

# Migration And Agricultural Venture In South-South, Nigeria

OKUKU, Nyerovwo<sup>1</sup>, ERUKAKPOMREN, Okotete Christopher<sup>2</sup>, & OGBE, Etunim Victor<sup>3</sup>

Department of Agricultural Science  
College of Education, Warri, Delta State-Nigeria

**Abstract:** *The study is centered on migration and agricultural venture in South-South, Nigeria. Migration plays a pivotal role in shaping agricultural venture in the south-south region, Nigeria. Thus, migration may breed remittance, remittances and migration are not gender unbiased because men and women send and receive remittances for dissimilar aims. In addition, gender influences how much money households at home spend on remittances. The South-south region, is a geopolitical zone that includes six states in Nigeria. Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, and Rivers are among these states. The South-south region, has approximately 26 million people making up 12% of the nation's overall population NPC. The NBS gave the population of South-south region as 28 million plus people. The study employed a multi-phase sampling technique to choose its respondents. Firstly, five (5) states were specifically chosen in accordance with the population. These states are Rivers, Delta, Edo, Akwa Ibom, and Cross River. Secondly, five LGAs from each state totaled twenty-five (25) LGAs were selected from the various states out of which the study zeroed on communities in the LGA. The study findings shows that migration in the South-south region is increasing and it is not sex unbiased. It was concluded that, men are further tangled in migration than women in the area due to the headship to provide for the family. Men are now traveling at a higher rate than women, meaning that women, who are ill-prepared for these new jobs, bear the brunt of the workload and responsibility.*

**Keywords:** Migration, Agricultural Venture, Remittances, South-South, Nigeria.

## Introduction

Agricultural venture and migration play significant roles in the development of the South-south region, Nigeria. The Niger Delta region, which is another name for the South-South region, is endowed with fertile land and favorable climatic conditions, making it suitable for agricultural activities. The term migration is used to designate the temporary or permanent relocation of individuals from one geographic expanse to another (Okuku, & Erukakpomren, 2023). This migration trend has had several consequences for Nigeria's agricultural development. Development of agriculture in rural areas has been negatively impacted by people moving to urban centers in pursuit of better economic prospects, which has resulted in a weakening in labor force and productivity in the agricultural sector (Okuku, et. al., 2023).

The South-south region has experienced significant migration patterns due to various factors such as economic opportunities, social unrest, and environmental challenges (Dilip, & William, 2007). Understanding the relationship between agricultural investment and migration in this region is crucial for sustainable development. Migration in most cases increases investment remittance for and against depending on the block that is receiving the favourable remittance. According to Onyeneke, et. al., (2019) they asserted that since remittances are a outcome of migration, it is expected that remittances from Nigeria will rise in tandem with the country's increasing migration. In this scenario therefore, remittance to the household will increase.

The South-south region of Nigeria has witnessed together internal and international migration patterns. Globally, rural-urban migration is widely observed to be the most collective pattern of core migration. People or families are selected through migration according to particular economic, social, educational, and demographic characteristics (Okuku, et. al., 2023). Depending on the situation at hand, there are many different reasons why people move away from one another (Okuku, et. al., 2023). Again, internally, people from other parts of Nigeria migrate to the region in pursuit of employment openings in the oil and gas industry, which is a dominant sector in the area. Additionally, internal migration occurs due to environmental factors such as flooding and erosion that displace communities, leading them to seek new settlements within the region (Onyeneke, et. al., 2019). On an international level, there has been a historical pattern of migration from neighboring countries such as Benin and Cameroon into the South-south region (Onyeneke, et. al., 2019).

Several factors drive migration into the South-south region. Economic opportunities in the oil and gas industry have been a major pull factor for both internal and international migrants. The existence of multinational oil companies has created job opportunities that attract individuals from other parts of Nigeria and neighboring countries (Iruonagbe, 2009). Moreover, social unrest in other regions of Nigeria has led to an influx of people seeking refuge and better living conditions in the relatively peaceful South-south region. Environmental challenges such as flooding and erosion also contribute to migration within the region as communities seek safer areas for habitation.

Migration has had a substantial impact on agricultural venture in the south-south region. The influx of people into the area had steered to increased demand for food products, creating opportunities for agricultural investment. As migrants settle in the region, there is a growing need for food production to sustain the increasing population (Onyeneke, et. al., 2019). This has stimulated agricultural activities and investments in crop cultivation, aquaculture, poultry farming, and agro-processing industries. Furthermore, migration has influenced changes in agricultural practices and technology adoption. Migrants bring diverse knowledge and skills related to agriculture from their places of origin, contributing to the transfer of agricultural techniques and innovation within the South-south region. This exchange of knowledge had steered to improvements in farming methods, crop varieties, and livestock management practices (Udayakumar, et. al., 2021).

While migration presents opportunities for agricultural venture in the south-south region, it also poses challenges. The rapid population growth resulting from migration exerts pressure on available land for farming. This can lead to land degradation and conflicts over land use among indigenous communities and migrants. Additionally, there is a need for infrastructure development to support increased agricultural activities resulting from migration (Udayakumar, et. al. 2021). Though, with proper planning and policy interventions, migration can be harnessed as a catalyst for sustainable agricultural development in the south-south region (United Nations, 2022). Investments in infrastructure such as irrigation systems, storage facilities, and transportation networks can enhance agricultural productivity and market access. Furthermore, initiatives aimed at promoting inclusive land tenure systems that accommodate both indigenous communities and migrants can contribute to peaceful coexistence and sustainable agricultural development (Kaiser, & Barstow, 2022).

Migration plays a essential role in influencing agricultural venture in the south-south region of Nigeria. Thus, migration may breed remittance, remittances and migration are not gender unbiased because men and women send and receive remittances for diverse motives (United Nations, 2016; Isiugo-Abanihe, 2016; Ikwuyatum, 2016; Ajaero & Madu, 2013; Olatuyi, et. al., 2013). In addition, gender influences how much money households at home spend on remittances. According to Ullah (2014), households headed by women and men exhibit distinct venture behaviors and allocate their remittances to distinct sources. In south-south Nigeria, where agriculture makes up the majority of the economy, households that receive transmittals from family members who do not live at home are likely to use those funds for agricultural purposes. This suggests that gender cannot be ignored when analyzing migration, transmittals, and agricultural ventures. In south-south Nigeria, studies in this area are uncommon. The objective of this study was to make a valuable contribution to the existing body of knowledge regarding gender, migration, transmittals, and agricultural venture. The study used south-south Nigeria as a case study to investigate the relationship between migration, transmittals, and agricultural venture.

## Methodology

The South-south region, is a geopolitical zone that includes six states in Nigeria. Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, and Rivers are among these states. Rich cultural heritage, a multitude of ethnic groups, and an abundance of natural resources define the region (Mai-Bornu, 2017). The South-south region, has approximately 26 million people making up 12% of the nation's overall population National Population Commission, (NPC) 2006). However, from the National Bureau of Statistics the population of South-south region is 28 million plus people (National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2016). The two most populated cities in the South-south region are Port Harcourt and Benin City. Around 3 million people live in the Port Harcourt and its suburbs. Other major South-South cities include Warri/Uvwie, Calabar, Uyo, Ikot Ekpene, Ugep, Sapele, Buguma, Uromi, Ughelli, Ikom, and Asaba, in that order (Wikipedia, 2023). It could be said that agriculture is the primary source of income for a sizeable section of the populace who reside in rural areas.

**Table 1: Population of South-south Nigeria According to Gender**

State	Male Population	Female Population	Total Population	Population Ranking
Akwa Ibom	2,795,910	2,686,267	5,482,177	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Bayelsa	1,161,760	1,116,201	2,277,961	6 <sup>th</sup>
Cross River	1,971,797	1,894,472	3,866,269	5 <sup>th</sup>
Delta	2,888,315	2,775,047	5,663,362	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Edo	2,160,153	2,075,441	4,235,595	4 <sup>th</sup>
Rivers	3,725,001	3,578,923	7,303,924	1 <sup>st</sup>

**Source: National Population Commission (NPC) 2006 & National Bureau of Statistics Estimates 2016**

The study used a multi-phase sampling technique to choose its respondents. Firstly, five (5) states were specifically chosen in accordance with the population. These states are Rivers, Delta, Edo, Akwa Ibom, and Cross River. Secondly, five local government areas (LGAs) from each state totaled twenty-five (25) LGAs were selected from the various states out of which the study zeroed on communities in the LGA. The number of LGAs chosen in each state is displayed in Table 2.

**Table 2: Number of LGAs chosen in each state**

State	LGAs Total number	Selected LGAs Number	Selected Number of communities
Akwa Ibom	31	5	30
Cross Rivers	18	5	12
Delta	25	5	26
Edo	18	5	12
Rivers	23	5	20

**Source: Researchers Compilation, 2023**

The study selected five communities within each LGA. Eventually, two heads of households, one male-headed and one female headed with one household members who did not live at home were chosen for each community.

Questionnaires were utilized in the study to collect data. In data analysis, percentages and regression were employed. The regression model used for the determinants of migration is specified as follows:  $M = f(\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4, \beta_5, \beta_6, \beta_7, \beta_8, \beta_9, \epsilon)$

$M$  = Migration Rate (Number of migrants given as a percentage, divided by the size of the home)

$\beta_1$  = Age (This means years)

$\beta_2$  = Level of Educational (total number of years spent in school)

$\beta_3$  = Income (Amount in Naira)

$\beta_4$  = Gender of household head (Dummy variable; male = 1, female =0)

$\beta_5$  = Access to credit (Dummy variable; yes =1, no =0)

$\beta_6$  = Number of members in working age (counting the members in the home)

$\beta_7$  = Male to female migration ratio (male migrants divided by the total number of female migrants)

$\beta_8$  = Principal occupation of the head of the household (Dummy variable; agriculture=0, otherwise=1)

$\beta_9$  = household livelihood activities (to be counted)

$\epsilon$  = error term

The model used by the researchers to estimate the factors influencing the remittance component related to agricultural investment is described below.

$RI$  = The amount of money sent home and used for Agriculture (Amount in Naira)

$Y_1$  = Age (number of years)

$Y_2$  = Level of Educational (total number of years spent in school)

$Y_3$  = The total amount received as remittance (Naira)

$Y_4$  = The head of the household's gender (Dummy variable; male = 1, female =0)

$Y_5$  = Access to credit (Dummy variable; yes =1, no =0)

$Y_6$  = Number of members in working age (counting the members in the home)

$Y_7$  = Farm size (hectares)

$Y_8$  = household livelihood activities (count)

$\epsilon$  = error term

## Results and Discussion

**Table 3** Count of Household Members Who Do not Live at Home (migrants)

Total number of household members that do not live at home (Migrants)	Household headed by men as a percentage	Households headed by women as a percentage
1.	29	35
2.	13	21
3.	21	25
4.	20	19
5.	17	0

Source: Researchers computation, 2024

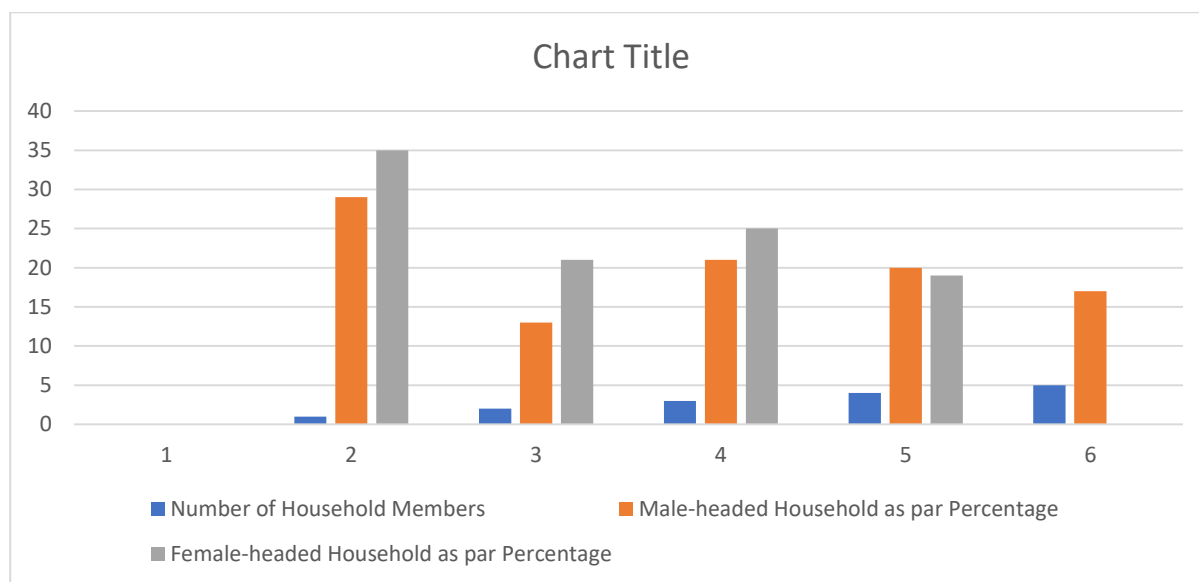


Table 3 reveals that the majority of families headed by men (51%) of male household members are not resident at home, while (49%) female-headed households in the statistics shows that female headed household members at their level do not reside at home which is somewhat different from male headed household. In homes headed by women, the percentage of non-resident household members was nearly the same as in homes headed by men. This suggests that migration in south-south Nigeria is becoming more feminized, which is consistent with findings by Asogwa (2013) and Onyeneke et al. (2019). But compared to their female counterparts, a higher proportion of men participated in migration. This suggests that men are the primary migrants in south-south Nigeria. Males in south-south Nigeria are constantly under pressure to go find work and provide for their families. According to Ajaero and Madu's (2013) research, men make up the majority of migrants. This suggests that males account for the majority of migrants in South-South Nigeria.

### Migrants by Gender

**Table 4:** Household distribution based on the number of migrants, both male and female

Migrants of Gender	Head of Household: Male	Head of Household: Female	Percentage
Male	63	58	60
Female	37	42	40

Source: Researchers Computer, 2024.

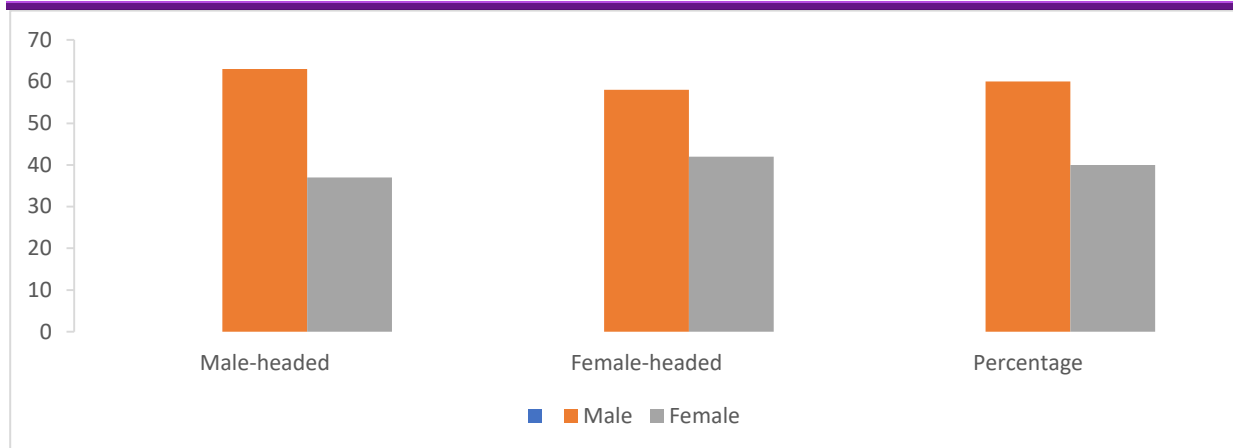


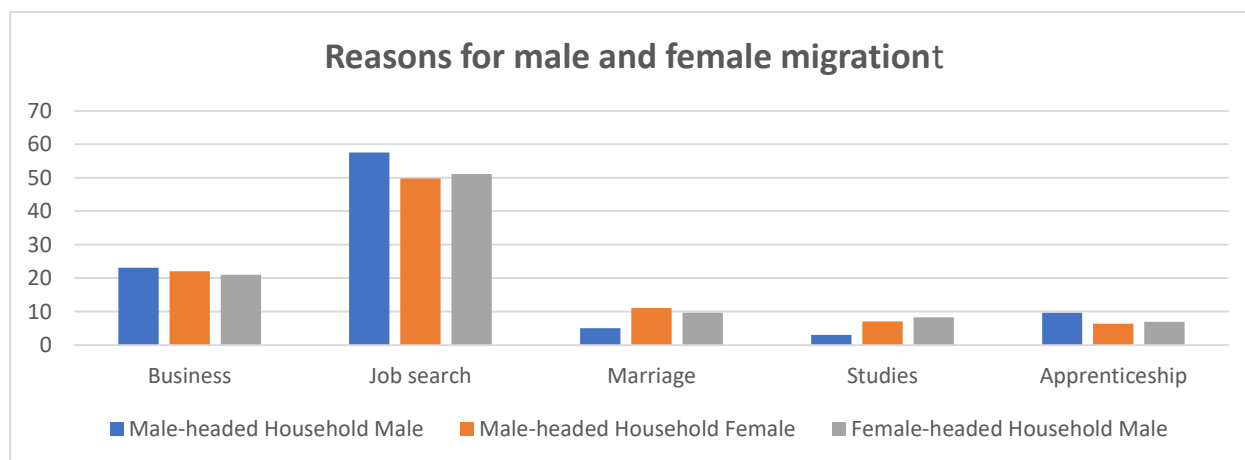
Table 4 displays the percentage of male and female migrants in homes with respective male and female heads.

The two categories of household trends are comparable. Female represents 37% of the migrants while male represents 63% of the migrants were male-headed households. Similar results were observed in the homes led by women, represents 42% of the household members were female and 58% of the male. In households, male migrants made up 60% of the total, while female migrants made up 40%. Feminists made up 40% of the migrants overall. The statistics showed that there was not a significant difference between households headed by men and women 42% and 37%, respectively. This suggests that there is an increase in female migration in south-south Nigeria. This is consistent with findings from studies by Ajaero et. al., (2013), Olatuyi et al. (2013), and Onyeneke et al. (2019) that show a significant increase in female migration from Nigeria. This outcome shows that women are increasingly engaging with business ventures outside the home.

**Table 5: Reasons for male and female migration**

Migration Reasons	Head of Household: Male		Head of Household: Female	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Business	23.12	22.03	21.04	20.56
Job search	57.50	49.75	51.08	59.13
Marriage	5.05	11.05	9.62	8.09
Studies	3.01	7.06	8.31	5.87
Apprenticeship	9.65	6.40	6.90	4.31
Holiday	1.67	3.71	3.05	2.04

Source: Researchers Computation, 2024.



In south-south Nigerian homes headed by males and females, Table 5 lists the reasons behind migration. Jobs were the primary reason for migration for the bulk of male migrants 57.50% and female migrants 49.75% in households headed by male. A similar outcome was noted in households headed by females. In quest of employment in the cities, about 51.08% of males and 59.13% of females moved for job opportunities. The pursuit of business opportunities was another factor driving migration in south-south

Nigeria, accounting for 21.04% and 20.56% of migrations among male and female in female-headed households, and also 23.12% male and 22.03% female in male-headed households, respectively. This suggests that economic factors accounted for the majority of male and female migration in south-south region. This findings is consistent with the findings of Onyeneke et al. (2019), Alarima (2018), and Onyeneke and Aligbe (2016).

**Table 6: Determinants of migration in the households**

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-ratio
(Constant)	-24.017	5.825	-4.123***
Age	0.401	0.119	3.369***
Education	0.392	0.216	1.814**
Income	0.015	0.002	7.500***
Gender	3.423	2.032	1.684**
Access to credit	9.621	1.014	9.488***
Household members who are of working age	2.713	1.003	2.704**
Ratio of men to women among household members who do not live at home	12.342	0.401	3.078***
Major occupation	11.921	3.013	3.956***
Household livelihood activities	2.074	1.067	1.943**
R <sup>2</sup>	0.598		
F-ratio	31.564***		

Source: Researchers Computation, 2024. \*\*\* $P \leq 0.01$ ; \*\* $P \leq 0.05$

Given that migrants and their households jointly decide on migration, Table 6 demonstrates the significance of household variables in migration decisions (Wondimagegnhu, 2012). For instance, migration of household members was considerably ( $p < 0.05$ ) increased by the age of the household head. The age of the household head increased by one year, and this resulted in a less than 0.5% increase in the household's migration rate. Additionally, migration rose significantly ( $\leq 0.01$ ) when working-class households with more than one person (18–55 years old) were present. Migration in the region rose as a result of having a larger number of family members who are employed and active. The working class had an upsurge in the rate of migration of 2.713% for every unit rise in household size. One explanation for these partnerships could be because the children grow older and prepare to leave the home to migrate with the leader of the household. De-Brauw's (2019) study also discovered that age was a highly important predictor of family member relocation.

In South-south region, migration was favorably and significantly ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) impacted by household members' income, credit availability, and number of livelihood activities. Migration in the area was favorably and significantly ( $\leq 0.05$ ) affected by the number of livelihood activities the household head pursued. The rate of migration increased by 2.074% for every unit increase in the number of livelihood activities. Migration in the area was encouraged by the majority of occupations being non-agricultural. Compared to people who were primarily interested in agriculture, individuals who were less involved in agricultural sent a higher percentage of their households to urban areas. The amount of livelihood activities that household members undertook, income, and credit scores all contributed to a considerable increase in household mobility. These factors are important when making a migration choice since they affect a household's ability to borrow money, pay for its expenses, and decide who can migrate within the household and how many members can migrate altogether. Additionally, the number of livelihood activities a gauge of income diversification usually boosts earnings and the amount of money available to support family member relocation. This is consistent with De-Brauw's (2019) findings, which indicate that household migration decisions are influenced by economic factors such as household income, loan availability, and participation in various livelihood activities.

Migration is linked to sexuality. The rate of migration of the household increased significantly when the head of the household was a man. This indicates that there were more migrants living in families led by men than by women. Additionally, migration in the area



was considerably ( $p < 0.05$ ) enhanced by the male to female ratio in the families. This suggests that a higher proportion of the male household members than the female members participated in migration. This demonstrates that migration is inherently gender-biased. This is consistent with the study results of Ajaero et al. (2013) and Alarima (2018).

**Table 7: The sum that households remit and the amount invested in agriculture**

Remittance Average			
Head of Household: Male		Head of Household: Female	
Male	Female	Male	Female
₦204,269.3	₦161,297.76	₦189,282.9	₦170,297.8
Average amount of money invested in agriculture	₦131,334.8	Average amount of money invested in agriculture	₦151,676.5

Source: Researchers Computation 2024

Table 7 reveals the average amount of money invested in agriculture and the quantity of remittances that households of both male and female migrants get. In households headed by both men and women, the average yearly remittances from male migrants were greater than the yearly average of remittances sent home by female migrants. Compared to households headed by men, those headed by women invested a larger portion of their cash remittances in agriculture. This is to be expected, as women migrants are further likely to send smaller remittances than males because they often make less money than their male colleagues (Amoako & Apusigah, 2013). These results corroborate past research conducted in the Morocco, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Germany that female migrants are more likely to sent home less amounts of money compare to their male foils (Le Goff, 2016; Bouoiyour & Miftah, 2015; Holst et al., 2012). It appears that the average amount of remittances that the households got was less than what was projected. This could be because not all of the migrants had productive employment in the cities. Additionally, a few heads of households stated that they received goods or presents in kind from family members who did not live there. The family members who were confined to their homes received in-kind gifts in the form of automobiles, electronics, electrical appliances, farm inputs, medications, food, drink, clothing, motorcycles, building supplies, tricycles, and other items. According to Ogbuagu's (2013) research, Nigerians living abroad give their family cash and in-kind goods. It is interesting to note that households headed by women allocated a larger portion of their cash remittances to agriculture than did those headed by men. This is because, in South-south region women are more likely than men to be interested in agriculture and to make larger investments in it.

## Conclusion

The study examined migration and agricultural venture in South-south, Nigeria. The study acknowledged that migration in the South-south region in Nigeria is linked to sexuality. The rate of migration of the household increased significantly when the head of the household was a man. This shows that there were more migrants living in families led by men than by women. Again, it was observed in the study that, men are more embroiled in migration than women in the region due to the headship syndrome in the family to provide their needs. Studies revealed that men migrates in greater numbers than women, meaning that women now bear the majority of the workload and responsibility to an extent who may not be prepared for the new role in totality. Developing businesses in rural regions can aid in reducing migration in the South-south region of Nigeria. Farmers must to be made aware of the necessity of allocating their remittances to profitable ventures. Improving rural infrastructure, agriculture, and people's welfare will all contribute to the South-South region's growth, as will migration and remittances.

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