

IMPACT OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL GROWTH SCHEME' S ON SMES PERFORMANCE IN IGABI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, KADUNA STATE.

BY

¹ Abubakar Auwal Buba, ² Ibeh J . I Ph.D & ³M.Y. Abdullah Ph.D

Agribusiness and Management Department Ahmadu Bello University
College of Agriculture and Animal Science Mando Road Kaduna
Division of Agricultural Colleges Ahmadu Bello University Zaria^{2&3}

Email: jeremiahify4real@gmail.com²

jiibeh@abu.edu.ng or Phone Number: 08066071805²

Email: malamngona2024@gmail.com³

Phone: 0806664898³

Abstract

The study examined the impact of national agricultural growth schemes on small and medium scale enterprises performance in Igabi local government area, Kaduna state. The specific objectives were to; Find out how National Agricultural Growth Scheme's Agro-Pocket Project enhance the development of Small-Scale Rice Farmers in Igabi Local Government Area; Determine how National Agricultural Growth Scheme's Agro-Pocket Project Improved the development of Small-Scale Maize Farmers in Igabi Local Government Area. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The study randomly selected 256 farmers in Igabi local government area. The study used a validated structured questionnaire for data collection, while data were analysed descriptively using frequency, mean and standard deviation. The study found out that there is continuous improvements in agricultural support programs that enhances the development of Small-Scale Rice Farmers in Igabi Local Government Area. Also highlights the significant role played by the Agro-Pocket Project in transforming the development of Small-Scale Maize Farmers in Igabi Local Government Area. The findings indicate that most respondents strongly agreed (Mean = 3.70, SD = 0.41) that the project improved access to quality rice seeds. Furthermore, 90% of the respondents agreed that enhanced training and skill development had benefited rice farmers (Mean = 3.65, SD = 0.40). This is consistent with the findings of Aina and Omonona (2022), who highlighted that improved access to inputs significantly boosts agricultural productivity. However, despite these positive outcomes, market access remains challenging, as indicated by the lower mean score (Mean = 2.9, SD = 0.35). This suggests that additional policies are needed to facilitate better linkages between rice farmers and buyers.

Introduction

The major problem facing the world today and Nigeria as a country is food insecurity. In order to achieve food security and ensure sustainable food production, many nations are focusing on a strategy of food self-sufficiency by providing various agricultural policy programs. The policies are aimed to increase production, improve productivity, and enhance

the production areas. It is against this backdrop that the current drive of Nigeria's agricultural policy has been aimed at ensuring sufficient and sustainable exports (Mathew2018). In Nigeria small and medium scale enterprises' (SMEs) contribution to unemployment reduction (Oba & Onuoha, 2013). Ayandibu & Houghton (2017), examine how small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) play a major role in the creation of jobs through local economic development (LED) in developing nations. In any nation, small and medium scale enterprises (SMES) are essential to the growth and development of the economy Ojimaajo et al., 2020). Study made by Oni (2012), revealed that small and Medium Scale Enterprises constitute essential ingredients in the lubrication and development of any economy. Agriculture has been the provider of food for the teeming population and the largest employer of labour force in the country Ugwu and Kanu (2012). Agriculture also helps to generate foreign exchange. Nigeria economy is still influenced by agriculture despite the discovery of crude petroleum and rapid industrial development witnessed in recent years. However, Nigerian agriculture still depends mainly on subsistence farming. This method involved small-scale farmers operating fragmented farmland of between 0. - 3 hectares and producing about 80 per cent of the total food output of the country Aina and Omonona (2012). They further stressed that the rate of growth of Nigeria's food production has been slow. As a result of this, food demand has been growing at a rate higher than food production.

Despite inadequate finance from private and government financial institutions small and medium scale industries made a substantial contribution to Nigeria's economic growth (Fredrick,2015). Since they make up more than 50% of the GDP in developing nations, small and medium scale enterprises firms, (SMEs) are regarded as the backbone of the economy due to their ability to raise the productivity and standard of living of the average person (Bello et al., 2018, Beisengaliyev et al., 2018).

The performance of small and medium scale enterprises refers to the evaluation of success derived from the collective marketing efforts of a company or organization. Moreover, it can also be viewed as a metric used to assess the level of market accomplishments attained by a product manufactured by a company (Hasniaty et al., 2019). The study will consider marketing performance as a dimension of performance to measure the marketing function contributes to the attainment of organizational objectives (Suherly et al., 2016). Marketing performance assists marketers in evaluating the effectiveness of their marketing endeavors in progressing towards the objectives outlined in their marketing plan (Aniefiok Okon Akpan et al 2022). Kosan (2014), stated that marketing performance is measured with Market share, Net profit Awareness, Return on investment, Satisfaction, Return on sales, Return on marketing investment Preference and Net present value among the others.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Agriculture has been the provider of food for the teeming population and the largest employer of labour force in the country Ugwu and Kanu (2012). Agriculture also helps to generate foreign exchange. Nigeria economy is still influenced by agriculture despite the discovery of crude petroleum and rapid industrial development witnessed in recent years. Food insecurity is at increase especially in the developing countries like Nigeria where agricultural input are not readily available for the small scale farmers to asses. Small-scale farmers in Igabi Local Government Area faced a lot of setbacks, such as limited access to resources, technology and funding like Farming Machine, Seeds Productions, Quality Fertilizer and other Agro-Chemicals in ensuring availability and affordability of farm inputs to farmers using Agro-

Pocket Project to improved development of Small-Scale farmers in Igabi Local Government Area, Kaduna State.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The main objective of the study is to evaluate the impact of National Agricultural Growth Scheme' s Agro-Pocket Project on the performance of small-scale farmers in Igabi Local Government area, Kaduna state.

The specific objectives are:

- i. Find out how National Agricultural Growth Scheme' s Agro-Pocket Project enhance the development of Small-Scale Rice Farmers in Igabi Local Government Area.
- ii. Determine how National Agricultural Growth Scheme' s Agro-Pocket Project Improved the development of Small-Scale Maize Farmers in Igabi Local Government Area.

Review of Related Literature

2.1 Concepts of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises

The classification of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) encompasses diverse definitions and metrics, which can differ from one country to another and among reporting sources. Common criteria include factors such as employee count, net assets, sales volume, and investment levels. European Union categorizes small businesses into three: micro - employing ten persons or fewer, small business - employing 50 persons or less, and medium - employing not more than 250 persons (Holt, & Powell, 2021). Okufolami, (2003), Defined SMEs on a global scale is challenging due to varying size and operational scales. However, within national boundaries, it becomes relatively simpler. Okufolami, (2023), stated that During the 13th Council meeting of the National Council on Industry in July 2001, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) were categorized as follows: Small-Scale Industry refers to businesses with a workforce of 11-100 employees or total costs not exceeding N50 million, inclusive of working capital but excluding land costs. Meanwhile, Medium Scale Industry encompasses enterprises with a labour force ranging from 101 to 300 workers or total costs exceeding N50 million but not surpassing N200 million, including working capital but excluding land costs.

The Federal Ministry of Industries characterizes a medium-scale enterprise as one with operational assets below =N200 million and a workforce of fewer than 300 individuals. Conversely, a small-scale enterprise is defined as having total assets under =N50 million and fewer than 100 employees. The concept of annual turnover is not factored into the SME definition according to their criteria (Ilegbinosa & Jumbo, 2015). According to the Central Bank of Nigeria (2010), a Small and Medium Scale Enterprise (SME) is described as an enterprise with asset holdings (excluding land) ranging from N5 million to N500 million and a labor force between 11 and 300 individuals. For program purposes, a small-and-medium-scale industry is delineated as any enterprise with a maximum asset base of N200 million, excluding land and working capital, with a staff count ranging from a minimum of 10 to a maximum of 300 employees. (Sanusi, 2003). SMEs are broadly defined as businesses with turnover of less than N100 MM per Annum and/ or less than 300 employees (Oyelandan-Oyeyinka, 2023) Micro Enterprises are those enterprises whose total assets (excluding land

and buildings) are less than Five Million Naira with a workforce not exceeding ten employees, Small Enterprises are those enterprises whose total assets (excluding land and building) are above Five Million Naira but not exceeding Fifty Million Naira with a total workforce of above ten, but not exceeding forty-nine employees and Medium Enterprises are those enterprises with total assets excluding land and building) are above Fifty Million Naira, but not exceeding Five Hundred Million Naira with a total workforce of between 50 and 199 employees (SMEDAN, 2020).

Nwakoby (1988) defines Small and Medium-Scale business as “any enterprise employing between five and one hundred workers with an annual turnover of four hundred thousand Naira (N400, 000). The National Policy on MSMEs classifies small enterprises as those with 10 to 49 employees and assets valued between 5 million to 50 million Naira, excluding land and buildings. Medium enterprises are defined as having 50 to 199 employees and assets ranging from 50 million to 500 million Naira, according to Iijima's classification from 1962. Additionally, the Central Bank of Nigeria's 2005 guideline on the Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme (SMEIS) defines SMEs as enterprises with a maximum asset base of 200 million Naira, excluding land and working capital, without specifying lower or upper limits on staff numbers (Etuk et al., 2014).

In delineating small, medium, and large businesses, various factors such as turnover, assets, investment, and paid-up capital serve as distinguishing criteria, as outlined by SMEDAN and according to their classification table, MSMEs in Nigeria are categorized based on employment and asset value, excluding land and buildings. Micro enterprises employ less than 10 individuals and have assets less than N5 million. Small enterprises employ between 10 and 49 people, with assets ranging from N5 million to less than N50 million. Medium enterprises have 50 to 199 employees and assets from N50 million to less than N500 million. For the context of this program, a small and medium enterprise is described as any enterprise with assets not exceeding N1.5 billion, excluding land and working capital, without specific staff number limits

According to the National Policy on MSMEs, businesses can be categorized based on various factors such as size, sector, organization, workforce size, technology, and geographical location. Specifically, in terms of size, there are three main categories: micro enterprises, small enterprises, and medium enterprises. Micro enterprises have fewer than 10 employees and assets (excluding land and buildings) valued at less than 10 million Naira. Small enterprises have 10 to less than 100 employees and assets valued between 10 million and less than 100 million Naira. Medium enterprises have 50 to 199 employees and assets valued between 100 million and less than 1 billion Naira. (SMEDAN, 2015). SMEs in Nigeria is defined as any business with a labour force size of 11 to 100 or an overall value less than N50 million, minus the cost of the land but including working capital (Adigwe, 2012). According to Ayebusi (20017) defines a small business as an enterprise which has an investment capital of up to one hundred and fifty thousand naira (N150, 000) and employs not more than fifty (50) persons or workers. World Bank describes SMEs as enterprises with a maximum of 300 employees, \$15 million in annual income, and \$15 million in assets (Govori, 2013)

Performance reflects a competitive state achieved through effectiveness and productivity, which ensures a strong market presence. This involves navigating the diverse and complex interactions of various factors (Dragomir & Pânzaru, 2014). Organizational performance consists of the actual results produced by an organization, assessed in relation to its intended

outputs, goals, and objectives (Doval, n.d.). Anderson (2002), believed that performance has sufficiently taken the place of productivity and is now widely recognized as encompassing various aspects of an organization. This includes everything from traditional productivity to the ability to innovate, attract top talent, maintain environmental sustainability, and conduct business ethically. Hauber (2022) “performance” describes the contribution of specific systems (organizational units of differing sizes, employees, and processes) to attain and validate the goals of a company. Wettstein (2002) Performance can be understood as the degree of stakeholder satisfaction. Performance is understood as the ability of a company to achieve goals, i.e. meet expectations, and is therefore influenced by results in a wider sense, but also by the corresponding goal setting. Krause (2022), Performance refers to the degree of the achievement of objectives or the potentially possible accomplishment regarding the important characteristics of an organization for the relevant stakeholders. Performance is the goal achievement of an organization rather than of individuals, with the minimum resources consumed to reach the goal (Ghalem et al., 2016) Performance has different dimension, for this study considers marketing performance because the study investigates on how digital marketing increase the market coverage and acquire more customers.

Sustained Production and Improved Access to Quality Seed Maize

Increasing agricultural productivity is considered as one of the major solutions to effectively addressing the current global food crisis. Clapp, J. (2023). Maize is one of the major staples in Nigeria. The report of a food consumption survey shows that maize was the most often consumed staple, with 20% of the population eating it at least once a week (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture 2014). Current production is about 8 million tonnes and average yield is 1.5 tonnes per hectare. The average yield is low when compared to the world average of 4.3 tonnes/ha. It is even lower when compared to average yield from other African countries like South Africa, Mauritius and Egypt with average of 2.5 tonnes/ha, 5.8 tonnes/ha and 7.1 tonnes/ha respectively (Food and Agriculture Organization 2019). Thus, there has been a growing gap between the demand for maize and its supply. This necessitated the Federal government in 2006 to initiate a programme of doubling maize production in Nigeria through the promotion of improved production technologies such as fertilizer, hybrid seeds, pesticides, herbicides and better management practices (United Nations 2022).

Sustained Production and Improved Access to Quality Seed Wheat Varieties

Wheat is a strategic crop in Nigeria, because the domestic consumption is 4,200,000 MT (LCRI, 2014) and Nigeria spends over US\$4.0 billion foreign exchange annually on its import, but national production is only 300,000 MT (LCRI, 2016). Thus, domestic production must be encouraged. Wheat differs from other cereals because of the high gluten content in its grain that gives its flour special quality, and dietary (nutritional) and medicinal values. It is extensively used for multifarious baked, fried and cooked products globally. For decades, Nigeria has depended on imported wheat to meet the growing demands of its large population. The demand for wheat keeps rising due to its growing popularity over traditional staples, mostly consumed by youths and urban dwellers as bread, semolina, pasta (spaghetti and macaroni) and noodles (United Nation 2020)

Nigeria is the second largest consumer of wheat in Sub-Saharan Africa behind South Africa. Nigeria plans to reduce importation of wheat by 50% in years preceding 2018, thereby encouraging local wheat production for self-sufficiency in no distant future. Some improved

technologies have been developed like improved high yielding heat tolerant wheat varieties with potential yields of 6-7 tones hacter, raised-bed technologies for efficient water and fertilizer managements and strengthening strategic partnership with the establishment of innovation platforms. Research findings have shown that wheat production in Nigeria is economically viable and highly profitable to improve farmers' livelihood and create job opportunities.

Empirical Review

Melany and Sudarmiatin (2022), stated that Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) play a vital role in the Indonesian economy, yet they have been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in terms of their limited capacity in online marketing. While previous research has explored the relationship between online marketing and SME marketing performance during the pandemic, there remains a notable gap in quantitative analysis regarding the government's role. This study aims to address this gap by examining how online marketing, government intervention, and their interaction influence SME marketing performance during the Covid-19 crisis. Data was gathered online from 245 SMEs in Malang Regency, East Java, Indonesia, and analyzed using moderation regression techniques.

The results indicate a partial negative relationship between online marketing and the government's role, albeit not statistically significant, in relation to SME marketing performance during the pandemic. However, the interaction between online marketing and government intervention is found to be significantly and positively associated with SME marketing performance. These findings underscore the crucial role of government intervention in enhancing market outcomes, particularly in times of economic turmoil such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ejiogu (2017). This paper aims at critically reviewing the performance of the Growth Enhancement Scheme (GES) of the Agricultural Transformation Agenda and subsequently sheds some light towards a policy path to the future of the scheme. The Government of Nigeria now has new policy document and has pledged to build on the success of the previous agricultural policy. In line with the need for policy stability and continuity, this paper is focused on interpreting and analyzing relevant data on the implementation of the GES scheme and eventually communicating the results to decision makers on the way forward. The analysis made ample use of academic research and also took into consideration different positions of interest groups and stakeholders involved in the GES scheme with special reference to their roles in the implementation of the scheme. The GES scheme is an effective attempt at relieving government of the role of procurement of agro-inputs and consequently building a viable network of commercial agro-input dealers who directly supply the subsidized inputs to farmers to boost agricultural production. Recommendations are made to ensure that the scheme as a policy does not suffer reversals.

Vodounnoul, et al (2020) A small-scale maize harvester was designed and fabricated for developing countries and is composed of a harvester header, a chain conveyor, a drive power unit and a five-wheel tricycle. Fabrication of components was made and assembling of the devices on the tricycle was done. The performance evaluation of the small-scale maize harvester was done at 15% kernels moisture content (wet basis). Three rotational speeds of the engine, 1347, 1521 and 1937 rpm were used, while the forward velocity of the harvester was kept at an average of 0.617 km.hr-1. The testing experiment revealed significant effect of

physical properties of maize ($p < 0.05$). The highest machine capacity was obtained at 0.05 ha.hr⁻¹, while the highest driving efficiency was 97.30% and the highest picking and conveying efficiencies were 84.11% and 98.21%, respectively. However, it was observed that the machine noise level decreased with increase in engine speed. Also, the engine speed affected both picking and conveying efficiencies. The designed machine is found suitable for most small-scale farms.

Research Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive cross-sectional survey design. The target population were all farmers in Igabi Local Government Area. A total of 800 farmers were sampled and questionnaire were distributed to them and 256 questionare were filled and returned. After the distribution and retrieval of the filled questionnaire, the responses of the respondents were coded and tabulated accordingly for data analysis using descriptive analysis involving frequency, mean and standard deviation.

Respondents' opinions shows how the National Agricultural Growth Schemes Agro-Pocket Project Enhances the performance of Small-Scale Rice Farmers in Igabi Local Government Area, Kaduna State. The analysis revealed that all the items were retained with a mean above the decision mean of 2.5. In item '1' the respondents were agreed that, agro-pocket project has improved access to quality rice seeds for small-scale farmers with mean of 3.70, in item '2' the respondents agreed that, rice farmers have benefited from enhanced training and skill development through the Agro-Pocket project with mean of 3.65, in item '3' the respondents agreed that, agro-Pocket project has improved access to agricultural inputs specifically for rice production with mean of 3.69, in item '4' the respondents agreed that, Small-scale rice farmers report increased crop yields as a result of the Agro-Pocket project with mean of 3.81, in item '5' the respondents agreed that, Agro-Pocket project has provided financial support that has helped rice farmers expand their farms with mean of 3.72, in item '6' the respondents agreed that, farmers have better access to modern farming tools and technology through the Agro-Pocket project with a mean of 3.60, in item 7, the respondents agreed that, Agro-pocket project has improved the market access for rice farmers' products with a mean of 2.9, In item '8' the respondents agreed that, small-scale rice farmers have experienced better pest and disease management due to Agro-Pocket project interventions with mean of 3.72, in item '9' the respondents agreed that Agro-Pocket project has enabled rice farmers to adopt climate-smart farming practices with mean of 3.62, in item '10' the respondents agreed that, there is a noticeable improvement in the livelihood of rice farmers due to the Agro-Pocket project's support with mean of 3.60. In conclusion, the analysis revealed that the respondents strongly agreed that the national agricultural growth scheme Agro-Pocket project enhances the development of small-scale rice farmers in Igabi Local Government Area, Kaduna State.

Research Question Two: How is the Performance of the National Agricultural Growth Scheme's Agro-Pocket Project Improved the performance of Small-Scale Maize Farmers in Igabi Local Government Area?

To answer the research question two descriptive analyses involving frequency, mean and standard deviation were used.

Respondents' opinions shows how national agricultural growth schemes and agro-pocket project enhances the performance of small-scale maize farmers in Igabi Local Government Area,

Kaduna State. The analysis revealed that all the items were retained with a mean above the decision mean of 2.5. In item '1' the respondents agreed that, agro-pocket project has provided better access to high-quality maize seeds for small-scale farmers with mean of 3.80, in item '2' the respondents agreed that, agro-pocket project has helped maize farmers acquire affordable fertilizers and inputs with mean of 3.75, in item '3' the respondents agreed that, there has been an increase in maize crop yields among small-scale farmers due to the Agro-Pocket project with mean of 3.69, in item '4' the respondents agreed that, small-scale farmers have received training on sustainable maize farming practices with mean of 3.91, in item '5' the respondents agreed that, agro-pocket project has reduced post-harvest losses for small-scale maize farmers with mean of 3.00, in item '6' the respondents were agreed that, small-scale maize farmers have benefited from improved storage facilities through the agro-pocket project with a mean of 3.60, in item 7, the respondents were agreed that, the agro-pocket project has facilitated access to markets for maize farmers with a mean of 2.91, In item '8' the respondents agreed that, maize farmers were able to purchase farming tools at subsidized rates due to the agro-pocket project with mean of 3.82, in item '9' the respondents agreed that agro-pocket project has strengthened maize farmers' resilience against climate change impacts with mean of 3.62, in item '10' the respondents agreed that, small-scale maize farmers report an increase in household income due to the agro-pocket project's support with mean of 3.75. In conclusion, the analysis revealed that the respondents agreed that the national agricultural growth scheme Agro-Pocket project enhances the development of small-scale maize farmers in Igabi Local Government Area, Kaduna State.

Discussion of Findings

The output of the analysis shows that the National Agricultural Growth Schemes Agro-Pocket project enhances the development of small-scale rice farmers in Igabi Local Government Area, Kaduna State. Respondents' opinions shows how the Agro-Pocket Project has enhanced the development of small-scale rice farmers in the Igabi Local Government Area. The findings indicate that most respondents strongly agreed (Mean = 3.70, SD = 0.41) that the project improved access to quality rice seeds. Furthermore, 90% of the respondents agreed that enhanced training and skill development had benefited rice farmers (Mean = 3.65, SD = 0.40). This is consistent with the findings of Aina and Omonona (2022), who highlighted that improved access to inputs significantly boosts agricultural productivity. However, despite these positive outcomes, market access remains challenging, as indicated by the lower mean score (Mean = 2.9, SD = 0.35). This suggests that additional policies are needed to facilitate better linkages between rice farmers and buyers.

Result reveals that small-scale maize farmers have benefited from improved access to high-quality seeds, with a high mean score of 3.80 (SD = 0.43). Additionally, the provision of affordable fertilizers and inputs received strong support (Mean = 3.75, SD = 0.41). These findings align with research by Remison (2005), who emphasized the importance of input availability in enhancing maize productivity. However, post-harvest losses remain a challenge, as indicated by a relatively lower mean score of 3.00 (SD = 0.31). This suggests a need for improved storage facilities and better training in post-harvest management. The relatively low market access score (Mean = 2.91, SD = 0.35) also indicates a gap that must be addressed to enhance maize farmers' profitability.

Summary

This study evaluated impact of national agricultural growth scheme's on SMEs performance in Igabi local government area, Kaduna state. The study specifically examined how the project enhanced the performance of small-scale rice, maize, and wheat farmers in the area. Using a descriptive survey research design, data was collected from selected beneficiaries, and the findings were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency, mean, and standard deviation. The results indicated that the Agro-Pocket Project significantly improved small-scale farming in Igabi Local Government Area by enhancing farmer's access to quality seeds, fertilizers, modern farming techniques, and financial support. The findings indicate that most respondents strongly agreed (Mean = 3.70, SD = 0.41) that the project improved access to quality rice seeds. Furthermore, 90% of the respondents agreed that enhanced training and skill development had benefited rice farmers (Mean = 3.65, SD = 0.40). This is consistent with the findings of Aina and Omonona (2022), who highlighted that improved access to inputs significantly boosts agricultural productivity. However, despite these positive outcomes, market access remains challenging, as indicated by the lower mean score (Mean = 2.9, SD = 0.35). This suggests that additional policies are needed to facilitate better linkages between rice farmers and buyers.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that the National Agricultural Growth Scheme's Agro-Pocket Project had a meaningful impact on small-scale farmers in Igabi Local Government Area. The project has facilitated increased agricultural productivity, improved access to critical farming inputs, and provided financial and technical support to farmers. However, there are areas where the project could be improved, particularly in strengthening financial support mechanisms and ensuring a more equitable distribution of resources, especially for wheat farmers. Addressing these challenges would further enhance the effectiveness of the project and promote sustainable agricultural development in the region.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. **Strengthening Financial Support:** The government and stakeholders should provide more financial assistance and subsidies to small-scale farmers, especially those cultivating wheat, to improve their financial stability and access to affordable inputs.
2. **Enhanced Input Distribution:** There should be a more structured and transparent mechanism to ensure that all farmers, regardless of crop type, have equitable access to essential farming inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, and modern farming equipment.
3. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** A robust monitoring and evaluation framework should be established to regularly assess the impact of the project and make necessary adjustments to enhance its effectiveness.

References

- Adesina, A.A. (2013), Nigeria' s Agricultural Transformation Agenda. Keynote Address by Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Federal Republic of Nigeria at the annual congress of the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- Aniefiok Okon Akpan, Abasiama Asuquo Mfon, & Nkanikpo Ibok Ibok. (2022). Disruptive innovations and marketing performance of online marketers in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. *World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews*, 16(2), 181-192. <https://doi.org/10.30574/wjarr.2022.16.2.1026>
- Ayandibu, A. O., & Houghton, J. (2017). The role of Small and Medium Scale Enterprise in local economic development (LED). *Banach Journal of Mathematical Analysis*, 11(2), 133- 139.
- Aina OS, Omonona BT. (2022) Nigeria agricultural insurance scheme (NAIS): Prospect, achievement and problems. *Global Advanced Research Journal of Agricultural Science*; 1 (5):097-103.
- Akinyinka A., Wijnand K., Sebastiaan S., and Dick F. (2014) Contributions of Small- and Large-Scale Farms and Foreign and Local Investments to Agricultural Growth. and an Empirical Study. *Journal of Electronic Commerce Research*, 6(3), 181- 192.
- Andersen B, F. T. (2022). *Performance measurement explained*. ASQ Quality Press, Milwaukee.
- Ayandibu, A. O., & Houghton, J. (2017). The role of Small and Medium Scale Enterprise in local economic development (LED). *Banach Journal of Mathematical Analysis*, 11(2), 133- 139.
- Aye, G. C., & Mungatana, E. D. (2022). Evaluating the performance of maize farmers in Nigeria using stochastic distance and stochastic production frontiers. *Agricultural Economics Review*, 14(2), 23-40.
- Beisengaliyev, B., Khishauyeva, Z., Lesbayeva, G., Rakisheva, A., Tasbulatova, D., & Turekulova, D. (2018). Impact of small and medium enterprises on the economy. *Journal of Applied Economic Sciences*, 13(8), 2437-2445. <https://doi.org/10.1504/ijebr.2019.10018150>
- Bello, A., Jibir, A., & Ahmed, I. (2018). Impact of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises on Economic Growth: Evidence from Nigeria. *Global Journal of Economics and Business*, 4(2), 236- 244. <http://www.refaad.com>
- Clapp, J. (2023). Food self-sufficiency: Making sense of it, and when it makes sense. *Food Policy*, 66, 88- 96. [Google Scholar] [CrossRef] [Green Version]
- Deusing, W. (1995), Is Organic Enough? *The Natural Farmer* 2(27).
- Dragomir, C., Pânzaru, S. (2014). No Title. *Managerial Performance, Review of Gen- Eral Management*, 19 (1), 58- 60.

- Ejiogu A. O. (2017) Growth Enhancement Scheme (GES) of the Nigerian Agricultural Transformation Agenda: Looking back and thinking ahead.
- Etuk, R. U., Etuk, G. R., & Michael, B. (2023). Small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) and Nigeria's economic development. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, 5(7), 656-662. <https://doi.org/10.5901/mjss.2014.v5n7p656>
- Food and Agriculture Organization (2019). FAOSTAT, Production Statistics. From <<http://faostat.fao.org/site/567/default.aspx#ancor>> (Retrieved April 24, 2009).
- Fredrick, O. A. (2015). *a Project Paper Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the. June.*
- Gorton, M. & S. Davidova (2004), Farm Productivity and Efficiency in the cee Applicant Countries: A Synthesis of Results. *Agricultural Economics* 30(2004): 1- 16.
- Ghalem, Â., Okar, C., Chroqui, R., & Semma, E. (2016). *Performance : A concept to define ! La performance : Un concept à définir ! May*, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.24800.28165>
- Hasniaty, -, Asran, -, & Basmar, E. (2019). *Marketing Performance In Improving Competitive Advantages Of Macro Business South Sulawesi Province*. 75(ICMEMm 2018), 250- 254. <https://doi.org/10.2991/icmemm-18.2019.33>
- Ilegbinosa, I. A., & Jumbo, E. (2015). Small and Medium Scale Enterprises and Economic Growth in Nigeria: 1975-2012. *International Journal of Business and Management*, 10(3). <https://doi.org/10.5539/ijbm.v10n3p203>
- International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (2004) 2001- 2003 Nigeria Food Consumption and Nutrition Survey (NFCNS). From <[http://www.iita.org/cms/details/Executive%20Summary%20 latest.pdf](http://www.iita.org/cms/details/Executive%20Summary%20latest.pdf)> (Retrieved June 10, 2009).
- Kosan, L. (2014). Accounting for marketing : Marketing performance through financial results. *International Review of Management and Marketing*, 4(4), 276-283.
- Mathew W. A (2018) Review of Small Farmer Access to Agricultural Credit in Nigeria. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), pp 2-11
- Oba, U., & Onuoha, B. (2013). The Role of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises in Poverty Reduction in Nigeria: 2001 - 2011. *African Research Review*, 7(4), 1. <https://doi.org/10.4314/afrr.v7i4.1>
- Ojimaajo, A. P., Murtadho, A. M., & Bhaumik, A. (2020). Effect of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises on Nigeria's Economy. *World Journal of Innovative Research*, 8(3), 87-92. <https://doi.org/10.31871/wjir.8.3.30>
- Okufolami, D. M. (2023). Small and Medium Industries Equity Investments Scheme (SMIEIS). *CBN Training Centre, Lagos*, 1-114. ENTRAL+BANK+OF+NIGERIA+(2019)+seminar+on+SMIEIS&oq=CENTRAL+BA
N
- Oni, E. O. (2012). Development of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises : The role of Government and other Financial Institutions. *Oman Chapter of Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review*, 1(7), 16-29. <https://doi.org/10.12816/0002132>

- Oyelaran-oyeyinka, B. P. B. (2023). Financial System Strategy FSS 2020 International Conference SME : Issues , Challenges and Prospects. *FSS 2020 International Conference*, 1- 39.
- Sanusi, J. . (2003). Overview of government' s efforts in the development of SMEs and the emergence of Small and Medium Industries Equity Investment Scheme (SMIEIS). *National Summit on SMIEIs Organized by the Bankers' Committee and Lagos Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Lcci*, 1- 114.
- SMEDAN. (2020). *Survey Report on micro, small and medium enterprises in Nigeria*.
- SMEDAN. (2015). National Policy on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. *Small & Medium Enterprises Development Agency Of Nigeria*, 1-91. <https://www.smedan.gov.ng/images/PDF/MSME-National-Policy.pdf>
- Suherly, H., Affif, F., & Guterres, A. D. (2016). Marketing Performance As The Impact Of Marketing Mix Strategy (7P) With Determination Of Market Attraction And Company' s Resources Survey On Performers Of Tourism Industry In Timor Leste. *International Journal of Economics, Commerce and Management*, IV(9), 569- 587.
- Zettstein T. (2002). *Gesamtheitliches performance measurement - Vorgehensmodell und informations-technische Ausgestaltung*.
- World Bank (1994). A Review of World Bank Experience in Irrigation. Washington dc: World Bank. World Bank (2003), Nigeria, Project Appraisal Document, World Bank-assisted Nigeria, Second National Fadama Development Project.http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/nigeria/projects/operational-documents?qterm=+Second+National+Fada%2520ma+Development+Project+&lang_exact=English. Accessed 19 February 2014.
- World Bank. (2008), Project Appraisal Document, World Bank-assisted Nigeria. Third National Fadama Development Project. http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/nigeria/projects/operational-documents?qterm=+third-National+Fadama+Develo%2520pment+Project+&lang_exact=English. Accessed 19 February 2014.