

Entrepreneurial Features of Soybean a Gateway to Self Employment Opportunity and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria

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Abstract: This article explores the fundamental and unique features of the various uses of soybeans (*Glycine Max L.*) generally in the world and particularly in the Nigerian context. Subsequently the multiple health benefits and harmful effects associated with the consumption of the product. This paper is an attempt to identify and articulate the various used of Soybeans and the associated entrepreneurial businesses that can be engaged by able entrepreneurs. The article further relates the potential for employment opportunity inherent in the production and consumption of the product.

Keyword: Soybeans, Entrepreneurial Process, Poverty, Employment.

I. Introduction

It is a fact that world leaders are concern about unemployment, and are making effort to curb this problem. The Nigeria government has respondent with a broad spectrum of programmes aimed at curbing unemployment Green Revolution DFFRI, Peoples Bank, Community Bank, Structural Adjustment Programme, Better Life Programme and Family Support Programme, Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure, (DFRRI), Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP), National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). The present Nigerian government has come up with another programme N Power which is also aimed at addressing young unemployment.

The concatenation of various programmes by different governments of the Federal Republic of Nigeria underscores the concern to reduce the problem of unemployment and reduce the menace of unemployment. Despite all these past governmental efforts the position of most Nigerian masses has not changed. This cannot be unrelated to lack of sustainable business idea. Soybeans can be grown and processed in Nigeria without incurring additional cost of importation and the associated Dollar exchange rate. In addition soybean can be used to produce a large array of other products with each line of product providing a means of employment and reduce the problem of poverty associated with lack of job.

According to Dugje, Omoigui, Ekeleme, and Bandyopadhyay (2009) Soybean can be grown in many states in Nigeria. They further state that the rapid growth in poultry farming has increased the demand for soybean meal that soybean production will increase as awareness of the crop's potential not only for cash and food but for soil fertility improvement and *striga* control (*Striga hermonthica*, a parasitic weed that attacks maize, by causing suicidal germination of *Striga*).

In sum, the contribution of the current paper consists of identifying the numerous uses of soybean and suggestion is offered that a fundamental focus is made towards the production and processing of soybean product. The link between the production of soybean and employment generation is also discussed - from farming during the raining season, processing after harvest and selling after production is completed, this is possible considering the numerous uses the product is put to. A detail enumeration of the types of product made with soybean is beyond the bounds of this article. However for detail uses of soybean products see (Enwere, 1998; Okoruwa, 2002; Osho & Dashiell, 1998). The link between entrepreneurial studies and soybean has largely been absent in previous entrepreneurship research. The current paper provides us with new insight into possible avenues for lowering unemployment by relating entrepreneurship with the versatility nature of soybean. Additionally, suggestions to the government are also offered.

This paper proceed as follows: in the first section the theory and literature relating to the significance of entrepreneurship to the growth and development of the economy is briefly reviewed. Then the origin of soybeans and its versatility for both industrial and domestic use are discussed, followed by its medicinal properties and sides effects associated with consumption of soybean are provided. Thereafter, definition of

poverty and its diverse conceptualization is discussed and self employments are discussed. Finally conclusion and recommendations are provided.

II. Entrepreneurship

A consensus believe in the field of entrepreneurship is that entrepreneurial activities promote economic growth and development (Minniti, 2008). This study argues that without entrepreneurial activities growth, development and poverty reduction will not be possible. Entrepreneurship plays a significant role in development of and dissemination of innovation Schumpeter 1934 cited in (Minniti, 2008). Information dissemination is crucial to growth and survival of entrepreneurship in this instance there is the need for more awareness about the production and processing of soybean. According to Hayek (1945), harnessing dispersed information of particular time and place is a key to economic development of societies; however, this dispersed information is the underestimated element in entrepreneurship endeavours. Evidences are abounding that document the increasing contribution of entrepreneurial sector to employment and GDP (Audretsch & Thurik, 2001). "New firm creation is a critical driving force of economic growth, creating hundreds of thousands new jobs" (Low & MacMillan, 1988, p. 139). This implies that societies must encourage the activities of entrepreneurs in order to provide employment opportunities. There is a significant amount of work which testifies that entrepreneurial activity has important social implications (Chell, 2007). These social implications include peaceful coexistence, security of the society and general social wellbeing. In Nigeria, we need these conditions now. Entrepreneurial activities are a function of opportunity, without which there will be little or no entrepreneurship. Without entrepreneur the growth in the Nigerian economy will be (too) slowly. Farming and processing of soybean, offers numerous entrepreneurial opportunity within the Nigerian context. Soybean can be grown in many states of Nigeria (Dugje et al., 2009). Entrepreneurship becomes the 'nexus of opportunity and enterprising individuals' (Shane & Venkataraman, 2000). 'The belief that such processes have profound effects on employment and economic growth on the societal level (Baumol, 1993; Birch, 1979; McGrath, 1999) is one of the major reasons for the increased interest in entrepreneurship' (Davidsson, Per and Wiklund, 2001p.2). A common theme has emerged around the concept of opportunity as a central element in the process of entrepreneurship (Chandra, Styles, & Wilkinson, 2009). Lately, scholars have recognised the significance of identifying and recognizing entrepreneurial opportunity (Ardichvili, Cardozo, & Ray, 2003, Shane & Venkataraman, 2000, Gaglio & Katz, 2001). Identifying entrepreneurial opportunities for new business is one of the most significant abilities of successful entrepreneurs (Ardichvili et al., 2003). This suggest that Nigerian entrepreneurs should identify opportunities for new business one area to explore is the farming and processing of soybeans products.

III. Soybean

Soybean (*Glycine max* L.) is a species of legume native to East Asia, widely grown for its edible bean which has several uses. According to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Soybeans produces significantly more protein per acre than most plants. Since the early twentieth century, soybeans have been called the "golden bean" or "miracle bean". The term was derived from the Japanese word Shoyu, name given to soy source, adopted from the German word Soja. The production of Soybean has gained prominent among farmers around the globe, this is not unrelated to the fact that it is among major industrial crops. The market for soybean is growing fast; this represents an opportunity for farmers and unemployed youths. In the Nigerian context Soybean serves is an industrial and domestic raw material. Large consumption of the product by manufactures (SALMA Oil Mills in Kano, Grand Cereals in Jos, ECWA Feeds in Jos, AFCOT Oil Seed Processors, Ngurore, Adamawa State, and PS Mandrides in Kano) is a testimony to the industrial consumption of soybean. It is also used in the production of paint, inks, candle and soap. Domestic consumptions in the form of soup thickening agent, "Dadawa" local food seasoning, "Tom brown" baby's food, soy cheese etc are evidences of domestic consumption of soybean.

In addition to its high protein content, soybean has a wealth of other nutrient such as dietary fibre, a host of vitamins, vitamin c and k, riboflamin, folate, thiamine. Mineral elements abundant in soybeans include iron, magnesium, zinc, selerium and calcium and antioxidants. Table one below shows nutritional value of soybean per 100g.

water	8.5g
Energy	416 keal
Protein	36.5g
Fat	19.9g
Carbohydrates	3 or 2 g
Fibre	4.3g
Ash	4.9g
Isoflavories	200g
Calcium	277mg

Iron	15.7mg
Magnesium	280mg
Phosphorus	704mg
Potassium	1797mg
Sodium	2.0mg
zinc	4.9mg
Copper,cu	1.7mg
Manganese,mn	2.52mg
Selenium, se	17.8mg
Vatimin c (ascorbic acid)	6.0mg
Riboflavin (vitamin B2)	0.874mg
Thiamine (vitamin B1)	0.874mg
Niacin (vitamin B3)	1.62mg
Panthotenic acid (vit B 5)	0.79mg
Vitamin B6	0.38mg
Folic acid	375µg
Vitamin B12	0.0 µg
Vitamin A	2.0 µg
Vitamin E	1.95mg

Adopted from USDA Nutrient Data base for Standard Reference Release 28 (2015)

Numerous studies have associated lower risk of cancer with consumption of soybeans milk: breast cancer (Messina, Mccaskill-stevens, & Lampe, 2006), bladder (Sun, Yuan, & Arakawa, 2002) and lung cancer (Swanson et al., 1992). However, some study report the harmful effect of soybean on human and animal: Hogervorst, Sadjimim, Tesufu, Kreager, & Rahardjo (2008) found Tofu intake is associated with worse memory. Increase the risk of breast cancer in women (Messina & Loprinzi, 2001).

IV. Poverty and Self Employment

The term poverty has no universally accepted definition. Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. According to Townsend (2006), since 1880 three alternative concepts of the word poverty has emerged. These concepts are: subsistence, basic needs and relative deprivation. In another development Chambers (2002) argue that the meaning attached to poverty depend on “who asks the question, how it is understood, and who responds” he further suggests that from this view at least five clusters of meaning can emerge (income – poverty, material lack or want, capability deprivation, and a more broadly multidimensional view of deprivation). These clusters of meaning of poverty have been constructed by professionals which are an expression of their education, training, mind set, experience and reflections (Chambers:, 2002). The fifth cluster of meaning of poverty is what Chambers (2002) sees as shifting from ill-being to wellbeing, for detail explanation see (Chambers, 2002; Townsend, 2006).

According to Arogundade, Adebisi, and Ogunro (2011), the causes of poverty inter alia include: corruption, bad government, debt owing, unemployment, low productivity, burgeoning population growth, globalisation, unfocused government policies, lack of effective skill training. While it would be valuable to consider remedies for all the causes of poverty mentioned above, in the interest of parsimony, the focus of this article is on poverty caused by unemployment. This subsequently narrowed our definition of poverty to the economic deprivation which includes lack of access to property, income, assets, factors of production and finance. For the purpose of this paper we define poverty as a lack of financial income.

The concept of Self-employment has been described by many scholars (Verheul, Thurik, Grilo, & van der Zwan, 2012) is the “willingness to engage in self-employment”(p.327), (Robinson & Sexton, 1994) averred that a self-employ person is “one whose primary job was in the self-employment sector” (p. 145). Although many other definitions of self-employment do exist another definition may not lead to significantly different meaning of this construct (Robinson & Sexton, 1994), in this paper we define self-employed individual as a person who do not work for salary or wages for owners of businesses.

V. Discussion

According to UN 1998 “Fundamentally, poverty is a denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed and cloth[e] a family, not having a school or clinic to go to, not having the land on which to grow one’s food or a job to earn one’s living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities. It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living on marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation.” Looking at the definition above it can be concluded that poverty eradication is the linchpin that necessitates the presence of government and what can be termed good or bad governance can also be traced to how well or ill a government has address poverty. Extant literature has suggested that various Nigerian governments had made concerted effort to address

poverty; ranges of programmes are a testimony to this endeavour. The present government can harness the unique features of each of the past programmes and channelled efforts towards assisting farmers to grow soybeans.

Why is the production and processing of soybeans important? “An interesting question in entrepreneurship literature on opportunity recognition skill is whether the skill can be taught” (Sambasivan, Abdul, & Yusop, 2009. p.803). Skills for the production of various soybeans products can be taught to prospective jobless sector of the economy. Soybeans being “a miracle bean” or “golden bean” have the potential to be a major source for employment generation. Through appropriate training entrepreneurs can adept recognising opportunities (Baron, 2007). Through additional research the possibility of many more products that can be produced cannot be ruled out. Growing soybeans provides not only revenue to the farmers but also soil fertility and *Striga* control (Dugje et al., 2009). Furthermore, soybean is a democratic product which can be grown in many parts of Nigeria unlike others which are influenced by unique geographical elements.

VI. Conclusion

In this paper we discussed the role of entrepreneurial activities and how they have positive impact on employment generation, with particular focus on the farming and processing of soybean products. Various government programmes aimed at good governance had demonstrated concern to reduce various causes of poverty. Some had recorded meaningful success others had not. With the present government that is stressing food security and reduction in unemployment soybean farming and processing will provide numerous employment opportunities considering its versatility. Growing and processing soybean will be a welcome idea to focus on. Soybean has the potential to provide employment all year round: farming during the raining season and processing throughout the year.

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