

**FOOD SECURITY  
POLICIES  
AND  
PROGRAMMES  
IN NIGERIA**

**BY**



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# **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

**The global concern about food security has continued to be on the increase due principally to the gravity of the worsening food crisis among the developing nations .**

The more serious fundamental root causes involve a heterogeneous mix of factors such as:

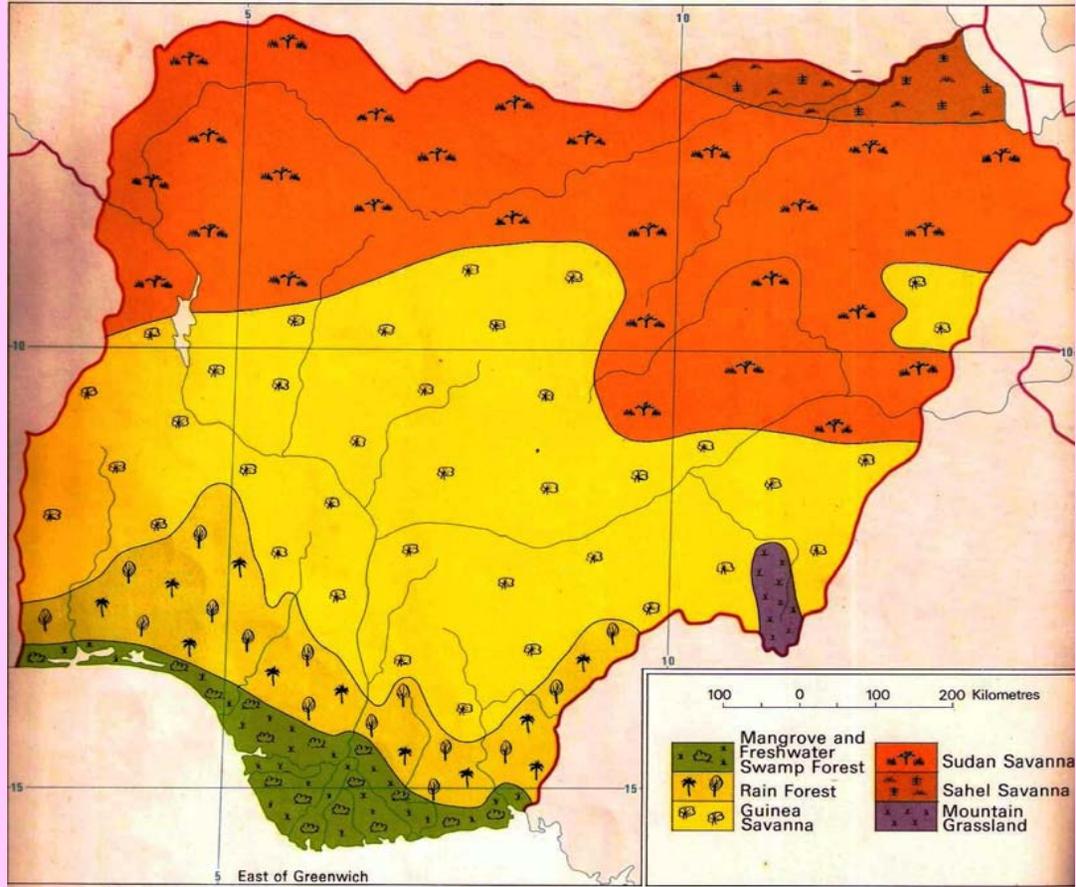
- unstable social and political environment
- poor governance systems
- wars and civil strives
- macro-economic imbalances in trade flows and impact of trade liberalizations
- natural resource constraints
- poor resource - base
- natural disasters such as floods, drought, erosion, pest invasion
- impact of HIV/AIDS
- biofuel and subsidies
- impact of petroleum price increase.

# World : Political





## 32 Nigeria—Vegetation



Alan Hutchison Library

Swampland in the Niger Delta



Alan Hutchison Library

Rain Forest near Sapoba



Professor R.J. Harrison Church

A Gum tree near Maiduguri

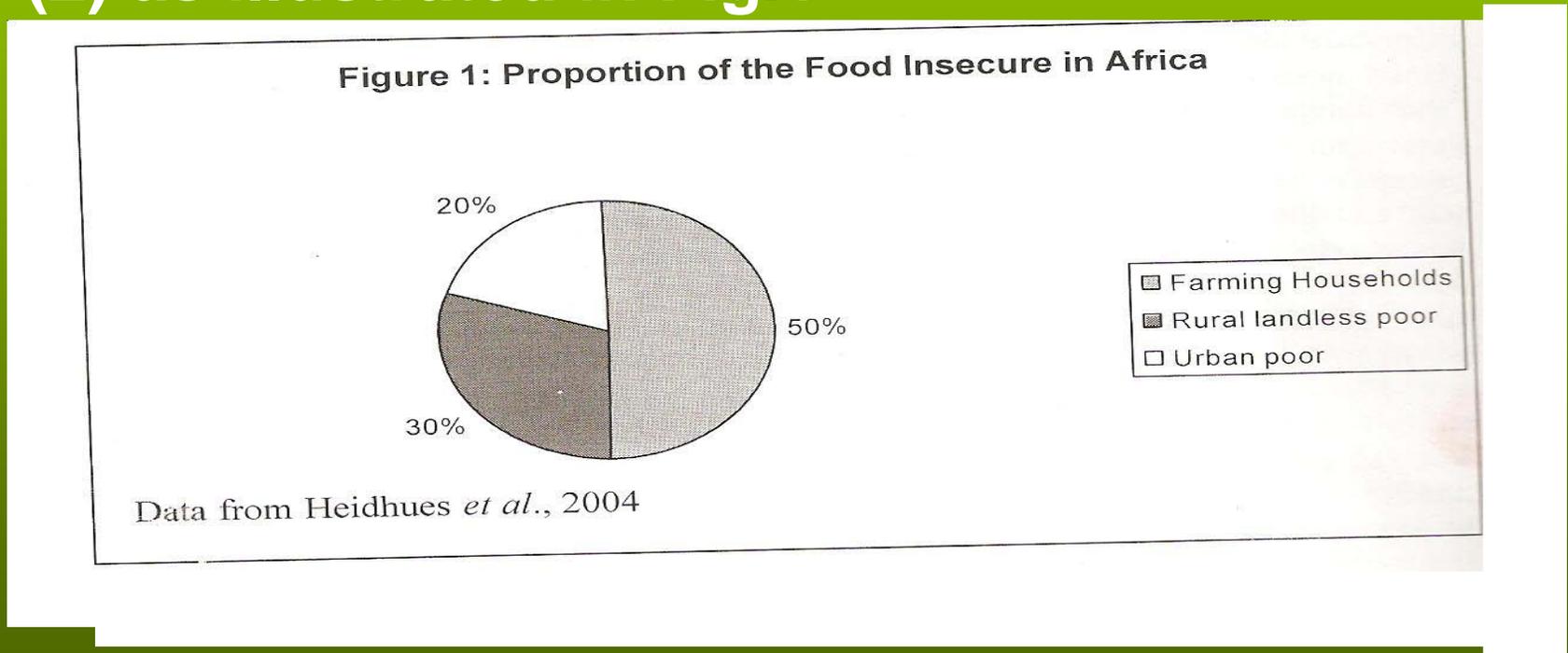


Professor R.J. Harrison Church

A Baobab tree in Sudan Savanna

## 2.0 AN OVERVIEW OF FOOD INSECURITY IN AFRICA

It is reported that over 70% of the food insecure population lives in the rural areas (2) as illustrated in Fig.1



All the three categories are food insecure and vulnerable

## **2.1 FOOD SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA**

**The Economic community of West African States (ECOWAS) comprising 8 countries in the region are generally food insecure due mainly to the problems of poverty, civil conflict and variations in rainfall.**

**West African Agriculture comprises about 35 percent of regional GDP; though there are some differences in this share across countries. Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire dominate the region, with Nigeria accounting for 56% of GDP and Cote d'Ivoire for an additional 11%.**

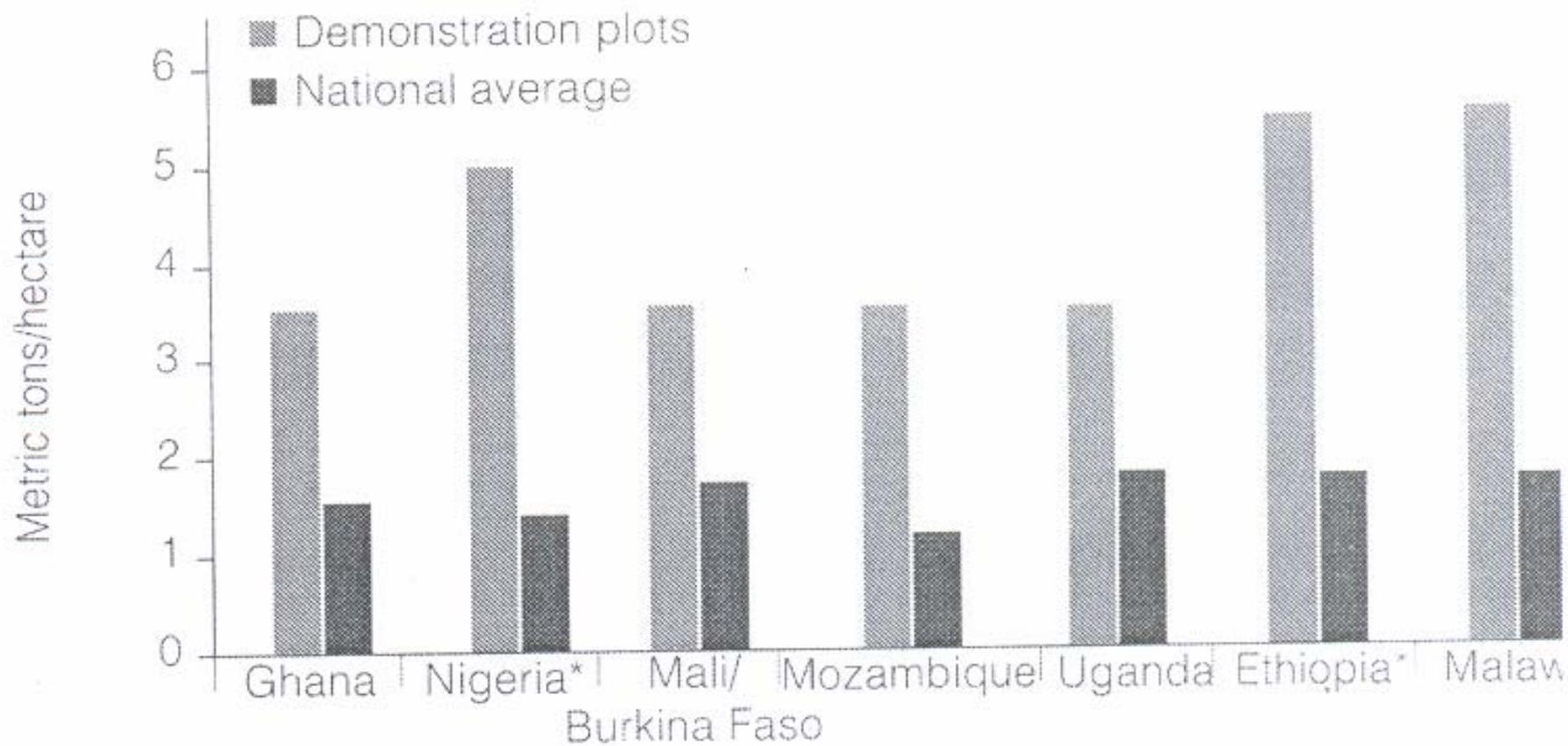
## 2.2 Food Security in Southern Africa

Policy issues to be addressed in promoting agricultural production include, inputs, subsidies, fertilizer subsidies; agricultural marketing, credits and prices (3). In addition, the governance systems is still heavily involved in driving agricultural development rather than providing an enabling environment for the private sector to drive the agricultural economy.

## 2.3 Private Sector Intervention

Private sector intervention would assure guaranteed level of food security attainment (4). Evidence of this is the Sasakawa Global 2000 which has made remarkable contributions in many African countries (Fig. 2). For example yields of maize through this intervention increased by 2 – 3 times those of the national average.

FIGURE <sup>2</sup> –Sasakawa Global 2000 maize demonstration yields



Source: Unpublished data from Sasakawa Global 2000; FAOSTAT.

\* Primarily using hybrids.

## **2.4 Soil Fertility**

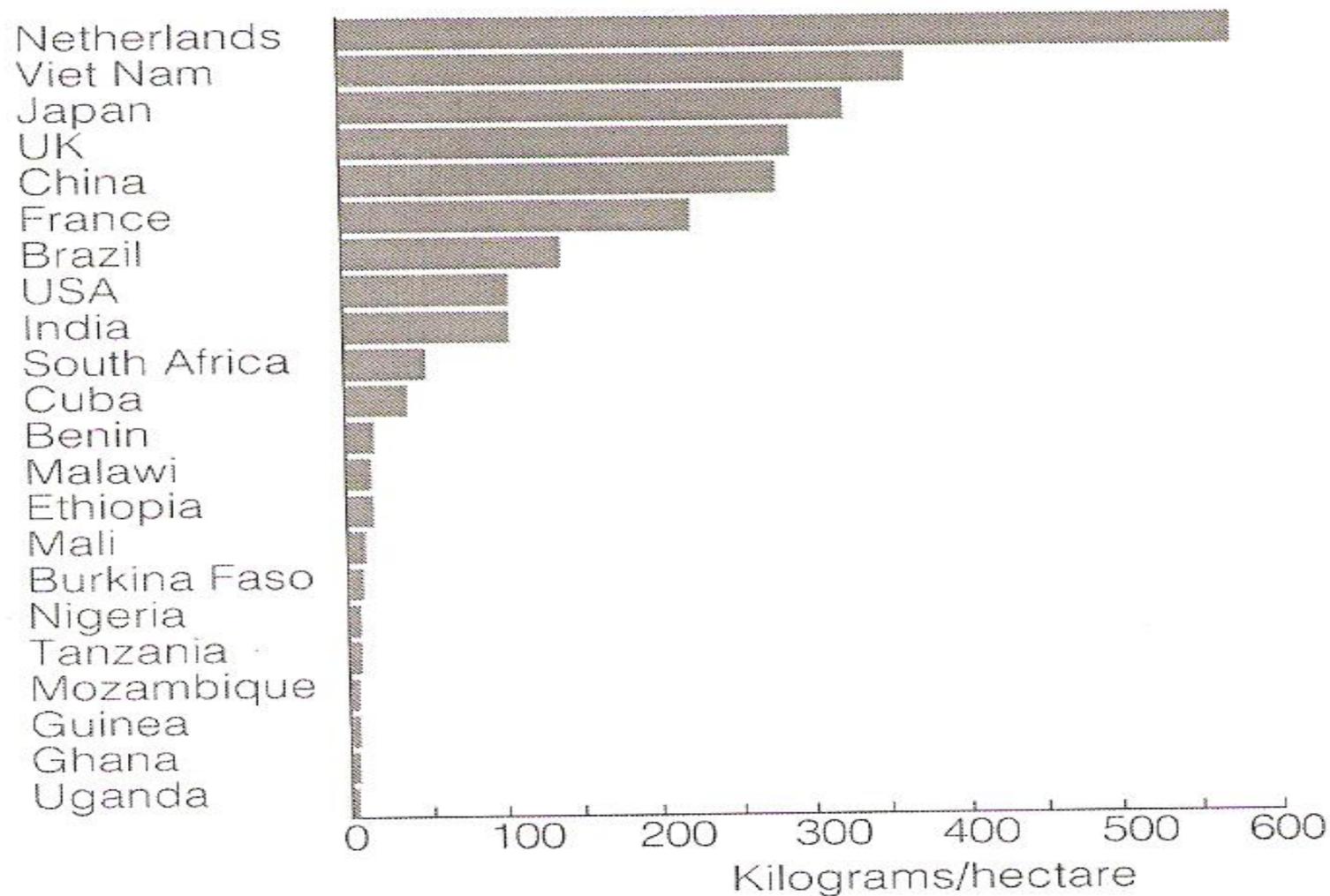
**African soils are fragile and poor in natural fertility.**

**To generate high yields, soils must be provided with adequate chemical fertilizers.**

**The fertilizer policies of most African countries have not provided for adequate fertilizer application to improve the low fertility status of soils and ensure high productivity.**

**Fertilizer nutrient consumption per hectare of arable land in 22 selected countries in 2000 is presented in Fig. 3**

**FIGURE 1** —Fertilizer nutrient consumption per hectare of arable land in selected countries, 2000



## **2.5 Land Degradation, Climatic Variability and Drought**

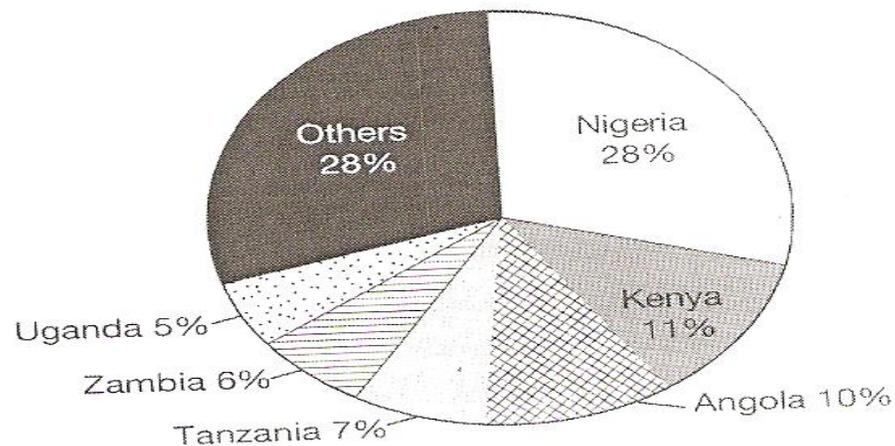
**There is substantial untapped potentials for the development of Africa's water and land resources for increasing agricultural productivity.**

**Yields from irrigated crops are three times higher than yields from rain fed crops, but agricultural activity on 93% of Africa's arable land is dependent on extremely erratic rainfall.**

**FAO estimates that only 7% of Africa's cropped land is irrigated compared with 40% in Asia.**

Tractor usage in sub-Saharan Africa is much lower than other parts of the developing world (Fig. 4).

FIGURE -Proportion of tractors in use in Sub-Saharan Africa, by country, 2000



Source: FAO, Agricultural Support Systems Division.

It is estimated that there are less than 2 million tractors in use on farms in Sub-Saharan Africa 28% of which are used in Nigeria.

**The bulk of production is done by small holder farmers who produce about 90% of the food in sub-Saharan Africa.**

**The situation has been worsened with the aging farming population, the destabilizing impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, compounded by a range of policy and institutional factors as well as civil unrest and conflicts in some countries.**

## 2.6 Impact of Conflict on Food Security Programmes.

*Table below presents conflict sites of varying intensities in Africa.*

**Table 1: Conflict Sites in Africa**

<b>High-intensity conflict</b>	<b>Low-intensity conflict</b>	<b>Out of violent conflict</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Democratic Republic of Congo</li> <li>. Burundi</li> <li>. Angola (Cabinda Enclave)</li> <li>. Uganda (North)</li> <li>. Somalia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Namibia (Caprivi strip)</li> <li>. Zimbabwe</li> <li>. Ethiopia/Eritrea</li> <li>. Republic of Congo</li> <li>. Chad</li> <li>. Cote d'voire</li> <li>. Western Sahara/Morocco</li> <li>. Central African Republic</li> <li>. Algeria</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Mozambique</li> <li>. Sierra Leone</li> <li>. Angola (excludes Cabinda Enclave)</li> <li>. South Africa</li> <li>. Resotho</li> <li>. Rwanda</li> <li>. Liberia</li> <li>. Malawi</li> <li>. Nigeria</li> </ul>

**Source: Graca Machel's key note address on mitigating, preventing and ending Conflicts in Africa**

**The impact of conflicts on food security is that in conflict areas, most of the population are displaced and become refugees in neighbouring countries. Resources which should have been invested in food security programmes are diverted to procurement of arms.**

**Beyond the loss of life and the maiming of people, the impacts of conflict go deep, especially in rural areas and they leave very deep scars in the human capital of a country that are long lasting.**

**For example, although the conflict in Mozambique ended two decades ago, about 22,000 square kilometers of land could not be put to agricultural production until eight years after the conflict because of land mines.**

## **2.7 Effect of International Policies on Food Security in Africa.**

### **2.7.1 Trade Liberalization**

In opening up developing countries to developed world food imports which continue to be subsidized by Western governments, developing nations have become dependent upon food imports which are cheaper than those which can be produced by local smallholders.

## 2.7.2 Impact of Petroleum Price Increases

The rise in price of petroleum has heightened the cost of fertilizers and agricultural production(6).

**2.7.3.** Other international policies that have impacted negatively on food security in Africa include **production of biofuels and financial speculations in commodities.**

## **3.0 THE NIGERIAN SITUATION**

### **3.1 Background Information**

#### **3.1.1 General**

**Nigeria is estimated to have a land size of 89.2 to 98.3 million hectares of which 79 million hectares are classified as fertile land with only about 32 million hectares (46%) of these cultivated.**

**The population of Nigeria is estimated at 140 million people most of whom (over 80%) reside in various forms of rural settings. A significant proportion of the rural population (70%) are resource – poor farmers who have continued to generate the levels of agricultural output.**

This category of farmers appear to be the most vulnerable when issues of food insecurity are addressed. Their agricultural activities are often characterized by poor technology – base in production, protection, processing and storage, and poor marketing.

Rural infrastructure and related agro-support services are often lacking or inadequate. A heterogeneous mix of interplays of these inadequacies under a socio-cultural and political milieu has serious implications on food security.

Over the years, the government of Nigeria demonstrated genuine concerns on the need to achieve increased output under sustainable agricultural systems so as to minimize food insecurity. A clear understanding of the nature of problems was considered imperative as the basis for embarking on programme interventions.

A matrix of some critical problems are presented in (Table 2).

# **Table 2: Matrix of Some Problems of the Rural Farmer**

## **1. TECHNICAL**

- (a) Inadequacy of farm Input**  
e.g. improved seeds, improved breeds of animals, fertilizers, agro-chemicals, feeds.
- (b) Low level of agricultural technology** e.g. production, processing, storage systems, rain fed production as against irrigated systems.
- (c) Inadequate infrastructures**
- (d) Poor marketing and distribution systems**
- (e) Disruptive factors** e.g. flood, drought, fire, civil strife, refugee problems.
- (f) Inadequate protection systems** e.g. high incidence of pests and diseases of crops and animals.

## **2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC**

- (i) High input cost and low returns**
- (ii) Ageing farmers**
- (iii) Poverty**
- (iv) Impeded access to improved technologies** due to inadequacy of extension personnel, inaccessible rural roads, poor/low literacy levels of farmers
- (v) Traditional Land ownership system** resulting into communal clashes.

## **3. ORGANIZATIONAL**

- (a) Government agricultural programmes** e.g. Inconsistent policies, lack of continuity and coordination.

## **4. INSTITUTIONAL**

- (a) Uncoordinated/unstable institutional arrangements** in areas of credits, loans, provision of market support, administration of price subsidy and guaranteed producer prices.
- (b) High administrative overhead costs** in some Government Agricultural programmes.

## **4.0 GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES**

### **4.1 Past Government Programme Interventions with Food Security Content**

**The Federal Government of Nigeria adequately considered the development and implementation of effective mechanisms for minimizing the problems listed in Table 2 for purposes of guaranteeing food security in Nigeria. In that line, several well articulated programmes were launched to address the prevailing and peculiar agricultural problems.**

# **Table 3: Agricultural Development Initiatives Implemented by Past**

## **Government.**

- 1 Cooperatives (1935 to Date)**
- 2. Commodity Boards(1947 to 1986)**
- 3 Agricultural Research Institutes(1964 to Date)**
- 4 National Accelerated Food Project (NAFPP)(1970s)**
- 5 Nigeria Agricultural Cooperative Bank NACB(1973 to Date)**
- 6 Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs)(1975 to Date)**
- 7 River Basin Development Authorities(RBDAs)(1977 to Date)**
- 8. Operation Feed The Nation(1976 to 1979)**
- 9. Green Revolution(1979 to 1983)**
- 10. Directorate of Foods and Roads and Rural Infrastructure(DFRFI)(1986 to 1993)**
- 11. National Agricultural Land Development Authority(NALDA)(1991 to 1999)**
- 12. Presidential initiatives on Cocoa, Cassava, Rice, Livestock, Fisheries, Vegetables(1999 to 2007)**

## 4.2 Present Government's Policy and Intervention Programmes on Food Security

### 4.2.1 Policy Thrust

The policy thrust is vision – oriented with matching objectives achievable on time frame basis of short-term, medium-term and long-term for the prioritized components of Crops, Livestock and Fisheries.

#### (a) **The Vision**

The overall vision is:

“To ensure sustainable access, availability and affordability of quality food to all Nigerians and to be a significant net provider of food to the global community.

#### (b) **Objectives**

Short-term:

The short-term objective is to significantly improve Nigeria's agricultural productivity.

Medium term:

The medium term objective is to achieve expanded large scale production and improved storage processing as well as the required market infrastructure to achieve food stability.

## **( c) Approach**

**(i) Agriculture Value Chain consisting of :**

- production**
- storage**
- processing**
- marketing**

**(ii) Responsibilities of Federal, State, Local Governments and organized private sector are defined. The Federal Government sets the direction, while the State, Local Governments and the Organized Private Sector will drive the execution.**

**(iii) Three categories of Farmers are targeted, namely:**

- Small scale**
- Medium scale and**
- Large scale**

## **5.2 INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES**

**The intervention programmes aimed at addressing the problems highlighted in Table 2 (Matrix of Some Problems of the Rural Farmer) and thus achieve the set targets are summarized in Table 6.**

## Table 6: Some Intervention Programmes

Sub-Sector	Programme	Features
ALL SUBSECTORS (CROPS, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES)	New Generation of Farmers	Successors to the ageing farming population; Promotion of interests to farming in the youth through formation of Young Farmers Clubs in Schools, establishment of training programmes for young farmers; setting up grants to cover housing, equipment and seed stock cost and credit for feed, chemicals and operational costs.
	Large scale/ Commercial Farming	Driving of emergence of large scale farms – at least 3 mega farms per state to assure export market, guaranteed minimum pricing and buffer reserve.
	Extension Services Delivery	Adequate dissemination of improved technologies and best practices in farming systems; target of extension staff of 1:350 as against 1:10,000; training of extension staff and recruitment of 10,000 extension workers.

## **Market Infrastructure and Development**

**Ensuring access to rural farm communities and markets; promoting export, guaranteed minimum price and licensed buying agents; defining brand essence from each State; Programme execution in partnership with States.**

## **Farm Settlements**

**Providing suitable settlements to farming communities at farm locations; facilitating land provision and providing subsidized inputs, infrastructure requirements (schools, markets, hospitals, and essential amenities); at least 3 per State.**

## **Rural Infrastructure Development**

**Providing associated amenities for improved livelihoods of rural farmers by building and maintaining rural infrastructure; collaborating with private investors and development partners in establishment and management of rural infrastructure (rural roads, housing, markets, power, water etc.).**

	<b>Land Mapping</b>	<b>Mapping and certification of farm land.</b>
	<b>Water Management</b>	<b>Increase in usage of irrigation technology and improved water resource management and husbandry practices. Construction and rehabilitation of small earth dams, wash bores and boreholes for farm irrigation, advocacy on use of improved water resources management system; demonstration of drainage technology for flood control; training of extension staff on water lifting and application techniques.</b>
	<b>Drainage Dams Irrigation Project</b>	<b>Enhancing soil moisture and fertility.</b>

	<p>Community Warehousing Programme</p>	<p>Ensuring storage of minimum of 5% of farm produce as reserve for period of need – about 2,000 MT of State storage facilities per warehouse for at least six key commodities.</p>
	<p><b>Processing:</b>  Agro-Parks</p>	<p>Long term development of 5 yrs starting 2009 to ensure availability of food by preventing post harvest losses; involves the provision of infrastructure as equity contribution by FGN and partner with Private Sector investors in establishment and management of centres.</p>
	<p>Cooperatives, Community Development and Farmer Group</p>	<p>Enhancement of access of farmers to farm resources in the value chain; creation of awareness on the opportunities from farmer associations transformation of production system from extensive to intensive; Concession of state farms to Private Sector; supplementing FGN provisions in grazing reserves; promoting Private Sector – led (70%) livestock value chain with equity participation.</p>

	Bio-fuel	Providing alternatives to natural oils leveraging on abundance of <u>Jatropha</u> , cassava and/or sugar cane; providing subsidy/infrastructure for setting up bio-fuel plants based on merit of respective projects.
	Agricultural Research	Support for agricultural research and training through research systems development, Strengthening of Research Institutes, Universities of Agriculture Federal Colleges of Agriculture and other components of the national agricultural research systems.
	Credits	Development of an efficient credit system for agri-business through the development and use of micro-finance institutions.
	Monitoring and Evaluation	Periodic checks on progresses in the agricultural value chain; setting up a food security monitoring unit to constantly assess growth and report constraints.

## **5.2.1 Private Sector Development Programmes**

- Promotion of private sector driven initiative on establishment of Agro-Industrial Parks and other agro-industries and farm service centers
- Establishment of a Private Sector warehousing programme to complement government storage programmes.
- Promotion of large scale factory driven agriculture in identified areas of crops, livestock and fisheries.
- This is to be pursued by a credit vehicle at a concessionary rate with Federal and State government Equity participation of between 20% - 30%.

## **5.2.2 Administration of Credit**

**-The availability of credit has been a major hindering factor to agricultural development. Consequently, this intervention project will ensure clear cut framework for the delivery of credit to all categories of farmers.**

## **5.2.3 Small Scale farms**

**-These are farms below 5 ha in area or with a poultry population of less than 500 birds or a herd or 20 sheep and goats or 5 heads of cattle.**

**-Credit for small scale farms will be funded by State governments with 20% matching grants from the Federal government and delivered through Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) to eligible farmers properly cleared by their Cooperative Societies.**

## 5.2.4 Large Scale Farms

- These are farms above 10 hectares, 10,000 birds, 50 sheep and goats or 20 heads of cattle shall be classified as large scale farms.
- Credit for large scale farms shall be funded by the Federal Government through the floating of a N200 billion Bond through the Debt Management Office (DMO) and delivered through Commercial Banks at single digit, long term interest rate. Such funds could be articulated from operational surpluses of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Pensions funds and Tele-communication Funds.

## 5.2.5 Funding

The Programme will be funded from a variety of sources:

### **Government funding**

- Federal and State governments: At least 10% of annual budget.
- The Federal Government: dedication of 1.68% of its Federation Account as the Natural Resources Fund (NRF) to the intervention.
- Agricultural Development fund (ADF).

**Organised Private Sector:** PPP will prevail.

**Development Partners:** Mutual beneficial funding of programmes.

THANK YOU

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