

**WOMEN ENTREPRENEURIAL EMPOWERMENT AND  
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PERFORMANCE IN SOUTHWEST,  
NIGERIA**

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**(16PAB01338)**

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES  
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COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, COVENANT  
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**DECEMBER, 2021**

## ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest that this thesis is accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of the Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration in the Department of Business Management, College of Management and Social Sciences, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria.

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## **DECLARATION**

I, **OMOLADE AYOYIMIKA ADUFE (16PAB01338)** declare that this research was carried out by me under the supervision of Dr. Olaleke O. Ogunnaike and Dr. Ebeguki E. Igbinoba of the Department of Business Management, College of Management and Social Sciences, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State. I attest that the thesis has not been presented either wholly or partly for the award of any degree elsewhere. All sources of data and scholarly information used in this thesis are duly acknowledged.

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**Signature and Date**

## CERTIFICATION

We certify that this thesis titled “**WOMEN ENTREPRENEURIAL EMPOWERMENT AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PERFORMANCE IN SOUTHWEST, NIGERIA**” is an original research carried out by **OMOLADE AYOYIMIKA ADUFE (16PAB01338)** under the supervision of Dr. Olaleke O. Ogunnaike and Dr. Ebeguki E. Igbinoba. We have examined and found this work acceptable as part of the requirements for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) degree in Business Administration and that it has not been submitted for the award of any degree in this or any other University.

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## **DEDICATION**

This study is dedicated to the Almighty God, who gave me grace all the way. I also dedicate this thesis to my husband Mr. Feyisayo Omolade and my children Ayoteleola, Tejuola and Morolake Omolade for their patience and understanding when I was not fully present due to my studies.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

AFAWA	Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa
AfDB	African Development Bank
ACGSF	Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
EO	Entrepreneurial Orientation
FGN	Federal Government of Nigeria
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
NGPA	National Gender Policy in Agriculture
SME	Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
SHF	Smallholder Farmers
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
YFAN	Young Farmer's Association of Nigeria

## ABSTRACT

Agriculture in Nigeria is still largely practised at the subsistence level compared to more developed agriculture-driven economies. Part of the reasons for this is that farmers lack access to productive resources. Although, both genders contribute to agriculture, women farmers have significantly less access to, control over, and ownership of productive assets compared to their male counterparts. This has led to low participation and contribution of female farmers. Also, the environment has been polluted over the years through unsustainable farm practices. The underperformance index remains despite various efforts at empowerment and incentives to engender sustainable performance. The 2021 Statista Report indicates a notable decline in the contribution of the agricultural sector to Nigerian GDP. These issues affect sustainable performance of farms and pose a challenge to meeting Sustainable Development Goals like zero hunger, food security, and promotion of sustainable agriculture. All these issues further aggravate the need to examine the intervening factors that enhance the effect of women empowerment on sustainable farm performance of women entrepreneurs. Hence, this study investigated the moderating role of entrepreneurial orientation on the relationship between women empowerment and sustainable performance of selected agricultural farms in Southwest Nigeria. To achieve the stated research objective, the researcher employed a mixed research approach. Data were gathered through copies of questionnaire administered to female planters registered under the Young Farmers Association of Nigerian (YFAN) in Southwest Nigeria and key informant interview was conducted among executives of each of the six selected state chapters. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used as quantitative methods of data analysis while thematic analysis was used for the qualitative data. Findings from this study revealed that entrepreneurial orientation can strengthen women empowerment for performance of selected agricultural farms in Southwest Nigeria. Strong relationship exists between technological and social empowerment, with path coefficient significant at  $\beta = 0.722$  and  $R^2 = 0.521$ . Access to land has a considerable significant effect on economic performance at at ( $\beta = 0.611$ ,  $R^2 = 0.374$ ,  $t\text{-statistics} = 10.356 > 1.96$ ,  $P\text{-value} = 0.000 < 0.05$ ). It is recommended that YFAN should increase virtual training, especially on financial education to increase financial autonomy of women farmers. Female farmers should also be better sensitised on the benefits of entrepreneurial mindset or orientation. Female farmers need to be encouraged to take proactive actions, engage in new ideas and creative processes that reduce farm input but increase output to maximise performance. The technological know-how of female farmers should be improved so that technological advancement can be to their advantage and not detriment by making them jobless.

**Keywords:** *Entrepreneurial Orientation, Sustainable Development Goals, Sustainable Performance, Women empowerment.*