

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR TO ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA (1960-2020)**

BY

YUSUF TOBILOBA OYEKANMI

ART1900956

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

BENIN CITY

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**BEING A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND
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DEGREE IN HISTORY**

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project was to the best of our knowledge carried out by **YUSUF TOBILOBA OYEKANMI** in the Department of History and International Studies, University of Benin, Nigeria, under my supervision.

MRS. L.O. ENADEGHE
(Project Supervisor)

DR. FRANK IKPONMWOSA
(Head of Department)

Date: _____

Date: _____

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to Almighty God for his grace, comfort and strength towards me, my family and friends for their support and prayers to me in completion of this project research and during the whole period of my programme and my project supervisor who stood beside me with unwavering support.

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I am extremely appreciative to Mrs. Enadeghe, my project supervisor, whose scholarly oversight was crucial to the success of my research and its contribution to academia.

I sincerely thank my mother, Madam Adelowo Kemi, for her selfless efforts, boundless love, steadfast care, sincere prayers, and priceless counsel, and my loving sister, Olabiyi Damilola, whose constant support have helped to push me this far today.

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YUSUF TOBILOBA OYEKANMI

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background to the study

The word "agriculture" is a term that refers to the various ways that plants and animals help feed and otherwise sustain the world's population. It is well acknowledged that agriculture is essential to the development and sustainability of many economies and that it has the potential of reducing poverty in developing nations. Agriculture is regarded to be the backbone of most emerging countries' economic growth and development. However, policymakers and economic development professionals continue to question how this path would lead to economic progress.

Most third-world countries' economic development has frequently been attributed to agriculture. According to recent studies on the determinants of development and underdevelopment, agriculture has been a major determinant for the economic liberation of failing governments. Nevertheless, it is still up for debate how we approach and ultimately win the battle for economic development by using agriculture as a weapon.

There have been contentious debates on the contribution that agriculture makes to the growth and development of an economy. In this regard, there are two opposing viewpoints.¹ These are the agro-optimists and the agro-pessimists.² Contrary to the former's belief that agriculture plays no important part in the process of development, the latter maintains that agriculture considerably contributes to a nation's economic growth and development.³

"Economic development" and "economic growth" are oftentimes confused due to their similarity and near proximity when it comes to explanation. However, because it concentrates on only one metric—GDP—economic growth is a far more limited concept. On the other hand, economic development is a broader concept since it considers a variety of factors, such as people's earnings and quality of life. The concept of economic growth is limited in scope since it does not address whether the increase in per capita income reaches the average person. Economic development may be discussed if rising per capita income enhances people's quality of life and contributes to positive social developments, but development cannot be discussed before rising per capita income has taken place. This simply translates to the fact that before economic development takes place, economic growth must have occurred. Agriculture as a sector influence both economic growth and economic development. The Millennium Development Goals (MDG), a treaty that was signed in Washington by 189 world leaders, provide the greatest understanding of the role that agriculture plays in society.⁴ The pact had the first target of reducing hunger and poverty.⁵ Since agriculture is widely recognized as being crucial to the growth of any nation, it is imperative that all world leaders give it top priority and make it the most significant component of their economic plans.

One of the main goals for every developing country is to have a high economic position. Agricultural development is therefore essential to achieving these and other critical development goals, such as improving nutrition and ensuring food security. Agriculture and industrialization typically go hand in hand. Because it increases the supply of food and fiber for household consumption and supplies farm labor and goods to the industrial sector, the

agricultural sector influences the process of economic development. The agricultural sector increases domestic savings and rural buying power by generating foreign exchange through exports. Despite the fact that the majority of Nigerian farmers relied on traditional tools and local farming techniques in the 1960s, the agriculture sector contributed over 80% of export earnings, employment, roughly 65% of GDP (gross domestic product), and roughly 50% of government revenue to the country's economy.⁶ However, over time, this contribution to Nigeria's economic development has decreased. Between 60% in the early 1960s and 48.8% in the 1970s and 22.2% in the 1980s, the path of agriculture's proportion of the GDP demonstrates a significant fluctuation and long-term drop.⁷ As at 2020 the agricultural sector accounts for less than 34% to the GDP.⁸ This big difference recognizes the enormous contribution that the agricultural sector made in the past, which has been supplanted by the petroleum sector. Due to this explosive growth of the petroleum sector, agriculture no longer contributes the most to Nigeria's GDP or foreign exchange earnings,⁹ but still remains a significant economic sector in terms of creating jobs, contributing to the GDP, and supplying food.

By historically examining Nigeria's economic conditions since independence, one could conclude that the country's economic development was stifled when the country lost sight of its agricultural sector, and that its reliance on a monocultural economy based primarily on crude oil resulted in economic growth that did not reflect the average Nigerian standard of living. It therefore becomes consequentially necessary to have an historical knowledge on the contribution of agriculture to Nigeria's economic development.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The research examines how Nigeria's economy has developed by the agriculture sector between 1960 and 2020, with the following objectives:

- i. To examine Nigeria's agricultural sector from 1960 to 2020
- ii. To assess past agricultural policies and programmes in Nigeria from 1960-2020
- iii. To examine the contribution of agriculture to economic development in Nigeria from 1960-2020
- iv. To examine the issue of unemployment in Nigeria as a result of the country's economy shifting its main focus from agriculture to oil.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This research will examine how Nigeria's economy has developed through agriculture from 1960, when the country gained its independence, to 2020, the year of Nigeria's vision 20. The potential of a nation's agriculture sector to feed its growing population, supply the raw materials needed for industrial products, generate foreign exchange through the export of goods, raise social income, lower the cost of living, provide tangible employment, and enhance the welfare of rural residents all contribute to the growth and development of an economy.. Thus, the research will look at the way Nigeria's agricultural sector has influenced the country's economic growth and development. The research will also look at a number of agricultural policies and initiatives that the Nigerian federal government has carried out

throughout the last 60 years (1960–2020) in an attempt to boost productivity and advance the country's agricultural economy.

METHODOLOGY

Throughout the course of this study, historical methodologies will be used to elaborate on the role that agriculture has played in Nigeria's economic development between 1960 and 2020. Primary and secondary sources are the two main sources from which pertinent data and information would be taken.

Primary sources

The primary source utilised in the course of this research includes high classified data and information extracted from official government institutions report and bulletins such as central bank of Nigeria and the National bureau of statistics.

Secondary sources

The secondary source utilized in the course of this research is of the categories of journal articles, company articles and publications. They contained information that was contributing to the historical research of this study.

However, this study will be subjected to a qualitative and quantitative research methodology.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There are earlier works that are connected to this subject matter that may be found in books, journals, and articles. They include the following:

Abiwon Babatunde Oluwaseyi, ‘‘The Prospects of Agriculture in Nigeria: How Our Fathers Lost Their Way - A Review’’, evaluated Nigeria's agricultural sector as the tenacious guarantor of employment, national income, and food supply for the Nigerian people. According to the author, Nigeria's agricultural sector has suffered since the 1980s because of inadequate policy, economic diversion, and neglect. The agriculture sector's contribution to national development and output decreased because of the oil boom of the 1970s. Nonetheless, the author hopes to draw attention to these problems and offers suggestions for improving the industry's circumstances. Additionally, the author emphasized the necessity of better tactics and policies.¹⁰ However, the article failed to show how agriculture contributed to economic development by creating jobs during its period of study. Therefore, in order to broaden its scope, this research will look at how Nigeria's agricultural sector has helped create jobs and how its decline has led to a rise in the country's unemployment rate.

National bureau of statistics, ‘‘Agricultural statistics’’, gave an analysis of agricultural sector in Nigeria particularly the food sub sector. They also gave an overall picture of agricultural development using the available data, allowing researchers to draw some broad conclusions regarding the sector's contribution to structural transformation and economic development in Nigeria. The research focused on the four sub-sectors of the sector rather than providing sufficient statistics to support its findings. Nonetheless, this project will provide sufficient statistics for the information it presents in addition to a thorough analysis of the sector since the country's inception and independence.

Alexander C. Ugwukah, “The Nigerian Agricultural Sector: Analysis of Influential Impediment Factors to Its Growth, Development and Prospects for Improvements”, assessed the characteristics and organization of Nigeria's agricultural sector, emphasizing the sector's historical growth, development, decline, and potential for future improvement. The article provided an in-depth analysis of the agricultural patterns of the nation with those of the advanced economies in order to highlight the advantages and disadvantages of the traditional practices, which have significantly impacted the country's ability to feed its citizens and attract measurable contributions to the nation's economic development, ultimately increasing the GDP of the nation.¹¹ However, while the article provided important information on the agricultural sector from the pre-colonial period to the colonial period and then the post-colonial era, it failed to discuss the federal government's policies on the agricultural sector in each regime and how these policies resulted in sector growth and an impact on the economy. Thus, this project examines how each regime of government designed and implemented agricultural policies, as well as the influence these policies had on the sector and the economy.

Yusuf, Izang Elijah, “Agricultural programmes and food security in Nigeria (1960-2016). A historical overview”, explored how vital agriculture is to every society's survival and how it forms the foundation of economic growth, particularly in terms of supplying enough nutrient-dense food for human growth and raw materials for industry. According to the article, agriculture is still the most productive sector in Nigeria, second only to oil, both in terms of its percentage of GDP and the number of people it employs. It is

considered essential to meeting the country's targets for reducing poverty.¹² It is in the light of this that the author saw the need to assess agricultural development in Nigeria examining past agricultural programmes from 1960 to 2016. However, the study only looked at historical agricultural projects in Nigeria from 1960 to 2016, with no follow-up data and statistics on how the programmes benefited the sector and the economy. Thus, this project engages a follow up data and statistics on the impact these programmes formulated and implemented had on the agricultural sector and the economy of Nigeria.

IR Global, ‘‘Impact of Selected Agricultural Policies and Intervention Programmes in Nigeria from 1960 Till Date’’, assessed several agricultural policies and programs that were started in Nigeria to help the country's agricultural sector grow. It looked at the results of intervention initiatives such the Back to land Initiative, Agricultural Transformation Agenda , and so on. The latter section of the study identifies the shortcomings in the program's conception, implementation, and administration. Based on these gaps, recommendations and lessons were subsequently made for the creation of future policies and programs.¹³ The study, however, merely addressed previous agricultural policies in Nigeria, without going into detail on their influence on the sector and the economy. However, the project will analyse both past agricultural policies from 1960 to 2020, as well as provide a historical picture of the shifts recorded in the sector and economy as a result of those policies.

Ahmed Abubakar, Jibrin Gambo and Saifullahi Umar, ‘‘An overview of the Effects of Some Agricultural Policies in Nigeria-1960-2020’’, analysed and presented a methodical presentation of a few chosen classes of Nigerian agriculture policy topics and concerns. The paper examined the impact of agriculture policy on Nigeria's economic integration and development. The study's conclusions indicate that between 1960 and 2020, a number of policies were put into place to support agricultural growth and economic development in rural and urban regions. However, the success of these programs and programmes varied depending on the government's commitment and the farmers' assimilation. Despite this, the programs faced a number of technological, social, political, and economic obstacles. The author also proposed removing obstacles to greater output, long-term viability, and fortitude in the current policy framework, encouraging state and local governments to create localized agricultural policies, and redirecting government spending to ensure the availability of public goods and services that benefit producers, consumers, and society at large.¹⁴ However, the study did not go into detail on the policies that were formulated and implemented throughout its study period, nor did it provide thorough information about their effects. However, this project will explain the agricultural policies adopted during the study period, regime by regime, as well as provide information on how they influenced the country's economy.

Clement Korgbeelo, ‘‘Agricultural Sector Performance and Job Creation in Nigeria’’, assessed how Nigeria's agriculture sector performed in relation to the generation of jobs. The paper specifically looked at how Nigeria's unemployment rate was impacted by the

output of forestry, fisheries, cattle, and crops. The study's conclusions showed that whereas livestock and fishery outputs had a minor impact on unemployment in Nigeria, agricultural production output greatly decreased it.¹⁵ Lacking a comprehensive report on the sector's job creation performance for past years, the research was only able to offer an empirical analysis of the agriculture sector's contribution to Nigeria's GDP. Consequently, this research will offer a thorough evaluation and historical analysis of the agriculture sector's GDP contribution to Nigeria as well as an assessment of its performance in terms of employment generation in Nigeria.

While acknowledging the significance of these journal articles and publications in understanding the Nigerian agricultural sector and its impact on economic development, I also must acknowledge that they have not been able to provide an historical analysis of the agriculture and economic development in Nigeria. This study therefore aims to close the gap that has been left for a long time by various scholars.

ENDNOTES

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6. Federal Republic of Nigeria, "Obasanjo's Economic Direction 1995-2003", (Office of the Honourable Minister, Economic Matters, Abuja, Nigeria,2000).
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9. Ingawa S.A, "Socioeconomic study of three villages in Bauchi State, Nigeria (with emphasis on labour utilization)", (M.Sc. Plan B Paper, Department of Agricultural Economics, Michigan state University,1979), p.1.
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12. Yusuf Izang Elijah and Francis John Tenon, “Agricultural Programmes and Food Security in Nigeria (1960-2016). A Historical Overview”, *Humanity Jos Journal of General Studies*, 10(1), 2019, p.1.
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14. Ahmed Abubakar, Jibrin Gambo and Saifullahi Umar, “An Overview of the Effects of Some Agricultural Policies in Nigeria-1960-2020”, *Nigerian Agricultural Journal*, 52(3), 2021, p.151.
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CHAPTER TWO

AN OVERVIEW OF NIGERIA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR FROM 1960 TO 2020

Introduction

Agriculture has been defined as the art or science of cultivating crops and rearing of animals for the benefit of man. It has also been described as the practice of cultivating land, rearing livestock, and producing crops for use in final goods. Basically, agriculture involves the cultivation of both food and cash crops as well as the raising of various animal species to provide human food and raw materials for agro-allied businesses. In Nigeria, the pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial periods of the country's political history are considered to be the three political stages that have influenced the history of the agricultural sector.

Subsistence agriculture was the norm in pre-colonial Nigeria, with farmers focusing on cultivating and producing food crops to feed themselves and their families. Even though the system was dynamic, it needed a household and a large plot of land on which members of the family utilized rudimentary and crude equipment to cultivate food for the household while surplus farm products were traded for other commodities.

Nigeria's agricultural sector from 1960 to 2020

The colonial administration of Nigeria saw that agriculture had the potential to drive the country's economic growth and implemented programs to capitalize on the surpluses produced by the sector.¹ In order to fulfil the demand for raw resources in metropolitan Britain, a large variety of products from rural regions were produced during this time due to

the strategy of excess extraction, which determined development. While supporting the development of commercial crops, Nigeria's colonial government prohibited the planting of food crops.² Early on in its history, the extraction program focused on forest resources and agricultural exports such as groundnut, cocoa, coffee, rubber, cotton, and oil palm. Etc.

The Department of Botanical Research's establishment in what was then Western Nigeria in 1893 was the first significant event of the period. It was allocated to this Department to conduct agricultural research. The British Cotton Growers Association bought 10.35 square kilometres of land in what is now Moor Plantation, Ibadan, in 1905 to farm cotton for the British Textile Mills. The year 1910 saw the relocation of the Department of Agriculture from Southern Nigeria to Moor Plantation, Ibadan, and the establishment of a Department of Agriculture in the North in 1912. In the same year 1921, a single Department of Agriculture was formed, following the merger of the North and the South. By increasing export crop output for the British market, which was willing to use it to assist its nation's industrial growth, this Department carried out the colonial extraction program. Established in 1924, the Nigerian Veterinary Department has its headquarters situated in Zaria. In Vom, a little veterinary lab was also established to create rinderpest serum. The Fisheries Development Branch was also established in 1941 as a fisheries organization under the Colonial Office's Agricultural Department. Among the documented agricultural policies of the colonial era were the Forest Policy (1937), the Forest Policy (1945), the Agricultural Policy (1946), the Policy for the Marketing of Oils, Oil Seeds, and Cotton (1948), the Forest Policy for the Western Region (1952), the Agricultural Policy (1952), the Policy for Natural

Resources (undated), and the Western Nigeria Policy of Agricultural and Natural Resources (1959).³

Policies were implemented in the post-colonial era, particularly with the objective of export-led prosperity, to encourage more equitable agricultural expansion. Three areas comprised the nation. Because of their products derived from agriculture, these three areas rose to prominence in the economy. Groundnut pyramids were the specialty of the Northern region, oil palm output was the pride of the Eastern region, and cocoa production was the pride of the Western region.

Nigeria's agricultural exports provided the majority of the stimulants and driving force for the country's economic growth and development for a considerable amount of time, even after its independence. Three important export crops were essential to the colonial and early post-colonial economies of Nigeria. Groundnuts, cocoa, and palm produce accounted for around 70% of Nigeria's total exports to the United Kingdom and other European countries. The Nigerian economy was dominated by the groundnut pyramids in the north, the cocoa warehouses in the west, and the palm product depots in the east. In 1901, some 66,000 tons of palm product were exported from Nigeria; by 1921, that number had risen to 272,000 tons, and by 1951, it had reached 497,000 tons. For 110,243 tons, palm oil alone cost £981,330 in 1938. In the same year, 180,136 tons of groundnuts valued at £1,305,828 and 97,000 tons of cocoa valued at £1,305,828 were exported.⁴

Groundnuts, cocoa, palm oil, palm kernels, cotton, and natural rubber have historically dominated Nigeria's agricultural sector and its export-oriented output. Increasing productivity was the hallmark of the cocoa sector between 1958 and 1986. But from 1975 to 1976, productivity started to fall to which Nigeria's export sector has not fully recovered since then. Similarly, groundnuts, a cash crop that was widely produced during the colonial era and has been a significant contributor to the nation's export economy since independence also suffered decline. By the time the Nigerian civil war ended in 1970, groundnut production had begun to decline. Following the civil war, palm oil and palm kernels both saw declines comparable to the colonial era, when they were important drivers of Nigeria's economy. The 1980s saw a stagnant growth in cotton, which had set an amazing performance record between 1960 and 1970. The following years also saw a fall in cotton growth.⁵

Table-1. Production of Principal Agricultural Commodities, 1958-1986 (Purchase by Commodity Boards in Metric Tons)⁶

Crop year	Cocoa	Groundnuts	Palm kernels	Palm oil	Cotton
1958-59	134,350	533,362	455,345	184,355	89,122
1959-60	149,001	445,520	425,863	190,243	88,538
1960-61	186,258	631,432	431,681	193,907	153,578
1961-62	194,684	699,250	438,833	176,901	84,339
1962-63	174,417	888,954	369,392	131,116	148,682
1963-64	220,415	802,662	421,321	152,002	131,949

1964-65	299,464	692,514	409,506	150,843	133,427
1965-66	185,347	997,649	458,216	167,441	129,269
1966-67	268,306	1,046,961	422,438	131,886	150,727
1967-68	239,463	692,989	221,896	32,592	80,747
1968-69	218,259	778,515	194,360	4,561	165,638
1969-70	218,970	658,289	235,719	13,895	195,371
1970-71	301,868	286,948	296,166	25,532	115,056
1971-72	256,503	307,142	309,927	31,524	110,895
1972-73	241,290	559,047	268,758	20,914	143,490
1973-74	214,394	44,039	230,450	13,864	86,110
1974-75	214,461	161,927	302,125	24,772	140,026
1975-76	217,493	100,050	278,116	6,189	70,125
1976-77	166,378	148,200	282,059	9,488	212,376
1977-78	204,419	140,000	175,320	3,215	115,029
1978-79	133,436	388	238,479	-	117,291
1979-80	159,509	18,231	230,762	912	117,399
1980-81	146,454	10,812	193,780	n.a.	80,903
1981-82	173,854	5,724	193,865	n.a.	62,513
1982-83	150,309	n.a.	197,708	1,091	56,268
1983	144,664	91	153,506	2,091	61,839
1984	124,588	-	94,173	2,376	37,887
1985	86,257	-	163,397	-	44,235
1986	39,600	-	41,694	-	30,338

As was already said, Nigeria's economy was based mostly on agriculture when the country gained its freedom. Over 60% of Nigeria's GDP, 16.1% of global cocoa commerce, 41% percent of global palm produce trade, and 30% of global groundnut exports have come from the country's agricultural sector.⁷ However, the output of these export goods decreased and the economy's reliance on the oil industry increased as a result of the sector's neglect between 1970 and 1980 owing to the oil boom.

Nigerian agricultural policies and programs from 1960 to 2020

After the independence of Nigeria in 1960, different programmes and policies were formulated and implemented to bring growth to the agricultural sector by different regimes of government that ruled Nigeria from 1960-2020. All of these programmes and policies have contributed to the growth and development of Nigeria's economy and its agriculture sector in particular. The policies would be discussed under each regime from 1960 to 2020 in a progressive manner to provide a better historical perspective.

Nnamdi Azikiwe and Tafawa Balewa (1960-1966)

Regional Agricultural Programmes (RAP)

Following Nigeria's declaration of independence on October 1, 1960, the country's agriculture policy prioritized colonial cash crops above food crops. The prior policies of surplus extraction were swiftly converted into an export-led growth model. Nigeria's 1963 Constitution stipulated that agricultural programs would be implemented by the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and the Regional Governments (RGs). 1962/63 saw the

establishment of the Regional Ministries of Agriculture. Consequently, the nation was split into three economically significant sections based on agriculture: the eastern region (oil palm), the northern region (groundnuts), and the western region (cocoa).⁸

General Yakubu Gowon's Regime. (1966-1975)

National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP)

The Federal Department of Agriculture launched the National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP), an agricultural extension program, in 1972 under General Yakubu Gowon's administration in response to the end of the Nigerian civil war and the need to address the food crisis that the country was experiencing at the time. Increased production of wheat, rice, cassava, and corn was the initiative's main objective. Following the establishment of the pilot program in the states of Anambra, Imo, Ondo, Oyo, Ogun, Benue, Plateau, and Kano, the initiative was intended to expand to additional states.⁹ The three stages of the program were called the Mass Production, Production Kit, and Mini Kit phases. The program's objectives were to train farmers in food crop production techniques, host farmer workshops and seminars, give small- and medium-sized farmers employment possibilities, promote large-scale irrigation, and promote export.¹⁰

The River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs)

To fully use the potential of Nigeria's water resources and utilize as true vehicles for comprehensive and integrated rural development with an emphasis on agriculture, the River Basin Development Authorities, often known as "the RBDAs" or "the Authorities," were

established. With participation in the Lake Chad Basin and River Niger Commissions for nations surrounding the Lake and the Niger River, the idea of developing river basins was first envisioned in 1963. Additional river basin authorities were also constituted by Decree Nos. 25 and 31 of 1976 and 1977, respectively. These include the Sokoto-Rima (for Sokoto), Hadejia-Jamare (for Kano), the Chad (for Borno), the Upper Benue (for Gongola), the Lower Benue (for Benue and Plateau), the Cross River (for Cross River), the Anambra- Imo (for Imo and Anambra), the Nigeria (for Kaduna, Niger and Kwara) the Ogun-Osun (for Oyo Ogun and Lagos), the Benin-Owena (for Bendel and Ondo) and the Niger Delta (for Rivers).¹¹

Agricultural Development Projects (ADP)

Agricultural Development Projects (ADP) were formerly known as Integrated Agricultural Development Projects (IADP). It was first established in 1974 by the World Bank, the State and Local Governments, and the Federal Government of Nigeria. ADPs at first composed of nine pilot (enclave), covering a small number of local government units in the following states: Funtua, Kaduna State (1975), Gusau, Sokoto State (1975), Gombe, old Bauchi State (1975), 14Ayangba, old Benue State (1978), Lafia, old Plateau State (1979), Bida, Niger State (1980), Ilorin, Kwara State (1980), Oyo-North, Oyo State (1981), and Ekiti-Akoko (1982). Agricultural Development Projects stressed contemporary and high-input technologies to enhance productivity by engaging in commercial agriculture.¹²

General Olusegun Obasanjo, (1976-1979)

Operation Feed the Nation (OFN)

Under the military government of General Olusegun Obasanjo, the OFN program was introduced in 1976 with the goal of increasing food production in Nigeria by integrating all people in all disciplines. Every accessible piece of land in rural, suburban, and urban regions was to be planted as part of the initiative. Additionally, the government gave government establishments free inputs and subsidies in the form of agrochemicals, fertilizers, seedlings, day-old chicks, machets, sickles, and hoes. The program's objectives were to guarantee food self-sufficiency and encourage public participation in agricultural production. Among the tactics were the creation of commodities boards, more bank lending to farmers, subsidized production inputs, and competitive prices for agricultural products. Imports, coordinated input procurement, large fertilizer subsidies, and the media were among the policy tools. Nonetheless, the majority of participants received materials at a discounted rate and had little to no experience farming. The programme covered the growing food problem, migration from rural to urban areas, and rising food import costs. In addition, the program noted an epidemic of endemic poultry diseases—specifically, New Castle Disease—caused by inadequate vaccination and quarantine practices. The initiative ran until the Green Revolution, a different government, took its place.¹³

Alhaji Shehu Shagari (1979-1983)

The Green Revolution Programme (GRP)

The OFN was replaced with the Green Revolution Programme (GRP), which was formally established by Alhaji Shehu Shagari on June 3, 1980. Ensuring that Nigeria will achieve food self-sufficiency within five years was the primary objective of the GRP. The initiative, which relied on the ministry-based extension system, made it feasible to increase public awareness of the country's food-related challenges. Through the provision of agrochemicals, better seeds and seedlings, irrigation systems, machinery, financing facilities, enhanced marketing, and advantageous pricing regulations for agricultural products, the Federal Government assisted farmers in producing food, cash crops, and cattle. Many of the program's initiatives were delayed, which contributed to its failure. Significantly funded, large-scale activities were not evaluated or monitored. The Green Revolution was seen as continuing with Operation Feed the Nation. Programs meant to produce the desired outcomes failed due to poor financial management and insufficient oversight.¹⁴

General Muhammadu Buhari (1983-1985)

Back to Land (BL)

Following the Green Revolution, the Go Back to the Land Programme of 1983 was the second effort at achieving national food self-sufficiency, carried out by the military government of Muhammadu Buhari. Refocusing on agriculture was seen as a potential way for Nigeria to right economic wrongs.¹⁵ The initiative encouraged farmers to engage in agriculture full-time in an effort to eliminate food insecurity in rural regions. Inherent

shortcomings included insufficient data, insufficient input, and technical problems might be blamed for the limited results.¹⁶

General Ibrahim Babangida (1985-1993)

Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI)

Directorate for Rural Reconstruction and Development (DFRRI) was established in Nigeria in 1986 under General Ibrahim Babangida's direction. The initiative aimed to enhance road, water, industrialization, housing, jobs, nutrition, and other aspects of rural life by making the most of available resources and promoting broad participation from rural communities. The DFRRI aimed to provide rural regions with access roads and modern infrastructure, with the potential for both short- and long-term advantages. The goals were to reduce migration from rural to urban regions, improve rural living conditions, and ensure more food at a lesser cost. However, the program's impact was virtually negligible due to the poor quality of the infrastructure—possibly as a result of corruption or poor financial management.¹⁷

Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP)

General Ibrahim Babangida led the establishment of the Structural Adjustment Program in 1986. Acknowledging that previous measures had failed to significantly improve the economy or halt the declining trend in agricultural production, the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) was put into place. To achieve its objectives of broad export diversification and structural adjustment of the economy's production and consumption

structure, the Structural Adjustment Programme primarily relied on the agriculture sector. Techniques for raising fish, food crops, cattle, forestry, wildlife, and industrial raw materials were all included in the curriculum. It also included regulations on support services like agricultural extension, technology development and transfer, etc. The distribution of agricultural revenue was more impacted by SAP than growth and productivity. Poor financial management and corruption were the main causes of the collapse.¹⁸

Better Life Programme (BLP) For Rural Women

The Better Life Programme (BLP) was established in 1987 for rural women in Nigeria by Mrs. Maryam Babangida, the wife of the country's president at the time. Raising the living conditions of rural women and educating the rest of Nigerians about their problems via inspiration and motivation were the program's goals. A spirit of self-development, particularly in the areas of business, education, the arts, crafts, and agriculture, is to be instilled. Other objectives include promoting leisure and enhancing family life, teaching people about their rights, the resources that are available to them, and their social, political, and economic obligations. The programme attracted a lot of attention and criticism, with many people thinking it would end up being little more than a fashion display. Not only that, but Muslim cultural and religious prohibitions prohibiting women from leaving the house in "purdah" also reduced participation, which led to a low level of program benefit.¹⁹

National Fadama Development Project (NFDP)

The first National Fadama Development Project (NFDP-1) was established in the early 1990s with assistance from the World Bank with the goal of promoting simple, cost-effective, and superior irrigation systems. The twelve states of Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Imo, Kaduna, Kebbi, Lagos, Niger, Ogun Oyo, and Taraba were included in the program, along with the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). NFDP employed a community driven development (CDD) approach early in the project, including a large number of stakeholders. This strategy aligned with development plans and policies that place a high value on leadership from the private sector, beneficiary participation, and poverty reduction. The land reform statute and decree included in programme were criticized for being utilized by strong authorities to take land that belonged to the poor. This served as the program's weakness.²⁰

National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA)

National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) was established in 1992. To give agricultural land users baseline data and advisory services, the authority carried out tasks including removing brush, preparing land, developing farm infrastructure, conserving soil, addressing environmental concerns, and conducting soil surveys, evaluations, and testing. The objectives of NALDA were to enhance rural living standards, encourage self-reliance for food security, encourage better use of rural resources, provide lucrative jobs, and offer strategic assistance for land development. Inadequate irrigation techniques that reduced soil production were the program's downfall.²¹

General Sani Abacha (1993-1998)

Family Support Programme (FSP)/ Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP)

The Family Emergency Assistance Programme (FEAP) was founded in 1996, while the Family Support Programme (FSP) was founded in 1994 by the late General Abacha and his wife, Mrs. Maryam Sani Abacha. One significant outcome of this initiative was the creation of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Welfare. Health, education, women's development, agriculture, child welfare, youth development, disability, poverty, income generation, and housing impoverished people through the government's continuing housing initiative were given priority in the program. The programmes were limited in their influence on women and the populace due to the dethronement of the initiating administration.²²

Chief Olusegun Obasanjo (1999-2007)

National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS)

Chief Olusegun Obasanjo founded NEEDS in 1999. The primary goals of the development plan were the abolition of poverty, the generation of wealth and jobs, and a change in values. NEEDS provided assistance to the oil and gas sector, industry, small and medium-sized enterprises, and agriculture. It also outlined many performance objectives that the government sought to fulfill by the year 2007. Among these were a 95% food self-sufficiency rate and a 6% annual increase in agricultural GDP, or US \$3 billion, from agricultural exports. Better crop types, equipment, and irrigation were given to farmers under NEEDS, helping to boost agricultural output and directly fight poverty since half of Nigeria's

impoverished population is employed in the agricultural industry. Its cooperation with the states' Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (SEEDS) would facilitate the rollout of an integrated program for rural development with the goal of lowering the number of rural-to-urban migrations. NEEDS stands out from previous reforms due to its participatory approach, which ensures ownership, sustainability, a broad scope, coordination, attractiveness, problem-solving, and accomplishment orientation. It was noted that the NEEDS/SEEDS strategy helped to build a cordial relationship between federal and state planning. The plans detailed the strategic engagement of the private sector in agriculture.²³

National, Special Programme on Food Security (NSPFS)

This program was introduced in January 2002, during the Olusegun Obasanjo administration, in all 36 states of the nation. The program's overarching goals were to end rural poverty and boost food production. NSPFS aimed to support farmers in boosting output, productivity, and income; enhancing the efficacy of training programs offered by extension services and research; teaching farmers about farm management for efficient resource utilization; and assisting governments in their efforts to promote low-tech means of self-sufficiency. The program was unable to proceed due to a number of factors, including low knowledge of credit usage, poor communication between extension agents and farmers, a lack of labour to complete necessary farming tasks, outdated storage facilities, high farm input costs, and challenges integrating technology into the current production system.²⁴

Root and Tuber Expansion Programme (RTEP)

On April 16, 2003, the Root and Tuber Expansion Programme (RTEP) was introduced under Olusegun Obasanjo's administration. It covered 26 states and was designed to address the problems of food production and rural poverty. For almost 350,000 growers, RTEP aimed to develop root and tuber in order to increase output and profitability. Its objectives were to boost economic growth, make social services more accessible to the underprivileged, and put protective intervention measures in place for populations who were vulnerable and disadvantaged. Additionally, it aimed to promote the desire for less expensive staple foods like potatoes, yams, and cassava rather than more costly carbohydrates like rice. This leads to increased food security. Due to issues with the market, lack of accountability, and inadequate preparation, the initiative failed.²⁵

Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua (2007-2010)

Seven-Point Agenda. (SPA)

After assuming office, President Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua unveiled a seven-point agenda along with two special interest areas to address the myriad issues the Nigerian economy was confronting. Power and energy, wealth development and employment, agricultural and food security, public transit, land reform, security, and efficient and high-quality education are all included under the SPA.²⁶ The administration aimed to boost agricultural productivity, resulting in sufficient food for both local use and export. SPA aimed to strengthen agribusinesses by implementing profitability and price support mechanisms, changing land tenure, developing new land, strengthening farmer support

groups, improving rural infrastructure, and reviving River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs).²⁷

Goodluck Ebele Jonathan (2010-2015)

Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA)

Seven major development areas were identified in the former president Jonathan's Transformation Agenda for the period of 2011 to 2015: manufacturing, oil and gas, solid minerals, agriculture, trade and commerce, tourism, and culture. The decision was driven by various challenges, including low levels of productivity, low investment from the private sector, non-competitiveness, insufficient funding, a shortage of skilled labor, low investment in research and development, poor value chain development, unfavorable regulatory environment, subpar goods and services, inadequate physical infrastructure, and policy constraints.²⁸ The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development created an agenda for agricultural transformation and implemented it in support of Goodluck Jonathan's Transformation Agenda. The main goals were to guarantee food security, reduce the amount of foreign currency spent on food imports, generate foreign exchange, and diversify the economy. ATA focused on important policy changes to reduce corruption in the seed and fertilizer industries, improve the effectiveness of using market institutions, establish processing zones for staple crops to attract private investment and reduce post-harvest losses, increase the value of locally grown goods, and encourage rural economic growth. Corruption, financial theft, a lack of openness, Islamic rebellion, disputes between farmers and herders, a lack of preparation, oversight and assessment etc., hampered this program's actualization.²⁹

Alhaji Muhammadu Buhari (2015-2020)

Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA). Adopted from Goodluck Jonathan³⁰

The previous administration's agricultural transformation initiative, which subsidized the cost of crucial agricultural inputs for farmers, including as fertilizer and seedlings, was overseen and carried out by President Muhammadu Buhari's administration. Building domestic value chains for commodities like rice, wheat, maize, and soya beans; expanding agricultural export markets for goods like cocoa, cassava, oil palm, and sesame; creating a more favorable environment for agricultural development through improved infrastructure, more transparent policymaking, and improved intergovernmental relations; and offering farmers better inputs, equipment, and training to boost yields were all part of President Buhari's ATA continuation policy.³¹

Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP)

President Buhari also unveiled the Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) on November 17, 2015, with the goal of lifting thousands of small farmers out of poverty and providing millions of employments for jobless Nigerians. This initiative's primary objective is to reduce, if not totally eradicate, poverty among Nigerians. By using oil profits to promote and expand the agricultural sector, Buhari's agricultural policies are largely aimed at diversifying the economy away from the oil industry and toward agriculture. Millions of jobs would be available to the jobless as a result, and thousands of small farmers would be able to escape poverty.³²

The Agriculture Promotion Policy (2016 – 2020)

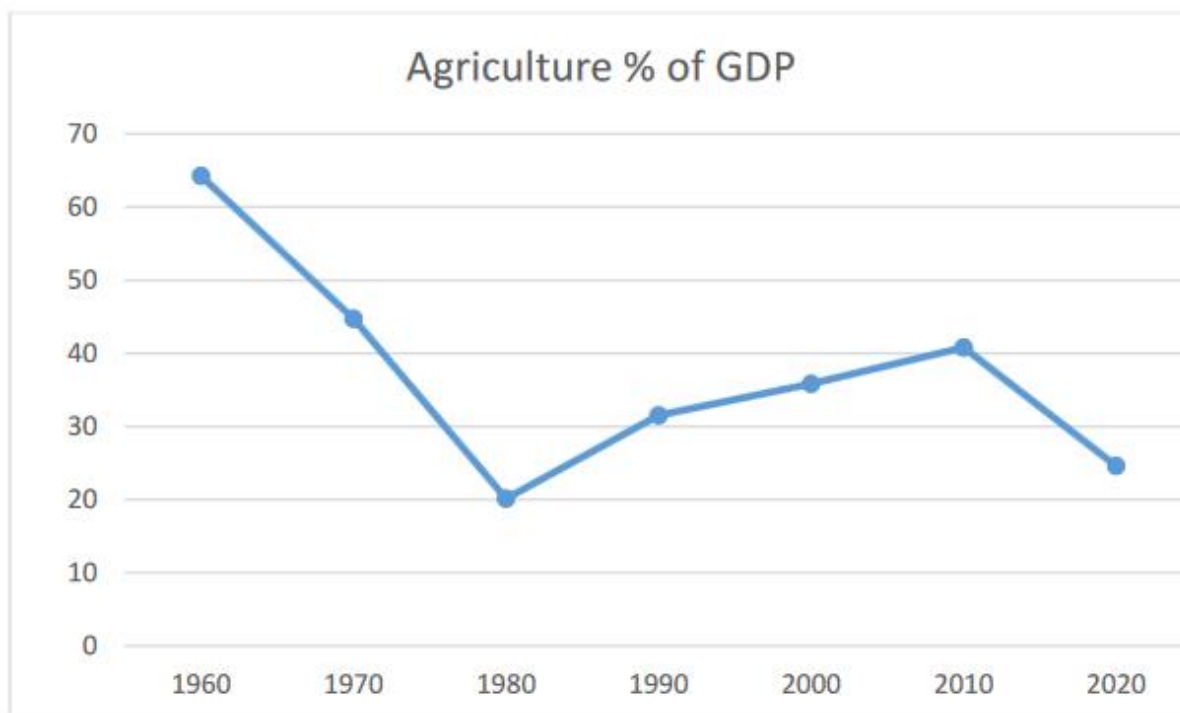
A new Agriculture Promotion Policy was put into place by President Muhammadu Buhari to combat hunger and malnutrition in Nigeria. Eliminating numerous restrictions that hindered Nigeria's agricultural output was the main objective of the policy. The incapacity of the agriculture sector to supply high-quality output for the export market and to fulfil the demand for food locally were recognized as the two main shortcomings in the new strategy. The strategy to set Nigeria's agricultural industry up for long-term growth heavily relied on these gaps. The goal of the programme was to hasten Nigeria's agricultural development and help it realize its full potential. Increasing agricultural output, expanding, and enhancing high-quality exports, and guaranteeing that farmers at all levels have access to essential infrastructure and farming supplies were all goals on the agenda.³³

Growth trends in agriculture under period of the mentioned policy regimes

Each of these projects for rural and agricultural development had an impact on the level of agricultural production in Nigeria. The below Figure 1 shows that from 1960 to 1970, the total percentage of agriculture's contribution to Nigeria's GDP decreased steadily. Nevertheless, despite the apparent downward trend, Nigeria's agricultural sector contributed significantly to the GDP of the nation, especially in the early 1960s when it surpassed 60% and established its dominance over other sectors. Nigeria's agriculture sector generally declined between 1960 and 1980. Basically, the steep drop was noted between 1970 and 1980. However, given the widespread commercial exploitation of oil resources, which skewed the trend away from agriculture and allied sectors, the tendency that was demonstrated during

this time was not surprising. The oil boom, in contrast to predictions, had the opposite effect on agriculture, especially when it came to rural development. The overall economic output of agriculture saw a sharp decline simultaneously with the oil boom.

Figure 1. Agricultural contribution to Real Gross Domestic Product (1960-2020)³⁴



After the civil war, government and regimes prioritized agricultural development due to the economic hardship food shortages caused by the war. A growing tendency began in 1986, which was possibly brought about by the rolling out of national policy documents on agriculture that included the likes of the structural adjustment program.. This led to the

adoption of several strategies and policies with the goal of producing large amounts of agricultural produce for Nigeria's economic growth and food self-sufficiency. The majority of Nigeria's agricultural programs between 1960 and 2020 were designed to give small-scale farmers access to high-yielding seed types, tractors, fertilizer, pesticides, and other farming supplies at discounted costs. This largely defines and illustrated how growth and development in the agricultural sector not only bring about economic growth (increase in GDP) but reaches the common and bring about an increase in the living standard of the people.

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CHAPTER THREE

THE CONTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA (1960 -2020)

Introduction

Nigeria is a developing nation with a predominately rural and agricultural economy. Small-scale farmers use conventional farming techniques to continue farming. While the majority is situated in rural areas, the less live-in metropolitan centres. Despite the conventional means of farming, before the oil boom of the 1970s, Nigeria's GDP was mostly reliant on the agricultural sector. Moreover, in the 1960s, Nigerian subsistence farmers produced 70% of the country's exports and 95% of the food in the nation, in spite of traditional agricultural methods.¹ In an agrarian economy, agriculture is the hub of economic activity and a major force behind the growth and development of the national economy. Since most the world's present civilized economies were founded on agriculture, it is no coincidence that agriculture serves as the foundation of many economies worldwide. Due to its widespread ability to create jobs, particularly in rural areas, agriculture has been and continues to be the most significant economic sector in Nigeria. However, agriculture in Nigeria has not been the same way it used to be after the oil boom of 1970s. This is reflected in the sharp decline of national budgetary allocation to the sector, with more focus on the oil sector due to its revenue generation. However, agriculture remains a crucial sector that drives industrialization and economic development of a country and can reduce unemployment, hunger, and poverty.

The Concept of Economic Growth and Economic Development

In addition to boosting economic growth, reducing inequality, and eradicating poverty, development is seen as a complex process that entails considerable alterations to social structures, national institutions, and popular beliefs. Agriculture's significance in economic development has therefore been highlighted by core concepts in development economics. The main source of resources that may be exploited for industrialization is usually agriculture, especially for countries like Nigeria who want to become industrialized. Increased agricultural production and output so often make a significant contribution to the nation's overall economic development.

Given that various people may interpret the term "development" differently, it is imperative that the study provide a core definition or a general perspective on it. According to Yusuf,² many people have the incorrect impression that this concept directly means economic growth. This idea goes beyond a steady rise in per capital income. According to him, we can only declare there has been economic development if there is a consistent increase in per capita income that results in positive societal improvements and higher human functioning and potential.³

According to Mladen Ivic,⁴ in contrast to economic growth, which is defined as a country's continuous increase in output or primary quantitative indicator of production for a year (GDP), economic development is the qualitative and quantitative transformation of the country's economic situation (e.g., shifting the economic structure, formation of new

businesses and sectors, creation of new jobs, etc.).⁵ As a result, all of human wants are better and more fully satisfied.

According to Amaka Metu,⁶ Economic development cannot be measured with the same precision as GDP. The process of increasing real per capita income and bringing about major positive improvements in a number of economic areas is known as economic development. Positive changes raise people's level of life steadily and enhance their general well-being. Along with general advances in many different areas of economic activity, economic development brings about structural changes in a number of the economy's sectors. Therefore, an increase in the quality of life of the populace—which must include a healthier environment, a higher standard of living, better nutrition and education, equal opportunities, and so forth—is usually indicative of a nation's economic progress. Therefore, the process by which an economy moves from an unsatisfactory condition to one that is spiritually and monetarily rewarding can be referred to as economic development.⁷

For economic development, improving the majority's standard of living is inevitably necessary to combat poverty and enhance population well-being overall. The success of the agricultural sector plays a crucial role in this regard. However, without a record of economic growth, sustained economic development cannot be achieved. Development and growth go hand in hand since they are mutually dependent. They are recurring processes that take place in turns because none of them can exist or function without the help of the other. Economic development is defined as the good effects that a

country's positive economic adjustments have on its citizens, whereas economic growth is defined as the positive adjustments of a nation's economy. Economic development remains 'high sought after' for many economies of the world.

Without agriculture, a nation would always be dependent on other nations to feed its people. Development economists have long debated the possible role of agriculture in a country's economy, with some arguing that economic growth and development cannot occur until the agricultural sector is advanced. The agricultural sector plays a significant role in the growth of national production because of its influence on rural incomes and capacity to provide resources for the shift to an industrialized economy. According to Yusuf,⁸ the role of agriculture in the economic development of a nation would include food contribution role, promotion of industrialization, foreign exchange role, capital accumulation for the state, employment generation and the socio-economic advancement of the people. Nonetheless, given that economic development cannot exist without growth—as many authors have noted—this study will start by giving an account on the GDP contribution of Nigeria's agricultural sector as a key measure of economic growth. From there, it will measure the agricultural sector's contributions to food production, capital accumulation for the government, and employment creation as indices of economic development from 1960 to 2020.

The contribution of agriculture to Nigeria's GDP from 1960-2020

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the market value of all finished goods and services produced in a nation's borders each year, and it serves as a fundamental indicator of that nation's economic performance.⁹ It is a crucial indicator of productivity and strongly linked with living standards. According to Anyawu and Adesope,¹⁰ there are three conceptually equivalent ways to define GDP. First, it is the total of all expenses expended for all completed products and services produced in the country during a defined period (usually a year). Second, it is the overall value added throughout the course of the time, which considers all of a country's industries' value added at each stage of the production process as well as taxes less product subsidies. As per the third definition, it is synonymous with the total amount of money obtained from domestic output during the relevant time, which comprises employee compensation, production and import taxes minus subsidies, and gross operational surplus (or profits). One of the main metrics for assessing the state of an economy is its gross domestic product (GDP). It can be utilized to improve rural residents' lives because it has a favourable correlation with living standards. It stands for the entire monetary value of all products and services generated during a given time frame. It is comparable to the size of the economy. GDP is categorized as real, nominal, or current. Nominal GDP is the output of goods and services valued at current prices; current GDP is GDP stated in current prices of the time being examined. Conversely, real GDP is the output of goods and services valued at a fixed price, meaning that it is unaffected by fluctuations in the value of money.¹¹

The following sectors comprise Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP): Agriculture, Industry, Building and Construction, Wholesale and Retail Trade, and Services.¹² The largest contributor to the GDP between 1960 and 1964 was the agricultural sector (61%), which was followed by the services sector (13.6%), wholesale and retail trade (12.6%), industry (7.6%), and building and construction (4.4%).¹³ Agriculture (35.1%) and industry (27.6%) continued to lead from 1970 and 1974. Nigeria's GDP was dominated by the agricultural sector from 1960 to 1989 and by the industrial sector from 1990 to 2008, as the figure below illustrates. The latter development was triggered by the crude petroleum sub-sector's contribution to the output of the Industrial sector to the GDP. Between 1960 and 2008, industry contributed the most to GDP, at 40%, followed by the agricultural sector, which contributed 34%.

Figure 1: Analysis of Nigerian Gross Domestic Product (1960-2008).¹⁴

Period Covered	Total Periodic GDP	Agriculture		Industry		Building & Construction		Wholesale & Ret. Trade		Services	
		Periodic GDP	% of Total	Periodic GDP	% of Total	Periodic GDP	% of Total	Periodic GDP	% of Total	Periodic GDP	% of Total
1960-64	12842	7829.7	61	974.4	7.6	568.6	4.4	1616.6	12.6	1752.1	13.6
1965-69	15442.9	8201.3	53.1	1868.8	12.1	836.3	5.4	1997.3	12.9	2539.2	16.4
1970-74	46571	16342	35.1	12834.4	27.6	3457.4	7.4	6542.4	14.0	6893	14.8
1975-79	156166.1	37643.2	24.1	50369.4	32.2	13680.9	8.8	32349	20.7	23123.3	14.8
1980-84	259051.2	82133.9	31.7	78469.6	30.3	13094.2	5.0	39598.9	15.3	45754.7	17.7
1985-89	598161.2	221354.3	37.0	199893.6	33.4	11948.5	2.0	86609.5	14.5	78355.5	13.1
1990-94	2696037	908111.5	33.7	1092843	40.5	33704.5	1.2	399169.6	14.8	262207.9	9.7
1995-99	13340350	4600090	34.5	5444608	40.8	101007.6	0.7	1953461	14.6	1241182	9.3
2000-04	36115683	13673208	37.8	13923902	38.5	344317.3	9.5	4349191	12.0	3827075	10.6
2005-08	114000000	38504069	33.8	45534242	39.9	1369480	1.2	15492191	13.6	12854033	11.3

Figure 1 outlines the sectors that contributed to the overall production of the Nigerian economy from 1981 to 2011. This data indicates that, despite its declining performance, agriculture continued to be the sector with the greatest GDP contribution, contributing nothing less than a fifth quarter of the nation’s productivity for a four year series from 1960 to 2008.

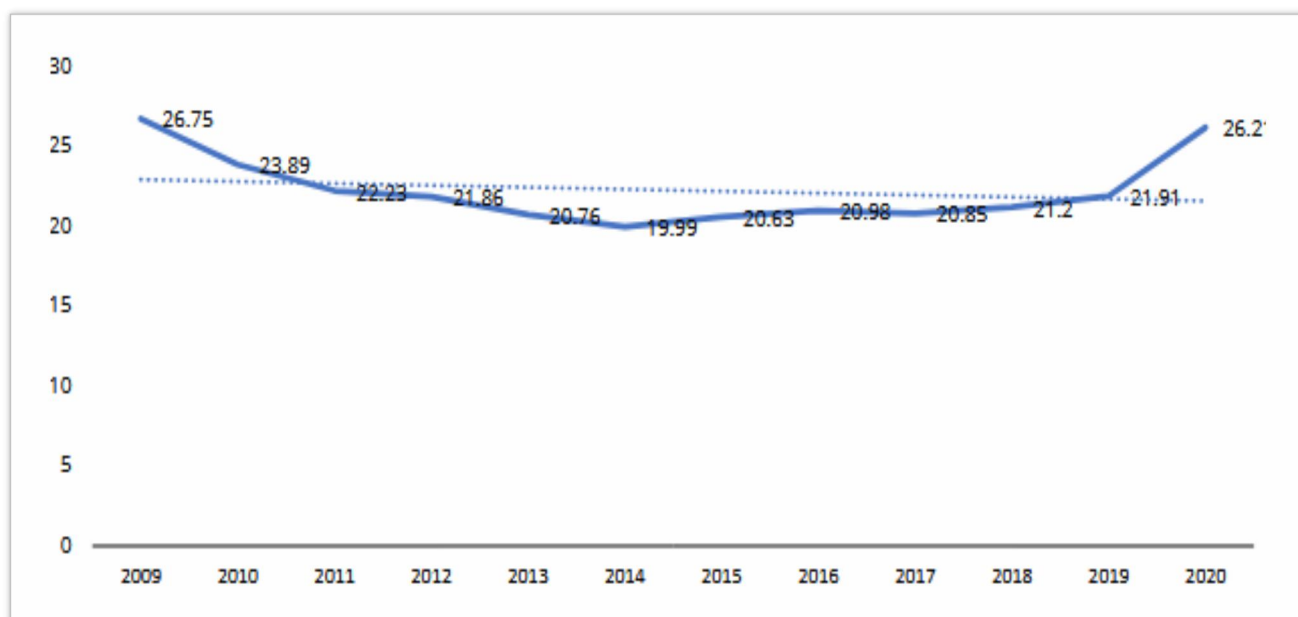
Figure 2: Average sectoral GDP contribution for a five-year period.¹⁵

Year	Agriculture (%)	Manufacturing (%0	Oil (%)	Services (%)		
				Private	Government	Total
1981 - 1985	37.2	9.2	14.9	27.2	11.5	38.7
1986 - 1990	41.0	8.3	13.3	29.7	7.8	37.5
1991 - 1995	38.3	7.5	13.3	31.3	9.6	40.9
1996 - 2000	40.0	6.3	11.9	32.0	9.8	41.8
2001 - 2005	42.4	8.1	13.5	21.4	11.9	36.0
2006 - 2011	41.7	6.2	18.2	29.6	4.3	33.9
Average	40.1	7.6	14.2	28.5	9.2	37.7

Figure 2 shows that, from 1960 to 2011, the agriculture sector contributed the most to the GDP, followed closely by the services sector with a combined average contribution of 37.7%, of which the private sector accounted for the majority. With an average contribution of 14.2%, the petroleum sector—which produces most the country's foreign exchange profits and governmental revenue—ranked third. This however shows that agriculture has the

potential for economic development and that with more effort, the sector can significantly reduce poverty in Nigeria

Figure 3: GDP Contribution of Agricultural Sector from 2009 – 2020.¹⁶



During the COVID-19 pandemic, which severely damaged most Nigeria's economic sectors, the sector's resiliency as a significant contributor to the economy was evident. If not for additional obstacles including the lockdown effect, climate change, conflicts with herders in some farm belt areas, and delayed repayment responsibilities with the Anchors borrower's

program, the sector might have experienced more robust growth. Despite its setback due to the focus on crude oil, Nigeria's agriculture sector continues to be the strongest, accounting for nothing less than 20 percent of the nation's GDP annually. In 2020, the yearly contribution was 26.21 percent with crop production continued as the main engine of the sector, accounting for 91.44 percent of the sector's 2020 share.¹⁷

The contributions of agriculture to food security in Nigeria from 1960 to 2020

No nation has ever developed historically without first establishing its agricultural sector in terms of food security. In any nation, achieving food security serves as a safeguard against the hunger, malnourishment, poverty, and unemployment that impede economic growth.¹⁸ When the majority of a country's population always has access to enough food in sufficient amounts and of a quality that enables people to have fulfilling lives, that country is said to be food secure. Since the 1980s, research has shown that achieving food security necessitates focusing on two factors: the demand side, where food must be suitable, safe, and nutrient-rich, and can be met through commercial imports, agricultural production, or food aid.¹⁹

Regardless of the expanding population, food is necessary for all humans to survive—not simply for energy. As a result, the importance of food security for life cannot be overstated. Before oil was discovered, the country's economy and foreign exchange came primarily from agriculture. But after oil was discovered, the economy saw a steady decline in agricultural output as a result of the government paying less attention, which exacerbated the

problem of food insecurity. Food insecurity has become a serious public policy issue in Nigeria due to its direct impact on the rise of social vices and poverty in the country.. Nonetheless, this resulted from the federal government's long-standing apathy for agriculture as the foundation of the national economy. However, if handled well, Nigeria's agricultural sector has great potential to boost farmer income development, improve food and nutritional security, and advance the country to the forefront of the global food markets.

According to Idrisa et al,²⁰ in its widest sense, food security refers to the ability to consistently fulfil growing consumer demand for food and food products while limiting variations in output and price. Food security, according to FAO,²¹ is the state in which all people have physical, social, and economic access to an adequate supply of nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life. To Ladele and Ayoola,²² food production level determines food security, hence a high level of output equates to food security while to Oriola,²³ producing enough food, in both quantity and quality, for every citizen is the definition of food security.

Nigeria has the potential to be the most productive country in the world when it comes to crops, cattle, forests, fisheries, and wildlife. Still, there is a serious problem with Nigeria's food crisis. Nigeria did not experience food insecurity in the 1940s and early 1950s. While meeting the requirements of the people, the system was able to export the excess food. With each region of the country concentrating on growing one or two primary crops, either food or cash crops, the country was mostly self-sufficient in food production. Nigeria had

rubber plantations in the centre, groundnut pyramids in the north, cocoa plantations in the west, and heaps of oil palm and kernels in the east. However, once oil was found in 1956 and oil exports started in 1958, things started to gradually shift. Like in numerous other nations throughout the world, the decline is causing rising food costs, especially for staple commodities, to have a negative impact on the economy of the nation.

The price of rice has increased by over 100% since 2006. It is important to note that Nigeria needs 2.5 million metric tons of rice annually, yet the local output is less than half that amount. These figures demonstrate how short of the grain Nigeria is, requiring it to purchase two million tons of rice from neighbouring countries. An estimated six million tons of wheat were imported by Nigeria for \$2 billion, 750 million tons of rice, \$700 million worth of sugar, and \$500 million worth of milk and other dairy goods. Nigeria's food supply has continuously fallen short of demand, resulting in shortages that were made up for by imports or hunger. Food output in the nation climbed from 89.25 million metric tons to 103.86 million metric tons between 1994 and 2001, while food demands increased from 87.23 million metric tons to 110.37 million metric tons over that same period. Nigeria spent N98 trillion (\$628 billion) on food imports between 2007 and 2010, or N24 trillion per year. Report also showed that Nigeria's 2010 food expenditures were N632 billion for wheat, N356 billion for rice, N217 billion for sugar, and N97 billion for fish.²⁴

Figure 4: Food supply and demand (1994 -2001 million mt.).²⁵

DESCRIPTION / YEAR	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Production	86.70	89.25	93.35	95.04	98.74	11.41	102.12	103.96
Food Demand	87.23	89.55	96.26	99.03	10.87	101.87	107.46	110.39
Deficit / surplus	(0.53)	(0.30)	(2.91)	(3.43)	(3.13)	(1.46)	(5.46)	(6.51)

Nigeria primarily grows ten main staple crops: beans, yam, plantains, sorghum, rice, cassava, groundnuts, maize, cocoyam's, and millet. Below data (figure 5) indicates that among these staple crops, yam and cassava had the highest volume. Data (figure 6) indicate that although many crops, including certain tree crops, achieved annual output increases, their aggregates were insufficient to meet annual demands due to population growth.

Figure 5: Output of major agricultural crops (million mt) 1994-2000.²⁶

Crop	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Cassava	31.00	3.40	32.95	33.51	34.90	35.98	36.75
Yam	23.15	22.81	23.92	24.71	25.10	26.00	26.42
Maize	6.90	6.93	6.21	6.28	6.43	6.51	6.49
Millet	4.75	5.56	5.58	5.99	6.32	6.42	9.74
Rice	2.42	3.20	3.12	3.23	3.48	3.52	3.84
Beans	1.54	1.75	1.84	1.95	2.05	2.10	2.26
Groundnut	1.45	1.57	2.07	2.10	2.22	2.30	2.39
Plantain	1.66	1.63	1.68	1.75	1.80	1.84	1.99
Cocoyam	1.12	1.18	1.29	1.38	1.45	1.49	1.59
Sorghum	0.19	6.99	7.51	7.95	8.40	8.50	8.82
Palm oil	0.83	0.68	0.77	0.78	0.79	0.82	0.86
Cocoa	0.32	0.20	0.32	0.32	0.34	0.16	0.17
Rubber	0.23	0.25	0.24	0.25	0.25	0.26	0.27

Figure 6: Population and Output of major Agricultural Commodities (2000-2012).²⁷

Year	Population (000)	Output (000 tons)
2000	123,337.8	117,876.0
2001	126,635.6	103,635.0
2002	129,934.9	107,572.5
2003	133,881.7	115,304.1
2004	137,253.1	125,084.9
2005	128,772.0	121,173.5
2006	131,859.7	130,574.5
2007	135,031.2	139,315.1
2008	146,255.3	149,442.2
2009	149,229.1	158,679.3
2010	155,215.6	167,795.6
2011	155,215.6	143,273.3
2012	170,123.7	152,700.6

Because of these shortfalls, Nigerians' nutritional demands might not be satisfied. As a result, the worrisome rate at which food is imported will continue to rise. These food commodities become too expensive for the public to afford when the cost of importation rises. The amount of foreign exchange required for purchases rises with increasing imports and eventually become expensive to purchase, notwithstanding the country's population growth. As a result, there is either insufficient food produced to sustain the surplus population, or it is too expensive for them to purchase.

Nigeria has a huge landmass suitable for farming. That the nation's previous food production methods, instituted by the colonial masters, have deteriorated to the point where food shortages are now filled through food imports, is unpleasant. However, the instability

posed by both Fulani and Boko Haram herdsmen has been the biggest danger to the agricultural sector's ability to contribute to food security in Nigeria. Agricultural activity in north-eastern Nigeria have suffered as a result of Boko Haram's persistent terrorist actions. In addition to making farming activities impossible in an unstable environment, farming communities are uprooted, access to the regional market is restricted, and domestic agricultural output is suppressed.

The sector, which is the only one in Nigeria concerned with food production and security, has been falling short in its contributions to food security because of issues like the federal government's focus on oil and the insecurity caused by terrorist organizations in the nation. This has resulted in a worsening impact on Nigeria's poverty rate and the country's ability to feed its citizens. The nation's economic development has also suffered as a result of this.

The contribution of agriculture to revenue accumulation and employment generation in Nigeria from 1960 to 2020

It is believed that Nigeria's agriculture sector is essential to establishing the foundation for the country's economic development. In support to this perspective, agriculture in the 1960s constituted the primary contributor to Nigeria's economy. However, due to the oil boom of the 1970s and the neglect of the sector that followed, the agriculture sector's contribution to the Nigerian economy has decreased since the 1970s.

The general consensus is that unemployment is a major danger to global economic development. This problem has been present in both industrialized and developing countries in varied degrees in recent years, with the latter suffering the most. The unemployment rate in Nigeria has been shown to be one of the primary causes of poverty in the nation. Since World War II, the notion of poverty has been expressed in monetary terms. The whole population that falls below a given income/consumption criterion, sometimes known as the "poverty line," is considered to be poor. NBS reports that while Nigeria's economy is expected to develop, poverty is anticipated to worsen as the wealth gap continues to widen.²⁸ From 2004 to 2010, Nigeria's poverty rate had climbed from 54.4 percent to 69 percent, affecting 112,518,507 Nigerians, and although the country's Gross Domestic Growth (GDP) had expanded since then, it had little influence on the poverty condition.²⁹

Before the country gained its independence, the agriculture sector's share of the GDP was greater than that of all other economic sectors. When political independence was achieved in 1960, the contribution remained mostly unchanged. In 1964–1965, agriculture employed 70% of the adult work force and produced 55% of the GDP.³⁰ The main source of income for the federal and state governments in 1970 was from export product and sales taxes on agricultural export commodities including cotton, rubber, palm oil, groundnut, cocoa, and so forth. These products also accounted for an average of 65-75% of Nigeria's foreign exchange revenues.³¹ But after the Nigerian Civil War (1967–1970), there was an oil boom that led to extensive drilling and the export of petroleum and its by-products. Since then, oil has accounted for over 97% of export revenues and 80% of federal revenue, forcing Nigeria

to abandon its thriving light industrial and agricultural sectors in favour of excessive reliance on it.³²

Nigeria has experienced severe unemployment, especially when the country's economy collapsed in 1980 as a result of a reduction in world oil prices. The decrease in agricultural productivity has led to disastrous consequences, including a spike in the jobless rate, a food insecurity, corruption, and a weak work ethic. From 4.3 percent in 1970 to 6.4 percent in 1980, the national unemployment rate increased.³³ Nigeria's economic downturn in the late 1970s played a significant role in the country's high unemployment rate in 1980. Specifically, the downturn in the economy led to the implementation of stabilizing policies like export prohibitions, which compelled many Nigerian manufacturing firms to work below their nominal capacity and rendered most of them import-dependent. Before rising to 7% in 1987, it varied between 6%.³⁴ The Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), which was implemented in 1986, was likely responsible for the unemployment rate's improvement from 7% in 1987 to 1.9% in 1995. From there, it rose to 2.8% in 1996 and 13.1% in 2000.³⁵ The unemployment rate increased from 13.1% in 2000 to 14.8% in 2003, according to data from the CBN. Nonetheless, it fell to 11.9 percent in 2005 and 10.6 percent in 2012, respectively. In 2013 and 2014, respectively, the unemployment rate fell to 10.0% and 7.8%.³⁶ The yearly unemployment rate was 14.2 percent in 2016, the year the nation entered a recession.³⁷ The number of unemployed youth rose to 17.6 million in the second quarter of 2016, accounting for almost 22% of the labour force.³⁸ In the second quarter of 2020, the National Bureau of Statistics reported that the unemployment rate in Nigeria had increased to 27.1%, as reported

by Premium Times,³⁹ compared to the third quarter of 2018, when the rate was 23.1%, the rate increased.

In assessing the level of development in Nigeria's economy, one of its key indicators, the unemployment rate, has been a major issue. The nation's economy underwent a substantial structural change in the 1970s with the advent of petroleum oil production, which in turn brought about an expansion of the country's wealth and a new political-economic paradigm. The agricultural sector experienced the most significant effects of Nigeria's "oil boom" compared to other sectors. Prior to the discovery of crude oil in Nigeria, the country's economy was mostly driven by agriculture. Although during the first ten years of its political independence, Nigeria had managed to produce enough essential foods to sustain itself. But by 1980 and beyond, Nigeria had become the continent's biggest importer of food.⁴⁰ By the mid-1970s, food production had all but collapsed, food imports had skyrocketed at a rate of 700%, and real food output per person fell by 1.5% yearly between 1970 and 1978, according to Watts and Bassett.⁴¹ There was a discernible decline in the share of overall expenditures and investments allocated to agriculture between 1971 and 1981. The agricultural sector had been the main driver of Nigeria's export economy until the 1970s, when it began to decline as a percentage of overall exports. The decline reached a record-low level of 2.6 in 1980, as seen in Figure 7.

Figure 7. Agriculture's share of Nigeria's export revenue (1970-1980).⁴²

Year	Total export (in million Naira)	Major agricultural export value (in million Naira)	% of total agricultural export value (in million Naira)
1970	885.4	265.2	30.2
1971	1,293.4	244.8	19.0
1972	1,434.2	172.0	12.0
1973	2,278.4	250.1	10.0
1974	5,749.8	276.0	4.7
1975	4,925.5	230.6	4.7
1976	6,709.8	274.2	4.1
1977	7,630.7	437.7	5.7
1978	6,064.4	444.2	7.3
1979	10,836.8	495.6	4.6
1980	14,077.0	365.5	2.6

Between 1960 and the beginning of the 1970s, the Nigerian economy was mostly dependent on agriculture for its earnings with other sources of income seen as secondary. Oil has dominated Nigeria's income structure since the 1973–1974 oil boom, and its percentage of federally collected revenue increased from 26.3% in 1970 to 81.8, 72.6, and 76.3 in 1979, 1989, and 1999, respectively.⁴³

Figure 8: Revenue structure of the federal government, 1970–2001.⁴⁴

Year	Oil revenue		Non-oil revenue		Total
	N billion	% Share of total	N billion	% Share of total	N billion
1970	0.17	26.98	0.47	73.02	0.63
1980	12.35	81.09	2.88	18.91	15.23
1990	71.89	73.28	26.21	23.71	98.10
1997	416.81	70.51	174.34	29.49	591.15
1998	324.43	68.30	150.73	31.70	475.04
1999	724.42	76.32	224.76	23.68	949.19
2000	1,591.70	83.47	314.48	16.53	1,906.16
2001	1,707.56	76.52	523.97	23.48	2,231.53

The enormous income from oil revenue was made possible by events beyond a nation's control and sometimes referred to as the "oil price shock," particularly starting with the 1973 to 1974 fiscal year. The boom in oil, which lasted from 1973 until the early 1980s, increased per capita income, improved trade conditions, and—most importantly—caused white collar occupations to migrate from rural to urban regions, which had a negative effect on employment created by the agricultural sector.

Figure 9: Percentage Employment in agricultural sector from 2008 to 2009.⁴⁵

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number Employed	43.0	42.2	41.4	40.6	39.5	38.3	37.5	36.9	36.6	36.1	35.6	35.1

Figure 9 illustrates a declining trend in employment in agriculture. Between 2008 and 2019, the sector's employment fell from 43.0% to 35.1%. It is important to note that the agricultural sector has historically contributed to sustained economic growth and development, which raises the possibility that agricultural development could lower unemployment. Furthermore, the agricultural sector has shown in time past that it has the potential to employ a sizable portion of Nigerians who are unemployed, much as it did in the 1960s when primary focus on the sector enhanced the nation's food sufficiency, generated employment mostly in the rural areas (reaching the common) and produced foreign revenues through export.

The trend of rural-urban drift commenced after the nation's oil wealth was mostly utilized to expand metropolitan centres which caused an attraction to the youths to these areas in pursuit of work. This increased their prospects of reaping benefits from the oil wealth of the country and caused several socio-economic and environmental effects. However, from the early 1970s onward, as petroleum oil resources began to dictate Nigeria's economic growth, agrarian-led rural development plans were perverted. Government funding for the agricultural sector continued, but in reality, these investments yielded no significant returns because public infrastructure funds were being diverted from rural to urban areas, creating an unintended consequence known as "rural-urban drift." As a result of this, the agricultural sector—which could have contributed to economic growth, development, and self-sufficiency by generating jobs and fostering community development—saw a decline in productivity and the loss of labour force.

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CHAPTER FOUR

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Summary

This project work discusses the contribution of agriculture to economic development and is organized into four chapters, each with a title and a full analysis of what the sector has done to the Nigerian economy in terms of development.

The first chapter, which serves as the study's background, begins with a brief introduction on the concept of economic development with an emphasis on agriculture. The introduction summarizes the agreement that the agricultural sector in Nigeria contributed significantly to economic development from the early 1960s to the 1970s. However, the arrival of oil in the world market has demoted agriculture's status in the Nigerian economy. The chapter goes on to describe the aim and objectives of the study, the scope of the study in terms of what the study will cover, and a review of the previous work of scholars connected to the topic. The literature review acknowledges their contributions while also outlining areas where they fall short of providing a comprehensive appraisal of the work. Additionally, the chapter also gives the respective chapters of this work in a titled form and a summarized form.

Chapter two, titled "An Overview of Nigeria's Agricultural Sector from 1960 to 2020," began with an introduction that briefly explained the concept of agriculture. It continued by examining Nigeria's agriculture sector from 1960 to 2020. This chapter also provides an outline of previous agricultural projects and policies implemented by the several

regimes that ruled Nigeria from 1960 to 2020. This chapter concludes with an analysis of what these policies resulted in for the sector and the economy in general.

Chapter three began with a brief introduction and then moved to analyse the concept of economic development and growth. This analysis revealed that economic development cannot occur without economic growth, which also implies that we cannot discuss economic development without first establishing a foundation of economic growth. To discuss agriculture's role to economic development in Nigeria, one must first consider how it has contributed to economic growth in Nigeria, as measured by its annual contribution to the nation's GDP. The chapter then moves further to examine the sector's contribution to Nigerian economic development using indices such as food security, government income generation, and job creation. However, findings indicate that the sector has been lagging behind in its contribution to economic development in Nigeria as a result of major issues such as the attention of the government and masses to oil and white-collar jobs and issues of insecurity from terrorist groups such as the Fulani herdsmen and the Boko haram terrorist group.

A synopsis of each chapter and a conclusion to the research topic are provided in chapter four, which is the summary and conclusion.

Conclusion

Every country has had both prosperous and difficult periods in its history. However, it seems that Nigeria has been going through difficult times for a lot longer than pleasant ones.

After examining the economic history of the nation, it becomes simple to understand why Nigeria's prosperity in the 1970s was short-lived. Many claim that because the British wanted a source for raw material and a market for goods made in Britain, their colonial economic policies underdeveloped the country by encouraging the importation of finished goods and failed to provide a strong basis for economic development in Nigeria. All things considered, nonetheless, the economy of the country was not as out of control when the Nigerian government assumed power at independence. At independence, the economy of Nigeria required a purposeful and intentional shift from an externally dependent colonial economic framework to a domestically focused economy as soon as it gained independence. But however, our leaders' extravagant lifestyle, which was made possible by the unmatched wealth from the export of petroleum products, led to a loss of interest in agriculture though several agricultural policies were formulated by succeeding administrations. A substantial amount of the rural labour force, made up primarily of able-bodied men and women who worked primarily in agriculture, moved to the cities as a result of the concentration of heavy infrastructures and foreign industries in the cities, which offered higher wages and required more labour for their operations. This further widened the gap between the quality of life in the city and the rural communities, which had also been abandoned in terms of infrastructure development. The agricultural sector has been a major contributor to the Nigerian economy, particularly in terms of employment generation and national output, until recently, when oil became a major source of national revenue. This is important to note given that the country's economy has historically been primarily based on agriculture. Despite Nigeria's immense

agricultural potential, the country has lost its place in the world community as a significant player in agriculture. Despite Nigeria's immense agricultural potential, the country has lost its place in the world community as a significant player in agriculture. The country's economy has suffered greatly as a result of the neglect of the agriculture sector and virtually complete reliance on oil exports. Retrospectively, as of 1929, the sector contributed above average to total GDP, with oil palm accounting for roughly 85% of this proportion. Agriculture contributed to Nigeria's external profits through export production and sales, both during and after colonialism. However, the situation changed as of the late 1950s, when oil was discovered and continues to be dug to replace the position agriculture had occupied for a long time. Today, Malaysia and Indonesia have taken the lead using oil palm seedlings acquired from Nigeria. Malaysia currently makes \$18 billion from the export of just palm oil. Despite its decline, the agriculture sector generated more than 20% of Nigeria's GDP from 1960 to 2020 and continues to do so. The age-old argument for agriculture in economic growth for economic development is not deceptive. This study's contributions are however not one sided in terms of positiveness or opposition. Based on the study's historical research, the findings show that Nigeria's agricultural sector is important for the nation's economic development.

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