

ATTAINING A SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF KURA LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF KANO STATE (2016 - 2020)

By

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Abstract

This study assesses the impact of agricultural development policy on rural development in Kura Local Government Area of Kano State (2016 - 2019). Methodologically the study employs both primary and secondary sources of data. The study undertakes a survey using questionnaires, specialized interview and personal observations. The simple percentage analysis tool (SPA) was applied in analyzing the data. The study adopts incremental theory of decision making as theoretical premise. The major findings from the study revealed that there is a direct connection between agricultural development and rural development. That the agricultural development programmes enhanced the provision of agricultural inputs to the rural farmers, improved accessed to agricultural credits, enhanced the provision of socio-economic amenities, fertilizers and other modern agricultural instruments. This improves farmers' agricultural output, income earnings, living standard, employment generation and facilitated rural development in the area. This enhanced the quality of rural life, economy and development of Kura population as well as per capita income and output of Kano state at large. The agricultural development programmes enhanced integrated rural development in Kura Local Government Area. The study recommends that there is the need to upgrade or rehabilitate rural infrastructures. Encourage integrated approach to agricultural and rural development through systematic or

multidimensional strategies for improving the life of rural communities through provision of adequate socio-economic amenities. Effective implementation and monitoring of agricultural development programmes. Provision of adequate fund and government attention to rural agricultural development projects. This will invariably help in sustaining agricultural and rural development that can facilitate economic growth and development in Nigeria.

KEYWORDS: Agriculture, Agricultural Development, Development, Policy, Rural Development

Introduction

Agricultural development is essential for the diversification of the rural and Nigerian economy at large. A strong agricultural diversification would enable a developing nation like Nigeria to achieve economic growth and facilitate economic growth. The agricultural sector in Nigeria was the dominant sector before the early 1970s. it was the major development drive of the economy employing over 80% of the active and productive population. It also contributed over 60% to the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) and provided nearly 100% of the nation's food and feed requirements, raw materials to industries and the country's export earnings (CBN, 2007). Unfortunately, when crude oil became a major earner and agriculture was neglected and received insufficient attention and funds, it

began to falter as its contributions to the GDP and the economy began to decline and experience crises and stagnation (Ahmad, 2019).

Agriculture is said to be the backbone of Kano state economy because about 70% of its habitants live in rural areas and roughly 80% of them depend on agriculture for their livelihood. The agricultural sector accounts for about 20% of the State Gross Product (SGP) and 60% of its labour force as well as about 20% of its exports. Agriculture is the main source of income for 90% of the rural population and represents a greater part of state share in the nation and international trade and commerce. (The State Agricultural Performance Review Report, April 2015). Agriculture serves as source of food and raw material to industries raw materials for small and medium scale industries in the state and beyond. Agricultural policy objective of Kano state is designed to transform the agriculture sector to more efficient, productive and profitable enterprise that ensures food security for the population and enhances regular supply of raw material to industries. The government carry out these policies through a number of strategies, which comprises; emphasizing irrigation farming to compliment rain fed agriculture, encouraging incentives from private sectors to invest in the construction of storage facilities and processing of farm products to reduce post-harvest losses. To encouraging private sector to participate in all subsectors of agriculture: - cropping, livestock and fishery farming and introduce draught tolerant crops varieties. The state economic potential for the production of food and raw materials includes; a total area of cultivable land estimated at approximately 1,754,200 hectares of which 86,500 hectares is lowland and about 75,000 hectares comprised of forest and grazing land.

A large number of inland water bodies (58) man- made water reservoirs and natural lake and rivers with a total surface area of 56,583 heaters as well as many burrow pit with perennial water across the state. Kano earth dam and reservoirs have a capacities ranging from as low as 250,000 cubic meter (CUM) at (Rimin Gado) to 1.0 million cum at (TIGA) and

irrigation space ranging for 20 hectares to 48,600 hectares at TIGA. The water impounded at these dams was sufficient to irrigate of up to 400,000 hectares and provide large proportion of livestock including over 12 million birds, and nearly 10 million goats, sheep and cattle (Kano State Investors Handbook, 2013). This resource endorsement provides vast opportunities for crop livestock and fisheries production and for development of the agro-processing and allied manufacturing industries.

However, agriculture has been subjected to a structural transformation such as changes in human population growth, improved incomes of the farmers and shifting dietary pattern leading to increase in the demands for improving modern farming techniques in order to ensure adequate food security, most significantly increasing or improving the means of purchasing power of the poor farmers to generate surplus to afford other goods and services from other sectors. It is therefore only through a sustained agricultural development policy with emphasis on rural development that the growth in agriculture ensures generation of additional capital to farmers.

As agriculture is an important component of most rural economies in the developing countries, it is believed that the level of agriculture within the local economy is sometimes used to define its level of development. Therefore, any successful rural development strategy must correspond with agricultural development to improve the welfare of population and sustained growth of the rural economy. Significant agricultural policies and programme have been initiated by the successive administration in Kano state, which involved committing of the large capital of both material and human resources aimed at achieving agricultural and rural development in the state.

However, in spite of the various agricultural and rural development policies of the state, there is prevalence of food security, hunger, poverty, unemployment, rural economic stagnation and other challenges that militate against a sustainable development in the state. It is on this note that this study undertakes an examination of the implication of sustainable of

agricultural development with emphasis on Kura Local Government Area of Kano State.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopts the increment theory as its framework of analysis. The incremental theory of decision making is relevant to this study, because it helps in exploring how the previous rural development policies are adopted by successive governments and regimes in Nigeria at different levels of government, with little adjustment or modification to maintain the status quo. In Nigeria, since early 1960s, it has become a tradition to adopt the past policies initiated by the former colonial powers and even much later in the 1970s to date, National Development Policies or Plans characterized by continuation on the past policies initiated and executed by the successive governments by the predecessors with little charges or adjustment to suit the current needs and situations in the country. For example, various governments at federal, states and local government levels, and at time have been reviewing the previous rural development policies with view to selecting and adopting the most suitable ones that could best serve the socio-economic needs and aspirations of the society. To this end, some marginal changes in approach to development have been made on the existing Nigerian rural development policies since independence ranging from sectorial approach to structural approach and then integrated humanistic approach with a view to selecting the most suitable one that could best serve the socio-economic needs and aspirations of the Nigerian society at large.

According to Lindblom (1968, p.27) the underlying principle of incremental theory is that, it presumes that policy choice arise out of the interplay of ‘partisan’ and that administrative decision making usually involves a continuation of past policies with the least possible modification to suit changing circumstances. Therefore, it aims at meeting new challenges slowly and progressively. He also asserts that “incrementalism prefers only minimal departure from the status quo, and decision maker are viewed primarily as problem solver who may lack the intellectual capacity or

the time to make a wide search for alternative situation (Plano 1988, p.128).

Methodology

The main objective of the study is to assess the impact of agricultural development policy on rural development in Nigeria with reference to Kura Local Government of Kano state. The study relied heavily on (survey method), questionnaires were administered in collection of data. specialized interview and personal observation were also utilized to augment in data collection. Simple percentage method was used in data presentation and analysis. One local government area was selected from Kano central senatorial district named Kura Local Government Area and sample population was selected from two wards as beneficiary of the agricultural projects. A cluster and random sampling techniques were used to select one hundred (100) respondents out of one thousand one hundred and twenty-six (1126) beneficiaries. These were drawn from two wards across the selected local government area and at least a sample of ten (10) people were selected for personal interview. One hundred (100) questionnaires were distributed to the beneficiaries and ninety-two (92) questionnaires were returned within the periods of two weeks. Data is presented through table percentage or the Assessment Rating Table. The Simple Percentage Analysis Tool was applied in analyzing the data collected.

Conceptual Clarifications

Agriculture

Agriculture include farming, ranching, aquaculture, apiculture, horticulture, viticulture, animal husbandry, including but not limited to the care and raising of livestock, equine and fur-bearing animals, poultry husbandry and the production of poultry products, vegetables nursery stock ornamental shrubs, ornamental trees, flower, sod or mushrooms timber, pasturage, any combination of the foregoing; the processing drying storage and marketing of agriculture product, when those active conduct in conjunction with but are secondary to such husbandry or production.

According to Anyanwu (1997) agriculture involves the cultivation of land, raising and rearing animals for the purpose of the production of food for man, feed for animals and raw materials for industries. It also involves cropping, livestock, forestry, fishing production, processing and marketing of these products.

Agricultural Development

It is a subset of economic development which implies a sustained increase in the level of production and productivity over a reasonable length of time and the subsequent improved well-being of farmers as reflected in their per capital income and standard of living. This definition implies that for agricultural development to emerge it has to record a sustainable status which means that a sustainable agriculture is both a philosophy and a system of farming which is rooted in a set of values that reflects on awareness of both ecological and social realities and a commitment to respond appropriately to that awareness. It emphasizes design and management procedures that work with natural processes to conserve all resources and minimize waste and environmental damage, while maintaining and improving farm profitability (Mac Rae, 1990). Therefore, agricultural development involves dynamic and progressive improvement in cultivation of land, raising and rearing animals for the purpose of the production of food for man, feed for animals and raw materials for industries. It also entails qualitative and quantitative improvement in cropping, livestock, forestry, fishing processing and marketing these agricultural products.

Development

According to Mato (2013, p.60) development involves structural transformation of the economy, society, policy and of course the harness of people's potential. Rodney (1972, p.9) argued that development implies increased skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and materials wellbeing. Seers (1969) sees development as thus: what has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to unemployment? What

has been happening to inequality? Therefore. Development can take place when a country experiences a progressive reduction or elimination of poverty, inequality and unemployment. However, a country like Nigeria can attain to development if the level of poverty, unemployment and inequality decline over a period and the standard of living has improved. This can be achieved with sustainable rural and agricultural development in Nigeria.

According to Todaro & Smith (2004) conceived development as the multidimensional process involving major changes in social structures, popular attitudes and national institutions, as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality, unemployment and the eradication of poverty. Major changes in social structures involved dynamic changes in the agricultural sector and rural economy. Therefore, there will be no development without positive and dynamic changes or improvement in rural economy and agricultural sector of Nigeria.

Rural Development

It varies from one point of view to the other and it has evolved through time as a result of changes in the perceived mechanism or souls of development. Literally the concept of rural development is such development that benefits rural population where development is understood as the sustained improvement of the population's standard of living or welfare. Rural development can be seen as not an outside intervention but the inspiration of local people living in rural areas for taking challenges themselves and improving their life circumstance and their immediate environment (Hornby 2001).

Olayide (1989) views rural development as a process whereby concerted effort are made in order to facilitate significant increase in rural resources productivity with the central objective of enhancing rural income and creating employment opportunity in rural communities for rural dwellers to remain in the area. It is also integrated approach to food production, provision of physical food and institutional infrastructure with an ultimate goal of bringing about good health care delivery system

affordable and quality education improved and sustainable agriculture.

According to Ver Ploeg (2000) rural development is restructuring the eroded economic base of both the rural economy and the farm enterprise and represents the well-understood self-interest of increasing section of rural population. Rural development ensures the modernization of the national economy. This integration is essential so as to generate foreign exchange and to attract revenue to finance public and private consumption and investment. It is also a systematic or multi-dimensional strategy for improving the quality of life of the rural communities and that agricultural growth and development is imperative for a meaningful rural development in the state. According to Roe (1991) rural development policy is genuinely uncertain activities and the effective's way in which the practitioners, bureaucrats, and policy makers articulate and address this uncertainty is to devise an effective means of policy implementation.

Ogbezi (1992) observed that the objective of the national policy on rural development encapsulates an ideal situation of achieving an acceptable level of development in rural areas and these objectives can be paraphrased to include: promotion of the social cultural, educating and economic well-being of the rural population; promotion of sustained and orderly development of the vast resource in the rural area for the benefits of the rural people; increase in and diversification of job opportunities and improvement of income in the rural area; and mobilization of the rural population for self-help and self-sustaining product of development as well uplifting of the technological base industries in the rural area.

Policy

Policy refers to a proposal, an on-going programme, goals of a programme, major decisions or refusal to make certain decision. Roberts (1991, p.98) sees policy as a set of decisions taken by a political actor or group concerning the selection of goals and the method of attaining them. Policy is a set of interrelated decisions and projects by a political actor or group of actors (federal, state or local

government) concerning the selection of goals and means of achieving them within a specified situation where those decisions should in principle be within the power of those actors to achieve. Agricultural development project is a policy oriented.

An Assessment of the Impact of Agricultural Development Policy on Rural Development of Kura Local Government of Kano State

A development strategy (national or rural) refers to the desire or process for achieving or facilitating economic growth and development. As rightly observed by Ake (1981) development strategy involved any efforts towards the expansion and diversification of agricultural sector; agricultural export commodities; a unified financial and economic approach to development; import substitution; export promotion; integrated rural development policy and a basic needs approach. He further argued that sustainable rural and agricultural development are unified development strategy for facilitating and achieving economic growth and development. As early stated the major policy objective of Kano state is to transform the agricultural sector to efficient, productive and profitable enterprise as well as effective provision of food security for the population and supply of raw materials to industrial sector. To achieve this, the Kano state government laid emphasis on the followings: giving priority to irrigation farming to complement the raining season farming; allowing the private sector to participate actively in the construction of modern storage facilities and processing of the farm produce to reduce the risk of post-harvest losses; encouraging the private sector to participate in all other sub-sector of agriculture directly or through a joint venture and integration of crops and livestock farming as well as introduction of draught tolerant crops varieties (Kano State Investor Handbook, 2013). In order to achieve these policy objectives a lot of strategies were adopted which comprised of youth and women empowerment; development projects; infrastructural development projects; agricultural incentives respectively (Kano State Agricultural Performance Review Report April, 2015). Hence, this study focuses on the

agricultural development project and incentive as one of the strategy of the state government used as policy instrument to achieve a sustainable rural development.

As earlier stated the major policy objective of the Kano state has to transform the agricultural sector to efficient, produce the as profitable enterprise to provide food security for the population and for the supply of raw material for the industrial sector. To this and the state government laid emphasis on the followings: Giving priority to irrigation farming to complement the raining season farming; Allowing the private sector to participate actively in the construction of modern storage facilities and processing of the farm produce to reduce the risk of post- harvest losses; Encouraging the private sector to participate in all other sub-sectors of agriculture directly or through a joint venture and integration of crops and livestock farming system as well as introduction of drought tolerant crops varieties (Kano State Investor Handbook, 2013) In order to achieve those policy objectives a member of strategies were adopted some of the major ones were youth and women empowerment development project, infrastructural development projects respectively (Kano state agricultural performance review reports April 2015). Hence, this study focuses on the agricultural development project as one of the strategy of the state government used as policy instrument to achieve a sustainable rural development

Discussion of Results

Table 1: Demographic Data of the Respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age (years)		
18- 20	05	5%
21- 23	10	10%
24- 26	15	16%
27- 29	20	21%
30- 32	22	23%
33- 35	23	25%
Total	95	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 1 represents the socio-demographic data of the respondents in relation to age distribution; the table indicates that about 22 or 23% of the respondents were within the age range of 33-35 years. About 22 or 23% of the respondents were in age range of 30-32 years, while 20 or 21% of the respondents were in the age range of 27-29 years and 15 or 16% of the respondents were within the age of 24-26 years. However, the least percentage was 10 or 10% and 05 or 5% of the respondents within the age of 21-23 and 18-20 years respectively. The implication is that the highest percentage of the respondents between the age of 33-35 years and 30-32 years were the productive and active farmers in Kura local Government Area of Kano State.

Table 2: Gender Distribution of the Respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sex		
Male	57	60%
Female	38	40%
Total	95	100%

Source; Field Survey, 2019

Table 2 represents the sex distribution of the respondents, the table indicates that, about 57 or 60% of the respondents are male respondents and about 38 or 40% of the respondents are female respondents. The implication is that majority of the Farmer in this rural communities are males who are actively involved in the Agricultural production than female.

Table 3: Marital Distribution of the Respondents.

Variables	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Single	28	30
Married	38	40
Divorced	19	20
Widow	10	10
Total	95	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 3 represents the marital distribution of the respondents; the table indicates that 28 or 30% of the respondents are single while 38 or 40% of the respondents are married. And 19 or 20% and another 10 or 10% of the respondents are