



AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND STANDARD OF LIVING IN NIGERIA

(2001-2015)

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Abstract

The subject matter of Agriculture, Food Security and Standard of Living has recently become a major discuss in literature due to perennial economic crises ravaging the world all over. Thus, this study examined the impact of agriculture on food security and standard of living in Nigeria. Emphatically, it examined how government budgetary allocation to agricultural sector impact on food security and standard of living. Secondary data were sourced from CBN statistical bulletin and National bureau of statistics. Data were analyzed descriptively through trend analysis, tables and bar chart. The study revealed that, agriculture is the main stay of the economy but unfortunately in Nigeria, less attention and lack of political will from the government contributes to the low performance of the sector despite all polices and strategies that had been put in place. Thus, the resultant consequence being food insecurity and poor standard of living. The study concludes that food security and favorable standard of living is a function of improvement of agricultural sector and to achieve this, government must be willing to invest adequately in the sector. Not only this, there must be participatory commercialization of the sector in order to guarantee food security and enhanced standard of living to the rising population in Nigeria. The study however recommends that government should not only stop at funds allocation to agricultural sector, but adequate scientific monitoring must be encouraged to ascertain that the funds so allocated are channeled for the purpose to which they are allocated. This is necessary so that, the funds won't end up in the hands of the greedy people within the sector.

Keywords: *Budgetary Allocation, Food security, Standard of living, Commercialisation.*

Introduction

Achieving food security and favorable standard of living is an integral part of economic development of a nation. Food security is defined by American Dictionary as the state of having reliable access to sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. However, the role of agricultural sector in adequate food production cannot be overemphasized. Thus, agricultural sector must be improved on to achieve adequate food security and enhanced standard of living. Agricultural sector has contributed significantly to the economy of the nation Nigeria since independent. It engages about 70% of the labor force and provides subsistence for the two thirds of Nigerians who are low income earners (Okuneye,

2001). The sector provides food for the increasing population, raw materials for the growing industries, employment for the increasing number of young graduates and generation of foreign exchange earnings to the nation. However the problem facing the sector include but not limited to the following; inadequate funding, poor storage facilities, poor marketing strategy, high importation and poor infrastructural facilities; consequently, food insecurity and low standard of living among others. Nonetheless, different administrations have put in place various policies in order to enhance the growth of agriculture so as to bring about food security and increase in the standard of living of the people. Such policies include; Farm Settlement Scheme, National Accelerated Food Production (NAFPP), Agricultural



Development Projects (ADPs), River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs), National Seed Service (NSS), National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization (NCAM), Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute (ARMTI) and Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (ACGSF). Others are the Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB) agricultural bank, Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Green Revolution Programme, Directorate Of Foods, Roads And Rural Infrastructure (DFFRI), Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Company (NAIC), National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), Specialized Universities for Agriculture, Root and Tuber Expansion Programme (RTEP) and Rural Banking Scheme (Ogwumike,1995; Oni, 2014).

Furthermore, the Federal Government in 2004 launched another economic reform called National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) programme to encourage private sector participation in the development of the economy. This was aimed at promoting growth and poverty reduction through a participatory process involving civil society and development partners in the agricultural sector. Thus, NEEDS was directed to influence improvement in the production, processing and distribution of agricultural commodities with the aim of achieving the following:

- Smoothen out imperfections in the agricultural financial market;
- Ensure food security;
- Achieve favorable balance of payments;
- Promote foreign exchange earnings from agricultural exports;
- Enhance other socio-economic issues, such as poverty reduction, employment generation, reduction in rural-urban migration and especially, food price stability since it is known that food price fluctuations are the precursor of inflation in developing countries;
- Providing finance as engine of growth and development since the major occupation of the people is farming;

Unfortunately, NEEDS was short-lived for only one year and therefore could not transform or make

significant impact on the agricultural sector (Eze, Lemchi, Ugochukwu, Eze, Awulonu, Okon, 2010)

In the recent time, government policy (under president Musa Yar'adua) embarked on vision 20:20:20 or what is popularly called 7 points agenda which gave priority to food security through improvement of agricultural sector by mobilization 200 billion Naira bond for the development of commercial agriculture in the country. The bond was floated by the Federal Government to provide credit facilities to commercial farmers and managed by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) at no more than 10% interest on the loans to be subsidized by the CBN. This was intended to enhance food security in the country and reduce poverty level while creating three million jobs in the next 3 years. In addition, transformation agenda of the preceding administration (under president Jonathan) cannot be left out in this regard.

Despite all the aforementioned reform policies and programmes put in place to revive agriculture in Nigeria, the story remain the same. The programmes and policies have not been able to revive agriculture, to improve food security and standard of living in Nigerians due to lack of commitment and transparency in the implementation of the programmes, inadequate funding and mismanagement of available funds among other reasons (Asoluka & Okezie, 2011; Ugwu & Kanu 2012). Thus, rather than agriculture generating food security, foreign exchange and favorable standard of living to the people, the country has continued to witness hunger, high inflation due to high importations and high rate of poverty.

The questions are that; can a developing nation like Nigeria grow without dynamic agricultural sector? What can be done to solve the perennial problems plaguing the sector? Answers are needed for these questions if agriculture must result in food security and enhance standard of living in Nigeria.

Therefore, to achieve food security and favorable standard of living, sincere efforts must be given to improve agricultural sector by all levels of government in ensuring that all the programmes and policies put in place work, most especially now that oil sector has failed the nation.. It is on this basis that this paper examined agriculture, food security and standard of living in Nigeria.

Objectives of the study



The main objective of this study is to examine the impact of agriculture on food security and standard of living in Nigeria. Specifically, the study will examine the impact government budgetary allocation to agricultural sector on food security and standard of living in Nigeria

Literature review

Agriculture in Nigeria

Agriculture occupies priority status in the national economy as the sector serves as the key driver of growth, wealth creation, employment generation, food security and poverty reduction in the economy. In Nigeria agriculture provides 70% employment opportunity to the labour force and subsistence for two thirds of Nigerians who are low income earners (Okuneye, 2001; Manggoel, Ajiji, Damar, Damiyal, Da'ar, and Zarmai, 2012). Unfortunately, agricultural holdings in the nation are generally small and scattered; farming is often of the subsistence variety; characterized by simple tools (hoes and cutlass) infertile land and shifting cultivation. Large-scale agriculture is not common, despite an abundant water supply, a favorable climate, and wide areas of arable land. Thus, productivity is restricted owing to, inadequate finance by government and stakeholders in the country, low soil fertility in many areas, and inefficient methods of cultivation.

Historically, before the discovery of crude oil in commercial quantity in Nigeria, agriculture has been a main stay of the economy though selectively developed with preferences for cash crops against food crops. This was partly because the British colonial power needed the raw materials to service the industries in Britain. Nevertheless, agriculture played a pivotal role in laying the foundations for economic growth and social infrastructural development in Nigeria. This was achieved through massive investment in agriculture by both the federal and regional governments, leading to the establishment of research stations across the country. These include; Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), Ibadan; National Institute for Horticultural Research and Training (NIHORT), Ibadan; Institute for Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), Moor Plantation, Ibadan; National Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR), Benin; Rubber Research

Institute of Nigeria (RRIN), Benin; National Cereal Research Institute (NCRI), Badeji; Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN), Ibadan; National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI) Vom, Jos; National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), umudike; National Institute for Fisheries and Fresh Water Research, Kanji; National Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research, Lagos; National Institute for Animal Production, Zaria; International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan; National Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research (NITR), Kaduna; and 3 Universities of Agriculture across the regions. All these were geared towards boosting agricultural yields, and were funded appropriately by the governments.

This subsequently led to increasing agricultural production. Thus, Nigeria apart from having food security, became one of the world leading producers of products like Cocoa, Rubber, Palm oil and Ground Nut among others. It is on record that the State welfare programmes of Chief Obafemi Awolowo led Action Group (AG) in the old Western Region like free education and free health care delivery were funded using proceeds from agriculture, notably, cocoa. The proceeds from the popular groundnut pyramid in the Northern Region funded national edifice like the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaira amongst others. Palm oil produce in the Eastern Region equally funded University of Nigeria, Nsukka. It is an incontrovertible fact that Malaysia and Indonesia, the world present leading producers of palm oil and rubber respectively, came to NIFOR and RRIN in Nigeria to learn how to cultivate these basic cash crops, and went away with some seedlings. Ironically, Nigeria now imports these products from these countries (Nwankwo, 2013; Olufolaji, 2013)

Virtually, all food items imported to the country have their traditional aboard in the states across this nation Nigeria, where soil and weather conditions are particularly favourable for the cultivation of such crops. For instance, rice which Nigeria is presently world leading importer can be cultivated productively and profitably in states like Benue, Kano, Ebonyi, and Lagos; coffee, apple and strawberry are grown in Jos, Plateau state; cocoa abounds in Ekiti, Ondo and Edo states; cotton is grown in Zamfara, Katsina and Oyo states; palm tree and rubber plantations in



Eastern and Niger Delta states. Root crops like cassava, yam and potatoes do well in various states across the country while Cereal crops including maize, millet and sorghum are cultivated across Northern states, the same thing with leguminous plants. In addition, Livestock production is very successful in both Northern and Southern states, fruits and vegetable are never lacking on Nigerian soil; the rivers and ocean are also rich in aquatic foods; and the country has very rich forest belt in the southern parts. The list is inexhaustible. Yet, our parasitic ruling elite still go cap in hand to lesser countries like Thailand for rice and other basic food items. This is essentially because it serves as avenues to make easy cash than developing the agriculture industry that will benefit everybody.(Emmanuel & Peter 2012)

It's clear from the foregoing analysis that if food security and adequate standard of living must be achieved, the agricultural sector must be made productive and sustainable and government at all levels must be prepared to take the lead and play central roles by investing massively in the development of the industry.

Food Security and Standard of Living in Nigeria

Sustainable food security has been defined in various ways by different scholars. According to World food programme 2013, food security is defined as access to the food needed by all people to enable them live a healthy life at all times. A country is said to be food secured when there is access to food of acceptable quantity and quality consistent with decent existence at all times for the majority of the population (Reutlinger, 1985; Idachaba, 2004). This means that food must be available to the people so as to meet the basic nutritional standard needed by the body. But it should be noted that availability of food does not mean accessibility to food. Availability depends on production, consumer prices, information flows and the market dynamics (Honfoga & Vanden Boon, 2003).

World Bank (1986), defined sustainable food security as an access to enough food for an active, healthy life at present as well as ability to provide enough in the future. Abudullahi (2008) defined sustainable food security as when people have physical and economic access to sufficient food to meet their dietary needs

for a productive healthy life at present as well as in the future. This definition outlines some indices for measuring the extent or degree of food security to be achieved by any country and the indices are adequate national food supply, nutritional content, accessibility, affordability and environmental protection (FAO, 2002; Amaka, kelechukwu & Olisa 2016)

One of the goals of Nigerian's agricultural development policy is to ensure that there is enough food reserve at household, state and federal government levels to forestall any threat to the level of food security. Since domestic agricultural production has failed to meet up with the increasing demand for food, the government had to spend on importation to feed her teeming population. For instance, food import increased from 19.9% in 2000 to 30.6% and 22.7% in 2011 and 2012 respectively while food export is barely 5.3% of merchandise (World Development Indicator, 2016).

The second goal of Nigeria agricultural development is to ensure that Nigerians standard of living is favorable and improved. To achieve this, the level of poverty in both rural and urban areas must be reduced. Poverty alleviation is one of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of Nigeria in year 2000 aiming at reducing extreme poverty in the country by 2015. This has remained a very laudable and achievable macro-economic objective particularly in a country endowed with abundance of human and natural resources. However, achieving this Millennium Development Goal of poverty reduction is becoming more challenging for the country as the poverty situation is becoming more precarious. More Nigerians are becoming victims of economic hardship as the gaps between the rich and the poor keep getting wider than at any time in the recent past (Oni, 2014). This implies that the country is characterized by a trend of increasing rate of poverty in the midst of economic prosperity as millions of Nigerians wallow in abject poverty. For example, in the last six years, Nigeria economy has been growing at around 6 percent, while the country's poverty rate has increased from 52 percent in 2004 to 63 percent in 2011. Nigeria is categorized as one of the poorest twenty countries in the world in terms of her per capita income levels despite her



richness in both natural and human resources. (Oni, 2014)

The publication by the Federal Office of Statistics (FOS, 1996) reveals that poverty has become so massive and pervasive to have engulfed a large portion of the Nigerian society. In the light of this Abiola and Olaopa (2008) stated that the scourge of poverty in Nigeria is an incontrovertible fact, which results in hunger, ignorance, malnutrition, disease, unemployment, poor access to credit facilities and low life expectancy as well as a general high level of human hopelessness.

Given these prevailing condition of food insecurity and poverty in Nigeria, endemic violence such as human trafficking, kidnapping, rape and the like are the resultant consequences. This has also resulted in low life expectancy on one hand and high rate of dependency on the other. It is therefore necessary for Nigeria government to find a lasting solution in improving the level of quality production in agricultural sector in the nation.

Theoretical framework

The study adopted the Structural Change Theory as its framework. Structural change model focuses on the mechanism by which underdeveloped economies transform their domestic economic structures from a heavy emphasis on traditional subsistence agriculture to a more modern, more urbanized and more industrially diverse manufacturing and service economy. Two important example of such models are:

- Lewis's Model
- The pattern of development empirical analysis by Chenery

The Structural Change Theory was developed by Lewis Arthur in the year 1954 and he called it "development with unlimited supply of labour. According to him an economy is made up of two sectors. One is the traditional (agricultural or subsistence) sector and the other is the modern (capitalist, industrial or manufacturing) sector. This gave rise to the two sector model. The theory posits that the development of an economy is dependent on the growth of the two sectors.

$Y = f(\text{AGRIC}, \text{IND})$. Where; Y = Economic development, AGRIC = Agricultural sector and IND

= Industrial sector. The agricultural sector and the industrial sector are interrelated. The agricultural sector employs capital inputs, labour expertise and is also a final consumer of the output of the industrial sector. While the industrial sector employs labour and output of the agricultural sector.

This theory focuses on the mechanism by which underdeveloped economies can transform their domestic economic structures from a heavy emphasis on traditional subsistence agriculture to a more modern and more advanced agricultural practice through heavy financial support in order to attain industrial breakthrough. The extended version of the theory added that the full benefits of agricultural development cannot be realized unless government support systems are created that provide the necessary incentives, economic opportunities and most importantly access to needed inputs to enable small farmers to expand their output and raise their productivity. Other reforms or strategies are likely to be ineffective and perhaps even counterproductive unless there are corresponding structural changes that control productivity. Such include; bank loans, fertilizer distribution, technical and educational extension service, public credit agencies, finance from various sources, rural transport and feeder road (Mathew & Modecai, 2016)

Empirical review

Mathew and Modecai (2016) examined the impact of agricultural output on economic development in Nigeria from 2001 to 2015. The study used secondary data from CBN statistical bulletin and employed multiple regression to analyzed the data gathered. The study revealed that the greater contribution to shocks in economic development apart from feedback shocks was received from shocks to agriculture. The results of the impulse response function in support of the variance decomposition analysis showed that per capita income responded positively to shocks in agricultural output throughout the ten year period, while the response of PCI to shocks in Public Expenditure on Agriculture (PXA) was negative in the first two year period but became positive throughout the last eight periods. This shows that agriculture is beneficial and plays a significant role in the development process of Nigerian economy.



Lawrence (2014) examined an assessment of agriculture and poverty reduction nexus in Nigeria. The objective of the study was to examine the role of agriculture on poverty reduction in Nigeria between 1980 and 2011. Time series data were employed and the data were analyzed using multiple regression model. The results from the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) unit root test and Error Correction Mechanism showed that per capita agricultural GDP, physical infrastructure per capita and social infrastructure per capita were positively and significantly related to poverty reduction, while per capita non-agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) and inflation rate were negatively and insignificantly related to poverty reduction in Nigeria

Amaka, Kelechukwu and Olisa(2016) examined achieving sustainable food security in Nigeria, challenges and way forward. Secondary data were gathered and analyzed descriptively. The study revealed that there is a shortfall indomestically produced food in Nigeria because the growth in the population of Nigeria is at the rate of 3.2% while the growth in food production has been less than one. This shows that demand for food (population) is greater than the supply (agricultural production) because of factors such as inconsistent government policies, environmental degradation and non-sustainable agricultural production. The paper also

shows that Nigeria depends so much on food importation.

Iganiga and Unemhilin (2011) examined impact of federal government agricultural expenditure on agricultural output in Nigeria from 1970-2008. Secondary data were sourced from CBN Statistical bulletin of various editions. Integration and Error Correction methodology were employed to draw out both long-run and short- run dynamic impacts of these variables on the value of agricultural output. Federal government capital expenditure was found to be positively related to agriculture, making government expenditure a factor to be reckon with in determining agriculture production in Nigeria.

Methodology

The relevant data for this study were purely from secondary sources. Central Bank of Nigeria Annual Reports, Statistical Bulletin and National Bureau of Statistics constitute the sources of the data used.. Data collected were presented and analyzed with the use of descriptive statistical analysis with the view to ascertain government annual recurrent expenditure to the agricultural sector and its corresponding contributions to food security and poverty reduction in Nigeria

Table 1: Government Re- Current Budgetary Allocation (2001-2015)

YEARS	R. E X P (billion Naira)	A G R I C . A L L O C A T I O N (billion Naira)	% of total R.E
2001	579,300.00	7,064.55	1.22
2002	696,800.00	9,993.55	1.43
2003	984,300.00	7537.35	0.77
2004	1,110,700.00	11256.15	1.01
2005	1,321,229.00	16,325.60	1.23
2006	1,390,101.29	17,900.00	1.28
2007	1,589,269.80	32,500.00	2.04
2008	2,117,362.00	65,400.00	3.08



2009	2,127,966.00	22,440.00	1.05
2010	3,109,437.11	29,560.00	0.95
2011	3,314,513.33	41,200.00	1.24
2012	3,325,156.50	33,300.00	1.00
2013	3,214,954.95	39,431.00	1.22
2014	3,426,940.83	36,700.00	1.07
2015	3,831,977.78	41,270.00	1.07

Source: CBN Statistical Bulletin (2015)

Table 1. % OF AGRICULTURE ALLOCATION FROM RECURRENT EXPENDITURE 2001-2015

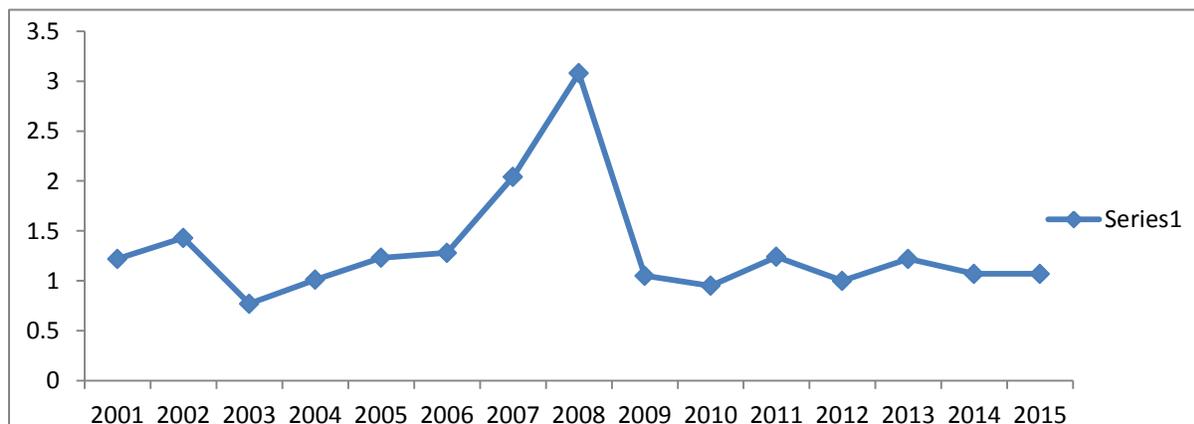


Table 1 above presents recurrent expenditure to agricultural sector for the period of 15 years in the economy spanning 2001 to 2015. The seriousness of low budgetary allocation to agriculture becomes apparent, as it is clear that even for a period of 15 years, there was never a year when agriculture had up to 5% of the total recurrent expenditures allocation and the allocation falls below the 10% goal set by African leaders in the 2003 Maputo agreement.

Except in 2008 that recorded 3.08 with 65,400 billion allocation from the recurrent expenditure, every other years' allocations have been below this figure. It follows therefore that, if agriculture is properly funded, there will be enough funds to finance simple farm machineries for ploughing and plantation, and the issue of food insecurity and low standard of living would be invariably addressed while there will be cheap food for people to feed on.



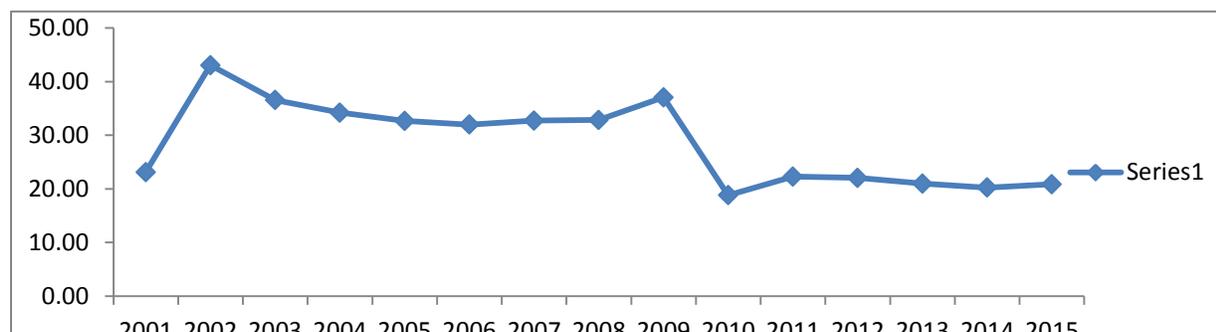
**Table 2: CONTRIBUTIONS OF AGRICULTURE TO THE TOTAL NATIONAL GDP
AT CONSTANT PRICE (2001-2015)**

YEARS	TOTAL GDP (billion)	AGRIC SHARE OF GDP (billion)	% SHARE OF AGRIC IN GDP
2 0 0 1	6,895.20	1,594.89	2 3 . 1 3
2 0 0 2	7,795.76	3,357.06	4 3 . 0 6
2 0 0 3	9,913.52	3,624.57	3 6 . 5 6
2 0 0 4	11,411.07	3,903.57	3 4 . 2 1
2 0 0 5	14,610.88	4,773.19	3 2 . 6 7
2 0 0 6	18,564.59	5,940.23	3 2 . 0 0
2 0 0 7	20,657.32	6,757.86	3 2 . 7 1
2 0 0 8	24,296.33	7,981.39	3 2 . 8 5
2 0 0 9	24,794.24	9,186.36	3 7 . 0 5
2 0 1 0	54,612.26	10,273.83	1 8 . 8 1
2 0 1 1	62,980.40	14,037.83	2 2 . 2 9
2 0 1 2	71,713.94	15,816.00	2 2 . 0 5
2 0 1 3	80,092.56	16,816.00	2 1 . 0 0
2 0 1 4	89,043.62	18,018.61	2 0 . 2 4
2 0 1 5	94,144.90	19,636.97	2 0 . 8 6

Source: CBN Statistical Bulletin (2015)



% Contribution of Agricultural Sector to GDP from 2001-2015



The table 2 above presents the facts, revealing the share of agricultural sector in the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 2001 to 2015. From the table, it was discovered that on the average, agricultural sector has share of 28.63% in the national GDP during the years under review. The contributions reached its pick in 2002 with 43.06% share of the GDP, while the least contribution was in year 2010 with 18.81%. The reasons for the declined contribution are not farfetched; such include, unwillingness of the conventional banks to support agriculture, paucity of loanable funds to farmers, poor funding of public financing institutions, coupled with the inadequate budget allocation to the sector, lack of political will on the part of government,

redundant of the active labour force in embracing agriculture business, poor storage facilities and unavailability of market for the sales of the agricultural produce among others. Also, it has been revealed that, for the period under review, budgetary allocation to agricultural sector has never been up to 5%, the highest allocation was 3.08% in 2008 and the allocation was as low as 0.77% in 2003. However, this undulating trend in the contributions of agriculture to the economy would be reduced and contributions enhanced if government can create an enabling environment for Nigeria labour force to embrace agricultural. Hence, the rate of poverty will be reduced and consequently the problem of food insecurity will be addressed in the economy.

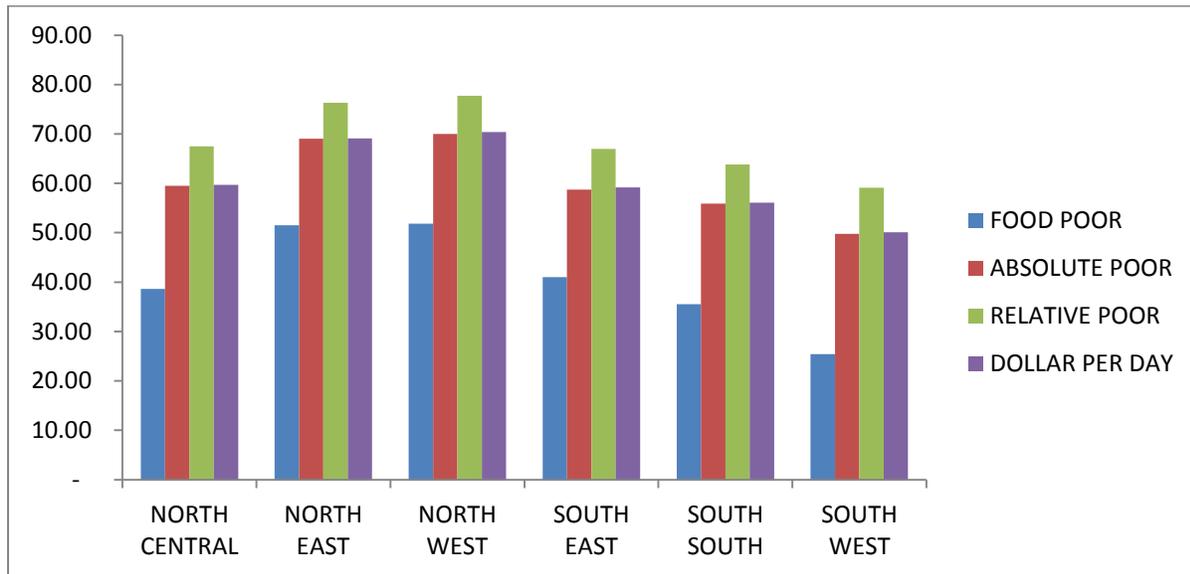
Table 3: Incidence of Poverty by Zones Using Different Poverty Measures (%)

Z O N E S	FOOD POOR	ABSOLUTE POOR	RELATIVE POOR	DOLLAR PER DAY
NORTH CENTRAL	38.60	59.50	67.50	59.70
NORTH EAST	51.50	69.00	76.30	69.10
NORTH WEST	51.80	70.00	77.70	70.40
SOUTH EAST	41.00	58.70	67.00	59.20
SOUTH SOUTH	35.50	55.90	63.80	56.10
SOUTH WEST	25.40	49.80	59.10	50.10

Source: Nigeria Poverty Profile by National Bureau of Statistics, 2015



Bar chart showing the Incidence of Poverty by Zones Using Different Poverty Measures



The above chart shows the incidence of poverty across the 6 geopolitical zones in Nigeria. The incidence of poverty has been divided into four which are food poor, absolutely poor, relatively poor and poor below \$1. The chart is an evidence to show that Nigerians are poor in the midst of plenty. This is really a paradox for a country that is blessed with rich human and natural resources. The chart also revealed that people are generally poor, living below a dollar per day. A dollar per day is the minimum living required standard which people must not fall below, but in Nigeria, more than 50% citizens leave below one dollar per day. North West being the highest followed by North east, south east, south-south, north central and south west.

Absolute poverty is a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services. The chart and the table also revealed that North West is the poorest people in Nigeria, followed by North east, north-central, south-east, south-south and lastly south west. The food poverty among Nigeria as a result of high price of the domestic food items, accessibility and lack of income to make purchase are also depicted in the chart above.. From the chart, North West is highly poor in relation to food, follow by North West, north central, south east, south - south and south west. Overall, the table and the chart show that, poverty affects the whole country but the south west is better off.

Table 4: Demand For and Supply of Food in Nigeria between 2001- 2015

YEARS	POPULATION	FOOD PRODUCTION
2001	126.2	80.71
2002	129.2	80.89
2003	132.6	84.89
2004	136	89.29
2005	139.6	95.78



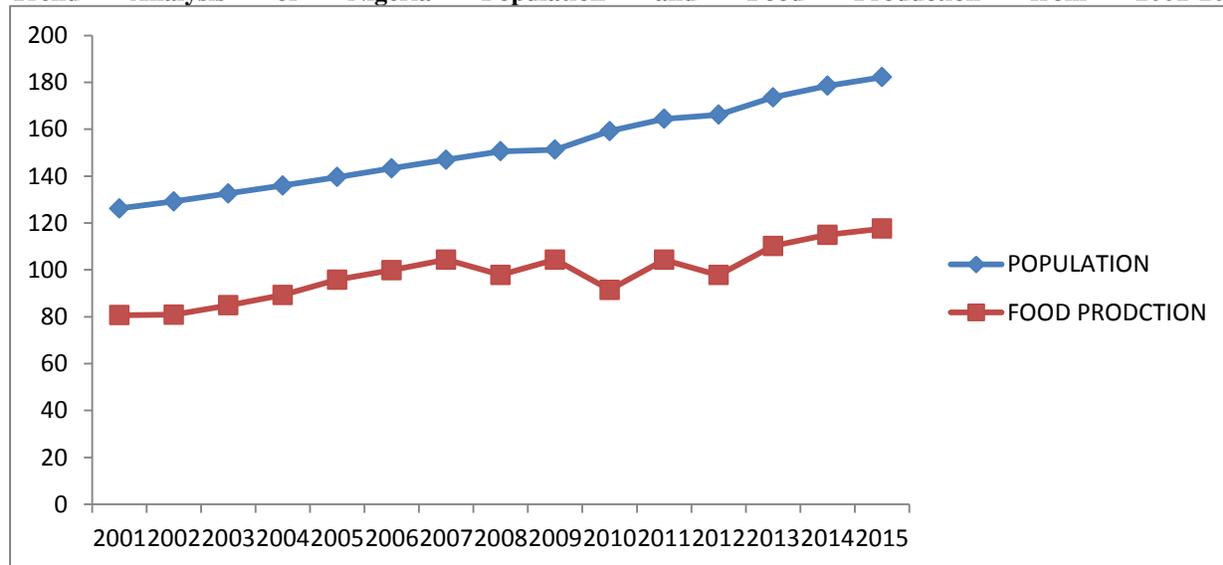
2006	143.33	99.89
2007	146.95	104.33
2008	150.6	97.84
2009	151.22	104.36
2010	159.2	91.49
2011	164.39	104.29
2012	166.21	97.81
2013	173.6	110.2
2014	178.52	114.93
2015	182.2	117.6

Source: www.indexmundi.com

Table 4 shows the demand for and supply of food within the period under review. The population is proxy for food demand and food production is proxy for food supply. According to the law of supply, the lower the supply of resources the higher will be the price. The population of the country continues to rise exponentially while the level of available food production rises arithmetically. Food supply increased from 80.71 in 2001 to 117.6 in 2015 while

demand for food rise from 26.2 in 2001 to 182.2 in 2015. This means food equation is not balanced, because the demand for food is rising faster than the supply of food. This shows that Nigeria is not food secured in terms of availability. The inability of food supply to match up with demand is attributed to low productivity in agriculture leading to a shortfall in domestically produced food in Nigeria. The trend analysis is thus presented below:

Trend Analysis of Nigeria Population and Food Production from 2001-2015



Conclusion

The study discussed the importance of agriculture to any meaningful national growth and development, having revealed several perspectives on the issues of

agricultural funding in Nigeria.. In the light of this, the study revealed that it becomes very paramount that agriculture needs to be further strengthened in terms of increased budgetary allocation in order to



enhance the quality of lives of the rising population in the country. Food security and enhanced standard of living is a function of improvement of agricultural sector and to achieve this, government must be willing to invest adequate funds and commercialize the sector in a relatively considerable way so as to guarantee food security and favorable standard of living to the rising population in Nigeria. Not only this, the endemic corruption plaguing the nation and the sector, as other sectors of the economy in particular should be dealt with if any meaningful development must take place.

This research paper thus recommends that;

Government should be encouraged to increase funds' allocation to agricultural sector so as to enhance growth of the sector; The funds so allocated be monitored by the relevant government Agency and be used for the purpose for which they have been allocated. This is necessary so that the funds won't end up in the hands of greedy, corrupt people within the sector

In addition, government should come up with policy measures that will encourage most of the unemployed and unskilled labour force in each zone to embrace agriculture. so as to increase production of foods, ensure food security and reduction of poverty in the nation, Nigeria

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