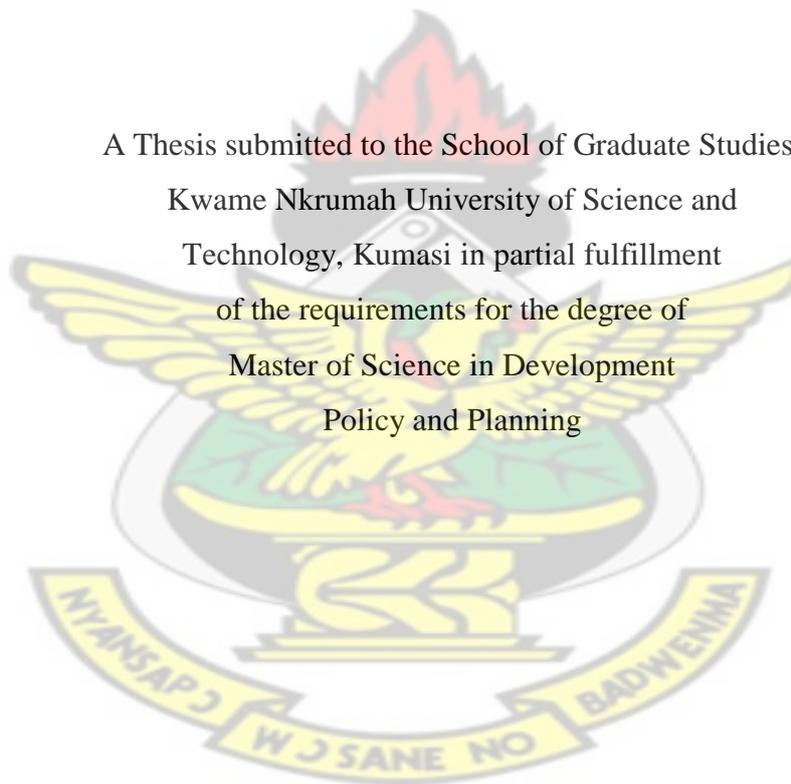


**ASSESSMENT OF THE YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE
PROGRAMME IN EJURA-SEKYEDUMASE DISTRICT**

By

Baah Charles
(BSc. Agriculture)

A Thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies,
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and
Technology, Kumasi in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
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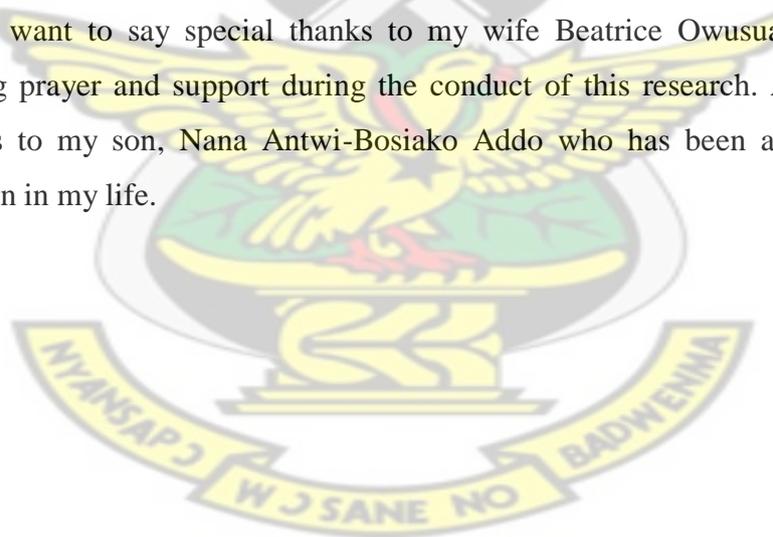
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ABSTRACT

The youth represent one of the productive resources of every country. In Ghana, however, most of the youth do not have jobs to do. Youths constitute about 60 percent of the unemployed in Ghana making the youth unemployment rate one of the highest in the world. In order to address this challenge, the Government of Ghana initiated the Youth in Agriculture programme (YIAP), as part of the National Youth and Employment Programme (NYEP) to provide jobs in the agriculture sector for the youth. Even though agriculture remains a sector with greater potential of providing jobs for the youth, the youth are less willing to engage in farming as their main occupation. The youth perceive farming as dirty and lacking the opportunities for personal achievements. The study was conducted to assess the effectiveness of the YIAP in motivating the youth to pursue farming as a career. The study also assessed whether beneficiaries who pursued farming after exiting the YIAP were able to generate appreciable income. A quasi-experimental design was adopted to gather data on selected variables from some beneficiaries before and after their participation in the YIAP. Purposive and convenient sampling techniques were used to select beneficiaries who participated in the programme in 2011. Government departments responsible for the implementation of the Youth in Agriculture programme were also surveyed. Data were analyzed with the use of descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages.

The findings of the study showed that the provision of land and agro-inputs, agricultural extension services and agribusiness management training motivated the beneficiaries to participate in the YIAP. It was also realized that the YIAP changed the negative perceptions that beneficiaries held about farming. It was also found that beneficiaries who pursued farming after exiting the YIAP generated appreciable income. The study however identified that unemployed youths with high levels of education did not participate in the YIAP. The study recommends that GYEEDA and MOFA embark on a massive sensitization drive in the form of workshops, youth fora, TV and radio programmes to attract participation by youths with high levels of education. The study also recommends that MoFA should continue to supply input credit to the youth through the Block Farm Programme so that their farming careers can be sustained. It is believed that if these recommendations are implemented, the YIAP would become a more effective programme for motivating the unemployed youth to accept farming as a career.

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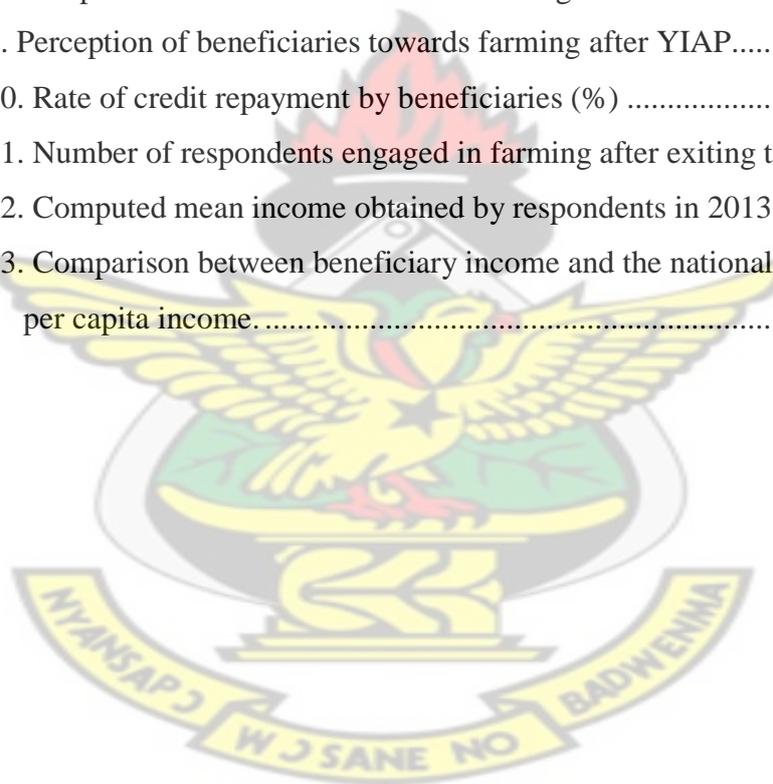
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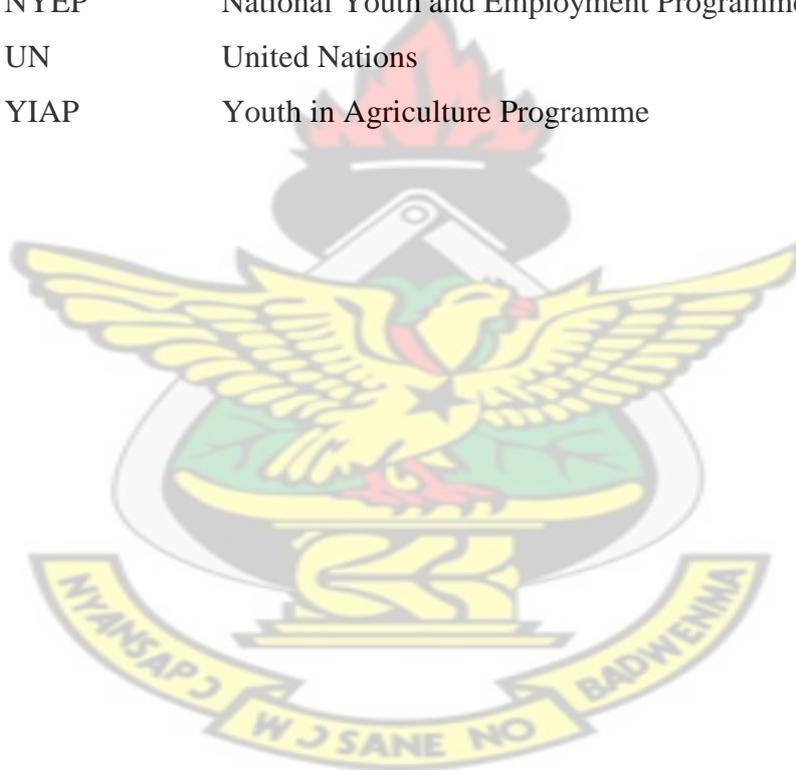
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GLSS	Ghana Living Standard Survey
GPRS II	Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
GYEEDA	Ghana Youth Employment and Entrepreneurial Agency
ILO	International Labour Organization
ISSER	Institute for Social Science and Economic Research
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NYEP	National Youth and Employment Programme
UN	United Nations
YIAP	Youth in Agriculture Programme



CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Youth unemployment is a major challenge facing both developed and developing countries including Ghana. Since youths constitute the economically active population, youth unemployment can lead to social discontent and instability. Other social costs of youth unemployment include increase in social vices such as drug abuse, prostitution, armed robbery and teenage pregnancies among others.

Youth unemployment could also bring about economic costs such as loss to GDP growth because of unutilized human resources. Due to the sheer numbers and vulnerability of the youth in Sub-Saharan Africa it is generally believed that getting them employed in decent and productive work, for example, could result into 12 to 19 percent gain in GDP (ILO cited in Braimah and King, 2006).

The 2004 ILO report cited in Braimah and King (2006) posits that young people represent some 130 million (24%) of the world's 550 million working poor who work but are unable to lift themselves and their families above the equivalent of US\$ 1 per day poverty line. Braimah and King (2006) argues that continuous youth unemployment stands the chance of keeping poor families perpetually and chronically poor due to its multiplier effects on other family members and their children and those yet to be born.

Over the past forty years, the population of youth in Ghana has increased from 1.1 million in 1960 to 2.3 million in 1984, and to 3.5 million in 2000. About 60 percent of the unemployed in Ghana can be found in the 15-24 years age group. This makes Ghana's youth unemployment rate one of the highest in the world (Amankrah, 2006).

In order to address this challenge, governments all over the world have implemented several programmes to tackle youth unemployment. These programmes vary in their approach and objectives they seek to achieve. Countries also have different categories of programmes and interventions that are implemented to address this challenge. In the USA for example youth employment programmes including Jobs for America's

Graduates, Youth-Build USA, and Job Corps have been formulated and implemented to deal with unemployment among different segments of their youth (Collura, 2010).

Similarly, in Ghana, the National Youth and Employment Programme (NYEP) now called Ghana Youth Employment and Entrepreneurial Development Agency (GYEEDA) was rolled out in 2006 to generate employment for the youth and check the drift from rural to urban communities in search of jobs (NDPC, 2005). The NYEP was established to create opportunities for young people to acquire skills and training for life-long vocations.

The youth, according to the 2000 Population and Housing Census constitute about 60% of the population of about 20 million. The NYEP has proven to be woefully inadequate in sustainably dealing with the huge problems of unemployment among Ghana's youth due to the serious setbacks it suffers. By the end of 2011, the NYEP had offered jobs to only about 108,000 Ghanaians (Attipoe-Fitz, 2010). This can be described as a drop in an ocean considering the fact that this is statistically negligible and the NYEP does not address the specific interest of the youth to secure good and sustainable jobs for a sound future (Donkoh, 2010). The situation therefore called for a need to provide the youth with more viable career options and sustainable jobs.

It is in this light that the Youth in Agriculture programme (YIAP) was introduced in 2009 to generate more productive jobs for the youth (NDPC, 2010). The programme is being implemented by GYEEDA in collaboration with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. According to MOFA (2011), the objectives of the Youth in Agriculture Programme include:

- a. motivating the youth to accept farming as a commercial business venture;
- b. generating appreciable income to meet their domestic and personal needs;
- c. improving their standard of living through improved income and
- d. motivating the youth to stay in rural areas.

Government hopes to achieve these programme objectives by providing incentives to the youth. The inputs provided included land; tractor services for land preparation; irrigation and mechanization facilities; quality planting materials (improved seed); fertilizer subsidies; and pesticides among others. Services provided under the youth in

agriculture programme include training; extension information, technical support and marketing avenues (MoFA, 2009).

Agriculture plays an important role in Ghana's economy. The value of cocoa exports alone contributes nearly one third of the country's total foreign exchange earnings. It also plays an important role in the domestic economy, with more than 700,000 farmers whose livelihoods are dependent on cocoa cultivation (World Bank, 2012). Considering the enormous potential of Ghana's agriculture sector, the introduction of the Youth in Agriculture programme is seen as a major step taken by the Government to provide jobs for the unemployed youth.

The introduction of the Youth in Agriculture programme was also seen as way of motivating the youth to stay in rural areas to address the ageing farming population and rural-urban migrations. The average age of a farmer in Ghana is 55 years and life expectancy averages between 55 – 60 years (MoFA, 2011). Motivating more young people to enter into farming would therefore be of tremendous benefit to the country.

However, the poor image associated with persons involved in agriculture, especially in the rural communities makes farming unattractive to the youth. Agriculture in Ghana is often associated with backwardness, lack of opportunities for personal achievement and low recognition. These and many other factors make agriculture a disincentive to most young people in Ghana.

This study, therefore, aims at assessing the effectiveness of the Youth in Agriculture programme in achieving its objectives of motivating the youth to engage in agriculture. On the whole, measures put in place to motivate the youth to accept farming as a viable career and income generated by beneficiaries who still engaged in farming after exiting the YIAP among others would be examined.

1.2 Problem Statement

A large population of unemployed youth enters the job market every year. Most of these teaming unemployed youth enter the job market looking for white collar jobs in the formal sector. The formal sector, however, has shown over the years that it is not able to create sufficient employment opportunities to absorb the large chunk of youths who enter the job market.

According to Brooks *et al* (2013), agriculture is currently the employer of most of Africa's young people, and likely to remain so in the future. For a generation of young people entering adulthood, agriculture offers the best opportunity to move out of poverty and build satisfying lives. As such, the Government of Ghana considers the agricultural sector as an immediate source of employment for the youth, especially those in the rural areas (MoFA, 2011). The Youth in Agriculture programme was therefore introduced to provide career opportunities in the agriculture sector for the unemployed youth.

However, there are strong indications to suggest that youth participation in the agriculture sector is very low, largely because the sector is highly unattractive. Young people reportedly regard farming as a 'dirty activity' without proper facilities (Future-Agricultures, 2010). According to Richards cited in Future-Agricultures (2010), a different, though not inconsistent, picture has arisen from research in Sierra Leone and Liberia where young rural men have opted to become guerrilla fighters rather than conform to customary land and marriage laws which require them to perform agricultural work for local leaders under exploitative conditions.

In Ghana, farming is not even regarded as a "job" by many young people who would rather reserve the term for other forms of employment requiring clean clothes and a desk. The youth are less willing to engage in agriculture as their main occupation because they perceive it as providing low income. They also hold the perception that agriculture is meant for the rural poor, the uneducated and unskilled (MoFA, 2011).

In view of the above, it is clear that even though agriculture has a potential of providing employment for the unemployed youth, the Ghanaian youth appear to be more attracted to formal sector employment and "clean jobs". It is therefore imperative that the YIAP is assessed to ascertain its effectiveness in achieving the objective of motivating the youth to take up careers in farming.

1.3 Research Questions

The research therefore seeks to find useful answers to the following questions:

- a. What are the socioeconomic characteristics of youths participating in the Youth in Agriculture programme?
- b. Did measures put in place by the Youth in Agriculture programme motivate the youth to participate in the programme?
- c. What were the perceptions of beneficiaries before and after participating in the Youth in Agriculture programme?
- d. Was there any impact on the income of beneficiaries who pursued farming as a career after exiting the Youth in Agriculture programme?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of the study is to assess the effectiveness of the Youth in Agriculture programme in the Ejura-Sekyedumase District. Specifically the study seeks to:

- i) describe the socio-economic characteristics of participants in the Youth in Agriculture programme;
- ii) identify measures put in place to motivate the youth to participate in the Youth in Agriculture programme;
- iii) find out the perception of beneficiaries before and after participating in the Youth in Agriculture programme; and
- iv) determine whether the income generated by beneficiaries who pursued farming after exiting the programme was appreciable.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The scope of the research provides details on the coverage of the study in terms of concepts and physical area coverage.

1.5.1 Geographic Scope

The geographic scope defines the physical boundaries within which the study was conducted. Geographically, the study was limited to the Ejura-Sekyedumase District of the Ashanti Region. Ejura-Sekyedumase is one of the districts where the Youth in Agriculture programme is being implemented.

1.5.2 Conceptual scope

The conceptual scope defines the variables that are to be measured to help achieve the objectives of the study. The study assessed how the programme has performed in achieving its objectives of motivating the youth to engage in agriculture. It also focused on the income of beneficiaries after exiting the YIAP. The perception of beneficiaries before and after enrolling onto the programme was also assessed.

1.6 Relevance of the Study

The preoccupation of Government is to provide jobs for the youth. The YIAP is one of the interventions implemented by government to address youth unemployment. The intervention is expected to create more career opportunities and help the youth generate appreciable income. The study is therefore relevant in terms of promoting job creation for the youth, particularly in the agricultural sector. Youths are very energetic and have the ability to produce more than the aged farming population in Ghana. The study will help create awareness on the potential of the YIAP to increase food production and also help solve the issue of ageing farming population in Ghana. The assessment seeks to provide some empirical evidence in terms of the effectiveness of the YIAP. The study would therefore inform policy makers on strategies to that need to be employed to further improve the YIAP.

Finally, the study will produce a document that could be useful to scholars who intend to undertake research on agricultural interventions aimed at reducing youth unemployment. Thus, the assessment would contribute to the literature on the effectiveness of agriculture sector initiatives in addressing youth unemployment.

1.7 Delimitations

The study covered only one of the districts where the YIAP is being implemented in Ghana. The researcher focused only on districts where the block farm sub-programme was being implemented.

The beneficiaries of the YIAP generated farm incomes from participating in the programme in 2011 and 2012. However, for purposes of comparison, the study is restricted to only the incomes they generated in 2013 after they exited the programme. The study did not also assess the improvement in beneficiaries' standard of living resulting from the incomes they obtained.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

The conduct of the study was faced with three major constraints. First, the availability of data especially from the two institutions surveyed. The institutions surveyed were not willing to release data on the actual cost of inputs supplied to beneficiaries for the 2011 and 2012 farming seasons and the repayment rate. The researcher therefore assured the institutions of confidentiality of the information provided and that under no circumstances would they be exposed to any form of distress or risk by participating in this study.

Most of the beneficiaries interviewed did not keep written records of their farming activities. Beneficiaries had to rely on their memories for information about activities carried out in previous years. To ensure that this limitation did not affect the reliability of the information provided by beneficiaries, the researcher took time to walk the beneficiaries through the activities they undertook during the periods under consideration. This helped beneficiaries to be able to recollect all the necessary information required for the study.

Due to media outcry about alleged financial misappropriation at GYEEDA at the time of the study, most beneficiaries were not willing to participate in the study. In order to address this situation, the researcher assured programme beneficiaries of confidentiality of information they provided and that under no circumstances would they be exposed to any form of embarrassment or risk by participating in this study. Further, beneficiaries were assured that the research was wholly an academic exercise and had no political connotations.

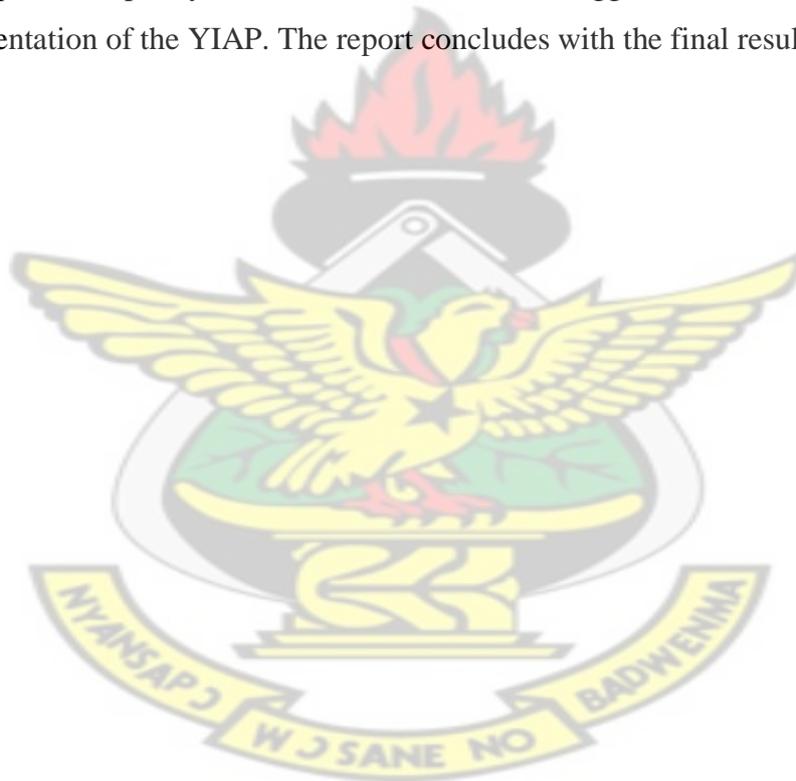
The sampling method used for the study was non-random and cannot, therefore, be generalized. The findings, however, can be transferred to populations with similar characteristics in Ghana or beyond.

1.9 Organization of the Study

The research report was put into five chapters which together linked up to achieve the objectives of the study. Chapter one presents a general introduction to the study. It begins with a background which throws light on the main issues of the study. It is followed by the problem statement, research questions and objectives to be achieved.

Chapter two discusses literature on issues relevant the topic under review. The chapter focuses on relevant research carried out on youth unemployment and job creation through agriculture. Chapter three focuses on the profile of the study area and the methodology used to carry out the research. The first part deals with the area profile while the second part elaborates on the methodology used. The second part deals with the research design and variables measured. The chapter ends with tools used for analyzing the data collected.

The fourth chapter presents an analysis and discussion of data. The output of the analysis was presented in forms that are easy to comprehend. Chapter five sums up the key findings made from the analysis of data in chapter four. Based on the findings made, possible policy recommendations were suggested to help improve the implementation of the YIAP. The report concludes with the final results of the study.



CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF CONCEPTS ON YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE PROGRAMMES AS A TOOL FOR EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews literature on youth unemployment, the National Youth Employment Programme (NYEP), the concept of youth in agriculture and constraints to youth participation in agriculture. Extensive review is also carried out on the socio-economic characteristics of participants in youth in agriculture programmes, youth in agriculture programme as a tool for employment generation and the role of the youth in agricultural development among others.

2.2 Definition of concepts and terminologies

In order to provide a clear understanding of the topic under study, the concepts and terminologies used have been clearly defined. This section reviews the different definitions of the concepts used as well as the operational definition adapted by the researcher.

2.2.1 Youth

The United Nation defines the youth as persons aged between 15 and 24 years. The African Youth Charter of the African Union holds a different opinion. The African Youth Charter defines the youth as persons aged between 15 and 35 years (African Youth Charter, 2006). The Youth Charter asserts that the term includes young people between the ages of 25-35.

The National Youth Policy of Ghana seems to share the same view with the African Youth charter. The National Youth Policy defines the youth as young people between the ages of 15 to 35 years (National Youth Policy, 2010). This indicates that the definition of youth in Ghana is in line with that of the African Union. For purposes of this, the operational definition of youth is any person between the ages of 15 to 35 years.

2.2.2 Youth unemployment

Fajana cited in Emeh (2012) refers to unemployment as a situation where people who are willing and capable of working are unable to find suitable paid employment. Similarly, according to ILO (2007), unemployment occurs when people are without jobs and they have actively sought for job within the past four weeks.

The Ghana Statistical Service also defines unemployment as the proportion of the economically active population who are not working but are available for work (GSS, 2000). For purposes of this study, youth unemployment is defined as a situation where people of ages 15-35 who are able and willing to work, actively search for income earning opportunities for a period of time without getting any.

2.2.3 Intervention Programme

An intervention programme can be defined as any programme designed to change the behavior patterns of people or to improve the standard of living of individuals, groups or an entire population (adapted from Whitehead, 2002). The intervention being studied is the youth in agriculture programme. The youth in agriculture programme was designed to change the perception of the youth about farming and also to improve their standard of living through the incomes they obtain from farming.

2.2.4 Beneficiary

A beneficiary is an individual or a group of individuals who receives benefits from a project or a programme. For purposes of this study, the operational definition of a beneficiary is any individual enrolled by the District Directorate of GYEEDA in 2011 to participate and receive the benefits of the youth in agriculture programme in Ejura-Sekyedumase District.

2.2.5 Motivation

Motivation is defined as the reason for doing things or powers that make things materialize (Obanyi et al, 2014). Kim and Lee (2008) define motivation as a desire to do something. Thijs (2011) also asserted that motivation is dependent on the fulfillment of fundamental, innate psychological needs for competence, relatedness and autonomy. Motivation is thus the desire of individuals to change or behave in a certain manner so as to satisfy their needs. For purposes of this study, motivation is

defined as a thing, reason or service that encouraged beneficiaries to participate in youth in agriculture programme.

2.2.6 Perception

Pickens (2005) refers to perception as how a person interprets a situation or stimuli into something meaningful to him or her based on prior experiences. Nelson and Quick (1997) defines perception as the process of interpreting information about another person. What this definition clearly highlights is that the opinion an individual forms about another individual or situation depends on the information available to that individual and the extent to which the individual is able to properly interpret the information acquired.

Rao and Narayan (1998) share the same view with the above definition. In their own words, “perception is the process whereby people select, organize, and interpret sensory stimulations into meaningful information about their work environment.” Though focusing on managers in a work environment, Rao and Narayan further added that since there are no specific strategies for understanding the perception of other people, every individual uses his/her own inventiveness, innovative ability and introspective skills to interpret sensory stimulations. For purposes of this study, perception is defined as the opinions that beneficiaries formed about farming before and after participating in the YIAP.

2.3 The Youth Unemployment Situation

Youth unemployment is a serious challenge facing countries all over the world. World Bank (2007) asserted that from 2000 to 2011, the number of employed young people worldwide increased by 16 million, which is a positive development. The World Bank however noted that the total youth population increased at an even quicker pace, which led to a decline in the share of employed youth in both the *total labour force* (from 52.9 to 48.7 per cent). Employment opportunities for the youth have not matched the increase in youth population. This has resulted in a situation where a lot of young people worldwide are unable to find work.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) shares the same view. ILO (2012) also stated that youth unemployment has been persistent as the youth unemployment rate keeps soaring due to increases in their population. The ILO (2012) was of the view

that the global youth unemployment rate remained close to its crisis peak since nearly 75 million youth are unemployed around the world, an increase of more than 4 million since 2007. It is inferred from the ILO that there are currently about 75 million youth looking for a job around the world. Increase in youth populations should therefore be matched with the creation of commensurate job opportunities so that more of the youth would find work to do.

The unemployment rate of the youth globally ranked 12.6% compared with 4.8% as the rate of the adults in 2010 and this has the potential of tempting most youth to embark on migration especially to urban centers and beyond since this act creates room for accessing job opportunities (United Nations, 2011). The United Nations further added that, the youth is over 1.8 billion in the world today, 90% of whom live in developing countries, where they tend to make up a large proportion of the population and needs to be empowered. Empowering the youth involves providing opportunities for the youth to earn incomes so that their livelihoods would be improved.

Provision of job opportunities among others has the potential to reduce or prevent migration of the youth into the cities and beyond. This implies that any effort at reducing migration by the youth, who constitute a greater majority of the population, should be geared towards creating opportunities that would enable them to make a decent living in their communities. This assessment would determine whether interventions such as the youth in agriculture programme that aims at providing jobs for the youth is able to help the youth generate appreciable incomes that would enable them live decent lives in their communities.

Across the African region, youth unemployment is not any different. It is estimated by the International Labour Organization (ILO) that between 2000 and 2008 Africa created 73 million jobs, but only 16 million for young people (African Economic Forum, 2013). The result, as asserted at the African Economic Forum, is that many young Africans find themselves unemployed or underemployed in informal jobs with low pay. The forum also asserted that of Africa's unemployed, 60% are young people and youth unemployment rates are double those of adult unemployment in most African countries.

The implication of the forgoing is that many young and able bodied people in Africa are unable to find decent jobs. The youth population in Africa is substantial and these youths constitute a greater percentage of the total population of most African countries. Most of the youth who constitute this significantly large proportion of the population are unemployed or underemployed. These young men and women can be found idling about in the streets and corners of most African countries.

Youth unemployment is not only a challenge to the less educated youth. As asserted by the Pacific Agricultural and Forestry Network (2010), while rural youth unemployment often stems from lack of adequate education, even the educated youth are frequently unable to find work. It has therefore become a big challenge even with graduates who are skilled enough for the job market. For the many graduates leaving the various universities every year, unemployment has reached a peak. Large numbers of skilled manpower are churned out by various universities. Thousands of these graduates entering the job market are unable to find jobs.

Indeed, for the first time in the history of Ghana, the Unemployed Graduates Association of Ghana (UGAG) was launched in 2011 to protest the alarming rate of youth unemployment among all segments of the youth in Ghana. Gyampo (2012) therefore indicated that the youth unemployment situation in Ghana is neither as a result of the youth not being educated nor qualified for the job market. This buttresses the argument that the number of jobs created is far less than the large number of young people entering the job market.

Baah-Boateng (2012) is of the view that 28.8 percent of graduates between the ages of 25 to 35 wait for two years or more before they get employed. This long period of waiting time often creates unemployment particularly among the educated youth. Baah-Boateng noted that Ghana witnessed an average economic growth of 5.1 percent in the past two decades; the country did not witness any corresponding growth in employment during that period. Baah-Boateng (2012) further added that the country's economic growth was in the services sector such as banks which employed a limited number of people instead of growth in the agricultural and manufacturing sector which had the potential to create employment for a larger number of people.

The foregone analysis paints a clear picture of the unemployment situation in Ghana. Even though Ghana achieved a significant level of growth for the past two decades, the growth did not emanate from productive sectors such as agriculture and industry which could result in employment generation. The services sector where the economic growth emanated is only able to employ limited number of workers. Moreover, with the advent of modern technologies and ICT, most of the companies in the services sector are even cutting down the use of manpower to minimise the cost of operations.

The unemployment situation was envisaged some years ago by Braimah and King. Braimah and King (2006) envisaged that the challenge of generating sufficient demand for labor in the national economy to match the growing supply will continue as long as the country's population continues to grow at the current rate of over 2.7% per annum. Braimah and King deduced that based on the proportion of children aged below 10 years in 2000 (i.e. 30%) the nation will have greater proportion of youth demanding either jobs or skills training from 2010 to 2015.

Unemployment is higher among the youth than people who are older. The Pacific Agricultural and Forestry Network (2010) has noted that young people are up to three times more likely to be unemployed than older people. The Pacific Agricultural and Forestry Network is of the view that as many as one in three young people are unemployed in some countries. Even those who have jobs are mostly underemployed, with work only available for a season or for a few hours a week.

The youth in Ghana are often discriminated against in the job market. According to Braimah and King (2006), employers will always go in for experienced and skilled people and these are often people who have worked on the job for a number of years. Most employers often tend to employ adults who have some working experience than the youth. The discrimination against youthfulness and first-time job seekers has also contributed to the youth unemployment situation.

Unemployment among the youth in Ghana emerged as one of the challenges which needed to be addressed, during the Population and Housing Census in 2010. The Ghana Statistical Services (2013) found unemployment among those aged 15-29 years to be high, most of who were seeking for jobs for the first time. The Ghana Statistical Services held the view that unemployment is highest at those ages because it

coincides with the transition from various levels of education to the world of work. The Ghana Statistical Services suggested that this area need to be managed with pragmatic policies such as apprenticeship and start-up capital so as to reduce the proportion of unemployed youth. The situation needed radical government intervention as well as intervention by other stakeholders such as NGOs and business entities who have the capacity to provide apprenticeships and jobs for the youth.

Youth unemployment is costly, be it economic or social. ILO (2012) noted that the economic costs may include loss to GDP because of the unutilized resources of the youth and brain drain. The ILO is of the view that other related costs include direct costs to the government and costs related to the economic loss of investment in education, forgone earnings, savings, and aggregated demand. Youth unemployment therefore has a serious effect on national economy. A lot is spent by Government in educating the youth so that they can become productive citizens. The absence of jobs renders them unproductive to the nation.

Youth unemployment and situations in which young people work under poor conditions incur social costs. These socioeconomic effects are enormous and can be found in all spheres of society. According to Khurram *et al* (2013), the society becomes victim of so many things like poverty, political instability, crime, psychological depression and earning problems due to youth unemployment. When youths are idle, they are easily attracted to or dragged to commit or partake in the perpetuation of these social vices. This argument is supported by Aslam (1999) who also stressed that there is a link between unemployment and crime.

Young people also suffer greatly in periods that they have to survive without jobs. Schaufeli (1997), in a longitudinal study of college graduate and school leavers, identified that for young people, joblessness could lead to poor mental health. Damian cited in Khurram (2013) also found that young people were liable to become embittered and mentally depressed due to unemployment. Khurram *et al* stressed that when the unemployed person compares himself with those who are employed and can fulfil their needs then the feelings of deprivations can develop in his mind. Sandifer (1985) in his presentation on unemployment summed up above. Sandifer posited that depression and anxiety were meaningfully greater in the jobless than working.

The forgone assertions by Khurram and Sandifer emphasize the seriousness and enormity of what young people have to endure when they are without jobs. Mental ill-health and deprivation are just a few of the challenges that unemployed youths go through. The unemployment situation required urgent attention by the Government, private institutions and all stakeholders to find innovative and practicable ways of creating jobs for the many unemployed youth. It is in the light of this that the National Youth Employment Programme (NYEP) was introduced.

2.4 Background of the NYEP

The National Youth Employment Programme (NYEP), now called Ghana Youth Employment and Entrepreneurial Development Agency (GYEEDA), was a special policy initiated by the then government in 2006 based on a presidential directive to ensure that the youth including Junior High School (JHS) and Senior High School (SHS), Technical/Vocational School graduates as well as school dropouts and illiterate youth, would be actively engaged in some productive employment (Attipoe-Fittz, 2010). Attipoe-Fittz added that, the objective of the programme was to help reduce unemployment, under-employment, satisfy national needs such as food security and equip the youth with some work experience for permanent employment.

According to NYEP cited in Gyampo (2012), young people recruited under the programme were to exit after two years to search for permanent jobs in other sectors of the economy or proceed for further education. The NYEP was thus designed to provide temporal employment for beneficiaries. This NYEP covered a wide range of activities. NYEP cited in Gyampo 2012 added that the first phase of the programme covered ten modules; namely, Youth-in-Trades and Vocations; Youth-in-ICT (Information, Communication and Technology); Youth in Agribusiness; Community Protection System; Waste and Sanitation Management Corps; Rural Education Teachers Assistants; Paid Internships and Industrial Attachments; Vacation Jobs and Volunteer Services.

The wide array of modules implemented under the NYEP gives an indication of the intention of the programme to satisfy the demands and aspirations of the different categories of youth. The NYEP sought to ensure that youth with all kinds of talents, skills and abilities are provided opportunities to secure jobs. To this end, the government expanded the NYEP in 2009, with some additional modules which

included the Youth in Eco Brigade, Youth in Afforestation, Youth in Road Maintenance, Youth in Film Industry and Youth in Agriculture (Attipoe-Fittz, 2010). The Youth in Agriculture programmes was expected to change the perception and attitude of the youth towards agriculture. It was also expected that the participation of the youth in agricultural activities would also improve the state of agriculture in the country.

2.5 The State of Agriculture in Ghana

Agriculture is the largest economic sector in Ghana, accounting for 45% of the GDP, the highest contributor to GDP and most of the foreign exchange in this sector is earned from cocoa exports and provides employment for over 60% of the population (2006 International Monetary Fund country report on GPRS cited in Naamwintome (2008). Agriculture employs a majority of the labour force in Ghana. Agriculture is very important in economic growth and development in Ghana.

Notwithstanding being the largest provider of employment, Ghana's agriculture is fraught with many challenges. In Ghana, land is acquired through inheritance within the extended family system. The land tenure system has put more lands in the hands of traditional leaders and individuals. This creates land fragmentation as each person is given a share of the land. The land fragmentation has resulted in a situation where holders of capital who wish to invest in large commercial farming find it difficult acquiring large tracts of land.

The fragmentation of lands in Ghana does not encourage agricultural mechanization. Naamwintome (2013) noted that apart from a few large-scale commercial farms, most farming takes place on small family-owned farms and there is little mechanization. Agriculture in Ghana is thus predominantly on a small holder basis although there are few large farms and plantations particularly for oil palm, cocoa and citrus. The main system of farming is therefore traditional with the use of cutlasses and hoes with a few mechanized farms.

Another challenge facing the agriculture sector is the low levels of income to farmers. Farmers often earn very low incomes from their farming activities. The low incomes associated with farming serves as a disincentive for the youth. The generally low incomes earned by farmers over the years are caused partly by poor harvest which is

mainly the result of limited knowledge of improved technology. Good harvests, on the other hand, also do not always earn farmers high incomes since this often leads to a glut and a corresponding fall in prices of farm produce. Inadequate credit facilities and subsidies, low access to extension services, poor transportation, storage and processing facilities are also some of the challenges facing agriculture in Ghana.

The aging population of farmers is also a serious challenge to Ghana's agriculture. According to MoFA (2013), the average age of a farmer in Ghana is 55 years and life expectancy averages between 55 – 60 years. This is enough evidence of an ageing farmer population in the country which must be addressed to ensure sustainability in agriculture production.

Farming is fast becoming the preserve of the aged in Ghana and most African countries. Young people find farming an unattractive venture not worthy of their time and energies. Arokoyo cited in Chikezie et al (2012) noted that the youths who have the energy to take up agricultural production do not believe or have the knowledge that agricultural production can really be a profitable venture. Due to the absence of facilities like electricity, internet services and places of entertainment in farming communities coupled with the low income from farming, young people are not attracted to stay in these areas to undertake agricultural activities.

MoFA (2007) in the Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy (FASDEP II) notes that in recent years, agricultural growth in Ghana has been more rapid, with an average annual rate of 5.5% compared to 5.2% for the economy as a whole with the crop production subsector expanding more steadily between 1995 and 2006. MoFA however reiterated that the human resource in the agricultural production and post-production activities who are the youths are yet to be attracted through increased access to financial and mechanized services, technology, and land in addition to government facilitating the mentoring of the youth by established agribusinesses, especially those engaged in high value markets.

According to Ngogi cited in Naamwintome (2013), 60% of Africa's population resides in rural areas and the large majority of this population is made up of youths, and the poor participation of this group of young people in farming is a threat to the future of agriculture and rural economic transformation on the continent. The

development of agriculture in Africa requires the active participation of the youth. The youth are very energetic and have the potential and ability to produce in large quantities as compared to the older generation. Their energy and numbers provide tremendous opportunities for increasing agricultural productivity (MOFA, 2011). The youth are very energetic and possess the ability and productive capacity to produce more than the aged farmers. The introduction of Youth in Agriculture programme in most African countries including Ghana is part of initiatives aimed at attracting the youth to agriculture.

According to GoG cited in Naamwintome (2013), ensuring Ghana's youth who is about 20 to 30% of Ghana's active population participation in agriculture is paramount as this would mitigate the:

- a) Ageing farmer population in the country which averages 55 years.
- b) Continuous rise of food import especially for rice, frozen chicken and meat.
- c) Poor image of persons involved in agriculture, especially in the rural communities.
- d) Youth unemployment particularly in the rural areas.

The following observation was made from assertion made by GoG cited in Naamwintome. Improving the state of agriculture in Ghana would cut down our food imports. To be able to achieve this, the image of agriculture has to be changed to make it more attractive to the youth. With more of the youth entering to agriculture, youth unemployment would be addressed or reduced to acceptable levels.

2.6 Constraints to Youth Participation in Agriculture

Despite attempts made by the Government, NGOs and private institutions to encourage youth participation in agriculture, the efforts have not reflected in the age distribution of the farming population. This could be as a result of constraints faced by young farmers and thus, making it very difficult to engage agricultural activities.

Agriculture being one of the foundation pillars of any society can only function as such if the insufficient youth participation is reversed (Mangal, 2009). Mangal stressed that there is insufficient youth participation in the agricultural sector even though this class of people is the most productive of any society as it contains people in the prime of their lives physically and mentally.

With fewer youths into agriculture, the long-term future of the agricultural sector is in question. This is because a larger population of youths represents the link between the present and the future as well as a reservoir of labour (Okeowo *et. al.*, 1999). The development of the agricultural sector depends on young people, more especially the rural youths.

Most of the youth do not perceive agriculture as a lucrative business. Arokoyo and Ekong cited in Chikezie (2012) noted that the youth who have the energy to take up agricultural production do not believe or have the knowledge that agricultural production can really be a profitable venture. Thus, there is the urgent need to really educate them on the prospects associated with farming. Agribusiness management training should therefore feature prominently in youth in agriculture programmes.

According to Adewale et al cited in Muhammad-Lawal *et al* (2009), though youths have desirable qualities that can promote agriculture, most of them have strong apathy toward it. According to Ashford cited in Naamwintome (2013) rural youths who are attached to agriculture are disadvantaged and this is because consideration of the youths as future farmers in Africa has not received adequate attention.

Poor societal value orientation is considered one of the constraints to youth involvement in agriculture. While premium is placed over such vocational callings as medicine, engineering and law, agriculture was relegated, a condition that worsened over the dominant influence of the emergent petro-economy. Youth thus look down upon agriculture (Amadi, 2012). They therefore shy away from agriculture because people who engage in agriculture do not get any recognition.

Akpan (2010) asserted that there are a wide variety of factors that inhibits the youth from participating in agricultural activities; from economic, social and environmental factors reducing youth involvement in agricultural production. Akpan listed economic factors such as inadequate credit facilities, low farming profit margins, and a lack of agricultural insurance, initial capital and production inputs. Inadequate credit facilities and low profit margins drive most youth in Ghana from agriculture. A study by Adekunle et al (2009) also revealed a range of constraints the youth perceived to militate against their active participation in agricultural production activities to include inadequate credit facilities, poor returns to agricultural investment, lack of

agricultural insurance for produce during glut period and lack of access to tractors and other farm inputs.

Social factors, according to Akpan (2010) include public perception about farming and parental influence to move out of agriculture. Most people in Ghana look down on farmers and individuals who are engaged in agriculture activities. Farming is perceived as being a poor man's work. These perceptions tend to prevent many youth from engaging in farming.

According to White (2012), one reason why young people express reluctance to farm may reflect their aversion, not to farming as such, but to the long period of waiting that they face before they have a chance to engage in independent farming, even when land is available in the community. White stressed that in many or most agrarian societies the older generation – parents, or community elders in places where land is controlled not individually but by customary law – retain land as long as possible. White is of the view that the tension between the desires of the older generation to retain control of family or community resources, and the desire of young people to receive their share of these resources, form their own independent farms and households, and attain the status of economic and social adulthood, is a common feature of agrarian societies.

Njoku cited in Umeh and Odom (2011) enumerated constraints faced by youth associations to include drudgery nature of agriculture due to the dependence on hand tools; investment in developing countries usually discriminate against agriculture, backwardness of the rural area where farming activities predominate-lack of social amenities such as electricity, good roads, pipe borne water, transportation, schools, markets, hospital and communication facilities. The youth today is trendy and prefers new and innovative ways of doing things. The drudgery involved in farm work in rural areas of Ghana scare them from farming and other agricultural activities.

Efforts have however being made by government to provide tractor services in other to remove drudgery from work. The Ghana News Agency cited in Naamwintome (2013), posited that government has set up Agricultural Mechanization Centers (AMSECs) to help young farmers without capital, who might need expensive tools such as tractors, which they may not be able to afford, to boost their participation in

the sector. This has the potential of erasing the negative perception of agriculture by the youth that farmers are uneducated, unskilled, physical labourers, and more importantly, has extremely low economic return.

Gideon cited in Umeh and Odom (2011) holds the view that agriculture is without prestige and so the stigma of poverty, illiteracy, and backwardness is a disincentive to youth participation in agriculture. Gideon added that recent research efforts have identified financial problem, lack of cooperation among members, unavailability of extension agents, lack of community support and land tenure system as some of the major problems faced by youth programmes in Nigeria. The problems identified through the research efforts in Nigeria conform to the situation in Ghana.

According to Brown et al (2011), although the key constraints facing young people include factors such as better access to credit, more frequent visits by extension officers and access to affordable agricultural inputs; a positive environment is an even more important factor. This implies that agricultural extension services need to broaden their horizons if the youth are to be attracted to farming. Measures that involve rural youth to carry out participatory appraisals of their needs, and providing trainings aiming at addressing these needs should be implemented at regular intervals. Bamaisaiye cited to in Amadi (2012) indicates the following factors as some of the major constraints to youth involvement in agriculture:

- i. Lack of scientific knowledge of agriculture among the surviving generation of illiterate farmers;
- ii. The sustained use of traditional farming tools and methods; and
- iii. The non-lucrative and energy consuming farm-occupations with the attendant low morale among farmers and youth.

It can be inferred from Bamaisaiye that most of the youth shy away from agriculture because of the continuous use of old and traditional methods of farming. The old methods of farming make farming very tedious and low-income earning. According to Odhiambo (2012), the challenges facing the youth in developing countries include unequal opportunities in rural and urban settings (rural-urban migration) and lack of access to productive resources (land & capital). The youth who have the desire to

enter into farming mostly lack or are not entitled to these productive resources and therefore find it difficult to engage in agricultural activities.

Amadi (2012) also posited that production resources such as land, finance and market intelligence are a serious constraint considering the fact that agriculture is capital intensive. He further added that fund mobilization is still a major setback and of course, returns to investment (RTI) are still low due largely to low input value for those who eventually take up the adventure. People always invest in activities where they can generate more income and be able to recoup their investments. Due to the low profit margins associated with agriculture in Ghana, it is often difficult to get good returns from investments made in agriculture.

Ngongi (2012) posited that for the most part, farming practices in African agriculture have not changed in generations. Lack of support to improve productivity and bring innovation into the sector has in many ways pushed young people away from business opportunities in agriculture and into more attractive sectors like information and communication technology (ICT) or finance. Agriculture should therefore be made very attractive if young people are to accept farming as their main occupation.

Young people have fewer chances to obtain capital or credit and assets: Access to credit in rural financial institutions is often tied to availability of collateral (usually land) that young people do not have (Ngongi, 2012). Ngongi is of the view that exclusion in policy discussions and the absence of the concerns or issues of young people in national policies is also a major constraint to youth participation in agriculture. The youth have their aspirations and how they want to achieve them. Policies made without taking their concern into consideration would most invariably fail to address their needs.

2.7 The Youth in Agriculture Programme

The Youth in Agriculture Programme (YIAP) is a Government of Ghana (GOG) agricultural sector initiative with an objective of motivating the youth to accept and appreciate farming/food production as a commercial venture, thereby taking up farming as a life time vocation. The programme was introduced in 2009 by the then government. According to MoFA (2011), the YIAP has the task and responsibility of mobilizing the youth to take up farming and its other related activities as life time

vocation. The youth who engage in the programme are provided with tractor services and agro-inputs.

According to MOFA (2011), the Youth in Agriculture Programme has five main objectives. The objectives include;

- i. Making youth accept farming as a commercial business venture;
- ii. Generate appreciable income to meet farmers domestic and personal needs;
- iii. Improving the standard of living of the youth through improved income.
- iv. Motivating the youth to stay in rural areas, as inputs will be delivered at their farm gate, on credit basis and interest free,
- v. Producing enough food crops, meat and fish using modern methods.

The YIAP, based on its objectives, is primarily aimed at motivating young people to enter into farming. It is expected that the youth who accept to pursue farming as their main occupation would generate appreciable incomes from their farming activities. This assessment would therefore ascertain whether the YIAP was able to achieve these objectives in the Ejura-Sekyedumase District.

2.7.1 Components of the Youth in Agriculture Programme

The YIAP has 4 main components namely; crops/block farm, livestock and poultry, fisheries/aquaculture, and agribusiness. This assessment however focuses on the Crops/Block Farm component. Under the Crops/Block Farm Scheme, state land or land acquired from chiefs or private individuals is ploughed and shared in blocks among young farmers under the supervision of MoFA staff (MoFA, 2011). The land acquisition and ploughing takes away the hard task of obtaining land and also the dull and drab involved in farm work. The crops cultivated under the YIAP include maize (seed and grain), sorghum, soybean, tomato and onion.

Under the block farm, YIAP provides farmers with tractor services, inputs at subsidized prices on credit and at no interest. The land acquired is ploughed and shared among young farmers in blocks. At the end of the season, the young farmers may sell their produce to the Buffer Stock Company established by MoFA or any customer of their choice (MoFA, 2011). This arrangement is expected to take care of the marketing responsibilities and post harvest losses that young farmers would otherwise encounter. In the end, the young farmers are expected to repay the credit

facilities in cash or kind. This would ensure that there would be a revolving fund for other young people to also enjoy the opportunity.

2.8 Youth in Agriculture programmes as a Tool for Income and Employment Generation

Agriculture in Africa has untapped potential to create jobs, both directly and indirectly. In order to attract young people, agriculture will need to be more dynamic and appealing than it is now, and young people will need to view the sector more positively than they do now (Institute of Development Studies, 2012). This means that there so many opportunities of creating farm and non-farm jobs for the youth in Ghana. Efforts however have to be made to modernize agriculture so that more youth can be attracted to the sector.

About 80% of the poor and almost all those who suffer hard-core poverty, live in rural areas and it is expected that increased farm yield and access to marketing facilities, will result in increased farm incomes, which will not only contribute substantially to poverty reduction, but will also greatly help to remove the poor image of agriculture as a viable economic activity option for the youth in Ghana (Naamwintome, 2013). With access to agricultural extension services and credit facilities, farmers can obtain high profit margins from agriculture. Youth in agriculture programmes tend to provide enough benefits to the youth. It affords them the opportunity to development themselves. As opined by Akinbile *et al* cited in Onuk *et al* (2010), participation or involvement of youths in agriculture is a way of increasing their skills, knowledge, confidence and self-reliance and opportunity to collaborate and engaged in sustainable development.

Most of the youth lack the skill and knowledge required for employment. Through agriculture, the youth can develop skills in decision-making and how to run their own enterprises. Gwanya cited in Muhammad-Lawal *et al* (2009) stated that the Youth in Agriculture programme has been described as a very important structure for land and agrarian reform which will go a long way towards promoting the interest of youth in the agricultural sector of the economy. Youth in agriculture programmes are targeted towards young farmers and therefore take the interest of these farmers into consideration.

Involvement of youth in agricultural activities has the potential of reducing the problems of the ageing farm population and increasing youth unemployment and this call for securing the interest and participation of young people in agriculture in the form of deliberate shift in policy, training and promotion that specially targets the youth (Naamwintome, 2013). This implies that in order to harness this potential, efficient strategies have to be employed to meet the aspirations of the youth.

The youth in agriculture programme has the potential to reduce the demographic shift so that the youth can stay in rural areas and engage in farming activities. In Ghana, 52 percent of people (age 7 or above) are migrants. Migrants comprise 55 percent of the population of Accra (GLSS5, 2008). The increased numbers of people in urban areas imply that there are fewer people left in rural areas who are available to produce food for the growing urban population (World Bank, 2012). The forgoing assertions imply that the country stands to benefit enormously if the youth are encouraged to stay in the rural communities to engage in farming.

According to Brooks *et al* (2013), agriculture represents the sector of most immediate opportunity to realize gains in growth and to create employment for young people. Brooks *et al* added that the farming that can accomplish this must shift rapidly from low productivity and status to technical dynamism with recognized opportunity. This requires the modernization of farming systems practiced here in Ghana, the use of improved planting materials and efficient post harvest handling of farm produce. Modernization of agriculture would ensure that young farmers gain more from their farming enterprises. Farming would thus become less tedious with commensurate profit margins. This type of farming has the potential to attract more young people into the sector.

Agricultural interventions such as the youth in agriculture programme have the potential to increase the income of young farmers. This view is shared by Simonyan and Omolehin (2012) who established the fact that during Fadama II project, the income of the beneficiary farmers increased significantly more than before the project and also more than the non-beneficiaries' income. This means that youth in agriculture have the potential improve the livelihoods of youths who engage in agricultural activities.

Geest (2010), in his study, found that younger household heads who are engaged in farming tend to derive a higher income from their agricultural activities than older household heads. This is probably because the younger generation is more open to new crops and technologies that produce a higher yield. Possibly, they are also more involved in postharvest value addition (storage, processing) or more profitable ways of marketing their produce (Davis et al 2007). Young people are not afraid to try new technologies which often yield better. It implies that young people who engage in farming are more likely to make more gains from agricultural activities.

2.9 Socio-economic Characteristics of Participants in Youth in Agriculture Programmes

The results of a study conducted by Muhammad-Lawal et al (2009) showed that there are more males involved in the Youth in Agriculture programme than females. This is most likely to be due to the fact that men are capable of doing more tedious work which is usually associated with farming than the females.

A study by Ogunremi et al (2012:35) on the relevance and benefits of agricultural youth empowerment programmes revealed that most respondents were males (61.4%) while 38.6% were female. The reason for this is that practical farming requires physical fitness and so many men can withstand more rigorous works than women.

Oladeji *et al* as cited in Chikezie et al (2012) observed that it is generally believed that males are often more energetic and could readily be available for energy demanding jobs like farming. Oladeji, in his study, concluded that the low percentage of the female youth participating in cassava production could be attributed to the fact that females are usually involved in several activities outside farming like food vendors, hair dressing, tailoring and petty trading.

A study conducted by Bello et al (2011) on the socio-economic characteristics of youths involved in rice production revealed that majority of the respondents were within the age range of 18-25 years while 32.5% and 20.0% were between the ages of 26-34 and 35-43 years respectively. Bello et al justifies this finding with the fact that in Nigeria, agricultural production is still carried out using physical strength which deals with ages. Farming in Ghana is still traditional which requires a lot of energy

and strength. Efforts should therefore be made to attract the youth who have the strength to cultivate large tracts of land.

The study conducted by Chikezie et al (2012) to find out the age group mostly involved in cassava production activities reveals that 9.17 percent of the respondents were less than 20 years, while 43.33 percent and 33.33 percent were between 21 – 25 years and 26 – 30 years, respectively. However, 14.17 percent of the respondents were more than 30 years. Chikezie et al revealed that majority of the youth were in their productive age, where their energies could be harnessed and utilized for productive venture in agriculture especially cassava production. Similarly, their relatively young age may make them receptive to new innovations unlike of the older ones who usually expect the maintenance of status quo.

A study conducted by Olaniyi and Adewale (2012) on maize production among rural youths revealed that 58.5% of the sampled rural youth are within the age of 30 to 35 years while more than one-quarter (28.1%) are within the age category of 24 to 29 years and 13.4% of them fell within the age range of 18 to 24 years. The mean age of the respondents was 29.2 years. The result of this finding shows that older youth were more involved in the agricultural activities and is considered to be matured and more productive in economic enterprises.

The result of a study conducted by Onuk et al (2010) showed that majority (80%) of these youths are males, while 20% are females. The males constitute the majority because females are used mainly for domestic work and for the fact that women have always been denied access to productive resources. This indicates that the participation of females in youth in agriculture programmes is often very low. Women tend to be more attracted to domestic work than farm work. Those that desire to participate are often denied access to productive resources such as land and capital.

The level of education attained by participants also plays an important role since it has the potential to influence their ability to adopt agricultural innovations and the decisions they take regarding the numerous aspects of farming. Education is therefore important for the development of agriculture.

The results of the study conducted by Muhammad-Lawal et al (2009) further showed that a greater percentage of the programme participants (93.64%) had some form of

formal education. This implies that the participants are not likely to have much difficulty in understanding and adopting modern agricultural technologies and innovations. However, less than two-sixth of the participants in the study conducted (15.45%) have tertiary education. This could be an indication of the lack of interest in agriculture by many young graduates.

2.10 The Role of the Youth in Agricultural Development

Youth constitute a formidable force for development of agriculture in any nation particularly the agrarian ones. Iwala cited in Ogunmeri 2012 asserted that youths possess a lot of energies and other inestimable assets for productivity and general sustainable socio-economic development. According to Fatula cited in Muhammad-Lawal et al (2009), since agricultural development is the basic tool for economic development, there is the need for more emphasis to be placed on the role youth can play in agriculture. This implies that the active participation of the youth in agriculture and agricultural related activities would boost economic growth.

Akinbode (1991) posits that the youth constitute the most important sector in any society. They provide the manpower for the socio-economic development of the society. In the rural sector, youth provide opportunities for generating the farming entrepreneurs and other rural professions. The existence and continuous generation of farming entrepreneurs would lead to sustained agricultural production. The involvement of the youth in agriculture cannot be underestimated since it is otherwise likely to affect agricultural production. As stated by Amadi (2012), the rapid decline in agricultural production has been attributed to the continuous decline in agricultural labour. This consequently is occasioned by the continued efflux of the youth and school leavers from the rural farming communities in search of employment other than agriculture.

Decline in agricultural production affects food security; hence effective strategies should be employed to ensure that youths participate in agriculture. Youths are very important resources for every nation especially for sustaining agricultural productivity. The youth are stakeholders in the development process especially in view of the great assets of youth, resilience, resourcefulness and perseverance (FAO cited in Naamwintome (2013). In agricultural development through an effective extension system, the youth constitute a potent force. This is because the youth have a

number of characteristics which when nurtured and utilized, are invaluable assets to agricultural and rural development (Umeh and Odom, 2011).

The youths are resource and able to adopt new and improved farming technologies. They tend to share agricultural information with their peers quicker and are therefore a great asset to extension services. The same view is shared by Umeh and Odom (2011). In their analysis on role of youth associations in agricultural development, it was revealed that the youth associations were involved in procurement and distribution of farm inputs to farmers at affordable cost and also helped to disseminate agricultural information.

Jibowo cited in Umeh and Odom (2011) enumerated other characteristics of the youth to include innovations proneness, minimal risk aversion, less fear of failure, less conservative, greater physical strength, faster rate of learning greater knowledge acquisitions propensity and social propensity. He further added that the youth play a major role in agricultural development with which rural development emerge as they provide greater percentage of the total workforce in agricultural production.

The youth constitute the most important sector in any society. They serve as channels for the transmission of culture and the perpetuation of recognizable identity. They also provide the manpower for the socio-economic development of the society (Ekong cited in Chikezie (2012). Fashina and Okunola cited in Chikezie et al (2012) also reported that all 120 respondents sampled in their study on impact of agricultural programme on food production were youths and were fully involved in agricultural production activities. As noted by Arokoyo and Auta cited in Olaniyi and Adewale (2012), it is only the energetic, creative, innovative, productive and committed workforce that can bring expected development in agriculture. This group of people is the youth and should therefore be encouraged to participate in agricultural activities.

2.11 Conceptual framework for the Study

A study of this kind requires a clearly spelt out conceptual framework to facilitate it. The conceptual framework articulates the pathways or process by which the youth in agriculture intervention is expected to cause the desired outcome. It also reveals the variables being studied, which were informed by the review of literature. This section presents a schematic diagram of the relationships between key concepts and variables that best relate to the youth unemployment and the youth in agriculture intervention.

The conceptual framework is indicated in Figure 2.1. As can be seen from Figure 2.1, Ghana is bedeviled with huge numbers of young people without jobs. These unemployed youth, who can secure jobs in the agricultural sector, have negative perceptions about farming. They see farming as backward and a job for the poor. Youths who tend to engage in agriculture are constrained by factors such as lack of access to land and agro- inputs as well as access to agricultural extension services.

The youth in agriculture programme is expected to motivate the youth to engage in farming through the provision of agribusiness management training, land, agro-chemicals and agricultural extension services. This is expected to result in a change in their perception about farming and also serve as an avenue for income generation for the youth. With increased incomes and a change in perception, beneficiaries are expected to engage in farming as lifetime vocation. The implementation of the programme can therefore be said to be effective if it achieves the objective of motivating the youth to pursue farming as a career.

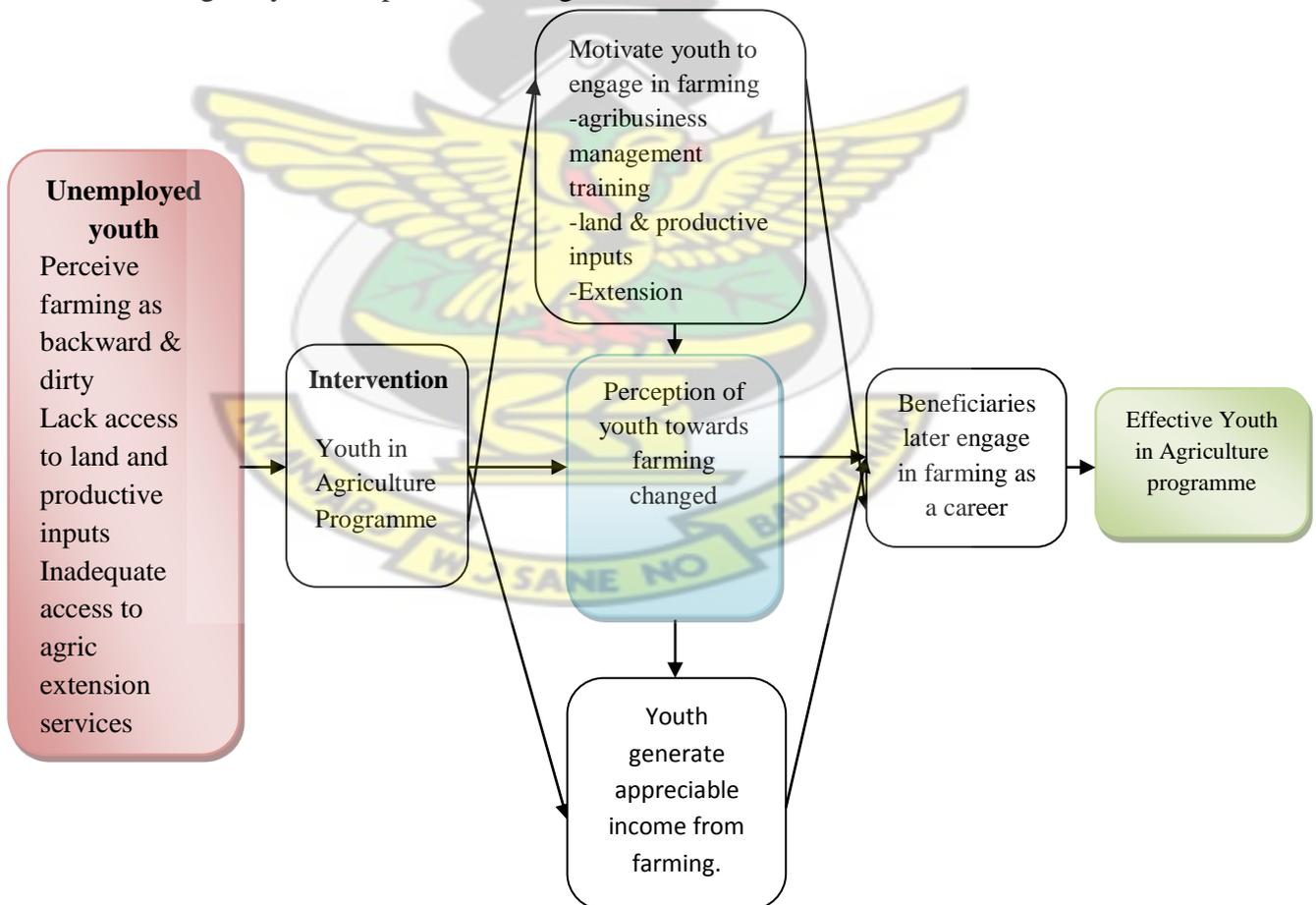


Figure 2.1: Conceptual framework for the Study

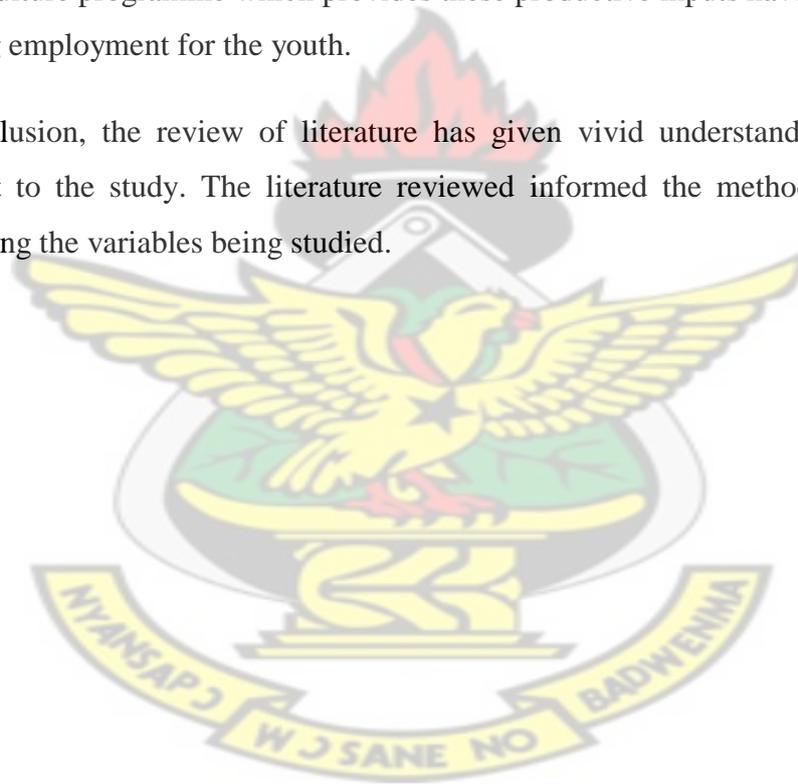
Source: Author’s Construct, 2014.

2.12 Summary

Extensive literature has been reviewed on youth unemployment and how to address the challenge through agriculture. The literature indicates that even though agriculture has greater potential to reduce youth unemployment, the youth have negative perceptions towards farming. This implies that measures should be put in place to change the negative perceptions so that they can be motivated to engage in farming.

The literature also revealed that constraints to youth participation in agriculture include lack of access to land, extension services and productive inputs. This means that the provision of land and other productive inputs such as fertilizers can motivate the youth to enter into farming. It implies that agricultural interventions such as the youth in agriculture programme which provides these productive inputs have the potential of creating employment for the youth.

In conclusion, the review of literature has given vivid understanding of concepts relevant to the study. The literature reviewed informed the methodology used for measuring the variables being studied.



CHAPTER THREE

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a description of the study area. It gives a brief description of the Ejura-Sekyedumase district where the study was conducted. It highlights the physical and socio-economic characteristics of the area. The chapter also discusses the techniques and the procedures employed to carry out the research. The research design adopted and the type of data used for the research as well as the sampling procedure for data collection are also highlighted.

3.2 The Study Area

3.2.1 Selection of study area

The study was conducted in the Ejura-Sekyedumase District of the Ashanti Region. The district was selected for the study based on two main reasons. First, the district is one of the districts where the YIAP is being implemented. Secondly, the district comprises several rural communities which are dominated by agricultural activities.

3.2.2 Brief description of study area

Ejura-Sekyedumase District was carved out of the former Sekyere and Offinso Districts and was thus created as a result of the implementation of the decentralization programmes on 29th November, 1988. The district was established by a legislative instrument, PNDC L.I 1400, 1988 (Ejura-Sekyedumase District Assembly, 2006a).

Location and Size

The district is located within longitudes 1°5'W and 1°39' W and latitudes 7°9' N and 7°36'N. It is located in the Northern part of the Ashanti Region and is bounded in the north by Atebubu and Nkoranza districts (both in the Brong Ahafo region), on the west by Offinso district, on the East by Sekyere East district and the south by Sekyere West and Afigya Sekyere district.

The district has a large land size of about 1,782.2sq.km. (690.781sq.miles) and is the fifth largest district in Ashanti region's 26 districts. It constitutes about 7.3% of the total land area of Ashanti Region with about one third of its land area lying in the Afram Plains (Ejura-Sekyedumase District Assembly, 2006a).

Topography and Drainage

The landscape in the southern part of the district is fairly rolling with valleys and peaks. Averagely, the valleys have a depth of about 135m whilst the peaks rise to about 315m above sea level. The highest point in the district is made up of a range of hills, found in the eastern part and passes through Ejura and Mampong, forming part of the Kintampo-Koforidua range. Examples of the hills found in the district include; Kwasi Mahu Hills (1,350), Ejurachem Scarp (1, 000) and Dente Scarp (rock outcrop) with a greater part of the districts reserve being a scarp.

On the other hand, the northern part is undulating and fairly flat with heights ranging between 150-300m. Ejura is located on an altitude of about 225m. The district is dissected and well-drained by a number of rivers, streams and their tributaries. The drainage is dendritic in nature and has a west-east and northwest-southeast directional flow. Major rivers include; Affram, Akobaa, Chirade, Bresua whilst minor ones include Aberewa, Yaya and Baba (Ejura-Sekedumase District Assembly, 2006).

Climate and Vegetation

Ejura-Sekyedumase lies within the transitional zone of the semi-deciduous forest and Guinea Savannah zones. Thus, it experiences both the forest and savannah climatic conditions. The district is marked by two rainfall patterns; the bi-modal pattern in the south and the uni-modal in the north. The main rainy season is between May and November. The north-east trade winds blow dry and dusty winds across the entire district during this period. Annual rainfall varies between 1,200mm and 1,500mm (Ejura-Sekedumase District Assembly, 2006).

Relative humidity is very high during the rainy season, recording 90% in its peak in June and 55% in February. Solar radiation is very high during the dry season. The vegetation characteristics in the district are to a large extent dictated by the topography, climatic condition and patterns. The northern part is covered with sparse derived deciduous forest vegetation. Growth of the savannah vegetation is largely attributable to the high increase in the rate of shifting cultivation and bush following in the district. The climatic conditions of the district together with the topographical layout are a favourable condition for the cultivation of food crops. Also the derived

form of savannah vegetation at the northern part of the district supports the cultivation of cereals (Ejura-Sekedumase District Assembly, 2006a).

Geology and Soils

The underlying rock soils are of the Upper Voltaian Series with its main components being the sandstone, shale and mud stone-beds, shale intrusions and sand, and pebbly bed series. These are sedimentary rocks which result in the formation of soils derived from the weathering of the Voltaian sandstone.

Soils in the district are of the Savannah Ochrosol type which is mainly made up of sandy loam or clay. The major characteristics of this soil type is that they are well drained, deep, light in colour, well aerated and rich in organic matter and plant nutrients as well as high water-retaining capacities. They are easy to till and especially suited for mechanized farming.

The type of soils found in the forest zones of the district are the forest ochrosol type. These soil types tend to support the cultivation of food and cash crops. Root tubers such as yam and cocoyam as well as cereals such as maize do well especially in such soils. This explains why maize and yam are two of the major crops grown in the district.

Structure of the Economy

The structure of the Ejura-Sekyedumase District economy remains an agrarian one. Primary Production (Agriculture) constitutes 68.2% while manufacturing and service constitutes 8.0% and 23.8% respectively.

The agriculture sector dominates in terms of employment. Even though the sector employs a majority of the people, its contribution to income is very low thus contributing to the low standards of living (Ejura-Sekedumase District Assembly, 2006a).

Agriculture

The agriculture sector in the Ejura-Sekyedumase District dominates all the other sectors of the economy in terms of employment as a typical characteristic of a

Ghanaian setting. It employs about 68.2% of the population which is above the national rate of 60%. The agricultural sector of the district includes both crop production and livestock rearing.

Maize is the dominant food crop type cultivated in the district. A look at the production trends and levels over the years reveals that maize is the dominant crop type. It could therefore be said that, the soil type in the district supports the production of maize more than any other food crop. An emphasis is also laid on the Ejura Farms which is also engaged mostly in the production of maize (Ejura-Sekedumase District Assembly, 2006a).

3.2.3 Implications of the physical and socio-economic characteristics of the area

The Ejura-Sekyedumase District is characterized by significant physical and socio-economic features. The district is well-drained by a number of rivers and streams which makes it suitable for agricultural activities. This implies that farmers in the district would have reliable sources of water especially during application of herbicides and pesticides.

Ejura-Sekyedumase District is characterized by both the forest and savannah climatic conditions. The savannah conditions and the type of soils found in the district make it suitable for the cultivation of cereals especially maize. The district is also marked by two rainy seasons in year. This implies that crop farmers are able to plant in two farming seasons in year. The ability to plant in two seasons offers farmers the opportunity to generate more income from their farming enterprises.

The agricultural sector dominates the economy of Ejura-Sekyedumase District. The sector employs a majority of the active labour force in the district. Even though the sector employs more people, its contribution to income is very low. This makes farming unattractive to the youth in the district. This implies that efforts should be made by the youth in agriculture programme to make farming more profitable to be able to attract the youth in the district.

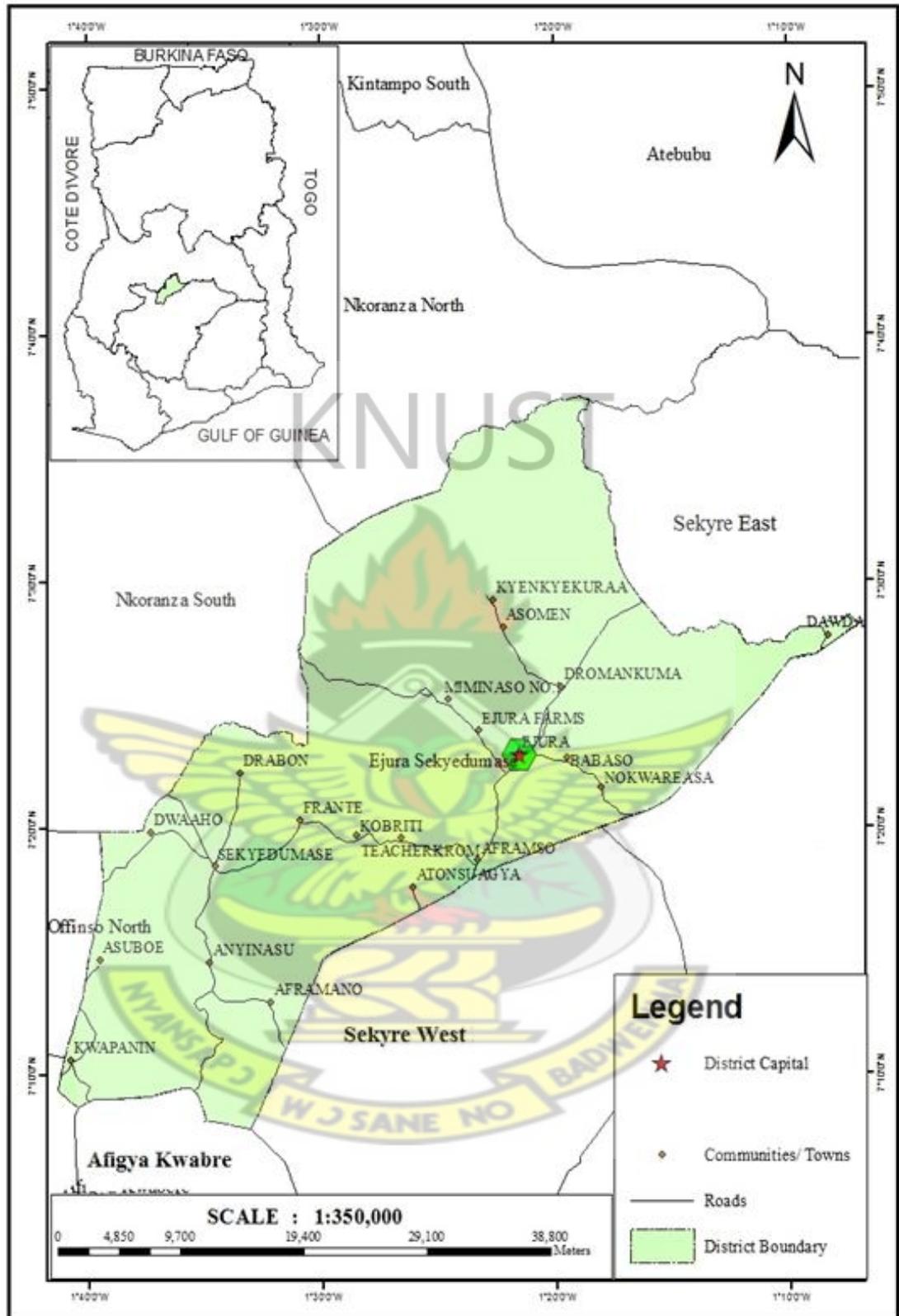


Figure 3.1: Map of Ejura-Sekyedumase District Showing the Study Area

Source: Ejura-Sekyedumase District Assembly, 2006b.

3.3 Methodology

3.3.1 Research Design

According to Kothari (2004), research design is the conceptual structure within which research is conducted; it constitutes the blueprint for the collection, measurement and analysis of data. Carriger (2000) also adds that research design is the strategy, the plan, and the structure of conducting a research. A research design ensures that data obtained enables the researcher to answer the initial question as explicitly as possible. In order to obtain relevant data, the type of data needed to answer the research questions needs to be specified. The research design therefore provides a road map which facilitates the conduct of the research.

The research seeks to assess the effectiveness of an intervention (YIAP) in achieving the programme objectives. To be able to effectively assess the YIAP, the researcher employed a quasi-experimental design which made use of data collected from same beneficiaries on selected variables “before” and “after” their participation in the YIAP. A quasi-experiment is a research design that uses non-random techniques to estimate the effects of an intervention on its target population.

3.3.2 Population

The target for the study was participants who were enrolled onto the programme in the Ejura-Sekyedumase district. The specific target of the study was all the young men and women who were enrolled onto the YIAP in the district in 2011. The 2011 beneficiaries constituted a total of 216 young men and women. These were made of 22 groups of 10 members each. One group consisted of six members.

For purposes of this study, respondents were selected and interviewed on individual basis since all efforts to interview entire groups did not materialize. This was due to the alleged financial malfeasance about GYEEDA in the media limelight.

3.3.3 Sample Size Determination

A sample is subset or a small group of a population which is chosen to represent the entire population. The sample size used, however, should provide data from which to draw plausible conclusions about the population.

Using a sample size calculator, with a confidence level of 95% and confidence interval of 8%, a sample size of 89 respondents out of 216 beneficiaries was obtained. However, due to limited period time available for the study and financial constraints, the researcher interviewed 44 beneficiaries which represent 50% of the sample population. Fraenkel and Wallen (2002) posits the researcher should rely on a sample size that is not too large or too small to obtain the needed data at less cost and within an affordable time.

3.3.4 Selection of respondents

Due to an alleged financial misappropriation about GYEEDA in the media at the time of the study coupled with the fact that some of the beneficiaries had not fully repaid the input credit they received from MoFA, only few individual beneficiaries were willing to provide information about their participation in the programme. Notwithstanding the situation, the selection of respondents was carried out using sampling techniques that enabled the researcher to achieve some degree of representativeness of the population as required for a scientific study.

The study made use of purposive and voluntarily sampling techniques in the selection of respondents and the institutions surveyed. Purposive sampling is a form of non-probability sampling in which the subjects selected seem to meet the study's needs. Voluntarily sampling is also another form of non-probability sampling where the sample is self selected. The list of beneficiary groups who participated in the YIAP in 2011 was obtained from District Directorate of GEEDA. Group meetings were subsequently held with leaders and members of each group.

To ensure representativeness of the 44 respondents selected, two members of each group were selected. The researcher purposively selected the secretary of each group and any one additional member who volunteered to participate in the study. The group secretaries were purposively selected because they were the custodians of all the records and relevant information pertaining to the groups' activities and were therefore very useful to study. In all, a total of 44 beneficiaries were interviewed as shown in Table 3.1.

Institutional surveys were also conducted to obtain all the relevant information pertaining to the implementation of the YIAP. Two institutions namely the District

Agricultural Development Unit of MOFA and the District Directorate of GYEEDA were selected as shown in Table 3.1. The two institutions were purposively selected because the YIAP was implemented jointly by MoFA and GYEEDA.

Table 3.1 Summary of respondents

No.	Respondents	Number interviewed	Justification
1	Individual YIAP beneficiaries	44	-Basic unit of analysis -number of individual beneficiaries in a position to provide useful information to the study.
2	Departments/ Directorates selected for the study	2 -Dist. Directorate of MOFA -Dist. Directorate of GYEEDA	Departments/ Directorates responsible for the implementation of the YIAP at Ejura.
	Total	46	

Source: Author's Construct, 2014.

3.3.5 Research Variables

As established in the conceptual framework, variables to be studied to achieve aim of the research are the following: agribusiness management training provided to beneficiaries, access to land and agro-chemicals and agricultural extension services by beneficiaries, the number of beneficiaries engaged in farming after exiting the YIAP, beneficiary income after exiting the YIAP and perception of youth about farming.

3.3.6 Data sources and collection

The study made use of both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected using questionnaires as the research instrument. The questionnaire comprised both structured and open-ended questions. This method of information gathering enabled the researcher to interact with beneficiaries on one-on-one basis. Questionnaires were also used to collect data from the District Directorate of MOFA and GYEEDA to validate and further supplement the data collected from beneficiaries. Secondary data was sourced from books, journals, research articles as well as MoFA and GYEEDA field reports among others.

3.3.7 Pre-testing of research instruments

Pre-testing of the research instruments (questionnaires) for beneficiaries and selected institutions was carried out to check internal consistencies, ambiguities and clarity. A

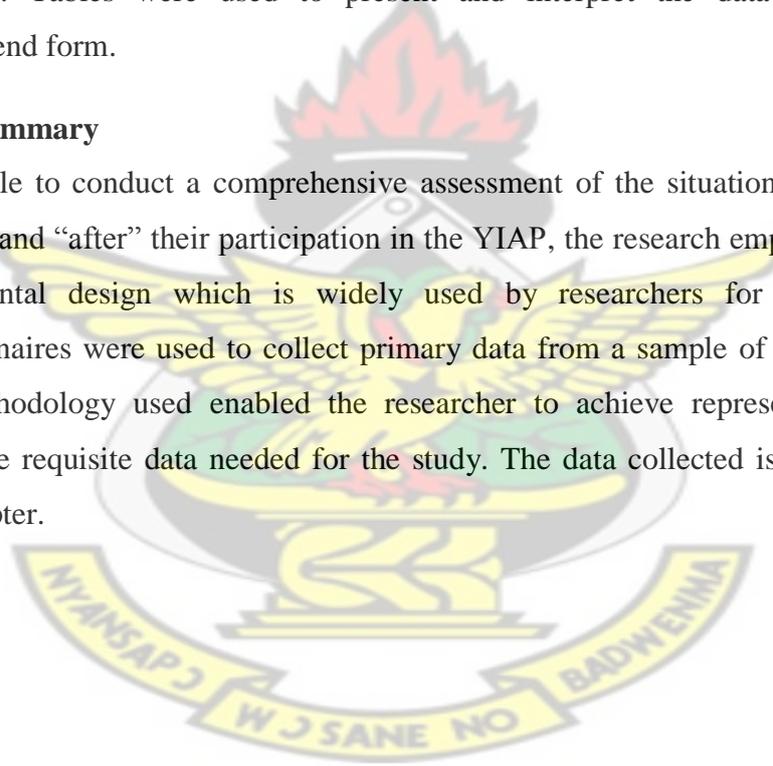
total of five beneficiaries of the Youth in Agriculture programme were taken through the questionnaire during the pre-testing. Revisions were subsequently made to some of the questions based on the findings from the pre-testing.

3.3.8 Data Presentation and Analysis

The study made use of both qualitative and quantitative data for the study. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze the data collected through questionnaires. The questions and responses were pre-coded and then entered into the software. Statistical analysis was done after the data entry. Frequencies and percentages were generated from the analysis. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages and means were used to answer the research questions. Tables were used to present and interpret the data in an easy-to-comprehend form.

3.4 Summary

To be able to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the situation of beneficiaries “before” and “after” their participation in the YIAP, the research employed the quasi-experimental design which is widely used by researchers for similar studies. Questionnaires were used to collect primary data from a sample of 44 beneficiaries. The methodology used enabled the researcher to achieve representativeness and obtain the requisite data needed for the study. The data collected is analyzed in the next chapter.



CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction

The main focus of the study was to assess the performance of the Youth in Agriculture programme in the Ejura-Sekyedumase district. The study captured the opinions of 44 beneficiaries who were enrolled onto the programme in 2011. Further information was also gathered through an institutional survey conducted at the District Directorates of MoFA and GYEEDA. This chapter presents, analyses and discusses the data on the socio-economic characteristics of beneficiaries and the measures put in place to motivate the youth to participate in the YIAP among others, in the form of tables with frequencies and percentages for easy comprehension.

4.2 Socio Economic Characteristics of the YIAP Beneficiaries

This section presents data and analyses on the personal information of the respondents interviewed. The information about respondents was analyzed in terms of age, sex and the highest level of educational attainment. The years of farming experience that respondents had attained before joining the programme were also analyzed.

4.2.1 Age and Sex Distribution

In order to ascertain whether the beneficiaries enrolled onto the programme were actually the targeted youth, the age of beneficiaries were assessed. As shown in Table 4.1, majority (36.4%) of the respondents were between the ages of 31- 35 years, while 27.2% of them were between the ages of 26-30. This implies that respondents were mainly youths, going by definition of youth as a person aged between 15 and 35 years by the National Youth Policy (2010). This means that participants were at the productive age where their energies can be utilized for productive ventures in agriculture. Moreover, their relatively young age would make them more receptive to new innovations unlike older farmers who are usually resistant to changing their old systems of farming.

Table 4.1 shows that majority (36.4%) of the respondents were between the ages of 31- 35 years. This finding agrees with Olaniyi and Adewale (2012) whose study on

maize production among rural youths revealed that 58.5% of the sampled rural youth are within the age of 30 to 35 years. This means that older youth are more involved in agricultural activities and are considered matured and more productive in economic enterprises.

Table 4.1 also provides information on gender balance in terms of providing equal career opportunities for both male and female youth without jobs. Gender is not a barrier to active involvement in activities. However, Oladeji *et al* as cited in Chikezie (2012), observed that it is generally believed that males are often more energetic and could readily be available for energy demanding jobs like farming. As can be seen from the table, about 70.5% of the respondents were males while the remaining 29.5% were females. The low number of female respondents could be as a result of the fact that farming is an energy demanding job and tend not to attract females. Activities like post-emergence weed control requires some physical fitness. This finding is confirmed by Ogunremi et al (2012) whose study on the relevance and benefits of agricultural youth empowerment programmes revealed that most of the respondents were males. Ogunremi believes that practical farming requires physical fitness and so men can withstand more rigorous works than women.

The low percentage of the female youth participating in the programme is also attributable to the fact that females in the study area are involved in several other activities outside farming like food vending, hair dressing, tailoring and petty trading. As indicated by Amu (undated), the participation of women in these activities tends to follow the traditional conception of women's work. Traditionally these three activities have been the business activities for women: trading, cooking and taking care of the home and the community in general.

Comparing the age of respondents to their sex, it was found that 36.4% of both sexes were aged between 31- 35. This is explained by the fact that respondents between the ages of 31-35 had between 1-5 people who depended on them. It means that these respondents needed income earning opportunities to be able to fend for their families.

Table 4.1. Age and Sex Distribution of Beneficiaries

Ages	Sex		Total	
	Male	Female	Frequency	%
15-20	5	0	5	11.4
21-25	8	3	11	25.0
26-30	8	4	12	27.2
31-35	10	6	16	36.4
Total	31	13	44	100.0

Source: Author's Field Survey, May 2014.

4.2.2 Levels of Education of the YIAP Beneficiaries

The level of education attainment is not a barrier to farming and so was not a prerequisite for beneficiaries enrolling onto the programme. Education, however, may have some effects on farmers. Education brings about changes in attitudes, beliefs and habits. It may also help farmers to acquire and understand information and be able to calculate appropriate quantities of inputs to be applied. With improved attitudes and habits young farmers would be more willing to adopt innovations and observe productive agricultural practices.

However, the levels of education of beneficiaries of the youth in agriculture programme were assessed for two main reasons. First, education as a human capital informs a farmer in taking decisions regarding his or her farming activities. Education enhances the level of adoption of modern farm technologies by young farmers and hence it is able to create a well informed younger farming population. Ojukaiye as cited in Chikezie (2012) posits that education is an important socio-economic factor that influences a farmer's decision because of its influence on the farmer's awareness, reception and the adoption of innovation that can increase production.

Secondly, the unemployment situation in Ghana does not only affect the less educated. The formal sector is not able to provide job opportunities for these numerous graduates who are churned out every year by the tertiary institutions. The youth in agriculture programme is therefore an avenue created by government to offer career opportunities for these young people. The study therefore intended to ascertain whether all the categories of unemployed youth were taking advantage of the

opportunities provided by the programme to get a vocation. Table 4.2 provides data on the educational levels of the respondents who participated in the study.

Table 4.2 shows that a majority of the respondents attained basic level of education while 9.1% attained secondary education. This finding is confirmed by Muhammad-Lawal et al (2009) whose study showed that a greater percentage of the participants (93.64%) in a youth in agriculture programme in Nigeria had some form of formal education. Participants with some form of education are not likely to have much difficulty in understanding and adopting modern agricultural technologies and innovations.

However, the low level of participation by youths with higher educational attainment implies that the educated youth who have no jobs are not taking advantage of the opportunity provided by the program. This findings confirms that of Zakaria (2014) that more than half (54.8%) of the 292 agricultural students interviewed at the University of Development Studies do not prefer agribusiness at all, as an avenue for self-employment after graduation, with only 8.6% of them ranking self-employment in agribusiness as their most preferred job after graduation.

The absence of highly educated youth in the programme is also supported by Okorley cited in Ayanda *et al* (2012)) , who reported that only 20% of the final year agricultural students surveyed at Kwara State University indicated a definite willingness to enter agribusiness as a self-employment venture. The lack of interest in farming by agricultural students who are trained to pursue careers in farming is clear indication of the reasons why all graduates alike do not want to venture into farming.

Table 4.2. Levels of education attainment of beneficiaries

Level of Education	Frequency	Percent (%)
Basic	34	77.3
Secondary	4	9.1
Tertiary	0	0
Others	6	13.6
Total	44	100.0

Source: Author's Field Survey, May 2014.

4.2.3 Years of Experience in Farming

Experience is gained when someone engages in an activity over a period of time. The research sought to find out whether the youth who participated in the programme had prior experience in farming. Table 4.3 shows the years of experience that respondents had gained before enrolling onto the youth in agriculture programme.

As can be seen from Table 4.3, all the respondents had prior farming experience before enrolling onto the programme. A majority of the respondents (54.5%) had between 4-6 years of farming experience while 29.5% has less than three years experience. This means that youths attracted to the programme had prior exposure to farming. It implies that most of the respondents had practical knowledge in agricultural production.

However, Table 4.3 indicates that the programme was not able to attract unemployed who have never engaged in any farming activity. This category of the unemployed youth constitutes those that need to be given more exposure to farming so that they can develop a strong sense of liking for farming.

Table 4.3 Years of farming experience gained by beneficiaries before the YIAP

Years	Frequency	Percent (%)
1 – 3	13	29.5
4 – 6	24	54.5
7 – 9	7	16.0
10 & above	0	0
Total	44	100.0

Source: Author's Field Survey, May 2014.

4.3 Measures put in place to motivate the youth to participate in the YIAP

Motivation is “a process that starts with a physiological deficiency or need that activates behaviour or a drive that is aimed at a goal incentive (Luthans, 1998). As established from the review of literature, access to extension services, land and other productive inputs have the potential to motivate the youth to enter into farming.

This section assesses whether measures put in place in the study area did motivate the youth to enroll onto the programme. The responses given by respondents are analyzed

in Table 4.4. Based on a rank of 1-3 (1 being most important), access to land and agro-inputs emerged as the most important motivating factor. This was followed by access to agricultural extension services and agribusiness management training respectively as can be seen from Table 4.4. This implies that the provision of more lands and agro-inputs will attract more youths to participate in the YIAP.

The finding agrees with Bello (2011) whose study revealed positive and significant relationship between youth's involvement in agricultural production and access to credit, and significant relationship with contact with extension workers. This infers that accessibility to credit in the form of inputs would encourage the youth to participate in agriculture production activities.

Table 4.4. Beneficiaries' motivation for participating in the YIAP

Motivation for participating in the YIAP	1st	2nd	3rd
Agribusiness management training	0	12	28
Access to agricultural extension services	0	32	16
Access to land and agro-inputs	44	0	0
Total	44	44	44

Source: Author's Field Survey, May 2014.

4.3.1 Agribusiness Management Training

One way to increase the prestige of farming and agriculture is by emphasizing that agriculture, no matter how small, is a business (Younger, 2013). Agribusiness management training is therefore key to the success of such interventions. It involves training programs that train young farmers to take farming as business and profit making as the centre of all their activities.

The section assesses whether these training programmes provided by the District Directorate of MoFA was adequate to equip beneficiaries in that regard. Using a three points Likert Scale as 'inadequate', 'uncertain' and 'adequate' the respondents' assessment of the adequacy of the farm management trainings and extension services was analyzed and the results of the analysis presented in the Table 4.5.

Table 4.5 indicates that a majority of the respondents (82%) found the farm management training received adequate in preparing them for their farming venture.

Data collected revealed that the agribusiness management trainings provided to the beneficiaries covered areas including the following: farming as a business, crop budgeting, record keeping and marketing. This implies that respondents were exposed to the business and profit-making aspects of their farming enterprise.

Table 4.5 Rating of agribusiness management training by beneficiaries

Rating	Frequency (N=44)	Percent (%)
Inadequate	8	18
Uncertain	0	0
Adequate	36	82
Total	44	100

Source: Author's Field Survey, May 2014.

4.3.2 Access to Land and Agro-inputs

The major challenges to youth participation in agriculture include access to land and production inputs such as fertilizers and herbicides. As opined by Odhiambo (2012), the challenges facing the youth in developing countries include lack of access to productive resources (land & capital to purchase other inputs). Young people in farming communities have less chances of obtaining capital and assets. Access to land and other inputs is therefore considered a major motivational factor to encourage the youth to enter into farming. This section assesses the productive inputs that were provided to the beneficiaries of YIAP for 2011 and 2012.

Land

Access to land is one of the major obstacles to youth participation in farming. This is because lands in Ejura are owned by chiefs and other traditional rulers and are therefore acquired through inheritance. Young people who are not natives of Ejura therefore find it difficult to acquire land for agricultural purposes. This deters most of the youth from entering into farming. The youth in agriculture programme sought to remove this obstacle by providing land to the beneficiaries for their farming activities.

As can be seen from Table 4.6, two acres of land were acquired at the Ejura farmland and given to the respondents (100%) for the two year period that they were enrolled as beneficiaries of the YIAP. The Ejura farmland is owned by the state and managed

by the Ejura-Sekyedumase District Assembly. The Ghana Youth Employment and Entrepreneurial Development Agency, being a Directorate under the District Assembly, was given the land by the District Assembly to implement the youth in agriculture programme. The tenure arrangement is such that the Directorate of GYEEDA has access to the land for the duration that government would run the youth in agriculture programme. This tenure arrangement will help to sustain the provision of land as a measure to motivate the more youth to engage in farming.

Ploughing (tractor services)

Land preparation is seen as an activity that introduces drudgery to farm work. Manually clearing and preparing land for cultivation often scares the youth away from farming. However, most farmers have little, if any access to agricultural machinery (World Bank, 2012). Even when tractor services are available, the youth are not able to afford these services. Ploughing an acre of land in Ejura-Sekyedumase costs between Gh¢50.00 to Gh¢65.00, an amount that most of the youth can not afford.

As indicated in Table 4.6, tractor services were used to plough the fields of all the beneficiaries (100%) at no cost to them. A cost of Gh¢50.00 per acre of land ploughed was paid by the Directorate of GYEEDA. Ploughing at no cost to beneficiaries implies that the beneficiaries did not have to go through the ordeal of turning the soil with hoes and other hand held tools.

Agro-chemicals

As can be seen from Table 4.6, agro-chemicals such as fertilizers and herbicides were given to the beneficiaries. It can be observed from the table that all the beneficiaries (100%) were supplied with NPK and SOA. The respondents were also supplied with herbicides. These herbicides include Glyphosate, Atrazine and Gramoxone. All these agro-chemicals were supplied to beneficiaries on credit basis without any interest on the total amount of inputs supplied.

The provision of agro-chemicals was a huge motivation to the beneficiaries since they did not have to pay for them at that instance. This finding is in agreement with Obaniyi et al (2014) who revealed that the major incentives given to beneficiaries of the USAID/First bank programme were improved seeds, chemical and fertilizer. This

implies that these incentives can be used to motivate more young people to participate in the programme.

From Table 4.6, it can also be seen that 86%, 70% and 61% were supplied with Glyphosate, Atrazine and Gramozone respectively. This indicates that some of the beneficiaries did not get access to some of the inputs that were supplied. This affected the yields obtained by beneficiaries and the credit repayment. All beneficiaries were deemed to have received equal quantities of inputs and thus were expected to repay the same amount as the cost of inputs received.

However, analysis of the responses of respondents on the timeliness of the inputs supplied revealed that the supply of inputs to beneficiaries was delayed. All the respondents (100%) indicated that the inputs were not received at the appropriate time when they needed to be used on the farm. The late supply of inputs affected the observance of recommended farming practices at the appropriate time. This has a negative impact on the youth in agriculture programme because it affects the transfer of technology and adoption of improved agricultural practices. The late supply of inputs also affects crop yields resulting in low incomes which often serve as a disincentive for youth participation in agriculture.

Table 4.6: Inputs accessed by beneficiaries for 2011 and 2012

Input	Frequency	Percent (%)
Land (2 acres)	44	100
Ploughing (2 acres)	44	100
Seed maize (2 x 9 kg)	44	100
NPK (2 x 2bags)	44	100
SOA (2 x 1bag)	44	100
Glyphosate (2 x 4litres)	38	86
Atrazine (2 litres)	31	70
Gramozone (1 litre)	27	61

Source: Author's Field Survey, May 2014.

4.3.3 Agricultural Extension Services

Agricultural extension is very important in farming. Van den Ban and Hawkins (1996) define the term extension as the conscious use of communication of

information to help people form sound opinions and make good decisions. Young people getting into farming should therefore be provided with relevant information and technologies which would boost their farming enterprises.

Geest (2010) has noted that special agricultural extension services targeting rural youth can be highly effective in (1) improving the quality of rural youth employment; and (2) raising agricultural productivity in general. Access to agricultural extension services is therefore very important in youth in agriculture programmes. The section ascertains the frequency of extension visits received by beneficiaries as shown in Table 4.7.

From Table 4.7, it can be seen that majority of the respondents (75%) were visited by agricultural extension officers once every two weeks. The farmer-extension officer ratio in the Ejura-sekyedumase district is 1:1,434 ((Ejura-Sekedumase District Assembly, 2006a). With such an extension-farmer ratio, fortnight visits by extension officers can be deemed as frequent. This implies that beneficiaries were given much attention by the agricultural extension officers.

The study however revealed that 16% of the respondents were visited once every week. These respondents were visited more frequently by the agricultural extension officers because they were used as contact farmers who in turn disseminated the information received to the other beneficiaries.

These extension services came in the form of individual field visits and group meetings. The extension advice covered the following areas: planting, weed control, fertilizer application, control of diseases and pest and post harvest handling of maize among others. The extension services provided to beneficiaries therefore equipped the young farmers to be able to plant their seeds using the recommended planting distance, control weeds and handle the harvested produce to ensure optimum yield.

Table 4.7. Frequency of extension visits received by beneficiaries

Extension visits received by respondents	Frequency (N=44)	Percent (%)
Once every week	7	16.0
Once every two weeks	33	75.0
Once in a month	4	9.0

Source: Author's Field Survey, May 2014.

4.4 Perception of beneficiaries towards farming

Many young people perceive farming as a job for 'early school leavers' or a 'poor man's work' which provides no opportunities to achieve personal success. The section ascertains whether there was any change in the perception of beneficiaries before and after participating in the youth in agriculture programme.

4.4.1 Perception of Beneficiaries before YIAP

In order to assess the perception of beneficiaries before joining the programme, a five-point likert scale was used to ascertain the response of respondents to the question "did you consider farming as a career opportunity before joining the YIAP". The five-point scale constituted a scale of "strongly disagree", "disagree", "undecided", "agree" and "strongly agree". The responses provided have been analyzed in table 4.8

From Table 4.8, it can be seen that 47.7% of the respondents disagreed with the notion that farming is a career opportunity. About 16% of the respondents also strongly disagreed with the notion. In all, a total of 63.7% of the respondents in the study area did not agree with the notion that farming is a career opportunity before joining the youth in agriculture programme.

Even though most of the respondents had some farming experience before joining the programme, they still did not accept farming as being a career. This implies that a majority of the respondents had negative perceptions about farming before joining the programme. These findings agree with Gideon as cited in Umeh and Odom (2011) that farming is without prestige and so the stigma of poverty, illiteracy and backwardness is a disincentive to youth participation in agriculture.

Table 4.8 Perception of beneficiaries towards farming before YIAP

Responses	Frequency (N=44)	Percent (%)
Strongly Disagree	7	16.0
Disagree	21	47.7
Undecided	10	22.7
Agree	6	13.6
Strongly Agree	0	00.0
Total	44	100.0

Source: Author's Field Survey, May 2014.

4.4.1 Perception of beneficiaries after YIAP

After participating in the youth in agriculture programme for two years, the perception of respondents were assessed to ascertain whether the programme was able to change their negative perceptions towards farming. A five-point likert scale was again used to ascertain the response of respondents to the question “do you consider farming as a career opportunity after participating in the YIAP”.

The responses provided by respondents have been analyzed in Table 4.9. As can be seen from Table 4.9, 47.7% of respondents strongly agreed with the notion that farming is a career opportunity. About 43.2% of the respondents also agreed with the notion. In all, a total of 90.9% of the respondents in the study area agree with the notion that farming is a career opportunity after joining the youth in agriculture programme. This implies that the programme was able to change respondents' negative perception about farming.

The change in perception could be attributed to the agribusiness management training provided to beneficiaries. The training programmes exposed respondents to the business and profit-making aspects of their farming enterprise.

Table 4.9. Perception of beneficiaries towards farming after YIAP

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0
Disagree	0	0.0
Undecided	4	9.1
Agree	19	43.2
Strongly Agree	21	47.7
Total	44	100

Source: Author's Field Survey, May 2014.

4.5 Credit repayment by YIAP beneficiaries

The inputs supplied to beneficiaries during the YIAP were given to them on credit basis without interest. This section ascertains whether the credit given to the beneficiaries have been repaid. The percentage of credit repaid by beneficiaries for year 2011 and 2012 is shown in Table 4.10. The data was obtained from the District Directorate of GYEEDA and corroborated by the District Directorate of MOFA during the institutional survey conducted.

The repayment arrangement between MoFA and GYEEDA was that the beneficiaries were to repay the credit in 6 months after collecting the inputs, by which time the beneficiaries would have harvested and sold their farm produce. In order to ensure that beneficiaries make good their debt, the agricultural extension officers from MoFA and the programme coordinator from GYEEDA were tasked to monitor the beneficiaries to ensure that they make the payments immediately they sell their produce.

Table 4.10 indicates that about 70% and 80% of credit have been repaid by the beneficiaries for inputs they received in 2011 and 2012 respectively. This implies that programme implementers would be able to recoup the amounts invested to make it possible for more youth to participate in the youth in agriculture module.

Table 4.10. Rate of credit repayment by beneficiaries (%)

Year	Amount Repaid (%)
2011	70
2012	80

Source: GYEEDA, Ejura and MOFA, Ejura (2014).

4.6 Income obtained by respondents

One of the objectives of the YIAP is to provide an opportunity for the unemployed youth to generate appreciable income to meet their domestic and personal needs and ultimately improve their standard of living. Kumar (1989) indicates that increased income contributes in the long run to a better quality of life. Higher income means better food, improved nutrition, better clothing, access to better educational facilities and declining mortality and illiteracy rates among others.

Defining income in terms of only cash received is unduly restrictive, especially in rural areas of developing countries. Farmers generally keep a part of their produce for domestic consumption (Kumar, 1989). The income of beneficiaries was therefore, for purposes of this study, measured in terms of cash received for farm produce and the monetized value of produce obtained from the farm.

The focus of the research is limited to assessing the income of beneficiaries who pursued farming after exiting the programme. The objective of the intervention is to help the youth generate income through farming so they would accept farming as a viable career option, hence the income obtained by respondents still engaged in farming after the programme were used for the income analysis. The income of beneficiaries was obtained by identifying the quantity of maize produced by the beneficiary in the year after exiting the programme (i.e 2013). The quantities of maize produced during both the major and minor seasons were considered.

4.6.1 Respondents still engaged in farming after exiting the YIAP

As can be seen from Table 4.11, most of the respondents are still engaged in farming in the study area. A total of 38 respondents interviewed were still engaged in maize

farming. This represents 86.4% of the beneficiaries enrolled for the programme in 2011. This made it possible for the researcher to obtain data on income generated respondents who pursued farming after exiting the YIAP.

Table 4.11 also revealed that females constituted a greater proportion of respondents who did not engage in farming after exiting the YIAP. Out of the six respondents who decline to continue farming, four of them were females. This implies that farming is an energy-demanding job and therefore tends to be more suited to men.

Table 4.11. Number of respondents engaged in farming after exiting the YIAP

	Sex		Total	
	Male	Female	Freq.	Percent
Respondents engaged in farming after YIAP	29	9	38	86.4
Respondents not engaged in farming	2	4	6	13.6
Total	31	13	44	100

Source: Author's Field Survey, May 2014.

4.6.2 Income obtained by respondents after exiting the YIAP

In order to obtain the income of beneficiaries, data on farm size, yield, total amount of produce sold or consumed as well as the total cost of production in 2013 was collected and analyzed. The data collected revealed that respondents' cultivated different land sizes; obtained different yields depending on the land size, inputs applied and farm management practices observed; sold their produce at different prices depending on the market price at which time the produce were sold; and incurred different levels of costs depending on the land size, inputs applied and farm management practices observed and post harvest handling of the farm produce even though all the respondents cultivated maize.

To be able to determine the income obtained by the 38 respondents who were still engaged in farming therefore, a measure of central tendency was employed for the income analysis. Mean values for farm size, yield obtained, price at which produce were sold and the total cost of production were computed using SPSS. The computed mean values are shown in Table 4.12. From Table 4.12, it can be seen that the respondents cultivated land sizes of between two and five acres in 2013. This

represents different combination of land size cultivated for both the major and minor seasons. The mean land size cultivated was computed to be 3.5 acres.

As can also be seen from Table 4.12, the cost of production ranged from a minimum of GH¢ 520.00 to GH¢ 2410.00. The differences in the cost of production are due to differences in farm size and quantity of inputs applied among others. The mean cost of production was found to be GH¢1351.00

Using the computed mean value, it can be concluded that the income obtained by respondents for engaging in farming in 2013 was GH¢ 758.00. This means that on the average, each respondents earned an income of GH¢ 758.00 in 2013.

Table 4.12. Computed mean income obtained by respondents in 2013

	N=38	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Farm size (acres)	38	2	5	3.5
Yield obtained (100kg)	38	12	43	25.5
Price/100kg	38	70	90	81.82
Amount (GH¢)	38	960	3840	2108.07
Total cost (GH¢)	38	520	2410	1350.71
Income (GH¢)	38	184	2040	757.36

Source: Author's Field Survey, May 2014.

Since the objective of the intervention is to help unemployed youth to generate appreciable income for their domestic and personal needs, the income so obtained by respondents was compared to the national mean annual per capita income in Ghana as shown in Table 4.13.

Since the sixth round report of Ghana Living Standard Survey (GLSS) conducted in 2013 was not published by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) at the time of the study, the study made use of the mean annual per capita provided in the fifth round report of GLSS conducted in 2008. However, in order to get a more realistic national mean income per capita, the dollar equivalent was used based on the following calculation:

National mean annual per capita in 2008 (GH¢) = 397.00

If Cedi to dollar exchange rate (2008) = (GH¢) 1.19

Then Mean national annual per capita in 2008 (US \$) = $397.00 / 1.19 = 333.61$

If Cedi to dollar exchange rate (2013) = (GH¢) 2.20

Then Cedi equivalent of US \$ in 2013 = $333.61 \times 2.20 = 733.94$

From Table 4.13, it can be seen that the mean income of GH¢ 758 obtained by respondents is greater than the National mean annual per capita income of GH¢ 734. This implies that the income obtained by respondents from engaging in farming is appreciable and could enable respondents acquire their personal and domestic needs. This finding agrees with Simonyan and Omolehin (2012) who established through a study of the Fadama II project in Nigeria, that the income of the beneficiary farmers increased significantly more than before the project.

Table 4.13. Comparison between beneficiary income and the national mean annual per capita income.

	Calculated dollar equivalent of National mean annual per capita (GH¢)	Mean obtained by beneficiaries in 2013 (GH¢)
Income	734	758

Source: Author's Field Survey, May 2014, GSS (2008) and Amegashie (2012).

4.7 Summary

The analysis of the socio-economic characteristics of respondents has revealed that most of the respondents were aged between 20 and 35 years. Again, most of the respondents had prior farming experience before joining the youth in agriculture programme. The analysis also revealed that the provision of land and agro-inputs motivated the youth to participate in the YIAP. Again, the YIAP was able to change the negative perception of respondents towards farming. The analysis also indicated that 86.4% of the respondents are still engaged in farming after exiting the YIAP. This implies that any increase in the number of youths enrolled onto the YIAP will equally increase the number of youths accepting farming as viable career, which would ultimately reduced youth unemployment in Ghana.

CHAPTER FIVE

FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Introduction

The analysis of data on the socioeconomic characteristics of beneficiaries, measures put in place to motivate the youth to participate in the YIAP and beneficiary perceptions towards farming have brought up some interesting findings. This chapter presents a summary of the findings made from the data analyzed in the last chapter. Based on the findings made, plausible recommendations have been put forward to help improve the YIAP. The chapter ends with a conclusion which summarizes all the findings made from the study.

5.2 Summary of findings

5.2.1 Socio Economic Characteristics of Beneficiaries

Age and Sex distribution

The study identified that the beneficiaries enrolled onto the YIAP were between the ages of 15-35. These constitute the youth according to the 2010 National Youth Policy. The intervention therefore caught up with the target group for which it was intended.

The study revealed that majority of the beneficiaries who participated in the YIAP in 2011 were males. Farming in the study area requires some physical fitness and thus tend to attract males to the youth in agriculture programme than their female counterparts.

Levels of education

The study identified that majority of the respondents attained basic level of education. The beneficiaries are not likely to have much difficulty in understanding and adopting modern agricultural technologies and innovations.

Unemployed youths with high level of education (tertiary) did not participate in the programme. Farming is not an attractive venture to that category of the unemployed youth who still prefer white collar jobs.

Farming experience

It was found that all the respondents had prior farming experience. A majority of the respondents had between 4-6 years of farming experience before enrolling onto the programme. Even though the respondents have low levels of education, their level of experience enabled them to make sound decisions with regards to resource allocation and management of their maize farms.

5.2.2 Measures put in place to motivate the youth to participate in the YIAP

Agribusiness management training

Based on a three point Likert Scale of 'inadequate', 'uncertain' and 'adequate', majority of the respondents indicated that the farm management training received were adequate in preparing them for their farming venture. Respondents were equipped with the business and profit-making aspects of their farming enterprise. Through the agribusiness training, the young farmers were empowered to produce and market their produce at the right time in order to make more profits.

Access to land and Agro-chemicals

The study found that two acres of land were acquired by the Directorate of GYEEDA at the Ejura farmlands for each respondent. The land so acquired for beneficiaries were also ploughed for respondents at no cost to them. Respondents did not go through the drudgery of tilling and turning the soil with hoes before planting.

It was also found that agro-chemicals such as fertilizers and herbicides were supplied to respondents on credit basis by MOFA. All respondents were supplied with two bags of NPK and a bag of Sulphate of Ammonia (SOA).

The study found that only 86%, 70% and 61% of respondents were supplied with Glyphosate, Atrazine and Gramoxone respectively. Some of the respondents were therefore not supplied with all the inputs they were supposed to be provided. The study found that the provision of land and agro-chemicals was the first most important factor that motivated respondents to participate in the youth in agriculture programme. It was however found that inputs were supplied very late to beneficiaries. This affected the observance of recommended farming practices that were supposed to be carried out at certain stipulated time periods.

Agricultural extension services

Majority of the respondents were visited by agricultural extension officers once every two weeks. The district has a farmer-extension officer ratio of 1:1,434. A visit in every two weeks was deemed as frequent. Beneficiaries of the youth in agriculture programme were given much attention during their farming enterprise.

Respondents were given extension advice on planting, weed control, fertilizer application, control of diseases and pest, post harvest handling of maize and marketing. Respondents observed the cultural practices involved in maize production.

5.2.3 Perception of Beneficiaries towards Farming

Majority of respondents (63.7%) did not agree with the notion that farming is a career opportunity before joining the programme. Most of these respondents engaged in farming because they had no options of getting any job. They therefore had negative perceptions about farming before joining the programme.

Majority of respondents (90.9%) agree with the notion that farming is a career opportunity after joining the programme. The programme has changed the bad perceptions that the respondents held about farming. The change in perceptions could be attributed to the agribusiness management training, the provision of productive inputs and the appreciable incomes obtained by respondents.

5.2.4 Credit repayment by beneficiaries

The institutional survey conducted revealed that about 70% and 80% of credit owed for inputs received in 2011 and 2012 have been repaid by the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries were credit worthy and tend to honour financial obligations. However, more efforts need to be put in place to ensure that all outstanding debts are repaid.

5.2.5 Income obtained by respondents

Number of respondents still engaged in farming after exiting the programme

Majority of the respondents still pursued farming after exiting the YIAP. As shown in Table 4.11. About 86.4% of the respondents enrolled for the YIAP in 2011 stayed in farming. Most of the respondents have pursued farming as a viable career option.

Income obtained by respondents after exiting the YIAP

The mean income obtained by respondents for engaging in farming in 2013 is GH¢ 758.00. The mean income of GH¢ 758 obtained by beneficiaries was found to be greater than the National mean annual per capita income of GH¢ 734 (GLSS, 2008). The programme has helped respondents who engaged in farming to generate appreciable incomes. Youth who pursue farming after exiting the YIAP can rely on farming as a job which can provide their personal and domestic needs.

5.3 Recommendations

Attracting highly educated youth to farming

A majority of the unemployed youth in Ghana constitutes graduates from tertiary institutions, who prefers and continues to search for non-existent white collar jobs in the cities. GYEEDA should make serious efforts that help attract these graduates to participate in the programme and subsequently accept jobs in the agricultural sector. GYEEDA and MOFA should organize sensitization campaigns through workshops, youth fora, radio and television programmes to sensitize the youth on the measures put in place to motivate the youth and the benefits to be derived from participating in the YIAP. This would stimulate participation among the highly educated youth who would then find farming as a very attractive and lucrative business venture.

Land and Agro-chemicals

Access to land and agro-inputs was the major motivating factor for youths participating in youth in agriculture programme. Government should ensure that agro-inputs such as herbicides and fertilizers continues to be made available on credit to beneficiaries to motivate more youth to participate in the YIAP. Government, through MoFA, should continue to provide these agro-inputs to the youth through the Block Farm Programme.

Input supply

The study recommends that, to avoid situations where some beneficiaries do not receive some of the inputs that are supposed to be supplied, GYEEDA should liaise with MoFA to ensure that all beneficiaries receive the required quantity of inputs for

their farming activities and are also supplied the required quantity of inputs on time during the farming season.

Credit repayment

GYEEDA should ensure that all credit granted to beneficiaries are paid so that other unemployed youth can also enjoy that facility. Government, through the National Buffer Stock Company, should purchase produce of beneficiaries so that the amounts owed can be taken at source as soon as their produce is sold. Government should make it a requirement for beneficiaries to sign a binding agreement that ensures that the National Buffer Stock Company has the option of first purchase whenever the produce of beneficiaries are ready for the market.

5.4 Conclusion

The socio-economic characteristics of beneficiaries revealed that majority were aged between 31- 35 years. Again, majority of the beneficiaries of the Youth in Agriculture programme in 2011 were males. This is because farming in the study area requires some physical fitness which tends to attract males to the youth in agriculture programme.

The study also revealed that majority of the beneficiaries attained basic level of education. This shows that unemployed youths with high levels of education (tertiary) do not consider farming attractive and therefore did not participate in the programme.

It is evident from the study that the provision of land and agro-inputs inputs, agricultural extension services and agribusiness management training motivated beneficiaries to participate in the youth in agriculture programme.

Moreover, majority of the beneficiaries held the perception that farming was not a viable career option. However, after the participating in the programme, most of the beneficiaries hold the perception that farming is a viable career option. The empirical findings of the study also suggest that the income generated by beneficiaries who pursued farming after exiting the programme was appreciable.

The Youth in Agriculture programme has proven to be an effective programme in motivating the youth to accept careers in farming. Government's efforts to provide job opportunities for the unemployed youth should therefore place much emphasis on

attracting the youth to pursue careers in the agriculture sector. This would reduce the high youth unemployment rate in the country. Moreover, it will reduce the attendant social and economic costs associated with youth unemployment.

With the implementation of recommendations made in this study, it is hoped that the challenges associated with the supply of agro-inputs will be adequately addressed to make the Youth in Agriculture programme a more effective programme for motivating the unemployed youth to accept farming as a career. It is also hoped that more of the highly educated youth who are without jobs will participate in the youth in agriculture programme. This would ultimately ensure that the unemployed youth in Ghana find decent jobs to do.



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APPENDICES

Appendix A: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BENEFICIARIES OF THE YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME

**KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

The series of questions in this interview forms part of a master's thesis conducted in the Department of Planning, KNUST to assess the Youth in Agriculture Programme in Ejura-Sekyedumase District. Participation in this study is voluntary, and all who participate will remain anonymous. All information offered will be treated confidentially, and the results will be presented in such a way that no individual may be recognized. Please provide the correct information by ticking (✓) in the appropriate boxes and also fill in the blank spaces where necessary.

SECTION A: SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

1. Age: 15 - 20 [] 21 - 25 [] 26 - 30 [] 31 - 35 []
2. Sex: Male [] Female []
3. (a) Hometown: (b) Place living now:
4. Marital status: Married [] Single [] Widow [] Divorced []
Separated []
5. Number of dependants: 1-5 [] 6-10 [] 11-15 [] 16 &
above []
6. Level of education: None [] Basic [] Secondary [] Tertiary []
Other.....
7. What was your occupation before joining the programme in 2011?
None [] Farming [] Trading [] Artisanship [] Other, specify...
8. Did you have any farming experience before joining the programme?
Yes [] No []

- a. If yes, how many years? 1-3 [] 4-6 [] 7-9 [] 10 & above []
9. How long were you a beneficiary of the programme?
 1year [] 2years [] 3years []

SECTION B: MESAURES TO MOTIVATE THE YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE YIAP

10. Which of these factors motivated you to participate in the YIAP in 2011?
 (Indicate 1-3 in order of importance)

- Agribusiness management training []
 Access to agricultural extension services []
 Access to land and agro-inputs []

PART I- AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT TRAINING

11. Which commodity were you engaged in under programme?
 Maize [] Sorghum [] Soybean []
12. Were you given any agribusiness management training before starting the programme?
 Yes [] No []
- a. If yes, mention some of the areas you were trained in.
 1.....
 2.....
 3.....
- b. If no, why?.....

13. How would you rate the agribusiness management training received?
 Inadequate [] Uncertain [] Adequate []

PART II- AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES

14. Did any agricultural extension officer visit you on the farm? Yes [] No []
15. How often did he/she visit your farm?
 Weekly [] fortnightly [] monthly []

16. What extension advice or technologies were provided or disseminated to you?

Mention any three.

1.....

2.....

3.....

17. Did you adopt the technologies disseminated by the extension officer?

Yes [] No []

a. If yes, how did the extension officers' advice improve your production in any way?

.....
.....
.....

b. If no, why?

.....
.....

PART III- ACCESS TO LAND, AGRO-INPUTS AND TRACTOR SERVICES

18. What was the size of your farm in?

2011 (under the programme)

Major season: 1 acre [] 2 acres [] 3 acres [] 4 acres []

Minor season: 1 acre [] 2 acres [] 3 acres [] 4 acres []

2012 (under the programme)

Major season: 1 acre [] 2 acres [] 3 acres [] 4 acres []

Minor season: 1 acre [] 2 acres [] 3 acres [] 4 acres []

2013 (after the programme)

Major season: 1-2 acres [] 3-4 acres [] 5 acres & above []

Minor season: 1-2 acres [] 3-4 acres [] 5 acres & above []

19. Did you own the land you worked on under the programme? Yes [] No []

a. If no, how did you acquire the land? Please tick below.

Rented [] Outright purchase [] Acquired through the programme []

20. Were you provided with tractor services during ploughing of the land?

Yes [] No []

21. Were you able to access inputs from MOFA (Block farm)?

Yes [] No []

a. If yes, what quantity and type of inputs did you receive?

No.	Input	2011		2012	
		Quantity	Amount (GH¢)	Quantity	Amount (GH¢)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

22. Were the inputs delivered to you on time? Yes [] No []

23. To what uses did you put the inputs received?

Used on farm land [] Sold them [] Other, specify.....

24. Were the inputs given to you on credit? Yes [] No []

a. If yes, how much have you paid so far? GH ¢

.....

b. How much do you still owe? GH ¢

.....

25. Why have you not paid the rest?

.....

SECTION C: IMPROVEMENT IN BENEFICIARY INCOME

26. Did you engage in farming after exiting from the programme (2013)?

Yes [] No []

If answer to Question 23 is [No], please skip to Question 33

27. What was the output from your farm in the following years?

Year	Major Season		Minor Season		Total Output (bags)
	Acreage	Output (bags)	Acreage	Output (bags)	
2011					
2012					
2013					

28. How much income did you make?

Year	Total Output (bags)	Price /bag (GH¢)	Amount (GH¢)	Total Cost (GH¢)	Income (GH¢)
2011					
2012					
2013					

29. Are there other benefits you derived from the farm? Yes [] No []

If yes, please mention any two

1.
2.

30. Where applicable, quantify and convert the benefits in (26) to monetary value.

Year	Other benefits	Quantified Amount (GH¢)
2011		
2012		
2013		

31. In total, how much did you earn in the following years?

Year	Annual Income (GH ¢)
2011 (income derived from programme farm)	
2012 (income derived from programme farm)	
2013 (after the programme)	

32. If you did not engage in farming after exiting the programme, what work do you do now for a living?

.....

33. Do you have any intention of going back into farming as a vocation?

Yes [] No []

34. Did you consider farming as a career opportunity before joining the youth in agriculture programme?

Strongly Disagree [] Disagree [] Uncertain [] Agree [] Strongly Agree []

35. Do you consider farming as a career opportunity after participating in the programme?

Strongly Disagree [] Disagree [] Uncertain [] Agree [] Strongly Agree []

36. Would you agree that you have continued to stay in this community/town because you are pursuing farming as a lifetime vocation?

Strongly Disagree [] Disagree [] Uncertain [] Agree [] Strongly Agree []

SECTION D

RECOMMENDATION FOR IMPROVING THE PROGRAMME

37. What do you think should be done to improve the youth in agriculture programme?

.....

38. Do you have any other thing(s) to share with me that we have not talked about it?

Yes [] No []

If yes, state them.

.....

THANK YOU

**APPENDIX B: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE DISTRICT DIRECTORATE
OF NYEP/GYEEDA**

**KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

The series of questions in this interview forms part of a master’s thesis conducted in the Department of Planning, KNUST to assess the Youth in Agriculture Programme in Ejura-Sekyedumase District. Participation in this study is voluntary, and all who participate will remain anonymous. All information offered will be treated confidentially, and the results will be presented in such a way that no individual may be recognized. Please provide the correct information by ticking (√) in the appropriate boxes and also fill in the blank spaces where necessary.

SECTION A: PERSONAL DATA OF RESPONDENT

1. Age: Below 30 [] 30-35 [] 36 and above []
2. Level of education: Basic [] Secondary [] Tertiary [] Other, specify ...
3. Are you in charge or have anything to do with the Youth in Agriculture programme at your district? Yes [] No []
4. For how long have you been in charge of the programme ?

SECTION B: SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES

5. Which year did the Youth in Agriculture programme start in your district?.....
6. Was the selection process for 2011 beneficiaries open to all young people in the district? Yes [] No []
7. What factor(s)/criteria do you use to select beneficiaries in 2011? Mention 3
 - 1.....
 - 2.....
 - 3.....
8. How many beneficiaries did you select for year 2011?

Male	Female	Total

If in groups, complete the table below

No of groups enrolled (A)	No of beneficiaries in each group (B)	Total (A x B)

9. How long were beneficiaries enrolled onto the programme?

One Season [] 1 year [] 2 years []

10. When did the 2011 year batch exit the programme? End of 2011 [] End of 2012 []

SECTION C: MANAGEMENT OF THE YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME

11. Did beneficiaries receive adequate training before starting the programme?

Yes [] No []

a. If yes, mention three training areas.

1.....

2.....

3.....

b. If no, why?

.....

12. Did you assist beneficiaries to acquire farming land? Yes [] No []

a. If yes, what was the size of land per beneficiary?

1 acre [] 2 acres [] 3 acres [] 4 acres [] 5 acres []

13. Was the land ploughed for the beneficiaries? Yes [] No []

14. Which crop commodity were the 2011 beneficiaries engaged in under

programme? Maize [] Sorghum [] Soybean []

15. Did you assist beneficiaries to access agro-inputs from MOFA Block farm?

Yes [] No []

16. Did you ensure that agric extension officers visited beneficiaries? Yes [] No []

a. If yes, how often did they visit beneficiaries?

Weekly [] fortnightly [] monthly []

b. If no, why?

.....

17. What other services did you provide for the beneficiaries? Mention any two

1.....

2.....

18. In your view, what factors attracted the youth to participate in the programme?

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

SECTION D: INTERNAL MONITORING AND EVALUATION

19. How often did you monitor the activities of beneficiaries?

Daily [] Weekly [] fortnightly [] monthly []

20. Did you ensure that inputs given to beneficiaries were used for the intended purpose?

Yes [] No []

21. Did you ensure that beneficiaries applied the advice of extension officers?

Yes [] No []

22. Did you monitor the activities of beneficiaries after they exited the programme?

Yes [] No []

a. If yes, how many of the 2011 beneficiaries are still in farming after the programme?

No. Enrolled in 2011	No. of beneficiaries still engaged in farming	No. of beneficiaries not engaged in farming

b. If no, why?

.....

23. In your own assessment, would you agree that the programme was able to motivate beneficiaries to pursue farming as a lifetime vocation?

Strongly Disagree [] Disagree [] Uncertain [] Agree [] Strongly Agree []

SECTION E: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY FORMULATION

24. What do you think should be done to improve the youth in agriculture programme?

.....

25. Do you have any other thing(s) to share with me that we have not talked about it?

Yes []

No []

If yes, state them.

.....

THANK YOU

KNUST



**APPENDIX C: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE DISTRICT DIRECTORATE
OF MOFA**

**KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

The series of questions in this interview forms part of a master's thesis conducted in the Department of Planning, KNUST to assess the Youth in Agriculture programme in Ejura-Sekyedumase District. Participation in this study is voluntary, and all who participate will remain anonymous. All information offered will be treated confidentially, and the results will be presented in such a way that no individuals may be recognized. Please provide the correct information by ticking (✓) in the appropriate boxes and also fill in the blank spaces where necessary.

SECTION A: PERSONAL DATA OF RESPONDENT

1. Sex: Male [] Female []
2. Age: Below 30 [] 30-35 [] 36 and above []
3. Level of education: Basic [] Secondary [] Tertiary [] Other, specify
4. Are you in charge or have anything to do with the Block Farm Programme at your district? Yes [] No []
5. For how long have you been in charge of Block farm?

SECTION B: SUPPLY OF BLOCK FARM INPUTS TO YIAP BENEFICIARIES

6. When did the Block farm start in your district?
7. Did you supply YIAP beneficiaries with inputs from Block farm in 2011?
Yes [] No []
8. Which commodity were the beneficiaries engaged in under the programme?
Maize [] Sorghum [] Soybean []
9. What type and quantity of inputs did you supply to each beneficiary for the following years?

N o.	Input	2011		2012 (for same beneficiary in 2011)	
		Quantity	Amount (GH¢)	Quantity	Amount (GH¢)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

10. Were these inputs delivered to beneficiaries on time? Please tick below

Start of season [] Middle of season [] End of season []

11. Did you monitor to ascertain whether the inputs were used for the intended purpose? Yes [] No []

c. If yes, what was the outcome?

.....

d. If no, why?.....

12. Were the inputs given to beneficiaries on credit? Yes [] No []

a. If yes, have they repaid the credit? Yes [] No []

b. If no, how much are in arrears?

Year	Total Cost of Inputs supplied to beneficiaries	Total amount paid till date	Total in Arrears
2011			
2012			

13. Have you made any effort to retrieve the arrears? Yes [] No []

a. If yes, what was the outcome?

b. If no, why?

14. In your own assessment, did the inputs supplied to beneficiaries motivate them to take farming as a lifetime vocation? Yes [] No []

SECTION C: EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF BENEFICIARIES

15. Did your outfit provide any farm management training to beneficiaries before they started the programme? Yes [] No []

a. If yes, mention some of the areas they were trained in.

1.....

2.....

3.....

b. If no, why?

16. Did your outfit provide any other training apart from the above? Yes [] No []

a. If yes, mention some of the areas they were trained in.

1.....

2.....

3.....

b. If no, why?

.....

17. Did extension officers at your district visit the beneficiaries? Yes [] No []

a. If yes, how often did they visit beneficiaries?

Daily [] Weekly [] fortnightly [] monthly []

b. If no, why?

18. Did you monitor to ascertain whether beneficiaries adopted the technologies disseminated? Yes [] No []

a. If yes, what was the outcome?

.....

b. If no, why?

SECTION D: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY FORMULATION

19. What do you think should be done to improve the youth in agriculture programme?

.....
.....

20. Do you have any other thing(s) to share with me that we have not talked about it?

Yes [] No []

If yes, state them.

.....
.....

THANK YOU