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**IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE ON GROWTH AND RECOVERY OF
NIGERIA ECONOMY**

A Case Study of Farming in Ayepe Community, Ogun State, Nigeria

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| <p>Agriculture is known to be the backbone and panacea for economic growth and development in the developing countries of the world. As earlier avowed by Gunner Myrdal “The battle for long-run economic growth is either won or lost in the agricultural sector”. The way this pathway births economic prosperity has been an issue of debates among developmental economists and scholars. Therefore, this research study was based on this idea. This study examined the impact of agriculture on Nigeria’s economic growth and development.</p> <p>The aim of the study was to evaluate the impact of agriculture on Nigeria’s economy recovery and growth, to examine different agricultural practices that helped in reshaping the economy of the country, the role of the government, the role of the society, and impact of agriculture on the people. To examine how agriculture can help reduce, if not eliminate poverty and enhance growth and thus development in the country at large.</p> <p>The empirical part of this study was conducted using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Questionnaires were used to obtain information from workers on the farm, while interview was conducted with six different farm owners within Ayepe community in Ogun state Nigeria.</p> <p>The result of the study showed that though agriculture is seriously thought of and adopted by so many people as a source of livelihood and means of generating income, it has a long way to go in improving the economy of the country. While most of the respondents believe that agriculture has what it takes to improve the country’s economy, they believe the government has a lot to do to see that come to reality. Proper funding and attention to the agricultural sector with the same focus given to the oil sector, agriculture will not only grow the economy, but will also put Nigeria where it is meant to be economically among the economically viable countries of the world.</p> | | |

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| Keywords Impact, Growth, Recovery, Economy, Labour, Farm, Agriculture |
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ABBREVIATIONS

DFID-Department for International Development

GDP- Gross Domestic Products

GNP- Gross National Product

IJEFI-International Journal of Economic & Financial Issues

MDG- Millennium Development Goals

MBNP- Ministry of Budget & National Planning

MB&NP- Ministry of Budget & National Planning

OECD-Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development

RGDP-Real Gross Domestic Product

UNSC- United Nations Statistical Commission

WB- World Bank

WDR- World Development Report

WEF-World Economic Forum

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1 INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is a compound word which describes various means through which crops, and animals sustain world human population through the provision of food products and other consumables. Agriculture is known to be the bedrock for the growth and sustenance of so many economies, as well as a means of getting rid of poverty in developing nations. In most of the developing nations of the world in terms of economic growth and development, agriculture is known to be the bedrock of these nations. But how this route leads to economic prosperity is still an issue of debate among policymakers and economic development professionals.

Agriculture is a way of life which involves the production of animals, fishes, crops, forest resources for human use and supplying the agro-allied product needed by other sectors of the economy. Agriculture is a sector inherited from generations to generations as well as a dominant occupation which engages many populations in Nigeria. Although, most of the practicing farmers in this said country (Nigeria) engage in subsistence agriculture, therefore, agriculture can be referred to as the life-wire of the economies of developing nations.

The advent of modern and mechanized farming equipment has made farming less rigorous and reduced the rigor involved in farming, farmers in the past only had cutlasses, hoes, baskets, nets and rakes but it is a different ball game in this century. The invention of tractors, irrigating machines, fertilizers, and so on makes farming quite easy these days. Our dear country Nigeria falls under the category of developing countries, we have benefited hugely from the sales of our cash crops through the bilateral and unilateral relationship we have with countries in Africa and other parts of the world.

The aim of the study is to evaluate the impact of agriculture on the Nigeria's economy growth and recovery, and also to examine different agricultural practices that helped in reshaping the economy of the country, the role of the government, the role of the society, and impact of agriculture on the common people, and finally to examine how agriculture can help reduce, if not eliminate poverty and enhance growth and thus development. The objective of the study is to recommend ways in which the government can diversify the Nigerian economy by improving the agricultural sector. The topic at hand is basically about how Nigeria is using agriculture to revive her economy and the impact of agriculture in the nation's dwindling economy, this part which is the introductory piece gives an insight to what this thesis will entail.

The empirical part of this study was based on the impact of agriculture on the growth and recovery of the Nigerian economy. Quantitative and qualitative methods were adopted for this study. The study made use of questionnaires (quantitative) which were prepared by the researchers to obtain information from workers on various farms in Ayepe town Ogun state Nigeria, 100 questionnaires were administered with tactical questions that tend to review their stake on the topic, with 80 of those questionnaires accounted for, 20 of the questionnaires were unaccounted for. The qualitative part was an interview section conducted with six different farm owners in same Ayepe town of Ogun state Nigeria. It was a semi-structured interview which was used to gather information on the study from the owners of 6 different farms within the region. Video calls via WhatsApp was made with to these various farmers due to the distance between the researchers and the study area.

April 8 farm has been chosen as a commissioner to this thesis. The CEO of April 8 farm is a former branch manager of Keystone Bank, Sagamu branch. He is knowledgeable about the Nigeria economy and finances. He gave up his banking career to pursue a career in Agriculture, 'in his word this is going to be the mainstay of Nigeria economy in years to come. Adebayo Hassan by name, is a native of Aiyeye community in Ogun state, and he is into Poultry, cattle rearing, cassava, and plantain farming. He focuses more on poultry, where he rears hens for the production of eggs and meat. He has a poultry capacity of 4,500 birds.

2 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Worldwide, agriculture plays a vital role in most economies significantly in developing countries. It is a source of food, job creation and income, especially for the rural communities. Improvement in agriculture and its productivity hence is essential to sustain food security, alleviation of poverty and overall economic growth. An established submission in respect to the poor is that they mainly settled in the rural regions, and are majorly into agricultural production, with a larger percentage being dominated by women and children compared to their men. Approximately two-thirds of poor people in the world live mainly on subsistence farming, as peasant farmers or as poorly paid casual farm laborers (Rapsomanikis, 2015).

A yardstick of policy importance of poverty contest can be said to be the evaluation of agricultural productivity. Progress on the evaluation of farmland harvesting has been the most crucial thing in a new quest by the Global Strategy; the agency was commissioned by United Nations Statistical Commission in 2010, February to be precise (Carletto, Dean & Raka 2015). Bravo-Ortega & Lederman 2005, reported that there had been an increase in GDP contributed by the agricultural sector, the impact is efficient in boosting incomes of the poorest people in underdeveloped nations compared to the corresponding increase in GDP being contributed by non-agricultural sector. Also, impacts of agricultural growth on the reduction of poverty is greater in developing nations of Africa and Asia, however greater rate of poverty-reducing effects of economic growth comes from other sectors in Latin America and Caribbean countries.

Agriculture has the following sector as its components, production of crops which involves growing various types of crops such as food or cash crops. Food crops such as tuber crops, cereal crops, vegetables etc. are majorly for consumption, while cash crops are mainly for sale locally or export to generate foreign exchange for the economy. Cash crops include cocoa, rubber, cotton, palm oil, palm kernel, groundnut etc. Livestock can be described as the rearing of domestic animals for human consumption. Such animals include goats, rams, hens, rabbits, cows, sheep etc. Forestry consists of the cultivation, preservation and maintenance of economic trees or plants, as well as the extraction of diverse form of resources related to the forest. A lot are being derived from these kinds of plants which include timber for plywood, furniture, the building of houses, boats, manufacture of papers, electric pole etc. Other resources like wildlife, roots and herbs. Majorly, many nations of the developing world specifically focus on this subsector as a means of generating revenue. The systems of agriculture that are dominant in this

part of the world include peasant farming. This type of agriculture involves cultivation on a small acre of land for the immediate family consumption with limited access to mechanized farming tools and a local market. It is also referred to as subsistence agriculture because it majorly meets domestic needs and survival of the immediate family. Crop yield in this type of farming is below the economic standard due to factors such as cultural, social, technological. Due to a lack of financial capability, farmers are unable to acquire modern farm inputs to aid their productivity (Aderibigbe 2006.)

The agriculture and consumption sector of the economy is saddled with the responsibility of producing healthy, hygienic and nutrients enriched consumables for an increasing populace, and simultaneously making several feeds for livestock in the farms, as well as enhancing fibre output, fuel and other bio-based products needed for industrial purpose. The agriculture sector is also expected to utilize natural resources in a preserving manner in order not to cause an adverse effect in terms of climate change to other natural resources like water, land, and biodiversity enrichment. The sector should capitalize on new ideas to stand the test of time which will make it progress in a sustainable manner (OECD 2019).

The term development has been misconceived by many to mean economic growth. This concept is far beyond a sustained increase in per capita income. This view is narrow in scope since the idea does not put into consideration if the rise in per capita income gets to the common people. If the sustained in per capita income brings about the desirable social changes, and improve the functioning, capability of the individual, then we can be talking of economic development although the increase in income per capita must have taken place before we can be talking of development. The role of agriculture can best be appreciated by referring to the pact signed by 189 leaders in the world at Washington, tagged the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The first provision of this target is ‘REDUCE HUNGER and POVERTY’. Since it is acknowledged that agriculture is of enormous importance to the development of any country makes it essential to prioritize it and make it the most important aspect of the economic plan by every leader in the world (Yusuf 2014.)

2.1 Summary of Economic Development

Economic development evolves around improvement in the provision of means of sustenance regularly but not inconsistently, means to education and basic health service for most of the inhabitants (Belshaw & Livingstone 20002:3.) The word “development” becomes more evident with the clearer knowledge and understanding of the term “economic growth”. By economic growth, economists generally imply

the increase over time per capita of a country's real output. Although other parameters can be employed, the output is most easily determined by the gross national product (GNP). This means that economic growth is determined by the increase in per capita GNP of a country. Therefore, economic growth is a sustained increase in production possibilities determined as an increase in the real GDP over a particular period.

Growth and development works hand in hand; this is because they depend on one another. None of them can function without the aid or existence of the other, and these are procedures that occur in turns and continuously. Growth can be said to be an addition in result, while development can be described as a change in structure. Growth brings about economic expansion; on the other hand, development should result in better distribution on a standard of living. In summary, growth and development results in a more significant range of economic options. (David, Noah & Agbalajobi 2016.)

Economic development is a process in which a community generates material wealth and utilize it for the benefit of its locals through wealth generation. This merges several interrelated ingredients such as skilled workers, machinery, infrastructures, breathtaking ideas, the rule of law, social inclusion, and so on (Guigale 2013.) According to Guigale (2013), economic development can be influenced positively or negatively by the government; hence the governmental policies usually have an impact on economic growth.

2.1.1 The Concept and Relevance of Economic Development

A common alternative for measuring economic development has been mainly on the use of the rate of growth of income per capita or per capita GNP, which expresses the ability of a country to expand its output at a rate faster than the growth rate of its population (monetary growth of GNP per capita minus the rate of inflation). The GNP per capita is used to determine the total economic standard of the population, articulating the number of real goods and services available to the average citizen for consumption and investment (Oshodi 2014). Recently, conversely, economic development is defined in terms of the standard of living of the more significant percentage of the populace. According to David, Noah & Agbalajobi (2016), the experience of the 1950s and 1960s when a lot of developing nations were unable to achieve their economic growth targets as well as the standard of life of the majority of their people remained, for the most part, unchanged, signaled that something was very wrong with this narrow definition of development.

Every economy that cherishes its survival needs to provide job opportunities for its populace, and there must be a means of revenue generation which the government would use in providing essential services for its society. If economic development is well planned, there will be a success in the creation and preservation of employment and business opportunities in the economy (Clickner 2012). Most precisely, the economic growth index fails to show the distribution of income or wealth between the rich and the poor, and can also be unable to reveal the segments of the population favoured by the growth; or the stage of welfare gotten from the consumption of goods and services involved. Making use of GNP per capita as an index, therefore, needs an array of problems to be resolved like capturing unrecorded economic transactions from the informal sector, externalities (pollution, congestion and noise). In essence, it does not say anything with respect to the values or costs of these programs (Allen & Thomas 2000.)

Comparisons of GNP per capita of various nations is a challenge when exchange rates of individual countries are being put into consideration. It is possible that these issues warrant the submission of Allen & Thomas (2000) because he is of the opinion that economic development can be viewed in terms of better standards of living, good health-care system and a populace bubbling with life, including the success of what is seen as a general good for the entire people. At the beginning of modern development, in the 1950s to be precise. The developed and more influential aid givers thought that the less developed countries getting the aids would get better off within a short time with the aid, and they were also of the notion that the impoverished individuals in the said countries will become financially stable as soon as their governments get the financial assistance (Hall 1983).

2.1.2 Economic Development and Growth

Economic growth has the potential of turning into moral excellence which will result in progressive and great avenue of chances. High growth and employable opportunities bring an increase in subsidies for parents to finance their children's education, this could result in availability of innovative minds and talented future leaders which will eventually make the government see reasons as to why they need to provide better amenities for the populace. Strong economic growth will result in the populace advancement and in return, result in enhancing the growth of the economy (DFID 2017).

Economic development is an insinuation of about the differences that occur from how goods and services are manufactures through the changes in resources used, like technology, mode of production, provision

of finance, available skills etc. (Matt 2004). Development and growth work hand in hand over time, however, development tends to hold resources that could propel immediate growth in the short period.

2.2 Agricultural and Economic Development

World Development Report (2007) stated that agriculture has the potential of working with other arms of the economy to roll out viable economic growth, bring down poverty, as well as ensuring environmental sustenance. It is also substantiated that agriculture greatly adds to economic development in many ways which include; i) as an economic exploit, ii) as a means of sustenance, and, iii) as a source of environmental resources, all these make agriculture a distinct tool to enhance development.

Economic growth is always followed by a diminishing share of agriculture in overall output, income, and employment. At later phases of development, the labor force in agriculture begins to drop unconditionally. The two major effects, which come together to produce the main structural transformations as depicted in Figure 1, are at the center of the developmental course. Firstly, the rate of growth of agriculture is limited by her output growth of demand, in which about 90% is food in all but a small nation. In short, the growth of the market is restricted by the tendency for the percentage of domestic expenditure on food to come down as wages increase. In India for instance, with a per capita income of \$240, for example, families spend 63% to 72% of their salary on food; in a \$10,000 per capita economy like Canada, below 20% of the income are being expended on food with the ability to enjoy variety and quality extensively. This tendency referred to as Engel's Law is witnessed virtually in every nation as their economy grows. The extents to which agriculture grow imposed by the growth in domestic demand can, however, be increased in a situation where income growth is spread mainly in the economy and nations export their surplus production (World development report 1982.)

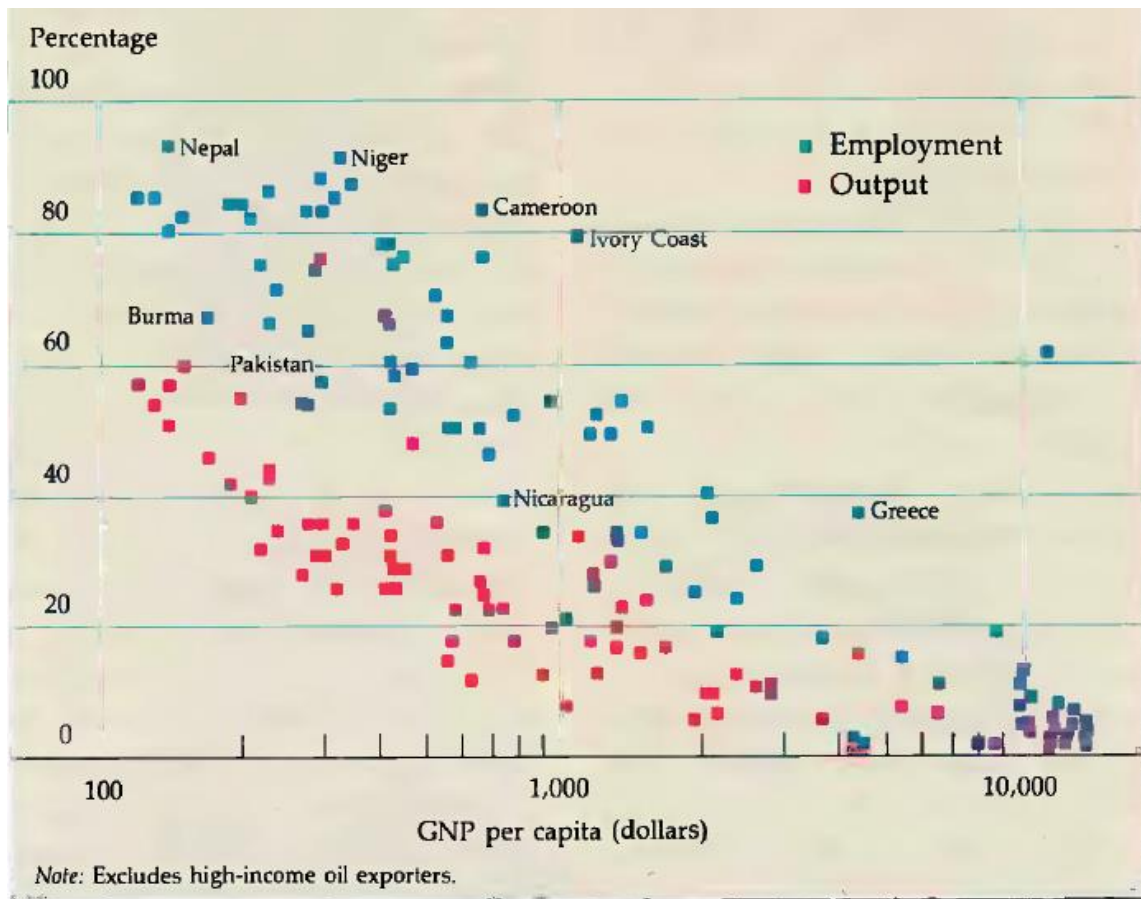


FIGURE 1. Cross country share of employment and output in agriculture, 1980 (World Development Report 1982)

Structural transformation can bring about dynamic or static benefits. As for the benefits which are static, this has to do with an increase in economic-wide labor productiveness which leads to workers being employed in more productive corners of the economy. Dynamic benefits that come up subsequently are as a result of on-job training and impactful external factors which result from workers being empowered with sophisticated and accumulating experience. Productive structural transformation can be explained as the structural transformation procedure that concurrently brings about productive increase within sectors as well as a shift of labor from the lower to higher-productivity sectors, which eventually leads to the creation of extra, better-reward, more formal, and increase in productivity jobs. There is a difference in economic activities regarding capacity to employ those that are willing to work (UNCTAD 2011).

The productivity of labour in the non-agricultural economy is showed in salary differences between non- agricultural and agricultural sector. In most nations, wages are not the same in agriculture; the inconsistency in income gives an opportunity for people to redeploy to the non-agricultural firm in urban

centres from the agricultural firm. The agrarian portions of productivity and employment are unevenly balanced only at a comparatively later stage of development.

2.3 Overview of Agriculture and Economic Growth

In discussing the function that agriculture plays in economic development, one vital question is the way agriculture contributes to economic growth, most notably to pro-poor growth. Although it appears that there are contradictions in respects to the role agriculture plays in economic development. The percentage of agricultural contribution to GDP is drastically reducing over the years (Figure 2). Simultaneously, cereal productivity, for example, has been on the increase (Figure 3). It looks as if agriculture has become more productive, though its relevance reduces in terms of the general economy. However, other economy sectors can be experiencing the favourable outcome, for instance, the Asian Tigers.

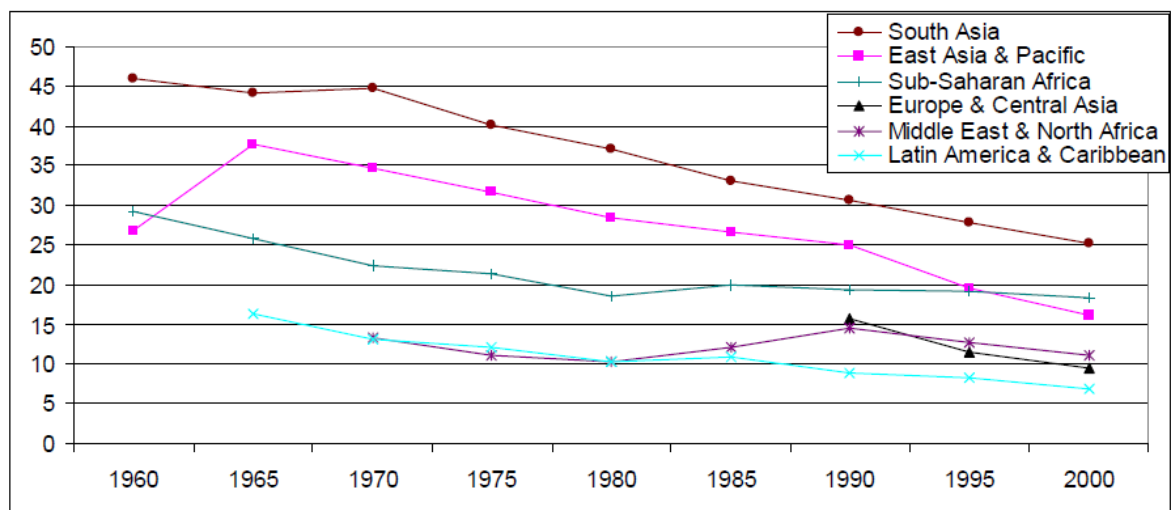


FIGURE 2. Contribution of Agriculture (value-added) to GDP (Meijerink & Roza 2007)

A brief understanding of figure 2 might propose that concentrating on other sectors of the economy at the expense of agriculture is a way for economic growth. Of course, with the advantage of perception, most observers nowadays now understand that the agricultural sector contributes to the growth of the economy; therefore, the economic growth reduces the role of agriculture in terms of GDP.

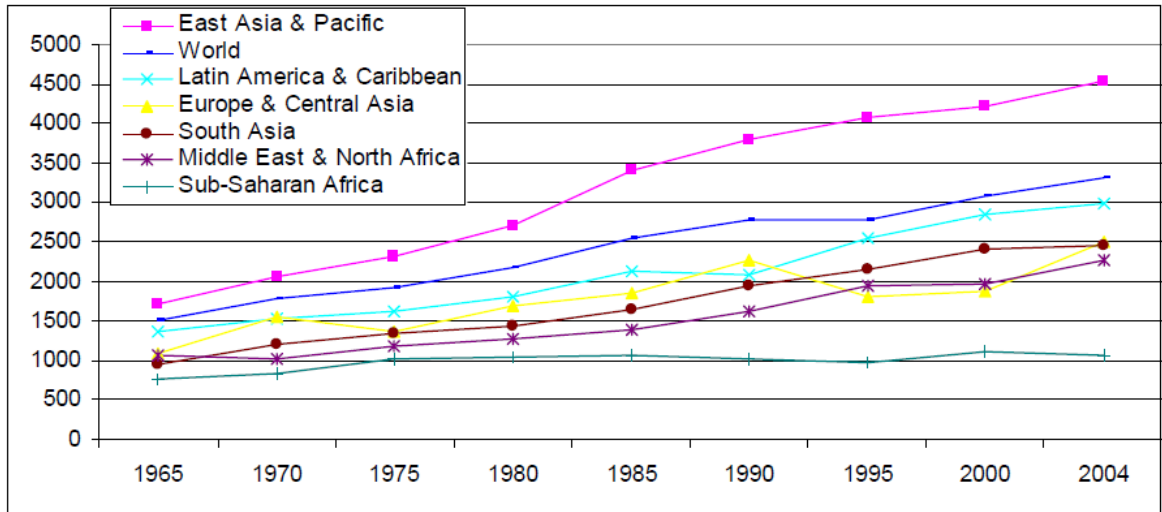


FIGURE 3. Average yield of cereals (kg per ha) (Meijerink & Roza 2007)

Also, the percentage of rural dwellers is also reducing drastically (Figure 4), with attendant increase in urban centres, at times very rapidly. In both South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa respectively, the percentage of rural population is still more than 50%. In the other developing nations of the world the percentage of those residing in urban centres is now above those residing in rural areas.

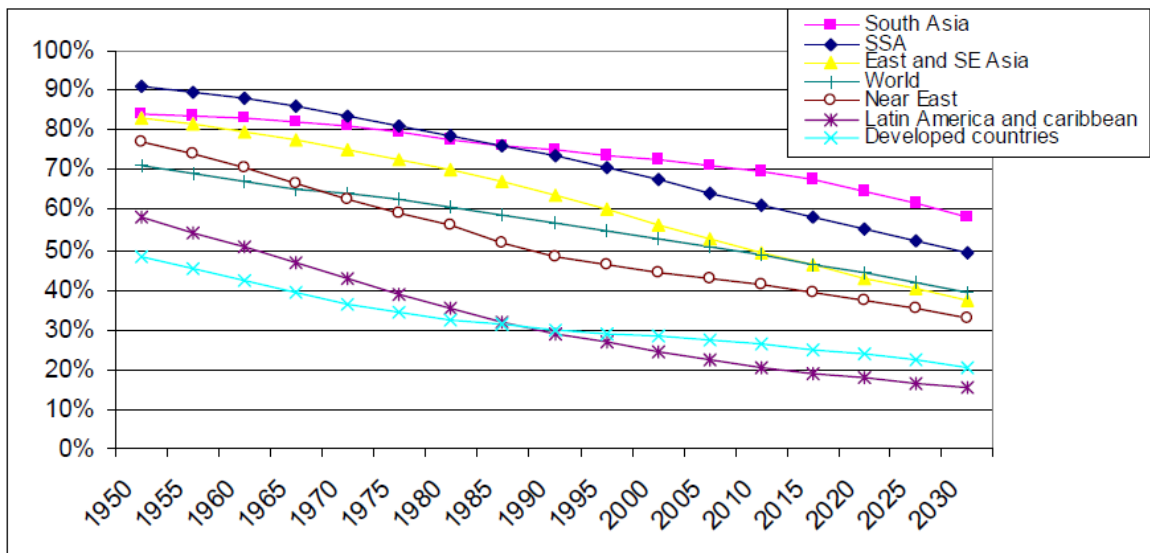


FIGURE 4. Share of population in rural areas from 1950-2003 (Meijerink & Roza 2007)

Percentage of those residing in cities has increased parallel to increasing urbanisation. Despite this, the rate of poor in rural settings remains higher, which implies that there are more poor people in rural environments than in urban centres ranging from 60% to 75%. The contributions are not the same across

countries , but the main idea here is, for poverty to reduce, it is crucial to centre on rural regions where a larger percentage of the poor reside in respects to percentage contribution and the number of poor.

| Country | Rural | Urban | National | Survey year |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Brazil | 51 | 15 | 22 | 1998 |
| Colombia | 79 | 55 | 64 | 1999 |
| Ghana | 50 | 19 | 40 | 1999 |
| Kenya | 53 | 49 | 52 | 1997 |
| India | 30 | 25 | 29 | 2000 |
| Vietnam | 36 | 7 | 29 | 2002 |

TABLE 1. Rural and urban poverty selected countries (Meijerink & Roza 2007)

Before the start of the millennium, agriculture sector had more people employed in one way or the other. In comparison with the service sector, the difference has widened from the period mentioned even though the number of people employed has soared above one billion which is a representation of 1 out of every 3 employed individuals. In addition, agriculture is predominated by family farming in several countries and continuous contribution are required by the family members during the farming seasons all through the year (Falnonic 2020).

Much effort is being put into practice to increase agricultural productivity, and efforts are being put in place for additional investment in agricultural science and technology, mainly in Africa, the reason is that when one puts into consideration the productivity growth in developing nations (Figure 3). In many areas, much progress has been made in increasing land and/or labour productivity measured in output quantity units¹⁶. When productivity is measured as value-added per hectare arable land or labour, Sub-Saharan Africa is yet to record any appreciable progress. East Asia and the Pacific, including South Asia, witnessed productivity growth in respects to value-added per unit of land, though with lesser in terms of value-added per unit of labour. Although progress has been recorded in some areas in raising productivity, with many other regions still lagging. (Meijerink & Roza 2007.)

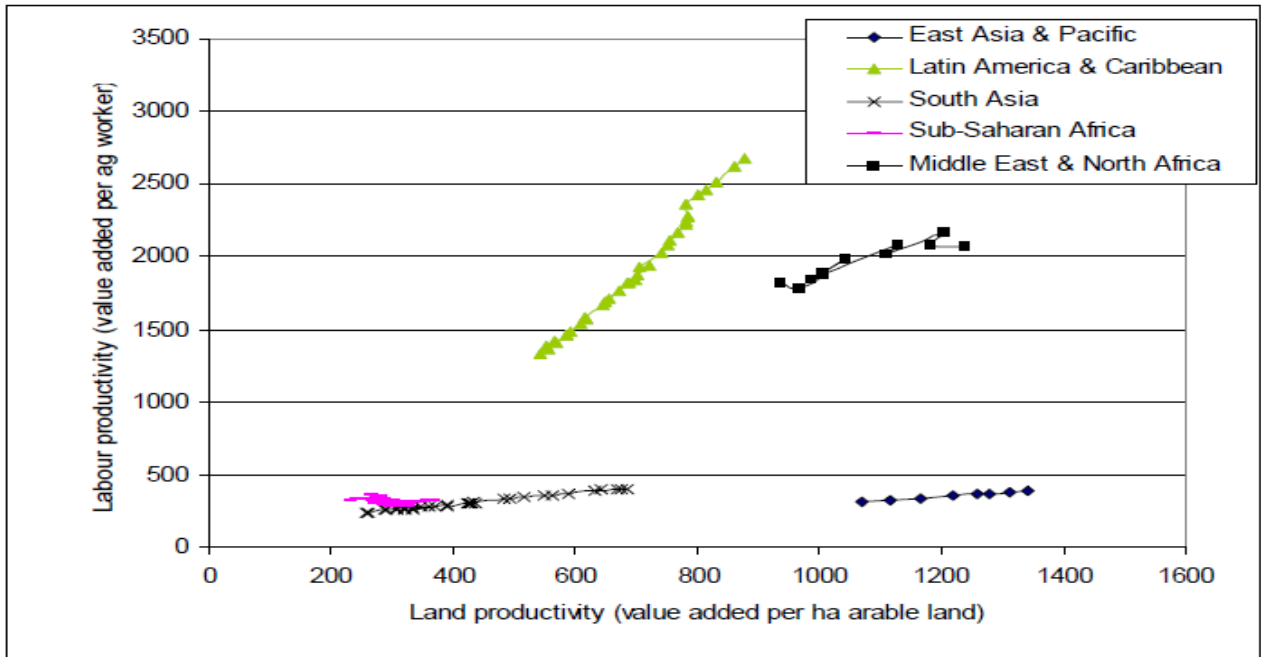


FIGURE 5. Labour and land property in agriculture 1961-2003 (Meijerink & Roza 2007)

When agricultural growth is measured, in terms of value-added annual percentage (%) growth, sub-Saharan Africa has performed better than east Asian and the pacific in the past 10 years (Figure 7). It seems that sub-Saharan Africa has made some progress towards closing the gap with east Asia and pacific

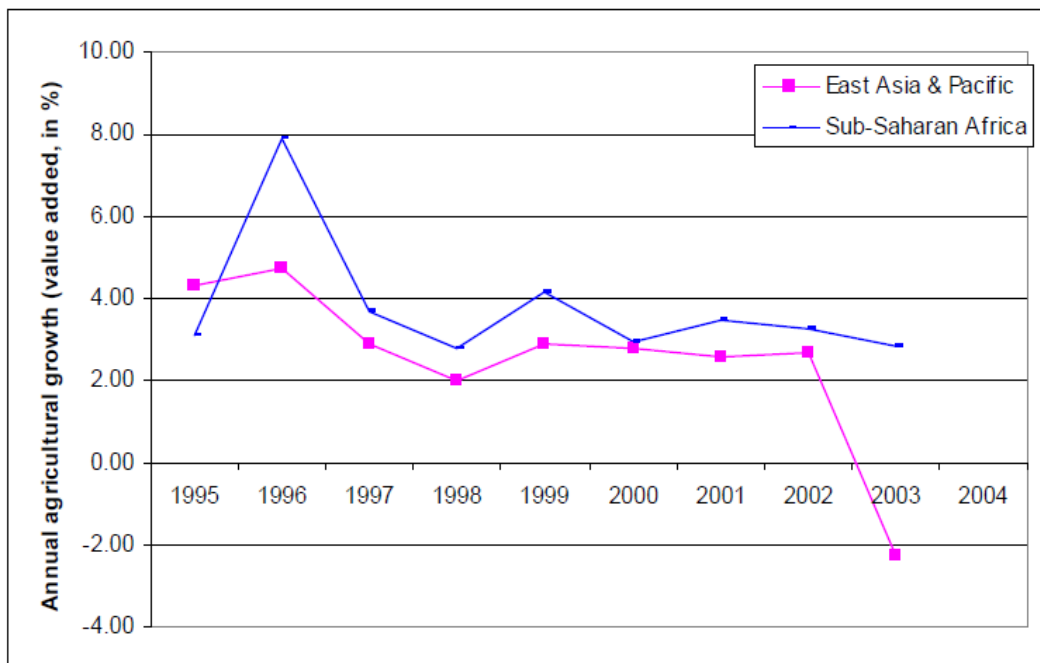


FIGURE 6. Annual Agricultural growth (value added, in %) in Sub-Sahara Africa and East Asia Pacific (Meijerink & Roza 2007)

In conclusion, one can infer that in the majority of developing nations, there has been a considerable increase in terms of agricultural production, with the exception of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where labour productivity gains do not have any significant effects, and land productivity only somewhat in South Asia. Green revolution and other improved technology changes that increase productivity do not really have any significant impacts on these regions, and the gains of the green revolution are diminishing. Annual agricultural growth decelerated in East Asia but has been a level in Sub-Saharan Africa.

2.4 Agriculture and Economic Development Policies

Stamoulis & Zezza (2003) noted that for any national development strategies to succeed, food sufficiency must be among the significant aspect of mainstream policy design as well as their implementation at the national, regional and local level. Rural development ideology must be a substantial aspect of the strategies. Some set of measurements useful for rural development could be seen as: to provide enabling policy environment for agricultural growth, rural development, and food security; to strengthen agricultural productivity and competitiveness in a sustainable manner; Strengthen linkages between agriculture and the rural non-farm sector coupled with measures to facilitate participation by the poor in rural non-farm; facilitate resource allocation towards hunger reduction with main focus on the needs of poor farmers

Fawole (2015) stated that food insecurity occurs when there is a deficiency in adequate reachable or financial access to a balanced diet in their meal consumption, that can be deemed enough for the essential requirement for a healthy and well-being existence. The insecurity of food may be severe, temporary or seasonal, the shortage of food leads to an enormous problem for the citizenry. While we see poverty as the reason for hunger, lack of good and adequate nutrition is an underlying cause of poverty. Basically, hungry people may not be able to build or accumulate assets which could catapult them away from poverty and facilitate their productivity. Stamoulis & Zezza (2003) state that when designing food security policies, all aspects of the micro-economies policy framework should be taken into account, not just for the economic variables, also how they interact with agricultural and rural development.

Macroeconomics and government official seldom question the reason for agricultural policy, they argued that the basic need for sustainable economic development is valid macroeconomic policy, privatisation of government assets, and various counterproductive governmental intervention policy (Norton 2004). They believed there is no need for sectoral policy once there is a free market and the stability of

the macroeconomic is assured. They argued that policymakers are being driven by the fact that agriculture provides food for the population. As true as this argument might be, it is basically attributed to the poor rural areas of low income who tend to provide for their own consumption but become lesser applicable when we look at it from a large scale of international importation and exportation of food in almost all the countries of the world (Norton 2004).

3 DESCRIPTION OF NIGERIA ECONOMY AND ITS AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

In the continent of Africa, Nigeria is said to be the country with the highest population with a close rate of 166 million people as well as a landmass of 923.768square kilometres (NNPC 2011). Nigeria has borders with countries along the tropics of the Gulf of Guinea on the western coast of Africa and also the Republic of Benin, Chad, and Cameroon in the east (MacDikkoh 2010.) Nigeria has a diverse kind of vegetation, unique topography, and agro-ecology that favourably supports agricultural production. Nigeria is endowed with arable farmland that promotes agricultural production. Agriculture contributes about 30% to the GDP, manufacturing contributes 11%, and other services contribute 32%. This sector is of reasonable importance in Nigeria's economic growth and development (IJEFI 2017).

Agriculture is said to be an extension of the third world and developing countries activities. The significance of agriculture to socio-economic advancement in most of the third world nations is ardent to their shift to economic success. In most of the developing countries of the world, including Nigeria, the contribution of agriculture to GDP is about one quarter. But in the least developed nations, the contribution of agriculture to the GDP is much higher compared to what is obtainable in the developing countries (UN 2007).

There is need for sensitization of farmers by the governments in Africa, either as a union or done by each state. The sensitization should focus on educating the farmers on becoming individually dependent, which will be accompanied by training on how to implement modern mechanization and utility of the enormous hectares of land available to them for farming. There should also be financial supports like loans which will make them excel eventually (Patel 2016).

Daramola, Ehui, Ukeje, & McIntire (2007) stated that in the 1950s and 1960s, agriculture was solely responsible for Nigeria's exportation, which was about 60-70%. The country exported farm produce like palm kernel, cocoa, cotton, palm oil, rubber as well as groundnuts, the nation's source of revenue relied on agricultural export taxes likewise the fiscal balances and current revenue.

The oil discovery period was few years after Nigeria gained independence and this was not far from the time of the Civil War that lasted from 1967-1970, although there was halt to smooth exploration as a result of the War, but it was more of a cause to the nonchalant attitude the country placed towards agriculture

that was the bedrock before independence. The government realized 97% of its export revenue from oil and a total of 80% as its federal earnings (Sekunmade 2009.)

Figure 7 below depicts the trend of agricultural output, RGDP and oil prices over a certain period. The graph shows an upward trend of agricultural output. The RGDP was higher in the 1980s and 1990s just shortly before agricultural output peaked. The graph reveals a sharp decline in agricultural output in 2009. The possible explanation for this could be the decline in government allocation to the sector.

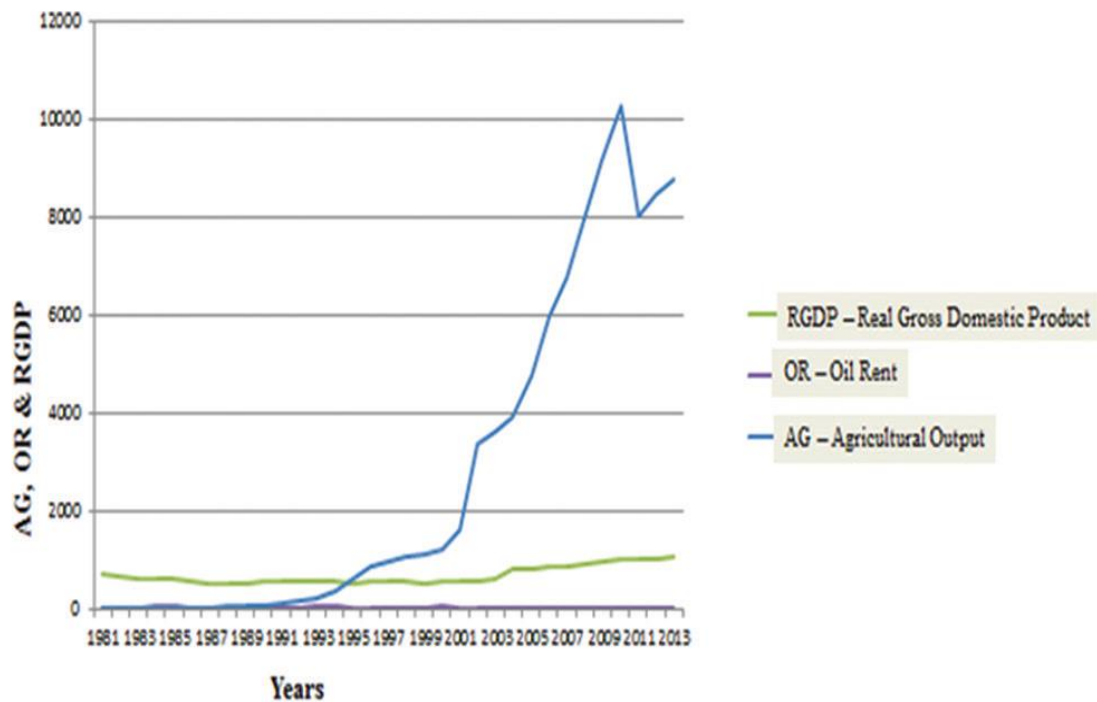


FIGURE 7. Real gross domestic product per capita and agricultural output trend 1980-2013 (IJEFI 2017)

3.1 The role of agriculture in economic development in Nigeria

In the 1960s during Nigeria independence, agriculture contributed over 50% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which happened to be the major source of foreign exchange and both government and individual revenue, where the agricultural marketing boards play a dominant role. As of now, the major role being played by the agricultural sector before has been overtaken by the Nigerian National

Petroleum Company (NNPC), the organization saddled with the responsibility of overseeing the oil sector. Central Bank of Nigeria (2003) emphasized that crude oil still serves as the nation's main source of revenue (pegged at about 80%).

In the developmental economy, features of economic development in respect to agriculture have been distinctive discussion (Yusuf 2014). More specifically, world developing nations like Nigeria that intend to industrialize their economic system usually utilize their agricultural prowess in the sectors they observe has viable potentials. Therefore, industrialized economies demand palliative measures that are related to the generation, utilization and transfer of agricultural products that are in excess. Generation related to increasing should be accompanied with maximum utilization of resource use in agriculture, this is realized by the successful development of both agriculture and rural settings, majorly through total factor productivity-improving technological and institutional advancement. Physically, the absolute volume of resources moved includes goods (consumer goods, intermediate inputs, and investment goods) and primary factors such as labour and capital services (Yusuf 2014.)

Considering the contribution of agriculture or even any other sector of a nation in regard to the economic growth, the element of obscurity must be acknowledged. Since it is known that a sector is dependent on others in the lifeline of the economy, no single sector is overhyped or given more applaud while others are looked down upon. The usual and obvious impact of agriculture to the growth of an economy is the increase in the rate of the product within the agricultural sector, and there is an increment in the rate of net output of agriculture. This form of impact may be termed product contribution, it can be examined briefly as the first contribution to the growth of total net or gross product, and secondly as the growth of product per caput (Kuznet 1961).

3.2 Agriculture and economic growth in Nigeria

Nigeria has the potential to become very successful based on the availability of its human and natural resources. Nevertheless, these potentials have been untapped for years. The country has been relying on revenue generated from crude oil to sustain its economy after it shifted from agriculture in the 1960s which had been the main source of its revenue (Sertoglu, Ugural & Bekun 2017.) However, since 2nd quare of 2014, global crude oil price declined and this, in turn, has reduced the revenue generated by the Nigerian government with the inability of the country to diversify its source of revenue and foreign exchange halted the economic growth which eventually led to the recession witnessed in 2016 in the

country. The government realise it is likely for the economy to remain on the same path unless something is done to change the slope.

Agricultural contribution to the growth of the economy and economic development depends on food provision for an increasing population, increasing industrial products demand, providing local, foreign exchange earnings for capital goods importation, increasing social income, providing tangible employment as well as improving rural dwellers welfares. When there is an enlargement in input with increase productivity, the income of the farmers' witnessed increments. Increase in per capita income results in a substantial increase in food and industrial goods demand. As the output and productivity of exportable goods increases, there is a resultant increase in the export of the country with an increase of foreign exchange earnings. Therefore, agriculture surplus amounts to capital development when capital goods are imported with this foreign exchange (Jhingan 2010).

Agriculture has contributed to the GDP of Nigeria on a steady base, there was 4.88% growth in the sector in the middle of 2016, and had recorded 13% in the previous year, suggesting how huge this sector can contribute to the economy (Ministry of budget & National Planning 2017). Increase in investment in the agricultural sector can boost food security, creates employment and to a large extent help to improve the foreign exchange by exporting the agricultural products. The contribution of agriculture to the growth of the economy can be view in the way of providing food for the exploding population of the country, increasing the demand of industrial products, providing foreign exchange for imported goods, creating employment for the growing population and improving the welfare of rural people. The growth in the agricultural sector could be could an upward projection for national output growth through its effects in rural income and provision of resources for industrialization. The federal government of Nigeria has implemented many policies and programs in an effort to improve output and economic growth (Sertoglu, Ugural & Bekun 2017.)

Agricultural sector growth could be a catalyst for national output growth through its effect on local incomes and resources establishment for transformation into an industrialized economy. In an exertion to advance output and economic growth, the Federal government of Nigeria has formulated and implemented various policies and programs related to agriculture. While some of the programs were no longer adopted, some are being restructured to suit the present-day challenges, and some are still intact. Among the policies is Farm Settlement Scheme, National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP), Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs), River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs), Nigerian

Agricultural Corporation and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN). Regardless of all these policies and programmes, the agricultural sector is still not performing remarkably, in terms of its contribution to the nation's development (Izuchukwu 2011)

3.3 Nigeria agriculture and economic recovery plan

Agriculture is still the major non-oil sector of the economy of Nigeria, assisting over 60% of the nation's populace in a direct manner as well as contributing almost 70% of non-oil exports. Before the discovery of crude oil in Nigeria within the 1950s-1960s agriculture happened to be the sector at the forefront as well as the main-stay of the economy. Agricultural sector alone contributes #1,342 Million to the GDP in the year 1958 and 1959, and in the year 1973-1974, this sector contributes #1,808 Million to the national GDP. However, the relative contribution of this sector to GDP declined steadily from 1958/1959 and tended towards the negative side throughout the 1970s to the early 1980s (Akor 2009).

The Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), designed by the Federal Government of Nigeria on the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP), which was developed purposely to restore economic growth, comprises of three major strategic objectives purposely planned to realize the vision of all-encompassing growth including human resources investment, building a globally competitive economy and drive to about 7% GDP growth. This is majorly strategies to focus on the realization of macroeconomic stability and diversification of the economy with specific emphasis on agriculture, Micro, small and medium scale enterprises (MSME), energy, lead growth in industry, manufacturing and key services by leveraging on science and technology (Ministry of budget & National planning 2017.)

The agricultural sector provided infinite decimal average annual growth of about 0.79% between the year 1959/60 and 1969/70 and a decline of -0.7% on average in the year 1970- 1981, which indicates a form of stagnation between the year 1960- 1980. Between the period 1970 to 85 before the structural adjustment programme (SAP), the growth rate was slightly more than zero (0.3%). In 1985-2000 significant growth rate of 3.9% was recorded. During 1981 to 1990 decades, when there is a sharp decline in foreign exchange earnings. Agricultural sector experiences a significant growth rate of 4.1%. Any agricultural sector growth rate that is less than the population growth of 2.5 to 3.0 per cent is considered insignificant if not disastrous, as it would result in starvation or food insecurity. In the 1990-2000 decades, the agricultural sector did not appreciably perform because the annual growth rate of 3.3 % slightly

exceeds the population growth rate of 2.5%. The previous contribution of SAP seems to have promoted more rapid agricultural development but later slow down. A critical view of the structural change in the agricultural sector reveals that the performance of the constituent sub-sectors of agriculture viz; crops, livestock, forestry and fishing varied significantly (Yusuf 2014).

The government of the federal republic of Nigeria launched their own version of the GESS (Growth Enhancement Support Scheme) program in 2012, in order to revamp the delivery of agricultural subsidies in the economy. When the program commenced under GESS, the government's duty was the facilitation of things purchased, regulate inputs, and promotion of the private-input value chain and that was a switch from what they were doing from the onset which was direct procurement and allocation of inputs (Uduji, Okoli-Obasi, & Asongu 2018.)

Also, fishing subsector also had a larger growth rate than the average for the whole agricultural sector and therefore increased its contribution to the agricultural sector from 3.1% in 1959/60 to 4.6% in the year 2000, and constant determination of the fishing subsector also augmented to 6.2% in the year 2010. The forestry sub-sector least performed, it recorded negative growth rates throughout the year under review except for the slightly positive growth of 0.7% during the post SAP era. Recently, the impacts of the transformation agenda have really brought about an improvement in the performances of agriculture performances (Central bank of Nigeria 2005).

4 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research is a common word which signifies the search for knowledge; it can also be described as a systematic or scientific way information regarding a particular topic or subject matter is harnessed. The advanced learner dictionary described the research as ‘careful investigation or inquiry, specially through search for new fact in any branch of knowledge’ (Kothari 2014).

Methodology is the orderly, theory-based description of the procedure adopted to a field of study. It includes a theoretical description of the embodiment of procedure as well as guideline connected with a section of knowledge. Usually, it involves parameters like phases, paradigm, theoretical dimension, quantitative and qualitative techniques (Igweagu 2016)

4.1 Qualitative Research Method

This research method is done through interviews, observations, or textual analysis. The interview method involves the interviewer and the interviewees to meet face to face, or through phone calls or other means of communication, this affords the interviewer to ask questions from the respondent verbally for the purpose of gathering information. Questions are positioned in an unstructured manner in this type of interview; the other forms are structured and semi-structured interviews. An unstructured interview is a kind of interview in which there is no distinctive form of premeditated questions, what is common is that the individual who is going to conduct the interview often have a particular topic in mind that will be treated while the interview is conducted or ask questions that are spontaneous. In as much as there are no prior questions prepared by the interviewer, this type of interview is often apt and reasonable (Study.com 2003).

Structured interviews are often implemented where there is a research about a market or product, the interviewer at times goes to the streets to ask questions from people randomly. It is often used when marketers are test-marketing (introduction of a new product), the mark boxes after a respondent answers as an asked question. A semi-structured interview is then said to be the most adopted interview for qualitative social research, the researcher asks precise questions which are compared with similar questions enquired in other interviews (Dawson 2002).

Qualitative research aids in having knowledge about the perception and character of an interviewee after series of questions are asked, the research forms include case studies, in-depth interviews, focus groups, ethnographic research and content analysis. The findings of qualitative research are describable and less ambiguous after conducting and analysing (Bhat 2020).

In this study, six (6) different farm owners in Ayepe community will be interviewed, with questions relating to the study at hand

4.2 Quantitative research method

Quantitative research is used to measure a research study by producing numerical data that can be converted into a statistical form. It is used to observe and measure opinions, behaviours, attitude and other explicit variables and produce results from a bigger sample population. The procedures used in data collection for quantitative research are more structured than those used in qualitative data collection (Defranzo 2011).

According to Kothari (2014), a questionnaire is known to be the backbone of a survey operation. It is crucial to design questionnaires in an effective way in order to accomplish the purpose of which it was meant. Different questions that are related to how often, how many, how much, who or when is been asked in the quantitative research method. Kothari (2014) in his opinion he states that quantitative method is mostly applied when a researcher wants to gather data in the situation of large enquiries.

A questionnaire is the main data gathering instrument adopted in the quantitative method of this study. Questionnaires are sets of questions and answers which can be mailed to respondents by post or carried by field worker or enumerator and researchers for their responses. Odo (1992) defines questionnaire as a “series of written questions or a devise which the respondents' written opinions are sought that test the research questions or answers to research questions. In this study, the close-ended and open-ended questions were adopted to obtain information from the respondents. The questions posed were related to the topic under the study. The respondent, in this case, are farm workers who are employees of the farm. A total of 100 employees were involved in the process.

Samples are normally used in studies that involve large population. The reasons for using sample include the desire to adequately manipulate the enormous population in order to avoid errors due to the calculation of large numbers and the desire to reduce the cost of producing the questionnaires that will cover the entire population. Odo (1992) defines a research sample “as a process of selecting a proportion of the population considered adequate to represent all existing characteristics within the target population and to any other population having similar characteristics with the target population”. To draw a sample size, the researcher selected 100 respondents across the farm settlement for this study. These respondents were drawn from both male and female farmers.

4.3 Method of data analysis

In analysing the raw collected data, the researcher will be guided by the objectives of the study and the research questions. Also, items on the questionnaire will be spread out to capture the quantitative responses expected from the respondents. This study adopts the use of tables and content analysis. However, in presenting the tabulated data, the use of simple percentage will be adopted. It is worthy of mentioning that the simple percentage will enable us to access the proportional percentages of the respondents’ opinions in the questions asked. Hence, the researcher will be guided by the following formulas: For the calculation of a simple percentage, we shall use;

$$\frac{n}{N} \times 100$$

Where,

n = Number of the Respondents opinions in a particular option

N = Total number of the Respondents

100 = Percentage Constant. factor 100

4.4 Validity and reliability

Validity and reliability are an essential part of a study, and it examines the method of determining the value of measurement strategy used in obtaining information in research work to enable the approval of the research result. It is essential for research to be reliable and as well as valid. Reliability of a research is not enough because the validity of the research is also very important in the research. Hill (2017)

stated that reliability is concerned with the extent to which an experiment, test or any measuring procedure yields the same result on repeated trials, i.e. consistency. Reliability measures the relations of the study and to examine whether the information that was gathered was accurate enough. While validity is ensuring that the information gathered and the questions that has been asked is well understood and at the same time properly interpreted by both the researcher and the interviewees. Validity determines whether research truly measures what it was intended to measure and if the research result is truthful (Joppe 2000).

In this study, the research is very reliable and valid because the information gattered were gotten from reliable sources, both in the theoretical framework and empirical part of the thesis. The success of the interviews that were conducted was based on the extent to which the respondent's opinions is truly reflected. In this thesis, the names of the farm owners and interviewees were stated in this study which makes it easier for further research by individuals to know more about the validity and reliability of this research. 6 interviews were conducted and recorded and later transcribed according to the interviewee's information given to be researched and analysed.

Furthermore, the study gathered more data from farmworkers across Ayepe town which were in the form of questionnaires and were later analysed based on the information given by the respondents. The questionnaires were distributed by a field worker to 100 respondents who participated in the study.

4.5 Commissioner

April 8 farm has been chosen as a commissioner for this thesis. The CEO of April 8 farm is a former branch manager of Keystone Bank, Sagamu branch. He is knowledgeable about Nigeria's economy and finances. He gave up his banking career to pursue a career in agriculture, which in his words is going to be the mainstay of Nigeria's economy in years to come (Adebayo 2019). April 8 farm is located in a farming community in Ayepe town, Ogun state. They are into poultry farms for eggs and meat production, banana plantation and cultivation of cassava.

Mr Adebayo Hassan is a native of Aiyepe community in Ogun state, and he is into Poultry, cattle rearing, cassava and plantain farming. His focus is on poultry where he rears hens for the production of eggs and meat. He has a poultry capacity of 4,500 birds, which, according to him, is small compared to his dream and vision. He is targeting 20,000 birds and gave the year 2022 as the target deadline. (Adebayo 2019)

According to Mr Adebayo, he decided to quit the banking sector to pursue a career in agriculture due to the unstable nature of Nigeria's economy. The drop in global oil sales affected Nigeria so much that so many jobs were lost. Till date, jobs are not secure in Nigeria, and if you want to be relevant, you need to find a suitable investment (Adebayo 2019). Farming to him is two-faced, it allows him to provide food for his family as well as making money off the sales of his livestock and eggs. Nigeria depends on eggs as the cheapest source of animal protein, and this, however, increases the demand for eggs which in turn increases the sales (Ebor & Eromosele 2018.)

In order to eradicate hunger and alleviate poverty, the Nigerian government signed into law to feed every school pupil in 22 states of the federation. The number of pupils that will benefit from the homegrown feeding program initiated to help minimize the impact of malnourishment is estimated as 9.5m, and this will be done by providing over 750 cows, 138.000 chickens, 7million eggs as well as fish of 94 metric tons daily (Oyeyemi 2018).

This is done to encourage local farmers and provide employment for people because everything required will be sourced locally.

According to Mr Adebayo, his poultry farm gives him over 80% production rate; literally, he gets over 100 crates of eggs per day, 840 crates of eggs per week and 3,360 crates of eggs per month. A crate of egg goes for #600 per crate, which is about 1.50€ per crate. In a month he generates #2,016,000 per month on the sales of eggs, that is about 5,040€ per month which is quite a lot of money compared to what he used to make while working with the bank. (Adebayo 2019.)

Just after two years after quitting his bank job, Mr Adebayo recounted the challenges he encountered when he started poultry and still faces most of these problems. The poultry farm is prone to diseases, and they spend a lot of money to keep diseases at bay. Diseases are the major problems poultry experience, and there is continuous research in finding a way to reduce diseases outbreak. The improvement made in research has made poultry business to be vibrant once again with so many people trying out their ways and investing heavily in the business. Nigeria has a massive population of 180million people, and the cheapest form of animal protein that is affordable is egg, so this has kept the business going (Business Times 2019).

Mr Adebayo has his farm on a 2 acres land with over ten employees working for him. His routine daily is focused on the division of labour, some employees oversee feeding of the birds. Some employees are saddled with the responsibility of picking eggs, he also has those who clean up the poultry. Basically,

each employee has his or her own task. On sales, Mr Adebayo said he has those whom he supplies his eggs to on a weekly basis; apparently, they wait for production of a week before he goes on to supply. He has over 20 clients he supplies his eggs to and the least each of them takes is 50 crates of eggs (Adebayo 2019). April 8 farms are also into plantain and cassava crops which is on the same land with the poultry farm. Mr Adebayo uses the faeces gathered from the poultry farms as a means of manure for his banana and cassava plantations. He harvests his plantains twice a year and harvests his cassavas once in a year. He has a growing market for the cassavas and plantains (Adebayo 2019).

5 RESEARCH FINDINGS (QUANTITATIVE)

This chapter focuses on data presentation and analysis collected from both primary and secondary sources. The study will also test its research hypotheses to ascertain their consistency with the findings. However, it is pertinent to state that out of 100 questionnaires administered by the researcher, and only 80 were successfully recovered. In other words, seven questionnaires were unanswered while the remaining 13 questionnaires were not recovered at the time of collection by the researcher. The analysis shows that we have out of the 80 successful retrieved questionnaires, 56 were men which is 70% of the respondents and 24 which is 30% were women which clearly shows farming is adopted by both genders.

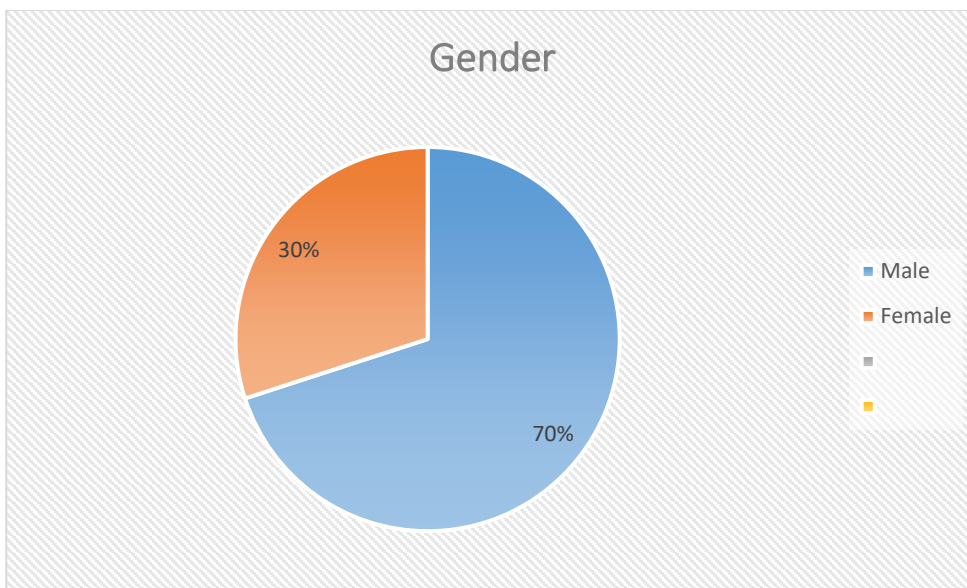


FIGURE 8. Number of Respondents

Figure 9 above shows the number of respondents who participated in the research. A total number of 80 people were involved, 56 male and 24 females which are represented in percentage, 30% female and 70% male

TABLE 2. Response opinion whether workers are feeling unhappy about the farming activities

| Options | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Often | 0 | 0 |
| Sometimes | 0 | 0 |
| Seldom | 22 | 27,5 |
| Never | 58 | 72.5 |
| Total | 80 | 100 |

Table 2 shows the view of the respondents on whether they ever felt unhappy about farming activities. Based on their responses as presented in table 4 above, 22 respondents or 27.5% seldom feel unhappy, 58 respondents or 72.5% never feel unhappy; none of the respondents often and sometimes felt unhappy. This researcher attempted to confirm additional information from the respondents just to ascertain reasons why some respondents never feel unhappy, and others seldomly feel unhappy about farming activities in their region.

TABLE 3. Response opinion on whether they are feeling happy generally

| Option | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Often | 80 | 100 |
| Sometimes | 0 | 0 |
| Seldom | 0 | 0 |
| Never | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 80 | 100 |

Table 3, as shown above, is based on the response of the respondents on whether they always feel happy generally. The responses showed that 80 respondents or 100 % generally feel happy. The question was to ascertain the current state of happiness and respondents revealed that farming activities and related activities make them generally happy and satisfied because they always realised all of their desired targets.

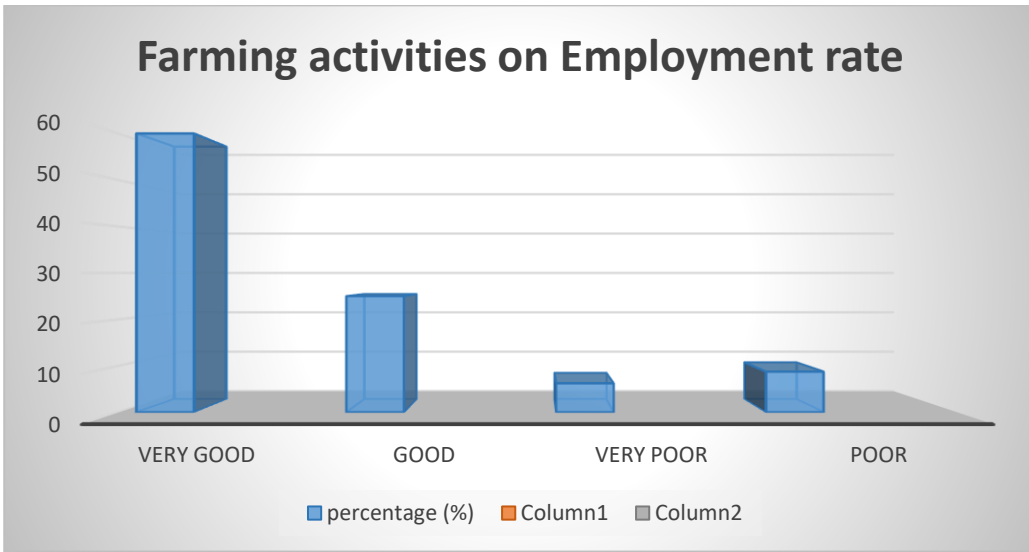


FIGURE 9 Farming activities to the employment rate

The figure above shows the view of the respondents in regard to activities of farming to the employment rate within the farming region, and as we can see in figure 9, 85% of the respondents believed that farming has contributed to the employment rate of the region. 85% is the addition of the option of very good and good which is 60% and 25% respectively. Some section of the respondents, 15% also believed that farming hasn't really improved employment, but the percentage is very low compared to those that share a positive view. The illustration is well represented in the table above.

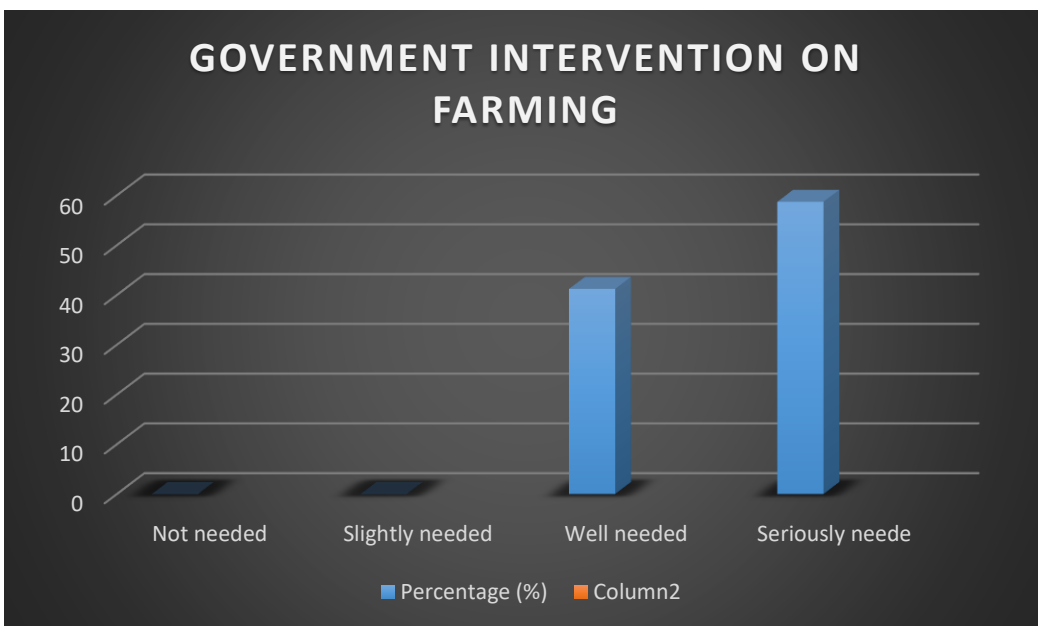


FIGURE 10. Government intervention on their farming

Figure 10 above shows how much respondents need government intervention on their farming process. It is not surprising that all the respondents believe they need some kind of intervention or governmental aid in their farming. 41.25% believe government intervention is well needed for their farm to be well sustainable, while 58.75 believe they are in serious need of government intervention. This table shows either the farmers are not receiving any source of intervention at all or whatever they are getting is so minimal to what their production rate is.

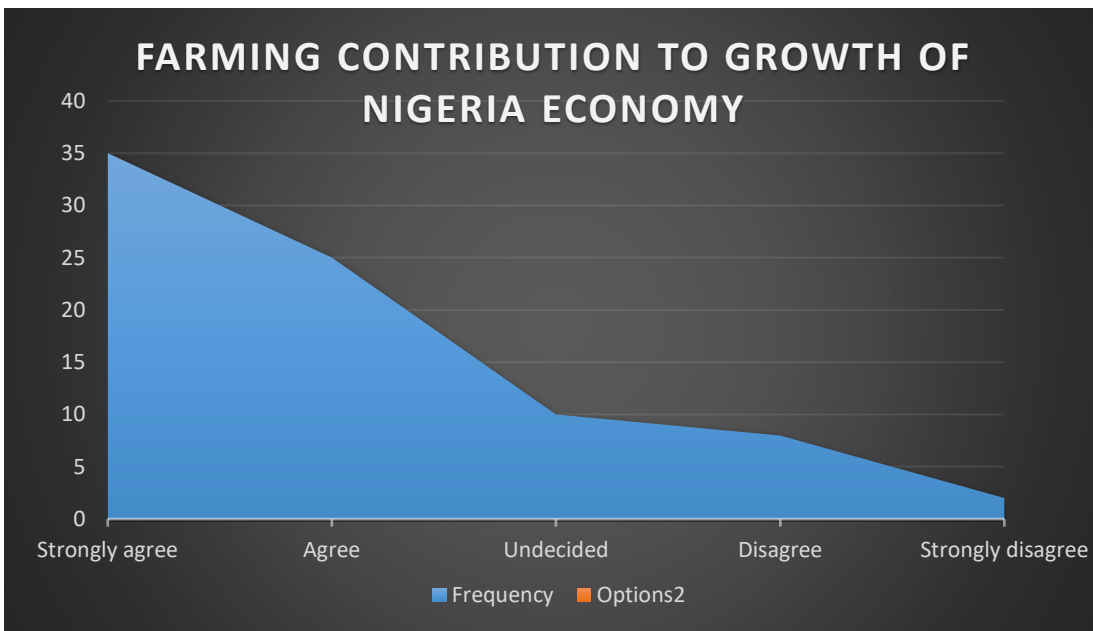


FIGURE 11. Farming contribution to the growth of Nigeria economy

As seen in figure above, most of the respondents believe that the farming activities which they are involved within the Ayepe area of Ogun state have a significant effect on the growth of the Nigerian economy. This is a widespread claim among most of the respondents. 35 respondents out of the 80 which is 43.75% of the total population strongly agree that farming contributes to the economy of the country from the perspective of what farm has been able to contribute to the farming towns and surrounding towns. 25 respondents who are 31.25% agree with the claim that truly farming contributes to the growth of the national economy. However, not everyone will share the same notion as 12.5% of the respondents (10) are undecided, while 10% and 2.5% disagree and strongly disagree respectively.

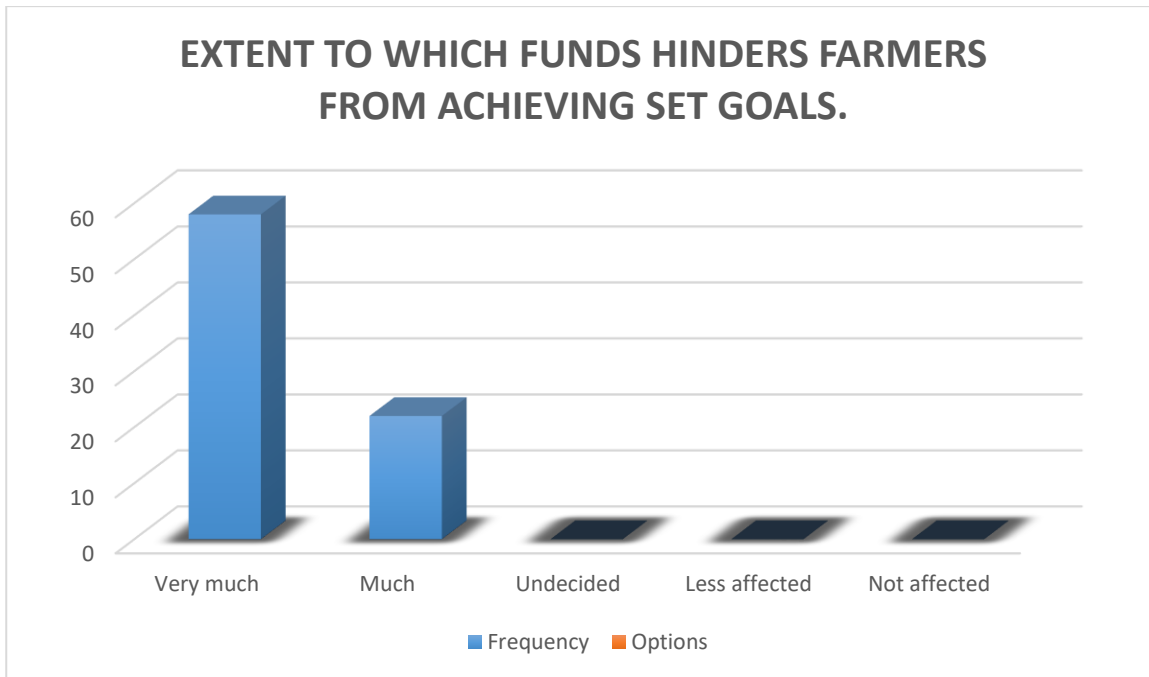


FIGURE 12. Extent to which funds hinders them from achieving their set goals

Figure 12 above shows the extent at which funds hinder farmers from achieving their set goals, and it didn't come as a surprised to see all the respondent claim that the lack of funding as really decreases their farming potential and outputs. Obviously, most of the farmers have intended goals and target as regards to their farm growth, but it seems lack of funding is a major challenge within this region. 58 respondents, 72.5% of the total population believes that lack of fund has really hindered them from achieving their set goals, while 22 respondents, which is 27.5 said yes lack of funds has truly hinders them, but they, however, tend to manage themselves and find a way out.

TABLE 4. Respondents' response on how well they are able to concentrate on their farming

| OPTIONS | FREQUENCY | PERCENTAGE. (%) |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Very well | 25 | 31.25 |
| Well | 38 | 47.5 |
| Less concentrated | 10 | 12.5 |
| Not concentrated | 7 | 8.75 |
| Total | 80 | 100 |

From the data presented in Table 4 above, 25 respondents or 31.25% concentrate very well on their farming activities and believe nothing is a distraction for them as they tend to maximise their output and 38 respondents, or 47.5% indicated that they concentrate well on their farming, this is an encouraging development, given the challenges most of these farmers faced, they still manage to concentrate on their farming activities. There are a lot of things that could sway a farmer's concentration, and funding is a major factor, this was the reason for this question to see whether the farmers are kind of discouraged even while farming.

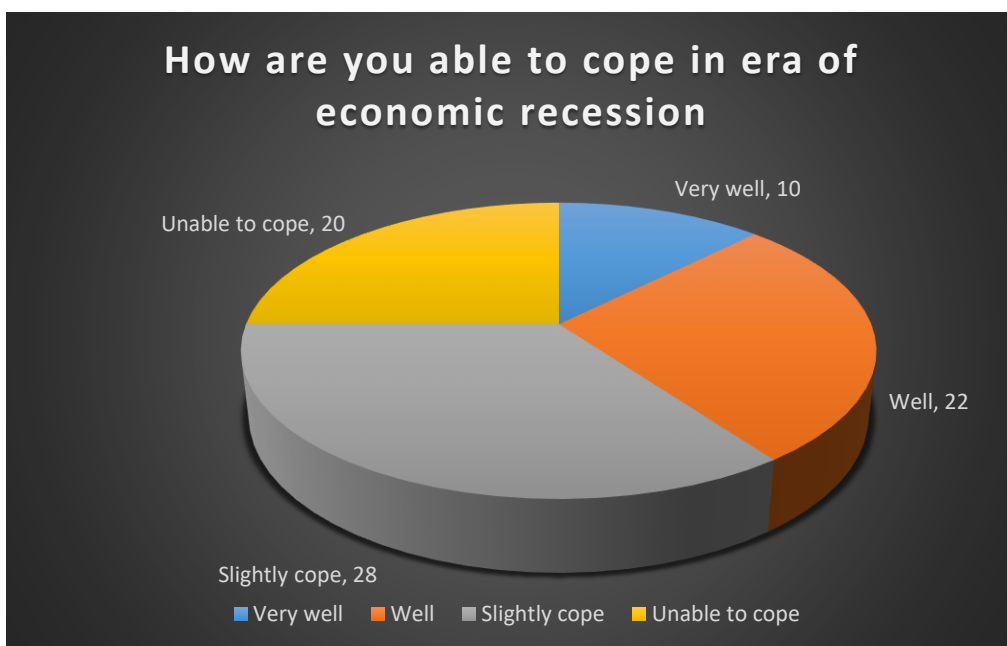


FIGURE 13. Respondents' response on how they are able to cope in the era of economic recession

As shown in figure above, 10 respondents which stand for 12.5% noted that they cope very well with their agricultural business despite the economic recession, while 20 of the 80 respondents or 27.5% noted that they cope well with the economic downturn, which implies that economic recession does not really have any significant effects on their farming business. Moreover, 28 or 35% of the respondents indicated that they slightly cope with their farming business during the economic recession, while 22 or 25% noted that they didn't cope at all. Most of the farmers pointed out the hikes in prices of raw materials as the major factor.

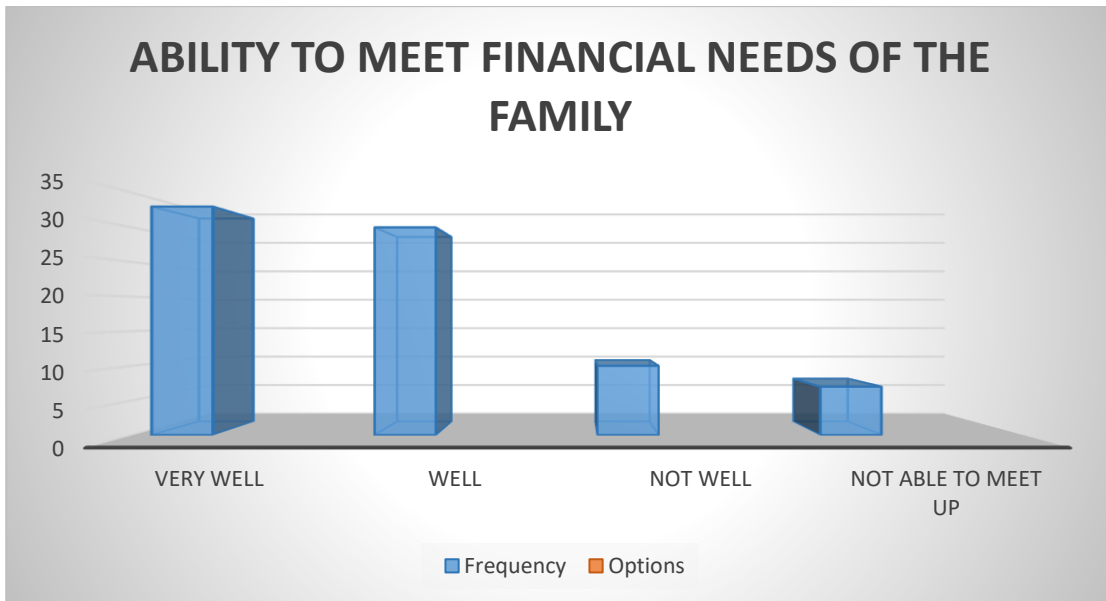


FIGURE 14. Respondents' response to their ability to meet the financial need of their family

Figure 15 examines whether the respondents are able to provide conveniently for their family financially. The data presented in the figure above reveals that 33 of the 80 respondents or 41.25% signified that they are able to provide for their family very well, while 30 or 37.5% noted that that are able to provide well for their family financially. 10 or 12.5% indicated that they are not well capable of providing for their family financially. However, 7 of the respondents or 8.75% expressed that they are unable to meet up with their financial obligations.

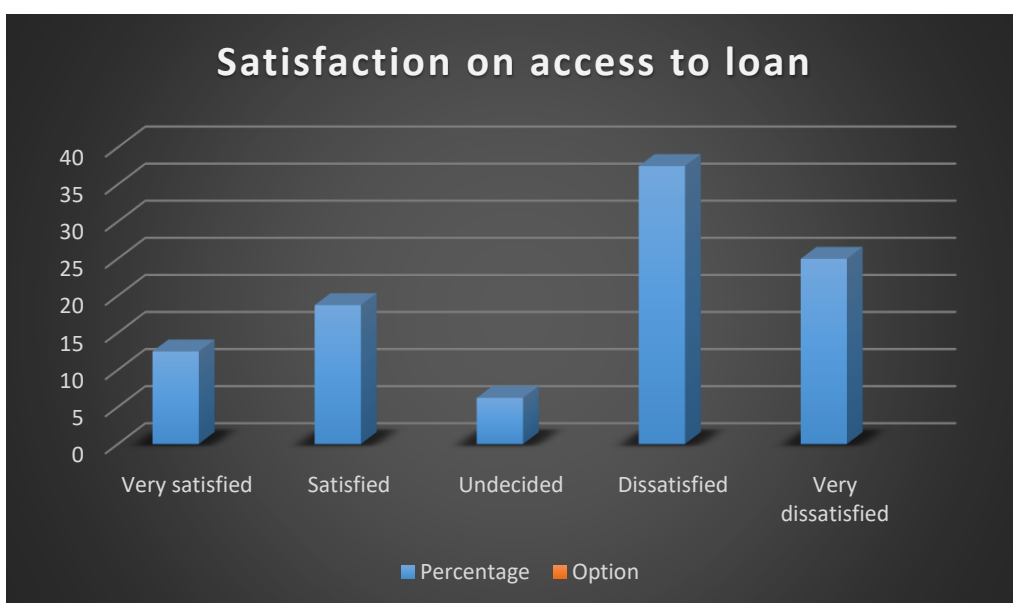


FIGURE 15. Satisfaction on access to loan

The above figure 16 shows the responses on whether the accessibility of loans to farmers is effectively satisfactory. The data above revealed that 10 respondents, 12.5% are very satisfied while 15 respondents or 18.75%, are satisfied with the loan accessibility by farmers. On the other hand, 5 respondents or 6.25% are undecided on the loan accessibility, while 30 respondents or 37.5% expressed dissatisfaction with the effectiveness of loan accessibility by farmers. However, 20 respondents or 25% showed that they are very dissatisfied with the effectiveness of loan accessibility.

6 RESEARCH FINDINGS (QUALITATIVE)

This section is the qualitative aspect of the study, which focuses on the findings from interviewees on the impact of agriculture on the growth and economy recovery of Nigeria. The interview was conducted on 6 farm owners in Ayepe community of Ogun State, Nigeria. The interview questions were prepared by the researchers, and the questions were themed into five and some sub-questions, which was strategic for the purpose of the study. Like earlier said, a total of six (6) farmers were interviewed, and the interview was conducted in English language, pidgin English (broken English) and Yoruba Language (local dialect). The choice of language was because we considered the language each of the interviewees was comfortable communicating with. Nigeria is a multi lingua community with various languages to communicate with; hence not everyone communicates effectively in English, and this is common in all parts of the world, including the Nigeria. The researcher conducted a semi-structured interview that sees all the interviewee answer to the same question; this will make the researcher analyse the findings effectively.

The first theme focusses on the background of the farmers, the second theme is the farmers' agricultural experience in relation to funds, staffs and food contribution, the third is an agricultural contribution to employment, food security, economic growth, revenue generation, and social responsibility, the fourth theme is factors influencing farming positively and negatively, and the last theme is on the impact of agriculture on economic growth.

The researchers made use of WhatsApp video application as a means of the communication link between the researchers and the farm owners. This is because of the inability of the researcher to travel to the study area, which is part of the limitation to the study. The time duration for each interview differed due to how well the interviewee responded to each question. The minimum duration was 19 minutes, while the maximum duration was 35 minutes. The video call enables the researchers not only to ask and listen to the response from the interviewee, it also allowed the researcher to observe the interviewee reactions towards each question.

TABLE 5. Name of farm owners, interview date and mode.

| S/N | Farm Name | Interviewee | Position | Date/Month and year | Duration | Mode of Interview |
|-----|---------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------|----------|----------------------|
| 1 | April 8 farms | Mr Adebayo Hassan | Owner | 09.11.2019 | 30min | Whatsapp video call |
| 2 | Nifri Farms | Wale Lawal | Owner | 09.11.2019 | 20min | Whatsapp video call |
| 3 | No Name | Abu Sulaiman | Owner | 15.11.2019 | 22min | Phone call |
| 4 | No name | Samuel Peter | Owner | 16.11.2019 | 19min | Phone call |
| 5 | Joneto farm | Opeyemi | Owner | 16.11.2019 | 20min | Phone call |
| 6 | No name | Steven Sunday | Owner | 17.11.2019 | 25min | Whatsapp video call. |

6.1 Background of Farmers

The first interviewee is Mr Adebayo Hassan, who is the owner of April 8 farms. Mr Adebayo is a former bank employee who was the branch manager of keystone bank in Sagamu, a neighbouring town to Ayepe. According to Mr Adebayo, he started farming in the year 2009 as a second stream of income with fish farming. He eventually left the banking job to focus on farming as the opportunities he observed in farming outgrows what he was been paid at the bank. Presently, Mr Hassan is the owner of a poultry farm with 4500 birds, farmland where he plants and harvests plantain and cassava.

The second interviewee is Mr Wale Lawal, the owner of Nifri farm, which is located in Ayepe town Ogun state. He started farming in the year 2010, and according to him, it has been a roller-coaster experience. Mr Wale Lawal said he has not for a moment regret delving into farming, as a matter of fact, he said he wished he had started farming earlier than 2010. He said if he had known the importance and benefits of farming, he would have invested in it way before 2010. Mr Wale Lawal runs a poultry farm in Ayepe town, he is into the sales of eggs and poultry products.

The third interviewee is Mr Abu Sulaiman from Ayepe town. Though not a native of Ayepe community, but farming has brought him down to Ayepe where he has long been farming and making his ends meet from farming. He is into cereal planting, and tuber crops, with some varieties of vegetables, he farms on 3 acres of land which he claimed is his family's land.

The fourth farmer is Mr Samuel Peter, he is into the planting of beniseed, which is also known as sesame seed, he is also into yam farming, and groundnut. He is originally not from Ayepe town but has found himself in Ayepe due to the farming activities in Ayepe. Mr Samuel has been a farmer for about ten years according to him, and he has had his ups and downs in farming, but he is stable now.

The fifth interviewee is by name Mr Opeyemi, popularly called 'Joneto', he is of Yoruba origin and cannot speak fluent English, the interview was conducted in a local language with the interviewer translating all his response to English. According to Mr Opeyemi, he is a government worker but believes farming is something no one should do without. He said he has started farming part-time long ago with the aim of being a full-time farmer once he retired.

The sixth interviewee is Mr Steven Sunday who is fully into cereal and tuber crops farming, a very enthusiastic farmer who said farming is all he knows all his life, the one and only source of his income. He is also a rice farmer who bought into the recent rice initiative by the federal government. According to him, he has been a farmer for over ten years, and he like many other farmers, relocated to Ayepe from the city because of the nature of Ayepe has a farming community.

6.2 Agricultural experience

Theme two of the interviews is based on agricultural experience in relation to some factors such as funds, staffs, and food security. It is interesting to know that despite everyone practising farming and different forms of farming, there are diverse opinion on their farming experience as regards to these factors.

The first interviewee Mr Adebayo Hassan said that funds had been sourced privately, he started farming with his savings and hasn't really gotten funds outside his savings. He said he tried putting for a loan from the agricultural bank in Nigeria but seems there are some sort of preferences regarding whom can access the loan so he has sourced for his funds privately by borrowing from friends and family members,

then he tends to re-invest whatever he made from the farming back into the business. According to Mr Adebayo, farming is a long-term project, and it is something you really need lots of perseverance for. Regarding the workforce, Mr Adebayo said he has ten members staff now, and he does make use of labour staffs whenever he wants to harvest or plant his crops. The temporal laborers also help in clearing the farm and burning all grasses, and these are pay as you go workers. But in all, he has ten permanent employees who are on his monthly wage bill.

On food security, Mr Adebayo said he fears he isn't capable of meeting the demand of buyers and fears that if there are not many people ready to go back to rural regions for farming, he fears for food security of the country. Sighting his farm, for example, he said his farm is not big enough to cater for Ayepe and the surrounding towns. He produces 140 crates of eggs per day, and within Ayepe region, they have a combined population of 800,000 people. Yes, we have other bigger farms within the region, but these bigger farms target a larger market and more, so he is looking at things from his own perspective, and he believes with more people into farming food security can be handled within the region.

Mr Wale Lawal who was the second interviewee also claims that he sources for his fund privately, according to him he also started farming with his savings and has needed to seek assistance from relatives, friends as regards to funds. He equally said he reinvest what he makes back into farming and shares the same thought with the first interviewee that farming is a long-term project. At the moment, he said he is self-sufficient and would consider a loan facility in the future when he tends to enlarge his farm.

On staff and food security, he said he has five permanent employees on his payroll. He said he started his farm alone and thought he could do everything alone in order to save cost but soon realised that in order to actualise maximum productivity, you need to delegate a task. Another reason is that he alone cannot get things done because of the rigour tasked involved, so he had to employ people, and on food security, he claimed sales have been good, and he believes he can match his order; however, he pointed out that there are lots of neighbouring communities which are target market, but he isn't capable of going into them as his farm produce gets exhausted in his farming community and those he couldn't sell in his farming community, buyers come from the next community for purchase.

The third interviewee Mr Abu Sulaimon said he started his farm from a small garden behind his house, which was basically used to sustain his family, but the moment he made his first sale with the small crops he planted, he then decided to go big. He said his family had 2 acres of land, which he sold 2 plots of and used the proceed for his first planting season. Apparently, he sourced for his funds through the

sales of land. Ever since then, he has lived within his means and depended seriously on his farm produce. He said whenever he harvests, and he keeps some seedlings which he plants during the following planting season and sells his harvest to sustain his families.

On staff and food security, Mr Abu Sulaimon said he only makes use of labourers whom he pays per day, he calls on them whenever he needs them and pays them as soon as they are through. He said he doesn't have the resources to hire permanent staff and as for food security, Mr Abu's fear is that most of the food crops he plants are seasonal, and you run out of it as soon as the season is over. He stressed that his crops depend mainly on rainfall, as he doesn't have irrigation facility, this makes it seasonal products, and stated that he like many other farmers are in the same boat regarding to the seasonal products, so he fears for food shortages seasons when they don't have regular rainfall.

The fourth Interviewee is Mr Samuel Peters, who is into the planting of beniseed, which is also known as sesame seeds with some tuber crops such as yam, cassava etc. Responding about funding, he said that finance is one of the major challenges facing the farmers in Ayepe. Most farmers in Ayepe, according to him, has to source for his fund privately as he believed the government is not doing anything to help. He said he started his farm business from his savings and approached community co-operative sometimes. I asked what a community cooperative is; he said some farmers had come together to form a cooperative society with the sole purpose of helping each other financially. According to him, when you need assistance regarding funds, you approach the cooperative, and they will give you a non-interest loan as long as you are able to pay back at a stipulated time. This has been how they have been able to sustain their farming together.

As for the workforce, Mr Abu said he has just one permanent employee who works in the storage where he stores his produce, the rest are pay as you go labourers whom he needs occasionally and on food security, Mr Abu believes as long as there are enough farmers in the country, Nigeria will be self-sustaining. Sighting from experience, he said he had visited so many farming communities in the quest for knowledge and self-improvement, and he has seen lots of farmland. He said, for example, the cassava produced in Ogun state alone is capable of feeding Ogun state, and there will still be reserves taken to other states for sales. According to him, if all other states have the same initiatives, there is no way Nigeria won't be self-sustaining.

The fifth interviewee is an older generation farmer, and his name is Mr Opeyemi, he was a government worker who retired and went into farming as soon as he retired. When the interviewer asked him about

funding, he said he invested his gratuity into farming. He claimed he grew up in a farming family as both his parents were farmers, he took a break the moment he got an employment as a security guard with the government and has been doing farming as part-time since then, but the moment he retired from work he returned to Ayepe to continue farming. He has been able to sustain farming through the sales of his farm produce, and since he doesn't really have much responsibility, he is contented with what he has now.

Regarding staff, he claimed he makes use of labourers whom he occasionally needs for clearing of the farm, planting and harvesting, he said he does the weeding of his farm himself to keep himself busy. He does not have any permanent employees he pays on a monthly basis and on food security, he said what he has noticed from taking his produce to the market is that there are lots of farmers who also go to the market with their products and lots of consumers come to buy. He believes that based on what he observes at the local market, they are self-sustaining.

According to the sixth interviewee Mr Sunday Steven, funding as a farmer is done personally, and if you cannot keep up, it might affect your farming career. He claims there are a lot of things you need funding for and as a farmer; you need to go out of your way to look for funds. He is like other interviewees who gets their funding from savings and also makes use of the cooperative community system. As a matter of fact, he claimed in his early days of farming he sold his car to raise funds to sustain his farm, that is one of the extents he can go to in order to save his farm business from collapsing. In his opinion, the government loan initiative is made for the elites, so as a farmer, he sources for his funds privately.

As for employees, Mr Steven said that he has ten employees working for him on his farm currently, whom he has employed permanently, and he still makes use of pay as you go, labourers, when he needs them.

On food security, Mr Sunday Stevens believes that seasonal planting of food crops might, in the long run, affect food security, but if the government can intervene with irrigation farming, then it is possible for crops to be planted all year round. He added that Nigeria as a country is capable of feeding its population with the way and manner farms are springing up in every corner of the country. He pointed out that recently the Federal government ban importation of rice, and what Nigerians have been eating for the past few months now was planted, harvested and processed in Nigeria.

Analysing all the six responses from the interviewee, it is obvious that all the farmers had sourced for their funds privately, they have not felt any impact or assistance from the government regarding the

improvement or sustenance of their farm. Virtually all of them has employed people to work on their farms, creating employment for the locals, and all of them share the opinion that the only way food security could be guaranteed is by government intervening in farming activities by assisting the farmers with funding in the mode of interest-free loans and policies which are farming friendly.

6.3 Agricultural Contribution

The third theme of the study centred around agricultural contribution to National economic growth, Employment, Tax (revenue generation), Community social responsibility. The researchers intend to find out how their farming activities have benefitted their local community, the state in which they operate and the nation at large.

On national economic growth, Mr Adebayo stated that farming had given birth to numerous opportunities for people on the national level. Going forward with his point, he stated that the feeds in which he uses to feed his poultry birds are purchased from a local manufacturer and the materials which the local manufacturer uses in producing the feed was imported which somehow will generate money for the country hence improving the economy. He stressed that if you imagine various farmers and various feed meals across the country, the exchange of goods and services that goes hand in hand cannot be quantified. Furthermore, He stated that the last time he went to the feed company to make some orders, he realised the company had increased its staff capacity from 150 personnel to over 250 personnel, this alone is a testament to the growth in the company, and with such growths, the economy of the country is steadily growing.

On employment and tax generation, Mr Adebayo said feed company's increase in staff from 150 to over 250 is an example of job creation, and he went further to say that he has 10 staffs plus the labours he employs temporarily once a while and pay daily. Mr Adebayo stated that the farming sector in his view is one of the largest sectors that offers employment to young and old people. Sometimes to get these jobs you might not need a university qualification he stated, and on tax or revenue generation, Mr Adebayo made it known to us that he pays his tax both to the local government and the state government. He said registering his farm alone cost him some money which he believes is a source of revenue generation for the government.

Answering the question on community social responsibility, Mr Adebayo stated that the road that leads to his farm is the same road that leads to some people's residence. He noted that the road was in bad

condition and the government was not doing anything about it, he fixed the road with his own personal money and he sees that as social responsibility. He has also been invited as a guest of honour to some social events which he ends up donating at such events.

The second interviewee when quizzed about the contribution of farming activities to national economic growth, he stated that at least the number of poultry farms that exist in Ayepe community alone is over 200, and the farms produce an estimated 10,000 crates of eggs each day. In addition, he said this is a massive production rate which is bound to have an economic effect in the state because to sell the eggs there is need for a market and exchange will be made in the form of monetary collection. This money will be re-invested in the farm in the form of basic needs such as feeds and farm inputs, and he continued by saying as micro as this is in relation to the Nation at large you cannot underestimate the economic activities it leads to when you take all farms across the country into consideration. He said he was talking from the poultry point of view.

On employment and tax, he stated that the farming sector is up here with all other sectors of the economy in terms of job creation. He said now he has five workers and he has plans to increase them when his farm increases in size. He is of the opinion that the farming sector has either provided employment directly or indirectly as there are so many players in the sector and on tax he claims he pays his tax regularly, he pays both to the local government and the state government, and he also claimed there is VAT on his products which in itself is a revenue generation to the government.

On community social responsibility Mr Wale claimed he sometimes attends social gathering hosted by the community where he supports in any means he has. He said he appreciates the community for accommodating him and his farm and he has a very cordial relationship with the people.

The third interviewee, Mr Abu Sulaimon said he is into full-time crop production, and he believes in some extent he has been able to contribute to economic growth. He claims he offers employment to the laborers that work with him on the field and help in producing food for his local community. Though not educated but to buttress his point, he believed by providing jobs and food to the local community he has acted positively, something I totally agreed with.

On tax, he claimed he is not a big-time farmer, so he does not pay tax and does not see the need to as the government has not done anything to help him grow. On community social responsibility, he claimed he tries to reduce the cost of his products to the consumers within his community.

The fourth interviewee was asked how he thinks farming has contributed to economic growth nationally, and he asked me a question that can any country survive without farmers in it. He said if I have answered the question correctly, then I have answered the question I asked. I paused for a while and responded no, then he said if there is continuous farming in the country, the economy of the country will experience growth (Samuel). He said he has visited lots of beniseed farms across the nation and sees that some are owned by whites who came from outside Nigeria to farm in Nigeria, and he believes the more we have such happening the economy will keep growing because these people bring in their money to invest here in Nigeria.

On employment, he said farming has directly or indirectly provided employment for a lot of people. He said one way, or the other farming keeps providing employments. He explained the various chain of employment along with his own farming. He said he employs labourers to clear the fields, plant the crops and harvest the crops, another set to move the harvested crops from the field to the store. A supplier comes to the store accompanied by a driver to take the products, and he takes to the market where he distributes them to retailers who later sell. He said as you can see the chain of employment is quite long. On tax, he said he pays when the revenue collectors come to his warehouse for monthly dues. On community social service, the interviewee was less concerned.

The fifth interviewee, Mr Opeyemi believed farming is a very massive sector in the country and believes with how massive it is there is bound to be a contribution to national growth. When asked how he feels his farm has contributed directly to national growth, he laughed and said his farm is just a small farm that caters for a few people.

On employment, he said thanks to farming he is employed again. He said he could not have thought of anything else to do after retirement, and thanks to his farming, he has been able to provide employment to few people. He said he employs farm labourers who help his works on his farms especially when he wants to plant or harvest. He said he doesn't pay tax because his farm is not big enough to be paying tax and he barely sustains his family on what he sees on the farm. On community social responsibility, he claimed he is the head of the tuber crops farmers, and they help the community the best way they can.

The sixth interviewee when asked the same question about farm contribution to economic growth, he said farming in Nigeria has not reached its full potential and even with that, the economy is already booming due to National outcry on farming. He said on rice production alone, Nigeria has saved billions

of dollars which it uses in the importation of rice from another country, this he sees as a massive economic improvement. He said for Nigeria to be producing rice that almost 200million people will consume, that speaks volume about the farming contribution to economic growth.

On employment he said farming is a tree with several branches, with each branch providing its own fruits. He said for instance, he has been able to provide employment for people and so are many farms across the region. He said without farming many people would be unemployed and on tax he said he pays his tax regularly and he pays both the local government tax and the state government tax.

The majority of the interviewee generally have a strong belief that farming to some extent contributes to national economic growth from the regional perspective, and some even go up the length of explaining the chain of supply from the national level and how the government tends to generate money through the levies paid on importation of raw materials, others are only concerned about what their farm contributes to their local community and uses that as a yardstick of economic growth.

All interviewees are of the opinion that farming creates employment as most of them pay workers either as part-time workers or permanent staffs. They believe the bigger the farm, the more employment it can create, with most of them aspiring to expand and create more avenue for employment. Not all the interviewee pay their taxes, the 5th interviewee Mr Opeyemi sees no need to pay tax since his farming is just to sustain himself and his family, he claimed his farm is not big enough to pay tax, but all other interviewees pay tax in one form or the other.

Community social responsibility is an important aspect of the relationship between a company and the community where the company is located, this is essential in Nigeria settings, but not all the interviewees shares the idea. While some are fully aware and involved in it, others show little concern.

6.4 Factors Affecting Agriculture Growth

The fourth theme is on the factors the farmers believe is affecting agricultural growth and their farming in general with some random questions such as agriculture impacting growth and recovery of Nigeria's economy, and their general state of mind about their profession as farmers.

On the factors affecting agricultural growth, the first interviewee believes there are various factors which are affecting the growth of farming within the region. He said, firstly, the government needs to do more on areas of funding, and he said there are lots of farmers who have quit farming in recent years because they could not fund their farm. He said loans should be made available for farmers so they can keep improving on their farming activities. Another major factor he sees is poor motorable roads, most of the roads that leads to major farms are in bad condition, and this sometimes gives them an issue when transporting their farm produce. He acknowledged he is aware the government has subsidised fertilizers in order to encourage farming but believes they can do more.

On agriculture impacting the growth and recovery of the economy, Mr Adebayo believes Nigeria has a long way to go. He said Nigeria has the capacity and has everything for its economy to solely rely on agriculture but believes the will power lies with the government. He said if the government is ready to take the right step and put in place favourable agricultural policy, the economy will not only boom, that Nigeria will be among the role model nations. He believes farming is capable of improving any economy of the world and mentioned some nations using agriculture to boost their economy, China and India to be precise. He said as far as farming as a profession is concerned, he is very happy and contented with what he has achieved, and the thought of quitting has never crossed his mind. He said he loves his profession and he is not planning on retiring anytime soon.

The second interviewee believes that the major factor agriculture is facing in Nigeria is funding. He said funding is the only reason he has not increased his farm capacity. He said that there are numerous factors affecting farming, but the one that affects him the most is funding. He hopes the government will make available loan facility to farmers across the nation. He said he believes Nigeria's economy can attain a massive boost if the government invest one-tenth of the effort they give into the oil industry to the agricultural sector. Speaking on the growth and recovery of the economy, he said do you know we practically import almost everything we consume in the country? He said if such amount used in getting foreign currency to import into the country was invested in internal agriculture, we wouldn't only be producing we too will be an exporting nation and from there we can generate foreign exchange which will give our economy a massive boost. On whether he is happy with his profession, he said he loves his profession.

The third interviewee says that most of them are in serious need of government intervention in terms of supply of agricultural inputs, funding, farming implements, as well as the marketing of their farm, produce. He mentioned that intervention of government would further boost the involvement of a larger percentage of citizens in the agricultural profession, thereby bringing down the level of unemployment

rate in the country. He believes that agriculture has the potential to grow Nigeria's economy if the government put in place the right implementation. He said he is happy being a farmer and has a lot of aspiration and plans on his farm.

The fourth interviewee stated that what he feels is the major factor affecting the growth of agriculture is lack of massive investment in the sector, and point out accusing finger at the government for not doing enough for local farmers in the area of agricultural loans, basic infrastructure such as roads etc. He said he believes agriculture can take Nigeria forward and improve its economy.

Asking about his happiness with his profession, he said he loves farming.

The fifth interviewee on factors affecting the growth of agriculture believes a lot of people do not go into agriculture because they believe it is hopeless. He said a lot of people cherish the white-collar job and leaves agriculture solely on the uneducated lots. He also mentioned that it is only of recent that educated people are crawling into the sector, he said there should be more awareness on the need for agriculture and its importance. He said he believes agriculture can improve the economy and sighted his early life that agriculture was basically the mainstay of Nigeria economy in the 60s and believe it can still take its place. Regarding being happy with his profession, he said yes compared to when he was working for the government. He said he has his time for himself now and does not need to be subjected to any one's orders or instructions.

The sixth interviewee believes funding is still the major factor affecting agriculture in the country and is of the opinion that if only the government can do more in assisting those into farming presently, maybe that would prompt more people into farming, and this will have a massive boost on the growth of the economy more so its recovery in the current economic crisis faced by the country. Being a rice farmer, he spotted the improvement and massive investment in the rice production which somehow has improved Nigeria's economy. He said Nigeria now produces over 60% of what is required for consumption and believe this is just the beginning. If Nigeria can invest more in other sectors of agriculture and improve its output, agriculture will contribute as much as oil according to him. He said he is in love with agriculture and his farming is really giving him more return than expected.

From observation, all the interviewees are of similar opinion that they all need government intervention for the growth and sustenance of their farms. They all share the opinion that they need funding in form of loans which they can access to keep maintaining and improve their farm activities. There is a general belief that the major problem affecting farming to their understanding is the government, the lack of

interventions and policies which can influence the growth of farm on the government side has been a major factor. Some share other factors like good roads and lack of basic infrastructures within their farming community.

On economic growth and recovery, they all believe it lies with the government. They all believe that agriculture on a national scale can improve the Nigerian economy but with the right policies and intervention to the agricultural sector. Asking about their happiness in their profession, they claim they are all happy to be a farmers.

7 DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Both quantitative and qualitative methods were adopted to carry out this study, questionnaires were used to obtain data from various farmworkers across the study area, while interviews were conducted on 6 farm owners in the same region. This enabled the writers to get extensive knowledge about the study, and getting little insight about the experiences of farm owners as well as the workers on the farm, their major interest on farming and what motivates them, what it takes to survive as a farmer, farming in relation to job creation and economic growth and recovery with a host of all other questions the researchers put forward to obtain the necessary outcome.

A questionnaire was adopted for the quantitative study, and 100 questionnaires were distributed among farmworkers, with just 80 of the questionnaires been accounted for, the remaining 20 could not be retrieved. The farmworkers are basically employers on the farm, they see the farm as their only source of income and treat the farm like their own. They basically run the farm, all day to day activities of the farm and tend to have first-class knowledge about activities on the farm. Some of them have been associated with the farm since inception, and others have different years of experience on the farm. It was obvious that we have more male farmers than the female farmers with the number of male participants at 56 while that of female at 24, but the bright side is that both men and women are involved in farming which shows that farming is a mixed-sex occupation.

Six (6) farm owners were equally interviewed, the farms were in different types and order, some farms were basically cropped productions such as tuber crops cereals, beniseed, plantain, while others mixed poultry farming with crop productions. Owning a farm in Nigeria happens to be capital intensive especially when it comes to poultry or dairy farms, and from the interview conducted we realised that the farmers are solely responsible for the capital used and tend to source for funds privately to maintain the farm. The interviewer asked question in relation to the farming activities, tax payment, funding, job creations, the impact of farming in their community and what the owner think of at large in terms of national growth and sustenance. It is important to note that most of these respondents were from the interview point of view and observations, they based their response on farming on a national scale on farming plantations they have visited, their own personal contribution to the community and states or region, and from engagements with other farmers.

Workers and farm owners seem to be happy with their farming activities and tend to be proud of their productivity, this was discovered from findings which show the level of happiness of farmers. Note, farmworkers consider themselves as farmers and some of them acknowledge having their own farmland where they farm, but on a small scale. Job happiness and satisfaction is paramount in every work environment, and it is important for growth in any company. Workers need to be happy at work for effective productivity, and unhappy workers won't be productive because they lack interest. The positive relationship that exists between the farm workers and owners tend to improve the productivity on the farm, and everyone tends to be happy with what they do. This shows the attitude and reaction the people involved in farming shows towards their profession and what they make of it.

In respect to employment generation and national output, the agricultural sector has been a major player and has contributed significantly. Works of literature have revealed a positive relationship between Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Domestic savings, Government expenditure on agriculture and foreign direct investment on agriculture. Despite the impressive efforts, Nigeria's agriculture is still attributable to poor yield outputs, because of the use of crude and drudgery farming implements, and a low level of agricultural inputs, among others. Generally, most of the response favours that farming creates jobs and would continue to create jobs as long as the world exists. Farm owners have a point to prove on that because they are the ones creating the employment, and there is this general belief that employment is not restricted to the farm alone. There are various chains of employment that comes with farming, from those that are directly employed on the farm to those that are not employees of the farm but got a means of employment through the activities of farming. Farming employs traders who sell farm products, employs the people in the transport sector, who will move the farm products from the farm to various outlets of distributions, provides employment for those who sell farming equipment and raw materials. According to the farmers, it is a chain of employment and the employer does not just end on the farm.

The interpretations and observations based on the data presented showed that agriculture could significantly impact the economy of Nigeria with resultant effects on her economic growth and recovery. In other words, any deliberation on agricultural impacts on the nation economy must be holistic. From the results of the study, it was revealed that for past years, agriculture does not really contribute significantly to the economic growth in Nigeria due to its abandonment and negligence by the government. In this respect, the views of the respondents and the observation noted from the literature review revealed that agriculture could positively bring about a turnaround in the economy of Nigeria as a nation with positive effects on her growth and recovery if properly harnessed. Therefore, it is imperious to note until lately

when crude oil became a major source of national revenue, besides the fact that Nigeria economy has majorly been agriculturally based.

Nigeria can never realize either economic growth or development unless the agricultural sector is given adequate attention. Our reference point on this subject was based on our brief studies of the relationship between agriculture and development, which displays a linear relationship. With facts that agriculture possess a vibrant potential to stimulate economic growth, incite industrialization and to boost the living condition of the citizens of the nation, enlarged investment in the sector development is validated. Analysing the data gotten from the major respondent factor that has affected the agricultural sector has been pointed out to be the government as suggestions. The farm owners believe lack of government intervention has been a major setback in the farming sector, intervention such as availability of loans, infrastructures, favourable policy, among others. Farmers believe for Nigeria to experience economic growth; the government needs to start implementing favourable farming policy and investing massively in the agricultural sector. They believe food security is paramount, but Nigeria needs to start generating revenue from sales of agricultural products, which will help boost and propel the economy.

Nigeria is a country blessed with abundant vast arable land which is suitable for all forms of agriculture and needs just a major push from the policy makers to make the country attain great height of agricultural productivity. Agriculture as shown by the researcher has the capacity to lift a nation out of poverty or sustain national economic growth. Economic growth can only be achieved by a government if it was able to diversify the means of generating income and lift many its citizens out of poverty. Agriculture as analysed by the researcher can generate a lot of employment and help in alleviating poverty, but to attain this height, the researchers believes some suggestions can help the government channel its resources towards the improvement of agriculture in the country.

According to research findings in this study, there is the availability of small, medium, and large-scale farmers, but one common problem they all face is funding. Funding in the form of low interest or interest-free loans should be made easily accessible to all farmers so as to improve and sustain their farms, and this will enable a continuation and expansion of farming activities, hence making sure there is enough product for the entire country. Farmers are very important and essential in food production and it is only funding that can sustain them. This can reduce the importation of food and increase local production with excess to export. Nigeria has been an importing country importing almost everything we

consume, but with funding to our farmers comes empowerment, and they can produce resources as well as food for the entire Nation.

The transport network is an essential figure of a sustainable economy. How products are moved from the farms to various storage or marketplace is essential, so the government should make sure there is a good and proper road network. According to the findings in this research, the road network is bad which is a form of setback to the farmers as they complain about how hard it is to move their farm produce to various places of choice because of the poor state of most of the roads in Nigeria. Road network is one of the essential infrastructures a country needs for effective movement of people and goods. The Nigerian government should endeavour to improve the state of the roads for effective movement of goods and people.

Available market for farm product is a priority. The main reason these farmers go into agriculture in the first place is to generate income, and income can only be generated if there is an available market for all farm produce. The government should help in ensuring that excess farm products from the farmers do not go into waste by providing a market for it, the goal is to make sure that the farmers realise their capital back with estimated profits they envisaged. This will eventually encourage the farmers to embark on intense farming, knowing fully well that the market exists and is favourable. An example was a documentary about Ghana, where the government buys all cocoa pods from the farmers and export them abroad just to make sure they provide the market for cocoa farmers.

8 CONCLUSION

As we can see through the literature reviews and methodologies, agriculture is not alien to the Nigeria economy, or more so to the citizens of the nation. The country has survived on agriculture in time past, how, and why they derailed so much from it in respect to its sustenance of the economy is another topic for discussion. One thing is for sure, there are still numerous people who practice farming for subsistence and for commercial purposes, and the government's support is enormously needed for agricultural development purposes in the land, so as to increase its contribution to the GDP of the Nation. This will propel the economy of Nigeria and relieve it from over-dependence on crude oil.

Theories propounded by scholars or researchers were not just made for the shelves of libraries, they should be adopted and applied by underdeveloped and developing country in their farming practice, such action has helped developed countries and it will be of great benefit to those behind in terms of development. From what we discovered from all the interviewees we can affirmatively say that the Nigerian government has not really been paying much attention to the agricultural sectors, claims from all the interviewed farmers suggest even the basic infrastructures such as good road network which could aid the transportation of the products from the farm to the market isn't available. Every country's government also have to live in the present by being up to date with beneficial information and knowing the latest technological applications to every sphere of life. It will be ignorant or static if a government, for example, does not know the benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) on agriculture. It is fair to engage in the catch-up game for the developing or underdeveloped countries but sticking to conventional ways is sure not helping anyone in this century.

We got an insight into what life is like for some farmers in the rural areas practicing peasant and commercial farming, as little as what their produce is after harvesting, the eggs their medium and small scale poultry farm is producing they are contributing to food availability in their immediate environment likewise generating revenue for the government through the levies and taxes they pay. This study has revealed how contributive the nation's (Nigeria) agricultural sector is in terms of GDP (Gross Domestic Product). Agriculture has also boosted our unilateral and bilateral relationships, and it will most likely continue to do so if the country provides supportive and benevolent policies to the agriculture sector. The impact of agriculture at the moment shows an upward projection in reviving the country's economy since the present administration came into power, it is actually wise to diversify every economy than

when the government just get myopic and only focus on one sector of the economy. This implies that any policy driving force that addresses poverty would unavoidably focus on agriculture, by increasing rural opportunities with the ability to generate agricultural-driven development. Therefore, the development of agriculture means for mitigation of poverty, thus, the Nigerian Government should pay much attention to agricultural development.

This study has reviewed that as small as Ayepe community is in relative to the entire area of the geographic space called Nigeria, the town has been able to supply the communities and neighboring communities with food and agricultural produce as well as provide reasonable employment to the communities and neighboring communities. The government, on the other hand, generates revenue from the taxes the farmers pay and other levies charged on-farm produce such as VAT, though this studies did not capture how much the government generates, according to the interviewees who are the farmers, they pay their tax and levies which the government levy them. This has shown that the government can generate more income if only they can focus their attention on agriculture as well. We have not even thought of the possibility of the government exporting most of these agricultural products to neighboring countries and overseas.

Agricultural contribution to national economy cannot be overemphasized, if the government shows the will power to invest massively into the agricultural sector of the country, we believe the growth and recovery of the economy would be imminent.

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APPENDIX 1/1**QUESTIONNAIRE****CENTRIA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES****Business Management****IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE ON GROWTH AND RECOVERY OF NIGERIA ECONOMY**

Dear Respondent,

The impact of agriculture could be of assistance in the growth and quick recovery of the economy of our dear nation (NIGERIA). This questionnaire is carefully designed to explore the impact of agriculture on the growth and economy recovery of Nigeria using you as respondent.

You have been selected for this study because of your knowledge of Nigeria economy and finances as well as your versatility in agricultural sector. It could take you about 15 minutes or less to complete the questionnaire and while the study may be published or otherwise reported to scientific bodies, your identity will in no way be revealed. I will therefore appreciate it if you can spare me a few minutes of your time to complete the questionnaire.

Thank you for your cooperation.

OWONIFARI OLUWASEYI MUKADAM & LARINDE FUAD

INSTRUCTION: Please put a tick (✓) in the appropriate places and write where necessary

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

1. Age: _____
2. Marital Status: Single () Married () Divorced () Widowed () Separated ()
3. Sex: Male () Female ()
4. Name of your farm:
5. Year of establishment:
6. Type of farming business: Poultry () Crop (), Fish farming () Piggery () Others ()

7. Type of Farming practice: Subsistence (), Mechanized ()

8. Size of your farm: _____

APPENDIX 2/1

9. Source of Finance: Self-sponsored () bank Loan () Government Loan ()

Others (Pls specify) _____

10. Types of crop planted: Cash crop () Food crop () others (pls specify)

Section B: General question

SN Items/Components Option of Answers (i) Often (ii) Sometimes (iii) Seldom (iv)Never

In the past four months, have you encountered any of the following situations?

- 1 Feeling unhappy about the farming activity
- 2 Disturbed because of your staff attitude
- 3 How often do you encounter challenges
- 4 Feeling distressed about the farming business
- 5 How often do you record natural disaster
- 6 How often do you experience stealing, arson etc
- 7 Feeling happy in general
- 8 Able to live a happy life
- 9 Having lost self-confidence in your farming business
- 10 Able to concentrate on doing your business
- 11 Feeling that you are a useful person
- 12 Able to face the farming difficulties

SECTION C: Quality of Life

The following questions inquire how you feel about your staff, finances, or other areas of your farming business. Please keep in mind your standards, hopes, pleasures and concerns.

SN (i)Very poor (ii) Poor (iii)Neither Poor nor Good (iv) Good (v) Very Good

1 How would you rate your contribution to employability?

SN (i)Very dissatisfied (ii) Dissatisfied (iii) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied Satisfied (iv)Very satisfied

2 How satisfied are you with your business?

The following questions asks about how much you have experienced certain things in the last four weeks.

(i) Not at all (ii) A little time (iii) A moderate amount (iv) Very much (v) An extreme amount

3 How much do you need government intervention in your business?

4 How much do you enjoy farming?

5 To what extent do you feel you have contributed to the growth of Nigeria economy?

6 To what extent do you feel fund hinders you from realizing your target?

APPENDIX 3/1

SN Not at all A little time A moderate amount Very much Extremely

7 How well are you able to concentrate on your farming?

8 How are you able to cope in this era of economic recession?

9 How healthy is your physical environment?

The following questions ask about how completely you experience or were able to do certain things since you started farming business.

(i) Not at all (ii) A little (iii) Moderately (iv) Mostly (v) completely

10 Do you have enough fund for everyday activities in your farm?

11 Are you able to cater for your family financially without stress?

12 Have you enough money to meet your domestic needs?

13 How available to you is the information that you need in your day-to-day life?

14 To what extent do you have the opportunity for leisure activities?

(i)Very dissatisfied (ii)Dissatisfied (iii) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (iv) Satisfied (v) Very satisfied

15 How satisfied are you with your farm?

16 How satisfied are you with your ability to perform your daily living activities?

17 How satisfied are you with your capacity for work?

18 How satisfied are you with yourself?

19 How satisfied are you with your relationships with your employee?

20 How satisfied are you with the support you get from your friends and government?

21 How satisfied are you with the contribution to economic growth?

22 How satisfied are you with your access to loan?

This question refers to how often you have felt or experienced certain things since you started your farming business.

(i) Never (ii) Seldom (iii) Quite often (iv) Very often (v) Always

23 How often do you have negative feelings such as blue mood, despair, anxiety, depression?

INTERVIEW

QUALITATIVE Questions. (Conducted on 6 farmers)

Theme 1. Background

1. Can you please give us a short profile of yourself and what you do for a living

APPENDIX 4/1

Theme 2. Agriculture Experience

1. What is agriculture like for you?

2. Can you describe your experience as a practicing farmer with regards to?

(i) fund

(ii) staff

(iii) contribution to food security within the society

Theme 3. Farming contribution to:

(i) National economic growth

(ii) Employment

(iii) Tax (revenue generation)

(iv) Community (social responsibility)

Theme 4. Factors hindering farm growth

(ii.) In all sincerity, do you think or foresee that agriculture can positively impact economic growth & recovery? Kindly explain.

(iii) Are you happy generally about your profession as a farmer?

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and experience with us