, off-farm organic waste, mineral grade rock additives and the biological system of nutrient mobilization and plant protection (Udeshna, 2020). One will wonder why people are no longer as healthy as they use to be these days and why the generation is facing new health challenges in the era of society 5.0. Manmade chemicals cause the environment to get poisoned and everybody's health is at risk. How we went from a healthy nation to a sick nation? This is because of three dangers that threaten our food security, which are chemical fertilizers, pesticide and genetically modified crops. The Nigerian government invest annually to subsidies these chemical fertilizers. Although the fertilizers provide food for the plant to make the plant grow and produce enough food for the growing population but at the sometime they are creating problems, Food Security Information Network (FSIN) (2020). Along with chemical fertilizers the farmers also use chemical pesticides, this pesticide not only kills

specific pest but also many friendly organisms. People are getting health conscious these days and are ready to pay a premium price for good chemical free products Pradhan, Sathananhan and Dibley (2019). Organic products have the nutritional quality of satisfying the wants of this era of society 5.0 in Lagos State.

The modern concept of organic farming merges the tradition, innovation and science to benefit the quality of life and environment. Organic farming is an agricultural producing system which promotes sustainable use resources and bring natural balance in the environment. It tries to enhance agricultural health that includes biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological health. It avoids the use of herbicide, chemical fertilizers, insecticides and fungicides. This farming focuses on enrichment of soil rather than nurturing the plant and is based on the concept "Feed the soil not the plant" and aims for human welfare. Organic farming relies on ecologically formed practices like cultural and biological pest management and brush aside the use of manmade chemicals in crop and animal production and also ignores the use of antibiotics and hormones in livestock production (Audate et'al, 2019).

Society 5.0 has to do with human centered society that balances economic advancement with the resolution of social problems by a system that highly integrates cyberspace and physical space with the aim to strengthen the potential of cyber-physical-social relations in promoting the improvement of the quality of life. Society 5.0 seeks to revolutionize not only the industry through IT integration but also the living spaces and habits of the individual and the general public. The food consumed by the members of the society will determine the health status of that society. Society 5.0 cannot condole unhealthy and sickly citizens but can only be sustained when the citizens are strong mentally, physically, emotionally and health wise. The use of technology and inorganic chemical product to mass produce food crops for the teaming population in the era of Society 5.0 should not only be considered but must also consider

the effects upon society as a whole, or indeed upon our entire ecosystem. If we single-mindedly pursue economic growth without considering organic farming, we may end up becoming a society of mass production and mass consumption but harm the planet and populace in the process.

Entrepreneurship in Home based organic farming is a small scale farming being operated from home, producing daily fresh vegetables, crops and foods that do not require high-tech farm machineries, but basic farm equipment and tools that will need little or no automation Taseen & Biswas (2014). Home based organic farming is easy and stress free to set up as it does not require large space or huge machineries. According to Makokha (2016), home based ventures are production units mostly located in home-steads, within household units making use of locally available raw materials, depend on manual strength and skills (at times run on fuel) and whose production mostly end up in the local market for utilization. Available evidence suggests that home based organic farms also have the potential to generate income within and outside the community and thus, contribute to the economic welfare of the participating households (Adeoye, 2015). Furthermore, through reduced expenditure on food, because of the increased reliance on food produced in one’s own organic farm, there is increased in family income associated with home based organic food Bongiwa and Obi (2015). It has been reported in several studies that were reviewed by Galhena, Freed & Maredia (2013) in their studies were able to conclude that income can be generated from the sales of home based organic food produce, turning home based farm activities into small cottage industries. Home based organic food farms have also been reported to contribute to job creation Rammohan et’al(2019). For example, in a study conducted in Langa Township, Cape Town, South Africa (SA), 38% of the participants were employed in home based farms.

The general purpose of the study was to identify measures for promoting entrepreneurship in Home Based Organic farming in the era of Society 5.0 in Lagos State Nigeria. Specifically, the study determines:

Factors that affect Home Based organic farming in Lagos state. Problems associated with organic farming in Lagos state. Strategies for promoting entrepreneurship in Home Based organic farming in Lagos state.

Research Questions

1. What are the Factors that affect entrepreneurship Home Based organic farming in Lagos state?
2. What are the problems associated with entrepreneurial organic farming in Lagos state?
3. What are the Strategies for promoting entrepreneurship in Home Based organic farming in Lagos state?

2. METHOD

The study adopted the descriptive survey research design. The study was conducted in Lagos state Nigeria. The population of the study comprised of 508 registered farmers in Lagos State Nigeria (Lagos State Bureau of Statistics, 2015). A sample of 200 registered farmers residing in Ikorodu, Epe and Badagry were used for the study. These 3 Local Government Areas (LGA) are at the outskirts of Lagos State where there are still free lands partly developed for residence and partly used for organic farming. Being developing areas, they are the only LGA you can still get free space for farming. Convenience sampling techniques was adopted in the selection of the sample. This was done by attending the All Farmers Association of Nigeria, Lagos State Chapter annual meeting where you can see most of the registered farmers in attendance. Three research questions

guided the study. The instrument for the study was a structured questionnaire to seek information aimed at providing answers to the three research questions. Responses to questionnaire items were based on a 4-point rating scale of: strongly agree (4), agree (3), disagree (2) and strongly disagree (1). The instrument was face validated by three experts, one was a registered farmer in Ikorodu LGA of Lagos State, one from ministry of Agriculture and one from university of Lagos. The experts’ inputs were used to improve the final copy of the questionnaire for the study. Cronbach Alpha method was used in determining the internal consistency of the instrument and it yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.89. A total of 200 copies of the instrument were distributed to the respondents and were all retrieved. The data collected for the study were analyzed using mean and standard deviation. Mean rating from 2.50 and above were considered as agreed while any mean less than 2.50 was considered disagreed.

3. RESULT

Table 1: Mean responses and Standard Deviation on Factors that affect entrepreneurship in Home Based organic farming in Lagos state.

S/N	Factors That affect Entrepreneurship In Home Based Organic Farming In Lagos State	Mean	S D	Remark
1	Information on the	3.67	0.58	Agreed
2	importance of organic food	3.62	1.04	Agreed
3	Experience in organic	4.11	0.79	Agreed
4	farming.	3.51	0.44	Agreed
5	Availability of space for	4.24	0.24	Agreed
6	organic farming.	3.54	0.81	Agreed
7	Content of the organic farm (What to plant) Market for the produce Training organic farmers Innovativeness	3.10	0.55	Agreed

Key: SD – Standard Deviation

Table 1 shows that the 7 items ranged between the mean of 3.10 to 4.24 which are greater than the cutoff point of 2.50. This indicate that all the respondents agreed to all the items as factors that affect Entrepreneurship in Home Based Organic Farming in Lagos State.

Table 2: Mean responses and Standard Deviation on problems associated with entrepreneurial home based organic farming in Lagos state?

S/N	Problems Associated With Entrepreneurial Organic Farming In Lagos State	Mean	S D	Remarks
1	High cost of operation	3.05	1.06	Agreed
2	Labour intensive	3.54	0.86	Agreed
3	Frequent attention required	3.31	0.58	Agreed
4	Lack of government subsidies	3.20	0.67	Agreed
5	Lack of infrastructures	3.40	0.69	Agreed
6	Low yield	3.25	0.77	Agreed
7	Few customers	3.50	0.92	Agreed

Key: SD – Standard Deviation

Table 2 showed the mean responses of the respondents on the problems associated with entrepreneurial home based organic farming in Lagos state. All the respondents agreed to all the items stated as problems associated with entrepreneurial home based organic farming in Lagos state with a mean range of 3.05 to 3.54 which is more than the cutoff point of 2.50.

Table 3: Mean responses and Standard Deviation on Strategies for promoting entrepreneurship in Home Based organic farming in Lagos state?

S/N	Strategies For Promoting Entrepreneurship In Home Based Organic Farming In Lagos State.	Mean	S D	Remark
1	Use of healthy organic seeds	3.56	0.53	Agreed
2	/seedlings	3.12	0.41	Agreed
3	Soil fertility management	3.54	0.50	Agreed
4	Regular training program for organic farmers	3.61	0.44	Agreed
5	Effective organic produce distribution system.	3.66	0.34	Agreed
6	Invitation of technical & financial assistance	3.22	0.61	Agreed
7	Having Contact and regular meetings with organic processors, distributors and retailers	4.11	0.22	Agreed
8	Emphasize the benefit of organic foods	3.31	0.51	Agreed
9	Incorporating unique and creative element of organic food into your adverts.	3.55	0.34	Agreed
10	Leverage on Facebook for the sales of organic produce	3.72	0.23	Agreed
	Make use of dispatch rider for products delivering			

Key: SD – Standard Deviation

Table 3 showed the mean responses on the various strategies for promoting entrepreneurship in home based organic farming in Lagos State. The respondents agreed to all the items with a mean range of 3.12 to 4.11 which are higher than the cutoff point of 2.50. This shows that all these items are strategies for promoting entrepreneurial home based organic farming in Lagos State.

4. DISCUSSION

The findings of the study showed that Information on the importance of organic food, experience in organic farming, availability of space for organic farming, content of

the organic farm (What to plant) , market for the produce, training of organic farmers, Innovativeness in organic farming are some of the factors that affect home based organic farming in Lagos State. The findings align with the findings of Galhena, Freed & Maredia (2013) who stated that space for home garden, marketing the produce are some important factors that need to be considered when going into home gardening. Most people need to be educated on the need for organic food especially during this pandemic era where the body immunity needs to be improved on, Olisa (2020). The study also revealed in table 2 that some of the problems associated with entrepreneurial home based organic farm include High cost of operation, Labour intensive, Frequent attention required, Lack of government subsidies, Lack of infrastructures, Low yield, Few customers to patronize the farm produce due to the high cost compare to the conventional farm produce. This corroborated the statement of Osigbesan (2013) who stated that, the conventional farm produce are easily accessible and available in the market unlike the organic farm produce which are being cultivated by few elites for specific purpose and needs. The findings in table 3 revealed the strategies for promoting entrepreneurship in home based organic farming in Lagos State which include; Use of healthy organic seeds /seedlings, Soil fertility management, Regular training program for organic farmers, Effective organic produce distribution system, Invitation of technical & financial assistance, Having Contact and regular meetings with organic processors, distributors and retailers, Emphasize the benefit of organic foods, Incorporating unique and creative element of organic food into the adverts., Leveraging on social median like the Facebook, instagram, WhatsApp for the sales of organic produce , Making use of dispatch rider for products delivering. No wonder Omoane et'al (2015) stated that operating home based business without considering the methods and means of selling the produce usually ruin the business.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, it can be concluded that, home based organic foods and vegetables are not only necessary but can also serve as a means of generating income for the family within the confined of the home in this era of Society 5.0. In order to promote sales of the organic produce, there is need to leverage on social media such as the Facebook, instagram, creation of website, WhatsApp among others.

Recommendations

1. House owners in outskirts of Lagos State (Ikorodu, Epe and Badagry) should be encouraged by the Government to use any available space within their compound as organic farm to grow vegetables and other short term farm produce.
2. Existing farmers should be educated on the importance of organic foods and how they can be trained by specialist.
3. Farmers and general public should be given Non-formal and informal education on Home Based Organic farming.

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