

Economic Assessment of the effect of the Nigerian Technology Incubation Programme on Agro-Allied Small and Medium Scale Enterprises

Abstract

The focus of the study was to analyse the performance of Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) on the Agro-allied industry. Total enumeration technique was used to select forty entrepreneurs from the three existing TICs covered by the study. Survey method through administration of structured questionnaire was adopted by the study. The data collected include monthly turnover, net worth before joining the TIC and the net worth after. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics, student T-test and OLS regression analysis. The study revealed that the mean age of incubatees was 52 years. Most (85.0%) of them were males while all of them were educated. Also, 60.00% of the entrepreneurs were involved in agro-allied food processing while 22.5% and 17.50% produced consumer goods and simple manufacturing equipment, respectively. Regression results indicate that number of skilled labour ($p < 0.01$) and educational background of incubates ($p < 0.05$) significantly influenced the net worth of the agro-allied SMEs in TIC. Major challenges of the respondents were funding, technical knowhow and certification of their products. The study concluded that TIC is a worthwhile policy intervention for SMEs agro-allied business. The study recommended that incorporation of more educated entrepreneurs would improve agro-allied SMEs productivity among others, and stimulate the activities of TIC.

Keywords: Technology incubation Centre, Agro-Allied, Economic Assessment