

## INTEGRATING GREENING PRACTICES FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

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### Abstract

Nigeria, as a rapidly developing nation, faces the urgent need for sustainable economic growth while mitigating the adverse environmental impacts of industrialization. The integration of greening practices not only promotes environmental conservation but also leads to long-term economic development and social well-being. This paper discussed the concept of greening practices, the concept of entrepreneurship, the roles of greening practices to development and growth of Nigeria, and the benefits of integrating greening practices. This paper also discussed the current environmental challenges faced by the country. The discussion then delves into specific areas where greening practices can be incorporated, including renewable energy, waste management, sustainable agriculture, and eco-friendly manufacturing. Furthermore, this paper explored the roles of government policies in facilitating the adoption of greening practices. Conclusively, integrating greening practices into entrepreneurship is essential for Nigeria's sustainable growth and development. By adopting sustainable practices, entrepreneurs can contribute to environmental conservation, access new markets, and foster economic growth. Moreover, integrating greening practices promotes social well-being, improves public health, and reduces inequalities. It was recommended that of collective efforts from entrepreneurs, policymakers, and citizens should be directed towards fostering a greener and more prosperous Nigeria. Furthermore, government authorities, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders should collaborate in creating an enabling environment for sustainable entrepreneurship through greening practices in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Integrating, Greening practices, Entrepreneurship, Growth and Development

### Introduction

Nigeria, as the largest economy in Africa, faces numerous challenges related to environmental sustainability and economic development. With the growing global concern for climate change and the need for sustainable practices, integrating greening practices into entrepreneurship becomes essential for Nigeria's long-term growth and development. This article explores the potential benefits of integrating greening practices for entrepreneurship in Nigeria, highlighting various strategies and initiatives that can foster sustainable economic growth. Greening practices, also known as sustainable practices or environmentally friendly practices. According to Agboola and Odeyemi (2018), it refers to actions taken to minimize negative impacts on the environment while promoting sustainable development. In Nigeria, the adoption of greening practices has gained significance due to the country's environmental challenges and the need for sustainable economic growth. This note explores the meaning of greening practices in Nigeria and emphasizes their importance in addressing environmental issues and fostering sustainable development. The note includes relevant citations to support the concepts and ideas presented.

### Meaning of Greening Practices

Greening practices encompass a range of strategies and actions aimed at reducing environmental harm and promoting sustainability (World Bank, 2018). In the context of Nigeria, greening practices involve:

- Resource Efficiency: Adopting measures to optimize the use of resources, such as energy, water, and raw materials, to minimize waste generation and improve efficiency in various sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, and services.
- Renewable Energy Adoption: Embracing clean and renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydropower, to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, thus contributing to climate change mitigation.
- Waste Management and Recycling: Implementing proper waste management systems that focus on waste reduction, recycling, and safe disposal of hazardous materials to minimize environmental pollution and promote a circular economy.
- Sustainable Agriculture: Promoting sustainable farming practices, including organic farming, agroforestry, and efficient water management

techniques, to ensure food security, conserve biodiversity, and protect soil health.

- **Environmental Conservation and Restoration:** Engaging in activities that protect and restore ecosystems, such as reforestation, conservation of biodiversity, and sustainable land management, to preserve natural resources and enhance ecological resilience.

### **Importance of Greening Practices in Nigeria**

The adoption of greening practices in Nigeria carries significant importance for various reasons:

- **Environmental Sustainability:** Greening practices help address environmental challenges such as deforestation, land degradation, pollution, and climate change. By reducing resource consumption, promoting clean energy, and adopting sustainable practices, Nigeria can protect its natural resources and ecosystems for future generations.
- **Climate Change Mitigation:** Nigeria, like many countries, is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Embracing greening practices, such as renewable energy adoption and sustainable land management, can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building resilience against climate-related risks.
- **Economic Opportunities:** Greening practices can unlock new economic opportunities and contribute to sustainable economic growth. For instance, the development of renewable energy projects can create jobs, attract investments, and stimulate local economic development.
- **Health and Well-being:** By reducing pollution and promoting clean and sustainable practices, greening practices can improve public health outcomes. Cleaner air, water, and a healthy environment contribute to a better quality of life and well-being for the population (International Energy Agency, 2019).
- **Global Commitments:** Nigeria is a signatory to various international agreements and frameworks, including the Paris Agreement on climate change. Embracing greening practices aligns with these commitments and demonstrates Nigeria's commitment to global sustainability goals.

### **Current Environmental Challenges in Nigeria**

Nigeria, as a populous and resource-rich country in the view of (Akpambang & Okolo, 2016) faces numerous environmental challenges that have significant implications for its sustainable development which include;

**Deforestation and Forest Degradation:** Nigeria has experienced significant deforestation and forest degradation due to various factors, including agricultural expansion, logging, and urbanization. The loss of forests has led to negative impacts such as soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, reduced water availability, and increased greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Areas for Incorporating Greening Practices**

**Energy Sector:** The energy sector plays a vital role in Nigeria's development and can benefit significantly from greening practices. Key areas for incorporation include:

- ❖ **Renewable Energy Sources:** Promoting the development and utilization of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydropower, and biomass can reduce reliance on fossil fuels and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.
- ❖ **The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC)** supports renewable energy projects and has set targets for increasing the share of renewable energy in the country's energy mix
- ❖ **The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)** estimates that Nigeria has the potential to generate over 300,000 megawatts of renewable energy, providing ample opportunities for investment and development.
- ❖ **Energy Efficiency:** Implementing energy-efficient practices in buildings, industries, and transportation can reduce energy consumption, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and save costs.
  - ❖ **The Nigerian Energy Support Program (NESP)** promotes energy efficiency measures and provides support for energy audits and capacity building.
  - ❖ **The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** collaborates with Nigeria to develop energy management systems and promote energy efficiency in the industry.
  - ❖ **Agriculture and Forestry:** The agricultural and forestry sectors are critical for Nigeria's economy and can benefit from greening practices. Key areas for incorporation include:

**a. Sustainable Farming Practices:** Promoting sustainable agricultural practices, such as organic

farming, agroforestry, and efficient water management, can enhance food security, conserve soil health, and protect biodiversity. The National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS) provides training and support for farmers in sustainable agricultural practices. The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) supports initiatives for sustainable agriculture, including the promotion of organic farming and agroforestry systems.

**b. Reforestation and Afforestation:** Implementing reforestation and afforestation programs can help restore degraded lands, conserve biodiversity, and mitigate climate change. The National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) encourages afforestation and reforestation activities through the implementation of relevant policies and regulations. The Great Green Wall initiative aims to combat desertification and promote afforestation in Nigeria's northern region, contributing to climate change adaptation and environmental sustainability

**Waste Management and Recycling:** Proper waste management practices can significantly reduce environmental pollution and contribute to a circular economy. Key areas for incorporation include:

**a. Waste Segregation and Recycling:** Promoting waste segregation at the source and establishing recycling facilities can reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills, conserve resources, and minimize pollution. The Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) has implemented waste segregation and recycling programs, collaborating with communities and private sector partners. The Federal Ministry of Environment encourages waste recycling initiatives and provides support for waste management and recycling projects.

**b. Circular Economy:** Embracing the principles of a circular economy, including product design for recyclability and the promotion of extended producer responsibility, can enhance resource efficiency and minimize waste generation. The Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) advocates for the adoption of circular economy principles in Nigeria, emphasizing the economic and environmental benefits. The National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) promotes the transition to a circular economy through regulations and guidelines for waste management and resource recovery.

**Land Degradation and Desertification:** Land degradation and desertification pose severe environmental challenges in Nigeria, particularly in the northern regions. Unsustainable agricultural practices, overgrazing, deforestation, and climate change contribute to the degradation of arable land, leading to reduced productivity and increased vulnerability to droughts. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) reported that approximately 35% of Nigeria's land is prone to desertification. The World Bank estimated that desertification costs Nigeria about \$6 billion annually, affecting agricultural productivity and livelihoods.

**Pollution and Waste Management:** Nigeria grapples with various forms of pollution, including air pollution, water pollution, and inadequate waste management practices. Rapid urbanization, industrial activities, and improper waste disposal contribute to pollution levels that have detrimental effects on human health, ecosystems, and biodiversity. A study published in the Journal of Environmental and Public Health found that water pollution in Nigerian rivers, such as the Niger and Benue Rivers, is widespread due to industrial effluents, agricultural runoff, and improper waste disposal

**Climate Change Vulnerability:** Nigeria is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and sea-level rise. These changes pose significant risks to agriculture, water resources, coastal areas, and human settlements. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) identified Nigeria's coastal areas as highly vulnerable to sea-level rise, with potential consequences for human settlements and infrastructure. The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) reported an increase in the frequency and intensity of rainfall extremes, leading to flooding and associated damages

**Oil Spills and Environmental Degradation:** Nigeria's oil-producing regions face significant environmental challenges due to oil exploration, extraction, and pipeline infrastructure. Oil spills, gas flaring, and associated pollution have severe ecological and health impacts, affecting local communities, aquatic ecosystems, and agricultural lands.

Amnesty International documented numerous cases of oil spills and their detrimental impacts on the Niger Delta region, including contamination of water sources and destruction of mangrove forests. A study published in the Marine Pollution Bulletin found that the Niger Delta

region experienced one of the highest levels of oil pollution globally, affecting marine biodiversity and livelihoods.

### **Roles of Government Policies in Facilitating the Adoption of Greening Practices in Nigeria**

Greening practices, encompasses sustainable and environmentally friendly approaches, and plays a vital role in driving economic growth and development. This note delves into the various ways in which greening practices contribute to economic advancement, including job creation, innovation, cost savings, and market opportunities. The information presented is supported by relevant references to provide a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

**Job Creation:** Greening practices stimulate job creation by generating employment opportunities in various sectors, leading to economic growth and development. These practices contribute through the following:

**a. Renewable Energy Sector:** The development and deployment of renewable energy technologies create a significant number of jobs. This includes positions in manufacturing, installation, maintenance, and research and development. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) estimates that the renewable energy sector employed approximately 11.5 million people worldwide in 2019, with strong potential for job growth (IRENA, 2020). In Nigeria, the adoption of greening practices, particularly in the renewable energy sector, can create employment opportunities and support the country's economic development (NESG, 2019).

**b. Construction and Infrastructure:** Embracing sustainable construction practices and investing in green infrastructure projects generate employment in the construction industry. This includes positions in energy-efficient building design, eco-friendly materials production, and construction project management. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) highlights that green construction practices have the potential to create millions of jobs globally while reducing carbon emissions (UNEP, 2016). Nigeria's focus on sustainable building practices can lead to job creation and boost the construction industry (Agboola & Odeyemi, 2018).

**Innovation and Technological Advancement:** Greening practices drive innovation and technological advancements, leading to economic growth and competitiveness. The following aspects demonstrate their impact:

**a. Clean Technologies and Research:** Investing in research and development of clean technologies promotes innovation and economic growth. This includes developing efficient energy systems, sustainable agriculture techniques, waste management solutions, and eco-friendly manufacturing processes. The adoption of greening practices encourages research and development activities aimed at improving existing technologies and developing new sustainable solutions (World Bank, 2018). Technological innovation driven by greening practices enhances productivity, reduces costs, and opens new market opportunities.

**b. Green Entrepreneurship:** Greening practices foster entrepreneurship and the establishment of environmentally focused businesses. This includes startups focused on renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, waste management, and eco-tourism. Green entrepreneurship promotes economic growth by fostering innovation, creating job opportunities, and attracting investments (UNIDO, 2014). In Nigeria, green entrepreneurship initiatives can contribute to economic diversification, poverty reduction, and sustainable development (NESG, 2019). **Cost Savings and Efficiency:** Greening practices lead to cost savings and improved efficiency, contributing to economic growth and competitiveness. Key aspects include:

**a. Energy Efficiency:** Implementing energy-efficient practices in industries, buildings, and transportation reduces energy consumption, lowering operational costs and improving competitiveness. Energy-efficient measures, such as upgrading equipment, optimizing processes, and adopting energy management systems, result in cost savings for businesses (UNIDO, 2017). The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that improving energy efficiency can deliver significant economic benefits, including energy cost savings and increased productivity (IEA, 2019).

**b. Resource Conservation and Waste Reduction:** Adopting sustainable resource management practices reduces material waste, lowers production costs, and enhances resource efficiency. Efficient use of resources, such as water and raw materials, reduces operational costs and enhances profitability (EEA, 2021). Waste reduction strategies, such as recycling and reuse, contribute to cost savings and minimize waste disposal expenses (UNIDO, 2013).

### **Conclusion**

Greening practices have substantial roles in driving economic growth and development. They promote job

creation, stimulate innovation, generate cost savings, and create market opportunities. By embracing sustainable practices, countries like Nigeria can foster economic resilience, improve competitiveness, and advance toward a more sustainable and prosperous future. Government policies play a critical role in facilitating the adoption of greening practices in Nigeria. By establishing policy frameworks, providing financial incentives and support, and promoting capacity building and awareness, the government can create an enabling environment for individuals, businesses, and institutions to embrace sustainable practices. It is imperative for the government to continue developing and implementing robust policies that prioritize environmental protection, renewable energy adoption, and sustainable resource management to drive the transition to a greener and more sustainable Nigeria.

## **Recommendations**

Base on the aforementioned conclusions derived from this paper, the following recommendations were made:

1. There should be a need for collective efforts from entrepreneurs, policymakers, and citizens to foster a greener and more prosperous Nigeria.
2. By adopting sustainable practices, entrepreneurs should contribute to environmental conservation, access new markets, and foster economic growth.
3. Integrating greening practices should aim at promoting social well-being, improves public health, and reduces inequalities.
4. Government authorities, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders should collaborate in creating an enabling environment for sustainable entrepreneurship in Nigeria.

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