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THE NIGERIAN AGRICULTURAL POLICY INADEQUACY: THE WAY FORWARD

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Introduction

Nigeria is blessed with a high level of oil and agricultural resources. However, despite the large revenue derived from the oil sector, agriculture remains the main stay of the Nigerian economy. Historically, there is virtually no country that has made economic progress without prior gains in her agricultural sector. The Nigerian agricultural sector is one of the most important sectors in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employment generation potential. It contributes significantly to national food self-sufficiency by accounting for over 90 percent of total food supply in the country. It is a major and sustainable portal for foreign exchange earning being the main contributor in the non-oil sector.

With a very large proportion of the estimated 75% of the national population residing in the rural areas and working in agriculture, growth in the sector is expected to have a significant impact on poverty reduction and job creation. Not only will such growth lead to extra employment opportunities, but also the additional supply will help stabilize and reduce food prices, which will benefit the poor who because of their large propensity to consume, spend more than half of their income on food. Most importantly, an improvement in agriculture has been known in other countries, to help in the facilitation of growth in other sectors of the economy through its multiplier effect. Furthermore, agriculture is expected to provide substitutes to the highly expensive imports of food and live animals which totalled N174.23 billion in 2006 (CBN, 2007).

It must be stated that even though the country has witnessed substantial increase in food output volumes in the last three decades through remarkable improvement in poultry, arable staple foods and fisheries production; however, these growths have not matched the rising food demand situation, sequel to the high population growth rate in the country. As a result of this, there exist high incidences of protein energy malnutrition, nutrients' deficiencies, related diseases, rising food import bill and a general reduction in labour productivity (FAO, 2007).

It should also be emphasized that the Nigerian agricultural production landscape is dominated by small scale, subsistence farmers who represent over 80% of the total food production population (CBN 2005). The small scale, some time called the peasant farmers, are the silent majority in almost all African countries particularly in Nigeria. They are the voiceless and politically muscle-less rural dwellers that their votes would not count even when they are allowed to vote since the results of their polling booths would hardly get to where they matter. Sequel to this, Nigerian government finds it convenient to vacillate between abandoning the transformation of agriculture and making milky and rosy promises to the Nation as it wishes, with no obvious impact on the stability of governance in agriculture but significant impact on the citizenry whose livelihoods depend on agriculture. The aim of this publication therefore, is to examine the Nigerian agricultural policy inadequacy and the way forward in the management of agriculture, and make some prescriptive suggestions on the way forward for Nigeria's agriculture.

The Nigerian Agriculture

The history of the Nigerian agriculture should undoubtedly start from the colonial era when the Colonialists had the objective to orientate the Nigerian farming systems towards meeting and serving the demands of their home companies and creating jobs in their countries. Consequently, structures put in place were basically to enhance the transportation and evacuation of high valued and exportable commodities (Cocoa, palm oil, palm kernel, cotton, groundnuts, rubber, etc) to the sea ports. The rail system and major roads were constructed to achieve these goals running from Lagos to the North and the Eastern parts of the country, (Lagos, Ibadan, Ilorin, Kaduna, Kano, Jos, and Maiduguri, to Enugu).

Agricultural commodities commonly produced represented about 60% of the total foreign exchange earnings of the nation and the sector was employing as much as about 90% of the economically active labour force. It must be stated that during that period the level of agricultural technology was dominated mainly by hoes and cutlasses and the use of little or no external inputs. It was common for the farmers to rely almost absolutely on seeds saved from previous harvests and subsistence farm practices. These invariably led to minimal yield and poor level of productivity of the factors of production in Nigeria's agricultural sector. Nevertheless the sector was able to meet about 90% of the food needs of the population and substitute for some imports. Rapid growth in population put pressure on the sector and thus was not able to meet the yearnings of the people. Food prices were on the increase, food imports on the rise, rural urban migration started to explode and the centre cannot hold as things started to fall apart in the sector.

During the 1960s and after the discovery of oil in commercial quantities in the 1970s, Nigerian agriculture started to perform poorly. It took a very long period before its growth picked up. Even with this, the growth has been due largely to smallholders increasing their cropped areas. This is because yields have declined for many crops and other enterprises. Furthermore, higher protection spurred growth masking the huge gap in productivity and competitiveness that has opened up between Nigeria and international competitors. Consequently, agriculture is not playing the expected role of increasing productivity and stimulating growth in the economy as a whole.

It should however be stated that, Nigeria has a highly diversified agro-ecological conditions, which makes possible the production of a wide range of agricultural commodities. Hence, agriculture constitutes one of the most important sectors of the economy. The sector is particularly important in terms of its employment generation (approximately 43 percent of Nigeria's labour force was employed in agriculture, contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and export revenue earnings (World Bank, 2006).

Despite Nigeria's rich agricultural resource endowment, however, less than 50 percent of the country's cultivable agricultural land is under cultivation. Even then, smallholder and traditional farmers who use rudimentary production techniques, with resultant low yields, cultivate most of this land. To date, the Nigerian smallholder farmers are faced with many growth constraints, including those of poor access to modern inputs and credit, poor infrastructure, inadequate access to markets, land tenure rigidities and environmental degradation, inadequate research and extension services.

Furthermore, mainly arising from the low agricultural performance, poverty in Nigeria has been assuming wider dimensions, including household income poverty, food poverty/insecurity, poor access to public services and infrastructure malnutrition, unsanitary environment, illiteracy and ignorance, insecurity of life and property, poor governance and so on (NPC and UNICEF, 2001). These have in turn, served as major pillars of near stagnant performance in agriculture in the wake of annual rapid population growths. Sequel to the dwindling performance of agriculture in the country, various tiers of government have, over several decades, initiated numerous policies and programs aimed at restoring the agricultural sector to its pride of place in the economy. Some of these have been in the areas of improved technology, marketing, infrastructure, loans and grants which are mainly from the International Donors or Development Partners.

Past Government Policies: Their Superfluities and Anticipation

Major strides in the advancement of agriculture are found more in the consistent sourcing and implementation of policies and programmes by the numerous governments in Nigeria for many decades. Historically, four distinct agricultural and rural policy phases may be identified in Nigeria. The first phase spanned the entire colonial period and the first post-independence decade from 1960 to about 1969 (the pre-1970 era); the second covered the period from about 1970 to 1985; the third phase started from 1986 in the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) period to 1994; the fourth is the post-SAP era to date, spanning 1995-2009.

The Pre-1970 Period

The prevailing philosophy for agricultural development during this period was characterized by minimum direct government intervention. As such, the private sector and the small-scale resource-poor farmers determined the direction of agricultural development efforts in the country. The three Regional Governments (Eastern, Northern and Western, and later the Mid-Western), were merely supportive of the activities of these farmers and government efforts largely took the form of agricultural research, extension and export crop marketing, and price stabilization activities. Some of the governments in the 1950s and 1960s, created public-owned Agricultural Development Corporations, Commodity Boards and launched a number of Farm Settlement Schemes, but these actions found their justification more in social considerations and in promoting community participation in agricultural activities than direct intervention on their part. However, it must be stated that some of them got rooted in styles or approaches of some countries in the developed countries and some under transition which had a compulsion to so do such as Israel. In the particular case of the Western Regional government, the Farm Settlement Scheme sensitized the young ones to go into agriculture and created an opportunity for the products of the free education programme to be employed immediately after their graduation (Okuneye, 1984).

Pre-Structural Adjustment Period (1970-1985)

This period was characterized by oil revenue boom and high levels of public expenditures by the Federal Government. The poor performance of the agriculture sector engendered the drive for increasing government intervention that resulted in a wide range of agricultural policies, programs and projects, some of which had the direct involvement of government in agricultural production. Sector-specific agricultural policies were largely designed to facilitate agricultural marketing, reduce agricultural production cost and enhance agricultural product prices as incentives for increased agricultural production. Major policy instruments during this period included the following:

- a) Agricultural Commodity Marketing and Pricing Policy
- b) Input Supply and Distribution Policy
- c) Agricultural Input Subsidy Policy
- d) Agricultural Mechanization Policy
- e) Water Resources and Irrigation Policy
- f) Agricultural Extension and Technology Transfer Policy

To support the policy directions of the Government; two important legal enactments were undertaken, viz. the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree of 1972 and 1977 and the Land Use Decree of 1978.

(C) The Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) Period (1986- 1994)

The main policies put in place during this phase included:

(a) Fiscal Policies: A five year tax-free period for profits earned by companies engaged in agricultural production and agro-processing was provided.

(b) Monetary Policies:

(c) Trade Policies:

(d) Agricultural Support Service Policies

- Water Resources and Irrigation: Re-organization of the River Basin Development Authorities in 1986 to concentrate only on water resources management and land development, including provision of irrigation facilities. In 1993 also, *FADAMA I*, a programme on dry-season farming initiative was launched.
- Employment: Establishment of National Directorate of Employment (NDE) in 1986 to promote employment programmes with a special school leaver and agricultural graduates programme both for keeping rural youth's interest in agriculture and for assisting agricultural graduate in establishing farms of their choice.
- Agricultural Insurance: Establishment of National Agricultural Insurance Company (NAIC) in 1987 to operate and administer the Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Scheme.
- Agricultural Land Development: Establishment of a National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) in 1991 to execute a national agricultural development programme for small scale farmers organized on group basis.
- Agricultural Training and Manpower Development: Training is one of the strategies of the Nigerian government for agricultural development. This has resulted in the establishment of Faculties of Agriculture in all the conventional Universities, Colleges and Institutes of Agriculture, followed in 1988 to 1992 by the establishment of three Universities of Agriculture.

(e) Rural Development Policy: This was the first time a policy attention was given to rural development. In 1986, the Directorate for Food, Road and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) was established. This directorate was involved in the construction of rural feeder roads, rural water supply schemes, and rural electrification projects.

(f) The 1988 Agricultural Policy Document: In 1988, a more holistic and articulated agricultural policy document of Nigeria was launched.

g) 1991: National Land Development Authority established NALDA Farms in nearly all the States with 4 ha demarcated for each farmer involved in the community based programme.

Post SAP Period (1995-2009)

There were no significant policy pronouncements during this phase prior to 1999. Instead the period was characterized by substantial importation of agricultural products while programmes to support agriculture witnessed policy uncertainties. Expenditures on agricultural programs declined with concomitant effect on capital projects.

The post 1999 period, however, witnessed the initiation of several economic reforms with the agricultural sector being central to most of such efforts.

1999 - Special Programme on Food Security

1999 - Root and Tuber Expansion Programme (RTEP)

This programme was designed to improve on the level of production of roots and tubers in the country.

2000 - Integrated Rural Development Strategy

2001- Presidential Initiatives on special crops (rice, vegetable oil and cassava): The Presidential Initiative on Rice (PIOR) aimed for national self-sufficiency in rice production by 2005, food security, and the ability to export by 2007.

2003 - *FADAMA* II programme: This is in two phases. The first is funded by the World Bank and the second by the African Development Bank. Twelve States are covered by the World Bank funded phase while six States are funded by the African Development Bank. Subsequently, *FADAMA* III programme has recently (2009) taken off in some selected States.

The aim of the *FADAMA* programmes is to use the banks of rivers and water logged areas for agricultural purposes, particularly so given the low proportion of irrigated areas in Nigeria put at only 7% of total cultivated arable land.

2003 - Cocoa Rebirth Programme: This programme covers the fourteen (14) States that are cocoa producing. A Deputy Governor in one of the States is the Chairman of the Committee and the Committee is anchored in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Abuja.

2004 - National Economic Empowerment Development Strategies (NEEDS) Programme

2004 - New Agricultural Policy. This is more detailed as it includes important areas of agriculture which were not emphasized in the 1988 document.

2006 – National Fertilizer Policy for Nigeria.

2007 –2011 - The 7-Point Agenda: This encompassed, power and energy, food security, wealth creation, transport sector, land reform, security, and education. With respect to food security, the reform is primarily agrarian based. The emphasis on the development of modern technology, research, financial injection into research, production and development of agricultural inputs to revolutionise the agricultural sector leading to an expected 5 – 10 fold increase in yield and production. This is expected to result in a massive domestic and commercial outputs and technological knowledge transfer to farmers. The agriculture sub-component of the 7-Point Agenda is spelled out in the 5-Point Agenda of Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (FMAWR). The key programmes of the 5-Point Agenda are: Developing Agricultural Policy and Regulatory Systems (DAPRS), Food Systems Network (FOODSNet), Rural Sector Enhancement Programme (RUSEP), Developing Agriculture Inputs Markets in Nigeria (DAIMINA), and Maximising Agricultural Revenue in Key Enterprises (MARKETS).

It must be stated that apart from these policies and programmes there are various others from the Development Partners and the Regional and Continental bodies which have not really impacted positively on the living standards of the people. These include Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme, (CAADP), AGOA, etc.

The various Nigerian agricultural policies have been chronologically arranged in many publications including Okuneye (2009) and Okuneye (2010) among others.

Performance of the Agricultural Sector over the Years

There is no gainsaying the fact that past policies towards agricultural development had been wonderful on paper, but what has been the outcome of these efforts over the years?

Firstly, figure 1 shows the agricultural share in the total GDP and rate of growth of agriculture which, between 1992 and 2008 was only significantly different from zero in 2002. It is also revealed that as at 1960, agriculture's share in GDP was as high as over 60%, fell to about 20% in 1980 and then grew to a little over 40% between 2004 and 2008. This shows a very poor performance of agriculture in Nigeria. Even though other sectors perform this role in developed countries, the agricultural population in those countries is not as high (about 2-5%) in the developing countries like Nigeria and the industrial sector is well developed.

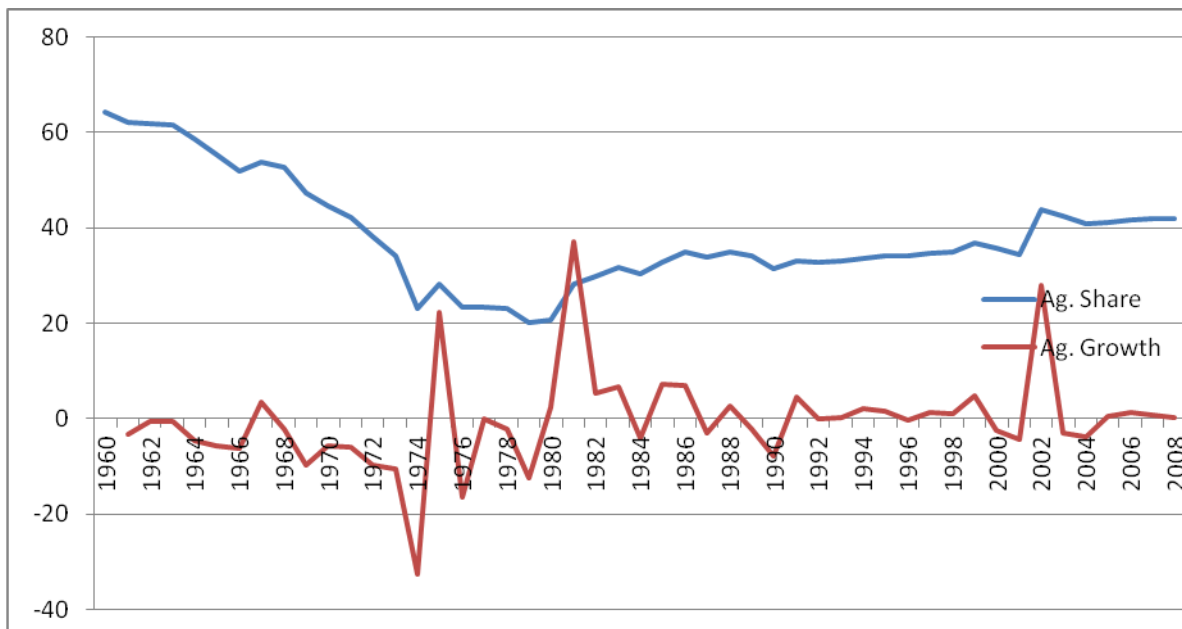


Figure 1: Agriculture Share of GDP (Real terms, in percentage: 1960-2008)

Assessment of the Agricultural Sector in Nigeria

The history of Nigeria's agricultural development could be classified into four phases, namely pre-1970, 1971-1985, 1986-1994 and 1995 to date (CBN 2007). The era of relatively good performance of the sector occurred during the pre-1970 phase, when production activities in the sector were dominated by private operators but fell during the 1971-1985 period when surprisingly there were substantial public sector interventions, with the Federal Government directly involved in production, processing and storage activities. The latter two phases saw a reduced direct intervention by the Federal Government thereby allowing markets to function and the subsequent return to growth in the sector.

The Pre-1970 phase was characterized by a declining share of agriculture value added to GDP, from greater than 60 percent in 1960 to about 45 percent in 1970. Being a post-colonial era, those elements of colonial agriculture policy persisted, with the marketing boards playing a pivotal role of extracting agricultural surplus through taxes, but these were not used necessarily to support price stabilization as envisaged but instead supported the development of infrastructure, industries and social amenities (Bonat, 1989). Along with declining share of agriculture in exports, the overall growth performance of the sector also declined on average. The 1971-85 periods saw a much pronounced decline of the share of agriculture value added in GDP, partly because of the rising dominance of the oil sector but also because of the extreme uncertainty in policy direction brought about by the increased government intervention in the sector. To support a vision of “agri-business”, policy directions included the Land Use Decree which vested the ownership of land in the state governments, and state acquisition of large tracks of peasant-held land for the River Basin Development Authority (RBDA) and for the Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs), dams, etc. These efforts were supported by the importation of massive quantities of fertilizers, chemicals, machinery, seeds, etc. and infrastructure developments (dams, feeder roads, farm service centres, fertilizer distribution centres and tractor hiring units). But the growth performance during this period was highly erratic and associated with wide swings.

Since 2001 the agriculture sector has generated over half of new jobs with an average annual 2003-2008 sector growth rate of about 7.0 percent. The current growth of agriculture has, nonetheless come from increasing cropped area rather than gains in productivity.

Growth Rates of Economic Indicators

Table 1 shows the average annual rates of growth of a number of agricultural-sector performance indicators over the 1981-2005 periods. Six growth-rate indicators are listed in the table, namely, average annual growth rates of agricultural GDP and those of four sub-sectors of agriculture, average annual growth rates in indices of agricultural production and for five sub-sectors of agriculture, average annual growth rates in the amount guaranteed loans under the ACGSF, average annual growth rates in total bank credit to agriculture and the aggregate economy, and capital expenditures of federal government in the agricultural sector and in the aggregate economy. The growth rates of the GDP in the agricultural sector and its sub-sectors show that the crops sub-sector performed relatively better than the other sub-sectors and the aggregate sector. Although not high, the Crop growth rates improved over the 1981-2000 and 2001-2005 periods, from an average 2.5 percent per annum in the 1981-85 to 4.9 percent per annum in the 1996-2000 and about 8.4% in 2001-2005 sub-periods. Growth rates in the livestock, forestry and fishery were positive. However, the growth performance of the agricultural sector GDP was, on the whole, slightly better than that of the economy as a whole. Nevertheless the growth rates of the non oil sector were higher than those of agriculture. Some greater details of the performance of agriculture in terms of exports are presented in table 2. Agriculture was only responsible for 1.17% in 2001 rising to 3.95 in 2002 and fell to 1.22% in 2005. This heavy fall and poor performance reflected in that of the non-oil sector which was 5.05% maximum between the periods under consideration.

Table 1: Indicators of Agricultural Sector Performance (in Mean Annual Values)

S/n	Indicators	1981- 1985	1986- 1990	1991- 1995	1996- 2000	2001-2005
1	Mean GDP at 1984 Constant Factor Cost (₦ Millions)				1999 const Prices (N Billion)	
	Crops	18,134.2	24,773.3	30,195.1	35,745.0	185.97
	Livestock	4,306.8	4,959.0	5,212.0	5,825.0	13.12
	Forestry	1,258.7	1,328.6	1,290.0	1,390.0	2.76
	Fisheries	1,322.1	1,167.6	1,379.0	1,765.0	6.83
	Total agriculture GDP	25,229.2	32,228.5	38,075.9	44,725.0	204.60
	Total GDP	67,773.0	78,681.0	99,320.7	111,705.0	493.40
	Total Non-Oil GDP	58,368.8	68,486.0	86,445.0	99,160.0	369.72
2	Share of agriculture in total GDP (%)	37	41	38	40	42.30
3	Share of agriculture in non-oil GDP (%)	43	47	44	45	55.34
4	Mean guaranteed loan under ACGSF (₦ Millions)	44.2	103.4	104.6	228.2	2286.8
5	Share of Total labour Force employed in agriculture	59.4	55.6	57.0	45.0	45.5
6	Agriculture's Share of Export Value					
	Share of total export	2.9	4.7	2.0	2.4	2.1
	Share of non-oil export	71.8	79.1	77.8	84.5	76.8

Source: Computed with data extracted from: Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN): Statistical Bulletins, Several issues.

Table 2: Nigeria's Non-Oil Sector and Agriculture

Year	Exports in ₦ billion	% Share in Total Exports		GDP at 1990 Prices	% Share in Total GDP	
	Total Exports	% Non-Oil	% Agric	Total GDP (N Bn)	Non-Oil	Agric
2001	2001.234	1.40	1.17	431.78	73.96	42.30
2002	1882.668	5.05	3.95	451.79	76.54	42.14
2003	2889.847	3.29	2.49	495.01	73.42	41.01
2004	5963.273	2.49	1.64	527.58	74.28	40.98
2005	7373.219	1.48	1.22	560.43	76.38	41.21

Source: Computed from Various issues of the CBN Annual Reports and Statements of Accounts (Central Bank of Nigeria, Abuja)

Food Insecurity in Nigeria

The 2009 FAO report indicates that during 2004-06 (the latest for which data are available), Nigeria had about 11.3 million people or 8 percent of the population reported as undernourished. The proportion of the population considered undernourished has declined from 15 percent in the early 1990s to 8 percent in the mid-2000 and the FAO projects that Nigeria is likely to meet the World Food Summit (WFS) target of reducing between 1990-92 and 2015, the number of undernourished people by half. Nonetheless, the 2009 Global Hunger Index (GHI) published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), which ranks countries on the basis of the three dimensions of hunger (the proportion of undernourished as a percentage of the population, the prevalence of underweight in children under the age of 5 years, and the mortality rate of children under the age of 5 years) shows that Nigeria's progress in reducing hunger remains slow in line with worldwide progress. Nigeria's GHI for 2009 (based on data for 2002-2007) remains in the alarming rate at 18.4, compared to 24.4 for the 1990 GHI (based on 1988-92 data). The GHI ranges from 0-100 with 0 being a state of no hunger and 100 being the worst status of hunger.

Both the FAO and IFPRI reports suggest that a healthy agricultural sector can provide an economic and employment buffer in developing economies, especially in times of crisis. In addition, they point out that due attention may need to be given to developing the rural non-farm sector in parallel with agriculture, which is another key pathway out of poverty and food insecurity. Arising from the poor management of the agricultural resources the yield of crops are considerably lower than their potentials. Table 3 shows the divergence of the yield of major crops in Nigeria vis-à-vis their expected potentials. This means that there is a need for higher levels of research-extension linkages.

Table 3: Estimated Current Yield vs. Potential Yield (Selected Crops-mt/ha)

Crop	Current Yield	Potential Yield
Cassava	12.3	28.4
Yam	12.3	18.0
Rice	1.9	7.0
Maize	1.4	4.0
Sorghum	1.1	3.2
Millet	1.1	2.4

Sources: Current yield from FMAWR/CBN; Potential yield from ReSAKSS (2009)

However Table 4 shows that the Federal Government has not been spending much on agriculture. Between 1994 and 2007, the Federal government had consistently spent less than 5% of her annual total budget on the agricultural sector. This is far lower than the prescribed minimum of 10% of the budget as stated under the auspices and agreement of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme, (CAADP). This apart, the budget was not released completely as considerable under spending was recorded as shown in Table 7

Table 4: National annual total budgets and allocations to agriculture in Nigeria 1994 -2007(₦ Billion)

Year	A) Total National Budget	Agric Capital	Agric Recurrent	B) Total Agriculture Budget	% of Agric to Total Budget (B/A)
1994	79.20	2.68	0.99	3.67	4.63
1995	108.94	1.43	2.16	3.59	3.30
1996	141.00	1.99	1.02	3.01	2.13
1997	160.73	3.50	1.04	4.54	2.83
1998	182.54	3.91	1.36	5.27	2.89
1999	299.0	3.83	4.48	8.31	2.78
2000	702.0	5.76	4.61	10.37	1.48
2001	894.2	10.60	5.19	15.79	1.77
2002	1,064	12.60	5.24	17.84	1.68
2003	1,446	10.6	7.44	18.04	1.25
2004	1,189	10.55	7.81	18.36	1.54
2005	1,618	7.54	10.29	14.83	1.10
2006	1,900	15.40	15.40	30.80	1.62
2007	2,300	17.63	23.0	40.33	1.65

Source: PEAKOLAM Ltd (2008): “The Impact of Development Partners’ Agricultural Development Programmes on the Development of Agriculture in Nigeria” A Study Report submitted to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Abuja.

Given the low budgets allocated to agriculture by the Nigerian government, table 5 shows the various levels of financial assistance given to Nigeria by the Development Partners. However, as shown in these tables not much has been gained by the country in the pursuit of agricultural development through these grants. Study on the impact of Development Partners’ (World Bank, IFAD and the FAO) assistance on the level of development of the Nigerian agriculture reeled little or minimal impacts. Hence the state of agricultural progress in Nigeria cannot be valued without the inclusion of the efforts of these agencies over the years which although have revealed little or no impacts. Tables 6 to 7 show that in Benue, Cross River, Delta, Enugu, Ogun and Lagos States significant impacts of the International Fund for Africa (IFAD)’s efforts are basically in technology transfer and less in area or size expansion. This implies that there are some fundamental issues in the direct impact of these programmes translating into agricultural progress for Nigeria which must be tackled or else the efforts will not be appreciated.

Table 5: Impact of Donor Programme – IFAD Project on Roots and Tuber Expansion Programme (RTEP)

State	Year Started and ended	LGA Covered	Enterprises	Technology	Impact of programme			
					Impact on Yield	Farm/herd/enterprise size	Trainings held	No of staff trained
Benue	1987-1997	23	Cassava	Multiplication and distribution of improved varieties	Yes	5.09million ha	NA	
Cross River	2007-Date	5	Cassava, Yam, Cocoyam, Potato Processing	Yam miniset establishment High yielding disease resistant cassava variety	Yes	NA	NA	15
Delta	1990-1998 2001-2009	21 centres 5	Roots and Tubers Cassava	-	Yes Yes	NA	NA	
Enugu	2002-2003 2007-Date	17 5	Root/Tuber Production Root/Tuber processing	Cassava utilisation Cocoyam flour/chips processing Yam miniset establishment	Yes	53,550 45,000 16 processing Plants	4 M&E start-up workshop, 4 annual work plan and Budget Software maintenance	225 223
Ogun	1987-1997 1996-2004	State wide State wide	Cassava Yam Cassava, Yam, Cocoyam, Sweet potatoes	Yam miniset establishment High yielding disease resistant cassava variety	Yes	164,090.26ha	Miniset techniques in yam production	NA
Lagos	2001-2006 2007-2009	State wide 5	Cassava, Yam sweet potato, cocoyam	NA	Yes	NA	NA	60

Source: PeakOlam (2009):

Table 6: Impact of Donor Programme - FAO Supported National Programme on Food Security

State	Year Started and ended	LGA Covered	Enterprises	Technology	Impact of programme			
					Impact on Yield	Farm/herd/enterprise size	Trainings held	No of staff trained
Cross River	2002-Date	9	Cassava, Yam, Poultry, Livestock, Aquaculture	Pond construction & mgt; Boundary planting; Brooding of local chicks	Yes	N A	Annual work plan and budget, Processing and marketing	36
Enugu	2003-2005	3	Crops, Fisheries; Small scale irrigation;	Pond construction & mgt; Boundary planting	Yes	514 ha	10 annual work plan and budget,	46
	2008-Date	9	Agro-forestry Processing L/stock	Brooding of local chicks		5 Ponds of 2500 fingerlings 7000 birds 486 small ruminants	NPFS sensitization Processing and marketing	
Lagos	NPFS	State wide	Crops, livestock, fisheries, Processing	NA	Yes	NA	NA	80

Prescriptive Strategies towards Agricultural Policy Effectiveness

Policy thrusts that can stimulate the development of agriculture can be seen from the perspectives of the following fundamental issues: a) the need to ensure the acceleration of increases in yields of commodities, farm resource productivity and sector growth in a sustainable manner; b) putting in place a paradigm shift that has the composition of market-oriented, investor-friendly and competitive agricultural systems; c) Encouraging increased participation of the organized private sector in a commercial basis which guarantees continual flow of investment resources, technologies, and entrepreneurial and technical capacities into agriculture; d) Evolution of economic policies that will attract the youths into agriculture with a view to empowering them and equip them to replace the aging farmers; e) Establish a solid linkage between the farmers and the industries that will cause the profitable production of highly needed raw materials in a continual basis beneficial to the buyers and the industries; and f) Policy inconsistency and policy abortion or summersault.

It is also pertinent to put in place a radicalization of agricultural systems that will be so situated to solve the aforementioned weaknesses identified earlier. At least six steps are crucial to move the Nigerian agriculture forward and these are as follows with the salient issues involved:

Table 7: Impact of Donor Programme – World Bank project on *FADAMA* I and II

State	Year Started and ended	LGA Covered	Impact of programme					
			Enterprises	Technology	Impact on Yield	Farm/herd / enterprise size	Trainings held	No of staff trained
Bauchi	1993-2007 (<i>Fadama</i> I&II)	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetables • Fruits • Wheat • Irrigation • Infrastructure • Livestock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bee keeping system • Small scale Irrigation system • Livestock Management 	Yes	NA	NA	NA
Delta	1996-2007 <i>Fadama</i> I 2008/9 <i>Fadama</i> III)	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agric services Tech. • Improved dry season farming • Poverty Alleviation 	NA	Yes	NA	NA	NA
Kwara	2004-2007 (<i>Fadama</i> II)	21	Crops, Livestock Processing and Marketing	NA	N A	7,558.9ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDP Procurement • Monitoring & evaluation • NA 	8880 (total No. of people trained)
Lagos	2004-2008 <i>Fadama</i> II)	10	Crop; l/stock; hunting; fisheries; agro processing; gatherers; vulnerable groups	NA	Yes	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	80

- 1) Development of Commercial Agriculture and Increased Funding of Agriculture:
 - a) The peasant and small scale farmers need to be assisted with funds and capacity building on how to combine the resources efficiently and profitably;
 - b) Linkage of producers with the industries on suitable terms;
 - c) The sector should target exportation given the various commodities that can be produced in Nigeria, to earn more foreign exchange.

- 2) Appropriate Roles for the Three Tiers of Government:
 - a) There is the need to properly define the specific roles of each tier of government for effective monitoring of programmes and making the grassroots to have an impact of government policies;
 - b) Assigning roles particularly to the Local Government which seems to be playing little or no role in the cause of development of agriculture

- 3) Funding of Research and Strengthening of Extension Farmer Linkages:
 - a) Research into input development is very essential in today's agriculture, so as to make needed available as at when needed given the time specificity required in agriculture;
 - b) Such inputs should have salient messages on how to use them in a least cost manner and the environmental implications therein;
 - c) Development of extension methodologies that are consistent with gender, enterprise and income groups so as to be economically and socially acceptable and fully adopted;
 - d) Particular areas of research concentration should be on environmental consequences of production and processing modes, climate change, enterprise combination, value addition, pro-poor issues and upgrading the intertwining relationships of agriculture and other sectors of the nation, among others.

- 4) Policy Reforms and Elimination of Policy Abortion or Somersault:
 - a) The paper has revealed numerous policies over the years, some of these are incongruent to the others and hence need to be sieved out;
 - b) A continuity of policies is required before basic socio-economic forces would necessitate their modifications and not a 180 degree change;
 - c) Policies on livestock seem to be lean and more are required for the development of this and forestry subsectors.

- 5) Infrastructural Development:
 - a) This is a major bane in the agricultural sector, as the rural areas are not conducive enough for processing, storage and packaging because of lack of power and good (feeder) roads;
 - b) Markets and marketing facilities are required in the rural areas;
 - c) Market information facilities need to be provided

- 6) Development of a New Crop of Farmers with Sound Entrepreneurial Skills:
 - a) An aggressive model needs to be involved either through formal or informal training programmes for the youths,
 - b) A Train, Empower and Equip Strategy (TEES); is needed similar in scope and orientation to the AGRIC-YES Strategy being used in Lagos State. In this strategy after the training lasting for about six months and internship, the Youths are assisted to get land and they are funded to the tune of up to five million Naira (N5.0 million), to start their chosen type of agribusiness.

Conclusion

Undoubtedly, the Nigerian agriculture has remained almost static per caput wise but it has tremendous potential to progress. Such great achievement can however come by if a general restructuring is put in place. A departure from the usual formalized system of management is

required and this should be a task that must be done to meet up with the Millennium Development Goals and make Nigeria a nation really great in Africa and indeed among Comity of Nations.

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