

## **Impact of N-Agro programme on job creation and income generation among youths in Delta State, Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

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The study analyzed impact of N-Agro programme on job creation and income generation among youths in Delta State. The specific objectives of study are to; describe the socioeconomic characteristics of N-Agro beneficiaries in Delta State, ascertain the impact of N-Agro on job creation and income generation among the youths in Delta State, determine the problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State and examine the measures to overcome the problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State. The population comprised of youths aged between 18 and 35 who are beneficiaries of the N-Agro programme in Delta State. A Sample size of 217 N-Agro beneficiaries was selected for the study using a multi-stage sampling procedure. Firstly, simple random sampling technique without replacement was used to select ten (10) Local Government Areas in the state. Secondly, stratified sampling technique was used to select 217 N-Agro beneficiaries for the study. The objectives of the study were realised using descriptive and inferential statistics. The result from the study showed that majority (55.9%) of the respondents were females. The mean age of the respondents was 33 years. The marital distribution was predominantly single (67.5%). More of respondents (79.9%) were christians. HND with (42.1%) also ranked the highest in their educational qualification. Impact of N-Agro on job creation and income generation among the youths (Grand Mean = 2.68). Problems associated with N-Agro (Grand Mean = 2.74). There is no significant difference between the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and their perception of the impact of N-Agro on job creation and income generation among the youths (mean = 7.651,  $f = 3.118$ ,  $p = 0.076$ ). it is recommended that Government should formulate an exit policy for beneficiaries of N-Agro programme to ensure continuity of their businesses. This study has made contributions to the body of Knowledge by providing empirical evidence on the impact of N-Agro programme on job creation and income generation among youths in Delta State

**Keywords:** N-Agro programme; job creation; income generation; youths; impact; problems

## Introduction

Youths occupy substantial portion of the labor force in Nigeria. However, there are massive numbers of youths, who engage in endless search of white collar jobs in Nigeria. The available white-collar jobs are insufficient to sustain graduates and youths in Nigeria. Some youths and graduates have insufficient employability skills among which have prevented them from securing employment in the private sector. Consequently, there has been persistent high rate of unemployment among youths. Bello et al. (2021) asserted that the consequences of the high youth unemployment rate, particularly in Nigeria, are the high increase in youth migration, terrorism, cultism, kidnapping, prostitution, and cyber fraud, among others.

Given the persistent unemployment, poverty and lack of means of income, various administrations and groups in Nigeria have initiated different policies and programmes targeted at the reduction of unemployment and poverty (Kolomafe et al., 2022). Some previous government-sponsored and privately sponsored programmes to reduce poverty and unemployment among youths in Nigeria were Youth Entrepreneur Support Programme (YES-P) and Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS), Youth Initiative for Sustainable Agricultural in Nigeria (YISA), Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P), Youth Enterprise with Innovative in Nigeria (YouWin), Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises Project for the Niger Delta in Nigeria (LIFE-ND) (Amafade et al., 2022), Youth Empowering People (YEP), Young Entrepreneurs of Nigeria (YEN), African Youth Empowerment Nigeria (AYEN), Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative (YEDI) (Okonkwo et al., 2021) and Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurial Programme (YAGEP) (Eromedoghene et al., 2023). The Federal Government of Nigeria under the past administration of President Muhammadu Buhari initiated N-Power as social intervention schemes and means of empowering the youths to be self-reliant. In the same vein, Ayub & Gbaa (2020) averred that the increased rates of unemployment which has connection with poverty and other social problems prompted the Federal Government of Nigeria under past the leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari to launched N-Power.

N-Power programme is designed for specific number of beneficiaries across different states in Nigeria. Attah et al. (2021) noted that the N-power programme ultimate target of the N-power programme component is to meet an average target of approximately (500.000) five thousand unemployed youths across the states and local government areas through randomization of the beneficiaries, who eventually are trained and empowered for self-actualization. In 2016, the

Federal Government engaged 200,000 N-Power Volunteers Batch A and 300, 000 as Batch B in 2017 to enable them acquire and develop skills which aimed at reducing unemployment (Ekweanya et al., 2020). These two batches ended their programme on the 19th of June 2020, while batch C is being assessed for enrolment at the time of the study (Okonkwo et al., 2021).

The rationales behind the N-Power initiatives are to help youth acquire skills to reduce the incidence of poverty and unemployment in Nigeria. Adi et al. (2020) asserted that it was designed to help provide job creation and empowerment for young Nigerians to acquire and develop life-long skills to become solution providers in their communities and to become players in the domestic and global markets. Abdullahi & Furera (2021) stressed that N-Power programme is created to help young Nigerians acquire and develop life-long skills to become active players in the domestic and global markets. Olorunsola (2022) asserted that N-Power Scheme is an initiative of the National Social Investment Programme of the Federal Government of Nigeria aimed specifically at job creation and youth empowerment through human capital development. Maduabuchi (2023) posited that the modular programmes under N-Power is designed to ensure that each participant learn and practice most of what is necessary to find or create work. N-Power programme is targeted at skilled, unskilled, graduate and non-graduate youths. N-power programme for graduates covered several aspects such as N-Power Agro, N-Power Health, N-Power Teach and N-Power Tax. The agricultural aspect of N-power programme is called N-Power Agro.

N-Agro programme is meant for Nigerian citizens between the ages of 18 and 35, who are paid monthly stipends of ₦30,000 for duration of 2 years. Ogbette et al. (2019) noted that N-Power Agro is designed for volunteers to provide advisory services to farmers across the country. The authors added that N-Power Agro members can aspire to a life-long career in agriculture and other allied fields, such as agriculture extension services consultant, seed fertilizer and other input aggregators, farm managers, public sector jobs in agriculture and farming co-operatives management. Ogunmodede et al. (2020) asserted that N-Agro Corps are trained to act as intermediaries between the farmers and the Research Institutions. Ekweanya et al. (2020) asserted that N-Power Agro beneficiaries are expected to disseminate the knowledge that has been amassed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the area of extension services, helping farmers in their decision-making and ensuring that appropriate knowledge is implemented to obtain the best results on farms. Yusuf et al. (2023) noted that the youths deployed under N-Power Agro served as researchers

and the local farmers in a bit to educate them on contemporary farming techniques and innovation to boost agricultural productivity thereby achieving the objective of food sufficiency

Job creation is the capacities of individuals to set up a business to maximize profit and contribute to the economic development of a nation. Usman et al. (2022) defined job creation as the ability and willingness of individual to establish a business enterprise for the purpose of producing economic valuables needed by the society, creating employment opportunities and adding value to economic growth and development. It is the act of providing work for the unemployed youths in the society. According to Maduabuchi (2023), job creation is the provision of employment opportunities for the teeming unemployed or underemployed populace.

Income generation is the act of making profits from engagement in business activities. Samaila et al. (2018) described income generation as the process of making an investment or engaging in business activities to make money. N-Power Agro beneficiaries could generate either through setting up new business or by working for others to get paid. Poverty and unemployment among youths have continued to persist. These problems prompted the investigation into impact of N-Agro programme on job creation and income generation among youths in Delta State. The specific objectives were to:

- describe the socioeconomic characteristics of N-Agro beneficiaries in Delta State;
- ascertain the impact of N-Agro on job creation and income generation among the youths in Delta State;
- determine the problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State;
- examine the measures to overcome the problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State.

### Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

- What are the socioeconomic characteristics of N-Agro beneficiaries in Delta State?
- What is the impact of N-Agro on job creation and income generation among the youths in Delta State?
- What are the problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State?
- What are the measures to overcome the problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State?

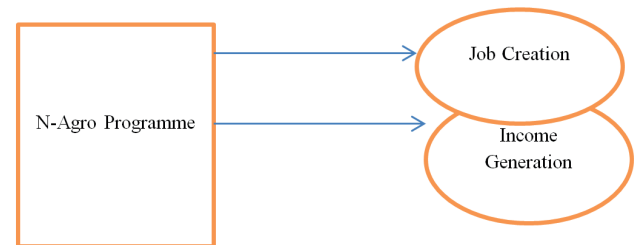
### Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance:

- There is no significant difference between the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents and their perception of the impact of N-Agro on job creation and income generation among the youths in Delta State.
- There is no significant difference between the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents and their perception of problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State
- There is no significant difference between the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents and their perception of measures to overcome the problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State.

### Conceptual framework

The rate of unemployment has been high in Nigeria. As a way to strengthen youth empowerment the Federal Government of Nigeria initiated N-Agro programme. Conceptualizing the linkage between N-Agro programme, job creation and income generation to understand the impact of the programme among youths.



**Fig. 1. Conceptual framework linking Agro programme, job creation and income generation**

### Empirical studies

Komolafe et al. (2022) conducted a study on the perceived effects of N-power agro programme on youth empowerment and income generation in Lagos state, Nigeria. Multistage sampling procedure was used to select 120 beneficiaries for the study. The instrument utilized for data collection was questionnaire. Frequency counts, percentages, mean and Analysis of Variance were used for data analysis. The major problems affecting the implementation of N-Power Agro programmes in Lagos State are non-payment of stipend to participants as at when, insufficient information, high transportation fare paid by the participants to work. The study also revealed that there is a significant relationship between N-Power Agro and youth empowerment in Lagos State. It is therefore recommended that government should ensure adequate provision of funds for income- generating projects through the N-Power programmes.

Maduabuchi (2023) investigated the effect of n-power on employment creation in Enugu State, 2016-2019. Survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study comprised 17,832 youths in Enugu State. A sample size of 970 respondents was selected for the study using Taro Yamani formula. Percentages were used as the instrument for data analysis. The findings revealed that the N-Power Youth empowerment scheme had a positive impact on employment opportunities for the youth in Enugu State. Based on these results, the study recommends that the government should support and promote more empowerment programs aimed at the youth.

Ayub & Gbaa (2020) conducted a study on the impact of N-power programme on the socioeconomic livelihoods of beneficiaries in Ibadan North Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria. The study adopted survey research design. A total number of 250 N-power beneficiaries were selected through simple random sampling technique. The data for the study was collected through questionnaire. The findings of the study revealed among others that the programme has had enormous impacts on the socio-economic livelihoods of the beneficiaries including easy access to basic and daily needs, catering for relatives, ability to enrol for further studies. It was also revealed that delay in payments, lack of continuity, political interference, poor supervision and corruption among the officials of the programme were challenges associated with the programme.

Abdullahi & Furera (2021) assessed the impact of n-power programme on youth + employability and income in Yobe State, Nigeria. The population of the study includes all the 2324 beneficiaries of N-Power programme across the seventeen (17) Local Government areas of Yobe State. A sample size of 233 respondents was selected for the study using multistage sampling procedure. Data was collected for the study through questionnaire and focus group discussions. Frequency and percentage were used for data analysis. The results of the study revealed among others that N-Power programme has enhanced the income generating capacity of most of the beneficiaries. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others that the programme should provide incentives for the beneficiaries to establish own business ventures. The incentives in form of capital, company registration, tax waiver, as well as extension services.

Aderinoye-Abdulwahab et al. (2021) investigated the training needs of n-power agro-beneficiaries in Kwara State, Nigeria. Survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study comprised all N-Power Agro beneficiaries in Kwara State. Simple random sampling was used to select 216 respondents for the study. A questionnaire was used as the instrument for data collection. Percentages,

mean, standard deviation and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) were used to analyze the data. The results of the study showed among others that rules and regulation governing the job, knowledge acquisition, field practices, record keeping, extension service delivery methods were the areas where training were needed.

Owigho et al. (2023) in their study on assessment of youth perception and participation in agriculture in Delta State, Nigeria. A multi-stage sampling procedure was employed to compose a sample size of 640 respondents, data were analysed with descriptive statistics (simple percentages, frequency counts, mean, frequency tables) and inferential statistics were used. A 5-point Likert scale was used to determine their responses to perceived statements on farming, logit regression model was also used to test the stated hypotheses. From their findings, they recommended that Government should encourage youth participation in agricultural production through youth-focused extension programmes, educating them about agricultural advancements and teaching them how to use technology.

Ekweanya et al. (2020) carried out a study on analysis of perceived effect of N-power programme on creation of employment opportunities for agricultural graduates in Abia State, Nigeria. The study adopted a survey research design. Multistage sampling technique was used to select a sample size of 100 respondents. Data for the study were collected through a well-structured questionnaire. Frequency counts, means, and percentages were used to answer the research questions and z-test was used to test the hypotheses. The results of the study revealed among others that the programme had effect on youths' productivity, engagement in different entrepreneurial venture and self-dependence.

## **Materials and Methods**

### ***Description of the Study Area***

This study was carried out in Delta State which is located in South-South Geo-political zone of Nigeria. Delta State is an oil-producing state in Nigeria located in Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The State lies within the tropics between longitude 5°.00 and 6°45'E and latitude 5°.00 and 6°.3°N. The State is predominated by Christians. The major ethnic groups in the state are Urhobo, Igbo, Izon, Isoko, Ijaw and Itsekiri. Delta State is in the South-South Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria, with population of 6,037,667 (3,079,210 males and 2,958,457 females) as at 2020 (NPC, 2020).

There are two different seasons of the typical tropical climate of the state, raining season between March and November, while dry season is between December and February. There are three types of soil in the area namely, alluvial,



hydromorphic, and feral. Arable and permanent crops are cultivated in the various farming communities in the state. The vegetation of the area ranges from mangrove swamp, evergreen, and savannah. The people of the area engage in livestock rearing and crop production.

#### ***Sampling procedure and method of data collection***

The population comprised of youths aged between 18 and 35, who are beneficiaries of the N-Agro programme in Delta State. A Sample size of 217 N-Agro beneficiaries was selected for the study using a multi-stage sampling procedure. Firstly, simple random sampling technique without replacement was used to select ten (10) Local Government Areas in the state. Secondly, stratified sampling technique was used to select 217 N-Agro beneficiaries for the study.

A well-structured questionnaire was used as the instrument for data collection. The questionnaire was structured in the ways to collect data on the gender, age, marital status, educational level, and religion of the respondents. Other information, in which the questionnaire was structured to gather were the impact of N-Agro on job creation and income generation among the youths, problems and measures to overcome the problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State. The instrument was administered to the respondents by the researchers and two research assistants. The research assistants were briefed by the research assistants. A total of 217 copies of the questionnaire were distributed and 209 were properly filled and successfully retrieved indicating 96% return rate. The copies of the questionnaire that were properly completed and retrieved were used for data analysis.

#### ***Method of data analysis***

Frequency and percent were used to analyze the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions. ANOVA was used to test the hypotheses. The formula for the weighted mean is as follow:

$$\bar{X}_w = \frac{\sum xw}{\sum w},$$

where  $\bar{X}_w$  = weighted mean  
 $\sum xw$  = Summation of score  $\times$  weights  
 $\sum w$  = Summation of weights

The decision rule for the research questions is that mean ratings of 2.50 and above was taken as agreement and any mean rating that falls below 2.50 was taken to indicate disagreement. In taking decisions on the null hypotheses, if p-value is equal or greater than the level of significance 0.05, the null hypothesis was accepted. On the other hand, if the

p-value is less than 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was rejected.

## **Results**

The socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, which is presented in table 1, shows the gender distribution of the respondents, where the female respondents are the majority with a frequency rate of 117 representing 56.0%, while their male counterpart which accounted for frequency rate of 99 only representing 44.0%, which corresponded to the findings of Owigho & Eromedoghene (2021; 2022), in their studies, that affirmed 60% female and 40% male. This shows that female beneficiaries are more than their male counterparts in the N-Agro programme. The age of the N-Agro beneficiaries showed that majority are between the age of 24–30 years constituting 53.6%, followed by 31–35, which constitute 25.8% and those between 18–23 years constitute 20.6%, respectively. The marital status showed that majority, which is 67.5% of the N-Agro beneficiaries are single, 26.8% are married, 4.3% are divorced and 1.4% are widowed. Educational background showed that the majority, which constitute 42.1% of N-Agro beneficiaries had HND, 31.17% had OND, and 25.8% had bachelor's degree. Majorities (79.9%) of the N-Agro beneficiaries were Christian; (15.3%) were Islam, while (4.8%) were traditional worshippers.

**Table 1. Summary description of respondents' socio-economic characteristics**

| Socio-economic Characteristics | Freq. | %    |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|
| Sex                            |       |      |
| Male                           | 92    | 44.1 |
| Female                         | 117   | 55.9 |
| Age                            |       |      |
| 18-23                          | 43    | 20.6 |
| 24-30                          | 112   | 53.6 |
| 31-35                          | 54    | 25.8 |
| Marital Status                 |       |      |
| Single                         | 141   | 67.5 |
| Married                        | 56    | 26.8 |
| Divorced                       | 9     | 4.3  |
| Widowed                        | 3     | 1.4  |
| Educational Certificate        |       |      |
| OND                            | 67    | 32.1 |
| HND                            | 88    | 42.1 |
| Bachelor's Degree              | 54    | 25.8 |
| Religion                       |       |      |
| Christianity                   | 167   | 79.9 |
| Islam                          | 32    | 15.3 |
| Traditional                    | 10    | 4.8  |

**Research question two:** What is the impact of N-Agro on job creation and income generation among the youths in Delta State?

Results in Table 2 showed that the mean scores of the respondents for all the items with exception of 6 are above the cut off mean of 2.50 and this indicated agreement with the statements. The cluster mean of 2.68 is above the cut off mean of 2.50 and this shows that N-Agro has positive impact on job creation and income generation among the youths in Delta State.

**Research question three:** What are the problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State?

From Table 3, all items have mean scores above the cut

off point of 2.50, which indicated agreement of the respondents on the problems associated with N-Agro programme in Delta State. Furthermore, mean of means of 2.79, which are above 2.50, indicated agreements that there are problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State.

**Research question four:** What are the measures to overcome the problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State?

Table 4 shows that all items have mean scores above the cut off point of 2.50, which indicated agreement of the respondents on the measures to overcome the problems associated with N-Agro programme in Delta State. Furthermore, mean of means of 2.74 which are above 2.50 indicated

**Table 2. Mean and standard deviation scores on the impact of N-Agro on Job creation and income generation among the youths in Delta State**

| S/N | Items   | X    | Sd   | Remarks  |
|-----|---|------|------|----------|
| 1   | Setting up of agro-based businesses   | 2.87 | 1.10 | Agree    |
| 2   | Development of employable skills  | 2.73 | 1.01 | Agree    |
| 3   | Engagement in farming activities  | 2.61 | 1.07 | Agree    |
| 4   | Employment of others in businesses  | 2.58 | 1.00 | Agree    |
| 5   | Improve savings   | 2.96 | 0.96 | Agree    |
| 6   | Securing employment in agro-based organizations   | 2.45 | 1.02 | Disagree |
| 7   | Generate revenue from the sales of farm products to maximize profits from agro-based businesses | 2.57 | 1.04 | Agree    |
|     | Mean of means   | 2.68 | 1.03 | Agree    |

**Table 3. Mean and standard deviation scores on problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State**

| S/N | Items   | X    | Sd   | Remarks |
|-----|---|------|------|---------|
| 1   | Lately payment of monthly stipend                             | 2.76 | 1.04 | Agree   |
| 2   | Inconsistent payment of monthly stipend                       | 2.87 | 1.11 | Agree   |
| 3   | Short time span of the programme                              | 2.78 | 1.07 | Agree   |
| 4   | Political interferences                                       | 2.91 | 0.98 | Agree   |
| 5   | Diversion of funds into private hands by government officials | 2.83 | 1.13 | Agree   |
| 6   | change of government which disrupts the programme             | 2.60 | 1.09 | Agree   |
| 7   | Shortages of facilities to implement the programme            | 2.75 | 1.05 | Agree   |
| 8   | Irregular monitoring of the programme                         | 2.81 | 1.13 | Agree   |
|     | Mean of means   | 2.79 | 1.08 | Agree   |

**Table 4. Mean and standard deviation scores on measures to overcome the problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State**

| S/N | Items  | X    | Sd   | Remarks |
|-----|--|------|------|---------|
| 1   | Timely payment of monthly stipend                                    | 2.78 | 1.08 | Agree   |
| 2   | Consistent payment of monthly stipend                                | 2.65 | 1.02 | Agree   |
| 3   | Extension of time span of the programme                              | 2.82 | 1.10 | Agree   |
| 4   | Limit in political interferences                                     | 2.66 | 1.03 | Agree   |
| 5   | Sanctions of government officials who divert funds for the programme | 2.83 | 1.14 | Agree   |
| 6   | Continuity of the programme by new government                        | 2.61 | 1.11 | Agree   |
| 7   | Supply of facilities to implement the programme                      | 2.79 | 1.09 | Agree   |
| 8   | Regular monitoring of the programme                                  | 2.77 | 1.12 | Agree   |
|     | Cluster Mean   | 2.74 | 1.09 | Agree   |

agreements that there are measures to overcome the problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State.

HO<sub>1</sub>: There is no significant difference between the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and their perception of the impact of N-Agro on job creation and income generation among the youths in Delta State.

As is shown in Table 5, the F-ratio (df: 5/209) is 3.118 and the p-value (0.076) is greater than the stipulated 0.05 level of significance. Thus, the null hypothesis was accepted. Therefore, there is no significant difference between the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and their perception of the impact of N-Agro on job creation and income generation among the youths in Delta State.

HO<sub>2</sub>: There is no significant difference between the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and their perception of problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State.

As is shown in Table 6, the F-ratio (df: 5/209) is 2.654 and the p-value (0.061) is greater than the stipulated 0.05 level of significance. Thus, the null hypothesis was accepted. Therefore, there is no significant difference between the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and their perception of problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State.

HO<sub>3</sub>: There is no significant difference between the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and their perception of measures to overcome the problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State.

As is shown in table 7, the F-ratio (df: 5/209) is 4.145 and the p-value (0.089) is greater than the stipulated 0.05 level of significance. Thus, the null hypothesis was accepted.

ed. Therefore, there is no significant difference between the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and their perception of measures to overcome the problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State.

## Discussion

The finding of this study in Table 1 revealed that N-Agro has positive impact on job creation and income generation among the youths in Delta State. This is in agreement with the finding of Komolafe et al. (2022), which reported that N-Power programme has made positive impact on income generation among youths and also affirmed to the findings of Eromedoghene et al. (2023), which reported that targetted programme on youth will lead to rural development. This supported the finding of Komolafe et al. (2022), which revealed that there is positive impact of N-Agro programme and income generated by beneficiaries. The N-Agro beneficiaries might have gotten the capital from the proceeds of the programme. The N-Agro beneficiaries might have invested the stipends and also apply their skills and knowledge acquired during the programme to create job and generate income. It was also revealed that there is no significant difference between the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and their perception of the impact of N-Agro on job creation and income generation among the youths in Delta State. This is in line with the finding of Attah et al. (2021), which indicated that N-Power programme has significantly created employment for youths.

**Table 5. Analysis of variance on significant difference between the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and their perception of the impact of N-Agro on job creation and income generation among the youths**

|                | Sum of Squares | df  | Mean Square | F     | Sig   |
|----------------|----------------|-----|-------------|-------|-------|
| Between Groups | 4326.057       | 5   | 7.651       | 3.118 | 0.076 |
| Within Groups  | 68761.432      | 207 |             |       |       |
| Total          | 73087.49       | 209 |             |       |       |

**Table 6. Analysis of variance on significant difference between the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and their perception of problems associated with N-Agro**

|                | Sum of Squares | Df  | Mean Square | F     | Sig   |
|----------------|----------------|-----|-------------|-------|-------|
| Between Groups | 5121.056       | 5   | 901         | 2.654 | 0.061 |
| Within Groups  | 24211.110      | 207 |             |       |       |
| Total          | 29332.17       | 209 |             |       |       |

**Table 7. Analysis of variance on significant difference between the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and their perception of the measures to overcome the problems associated with N-Agro**

|                | Sum of Squares | Df  | Mean Square | F     | Sig   |
|----------------|----------------|-----|-------------|-------|-------|
| Between Groups | 3421.244       | 5   | 763         | 4.145 | 0.089 |
| Within Groups  | 65331.309      | 207 |             |       |       |
| Total          | 68752.55       | 209 |             |       |       |

The result of the study showed that there are problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State. These problems are timely payment of monthly stipend, consistent payment of monthly stipend, extension of time span of the programme, limit in political interferences, sanctions of government officials, who divert funds for the programme, continuity of the programme by new government, supply of facilities to implement the programme and regular monitoring of the programme. This affirmed the finding of Adi et al. (2020), which revealed that the problems associated with N-Power are lack of proper exist policy, lately payment of stipend, inconsistent payment of stipend, unlawful disengagement of participant, BVN problem and inconsistent of participant to their place of primary assignment. This is in consonance with the finding of Ayub & Gbaa (2020), which showed that delay in payments, lack of continuity, political interference, poor supervision, and corruption among the officials of the programme were challenges associated with the programme. Further result showed that there is no significant difference between the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and their perception of problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State. It was also revealed that there are measures to overcome the problems associated with N-Agro in Delta State. These measures are timely payment of monthly stipend, consistent payment of monthly stipend, extension of time span of the programme, limit in political interferences, sanctions of government officials who divert funds for the programme, continuity of the programme by new government, supply of facilities to implement the programme and regular monitoring of the programme.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the findings, it is concluded that N-Agro has positive impact on job creation and income generation among the youths in Delta State. The beneficiaries of N-Agro programme have set up some businesses and witnessed an increased income in the study area. Based on the findings, it is recommended that Government should formulate an exit policy for beneficiaries of N-Agro programme to ensure continuity of their businesses. Successive government should modify and sustain the N-Agro programme. The disengaged N-Agro programme beneficiaries should be exposed to further training and be supported with credit facilities to start or improve their businesses.

## Conflict of Interest

Authors declare no conflict of interest.

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