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Keywords: Agriculture, production challenges, livelihood, national development Food is central to man's development and its production at sustainable level must therefore be the pre-occupation of Governments in all nations. In Nigeria, several attempts have been made to address food and nutrition insecurity through such programmes like the National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Green Revolution and the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) among others. The authors observed that in spite of the enormous prospects for agricultural development and food security in Nigeria, these intervention programmes have recorded little or no success considering the current rate of hunger, malnutrition, poverty and poor rural livelihood. With vast land area of about 98.3 million ha out of which 74 million ha is good for farming, Nigeria has very great potential for producing optimally in all aspects of agriculture including Crops, Livestock, forestry, Fisheries and wildlife. Yet in Nigeria today, there is pending food crisis tending towards famine, threat of hunger and poverty with a large proportion of the populace (70%) living on less than US\$1.00 a day, high youth unemployment as university graduates leave the system and find no work, rice and other food commodities are imported and the food production system is still largely peasantry with over 60% of the farmers working on small tracts of farmland (0.2 – 1 ha) in an inefficient manner. The question therefore is whether we still have hope for future agricultural production that will address and solve these issues. Measures suggested by the authors as sustainable solution include among others the effective utilisation of research findings which are locked up in many institutions, transformation and utilisation of agricultural education and extension services, increased budgetary allocation to agriculture, improved livestock and agricultural production strategies, provision of incentives to farmers, provision of Storage, Processing and irrigation technology, farmers accessibility to inputs and Micro Credit Schemes, establishment or reorganisation of Agricultural Trust Fund as well as the exposure of farmers to both local and foreign markets. eISSN: print ISSN: 0331-5426 Green revolution programme, Rural sector, Food situation and Nigeria.

The Green Revolution Programme of the Federal Government of Nigeria seeks to solve both the problems of the worsening food situation in the country and that of the ailing agricultural sector in general. This paper draws attention to a few factors that might hinder the achievement of these goals. The factors include the overt commitment to large-scale mechanized farming, unequal benefit to be derived in society, absence of cost/benefit analysis of the programme, lack of clarity/probable mutual inconsistencies in the goals ought to be achieved, absence of local mass participation, the emphasis on state direction and proliferation of authority to execute the programme. It is concluded that since over 70% of Nigerians belong to the rural sector, and since the rate of absorption of the labour force into industry is extremely low thereby aggravating the problem of unemployment, it is imperative to generate more purchasing power the rural sector by concentrating development efforts on small holdings. A few suggestions to guide future policies are also given. Home World History Accidents & Disasters The Green RevolutionIn April 1980, the Shehu Shagari administration introduced the Green Revolution Programme to ensure self-sufficiency in food production and to introduce modern technology into the Nigerian agricultural sector largely through the introduction of modern inputs such as high yielding varieties of seeds, fertilizers and tractors. The programme encompassed a wide range of projects supportive to the nation's agricultural development; this included 11 river basin development authorities, the Ministry of Water Resources, National Food Production Programme, and the Agro Service centers. The programme clearly established three functional duties;1. Introduce modern inputs for increased agricultural productivity2. Provide loans to small and large scale farmers through the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme, commercial banks and the Nigeria Agricultural Cooperative Bank3. Supply of financial incentives to commercial farmers with intent to fund large scale production. (incentives included: income tax relief and free import duties on farm machinery)Also, a Green Revolution committee was convened at the Federal level to be followed by those in charge of the 19 states. The programme had five major objectives;1. To ensure adequate, reliable and safe supplies for a rapidly growing population.2. To become self-reliant and achieve food security3. To raise and stabilize the nutritional standards of Nigerians4. To ensure stability in food commodity markets5. To ensure reasonable levels and distribution of income among food producersAs laudable as the objectives were, the programme was however met with political resistance from states governed by leaders opposed to the Shagari led administration. The provisions to motivate large-scale farmers to make massive investments were criticized as creating growth opportunities for wealthy investors, providing little opportunity for smallholder farmers. Here at Farmsby, we are of the belief that for the nation to fully maximize its agricultural capabilities, there needs to be massive improvements of the supportive structures and inputs in agriculture such as credit provision, extension aids, and storage. Same structures which the Shagari programme tried to compliment. However, learning from the failures of the 1980 programme and juxtaposing same with the issues that hindered its progress, Farmsby Limited is adopting a completely different strategy in the actualization of the objectives of The Green Revolution. Our mission is to create a Scale Up Effect by crowd-funding smallholders into medium to large farms with the necessary infrastructure to consistently bring high quality produce for up-takers and remit high dividends to our investors, thereby alleviating poverty and distributing wealth. Large-Scale farming in NigeriaWe are an AgroFinTech company, the first of its kind. We operate a business model that marries three formerly independent sectors (Agriculture, Finance and Technology) into one economically lucrative enterprise. We believe that increased levels of public participation are of the highest importance for the sector to truly maximize its potential. For agriculture in Nigeria to thrive, the majority of the populace needs to have vested interest in its survivability. As such, we are inviting everyone to our platform where they can become stakeholders by pooling funds together and making substantial investments. Our investment packages are tailored to focus more on creating wealth for our investors' first before generating profit for the company. This is because we are more committed to the sustainability of the sector and in creating an Africa that feeds the world. Our reach is robust, with a wide network of farms all over the country. Our Out Growers Programme where we train local farmers on solid modern agronomic practices recently acquired a partnership with the Institute of Export Operations & Management (IEOM) aimed at facilitating export ventures. Partner FarmsOur Standard Joint Venture service enables us assist individuals in the setting up and management of their own farms with the promise of reasonably high and guaranteed returns. Our ultimate goal, just like our name implies, is to have Farms by everyone. We are committed to the development of a sustainable agricultural sector. The economic revolution is here and it is green. Are you ready?#TheGreenRevolution #FarmsbyEveryone www.farmsby.com Agriculture was the mainstay of Nigeria's economy upon which the country's nationalists founded their agitation for independence. Prior to this, Nigeria was a leading agricultural economy in the 50s, being the largest producer of palm oil, groundnut, cotton and cocoa globally. The sector employed over 70 per cent of the labour force, accounted for as much as 62.3 per cent of the nation's foreign exchange earnings. Data obtained from the World Bank show that the sector contributed over 60 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, the discovery of crude oil in the 1950s progressively led to the neglect of the sector, which has made Nigeria to fall in the global market rankings for which it was taking the lead. To remedy this, agricultural policies have been dished out by different leaderships of the country in order to rejig the sector to support food security. Unfortunately, the impacts of these policies are rarely felt, as they are mostly robbed of continuity and made negligible year-on-year as leaderships change. Experts say that agriculture in Nigeria has gone through different stages of development. These have either improved or worsened the impact of the sector to national development. Post-independence policies In the bid to cushion the effect of the Nigerian civil war on the country's food security, the then Nigerian Head of state, Yakubu Gowon, rolled out the National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP) in 1972. It was an agricultural extension programme established to tackle a food crisis by increasing the country's food production through proper education of farmers on farming and production. It also sought the use of seminars and conferences and other tangible agricultural events in order to boost farmers' knowledge. The plan berthed in other states after the preliminary phase in Anambra, Imo, Ondo, Oyo, Ogun, Benue, Plateau and Kano States. Mini-kit, production-kit and mass adoption phases were the three phases of the programme. The policy goal of NAFPP was to make Nigeria independent in food production. Thus, land reform and mass literacy policies were suggested for farmers. But one of the major setbacks of this policy was the inability of farmers to form cooperatives which were meant to aid the disbursement of credit and farm inputs. Also, in 1973, the military leader established the River Basin Development Authority (RBDA) policy with the aim of providing irrigation facilities through the construction of dams, provision of potable water and construction of feeder roads to ease agricultural activities. There was a bilateral agreement between the Nigerian government and the World bank to boost food production and the standard of living of small-scale farmers. Sequel to this, the Agricultural Development Project (ADP) was established in nine local governments in 1975. After five years of its establishment, success of this programme was recorded. This led to a nationwide creation of ADPs in newly created states across the country. According to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) was introduced by the federal military government headed by Olusegun Obasanjo, in 1976. It had the specific focus of increasing food production on the premise that availability of cheap food would ensure a higher nutrition level and invariably lead to national growth and development. The OFN lasted until the civilian government of Shehu Shagari in 1979. In April 1980, the Shagari administration introduced the Green Revolution Programme to ensure self-sufficiency in food production and to introduce modern technology into the Nigerian agricultural sector largely through the introduction of modern inputs such as high yielding varieties of seeds, fertilisers and tractors. In 1986, Ibrahim Babangida established the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), with the aim to identify, involve and support viable local community organisations so as to ensure effective mobilisation of the rural populace for sustainable rural development. 1999-2020 era According to a 2017 report titled Nigeria's Agriculture in Facts and Figures by the Premium Times Center for Investigative Journalism (PTCIJ), and Nigeria Incentive-based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL), in order for Nigeria to attain food security and as well alleviate rural poverty in the country, Mr Obasanjo, the first democratic president who was re-elected in April 2003, established the National Special Programme for Food Security (NSPFS). It was aimed at helping farmers to increase output and income, strengthen extension service delivery, promote simple farm technologies, utilise land, water and other resources for food production, the report stated. However, some of its major setbacks were seen in the inability of most beneficiaries to repay their loans on time, complexity and incompatibility of innovation, coupled with difficulty in integrating technology into existing production systems. In Mr Obasanjo's eight years reign, agriculture had the highest average contribution to the nation's GDP since the dawn of democracy. An average of 27.36 per cent was contributed by the sector to GDP, data from the World Bank showed, including 36.97 per cent in 2002, 33.83 per cent in 2003 and 27.23 per cent in 2004 – the highest annual contribution in the last two decades. Under Umaru Yar'Adua's seven-point agenda, the National Food Sector Plan (NFSP) was launched to ensure food security. The aim of the programme included the counterpart funding for FADAMA III, IFAD and ADB projects, as well as rehabilitation and expansion of irrigation infrastructure, and the irrigation of 12,000 hectares of arable land and optimisation of 220,000 ha of irrigated land and more. During this period, the contributory level of agriculture to GDP fell in the average, but remained among the highest since 1999. Mr Yar'Adua's administration recorded an average agricultural contribution to GDP of 25.31 per cent in three years. His first two years in office saw agricultural growth move from 25.28 per cent in 2008 to 26.75 per cent in 2009 and 23.89 per cent in 2010. In 2011, the Agriculture Transformation Agenda (ATA) was launched by his successor, Goodluck Jonathan. It was created with the hope of boosting the income of smallholder farmers' and rural entrepreneurs, who are engaged in the production, processing, storage and marketing of selected commodity value chains on a sustainable basis, according to the PTCIJ and NIRSAL's report. function({ "use strict"; window.addEventListener("message", (function(a) { if (void 0 !== a.data["datawrapper-height"]) { for (var e in a.data["datawrapper-height"]) { (var t=document.getElementById("datawrapper-chart-"+e)); document.querySelector("iframe[src*='"+e+"'"]):t; t&&(t.style.height=a.data["datawrapper-height"][e]+"px"); } } } }); About 45,300 economically active smallholder farmers' living in the rural areas, who were already partaking in commercial agriculture are said to have benefitted from this scheme. At the end of his five years stint, the agricultural sector had contributed an average of 21.09 per cent to GDP, the lowest under any democratic president. When incumbent Muhammadu Buhari came in 2015, he launched the Agricultural Promotion Policy (APP), which will expire by December, to consolidate on the already established ATA policy. The new policy was geared towards the provision of a conducive legislative and agricultural framework, macro policies, security enhancing physical infrastructure and institutional mechanisms, so as to enhance access to essential inputs, finances, information on innovation, agricultural services and markets. So far under him, agriculture has contributed an average of 22.94 per cent to the nation's GDP – higher than only under his predecessor, Mr Jonathan. In the first three quarters of 2020, the agricultural sector contributed an average of 29.77 per cent to Nigeria's GDP – 21.96 per cent in the first quarter; 24.65 per cent in the second quarter; and 30.77 per cent in the third quarter. What impact? Experts interviewed for the report say the policies established had the nation's interest but were poorly implemented by either the proposing administration or the successor. They said the policies were to serve as relief to the country and promote the agricultural sector but the plans have not had reasonable effects on the economy. "When policies are made just like constitution, they will last longer than expected because they will be implemented by both state and the federal government," Celestine Avok, an agricultural scientist, said. "These policies need to be reoriented to align with that of the state governments." An expert in animal production, Rodger Tanko, said the "various policies have failed to add a meaningful quota to the economy due to the selfish interest of successive administrations to implement them." "Successive administrations failed to continue the implementation of policies made by their predecessors. We can say this is selfishness," he said. 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