International Journal of Modern Social Sciences, 2017, 6(2): 128-153

Modern Scientific Press

International Journal of Modern Social Sciences **ISSN: 2169-9917**

Journal homepage: www.ModernScientificPress.com/Journals/IJMSS.aspx *Florida, USA*

Article

Examining the Non-Participation of Some Youth in Agriculture in the Midst of Acute Unemployment in Ghana

Ibrahim Y. Wuni*[1], Henry K. Boafo[2] and Romanus D. Dinye[3]

[1]*Department of Land Economy, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana*

[2]*Centre for Settlements Studies, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana*

[3]*Institute of Land Management and Development, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana*

*Author to whom correspondence should be addressed; E-Mail: iywuni.nsp@knust.edu.gh

Article history: Received 5 June 2017, Revised 19 July 2017, Accepted 20 October 2017, Published 1 November 2017

Abstract: There is a historic trend of growing unemployment problem in Ghana. The effect is even multiplied for graduates whose hope after school is to secure decent jobs to start their lives. The formal sector has proven over the years to be incapable of absorbing the existing job seekers and expectation is that these unemployed youth will like to grasp any legal and available job opportunity. In the contrary, it is amazing that these unemployed youth do not find it as a necessity to undertake agriculture as a source of livelihood in the midst of the acute unemployment. This study sought to fill the knowledge gap by examining the puzzle of unemployed youth non-participation in agriculture in the Bawku Municipality. The study engaged the case study research design within a mixed research methodological paradigm to scrutinize the problem. Primary data was gathered from a sample of 200 unemployed youth respondents using questionnaires and from stakeholders using interview guides. The analysis revealed that the unemployed youth are not involved in agriculture because of lack of interest and passion for agriculture; they are busily looking for other 'better' jobs; historical losses by youth and family members in

agriculture; land access challenges; and financial constraints. It was however identified that majority of the youth 144(72%) had plans of going into agriculture in the future. The study recommended that effort should be made to address the identified challenges and further participatory empirical research should be conducted on how to incite and sustain youth interest in agriculture.

Keywords: Puzzle, non-participation, youth, agriculture, acute unemployment, Bawku municipality, Ghana.

1. Introduction

The contribution of agriculture to the economic development of Ghana is multifaceted and forms the backbone of the country's economy. It has been reported that agriculture in Ghana contributes about 36% to the Gross Domestic Product and also creates myriads of jobs for many citizens comprising both the skilled and unskilled (Ghana Statistical Service, 2014). Agriculture is known to be the most dominant source of livelihood for most Ghanaians with the impact multiplied for the rural economy (World Bank, 2012). Agriculture thrives in Ghana because out of total land size of 24million hectares, more than half (57%) of the lands have been identified to be suitable for agriculture, with more than half (54%) of these agricultural lands identified to be under-cultivated (Ahwoi, 2010). Agriculture therefore is one of the priority areas in the national development agenda of Ghana and has also been noted to be the one critical giant sector for protecting the current and future food security of the nation. Kidido et al (2016) underscores the importance of agriculture in Ghana by indicating that it is a powerful tool for; poverty reduction, social reconstruction, food security, addressing the unemployment menace among the youth and generating raw materials for industrial development in Ghana. It should however be noted here that there is an increasing statistics of youth unemployment and underemployment in Ghana (Kidido, 2014). Globally, the World Bank (2014) estimated that half of the youth in the world are either unemployed or underemployed with the situation multiplied for developing countries. The International Labour Organization (2013) estimated that the global rate of unemployment stood at 12.6% in 2013 and was expected to keep increasing for the next five years. It has also being estimated that the regional unemployment rate for sub-Saharan Africa in 2012 stood at 11% and characterized by 40.1% poor working force constituting the highest globally, who could only earn US$1.25 in a day. At the national level, the Ghana Statistical Service (2012) estimated that about 5.8% of active labour force in Ghana is unemployed and an estimated 80% of them being first time job seekers with chances of astronomical increase in the unemployment rate in

the coming decade. In recognition of the importance of agriculture to the nation in addressing youth unemployment challenges and in ensuring food security, the government of Ghana has made several commitments to ensure the development of the sector by stimulating the greater participation of the youth in agriculture with the aim of replacing the ageing farmers' population (Ministry of Food and Agriculture, 2011). For instance, youth in agriculture programmes have been introduced by the government of Ghana to promote youth participation in agriculture. However, the participation of youth in agriculture is still far below the expectation and largely because the youth hold the perception that agriculture is an occupation for the aged, illiterate and untrained folks and the rural poor (Ministry of Food and Agriculture, 2011).

The Ghana Statistical Service (2014) estimated that the mean age of farmers in Ghana is '45years and life expectancy averages between 57 and 70 years' and Valerie (2009) opined that if 'young farmers do not replace the ageing farmers and food producers, food security in the country will seriously be comprised in the next 10-15years'. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (2011) also indicated that if the participation of the youth in agriculture is not improved, it would escalate food insecurity, unemployment rate and the heights of poverty in Ghana especially in the countryside. Every year, a great number of unemployed youth are sent into the job market by various educational institutions seeking for white collar jobs. The formal sector in Ghana for some time now has lost the capacity of providing sufficient jobs for these 'job-hunting-youths' and their failure to take up jobs in the informal sector especially in agriculture has led to the increasing population of unemployed youth in the country (Ghana Statistical Service, 2014). Agriculture therefore has been identified to be a sector for providing ready jobs for most youth in Africa and it is expected to remain so into the foreseeable future (Brooks et al, 2013). Empirical studies by the researchers established that agriculture is sufficient to end poverty and unemployment among the youth in Africa and can assist the youth in deriving very satisfying lives (White, 2011). Similarly, the World Bank (2014) and White (2011) maintained the view that agriculture is and will remain one of the biggest generators of employment for people in developing countries including Ghana. Also, Kidido (2014) corroborated and validated that the sustained participation of youth in Ghana is a potential feasible mechanism for quelling the growing problem of unemployment and food insecurity. Following the evidence generated from the research by the Food and Agriculture Organization (2011) that the agricultural sector has the potential for addressing food insecurity and unemployment among the youth; a number of commitments have renewed by the Government of Ghana (GoG) to stimulate the interest of the youth in undertaking agriculture. For instance, the GoG introduced "The Youth in Agriculture Programme" to provide career opportunities in the agricultural sector for the unemployed youth. However, despite the introduction of this programme and several other intiatives, the participation of the youth in agriculture

is still abysmal largely because the sector is continually made unattractive due to risk, high cost of production, inefficacy with less technological input and its labour intensive nature (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2011). Therefore, there is evidence to suggest that the participation of youth in agriculture is very low and will remain so into the foreseeable future if nothing sustainable and effective is done about it.

It is should be noted here that even though agriculture has the potential of rescuing the youth from unemployment and poverty, the youth in Ghana seems to be highly motivated to be in the formal sector and white collar jobs than in the informal sector which generates ready jobs. Whiles a recent study by Kidido et al (2016) suggest that challenges associated with youth access to agricultural land under customary tenure regime appears to be the most violent disincentive to youth participation in agriculture, this exposition is a subject of open investigation in this paper. There are no definitive statistics from either the National Labour Commission or the Statistical Service on the involvement of youth in agriculture but with the compelling evidence of an ageing farmer population in the country, it can be concluded that there is insufficient youth participation in agriculture (Ghana Statistical Service, 2014). The hard evidence that these youth are not ready to embrace agriculture even in the midst of high rate of unemployment coupled with all commitments by government to galvanize the youth to undertake agriculture, raises two inevitable questions; what accounts for the non-participation of some unemployed youth in agriculture and what can be done to make agriculture attractive and a feasible career for the youth? Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to examine the puzzle of the non-participation of some unemployed youth in agriculture in the midst of high unemployment rate to identify; i) the factors that accounts for the non-participation of such youth in agriculture; ii) whether or not these youth have future agricultural plans; and iii) to suggest practical ways of improving the participation of youth in agriculture in the Bawku Municipality. The rest of the paper is organized as follows: section two presents the review of empirical literature and conceptual framework of the study, section three presents the research methodology adopted for the study comprising of research materials and a brief profile of the study area and section four presents the results and discussions.

2. Conceptual Framework

2.1. The Concept of Youth

The concept of youth is much of a debated issue and has no general definition (Leavy and Smith, 2010). White (2011) indicated a similar opinion that youth has a social dimension where its connotation and frontiers changes with time as well as between and within societies. The definition of youth is known to be centered on concepts such as aged-based categorization, transition and relational (Kidido, 2014). For instance, Kidido (2014) described youth around the aged-based categorization

where youth consist of both males and females who fall within the active workforce of 15 and 34 years. The United Nations also defined youth based on aged-categorization where youth is defined as people between the ages of 15 and 24 years. Similarly, youth has been defined as people who are within the age bracket of 15 and 35 years (Ministry of Youth and Sport, 2010). The African youth Carter (2006) also defined youth as young people between the ages of 15 and 35 years. The World Bank (2006) and Jones (2009) rather adopted the transitional perspective of youth where the concept is defined as the period of transition from childhood to adulthood, encompassing processes of sexual maturation and growing social and economic autonomy from parents and careers. In this paper, the concept of youth shall be construed around the aged-based categorization because it easier to identify people based on ages than by transition and relations. As a result, this paper defines youth as young people consisting of both males and females who are within the active working age group between the ages of 15 and 35 years in line with definition by the African Youth Carter (2006) and Kidido (2014).

2.2. Factors Limiting Youth Participation in Agriculture

The nucleus of this study is to undertake an empirical investigation into the factors that accounts for the low or non-participation of youth in agriculture in the midst of growing unemployment. This section therefore reviews empirical findings relating to the challenges facing youth in initiating agriculture. It includes factors discouraging youth from undertaking agriculture. This shall lay the foundation for the construction of the conceptual framework for the study.

Mangal (2009) reported that the low-participation of youth in agriculture could be traced to the historic negative stigma associated to the sector where the youth perceives agriculture as a hard-dirty work with very little self-esteem, labour intensive and less lucrative. The Food and Agriculture Organization (2011) identified the negative stigma attached to the sector is largely because the agricultural sector is not looked as a viable sector of employment and remains unattractive to the youth due to risk, high cost of production, inefficacy with less technological input and its labour intensive nature. Apparently, the youth in Ghana hold the perception that agriculture is an occupation for the aged, illiterate and untrained folks and the rural poor (Ministry of Food and Agriculture, 2011). Similarly, Akpan (2010) reported that the perceived poor public image associated with farming and parental influence to move out of agriculture are critical factors causing the low-participation of youth in agriculture. It has also been reported by Amadi (2012) that most youth in Ghana look down upon agriculture and shy away from the sector because farmers are not recognized in the Ghanaian societies compared to people employed in other sectors.

A recent study by Kidido et al (2016) also reported challenges associated with access to agricultural lands under customary tenure regime is one of the causes of the low-participation in agriculture. It should be noted here that access to agriculture land by the youth is a necessity if

agriculture is to be made a major sources of employment opportunities for the youth (Kidido, 2014). However, the equitable and secure access to agricultural land by the youth and women under customary tenure systems is characterized by a number of insurmountable challenges and as a result discourages most youth from agriculture. The study by Kidido et al (2016) which employed a multistage sampling technique within a mixed research paradigm using questionnaires and interview guides in the Techiman Traditional Area of the Brong-Ahafo region of Ghana established youth in the area could only easily get access to small sizes of land considered uneconomical for meaningful agriculture. The researchers reported youth access to agricultural lands is constrained by high cost of accessing land, competition for land by residential developers, unwillingness of traditional authorities to release agricultural lands and growing shortage of productive family agricultural lands. The challenges regarding access to agricultural land has been aggravated by large-scale land grabbing (White, 2011) and the commoditization of land leading to the fragmentation of lands making it difficult to large tracts of land to be acquired for meaningful mechanized agriculture for those with ready capital (Naamwintome, 2013). Also, Akpan (2010) corroborated and confirmed that poor access to agricultural lands is a giant factor accounting for the low-participation in agriculture. In Southern Ethiopia, it has also been established that youth in the rural south experience difficulty to access viable agricultural land and those who are able to obtain agricultural lands from families get limited sizes rendering it practically impossible to make meaningful livelihood out of the very small sizes (Bezu & Holden, 2014)

Similarly, Bennell (2007) reported that as a result of rapid urbanization driven by high rate of population growth subdivision and fragmentation of lands has affected the availability of reasonable tract of agricultural land for the youth and the even the available pieces of agricultural lands are been barnacled by series of land boundaries disputes and encumbrances (World Bank, 2012) making them practical inaccessible by the youth for agriculture. Also, White (2012) identified in agrarian societies, the traditional land holder (owners) retain the control of agricultural lands for several years and only releases these lands to the youth when they are about 40 or 50 years. This waiting period forces some youth to either take up jobs in other sectors or just abandon agriculture and they also attempt to secure lands from the land rental market, these youth are constrained by the high cost of accessing land due to the fragmentation and commoditization of land (Kidido et al, 2016). The low level of income of farmers has been identified as a challenge facing youth in their attempt to undertake agriculture (White, 2012). Due to the limited number of jobs in Ghana, most youth do not get access to enough funds to start agriculture on a scale they desire and even if they start and desire to expand their production to maximize profits, they are limited by their low income levels.

Also, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (2011) identified that there is low-participation of youth in agriculture because of the constraints such as insufficient credit facilities and subsidies, low access to extension services, poor transportation, storage and processing systems. High initial capital is required to undertake meaningful agriculture because of the need to acquire piece of land, purchase of farming equipment and some cases the need to purchase fertilizers to undertake agriculture involving the cultivation of crops (Akpan, 2010). It has been corroborated by Ngongi (2012) that access to credit facilities in rural financial institutions is often tied to the availability of collateral security (usually land) with which the youth do not have and consequently limit their access to loans and their resulting low-participation in agriculture. Kumar (1989) re-echoed that Accessing this credit is difficult in many developing countries characterized by laws and regulations which excludes people below the age of 18 from accessing any financial products and services. This affects a sizable number of youth between 15 and 18 years from the access of these facilities. The financial institutions often appear reluctant in giving credit facilities in the form of loans to the youth because they regard them risky clients who are liable to non-payment of loan amounts in the event of poor harvest. Apparently, when there are cases of poor harvest these youth who do not have alternative sources of income due to the limited number of jobs in Ghana, it becomes practically impossible for these youth to redeem the loan amounts and it is only natural that financial institutions well-informed about these possibilities will not issue facilities to these 'risky clients'. Similarly, Chikezie et al (2012) opined that most youth are not in agriculture because they perceive the sector to be unprofitable due to consistent historic poor harvest. Akpan (2010) also confirmed that inadequate credit facility is one of the factors that accounts for the low-participation of youth in agriculture. It has been identified by Akpan (2010) that even youth who had agricultural experience stopped the activity because of poor harvest and soil degradation.

Furthermore, the low-participation of youth in agriculture has been traced to low farming profit margins characterized by poor returns to agricultural investments (Akpan, 2010). The exuberant youth also have the attitude of get-rich-quick and will be impatient to undertake agriculture which is associated with low profits margins when undertaken on small scale. Moreover, Akpan (2010) also established that one challenge facing agriculture in Ghana is lack of agricultural insurance systems and lack of respect accorded to farmers. Adekunle et al (2009) also agrees with Akpan (2010) that the low-participation of youth in agriculture could be traced to poor returns to agricultural investment, lack of agricultural insurance, unprofitability of the occupation and inadequate access to credit facility. The researcher stressed that these two factors do not only take farmers away from agriculture but also accounts for the low-participation of some youth in agriculture. Ngongi (2012) rather believes the low-participation of youth in agriculture is pervasive because policies relating to youth in agriculture are not sustainable and comprehensive enough. Ngongi is of the view that exclusion of youth in policy

discussions and the absence of the concerns or issues of young people in national policies is also a major constraint to youth participation in agriculture. The youth have their aspirations and how they want to achieve them. Policies made without taking their concern relating to challenges they face in agriculture into consideration would most invariably fail to address their needs.

Adekunle et al (2009) reported differently that the low-participation of agriculture can be traced to poor basic farming knowledge by both farmers and potential farmers, lack of ready market for perishable agricultural products and inadequate access to tractors and farm inputs. It is no surprising that Akpan (2010) also established that the lack of knowledge regarding good farming practices is a driver of the poor harvest and low profit margins in the sector which eventually accounts for the low-participation of some of the youth in agriculture. Similarly, Amadi (2012) opined that the low-participation of youth in agriculture could be blamed on the lack of scientific knowledge of agriculture among the surviving generation of illiterate farmers; the sustained use of traditional farming tools and methods as well as the non-lucrative and energy consuming nature of agriculture (farming) in Ghana. Moreover, According to White (2012), one reason why young people express reluctance to farm may reflect their aversion not to farming as such, but to the long period of waiting that they face before they have a chance to engage in independent farming, even when land is available in the community. White stressed that in many or most agrarian societies the older generation consisting of parents, or community elders in places where land is controlled not individually but by customary law retain land as long as possible. White is of the view that the tension between the desires of the older generation to retain control of family or community resources, and the desire of young people to receive their share of these resources, form their own independent farms and households, and attain the status of economic and social adulthood, is a common feature of agrarian societies accounting for the low-participation of youth in agriculture.

2.3. Conceptual Framework

The non-participation of some youth in agriculture in Ghana is driven by a number of factors so inter-linked that the impact is visible. The factors can be broadly classified into financial, land, conventional negative social image, policy and method of production/gains factors. It should be noted that financial factor comes in many dimensions including financial constraints for the purchase of land through the formal rental market. The major financial limitations to youth involvement in agriculture manifest in the form of poor access to credit facilities (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2011; Akpan, 2010; Adekunle et al, 2009) with the impact multiplied for those in the rural economy (White, 2011), insufficient initial capital (Adekunle et al, 2009) and insufficient funds to access equipment and farm implements (Akpan, 2010; Adekunle, 2009) for mechanized agriculture. If access to funds can be made readily available for youth interested in agriculture, the financial constraints could be addressed.

Efforts to quell the financial factors should include a youth in agriculture fund which should be given to youth to either start agriculture or to expand their agricultural production and a section of the funds should be earmarked to settle the debt of those youth who took accessed credit facilities for the agricultural activities and genuinely recorded poor harvest. Also, land is a fundamental input for agriculture and the difficulty of getting access to it by the youth constitutes a factor that account for their non-participation (Kidido et al, 2016). Notwithstanding, the challenges in getting access to agricultural land, those who have the lands are only able to get the smaller sizes (Kidido et al, 2016; White; 2011) and finds it very difficult to expand. This discourages even those who are in agriculture because it becomes practically impossible to make satisfactory gains from smaller land sizes (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2011). The land factor also comes in the form of high cost of land due to land commoditization and fragmentation (Naamwintome, 2013) rendering the already low income youth form getting access to land through the formal land sector. It should also be noted urbanization has led to the conversion of agricultural lands into residential land uses (Bennell, 2007) creating insufficient supply of viable agricultural land for the youth especially those in the urban and peri-urban areas (Adekunle et al, 2009; Akpan, 2010). Youth access to agricultural land is even more challenging under customary land tenure regimes which prolong the time for which youth will have to wait to gain independent access to land (White, 2012) or excludes youth from access to land in some agrarian societies (Kidido et al, 2016). The Land Administration Project which is on-going in the country could be used to address the land access challenges.

Another point worth indicating is that the youth are people who will like to be associated with jobs with good social image and hence the negative perception and impression created for agriculture also accounts for the non-participation of youth in agriculture (Amadi, 2012; Food and Agriculture Organization, 2011) and available evidence suggest that farmers in the rural areas; where most youth reside are not respected (Akpan, 2010) and certainly discourages in-coming farmers (youth) from the sector. The youth perceive agriculture to be a 'hard and dirty work' associated with little self-esteem, risk, high cost of production, inefficacy, labour intensive and less lucrative (Ministry of Food and Agriculture, 2011; Mangal, 2009). The negative perception the youth hold regarding agriculture should be given due consideration in policy deliberation to help rehabilitate the image of the sector. The nature of agriculture in Ghana is currently been dominated by the use of primitive farm tools including the hole and cutlasses with little elements of mechanization especially in the countryside of Ghana and renders the sector very difficult because of the labor intensive nature. The labor intensive method of production which dominates agriculture in the rural areas of Ghana do not also pay-off due to the low profit margins and low returns to investment associated with the sector (Adekunle et al, 2009; Akpan, 2010). Efforts geared towards sustaining the mechanization of the sector should be expedited to

improve the existing labor intensive nature of production. The historic losses recorded by some farmers discourage future farmers (youths) from venturing into agriculture. There is also a policy factor that accounts for the non-participation some youth in agriculture. Besides, Ghana lack the political will to implement youth development policies and the situation becomes aggravated when new governments abandon policies initiated by a previous government. Policy makers are therefore unable to sustain their efforts in combating youth challenges including their participation in agriculture. Even if they implement policies promote the development of the youth, the youth are not directly involved in the discussions (Ngongi, 2012) and sometimes their needs are properly addressed. The most serious factor in the policy is rejuvenating and sustaining the interest and passion of the youth in agriculture because passion for an occupation pays a critical role in sustaining workers in sectors (Mangal, 2009). The non-participation of some youth in agriculture do not only increases the unemployment situation but threatens the current and future food security of Ghana and in many third world countries. The full participation of the unemployed youth will be accompanied by myriads of benefits ranging from addressing the unemployment problem, food insecurity threats and will boast the agricultural sector. A comprehensive and sustained policy reform should be engineered to address the conundrum and should be supported by all stakeholders.

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Research Method and Materials

This section of the paper clearly presents research methods and materials adopted for examining the non-participation of youth in agriculture in the midst of acute unemployment. It describes and justifies the methods and processes that were used in order to collect data in answering the research questions by concisely outlining the research design adopted, sampling techniques, the key study variables, sources of data, data collection instruments, units of analysis and the methods that were adopted in the data processing, analysis and reporting. Youth non-participation in agriculture is an empirical issue and it is therefore appropriate to scrutinize critical questions from real life dimensions. The study therefore adopted the case study sample survey as a research design because the case study sample survey design is very appropriate where a researcher (s) wants to examine a research problem from a life social setting without having control over the events as they unravel (Yin, 2003). The case study sample survey design was employed within a mixed research design. The mixed research design was adopted to use each method to offset the weaknesses in the other method. The sampling techniques that were adopted for the study included the purposive and snow ball sampling techniques. These techniques were adopted because the researchers could not obtain any records of all youth who are not involved in agriculture which rendered the use of random sampling technique

practically inappropriate. Besides, the researchers personally know some of the respondents and purposively selected them for the study. The snow ball technique was used to find other respondents with similar characteristics which the researchers did not know before the start of the data collection. The sources of data for the study emanated from primary and secondary sources. The primary data was gathered by the researcher from the field survey and the secondary information was obtained through desktop internet surfing of journals and data bases such as Google Scholar and open access sources.

The instruments that were used for the data collection consisted of both questionnaires and interview guides. The questionnaires were used to gather the data from the youth and the interview guides were used to conduct interview sessions with some key stakeholders and informants in the study area. It was difficult in obtaining the population of the youth who constituted the sample frame for the study and hence attempt was not made to systematically work out the sample. However, based on the trends from the data collection, the researchers became optimistic that samples of 200 youths were enough for the study. The data was collected between January, 2017 and April, 2017 constituting a period of 4 months. During the data collection, the researchers confirmed that a youth respondent was unemployed and at the same time was not involved in agriculture before administering the questionnaire. The youth respondent was first asked if he/she had a job and if the answer was negative, the researchers further asked if the youth was involved in agriculture and if again the answer was negative, the youth was taken through the questionnaire for the data collection. The key study variables included the factor accounting for the non-participation of the youth in agriculture, the future agricultural career plans of the youth, and the mechanisms that can be employed to attract the youth into agriculture. The unit of the analysis included each individual youth responses. The data from both the questionnaires and interviews were analyzed using quantitative and qualitative analytical approaches. The final questionnaire designed was used to prepare a template using the Predictive Analytics SoftWare (PASW) formally called the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS IBM Statistics 20). The data was entered into the template each day after collection and the complete data set was used to generate summary tables, percentages, frequencies and cross-tabulation as well chi-square test. The interview data which is qualitative in nature was analyzed using thematic content analysis. By the thematic content analysis, the responses from the key informants were first transcribed into text. Themes were generated from the text and patterns were also generated from the themes. Final codes representing the responses from the interviews were generated. They were presented and elaborated by the researchers based on the connotations from the interviews. Data from both questionnaire and the interview guides were presented collectively for better communication of the findings.

3.2. A Brief Profile of the Bawku Municipality

Bawku is a town and is the capital of the Bawku Municipal District, district in the Upper East region of north Ghana.). It is located at 11º3′36″N 0º14′24″W and has a Total Area of 1275km^2 (492sq.mi). Bawku has a 2012 settlement population of 69,527 people (Ghana Statistical Service, 2012). Bawku is one of the Border Towns in Ghana. It is located in the extreme north-eastern corner of Ghana. Bawku is one of the municipal assemblies in Ghana. The Bawku Municipal District is one of the nine (9) districts in the Upper East Region of northern Ghana. It is made of the following constituencies: Bawku Central, Binduri and Pusiga. The district contains the following towns and villages. Of note are: Bawku, Pusiga, Garu, Denugu/Danvorga, Kongo, Zorsi, Tempane, Wuriyanga, Narango, Mognori (Gumbo), Widana, Yabrago, Missiga, Bugri-Bulpielse, Manga, Basyonde, Binduri Natinga, Kulugungu, Gozesi and Bugri. The Kusaasis are the indigenous inhabitant population of the Bawku area. There are however large immigrant populations from other locations in northern and southern Ghana as well as from Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Togo, Niger and Nigeria. The district is characterized by agriculture, with Maize, Millet, Rice, Tomatoes, Soya beans and Onions being amongst the main crops... The most dominant occupations of the inhabitants are farming, administrative works, teaching, food vending, Trading, Fishing, Artisanship, Auto mechanics among others. Bawku has a uniform temperature between 26°C and 33°C annually with an average annual temperature of 27°C. The speed of the wind in Bawku averages at 10km/h southwards and has an averages annual humidity of 77%. Bawku has a single rainfall maximum or regime. The sun is constantly hot throughout the year and always at its peak around May-June. Bawku is located in the tropical continental climate and in the Savannah vegetation zone. It has two seasons throughout the year; Thus Rainy season and Dry season. The soil components include loamy soil, sandy soil and clay soil. Bawku however lost peaceful co-existence among its inhabitance for nearly 5 decades because the Area was bedeviled by chieftaincy disputes and conflict between the Mamprusis and the Kusaasis (two dominant tribes) since 1959. It was at its peak in the year 2007, 2008 and 2009 leading to the loss of several lives from target killings and stray bullets. Tension has engulfed the municipal ever since 2008 which has chased a lot of investors away from the area. Peace is now returning to area after the well-enforced prudent ban on motor riding and prolonged curfew. For the past 7 years now, the area has enjoyed real peace and co-existence among the conflicting tribes.

4. Results and Discussions

4.1. Bio-data of Youth

The study gathered data on the demographic characteristics of the unemployed youth respondents with the hope that some of demographic features might have influence and interference in the attitude of the youth towards agriculture (Adekunle et al, 2009). Therefore, the bio-data of the

youth respondents were gathered not as either dependent or independent variables but as 'noise' or confounding variables. The ages of the youth respondents, gender, marital status, educational attainment and community membership status data was surveyed during the data collection stage. The youth were categorized into different age brackets in conformity with the age distribution of the previous national population and housing census and within the framework of the definition of youth presented in chapter two. The analysis revealed that there was a fair representation of the different age bracket since 47 (23.5%) were within the age bracket of 15-20years, 52(26.0%) within the age bracket of 21-25years and 45(22.5%) within the age bracket of 31-35years. The representations of the youth respondents in the various age groups are summarized in table 4.1 below. From table 4.1 below, it can be seen that there were more male youth respondents 110(55%) than their counterpart female youth respondents 90 (45%). The gender representation of the youth respondents was fair because, in patriarchal societies like in the Bawku Municipality males are dominated the agricultural sector because of some of the customary restrictions on women land access (Kidido et al, 2016). The study also found out that most of the youth were single 138 (69%) probably because they want to secure jobs before they settle down. Those who were married constituted less than half of the surveyed youth respondents 60 (30%) perhaps because they feel they have celebrate their youthful days a little while which is the attitude of most youth in recent times (table 4.1). The survey revealed that only 14 (7%) of the 200 youth respondents had no formal educational. Most of the youth had at least basic formal education 186(93%) with a larger proportion of them ending at either primary or junior high school 106 (53%) and the least of them 8 (4%) having obtained diploma. Therefore the findings in other jurisdiction that most these youth who are not involved in agriculture have basic education has been confirmed in this study (Akpan, 2010). It has been argued subjects of communities get easy access to agricultural land than strangers (White, 2011; Kidido et al, 2016). Even though this assertion might survive when access is through the customary tenure regime, it might be unprofessional to remark similarly conclusions when access is through the formal rental market where purchasing determines who gets access to land. Therefore, this study surveyed the community membership status of the youth respondents and found that most of the youth respondents were indigenes 190 (95%) and very few were migrants or strangers 10 (5%). It is also worth noting that access to agricultural land in the study area is regulated by both customary land tenure regime and the land rental market. The table below reports the summary of the demographic features of the youth respondents.

Table 4.1: Demographic Information of the Youth Respondents

Age Group (Years)	**No. of Respondents (N=200)**	**% of Respondents (N=100%)**
15-20	47	23.5%
21-25	52	26.0%
26-30	56	28.0%
31-35	45	22.5%
Gender	**No. of Respondents (N=200)**	**% of Respondents (N=100%)**
Male	110	55%
Female	90	45%
Marital Status	**No. of Respondents (N=200)**	**% of Respondents (N=100%)**
Single	138	69%
Married	60	30%
Divorced	2	1%
Educational Attainment	**No. of Respondents (N=200)**	**% of Respondents (N=100%)**
No Formal Education	14	7%
Basic Education	106	53%
Secondary Education	60	30%
Diploma	8	4%
Degree and More	12	6%
Community Membership Status	**No. of Respondents (N=200)**	**% of Respondents (N=100%)**
Indigene	190	95%
Migrants	10	5%

Source: Field Survey, 2017

4.2. Youth Agricultural Experience

4.2.1. Previous participation in agriculture

The focus of the study was to identify the factors that accounts for the non-participation of some of the unemployed youth in agriculture but it was necessary to first of all determine whether or not some of the youth have agricultural experience. This is because their experiences in previous agricultural career cycle might have influence in the current non-participation (Adekunle et al, 2009; Akpan, 2010). The youth respondents were therefore asked to indicate whether or not they had some previous experience in agriculture and table 4.2 reports the summary of the findings. The evidence in the table connotes that most of the youth respondents 120(60.0%) of the 200 youth that were surveyed had past agricultural experience and a relatively small number 80 (40.0%) had no experience in agriculture. The findings is surprising because Bawku is a largely a farming community (Ghana

Statistical Service, 2012) and it was expected that all the youth would have farming experience either at the individual level or at the family level.

Table 4.2: Have been involved in agriculture in the past

Response	**No. of Respondents (N=200)**	**% of Respondents (N=100%)**
Yes	120	60.0%
No	80	40.0%

Source: Field Survey, 2017

4.2.2. Type of agriculture practiced

It was also necessary to map out the type of agriculture that those who had previous experience in agriculture undertook so as to be able to ascertain whether or not it had any influence in the current non-participation in agriculture (Kidido et al, 2016). As a result, the 120 youth respondents who indicated that they had past experience in agriculture were asked to indicate the type of agriculture they practiced and table 4.3 is a summary of the responses.

Table 4.3: Type of agriculture involved in the past

Type	**No. of Respondents (N=120)**	**% of Respondents (N=100%)**
Family Owned Subsistence Agriculture	69	57.5
Self-Owned Crop Farming	24	20.0%
Self- Owned Vegetable Farming	12	10.0%
Self- Owned Animal Rearing	15	12.5%

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From the table above, it was realized that majority of youth respondents were involved in family owned subsistence agriculture 69(57.5%). By this, the youth respondents assisted his or her parents in farming to feed the family at the subsistence level with very little autonomy in making gains from the produce. These youth also support their parents to rear animals and birds meant for their parents and established no or very little control as to sale of animals or birds. In effect, they worked unpaid for their parents. On the other hand, fewer of youth respondents had their crops or animal farms comprising 24(20.0%) having their own farms for crops cultivation, 12(10.0%) having their own vegetable farms which was mostly practiced in the dry season through irrigation and 15 (12.5%) involved in strictly pastoral farming. It is amazing that only a total of 51 (42.5%) of the youth who had past agricultural experience, had their own farms for either crops cultivation or for animal rearing with total control over the production and produce or gains therefrom. It should be reiterated that that crops performance in the Municipal has not been very desirable for a very long time since some of the crops

in the area were being described by the youth to be under 'family planning' and will not do well unless through the application of chemical and organic fertilizers with which the chemical fertilizers being outside the reach of the low income youth. The vegetables were also seasonal and depended on the availability of water in some of the Dams and in years when the Dams are dried, certainly the vegetable farming becomes practically impossible.

4.2.3. Method of land access and acquisition

A further attempt was made to find out regarding the 51(42.5%) who had autonomy the practice of their previous agriculture about how they acquired the land for the agriculture. They were asked to indicate whether it was through inheritance, gift, outright purchase, and lease or through share cropping. They were also asked to indicate any method through which they acquired their land if that was not included in the list and the summary is reported in Figure 4.1 below.

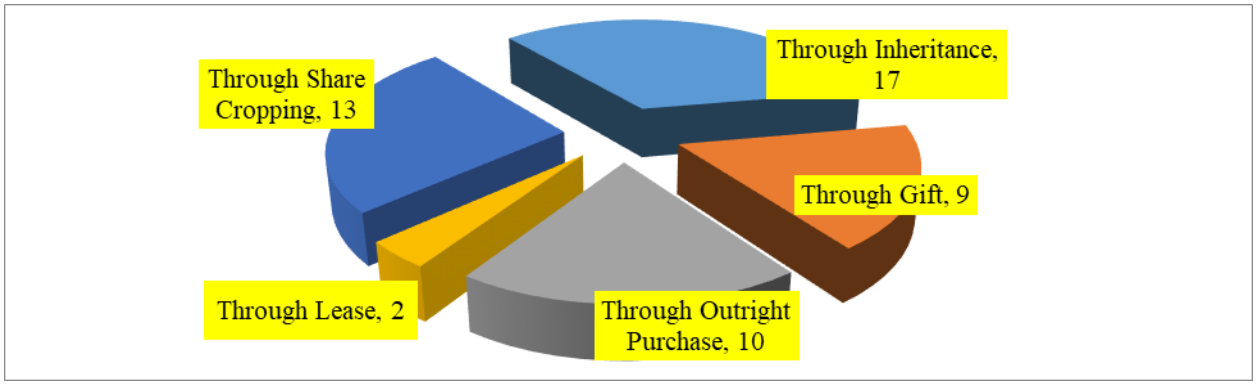

Figure 4.1: Method of Youth Agricultural Land Access and Acquisition (Source: Field Survey, 2017)

From the figure above, out 51 youth respondents, 17(33.33%) acquired their land for agriculture through inheritance but this would be to a disadvantage of the female youth respondents because the Bawku Municipality is practicing a patrilineal system of inheritance which favors sons more than daughters. This is only admission for access to agricultural under customary land tenure regime and might be different when access is through the rental market. A number of them also acquired their land through share cropping 13 (25.49%), through gift 9(17.65%), through outright purchase 10(19.61%) and through lease 2(3.92%)

4.2.4. Reasons for stopping agriculture

It was also necessary to examine why the 120 youth respondents stopped agriculture. They were therefore asked to indicate reason(s) why they stopped the agriculture. The responses from the concerned youth respondents can be seen in figure 4.2below. The analysis revealed that majority of the youth respondents (115 out 120) stopped agriculture because of financial problems either for expansion of the existing production size or for the purchase of other farm implements such as

fertilizers, sprayers and drugs by the pastoral farmers. Another factor that accounted for the boycott of the youth from agriculture was the difficult nature (112 out 120) of agriculture in the Municipal. It should be stated here that mechanized agriculture has not significant assume entry in the Municipal and hence farming is done by the use of the simple hole and cutlass which is tiring, waist-attacking and discouraging because of the day-time temperature in the Municipal. Some of the youth also indicated that they stopped agriculture because they recorded consistent bad market and crops failure (95 out 120) rendering the activity not unprofitable but also risky. This supports the findings of the Food and Agriculture Organization (2011) that identified most youth are not in agriculture because they find agriculture as a risky investment.

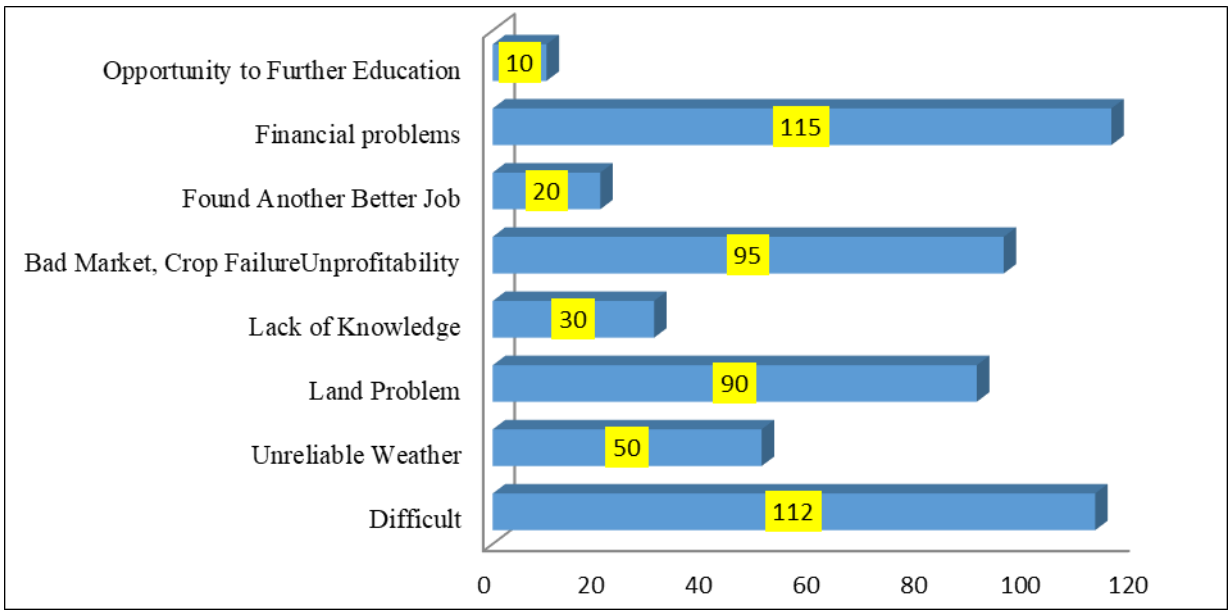

Figure 4.2: Reasons for Stopping Agriculture by Youth Respondents (Source: Field Survey, 2017)

The figure above also shows that a sizable number of the youth (90 of 120) stopped agriculture because of land problem. This was either due to customary tenure restrictions (Kidido et al, 2016) or lack of funds to acquire meaningful sizes of land for agriculture (White, 2012). It is worth noting that after 50 years (1959-2009) of violent and blood shed chieftaincy disputes, urbanization was taken a sharp turn in the Municipal leading to land rush for residential development and as result has forced the previously peri-urban areas (full of viable agricultural) into urbanized areas and has created a hike up in land prices due to the commoditization of land rendering it beyond the reach of the poor unemployed youth (Naamwintome, 2013). Other factors which accounted for some of youth stopping agriculture included unreliable weather (50 of 120), no knowledge of good agricultural practices (30 of 120), found other 'better' jobs (20 of 120) and some had the opportunity to further their education (10 of 120).

4.3. Factors Causing the Non-Participation of Youth in Agriculture

The nucleus of the study was to identify the reasons why some of the unemployed youth currently do not participate in agriculture in the Bawku Municipality. After having explored why some of the youth who had previous experience in agriculture stopped, the study now sought to identify the general motivations for the current non-participation comprising of the opinions of those who have agricultural experience and those who have not (Table 4.4). It is therefore not surprising that some of the factors that appeared in figure 4.2are being repeated in table 4.3 because the views of those whose responses were recorded in figure 4.2have also been captured in table 4.3.

Table 4.4: Reason for Current Non-Participation of Unemployed Youth in Agriculture

Factor	**No. of Respondents N= Out of 200**	**% of Respondents N= Out of 100%**
No passion and Interest for agriculture	140	70.0%
No Support from Family & Government	90	45.0%
Busily Looking for another Better Job	137	68.5%
Initial Capital Outlay Challenges	40	20.0%
Difficult Nature of the Sector	62	36.0%
Land Accessibility Challenges	98	49.0%
Still Schooling	10	5.0%
Historical Losses by Family Members	95	47.5%
No Knowledge of good Agricultural Practices	30	15.0%

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From the table above, it can be realized that majority of the unemployed youth are not involved in agriculture because they do not have the interest and passion for the sector 140 (70%). This might be as a result of the negative stigma attached to the sector (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2011) or the lack of political will to sustain the policies geared towards sustaining youth interest in agriculture (Ngongi, 2012). What is apparent here is that if polices and stakeholders are to make effort to rehabilitate the youth into agriculture, conscious and sustained commitment would have to be made to galvanize and rejuvenate the interest of the youth in the sector. It was also identified that most of the youth 137 (68.5%) are not participating in agriculture because they are busily looking for other jobs they describe as 'better'. No mentions of specific jobs were indicated but chances are that they are looking for formal jobs and this has being influenced by the lack of interest and passion for agriculture. What has not been accepted by the youth is that there are very few jobs in the formal sector in Ghana (Ghana Statistical, 2014) and the effect has been multiplied as a result of the ban of employment

(embargo on employment) by some of the government sectors of Ghana since 2012. The question then becomes 'what if they do not get the better jobs they are looking for?' No precise answer can be provided to question but chances are that they will return to agriculture or resort to other nefarious mechanisms of survival which is not desirable possibility. Effort therefore will have to be made all reasonable cost to encourage the involvement of youth in agriculture (Akpan, 2010).

Land accessibility challenges 98(49.0%) was identified as one the reasons that accounts for the non-participation some of the youth in agriculture. Access to agricultural land is key to youth involvement in agriculture (Kidido, 2014) and the inability of youth to get access to viable agricultural presents a major threat to youth participation in agriculture (White, 2012; Kidido et al, 2016). Bezu and Holden (2014) also found in Ethiopia that the male youth in the south had a greater potential of getting access to agricultural but the small nature of the land sizes within the reach of the youth still presented a major setbacks to youth in agriculture. The youth indicated that they had no money to acquire the land under the competitive recent trends of escalating land prices in the Municipality in addition to getting funds to buy farm implements such as holes, cutlasses, fertilizers and other paraphernalia for participating in agriculture. The assertion of the youth is very reliable because as a result of the 'return of peace' to the Municipal, most lands are now being converted into residential land uses and this conversion of agricultural land has been driven the land rental market resulting astronomical land prices outside the financial reach of the youth. This asseveration has been corroborated and validated by Naamwintome (2013) who found urbanization and commoditization of land leads to increase in land prices.

A larger proportion of the youth also indicated that they were not involved in agriculture because they themselves and other relatives have recorded consistent historical losses 95(47.5%). They indicated it is very unreasonable and unconscionable to invest in an activity with characterized by foreseeable losses. The youth therefore view agriculture as a sector associated with poor returns to invest (Akpan, 2010). Similarly, Adekunle et al (2009) also found this to be reason that accounts for the non-participation of youth in agriculture in Nigeria. A sizable number of the youth indicated that they were not involved in agriculture because of the difficult nature of the sector 62(36%) and there was no support from the government (both national and local) to facilitate their involvement in agriculture 90(45%). Others also indicated they were not participating in agriculture because they had starting capital for the activity 40(20%), they were still schooling 10(5%) and that they had no basic knowledge of good agricultural practices to maximize gains from the sector 30(15%). What can be realized from the findings here is that, the factors accounting for the non-participation of youth in agriculture in Ghana are slightly different from those of Nigeria as has been reported by Adekunle et al (2009) and Akpan (2010) and also in Ethiopia as has been reported by Bezu and Holden (2014).

4.3.1. Gender and non-participation of unemployed youth in agriculture

The inclusion of gender in the demographic characteristics of the youth respondents was to enable further analysis to ascertain whether or not there is a significant statistical relationship between gender of the unemployed youth respondents and their reasons for non-participation in agriculture. A cross tabulation between gender and reasons for non-participation in agriculture together with chi-square test significance have been presented below:

Table 4.5: Analysis of Gender and Non-participation of Unemployed Youth in Agriculture

	Reasons for non-participation in agriculture									
	No passion and Interest for agriculture	No support from family and Gov't	Busily looking for another 'better' job	Lack of adequate starting capital	Difficult nature of agriculture	Land accessibility challenges	Still Schooling	Historical losses by youth and family members	No knowledge of agric	
Gender										**Total**
Male	65	70	55	34	31	30	4	80	25	**110**
%	46.4%	77.8%	40.2%	85.0%	50.0%	30.6%	40%	84.2%	83.3 %	**(55%)**
Female	75	20	82	6	31	68	6	15	5	**90**
%	53.6%	22.2%	59.8%	15.0%	50.0%	69.4%	60%	15.8%	16.7 %	**45%**
Total	**140**	**90**	**137**	**40**	**62**	**98**	**10**	**95**	**30**	**200**
%	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From the table above, a chi-square test of association between gender and reasons for non-participation in agriculture reveals significant statistical relationship evidenced by a p-value of 0.0189 (which is less than 0.05) and a chi-square value of 68.04 at 95% confidence interval. This means the distribution of the reasons across the gender lines are not just by chance. Therefore, a relationship exists between gender and reasons why unemployed youth are not involved in agriculture. The analysis from the above table indicates there are more females 75(53.6%) than males 65(46.4%) who do not have interest and passion for agriculture. This is not strange most women naturally will like to do difficult works and certainly not interest in agriculture which is labour intensive. A closer look at the data reveals a pattern that there are more females than males who do not participate in agriculture because of they are busily looking for other better jobs 82(59.8%), some of are still schooling 6(60%) and some are also limited by land access challenges 68(69.4%). These again are not surprising most

females especially the educated cohort will like to be in the formal sector and will only consider agriculture in the later days if they do not find their desired jobs. Also, access to agricultural is biased towards females in patriarchal societies and it is not strange that there are many females than males who are not in agriculture because of challenges associated with land access. Besides, the limitation in the customary land tenure regime, they are also limited by financial constraints in accessing land through the formal rental market (Kidido et al, 2016). On the other hand, there are more males than females who are not participating in agriculture because of no support from families and government 70(77.8%), lack of adequate starting capital 34(85%), historical losses by youth and family members in agriculture 80(84.2%) and lack of knowledge of good agricultural practices 25(83.3%). However there were equal number of male 31(50%) and female youth respondents 31(50%) who are not participating in agriculture because the practice of agriculture is difficult and tiresome.

4.4. Future Agricultural Plans of the Youth

A further attempt was made by the researchers to find out if the youth respondents had future agricultural plans. This was done to ascertain the future of agriculture in Ghana since there is evidence ageing farmer population in Ghana (Ghana Statistical Service, 2014) and if youth farmers do replace the ageing farmer population future food security in Ghana is threatened (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2011; Herbel et al, 2010; Naamwintome, 2013).

4.4.1. Agriculture as a Future Career

The unemployed youth were asked whether or not they had plans going into agriculture in the future. It was a yes or no response question and a summary of their responses are presented in the table below.

Table 4.6: Do have plans going into Agriculture as a Future Career?

Future Agricultural Plans	**No. of Respondents (N=200)**	**% of Respondents (N=100%)**
Yes	144	72%
No	44	22%
Missing Response	12	6%

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From the table above, it can be seen that majority of the youth respondents 144(72%) indicated they had plans going into agriculture in the future. Some of them indicated that they will like to work in other areas of the economy to be able generate enough money for mechanized farming and others indicated that they will like to participate in agriculture after they are married or at quasi old age. Relatively fewer youth 44(22%) maintained that they were not participating currently and have no

plans undertaking agriculture as a future career. A total of 12(6%) of the youth respondents did not indicate any response to the question. The amazing element of the findings is that it contradicts Adekunle et al (2009) in Nigeria as well as Bezu and Holden (2014) in Ethiopia who found in their respective countries that majority of the youth have no future agricultural plans.

4.4.2. Reasons for not having future agricultural plans

In attempt to understand the dynamics of the youth attitude towards agriculture, the researchers also sought to understand why some of the youth indicated they had no plans undertaking agriculture in the future. The 44(22%) youth respondent in table 4.5 who indicated they had no plans going into agriculture as a future career were asked to state their reason(s) why they do not intend to go into agriculture in the future and their responses are presented in figure 4.3 below.

From the figure below, majority of the youth have no plans going into agriculture because they have no interest and passion for the sector 12 (27.27%). It is worth reiterating interest and passion is one of the driving forces for job satisfaction and certainly the youth respondents do not find anything attractive to them about agriculture. Similarly, 12(27.27%) also indicated they anticipate being busy with another 'better' job and will not find time for agriculture. It is interesting the youth have great hope of securing 'better' jobs but what constitute a better job will need to be defined by the users of the word. A sizable number 9(20.45%) of the youth indicated that agriculture difficult and tiresome and will remain so in the future and that they will not find it any less difficult and tiresome to participate in it. Other reasons that were advanced by the youth included poor performance of the sector 7(15.91%), anticipated high future land prices 2(4.55%) and the desire stay in academia and other areas of the formal sector 2(4.55%).

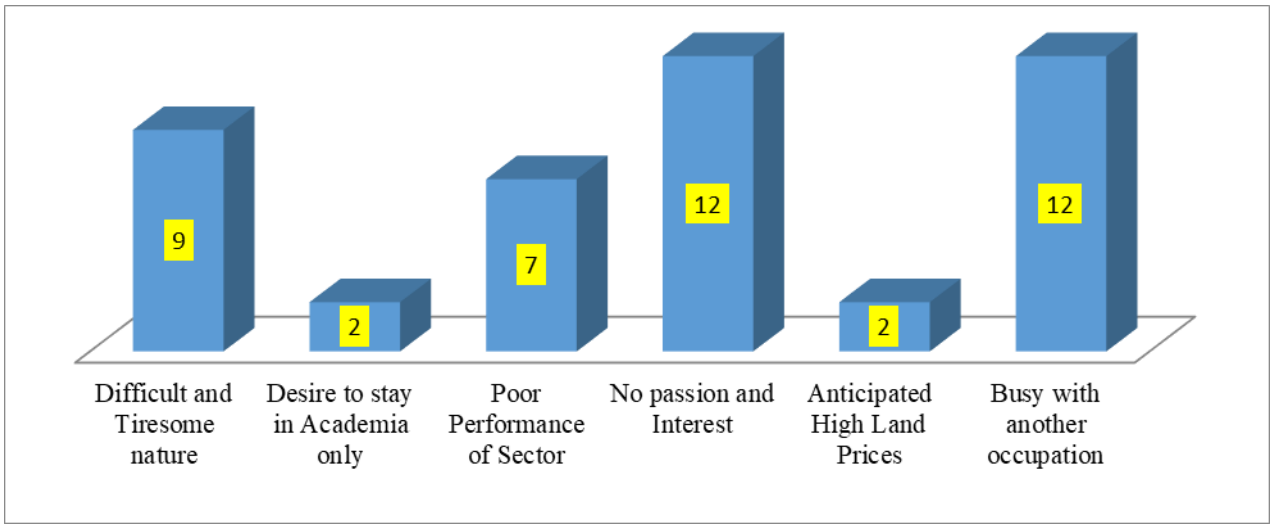

Figure 4.3: Reasons for no Future Agricultural Plans (Source: Field Survey, 2017)

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusion

The study sought to gather empirical evidence regarding the reasons why some of the unemployed youth do find it necessary to undertake agriculture. Guided by the results of the analysis, it can be concluded that the some of the unemployed youth are not in agriculture because of a number motivations including no passion and interest for agriculture; no support from family & government; busily looking for another better job; initial capital outlay challenges; difficult nature of the sector; land accessibility challenges; still schooling; historical losses by family members and no knowledge of good agricultural practices. It can also be concluded that most youth will like to venture into agriculture if the sector is made attractive and ready support instituted for them

5.2. Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the study makes the following recommendation deemed necessary to help quell to attitude of the unemployed youth towards agriculture and to encourage their participation in the area:

1) *Acknowledgement of successful youth farmers*: the evidence from the study suggest that most of the youth do not have the interest and passion for agriculture and the study recommends that if the efforts of the youth are acknowledged by awarding successful youth farmers many of them would be encouraged to join the sector. The impact of this 'youth in agriculture award' might not be very quick in encouraging the youth participation but when undertaken nationwide with a great level of publicity and awareness, it would be a useful step to rejuvenating youth interest in agriculture. The awareness should also be geared towards creating a positive mind-set towards agriculture. The public should also be sensitized to avoid the negative stigma leveled against agriculture.

2) *The establishment of 'youth in agriculture fund':* The inability of some youth to undertake agriculture because they do not have enough capital to start or expand their production can be addressed if the nation sets up an agricultural fund for the youth in agriculture. The fund should be established under the Agricultural Development Bank with the focus on making funds available to youth who wants to venture into agriculture. The use of the funds should be accompanied by strict supervision since some of the youth can exploit the funds for other activities instead of agriculture.

3) *Improvement of youth access to agricultural land:* The access to agricultural land by the youth should be improved to facilitate their participation. Since land in Ghana is administered under legal pluralism with about 80% of the lands under the control of customary authorities, the legal framework regulating access to land should be reformed to meet the needs of youth access to agricultural land. Ghana already has about 167 acts of parliament regulating the land sector and the problem is about

implementation. Therefore effort should be made under the on-going Land Administration Project (LAP) to improve the land rental market and to establish group access to agricultural land for the youth.

4) *Mechanization of agriculture and accompanied support for the youth:* It is practical that most of the youth do not participate in agriculture because they indicated agriculture is difficult and tiresome. This assertion of the youth is true because agriculture in the three Northern Regions of Ghana are still massively dominated by labour intensive primitive method of agriculture involving the use of 'direct human power' for production. The study therefore recommends that efforts should be expedited to mechanize agriculture to be able to move away from the use of simple hole and cutlasses to use of tractors and combined harvesters. The effort should be accompanied by government support since huge sums of funds are required to purchase the equipment for mechanized agriculture. Besides, the prices of these equipment should be subsidized for the youth. The youth should also be support with storage facilities and irrigational equipment to avoid the seasonal unemployment nature of the sector in the three Northern Regions of Ghana.

5) *Youth involvement in agriculture policy establishment:* The Ghanaian population is dominated by youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years (Ghana Statistical Service, 2012) and therefore they should be given a proper representation in policy enactment towards their involvement in agriculture. This is to enable their needs be addressed by the policy. This effort should also be backed by empirical participatory research to create realistic and feasible policies.

6). *Integrated and holistic approaches to youth empowerment in agriculture:* The approaches to youth in empowerment have been piecemeal and fragmented and have created ineffectiveness of their contributions. Therefore, integrated and holistic approaches should be established to enable the actual empowerment of the youth in agriculture. This empowerment should be accompanied by creation of ready market for agricultural products in the country especially at the countryside and standardization of prices for most of the agricultural products like what is being practiced in Coted'ivore.

7). *Further empirical participatory research:* The study finally recommends that the implementation all these suggestions be preceded by empirical participatory research. This is to enable the beneficiaries of the research output to be the key respondents to the research and this has the highest probability of identifying the actual needs of the youth in agriculture to enable reforms to be effected for them. The further research should be focused on equitable youth access to agricultural lands, how to rejuvenate and sustain youth interest in agriculture and how to improve the performance of the sector for the youth farmers.

References

Akpan, S. B. (2010). Encouraging Youth ' s Involvement in Agricultural Production and Processing; Sustainable Solutions for ending Hunder and Poverty. *International Food Policy Research Institute, Policy Note*(No.29). Nigeria

Adekunle, O. A. et al (2009). Constraints to Youth's involvement in agricultural production in kwara state, Nigeria. *Journal of agricultural extension,* 13(1): 102-108.

African Youth Charter. (2006). The role of youth in its popularization and ratification. *Prepared by: Dabesaki Mac-Ikemenjima.*

Amadi, P.N.U. (2012). Agricultural Entrepreneurship Development for Youth Empowerment in Nigeria: Constraints and Initiatives for Improvement. *Journal of Educational and Social Research,* 2(10).

Bennell, P., 2007. Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Rural Youth. *Paper Prepared for IFAD Governing Council Roundtable: Generating Remunerative Livelihood Opportunities for Rural Youth*. Knowledge and Skills for Development, UK.

Bezu, S., & Holden, S. (2014). Land Access and Youth Livelihood Opportunities in Southern Ethiopia: Summary Report. Report No. 3. *United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Nairobi.*

Brooks, K., Zorya, S., Gautam, A. And Goyal, A. (2013). Agriculture as a Sector of Opportunity for Young People in Africa. Policy Research Working Paper 6473. *Agriculture and Environmental Services Department, World Bank*

Chikezie, N.P. et al . (2012). Factors Influencing Rural Youth Adoption of Cassava Recommended Production Practices in Onu-Imo Local Government Area of Imo State, Nigeria. *Greener Journal of Agricultural Sciences.* 2(6): 259-268.

Food and Agriculture Organization. (2011). Agriculture in Ghana: Facts and Figures (2010*): Statistics, Research and Information Directorate (SRID). Accra*

Ghana Statistical Service (2014). 2010 Population & Housing Census National Analytical Report. Accra Ghana.

Ghana Statistical Service. (2012). Population and Housing Census, Summary Report of Final Results. *Ghana Statistical Service, Accra.*

Herbel, D. et al (2010). Good Practices in Building Innovative Rural Institutions to Increase Food Security. *FAO, 2010*.

International Labour Organization. (2013). Global Employment Trends for Youth 2013: A generation at risk. Geneva: *International Labour Office.*.

Kidido, J. K. (2014). Youth Access to Agricultural Land in the Techiman Traditional Area in Ghana:

Moving from Conceptual Construction to Field Investigation. In *Conference on Land Policy in Africa, 11-14 November, Addis Ababa,* pp. 11–14.

Kidido, J. K., Bugri, J. T., & Kasanga, R. K. (2016). Dynamics of youth access to agricultural land under the customary tenure regime in the Techiman traditional area of Ghana. *Land Use Policy*, *60*(January), 254–266. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2016.10.040

Kumar, K. (1989). Indicators for Measuring Changes in Income, Food Availability and Consumption, and the Natural Resource Base. *A.I.D. Program Design and Evaluation Methodology No. 12. USAID.*

Mangal, H. (2009*).* Best Practices for Youth in Agriculture: *The Barbados, Grenada and Saint Lucia Experience. Final report.*

Ministry of Food and Agriculture. (2011). Youth in Agriculture Programme: Policy, Strategy and Sustainability. *Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), Accra.*

Ministry of Youth and Sport. (2010). National Youth Policy of Ghana. *Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS), Accra.*

Ngongi, N. (2012*).* The future of the Agrifood Sector in Africa. *International Conference on Young People, Farming & Food.*

Valerie, L. (2009*).* Youth in Agriculture; Challenges and Opportunities*: Proceedings of the 30th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, 2-5 July 2009, Georgetown, Guyana.*

White, B. (2012). Agriculture and the generation problem: rural youth, employment and the future of farming. *FAC. ISSER Conference on Young People, Farming and Food*. Accra, 19-21 March 2012.

White, B., 2011. Who will own the countryside? Dispossession, rural youth and the future of farming. *Valedictory Lecture on 13 October on the occasion of the 59th Dies Natalis of International Institute of Social Studies (ISS). Hague*.

World Bank. (2014). Youth employment in sub-Saharan Africa. *In: Africa Development Forum. The World Bank, Washington DC.*

World Bank. (2012). Land Administration and Reform in Sub-Saharan Africa: From Piloting to Scaling Up. *World Bank, Washington DC.*

Yin, R. K. (2003). Case Study Research: Design and Methods. *Volume 5 of Applied Social Research Methods. SAGE Publication*