

# Impact of Agribusiness Skill Training Programmes on Job Creation in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.62154/mw6gkv03>

## Abstract

This study focused on the impact of empowerment programmes on job creation in the Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. The research investigated three objectives, which include: finding out the programmes of the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme in empowering palm oil producers in Gokana Local Government Area; examining the contributions of the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme in empowering crop farmers in Gokana Local Government Area; and finding out the contributions of the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme in empowering fish farmers in Gokana Local Government Area. The survey design was adopted to investigate the objectives, and the simple percentage method and chi-square method were used to analyse the data. Findings showed that the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme empowers palm oil producers in Gokana Local Government Area, especially in the following ways: providing loans, training, and equipment. The research recommended that the state government supplement the efforts of HYPREP to improve the living conditions of the people by giving those grants.

**Keywords:** Hydrocarbon Remediation, Training Programme, Job Creation, Agribusiness Development, Unemployment.

## Introduction

Unemployment is one of the biggest socio-economic challenges affecting the world. The scale of this can be understood if consistent information on the number of unemployed people walking the streets of world cities can be acquired. Plecher (2020) observed from the excerpts of statistics obtained from the International Labour Organisation, an agency of the United Nations developing policies to set labour standards, that in 2019, the estimated youth unemployment rate in Nigeria was at almost 14 percent. Consequently, the increase in unemployment across different parts of Nigeria has led to massive poverty. According to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), nearly 65 percent of Nigerians live in extreme poverty. They stated that if the trend continues, the country could overtake India as the country with the greatest number of people living in severe poverty by 2030 as a result of unemployment.

It is therefore no doubt that the role of empowerment in an effort to tackle the challenges of unemployment and its importance cannot be under-estimated, the reason being that job creation, whether in the form of a paid job or starting up a small business or large-scale business, is a product of economic growth. Any country that decides to embark on massive job creation must first empower its citizens (Ekpoh and Edet, 2019). Empowerment processes are targeted towards job creation because it is considered the main hub through which development revolves as a result of the creativity and innovations that empowered citizens would gain. Anyadike, Emeh, and Ukah (2017) posit that entrepreneurial empowerment has been found to be capable of making a positive impact on the economy of a nation and the quality of life of the people involved.

One of the empowerment programmes in the area is the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme. The programme is an empowerment scheme for training women and youths in various agricultural businesses across communities in Ogoni land. The Programme which started in 2020 has since become an annual empowerment scheme for women and youths in four local government of Ogoniland (Eleme, Tai, Khana and Gokana Local Government Areas) implemented by United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in collaboration with Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), an agency established under the Federal Ministry of Environment to coordinate activities aimed at remediating impacted communities in Ogoniland and ensure livelihoods and sustainable development in the region, UNEP's suggestions in its report on the Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland, Rivers State, are an integral element of the recommendations. How these empowerment programmes have contributed to job creation in the Gokana local government area forms the gap that this research intends to fill. Therefore, this research will investigate the empowerment programme and job creation in Rivers State with specific reference to Gokana Local Government Area; the study placed" major emphasis on the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme and its contributions to job creation in the area.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Unemployment is widespread, persistent, and chronic in Rivers State, affecting a substantial proportion of the population. However, rather than addressing the issue of poverty and unemployment, which has hampered the state's development efforts, politicians and other government officials appeared to have turned leadership positions and public posts into a means of syphoning public funds. Rivers State has witnessed anti-social behaviours like armed robbery, cultism, drug trafficking, prostitution, child labour and trafficking, ritual killings, and assassination as a result of its underdevelopment and poverty (Akande, 2018). The attempt by the government, both federal, state, and local, to address the issue of job creation led to the introduction and implementation of various programmes such as the Skills Acquisition Training and Empowerment Programme, the River State Agency Scholarship Education, and N-Power, which were aimed at eradicating poverty and providing quality education among the youths in the state. These programmes have stood

the test of time but have not actually impacted positively on eradicating poverty and creating jobs. This is because the programmes over time lack the capacity to generate meaningful employment for teeming youths in the state, especially those in rural areas, as large proportions of the people in rural areas do not feel the impact or effect of the government empowerment programmes. Hence, the research examines the contributions of the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme towards job creation in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria.

### Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To find out the contributions of the Programme in empowering palm oil producers in Gokana local government area.
- To examine the contributions of the Programme in empowering crop farmers in Gokana Local Government Area.
- To find out the contributions of the Programme to empowering fish farmers in Gokana Local Government Area.

### Research Questions

The following research questions served as guides for the study:

1. What are the contributions of the Programme to empowering palm oil producers in Gokana local government area?
2. What are the contributions of the Programme to empowering crop farmers in Gokana Local Government Area?
3. What are the contributions of the Programme to empowering fish farmers in Gokana Local Government Area?

### Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were formulated to serve as guidelines for the study:

**Ho<sub>1</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between the training programme and the empowerment of palm oil producers in Gokana Local Government Area.

**Ho<sub>2</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between the training programme and the empowerment of crop farmers in Gokana Local Government Area.

**Ho<sub>3</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between the training programme and the empowerment of fish farmers in Gokana Local Government Area.

### Theoretical Framework

The basis of analysis for this study is Hirofumi Uzawa's (1965) endogenous development theory. Among the proponents are Schumpeter (1961) and Hirschman (1958). The premise of endogenous development theory is that improving the socio-economic well-being of disadvantaged places is best accomplished by recognising and activating the collective

resources of the territory itself. The theory of endogenous development was developed as an alternative to the well-known practice of central governments designing interventions that dealt with sectors of social and economic life in isolation from one another and/or that assumed that socioeconomic problems could be solved by standard measures regardless of location or culture. According to this idea, the emphasis is on what individual communities can accomplish for themselves as well as support and aid targeted at enabling local economic progress. The relevance of the theory to the study is based on the fact that empowerment deals with the sectoral development of a people's social and economic existence through empowerment activities. As a result, the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme is one of the empowerment efforts to improve people's socio-economic well-being by creating jobs.

### **Literature**

The idea of empowerment is now frequently employed in a variety of fields to characterise the states and social processes of individuals and groups. It is roughly characterised as power (control over one's own life and resources) and agency (the ability to initiate and lead activities for certain ends). According to Wikipedia, the term originated in community psychology and refers to "measures designed to increase the degree of autonomy and self-determination in people and communities in order to enable them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined manner, acting on their own authority." From this perspective, empowerment is both a collective process and an outcome. It is a group of concepts in the literature of individual psychology and human development, it is a set of characteristics that are acquired as part of the transition to adulthood (Uzomaka, Gerald, and Eze, 2018). In the management literature, empowerment is a method of influencing employee behaviour; it entails giving people with resources, information, and decision-making power in order for them to make decisions that increase business performance; in other words, a particularly successful delegation.

### **Job Creation**

Job creation can refer to a variety of interventions ranging from direct short-term or long-term attempts to create jobs by state or non-state actors to policies to promote self-employment, such as the establishment of micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises, to macro-level policy measures to stimulate employment growth ('enabling policies'), such as improving the quality of labour supply through skills development, and assisting the poor to gain access to employment. In terms of duration, wage rate, terms of employment, and scale of employment, the quality of employment provided by such initiatives differs significantly among industries. In this study, interventions were classified into three types: direct job creation, supporting macro policies, and self-employment interventions.

Job creation, according to Alemu (2018), is nothing but the increment in the number of jobs in an economy. This is outright correct since job creation is literally concerned with establishing more employment opportunities to augment the existing ones. According to

the online Linvestopedia (business encyclopedia), it is political rhetoric that indicates that jobs are created in response to some sort of event or situation. This is the notion that job creation is not only an activity but one with a purpose. It holds that job creation is the establishment of jobs as a result of certain identifiable situations in society that have a need for jobs to be established.

There is strong empirical evidence that job creation generally raises incomes and reduces poverty in low-income countries at both the micro and macro levels, and a substantial body of research decomposes the effect of various factors on poverty, highlighting the critical role of unemployment as a major determinant of poverty in both middle- and low-income countries. This literature recognises job creation as a major mechanism for the direct and indirect transmission of economic growth to poverty reduction by giving income while also driving demand at both the macro and micro levels.

### **Empowerment Programmes and Job Creation in Nigeria**

In a bid to reduce unemployment and redirect the employment destination away from the formal sector, the Nigerian government embarked on various programmes, most of which were either mainstream programmes for all youth or targeted at women empowerment. Some of these are explain briefly as follows:

#### **National Directorate of Employment (NDE)**

Established in November 1986, it was mandated to tackle unemployment in Nigeria. It had four major programmes which included rural employment promotion programmes, special public works programs, small scale enterprises programmes and vocational skill development programme. Close to 2 million people benefited from National Directorate of Employment Programme (NDE 2007).

#### **National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)**

This programme commenced in 2002 with the sole purpose of factoring mainstream youth employment creation into national policies in view of the fact that many African countries are currently preparing poverty reduction strategy papers. Although there were four major intervention schemes in Nigeria's NAPEP, one of them is targeted at youth: The Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES). The three programmes under the YES include Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP), Mandatory Attachment Programme (MAP) and Credit Delivery Programme (CDP).

#### **Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YouWin)**

YouWin was aimed at empowering youth with entrepreneurial abilities by providing grants for youths to establish small and medium size enterprises of their own and become employers of labour rather than job seekers. The scheme would provide between N2 million to N10 million in three tranches to each applicant whose business proposal was selected to be funded. The idea was that each business should employ at least 10 other people and the

rippling effects of these would have mobbed up the majority of jobless youths off the streets, thereby reducing unemployment drastically.

#### **Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme and Job Creation in Gokana Local Government Area**

The Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme is an empowerment scheme for training women and youths in various agricultural businesses across communities in Ogoni land. The Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme which started in 2020 has since become an annual empowerment scheme for women and youths in four local government of Ogoniland (Eleme, Tai, Khana and Gokana Local Government Areas) implemented by United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in collaboration with The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), an agency established under the Federal Ministry of Environment to coordinate activities aimed at remediating impacted communities in Ogoniland and ensuring livelihoods and sustainable development in the region, is an integral part of UNEP's recommendations in its report on the Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland, Rivers State (UNITAR, 2021).

The empowerment project aimed to expose women and youths from communities impacted by oil exploration and exploitation activities to technologies that would help them enhance agriculture yields and profits. The project's emphasis on women and youths is extremely justified, given the impact of the circumstances on them and the considerable contribution they make to agriculture.

#### **Challenges of Empowerment Programmes in Nigeria**

The beauty of any empowerment programme is the faithful implementation of such plan, which its success, lies with the implementers, most of the past empowerment programme failed as a result of implementation problem and lack of committed leadership. Consequently, the programmes were unable to meet the objectives for which they were established. They include Seven Point Agenda in the Yarádua's administrations, Vision 2020, the Goodluck Jonathan transformation agenda, the adoptions of the Millennium development goal, National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) Seniyi (2008).

In 2008 Seniyi noted that various empowerment programmes failed because of lack of knowledge and insufficient equipment to carryout activities that the empowerment programme demand. But more to this, was the commitment to the implementation of the programme, most of the strategies adopted had been the same, the major differences have been just the change in the name given each strategy. Some of the previous empowerment programmes failed because; there was little or no consultation of the people at the grassroot.

## Methodology

### Research Design

The researcher adopted the survey research design. The survey design is considered very suitable for this research because it will enable the researcher collect primary data with an instrument such as a questionnaire.

### Population of the Study

The population of the study is the population of Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State, and according to the National Population Commission, the population of Gokana Local Government was put at 228,828 people.

### Sample Size and Sampling Technique

A total of one hundred and fifty (150) people were collected from the whole population to form the sample size for this research. The sample was collected from five communities in Gokana Local Government Area. The five communities are: Lewe, B. Dere, Kpor, and Mogho. The purposive non-probability sampling technique was adopted to draw up the sample from the population in the ratio of Lewe-30, K. Dere-30, B. Dere-30, Kpor-30, and Mogho-30. The purposive sampling technique was adopted for this research because the researcher collected information from among community members who are beneficiaries of the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme in the study area.

### Method of Data Collection

The data for this research were obtained from two major sources: primary and secondary sources. Primary data were collected from responses given in the questionnaires and interviews conducted by the researcher. The instruments for the collection of primary data include questionnaires. Secondary data were mainly published literature on the subject matter, such as textbooks, newspapers, journals, and online materials.

### Method of Data Analysis

The data collected for this research were analysed using chi-squared statistical analysis. This formula for chi-square is given as:

$$(x^2) = \frac{(fo - fe)^2}{fe}$$

Where;

$x^2$  = chi-square

Fo = observed frequency/data

Fe = expected frequency/data

We equally applied simple percentages in analysing the responses from the field.

Percentage (%) =  $F/N \times 100/1$

Where F is the frequency of response to a particular item.

N is the number of responses to a particular item.

% = the percentage of the total response in carrying out this research; chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) was adopted to test the formulated hypothesis. The ( $\chi^2$ ) method or test is an important extension of hypothesis testing and is used when it is desired to compare an actual

### Data Presentation

**Table 1:** Awareness of Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment programme in Gokana local government area

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	100	83.33
No	20	16.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022.

Table 1 shows the awareness of the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme in Gokana Local Government Area. It was indicated that 83.33% of the respondents answered yes and 16.67% answered no, meaning that there is a high level of awareness of the training and empowerment in Gokana local government area.

**Table 2:** The Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme empowers palm oil producers in Gokana Local Government Area.

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	89	74.17
No	31	25.83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

Table 2 shows whether the Training Programme empowers palm oil producers in Gokana Local Government Area. It was indicated that 74.17% of the respondents answered yes and 25.83% answered no, meaning that the Programme empowers palm oil producers in Gokana Local Government Area.

**Table 3:** Ways by which Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment. The programme empowers palm oil producers in Gokana Local Government Area. (**Source:** Survey, 2022)

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Providing loans	18	15
Skill Training	70	58.33
Provides equipment's	26	21.67
Others	6	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>



Table 3 shows ways in which the Training Programme empowers palm oil producers in Gokana Local Government Area. It was observed that 15% of the respondents suggested providing loans, 58.33% suggested training, 21.67% suggested providing equipment, and 5% suggested other ways.

**Table 4:** Does the empowerment programme help create jobs in palm oil production in Gokana Local Government Area?

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	89	74.17
No	31	25.83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

Table 4 shows whether the empowerment programme helps create jobs in palm oil production in Gokana Local Government Area. It was indicated that 74.17% of the respondents answered yes and 25.83% answered no, meaning that the empowerment programme helps to create jobs in palm oil production in Gokana Local Government Area.

**Table 5:** Ways by which the empowerment programme helps to create jobs in palm oil production in Gokana Local Government Area

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Increase the skill of the palm oil business	46	38.33
Encourage locals to undergo palm oil business	20	16.67
Encourage other investors to invest in palm oil production.	26	21.67
Others	28	23.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

Table 5 shows the effects of palm oil training on job creation. It was observed that 38.33% of the respondents suggested increasing the school of palm oil business, 16.61% suggested encouraging locals to undergo palm oil business, and 21.67% suggested encouraging other investors to invest.

**Table 6:** The Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme Empower crop farmers in Gokana Local Government Area

Sex	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	84	70
No	36	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

Table 6 shows whether the Training Programme empowers crop farmers in Gokana Local Government Area. It was indicated that 70% of the respondents answered yes and 30% answered no, meaning that the Training Programme empowers crop farmers in Gokana Local Government Area.

**Table 7:** Ways by which the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme empowers crop farmers in Gokana Local Government Area

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Train crop farmers on different farm products.	76	63.33
Empower crops farmers with farming equipment	21	17.5
Provide seeds to farms for different crops.	20	16.67
Others	3	2.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

Table 7 shows ways in which the Training Programme empowers crop farmers in Gokana Local Government Area. It was observed that 63.33% of the respondents suggested training crop farmers on different farm produce, and 17.5% suggested empowering crop farmers with farming equipment. 16.67% suggested providing seed to farms for different crops, and 2.5% suggested other ways by which the training programme empowers crop farmers in Gokana Local Government Area.

**Table 8:** Empowerment helps create jobs for crop farmers in Gokana Local Government Area

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	89	74.17
No	31	25.83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

Table 8 shows whether empowerment helps create jobs for crop farmers in Gokana Local Government Area. It was indicated that 66.6% of the respondents answered yes and 33.33% answered no, meaning that the empowerment helps to create jobs for crop farmers in Gokana Local Government.

**Table 9:** Ways by which empowerment creates jobs among crop farmers in Gokana Local Government Area

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Encourage people to farm different farm products.	20	16.67
Increasing farming produce for commercial purposes	46	38.33
Crop farming orientation among women and youths	26	21.67
Others	28	23.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Survey, 2022

Table 9 shows ways in which empowerment helps create jobs among crop farmers in Gokana Local Government. It was observed that 16.67% of the respondents suggested encouraging people to farm different farm produce, 38.33% suggested increasing farming produce for commercial purposes, 21.67% suggested crop farming orientation among women and youths, and 23.33% suggested other ways by which empowerment helps to create jobs among crop farmers in Gokana Local Government.

**Table 10:** The Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme empowers fish farmers in Gokana Local Government Area.

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	89	74.17
No	31	25.83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

Table 10 shows whether the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme empowers fish farmers in Gokana Local Government Area. It was indicated that 74.17% of the respondents answered yes and 25.83% answered no, meaning that the Training Programme empowers fish farmers in Gokana Local Government Area.

**Table 11:** Ways by which Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment. The programme empowers fish farmers in Gokana Local Government Area.

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Train fish farmers on different ways of fish farming.	18	15
empower fish farmers with farming equipment	70	58.33
provide incentives for fish farms and different crops	26	21.67
Others	6	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

Table 11 shows ways in which the Training Programme empowers fish farmers in Gokana Local Government Area. It was observed that 15% of the respondents suggested training fish farmers on different ways of fish farming, 58.33% suggested empowering fish farmers with farming equipment, 21.67% suggested providing incentives for fish farms to grow different crops, and 5% suggested other ways.

**Table 12:** Does the empowerment programme help create jobs for fish farming in Gokana Local Government Area?

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	89	74.17
No	31	25.83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

Table 12 shows whether the empowerment programme helps create jobs for fish farming in Gokana Local Government Area. It was indicated that 74.17% of the respondents answered yes and 25.83% answered no, meaning that the empowerment programme helps to create jobs for fish farming in Gokana Local Government Area.

**Table 13:** Ways by which the empowerment programme creates jobs for fish farming in Gokana Local Government Area

Options	Frequency	Percentage %
Training fish farmers on different ways of fishing	46	38.33
Empower fish farmers with equipment.	20	16.67
To provide incentives to fish farmers	26	21.67
Others	28	23.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

Table 13 shows ways in which the empowerment programme helps create jobs for fish farming in Gokana Local Government Area. It was observed that 38.33% of the respondents suggested training fish farmers in different methods. 16.6% suggested encouraging locals to empower fish farmers with equipment. 21.67% suggested providing incentives to fish farming investors. 23.33% suggested other ways.

## Research Hypothesis

### Test of Hypotheses One

**H01:** There is no significant relationship between training programme and the empowerment of palm oil in Gokana Local Government Area

Options	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agreed	76	63.33%
Agreed	21	17.5%
Disagreed	20	16.6%
Strongly Disagreed	3	2.5%
Total	120	100

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

The formula for the chi-square is as follows:

$$X^2 = \frac{\sum(O_f - E_f)^2}{E_f}$$

Where;

$X^2$  = Chi-Squared

$\Sigma$  = Sigma (meaning summation)

$O_f$  = Observed Frequency

$E_f$  = Expected Frequency

Note: A four-point Likert scale was used. Therefore, the number of variables (N) is 4.

$E_f = \frac{\text{total responses}}{\text{Number of Variables}}$

$$E_f = \frac{120}{4} = 30$$

**Determination of Chi-Square Computed or Calculated**

O <sub>f</sub>	E <sub>f</sub>	O <sub>f</sub> - E <sub>f</sub>	(O <sub>f</sub> - E <sub>f</sub> ) <sup>2</sup>	$\frac{(O_f - E_f)^2}{E_f}$
76	30	46	2116	70.53
21	30	-9	81	2.7
20	30	-10	100	3.33
3	30	-27	729	24.3
				100.86

Therefore, the chi-square computed or calculated is 100.86 chi-square tabulated ( $X^2$ ) at:

Degree of freedom =  $N - I = 4 - 1 = 3$  Level of Significance = 5% = 0.05

Therefore,  $X^2$  tabulated = 7.82.

**Decision Rule:** The general acceptable decision rule for the application of the chi square test states: accept the null hypothesis if the calculated value is less than the table value, and reject the null hypothesis if the calculated value is greater than the table value.

**Conclusion:** Since the calculated value of 100.86 is greater than the table value of 7.82, we reject the null hypothesis that states there is no significant relationship between the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme and the empowerment of palm oil producers in Gokana local government area and conclude by accepting the alternate hypothesis that states there is a significant relationship between the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme and the empowerment of palm oil producers in Gokana local government area.

**Test of Hypotheses Two**

**H<sub>02</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between training programme and the empowerment of Crop Farmers in Gokana Local Government Area

Options	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agreed	56	46.67%
Agreed	23	19.17%
Disagreed	27	22.5%
Strongly Disagreed	14	11.675
Total	120	100

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

The formula for the chi-square is as follows:

$$X^2 = \frac{(O_f - E_f)^2}{E_f}$$

Where;

$X^2$  = Chi-Squared

= Sigma (meaning summation)

$O_f$  = Observed Frequency

$E_f$  = Expected Frequency

Note: A four-point Likert scale was used. Therefore, the number of variables (N) is 4.

$E_f = \frac{\text{total responses}}{\text{Number of Variables}}$

$E_f = \frac{120}{4} = 30$

### Determination of Chi-Square Computed or Calculated

$O_f$	$E_f$	$O_f - E_f$	$(O_f - E_f)^2$	$\frac{(O_f - E_f)^2}{E_f}$
56	30	25	625	20.83
23	30	-7	49	1.63
27	30	-3	9	0.3
14	30	-16	256	8.53
				31.29

Therefore, the chi-square computed or calculated is 31.29 chi-square tabulated ( $X^2$ ) at:

Degree of freedom =  $N - 1 = 4 - 1 = 3$  Level of Significance = 5% = 0.05

Therefore,  $X^2$  tabulated = 7.82.

**Decision Rule:** The general acceptable decision rule for the application of the chi square test states: accept the null hypothesis if the calculated value is less than the table value, and reject the null hypothesis if the calculated value is greater than the table value.

**Conclusion:** Since the calculated value of 31.29 is greater than the table value of 7.82, we reject the null hypothesis that states that there is no significant relationship between the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme and the empowerment of crop farmers in Gokana Local Government Area and conclude by accepting the alternate hypothesis that states there is significant relationship between the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme and the empowerment of crop farmers in Gokana Local Government Area.

### Test of Hypotheses Three

**H<sub>03</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between the Training Programme and the empowerment of fish farmers in Gokana Local Government Area.

Options	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agreed	52	43.33%
Agreed	50	41.67%
Disagreed	10	8.33%
Strongly Disagreed	8	6.67%
Total	120	100

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

The formula for the chi-square is as follows:

$$X^2 = \frac{(O_f - E_f)^2}{E_f}$$

Where;

$X^2$  = Chi-Squared

= Sigma (meaning summation)

$O_f$  = Observed Frequency

$E_f$  = Expected Frequency

Note: A four-point Likert scale was used. Therefore, the number of variables (N) is 4.

$E_f = \frac{\text{total responses}}{\text{Number of Variables}}$

$$E_f = \frac{120}{4} = 30$$

#### Determination of Chi-Square Computed or Calculated

$O_f$	$E_f$	$O_f - E_f$	$(O_f - E_f)^2$	$\frac{(O_f - E_f)^2}{E_f}$
52	30	22	484	16.13
50	30	20	400	13.33
10	30	-20	400	13.33
8	30	-22	484	16.13
				58.92

Therefore, the chi-square computed or calculated is 58.92 chi-square tabulated ( $X^2$ ) at:

Degree of freedom =  $N - 1 = 4 - 1 = 3$  Level of Significance = 5% = 0.05

Therefore,  $X^2$  tabulated = 7.82.

**Decision Rule:** The general acceptable decision rule for the application of the chi square test states: accept the null hypothesis if the calculated value is less than the table value and reject the null hypothesis if the calculated value is greater than the table value.



**Conclusion:** Since the calculated value of 58.92 is greater than the table value of 7.82, we reject the null hypothesis that states that there is no significant relationship between the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme and the empowerment of fish farmers in Gokana Local Government Area and conclude by accepting the alternate hypothesis that there is a significant relationship between the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme and the empowerment of fish farmers in Gokana Local Government Area.

### **Discussion of Findings**

The research focused on the empowerment programme and job creation in Rivers State with specific reference to Gokana Local Government Area; the study placed major emphasis on the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme and its contributions to job creation in the area. Findings showed that the Agribusiness Skill Training and Empowerment Programme empowers palm oil producers in Gokana Local Government Area, especially in the following ways: providing loans, training, and providing equipment. It was further shown that empowerment helps to create jobs in the following ways: increasing the skill level in palm oil business; encouraging locals to undertake palm oil business; and encouraging other investors to invest in palm oil production.

Again, findings showed that the Agribusiness Skill Training Programme empowers crop farmers in Gokana Local Government Area, especially in the following ways: train crop farmers on different farm produce; empower crop farmers with farming equipment; provide seeds to farms for different crops; etc. It was further shown that empowerment helps to create jobs among crop farmers in Gokana Local Government, especially as it has to do with encouraging people to farm different farm produce, increasing farming. Produce for commercial purposes, enhancing crop farming orientation among women and youths. Finally, findings showed that the Agribusiness Skill Training Programme empowers fish farmers in Gokana Local Government Area, especially in the following ways: train fish farmers on different ways of fish farming; empower fish farmers with farming equipment; and provide incentives for fish farms to grow different crops. Furthermore, UNITAR, in collaboration with the Project Coordination Office, designed the training architecture based on the feedback gathered at the town hall meeting. The 400 participants who benefitted from the programme were the first set of beneficiaries in a training initiative that has been targeted to produce a total of 1200 beneficiaries annually. The job creation potential of the programme includes skill choices such as poultry production and crop production. This was followed by hands-on training at the various training units. The HYPREP effort at remediation of the effects of oil pollution in Ogoni and Gokana in particular has yielded many results in terms of developing agribusiness skills and empowering the people of the Ogoni ethnic group in Nigeria.

## Conclusion

The research concludes that empowerment is directed at improving the living conditions of rural communities. The HYPREP programme has had a significant impact on the rural people of Gokana Local Government. Skills for socio-economic development have been enhanced. Starter kits and equipment have also been provided to enable beneficiaries to practise their new trades. All these are aimed at boosting the socio-economic wellbeing of the people of Gokana.

## Recommendations

1. The state government should supplement the efforts of HYPREP in improving the living conditions of rural people.
2. Rural farmers should be supported by grants.

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