

Annex

(to the IITA-NRCRI policy brief 'Beyond survival opportunities: enhancing youth livelihoods within the rural space through informed policies in Nigeria')

Challenges and Opportunities for Rural Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Mixed Methods Study to Inform Policy and Programmes.



Results summary of the Nigeria Case study

Outline

- Objectives
- Context
- Methods
- Main findings
- Validation of results with stakeholders (event with: rural youths, government officials –federal and state- , NGO).

Main Research questions

- What are current employment dynamics of rural young people?
- What are young people's imagined work and futures and what is the role of education and migration herein?
- Policy objectives and levers (discussion on results with youth yesterday and during this meeting).
 - *How might an appreciation of young people's perspectives influence agriculture and rural policy objectives?*
 - *What policy levers are available to influence young people's engagement in economic activities in rural areas and beyond?*
 - *What policy levers are available to influence rural-to-rural and rural-to-urban migration decisions of young men and young women in ways that ensure maximization of benefits for themselves and their households?*

Context

Research was done in 4 countries:

- **Ivory Coast**
- **Ethiopia**
- **Uganda**
- **Nigeria**

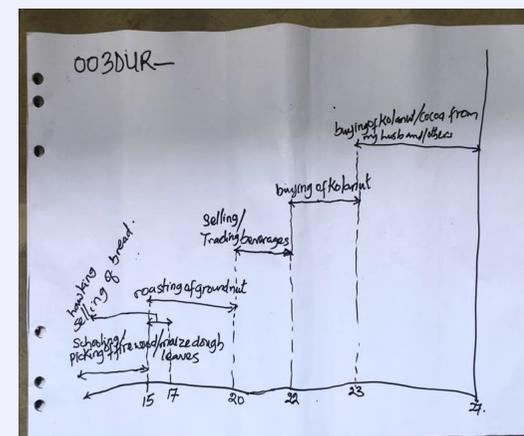
Methods

- Qualitative research in 2 states: **Osun** and **Anambra** states.
- Two different rural communities in each state: **one closer and one further from the city.**



Research tools used

- Focus Group discussions (4 per com.)
- Individual life histories (12 per com.)
- Ind. interviews on livelihoods (8 per com.)
- Ind. interviews with adults (6 per com.)
- Ind. photo voices (6 per com.)



Sheets made during Livelihood and live histories.

Main findings

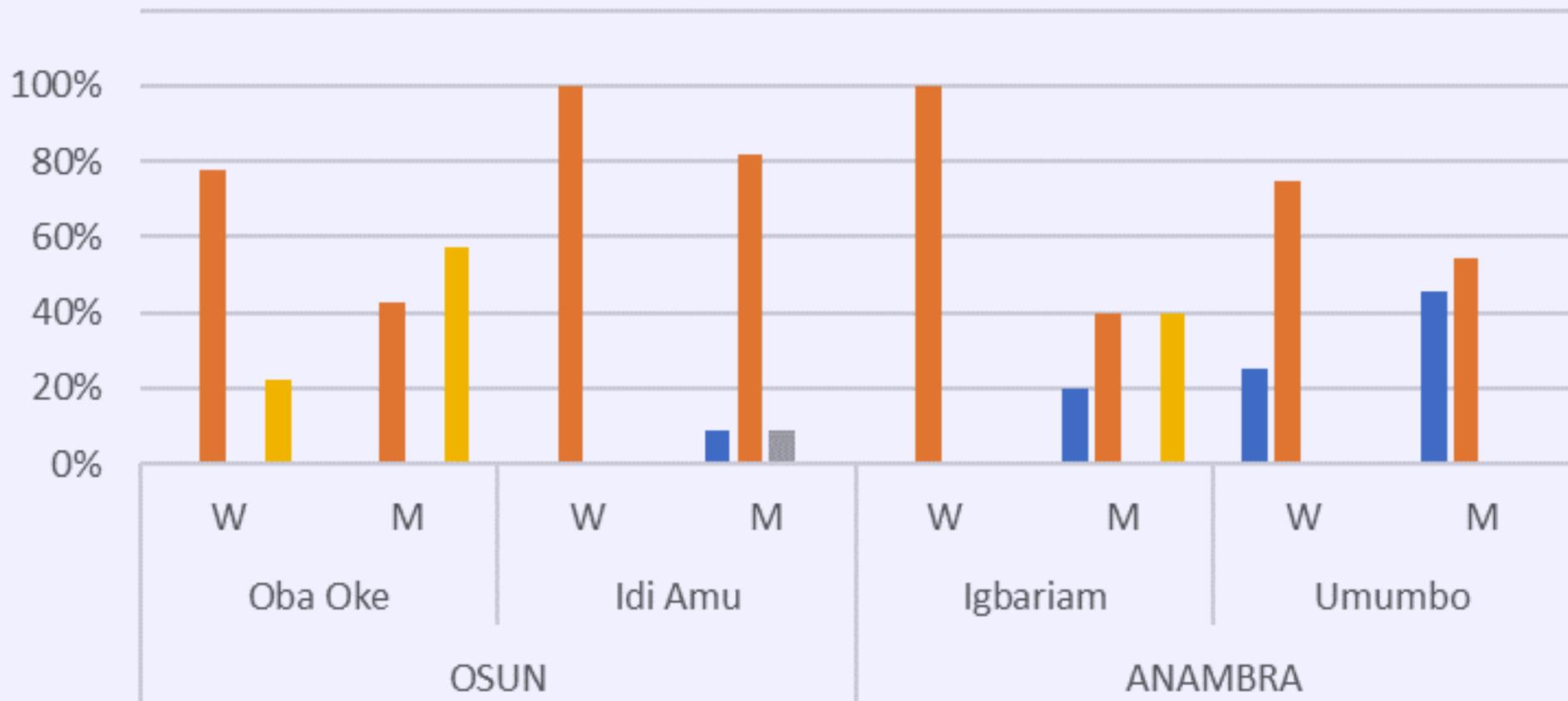


Photos made by participants on imagined work.

Access to land

■ Own ■ Family / customary ■ Borrowed ■ Rented

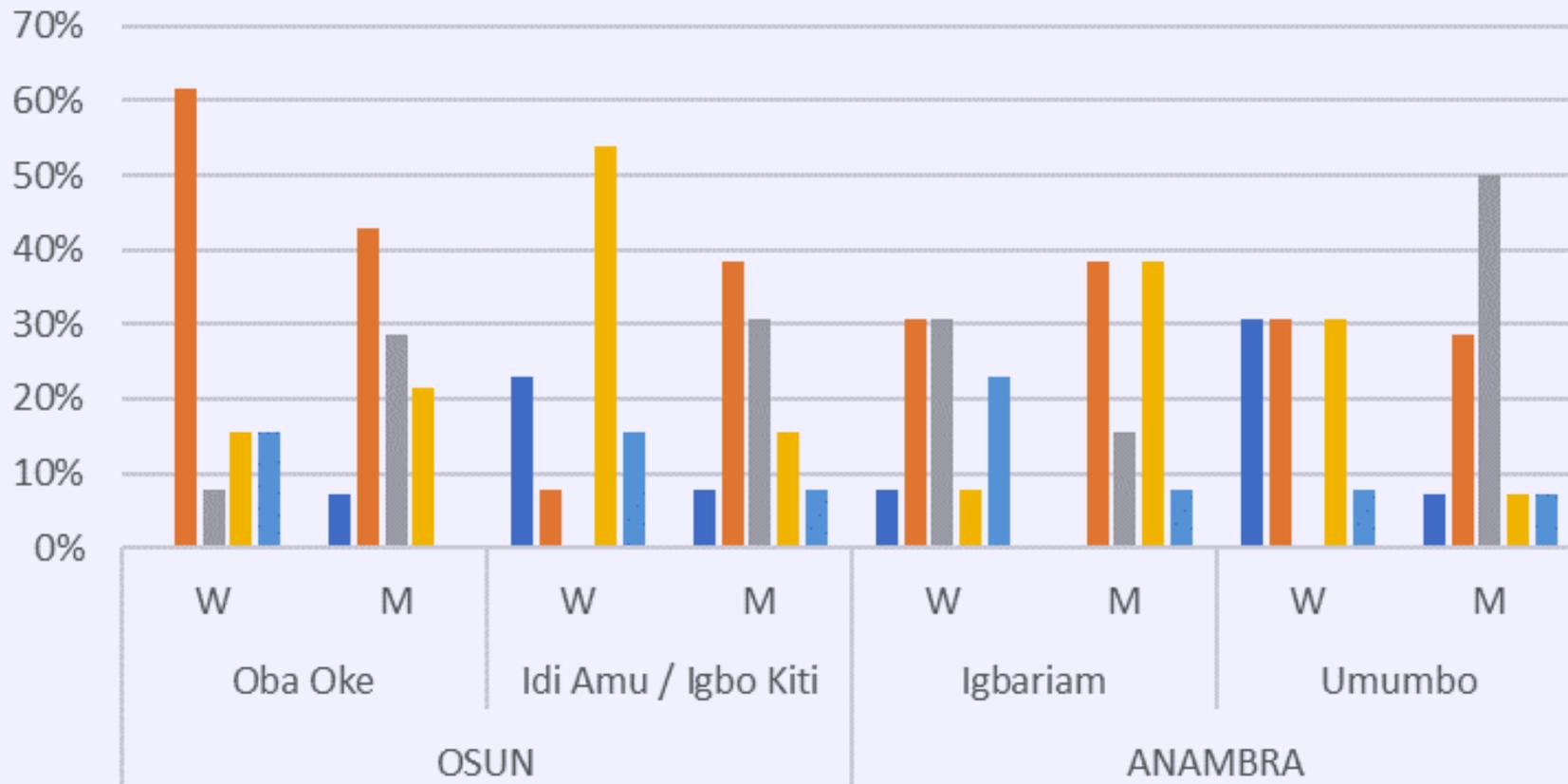
W= Women
M= Men



Engagement with labour

- On-farm only
- On-farm + self employment
- On-farm + anything else
- NO On-farm + anything else
- No work

W= Women
M= Men



Importance in imagined futures

■ Agriculture
 ■ Non-farm
 ■ Migration
 ■ Education
 W= Women
 M= Men



Main findings (continued)

Current livelihoods and aspirations of youth.

- Access to land is in most cases not a limiting factor and is mostly acquired through family / customary rights. Women hardly possess own land.
- Youths innovatively have to **combine many different activities** created out of surrounding opportunities. Main non-agricultural activities are Construction work, Okada riding, Welding, Carpentry (men), Tailoring, Hairdressing, (women) , Petty Trading, Hawking (men & women).
- Involvement in non-farm income is seen as a requisite to be able to perform agriculture in a more lucrative (mechanised) way.
- There are considerable groups of rural youth that **have a passion for agriculture** (many were born into it) and would undoubtedly make it into an even more central activity if only infrastructure and markets were better developed to make the work more profitable. There is no objection to hard work, but it must pay off equivalently. So, for these groups it is **NOT** a matter of mind set change or lack of affinity with the agricultural domain **but a matter of creating opportunities.**

Main findings (continued)

- Closer to the city youth tend and aspire to move away from agriculture relatively more but still see agriculture as a **secure base of food security** (“farming to eat”).
 - **This challenges the current stress on farming as a business.**
- Further from the city considerable groups of youth exist whose main focus is agriculture and they derive a firm respected identity from it. These include migrants from other states.
 - They acknowledge the limited profit agricultural brings but stress the security, legit nature and stability of the income obtained from farming.
 - Non farming jobs provide more income per time unit but are unstable and demand displacement and living under stressful and insecure circumstances with lower level of trust and community support. **This makes these jobs also less accessible to women.**
 - **Influential adults in the family & community** and development of amenities in rural areas are important motivators for youth to sustain an agricultural livelihood.

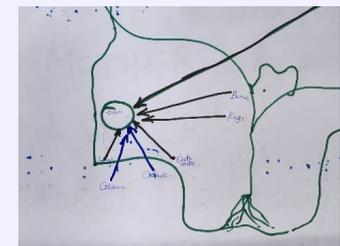
Main findings (continued)

Education

- Education is essential and not an option.
 - Education is highly valued by all youth even if it does not provide a payed Job. It is found very important to undertake any activity to be able to make this activity lucrative.
- Education is major part of imagined futures and higher than basic education is less accessible for women.
- Lack of access to higher education (due to lack of funds) creates a large gap between imagined futures and current livelihoods. Women have less opportunities to acquire income to finance such education.

Migration

- Migration is an important part in acquiring income from non-farm work for both men and women although men have generally more opportunities.
- Young Immigrants mainly from other states are welcomed by local rural communities as they contribute significantly to the local rural economy.



Drawing on migration by one of the participants

Main findings (continued)

Gender

- The realization of young women's imagined futures are firmly hampered by their assumed and “unpaid” roles of household managers and caretakers, and this becomes even more problematic when reaching the age society assumes them to marry and have children.
- The imagined futures of women tend to include less agricultural aspects especially because of drudgery associated with it. If drudgery is removed (mechanization) agriculture will surely become a larger part of their aspirations.



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aYJNIOwLsk&t=253s>

Validation of results with stakeholders (event)

Presentation by Osun youth from study areas after discussing the results

- Access to inherited and borrowed/rented land remain an asset to farming.
- Rural youth need training on how to access soft loans to expand their agricultural and non-agricultural livelihood.
- Infrastructural benefits not getting to us let alone benefitting from them. Instances are poor road network to receive customers and convey farm produce to targeted buyers in the cities.
- Multiple taxations levied on farm produce, which discourage transporters to assist farmers.
- Poor access to agricultural farming inputs like *quality* fertilizer to boost depleted soil nutrient and crop yield.
- Poor educational resources in the rural communities such as lack of committed and motivated teachers, depleted school building etc.
- Due to migration and search for other means of livelihood, the vocational (non-farm) activities are not thriving (seasonal) while the farming potential is limited.

Validation of results with stakeholders (event)

Presentation by Anambra youth from study areas after discussing the results

- Gender discrimination in access to resources like land or inheritance constrained by culture norms.
- Insecurity (cattle menace), vulnerability of women (risk of harassment / rape).
- High cost of education (private schools) and perception of girl child education (parents feel there might be no need to invest in girl's education who will be married off later in another family).
- Inadequacy of social amenities and infrastructure (Irrigation, roads, power, etc.).
- Need of empowerment of the non-farm sector (hand craft).

=> N.B. Many of the issues raised by both groups from both states are not youth specific and concern all people in the rural areas.

Validation of results with stakeholders (event)

Reactions of government officials (federal and state) to the presentation of the results and presentations by the youth representatives from the study areas .

- Some reactions by stakeholders assumed that youths are not trying enough to shape their livelihoods actively but have high expectations or are depending on the government. Our results however show the contrary: most youths in the study area have no experience with aids from the government and are used to coping with challenges associated with their chosen livelihoods.
- Stakeholders emphasised insufficient funding for the implementation of stated policy objectives that can cater for most of the challenges mentioned by the youths.
- Stakeholders stressed that youths' challenges are multi-facets and calls for a synergy and better collaboration and engagement with concerned parastatals (education), institutions (IITA), community-based as well as NGOs to address challenges affecting rural youth's agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods, as the rural economy happens to be the hub for the state's and nation's food security.
- Stakeholders seek for more engagement and access to validated information and evidence to assist in the proper targeting of interventions and implementation of stated policies and most importantly integrating rural youth into the available schemes.

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Government officials and youth representatives at the event in Awka, March 9, 2021

