INTRODUCTION

• This study adopts qualitative research approach to learn how the Nigerian higher education (HE) institutions can involve industry experts to direct learning— an approach that can facilitate productive jobs creation in Nigeria.

• Higher education (HE) graduates are expected to have acquired the right skills through effective learning that prepares them for productive jobs creation.

• Majority of the Nigerian HE graduates are unemployable, unable to either start small businesses, become self-employed or paid employment due to poor skills development.

• Even a greater number of the HE graduates roam the streets in search for white-collar jobs which are not readily available.

METHODOLOGY

• Qualitative research approach (interviews conducted through face-to-face and phone calls) was adopted.

• Semi-structured interview was adopted.

• Participants include, 12 Nigerian Higher Education Teachers, 11 industry executives, 6 executives of National Directorate of Employment, and 21 final year undergraduates.

• All interviews were recorded and transcribed verbatim.

• Thematic Analysis was adopted.

CONCLUSION

Our study provides significant suggestions on the improvement needs of the Nigerian HE system to inspire and motivate students to increase their knowledge (know-how), skills (how to do), self-efficacy (effectiveness) and qualities (technical and creative knowledge) required by the 21st-century labour.