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## APPROACHES TO OVERCOMING CORRUPTION IN THE NIGERIAN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

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### ABSTRACT

*The paper explored the causes and effects of corruption in the Nigerian agricultural sector and various approaches to overcome it and prevent it in the long-run. The paper was based on desk review of available relevant literature. Information was accessed through web search, journals, newspapers, magazines, books and reports. The major causes of corruption identified were: colonial influence, ethnic inclination/patron-client relationships; psychological influence and poor remuneration/ condition of service. The effects of corruption in the agricultural sector included: strangled economic development, neglect of real development priorities in favour of oil, widened the gap between the rich and the poor, increased debt burden- loans paid to private pockets, thus creating opportunity for food for thought and in the short-run increasing economic efficiency. The main approaches to overcome corruption include: awareness creation/campaign against corruption, strong political will backed with financial resources; creation of strong and durable institutions in terms of ethical reorientation; revitalized functional civil service; and full independent anti-corruption commission. In conclusion, corruption is prevalent in all facets of human endeavour. It cuts across professions, faiths, religious denominations and political systems and affects both young and old, man and woman alike. There is need for a renewed focus on agriculture to rid it of corruption and inefficiency. It is important that corruption stamped out in our agricultural sector to serve our poor rural farming communities better.*

**Keywords:** Agriculture sector, corruption, patron-client relationship

### INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is undoubtedly one of the most richly endowed nations of the world in terms of human and natural resources. Unfortunately, Nigeria today is one of the developing countries struggling to feed her citizens who incidentally are mostly engaged in agricultural production. Historically, agriculture is one of the oldest occupations dating back from early man who was engaged in gathering of fruits and food crops. In Nigeria, agriculture was the dominant sector of the economy before the oil boom era. According to World Bank (1989), agriculture has always been expected to play a key role in supplying food for the population and raw materials for industry, providing employment, earning foreign exchange and serving as a market for the industrial sector. The ability of the agricultural sector to fulfil these roles has varied over the last three decades. Presently, the capacity of agriculture to fulfil these roles has worsened. One of the factors militating against the performance of the agricultural sector in fulfilling these roles is corruption.

According to Dike (2008), there are many unresolved problems in Nigeria, but the issue of the upsurge of corruption is troubling. And the damages it has done to the polity are astronomical. It is believed by many in the society that corruption is the bane of Nigeria. Consequently, the issue keeps reoccurring in every academic and informal discussion in Nigeria. And the issue will hardly go away soon!

Corruption is prevalent in all facets of human endeavour. Some writers say that corruption is endemic in all governments, and that it is not peculiar to any continent, region and ethnic group. It cuts across faiths, religious denominations and

political systems and affects both young and old, man and woman alike. Corruption is found in democratic and dictatorial politics; feudal, capitalist and socialist economies. Christian,

Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist cultures are equally bedevilled by this monster. Corrupt practices did not begin today; the history is as old as the world. Ancient civilizations have traces of widespread illegality and corruption. Thus, corruption has been ubiquitous in complex societies from

ancient Egypt, Israel, Rome, and Greece down to the present time (Lipset and Lenz, 2000).

Although corruption can be found in all countries and cultures, some countries are more prone to corruption than others. Similarly, corruption can be found in every profession: medicine, pharmacy, law, education, and agriculture to mention but a few. And so, corruption in the agricultural sector is the main focus of this paper.

Generally speaking, corruption is a perversion or a change from good to bad (Dike, 2008). Specifically, it involves the violation of established rules for personal gain and profit (Sen, 1999) and efforts to secure wealth or power through illegal means/ private gain at public expense; or a misuse of public power for private benefit (Lipset and Lenz, 2000).

This definition includes such behaviour as bribery (use of a reward to pervert the judgment of a person in a position of trust); nepotism (bestowal of patronage by reason of ascriptive relationship rather than merit); and misappropriation (illegal appropriation of public resources for private uses (Banfield, 1958; United Nations, 1990). Furthermore, Osoba (1996) defines corruption as



an anti-social behaviour conferring improper benefits contrary to legal and moral norms, and which undermine the authorities to improve the living conditions of the people.

Dike (2008) observes that even though some of these definitions of corruption have been around for over decades, the recent development in Nigeria where discoveries of stolen public funds run into billions of US Dollars and Nigeria Naira, make these definitions very adequate and appropriate. Corruption is probably the main means to accumulate quick wealth in Nigeria. Corruption occurs in many forms, and it has contributed immensely to the poverty and misery of a large segment of the Nigerian population.

It is also pertinent to observe that the foregoing definitions of corruption have bearing in the agricultural sector. Consequently, the overall objective of this paper is to explore various approaches to overcome corruption in the agricultural sector. Specifically, the paper sought to: identify causes of corruption in agriculture in Nigeria; describe instances of corruption in agricultural sector; ascertain effects of corruption on agriculture; as well as determine approaches to overcoming/ preventing corruption in the agricultural sector.

## METHODOLOGY

The paper was based on desk review of available relevant literature. Information was accessed mainly through web search, journals, magazines, periodicals, newspapers, books and reports.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Causes of corruption in agriculture in Nigeria

It is an effort in futility to treat an ailment without establishing the cause. The causes of corruption in Nigeria are many and diverse and as such have trickled down and/or overwhelmed the agricultural sector. Attempt is made in this study to present causes of corruption in agriculture in Nigeria thus:

#### Colonial influence

Prior to the colonial period, Nigeria culture and economy had little or no corrupting tendencies and as such few cases of corruption if any could be observed. The origin of corruption in Nigeria can be traced to the time of colonial invasion of Africa. Johnson (1995) defines colonialism as international system of economic exploitation in which more powerful nations dominate weaker ones. However, Munyae and Gwen (1998) make a distinction between two phases of colonialism namely active and passive colonialism. The former refers to conquest of a people followed by the direct control (or domination) of the same by conquerors using a combination of measures such as military coercion

and dominance of major internal institutions such as polity. The later, on the other hand represents what is commonly referred to as neo-colonialism or extension of especially economic domination of a people beyond the attainment of self rule. This second phase of colonization is associated with practices, policies and structures inherited from the first phase. The researchers affirm that active colonialism is associated with the origin/birth of corrupt practices while passive colonialism is considered to be partially responsible for the entrenchment of it.

As stated earlier, since African (Nigerian) economy could not accommodate corruption, the industrial revolution of the 19<sup>th</sup> century pioneered by colonial masters provided a fertile ground for corruption. It was the financial growth which accompanied this historical event that was directly responsible for the birth of white-collar crime which is a component of corruption (Robb, 1992; Munyae and Gwen, 1998). This behaviour was instilled into the colonial peoples during the colonial period and was carried into the post colonial era. This was inevitable considering the fact that colonialism was an extension of the new economic order and its concomitant problems which resulted from industrial revolution.

Since corruption requires a well developed monetary economy to thrive, the new economies promoted by colonial governments had to nurture the conditions for the evolution of structures that were conducive to corrupt practices. One way to achieve that was introduction of payment of taxes by the colonized countries. In Nigeria, British government introduced compulsory tax payable only in cash for purposes of meeting the cost of administration and generation of cheap labour necessary for the establishment of productive activities (Munyae and Gwen, 1998). According to them, it was not the introduction of taxation *per se* that encouraged corrupt behaviour but the manner in which the tax itself was collected. To collect taxes, the colonial government mostly relied on local leaders and especially the chiefs. Above all, to motivate them to generate as much tax revenue as possible and to do so with zeal, the colonial administration allowed the chiefs to retain a part of it. This practice led to taking of kickbacks by African chiefs (Nigeria).

This scenario, gave an entirely new meaning to the traditional practice of giving gifts to chiefs which had existed in different parts of Africa long before colonialism. In the British 'gift' to chiefs, it was a source of inducement to use obnoxious means to collect taxes from their kinsmen. Gradually, these corrupting tendencies grew and matured and the beneficiaries (chiefs) became instrument of oppression and retrogression – a phenomenon being witnessed in contemporary



time. The task force sent to establish agricultural projects in communities colluded with the chiefs in the communities to frustrate the projects.

Blinded by the financial gains, the chiefs collaborated with the colonial masters and coerced African men, migrant labourers and even slaves to work in their industries (including agro-allied industries) at their home country. The women were left at home to carry out farm work and even sell their few animals to augment money for payment of tax (Colclough and McCarthy, 1980; Tlou and Campbell, 1984).

#### **Ethnic inclination/patron-client relationships**

The post colonial African leaders applied the principle of divide and rule which they learned from the colonial masters by favouring one tribe over another. The political equation in Nigeria has been such that one major tribe joins another major tribe to be in power and share the 'national cake'. Such patron-client relationships are maintained through corrupt practices. Munyae and Gwen (1998), state that people in such position are not only overwhelmed with financial pressure from their family, but also from kin, clan, hometown and tribal or ethnic constituents. Such obligations are almost always fulfilled through corrupt means. Thus the participants in corruption are many besides the politicians or elites who actually engage in the act (Brima, 2009).

#### **Psychological influence**

According to Brima (2009), there are numerous psychological factors that can help to explain some causes of corruption. Internally, some people are 'naturally evil' and will commit criminal acts, including corrupt ones in any type of system. However, pressure and peer comparison can contribute greatly to acts of corruption especially where the socially revered are the corrupt ones. For instance, a person who corruptly enriched himself and 'helped' his people secure employment in agricultural institution where he served will be given a red carpet reception while his counterpart who avoided being entangled in corruption will be ignored and derided in his/her community. This can impact psychological effects on the upcoming ones who see such people and others around them benefiting from corruption being recognized to choose to indulge in corruption too.

#### **Poor remuneration/condition of service**

One major direct cause of corruption in the agricultural sector is poor and untimely remuneration and condition of service of agricultural staff. If the take home pay of any worker is not enough to take care of the family and other immediate needs, there will be compelling need to seek other means of making both ends to meet although one may be tempted to say that such means must not be through corrupt practices like taking bribes or embezzling public funds, but

psychological influence of the surrounding environment may compel the person to see corruption as the easiest option. Also, judicial system where the culprits (corrupt workers) are to be disciplined is affected by the same poor conditions of service. In such situations, it is the poor people that suffer the brunt of injustices as the rich always stand a better chance of getting justice over the poor. A typical case of poor condition of service and corruption that follows it was the abuse of motorcycles provided to extension agents by the World Bank to help them in their farm and home visits. When the World Bank handed over the Agricultural Development Projects to the states, the allowances to maintain the motorcycles were stopped and extension agents began to use the motorcycles for transportation ("Okada") business.

#### **Instances of corrupt practices in agricultural sector**

**Land title/tenure** - Land is a major factor in agricultural production. However, in rural Nigeria, land ownership is one of the key limiting factors of production (Peterman *et al.*, 2010). The land tenure system in Nigeria encouraged fragmentation of land such that land required by farmers to engage in profitable agribusiness is rarely available. The Nigerian land use Act of 1978 nationalised all land and vested authority in the State Governor who holds it in trust on behalf of all. In practice however, the way land is owned and accessed varies from place to place in Nigeria and can be an amalgam of traditional, Islamic Sharia and other local governance practices (Mabogunje, 2010). The Land Use Act instead of solving the problem of land users including farmers become politicised such that the process of obtaining Certificate of Occupancy is fraught with corrupt practices starting from the clerk that carries file to the highest authority. In rural areas, women who are the majority that use land for agricultural purposes some times fall into the hand of fraudsters who promise to give land to them. Sometimes, people requiring land for agricultural purposes procure land through individuals that have multiple titles to the land. Rodney (2002) confirms that problems with land ownership, registration, tenure and sales impede agricultural development in many countries. Multiple titles exist on many parcels and the rights of family members, especially women and children, are not well defined in some societies. Moreover, registration of title is often a slow, complex, and costly process, which is vulnerable to bribes offered or demanded for service.

**Distribution of farm inputs/credit availability** - Farm inputs are required for the agricultural sector to flourish in Nigeria. For instance fertiliser, agrochemicals, improved crop and animal varieties etc are needed to boost agricultural productivity. Unfortunately,



government officials responsible for equitable distribution and sale of these commodities take bribes and even make the process of getting the materials complex and difficult. Farmers who may require credit to engage in farm business face the same ordeal. According to Rodney (2002), corruption occurs in the allocation of government-subsidised credit. Most typically, unnecessary fees and percentage payments are ways that government officials use to garner funds when granting credit.

**Farm supply/transportation** - Another area corruption manifests in agricultural sector is supply/transportation of agricultural equipment and materials. For instance people empowered to import farm machinery and irrigation equipment negotiate with manufacturers to supply inferior products at the same amount for the superior products. Also, transporters of agricultural equipment and materials collude with government officials to divert the goods to unknown destinations sometimes outside the shores of the country. Rodney (2002) asserts that corruption in government contracts or licenses for agricultural supplies is common. Poor quality, undelivered goods and high prices are typical outcomes from collusion between government officials and private sector firms. An example is a government agency buying fertiliser from a private sector company at an elevated price and receiving a share of the profit. This increases the cost of agricultural production and eliminates competition in the fertiliser industry as other firms have little chance of getting the government contract.

**Product standards and certification** - Product standards and certification constitute another source of corruption, as individual producers attempt to bribe produce inspectors to get the desired certification. The efforts of Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) are appreciated but the effects are yet to be felt by poor farmers who are the main beneficiaries. The development of quality improvement centres in rural communities in Nigeria will help support objective grading of products by pooling produce for inspection and eliminating the opportunity for individual producers to offer bribes (Rodney, 2002).

**White elephant projects** - Poorly executed projects especially in the agricultural sector are the conduit for personal enrichment. There are many cases of abandoned agricultural projects in the country because of corruption. For instance the Vegetable Oil Production Plant in Nachi Enugu State known as (AVOP) established by old Anambra State Government was razed down by fire to cover up corruption in the industry. Similarly, the first cashew processing industry for export in Nigeria was established by Premier Cashew Processing Industry at Oghe, in Ezeagu Local Government Area of Enugu State. The

factory was modernized in 1989 when an ultra-modern Japanese technology was installed to increase the operating capacity to about 2000 metric tonnes per year. However, the plant has since been closed down due to management problem (Ezeagu, 2002). The Cotton Mill industry in the North has sacked most of its staff and others remaining are being owed months of unpaid salaries. The Fertiliser Plant at Onne Port Harcourt to mention but a few is an agriculture related project operating at skeletal level far below the objectives of setting it up. The canker worm stifling the life of these projects and more is corruption within and among all stakeholders involved in managing the projects. It is pertinent to observe that agricultural projects like the Rubber Estate in Ondo State being managed by foreign stakeholders continues to function optimally and contributing to economic growth of the country because of zero tolerance to corruption.

**Effects of corruption in the agricultural sector** - The effects of corruption on a nation's socio-political and economic development are myriad. Agriculture is the backbone of any developing country and as such when agricultural sector is adversely affected all other sectors are equally affected. Corruption is a monster that has directly and indirectly affected agricultural sector for decades. The effects of corruption in the agricultural sector are mainly negative although positive effects may be argued. The summary of effects of corruption is as follows:

**Strangling economic development** - Corruption in agricultural sector strangles economic development through poor execution of agro-industrial projects. Agro-allied industries are fraught with such corrupt practices as bribery, nepotism, misappropriation, kickback etc. Consequently, the ability of these industries to generate income and employment is hampered with poor resource farmers seriously receiving the bulk of the impacts. Corruption presents a scenario where money meant for development of a particular agricultural project is not released because the opportunity of embezzling the money is not clearly established. This has negative impacts on economic growth. Lipset and Lenz (2000) note that the effect on growth, is in part, a result of reduced level of investment, as it adds to investment risk. Corruption is a complex phenomenon. Its roots lie deep in bureaucratic and political institutions, and its effect on development varies with country conditions. But while costs may vary and systemic corruption may coexist with strong economic performance, experience suggests that corruption is bad for development. It leads governments to intervene where they need not, and it undermines their ability to enact and implement policies in areas in which government intervention



is clearly needed—whether environmental regulation, health and safety regulation, social safety nets, macroeconomic stabilization, or contract enforcement (World Bank, 1997).

**Neglect of real development priorities in favour of oil** - One of the greatest impacts of corruption normally arises out of the choices and priorities of governments. This occurs when the real development priorities of a country are often neglected in favour of those that generate the greatest personal gains for the decision makers. Here, it is clearly evident that many projects have become white elephants and easy route for personal enrichment (Brima, 2009). The discovery of oil in Nigeria opens a greater opportunity for policy makers and administrators to generate the greatest personal gain through corrupt practices. There was so much money in the country then that the problem of managers of the economy was how to spend the money. Agriculture which would have been a willing horse to receive the money in other to lay a solid foundation for real development was utterly neglected. The agricultural programmes by successive governments in Nigeria like Operation Feed the Nation, Green Revolution etc are poorly implemented because of corruption. Nwakoby (2007) laments that there is lack of integrity, accountability and transparency on the part of people who are supposed to implement developmental projects in the rural areas. Public funds (made for rural projects) are stashed away in bank vaults in Europe and America, while an overwhelming proportion of the population live in abject poverty.

**Widening of the gap between the rich and the poor** - Another serious effect of corruption in the agricultural sector is its ability to widen the gap between the rich and the poor. In developing country like Nigeria where majority of people are engaged in agriculture, any diversion of money meant for agricultural projects is likely to negatively affect the larger population which are mostly poor farmers. Developing economies are predominantly buffeted with barrages of corrupt practices that have deep anchorage in the socio-political and cultural psyche and existence in such nations. This is particularly so in Sub-Saharan Africa where majority of the populations especially in the rural areas suffer untold hardship as a result of what can be termed as organised or systematised corruption (Brima, 2009).

**Increase in debt burden** - Governments at various levels (federal, state and local) in Nigeria have embarked on various strategies geared towards making funds (in form of loans) available to farmers to improve agricultural production. When loans taken by governments on the pretext of undertaking some agricultural projects are diverted to private accounts and coffers, the attendant effect

is that such loans would have to be paid with interest and at the same time increasing the debt burden of the country (Brima, 2009).

**Corruption in increasing economic efficiency only on the short-run** - There is this believe that giving bribes to agricultural staff in order to procure farm inputs like fertiliser, agro-chemicals, improved varieties of crops/animals etc may help the farmers meet up with their time-bound activities. This may be true in the short-run but in the long-run the cost of production will increase thereby increasing the profitability of the farm business. World Bank (1997) argues that corruption may not distort the short-run efficiency of an economy if it merely entails a transfer of economic rents from a private party to a government official. It however agrees that the problem with this line of reasoning is that it fails to take into account any objective other than short-term efficiency.

**Opportunity for food for thought** - Although it is hard to believe, but when corruption has gone full circle, there may be a ray of light at the end of the tunnel. This is because the slightest opportunity of change can be overwhelmingly embraced by majority of the people like what is being witnessed in Nigeria recently. Similarly, Dike (2008) reports that the scandals associated with the Abacha era (looting of the treasury and human rights violations) have given the nation some food for thought. The last administration of Good-luck Ebele Jonathan is currently under attack. Nigeria is still perplexed and preoccupied with the issues of how to strengthen the nation's essential governmental structures to avoid the reoccurrence of these kinds of looting and atrocities in future. Gluckman (1955) also opines that scandals associated with corruption sometimes have the effect of strengthening a value system of a society as a whole. However, according to Dike (2008), the apparent benefits of corruption notwithstanding, no right thinking person in Nigeria where ubiquitous corruption has ravaged the society will agree that corruption is beneficial, no matter how plausible it may be.

#### **Approaches of overcoming corruption in the agricultural sector**

There may be no single approach that can stamp out corruption completely in our society. Only multifaceted approaches can attempt to ameliorate the effect of corruption in the short-run and when sustained may prevent corruption in the long-run. Therefore, there may be no clear-cut short-run and long-run approaches in overcoming corruption as most short-run approaches may continue in the long-run. However, for the purpose of this study, short-run and long-run approaches of overcoming corruption in agriculture are presented.



### **Short-run approaches to overcome corruption in agriculture**

**Awareness creation/campaign against corruption** - The best way to start the war against corruption is through awareness creation/campaign. The general public including the farmers shall be inundated with information of the evil of corruption in agriculture. The media including radio, television, newspaper, magazine, social media (face-book, twitter etc) and other communication outfits should be used in enlightening all segments of the society on the negative effects of corruption on our collective survival. Agricultural institutions should organise seminars, symposia, conferences and other academic fora to enlighten stake holders in agriculture about the need to fight the scourge (corruption). Faith-based organisations and other governmental organisations should be in fore-front in the campaign against corruption.

**Political will/finance to prosecute corruption in agriculture** - This awareness/campaign should be followed by the political will and adequate finance by governments (federal, states, and local governments) to fight corruption in agriculture. The governments should identify and prosecute known recent cases of corruption in agriculture. There is need to unravel what led to poor performance of Songhai Farms in some States of Nigeria, skeletal services by Cotton Mill and Fertiliser Plant at Onne, Port Harcourt. Dike (2008) affirms that prosecuting all the known corrupt political heavy weights in the society should be put into practice as they contribute in making the nation's inchoate laws inoperable. However, this will only be a temporary measure in fighting corruption. Principally, only men and women of virtue have the moral justification to wage the war of corruption.

**Tough penalties/rules with vigorous enforcement** - It is not enough to prosecute people involved in corruption if adequate punishment is not meted out to them to serve as deterrent to others. Those prosecuted and found culpable should be made to face the laws of the land. There shall be no sacred cows. There shall be put in place adequate rules and regulations guiding all operations in agriculture and punishments for circumventing any of the rules and regulations. Also, there shall be watch dogs trained like the forest guards and deployed to police all agricultural projects to ensure vigorous enforcement of these rules. Dike (2008) affirms that making tough rules with vigorous enforcement can deter corrupt behaviour. However, it is important to point out here that use of force to fight corruption may not be a sustainable approach because when the force is removed people may revert to the status quo.

**Officers who are in position of power and authority must be well remunerated** - An Igbo

adage says, "You cannot give a person with dry skin palm oil to keep for you". Similarly, it is very risky to assume that agricultural staff who handle and receive funds for agricultural projects should imbibe the virtues of integrity not to tamper with the funds when back home their families or loved ones cannot eat or be taking to hospital for treatment. In-fact, all staff of agriculture should be well paid and on time especially the chief executive, those in charge of project monitoring and execution, finance and audit staff and staff charged with the responsibility of enforcing rules and regulations. The officer receiving the payment would know that corrupt behaviour may involve serious loss of a high-salary employment if things were to go bad (that is, if he or she is caught with his or her hand in the *cookie jar*) (Sen, 2000).

### **Long-run approaches to prevent corruption in agriculture**

**Agricultural extension education approach** - One of the cardinal objectives of extension is education of clientele to bring about changes in their attitude, skill and knowledge. According to Laogun (2011), every extension worker is a teacher with no fixed classroom but wherever he/she meets people. His teaching is not by courses of study formally arranged, but is on any problem of immediate importance in farming or rural living such as corruption. Therefore, the extension agency can be reorganised to emphasize the teaching of zero tolerance to corruption in the agricultural sector. The extension agents in addition to their normal training of farmers should also train them to abhor corruption by refusing to give or take bribes in any agricultural undertaking. This can be achieved through value re-orientation and sensitization of farmers to imbibe patriotic spirit. According to Dike (2008), the re-orientation of the youth in Nigeria to a good value system could help in the war against corruption. The World Values Surveys of 1990-1993 has a lot of attitude and value information, which notes a relationship between values and corruption (World Values Study Group, 1994). Preaching the gospel and practice of virtue is the ultimate solution to behavioural change and reduction in corruption. The farmers should be made to express love for their country by shunning corruption.

**Strengthening of social and governmental institutions** - There is need to strengthen institutions such as banks, schools, clubs, cooperatives, labour rotatory groups etc which are directly or indirectly involved in agriculture with a view to ridding them of corruption. The process of obtaining agricultural loans should be simple and transparent. A mechanism should be put in place such that bank official collaborators in crime should easily be detected and adequately punished. The children in schools should be taught moral and



citizenship lessons early in life and reward system put in place for exemplary students/pupils.

**Full independent anti-corruption outfit** - Corruption fighters club can be established in both rural and urban areas to wage war against corruption in the agricultural sector. This outfit should be fully independent and free from control and manipulation of any other authority in issues of corruption and other related offences. Also, it should be well funded through direct budget allocation.

## CONCLUSION

Corruption is prevalent in all facets of human endeavour. It cuts across professions, faiths, religious denominations and political systems and affects both young and old, man and woman alike. Origin of corruption in Nigeria can be traced to the colonial invasion of Africa. Pressure and peer comparison contribute greatly to acts of corruption especially where the socially revered are the corrupt ones. There are instances of corruption in land title/tenure for agricultural purposes as well as in distribution of farm inputs or in the allocation of government subsidised credit. Corruption in agricultural sector strangles economic development through poor execution of agro-industrial projects. Short-run approaches to overcome corruption in agriculture include political will to prosecute all known cases of corruption in agriculture and tough penalties/rules with vigorous enforcement. Long-run approach to prevent corruption in agriculture is through agricultural extension education approach. There is need for a renewed focus on agriculture to rid it of corruption and inefficiency. There is dire need to stomp out corruption in our agricultural sector and serve our poor rural farming communities better.

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