

Title: **Empowering Youths To Fight Unemployment And Poverty Through Efficient Fish Farming Strategy In Nigeria**

Author(s): Sylvester Oluwadare Ojo, O A Fagbenro

Abstract: Most efforts of Nigerian governments to fight unemployment and poverty among the educated youths have not succeeded because most agricultural programmes initiated by past governments did not go down well with the youths due to drudgery, large capital outlay and low returns to resources associated with food crop and livestock production. But recently, some governments are empowering unemployed educated youths to go into fish farming for employment and income generation strategy, because fish farming is less tedious and requires less resources outlay and has high returns to resources used in its production. This paper examined how efficient fish farming can solve unemployment and poverty problems among educated youths in Nigeria. The data for the study were collected from 100 educated fish farmers selected using multistage sampling technique and were analysed using the profitability and stochastic frontier production and cost functions analyses. Results showed that fish farming was profitable and has less drudgery. The returns to labour and capital were high. The productivity analysis showed that allocation and utilization of resources in fish farming were in the economic efficient stage. The efficiency showed a significant level of inefficiency effects indicating more improvement could still be made in fish farming operations. Therefore efforts made to empower young school leavers go into fish farming would solve unemployment and poverty problems among educated youths and also alleviate nutritional deficiencies among the citizenry.