

## **Creating Sustainable Livelihood For Youths in the Cocoa Value Chain: A Case Study of Igangan Community, Osun State, Nigeria**

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Nigeria plays a key role in the cocoa sector globally. Cocoa is a very important part of the cash crop family in the agricultural sector in Nigeria. This crop poses a great avenue for young people to create opportunities for themselves by optimizing the value chain to create a sustainable livelihood and improve the living standards in their local communities. The value chain cuts across the different stages; which is from the production to marketing to processing and final consumer stage. In every stage of the value chain, opportunities abound and if it is maximized, can lead to income generation. If the cocoa sector is properly placed, it can bring about prosperity and sustainable livelihood among rural dwellers in cocoa producing communities.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the prospects and opportunities available for young people along the cocoa value chain in Igangan community. The main objective of this study is to examine the current state of cocoa farming in Igangan; the challenges faced by youth in cocoa farming business and explore the opportunities available along the cocoa value chain to improve their livelihood. This study will make use of primary data collected from a field survey in the community administered through questionnaires and Focus Group Discussions as well as secondary data gotten from written texts, Nigeria Bureau of Statistics and the Central Bank of Nigeria bulletin. The data will be analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical technique.

It is expected that at the end of the study, it must have been able to critically examine the state of cocoa farming in Nigeria and Igangan in particular, it will examine the challenges faced by young people in cocoa farming business, as well as suggest opportunities available in the cocoa value chain and how the youths can key into them to create sustainable livelihoods.