WWW.IJRPR.COM

International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Journal homepage: www.ijrpr.com ISSN 2582-7421

Entrepreneurship and Access to Food in South-South Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria

Ijedinma Omar Ndidi[1], Jike V. T. (PhD)[2], Akpotor J. (PhD)[3]

[1]Department of Sociology, Faculty of the Social Sciences, Delta State University, Abraka
[2]Professor of Development and Industrial Sociology, Department of Sociology, Faculty of the Social Sciences, Delta State University, Abraka
[3]Professor of Gender Studies, Department of Sociology, Faculty of the Social Sciences, Delta State University, Abraka

ABSTRACT

This study explores the relationship between entrepreneurship and access to food in the South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria, employing the Resource-Based View (RBV) theory as its theoretical framework. The RBV emphasizes the importance of leveraging valuable, rare, inimitable, and non-substitutable resources to create sustainable solutions, particularly in resource-constrained environments. The population of the study is 4,342,706. A sample size of 400 respondents was selected using Taro Yamane formula. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire and descriptive and inferential statistical methods, including regression analysis, were employed for data analysis. Findings indicate that entrepreneurial activities, particularly in agriculture and food processing, significantly enhance food accessibility by increasing production, reducing post-harvest losses, and lowering food prices. However, challenges such as limited access to credit, inadequate infrastructure, and environmental constraints hinder optimal entrepreneurial impact. It recommended targeted interventions, including improved access to finance, training programs on innovative farming techniques, and investments in digital infrastructure to support entrepreneurial ventures. Policymakers are urged to enhance the implementation of existing programs like the Anchor Borrowers' Programme to maximize their effectiveness in promoting food security. These findings provide valuable insights for researchers, policymakers, and development practitioners seeking to enhance food access through entrepreneurship.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Access to Food, South-South Nigeria, Food Production and Poverty Reduction

Introduction

Entrepreneurship plays a pivotal role in ensuring food security, particularly in regions like the South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria, which is endowed with natural resources but faces challenges such as high poverty levels and food insecurity. The entrepreneurial sector, especially in agriculture and food production, has the potential to mitigate food insecurity by fostering innovation, improving access to markets, and creating employment opportunities. However, the region's dependence on oil revenue, environmental degradation from oil exploration, and inadequate infrastructure have hindered the growth of entrepreneurial activities in the agricultural sector (Iruonagbe et al., 2021; Adetunji & Ogunlowo, 2022).

The interplay between entrepreneurship and access to food is influenced by socio-economic factors, including income levels, education, and access to credit facilities. Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in food production and distribution face significant challenges in accessing capital, technology, and modern agricultural inputs. Consequently, this affects the affordability and availability of food in the region. Studies have shown that a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem can help bridge the gap in food availability by empowering local farmers and food producers, thus enhancing food security (Akpan et al., 2023; Ede & Chukwuma, 2024).

In addition to economic factors, the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on food production cannot be overstated. The South-South zone, which includes coastal states such as Bayelsa, Delta, and Rivers, experiences flooding, coastal erosion, and salinization of farmlands. These environmental challenges exacerbate food insecurity and limit entrepreneurial ventures in agriculture. Entrepreneurs in the region must adopt climate-smart agricultural practices and innovative technologies to enhance food production despite these challenges (Ologun & Ibe, 2023; Nwafor et al., 2024).

To address food security issues, government policies and interventions have increasingly emphasized the need to support entrepreneurship. Programs such as the Anchor Borrowers' Programme and the establishment of agro-processing zones have aimed to empower entrepreneurs and enhance food value chains. However, the implementation of these policies often faces bottlenecks due to corruption, inadequate funding, and poor policy coordination. Strengthening policy frameworks and fostering public-private partnerships are essential for ensuring that entrepreneurship can effectively improve access to food in the South-South geopolitical zone (Adebayo et al., 2022; Umoh & Ekanem, 2024).

Objective of the Study

The general objective of the study is to examine the nexus between entrepreneurship and access t food in South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The specific objective therefore is to:

i. Assess the relationship between entrepreneurship and access to food in South-South

Research Question

i. Is there a relationship between entrepreneurship and access to food in South-South geopolitical zone in Nigeria?

Hypothesis

$H0_1$ There is no significant relationship between entrepreneurship and access to food in South-South geopolitical zone in Nigeria;

2. Review of Related Literature

Conceptual review: Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is a multidimensional concept that has been defined in various ways by scholars, reflecting its diverse applications and interpretations across disciplines. According to Drucker (1985), entrepreneurship is the process of identifying opportunities and creating value through innovation, resource mobilization, and risk-taking. This definition highlights the central role of innovation and opportunity recognition in entrepreneurial activities. More recent interpretations, such as those by Ede and Chukwuma (2024), emphasize the contribution of entrepreneurship to addressing societal challenges, including food security and poverty alleviation, particularly in resource-constrained environments.

Schumpeter (1934) viewed entrepreneurship as the act of creative destruction, where entrepreneurs disrupt existing market structures by introducing new products, processes, or business models. This perspective underscores the transformative potential of entrepreneurship in driving economic growth and innovation. Akpan et al. (2023) expand on Schumpeter's notion, arguing that in the context of developing economies like Nigeria, entrepreneurship also involves leveraging limited resources to create solutions that address local needs, such as improving access to food and basic services.

A sociological perspective on entrepreneurship focuses on its role in fostering social and economic development. According to Adebayo and Johnson (2022), entrepreneurship is not just about profit-making but also about creating social value by addressing unmet societal needs. This view aligns with the concept of social entrepreneurship, where individuals or organizations prioritize social impact alongside financial sustainability. In the South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria, for instance, entrepreneurship in agriculture and food systems often seeks to enhance community resilience and reduce food insecurity (Ologun & Ibe, 2023).

Furthermore, scholars emphasize the role of entrepreneurial ecosystems in shaping the success of entrepreneurial ventures. According to Isenberg (2010), entrepreneurship thrives in environments where supportive institutions, policies, and cultural attitudes converge to enable innovation and growth. Nwafor et al. (2024) build on this framework, highlighting the importance of government support, access to finance, and infrastructure development in fostering entrepreneurship in food systems. These definitions collectively reflect the dynamic and context-dependent nature of entrepreneurship, illustrating its potential to address both economic and social challenges.

Entrepreneurship and Access to Food

For a very long time, revenues accrued from oil and gas resources have contributed to the retardation of agricultural development in Nigeria. However, with the current fall in the price of crude oil in the international markets, a Nigerian economy underpinned by oil and gas resources is no longer desirable. The consequences of falling oil prices in the international market is devastating; companies are downsizing and cutting salaries, people are losing their jobs, businesses are failing, employment opportunities are drying up, young people have difficulties finding paid employment/jobs. As a consequence of these developments, the country is moving towards other revenue streams of which agriculture (and the food sector in particular) is uniquely positioned to provide new revenue streams to Nigerians. Agriculture is uniquely positioned in the Nigerian economy. Agriculture provides food and nutrition to a population estimated at 200 - 220 million and creates employment opportunities through forward and backward linkages to support 70% -75% of the Nigerian working population. This implies that agriculture and the economy are synonymous; one cannot modernise the economy without starting with agriculture (Juma, 2011). That is not all; about 20.9% of Nigeria's total GDP was contributed by agriculture in the first quarter.(National Bureau of Statistics, 2016).

Furthermore, Nigeria is endowed with factors that support agricultural development; these agricultural development drivers include a large population (190 – 200 million) and an increasing urbanized middle class with "good" disposable income, among others. These economic fundamentals are strong, as the level of political support for food security is high. The macro-economic policy of the Federal Government of Nigeria is hinged on agriculture being the pillar of the policy framework and drive for diversification from oil and gas. These facilitative factors provide opportunities to Nigerians in agriculture. That is not all. Nigeria is endowed with over 82 million square kilometres of lands which are cultivatable, of these, less than 10% is under permanent cultivation (NBS, 2015). Yet, food in large quantities is imported into Nigeria; this apparent illogical behaviour is heightened when it is obvious that

large plots of fertile land are lying fallow and uncultivated. This situation presents a paradox which can be explained by the fact that young people do not show much interest in farming.

For now, in Nigeria, agricultural activities are often done by the elderly (50+) with limited formal education. Not only are these old farmers unlikely to generate adequate productivity to afford a modern lifestyle, the youth belief that a career in agriculture would similarly "condemn" them to a life that can be characterised as "backwards" and "dirty"; a lifestyle associated with the "uneducated" elderly farmers currently performing physical arduous backbreaking farm work . Meanwhile, these educated and ambitious youth struggle almost hopelessly to find employment in the few highly esteemed sectors, such as the civil service, banking, engineering, medicine and law. In the absence of educated entrepreneurs in agriculture, who would act as "role models", young people wishing to take a career in agriculture are confronted by challenges regarding how to enter the field or access the resources to make them successful. Messages from the government, agricultural colleges, and agricultural departments in the universities suggest that agriculture is a technical vocation, rather than an entrepreneurial pursuit imbued with creativity, innovation, profitability and many other positive manifestations that would stimulate educated and ambitious youth of the 21st century.

Empirical Studies

Empirical studies investigating the relationship between entrepreneurship and access to food provide valuable insights into how entrepreneurial activities influence food security. Akpan et al. (2023) conducted a descriptive survey to examine the role of small-scale agricultural entrepreneurs in enhancing food security in South-South Nigeria. The study population comprised agricultural entrepreneurs across five states in the region, with a sample size of 250 participants selected using stratified random sampling. The research utilized structured questionnaires to collect data, which were analyzed using descriptive statistics and regression analysis. The findings revealed that entrepreneurs significantly improved local food availability through innovative farming practices and direct-to-market supply chains. The study recommended targeted government support, such as access to subsidized inputs and training programs, to sustain these entrepreneurial efforts.

Adebayo and Johnson (2022) employed a mixed-methods approach to explore the impact of microfinance on agricultural entrepreneurship and food access in rural Nigeria. The population included microfinance beneficiaries, and a sample size of 150 respondents was drawn using purposive sampling. Data were collected through interviews and surveys, and the analysis involved thematic content analysis and inferential statistics. The findings indicated that access to microfinance enabled entrepreneurs to increase production and expand their market reach, thereby improving food accessibility for low-income households. However, the study highlighted barriers such as high-interest rates and limited loan availability, recommending policy reforms to enhance financial inclusion.

Ede and Chukwuma (2024) conducted a case study to investigate the impact of digital innovations on entrepreneurial contributions to food accessibility in the Niger Delta. The study focused on agricultural entrepreneurs using digital platforms for marketing and logistics. The population included platform users, with a sample size of 120 participants selected through snowball sampling. Data were collected via semi-structured interviews and analyzed using qualitative content analysis. The findings showed that digital platforms reduced food prices by eliminating intermediaries and improved market access for entrepreneurs. The authors recommended investments in digital infrastructure and training programs to enhance the adoption of such technologies.

Nwafor et al. (2024) used a cross-sectional survey design to evaluate the effectiveness of government entrepreneurial programs, such as the Anchor Borrowers' Programme, in improving food security in the Niger Delta. The population included beneficiaries of these programs, and a sample size of 300 respondents was selected using multi-stage sampling. Data were collected through structured questionnaires and analyzed using multivariate analysis techniques. The study found that participants experienced a 25% increase in food production due to access to credit and inputs provided by the program. However, challenges such as delays in fund disbursement were noted, and the authors recommended enhanced program implementation and monitoring mechanisms to maximize impact

Theoretical Framework

The Resource-Based View (RBV) is one of the most appropriate theories to explain the relationship between entrepreneurship and access to food. RBV posits that the ability of an organization or individual to gain a competitive advantage is determined by access to and utilization of valuable, rare, inimitable, and non-substitutable (VRIN) resources (Barney, 1991; Wernerfelt, 1984). In the context of food security, entrepreneurial ventures utilize resources such as land, labor, capital, and technology to enhance food production, distribution, and affordability. Recent studies, such as those by Ede and Chukwuma (2024), affirm that entrepreneurs with better access to resources are more likely to improve food availability and reduce food insecurity in their communities.

Entrepreneurs in the agricultural and food sectors can leverage VRIN resources to overcome environmental and economic challenges, thereby improving access to food. For instance, a study by Akpan et al. (2023) highlighted that entrepreneurs who adopted resource-efficient farming techniques and innovative food processing technologies achieved higher productivity and reduced food wastage. This aligns with RBV's emphasis on resource optimization as a means of creating sustainable competitive advantages. Entrepreneurs who can effectively deploy such resources can better respond to food security challenges, particularly in resource-constrained environments like the South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria.

The application of RBV also underscores the role of human capital as a critical resource for entrepreneurship in the food sector. Adebayo and Johnson (2022) identified that entrepreneurs with higher levels of education and technical skills were better equipped to implement innovative practices, such as precision farming and digital marketing, which improved food accessibility. Furthermore, RBV explains why some entrepreneurial ventures succeed in

enhancing food access while others struggle: those with access to specialized knowledge, networks, and market opportunities are more likely to create impactful solutions to food security issues.

Applying RBV to this study helps to explore how entrepreneurs in the South-South geopolitical zone can utilize their resources to address food insecurity. For example, government and private sector initiatives that enhance access to critical resources—such as providing grants, training programs, or access to technology—can empower entrepreneurs to optimize their resource base and expand food availability. Moreover, understanding the disparities in resource access among entrepreneurs offers insights into policy interventions that can level the playing field and foster equitable food security outcomes (Nwafor et al., 2024). By emphasizing the importance of resources, RBV provides a robust framework for analyzing the dynamics of entrepreneurship and food security.

3. Research Methods

The cross sectional research design was employed for this study. The population of study consisted of the states in the South-South; all the small and medium scale enterprises in the South-South Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria. The target population of the study is 4,342,706. The sample size of the study is 400 and this was obtained using Yamane (2012) sample size determination formula. The simple random and convenient sampling methods were used to select the sampled respondents. The structured questionnaire in the closed ended form was used to collect data from the respondents. The face and content validity measure were used to determine the vakidity of the instrument. Cronbach alpha test can be used to ascertain measure reliability of the research instrument, The study used both descriptive and inferential statistics to provide answer to the research questions and hypotheses derived from the statement of the problem. Mean was used to analyse the descriptive data. The criterion mean score of 2.50 was considered appropriate for the study to determine the respondents opinion based on their level of agreement to the items on the scale provided to measure respondents responses. Simple linear regression was used to test the hypotheses formulated to determine the linear relationship between the independent and dependent variables. This was done using the level of significant of 0.05. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23 was used to run the analysis.

4. Results and Discussion

This chapter focuses on the presentation and analysis of data collected in the field using structured questionnaires. Respondents were given 400 copies of the questionnaire in total. Only 377 out of the 400 questionnaires distributed to respondents were returned entirely and precisely filled, while the remaining 23 surveys were returned but not accurately filled. This means that 94.0% of the questionnaires were returned, while 6% were misplaced. The researcher presented the data and analyzed the research findings using the 377 questionnaire as the basis for data analysis.

4.1. Presentation and Analysis of Data

Distribution of socio-demographic characteristics of Respondents

This section presents the distribution of respondents' socio demographic characteristics.

Table 4.1: Socio-Demographic of the Respondents

		Frequency	**Percentage**
Sex	Male	195	51.7
	Female	182	48.3
	Total	**377**	**100.0**
Age (years)	18-28	83	22.0
	29-39	184	48.8
	40 years and above	110	29.2
	Total	**377**	**100.0**
Educational Qualification	Primary education	49	13.0
	Secondary education	101	26.8
	Higher education	227	60.2
	Total	**377**	**100.0**
Type of enterprise	Small and medium scale	231	61.3
	Large scale	146	38.7

	Total	**377**	**100.0%**
Income of respondent	10,000-100,000	211	56.0
	101,000-200,000	92	24.4
	201,000 and above	74	19.6
	Total	**377**	**100.0**

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2024

The socio-demographic characteristics of those who took part in the survey are shown in table 4.1, 51.7 percent of the respondents were males, while 48.3 percent were females, according to the gender distribution of the respondents. The age distribution of the survey participants shows that 22.0 percent are between the ages of 18-28 years, 48.8 percent are between the ages of 29-39 years, and 29.2 percent are 40 years, and above. The respondents' marital status revealed that 59 percent were unmarried, 29 percent were married and 12 percent were divorced. The respondents' educational qualifications revealed that 13.0 percent had a primary school certificate, 26.8 percent had a secondary school certificate, and 60.2 percent had a higher education certificate. The type of enterprise operated distribution of the respondents revealed that 61.3 percent were small and medium scale business owners, and 38.7 percent were large scale business owners. The income distribution of the respondents revealed that 56.0 earn between 10,000-100,000, 24.4 percent earn between 101,000-200,000 and finally, 19.6 percent earn between 201,000 and above.

4.2. Analysis of Research Questions

Research Question

Is there a relationship between entrepreneurship and access to food in South-South geopolitical zone in Nigeria?

Table 4.2: Respondents' responses on the relationship between entrepreneurship and access to food

ITEMS	N	Mean	Remark
Entrepreneurship makes food shortage to reduce	377	3.95	Positive
Entrepreneurship makes commercial agriculture possible	377	3.52	Positive
Entrepreneurship in agriculture provide food and nutrition to the people	377	3.78	Positive
Entrepreneurship in agriculture makes food to be cheap to afford	377	3.88	Positive
Entrepreneurship in agriculture boost food production and distribution	377	3.62	Positive
Weighted Mean		3.75	

Source: Fieldwork, 2024 (Key: N Number of observations)

Table 4.3 shows respondents' opinions on the relationship between entrepreneurship and access to food. The replies were weighted based on how much respondents agreed with the options provided. For affirmative responses, a weighted mean value of 3.0 was used as a benchmark. Table 4.3 reveals that respondents believe that entrepreneurship makes food shortage to reduce, entrepreneurship makes commercial agriculture possible, entrepreneurship in agriculture provide food and nutrition to the people, entrepreneurship in agriculture makes food to be cheap to afford and entrepreneurship in agriculture boost food production and distribution. This is given with the mean scores of 3.95, 3.52, 3.78, 3.88 and 3.62 that are above the benchmark mean of 3.0.

Test of Hypotheses

There is no significant relationship between entrepreneurship and access to food in South-South geopolitical zone in Nigeria**.**

Table 4.3 a, b and c: Simple Linear Regression result for hypothesis two

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.690[a]	.661	.659	.86214

a. Predictors: (Constant), Entrepreneurship

ANOVA [a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	10.407	1	10.407	14.002	.000[b]
	Residual	278.733	375	.743		
	Total	289.141	376			

a. Predictors: (Constant), Entrepreneurship

b. Dependent Variable: access to food

Coefficients [a]

		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
Model		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	2.289	.100		22.830	.000
	Entrepreneurship	.117	.031	-.190	-3.742	.000

a. Dependent Variable: access to food

Table 4.3a, b and c show the model summary, ANOVA and Coefficient result of the simple linear regression tested for hypothesis two. From the table, it can be observed that R value of .690 indicates a positive relationship between entrepreneurship and access to food in South-South geopolitical zone in Nigeria. Also, the R-Square value of .661, and the adjusted R-Sqaure value of .659 both establish that the independent variable entrepreneurship could be explained by the access to food being the effect, and the variation between same is not far as can be seen by the score obtained for the Adjusted R-Square score. Equally, the ANOVA table shows the the null hypothesis is rejected as is seen by ($F = 14.002$, $P = .000 < 0.05$), and this shows that the result is significant. Finally, the coefficient table reveals that the relationship between entrepreneurship and access to food in South-South geopolitical zone in Nigeria. is significant given by the probability value of .000 which is below the given alpha value of .0.05.

5. Discussion of Findings

The finding shows that there is a significant positive relationship between entrepreneurship and access to food in the South-South Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria. This is based on linear regression result ($F= 14.002$, p. value = $.000 < 0.05$) which shows a statistical relationship between entrepreneurship and access to food. Also, the grand mean result of 3.75 obtained from the descriptive data analysis support the above finding as it showed that the respondents were of the view that entrepreneurship make people have acces to food via agricultural development. This finding is consistent with previous works of scholars who gave varying submissions. Juma (2011) stressed that agriculture provides food and nutrition to a population estimated at 200 - 220 million and creates employment opportunities through forward and backward linkages to support 70% -75% of the Nigerian working population. This implies that agriculture and the economy are synonymous; one cannot modernise the economy without starting with agriculture. That is not all; about 20.9% of Nigeria's total GDP was contributed by agriculture in the first quarter.

Furthermore, .(National Bureau of Statistics, 2016) stated that Nigeria is endowed with factors that support agricultural development; these agricultural development drivers include a large population (190 – 200 million) and an increasing urbanized middle class with "good" disposable income, among others. These economic fundamentals are strong, as the level of political support for food security is high. The macro-economic policy of the Federal Government of Nigeria is hinged on agriculture being the pillar of the policy framework and drive for diversification from oil and gas. Also, NBS (2015) said that for now, in Nigeria, agricultural activities are often done by the elderly (50+) with limited formal education. Not only are these old farmers unlikely to generate adequate productivity to afford a modern lifestyle, the youth belief that a career in agriculture would similarly "condemn" them to a life that can be characterised as "backwards" and "dirty"; a lifestyle associated with the "uneducated" elderly farmers currently performing physical arduous backbreaking farm work.

6. Conclusion

The study concludes that for entrepreneurship to effectively tackle food insecurity thereby making access to food easy, there must be a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including government, private sector, and civil society, to create an enabling environment. This involves addressing challenges such as access to finance, bureaucratic hurdles, and the will power to pursue it to a conclusive end on the part of government.

7. Recommendation

To strengthen the relationship between entrepreneurship and access to food in the South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria, government should be focused on encouraging agribusiness, including farming, processing, and distribution. This can be done via **i**mproving supply chain **Logistics** and nvest in logistics and transportation infrastructure to facilitate the movement of food products from producers to consumers, reducing wastage and improving access.

8. References

Adebayo, O. & Johnson, M. (2022). Microfinance and agricultural entrepreneurship: Implications for food security in Nigeria. *Journal of Development Finance*, 18(2), 45–58.

Adebayo, O., Johnson, M., & Adekunle, F. (2022). Policy interventions and food security in the Niger Delta. *African Journal of Policy and Development*, 34(2), 89–102.

Adetunji, A. & Ogunlowo, T. (2022). Challenges and opportunities for agricultural entrepreneurship in Nigeria. *Journal of Development Studies*, 58(4), 67–80.

Akpan, I., Udo, E., & Etim, M. (2023). MSMEs and food security in Nigeria: Evidence from the South-South region. *Economic Review of Africa*, 29(1), 15–28.

Barney, J. B. (1991). Firm resources and sustained competitive advantage. *Journal of Management*, 17(1), 99–120.

Drucker, P. F. (1985). *Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Practice and Principles*. Harper & Row.

Ede, F. & Chukwuma, J. (2024). Digital innovation and food accessibility in Nigeria: A focus on entrepreneurial contributions. *Sustainable Food Systems Journal*, 10(3), 67–78.

Ede, F. & Chukwuma, J. (2024). Food insecurity and agricultural entrepreneurship in Nigeria. *Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems*, 10(3), 44–59.

Iruonagbe, C. T., Aina, T. A., & Adesina, M. (2021). Resource wealth and underdevelopment: A study of the Niger Delta. *Journal of African Studies*, 45(3), 211–230.

Isenberg, D. (2010). How to start an entrepreneurial revolution. *Harvard Business Review*, 88(6), 40–50.

Juma, C. (2011). *The new harvest: Agricultural innovation in Africa*. Oxford University Press.

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). (2015). *Agricultural sector report: Land use and cultivation statistics*. National Bureau of Statistics. Retrieved from http://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng

National Bureau of Statistics. (2016). *Gross Domestic Product (GDP) report for the first quarter of 2016*. National Bureau of Statistics. Retrieved from http://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng

Nwafor, O., Obot, I., & Ekanem, J. (2024). Environmental degradation and agricultural productivity in the South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria. *Environmental Research Letters*, 19(2), 78–93.

Nwafor, O., Obot, I., & Ekanem, J. (2024). Evaluating government programs for food security in the Niger Delta: An entrepreneurial perspective. *African Journal of Policy and Governance*, 29(2), 99–112.

Nwafor, O., Obot, I., & Ekanem, J. (2024). Evaluating government programs for food security in the Niger Delta: An entrepreneurial perspective. *African Journal of Policy and Governance*, 29(2), 99–112.

Ologun, K. & Ibe, R. (2023). Adopting climate-smart agriculture in the Niger Delta: Challenges and prospects. *Journal of Agricultural Research and Innovation*, 36(4), 101–120.

Ologun, K. & Ibe, R. (2023). Climate-smart agricultural technologies and entrepreneurial resilience in the Niger Delta. *Environmental Research Letters*, 19(3), 45–59.

Schumpeter, J. A. (1934). *The Theory of Economic Development*. Harvard University Press.

Umoh, S. & Ekanem, I. (2024). Strengthening policy frameworks for entrepreneurial growth in Nigeria. *African Policy Review*, 28(3), 56–73.

Wernerfelt, B. (1984). A resource-based view of the firm. *Strategic Management Journal*, 5(2), 171–180.