



Agricultural Policies and Food Security in Lagos State, Nigeria: A Historical Approach

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Abstract

The trust of this paper historicized the various government agricultural policies and its efforts in ensuring food security in Lagos State between the periods of 1967 up to 2019. It should be reiterated here that in this work, the focus is only on policies affecting the production of the cash and food crops alone simply because of their primacy in revenue generation both for the government and the metropolis, and also because of their political and economic significance. A historical research method was adopted in this study. In this regard, writings and research works on major issues relating to agricultural policies and its impact on food production in Lagos State were collected and historically analyzed. The study constitutes a fieldwork survey to the ministry of Agriculture both state and federal and collection of both oral and written sources. This implies the use of relevant materials from all possible sources. It includes visiting areas of study to collect information, examining the oral sources to find answers to questions raised, and also visiting libraries and archives to look for relevant information on the topic. The trust of this paper concluded that agricultural policies are germane to the attainment of food security in the state and the country at large.

Keywords: Agriculture, Policies, Food Security, Agricultural Policies, History

Introduction

Agriculture is the art and science of cultivating the soil, growing crops and raising livestock. It includes the preparation of plant and animal products for people to use and their distribution to markets.¹ It is the systematic raising of useful plants and livestock under the management of man. Also it is the growing of both plants and animals for human needs.² These products, as well as the agricultural methods used, may vary from one part of the world to another.³ There are various policies or strategies adopted in practicing agriculture. A policy is a deliberate system of principles to guide, discuss and achieve rational outcomes.⁴ The task of proposing policy has always been a tedious one, particularly when the proposals are based on an incomplete view of

¹ Rimando, T.J. 2004. Crop Science: Fundamental of Crop Science. U.P. Los Banos: University Publications Office 1.

² Abellanos, A.L. And Pava, H.M. 1987. Introduction to Crop Science. Central Mindanao University, Musan, Bukidnon: Publications Office, 238.

³ www.nationalgeographic.org/agriculture. accessed on 15/9/2020.

⁴ www.Monster.com Accessed on 10/9/2020.



the goals being sought by the formulators of the policy. Sustainable agricultural development is propelled by agricultural policies.⁵

Agricultural policy is the combination of the outline and strategies designed to achieve overall agricultural development and growth. Agricultural development refers to the process of making fuller and more rational use of agricultural resources of a country, with a special reference to improving the efficiency of agriculture and the living standards of the agricultural population.⁶ Farmers are generally confronted with many risks and uncertainties ranging from weather, drought, floods, fire, diseases and pests, unstable market conditions, falling product prices and constant increase in the price of production inputs, among others.⁷

Nigerian agricultural policies had undergone four main phases: The first from 1960 -1969, the second from 1970 – 1979, (the period of oil boom); the third from 1980 to the late 1990s, (during the structural adjustment program SAP era); and the current National Economic Empowerment Development Strategies (NEEDS) framework.⁸ After independence, agriculture provided most of the country's food, earned most of the foreign exchange and generated a substantial proportion of government revenue at the early stages of economic development in Nigeria. The abundance of food and cheap labor in the rural settings across the nation during this period resulted in complacency on the part of the government thereby putting the enactment of virile and strong policy in the doldrums for decades. Hence, government effort to develop agriculture at this stage concentrated more on the production of cash crops like groundnuts and cotton (in the North); cocoa and coffee (in the West); in the eastern part to satisfy the demand of our colonial administrations of cheap sources of exportable raw materials for their industrial growth.⁹

For instance, fluctuating food prices are precursors to inflation. Secondly, from the expenditure approach to national income accounting, it is likely that Engel's law that a large chunk of expenditure in developing economies goes to food-holds means that shocks to the domestic agricultural production and supply could be damaging to price stability.¹⁰ There is also the perspective of food security, in an era when food has been used as a weapon of war (United Nations "Oil for food" Deal in Iraq) and as bargaining tool (North Korea – United States "Food Deal"), even within Nigeria, the federal military government during Biafran war used food blockade as a tool of war.¹¹ The focus of this study is therefore, to critically examine a history of agricultural policies in Lagos State between 1967 and 2019.

The focus of this study is therefore, to historicize the various agricultural policies implemented by the Lagos State government with the aim of identifying the impact of the policies

⁵ Yusufu, T.M. 1986. "Nigeria's Economic And Social Policies: Some Issues Of Moment" (Distinguished Lecture No. 15). *Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research (NISER)*.

⁶ Famoriyo, Segun and Raza, M. Rafique, 1982. "The Green Revolution In Nigeria: Prospects For Agricultural Development," *Food Policy, Elsevier, Vol. 7, 27 – 38*.

⁷ Famoriyo, Segun and Raza, M. Rafique, 1982. "The Green Revolution In Nigeria: Prospects For Agricultural Development," *Food Policy, Elsevier, Vol. 7, 27 – 38*.

⁸ Prabuddha, S. and Suresh, B. 2010. Policy Benchmarking And Tracking The Agricultural Policy Environment In Nigeria And Nigeria Strategy Support Program (NSSP), Report No. 005. *International Food Policy Research Institute. www.Ifpri.5*.

⁹ Prabuddha, S. and Suresh, B. 2010. Policy Benchmarking And Tracking The Agricultural Policy Environment In Nigeria And Nigeria Strategy Support Program (NSSP), Report No. 005. *International Food Policy Research Institute. www.Ifpri.5*.

¹⁰ International Food Policy Research Institute. 2008. Agricultural Public Spending In Nigeria Development *Strategy and Governance Division. IFPRI Discussion Paper 00789*.

¹¹ International Food Policy Research Institute. 2008. *Agricultural Public Spending In Nigeria Development Strategy and Governance Division.....*



on food production and self – sufficiency in agricultural production in the State. It should be reiterated here that in this work, the focus is only on policies affecting the production of the cash and food crops alone simply because of their primacy in revenue generation both for the government and the metropolis, and also because of their political and economic significance.

Creation of Lagos State

Lagos State was created on May 27th, 1967 by virtue of State Creation and Transitional Provision Decree No. 14 of 1967. This was the result of the restructuring of Nigeria from a four-Region to 12 States Federal Structure. Lagos State acquired the status of an administrative unit with a land mass spanning over 3345 sq km/129 Sqm. It is one of the nation’s largest urban areas with a population of 9,113,605 and estimated to be over 21 million in 2016 by the National Population Commission of Nigeria.¹² With this urban nature of Lagos State, many people flocked to the State for livelihood. The population kept on increasing on a daily basis. The impact of this is that people need food to survive, and the governments have to ensure that food is available for the people. Although many surrounding communities took their agricultural products to Lagos State for sale, this has not been enough. The government felt a sense of duty to put in place strategies for ensuring food production in the State. To achieve this, the government put up policies that would ensure this. Most of the agricultural policies embarked on by the State were adopted from the national agricultural policies.

The focus of this study is therefore, to historicize the various agricultural policies implemented by the Lagos State government with the aim of identifying the impact of the policies on food production and self – sufficiency in agricultural production in the State.

This research is limited to Lagos State in Nigeria. The State was created in 1967 and is one of the foremost economic nerve centers of Nigeria. It is an urban center whose territory was defined to include the municipalities of Lagos, Badagry, Ikeja, Ikorodu, and Epe Divisions of the former Western Region of Nigeria. The economic life of Lagos was characterized by the activities of the people in farming, fishing, industry and trading. The availability of fertile stretch of lands made the practice of farming an important occupation. The main food crops planted were yams, corn, melons, calabashes, cassava, pepper and cocoyam. Palm and coconut trees, which were important parts of the diet, grew wildly in the forest and almost everywhere in the salt water. Of equal importance and occupying the same position with farming was fishing.¹³ Lagos being an aquatic State there is this belief that the agricultural policies of Lagos State would focus on fishery but findings showed that in addition to fishery, the government was involved in other aspects of agriculture.

The time frame was between 1967 and 2019. This time frame was chosen because it marked the creation of the State out of Western Region of Nigeria and the parts of what was known as the Colony of Lagos. 2019 marked the commencement of a new administration in Lagos State when Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu was sworn in as the fourth democratically elected Governor of Lagos State.

¹² National Population Commission. NPC, 2006. “*List of Nigerian States By Landmass And Population Density*”.

¹³ Elegbede Fernandez, A.D. 1992. *Lagos: A Legacy of Honor*, Lagos: (Nigeria), Spectrum Books.



Development of Agricultural Policies and Programmes in Lagos, Nigeria

Following the actual imposition of colonial rule in 1900, the Colonial masters' desire was to transform the farmers, who had hitherto engaged in a free enterprise, into effective machines that would produce mainly for the needs of the metropolis. To achieve this, several strategies were put into operation and incorporated into the official policies of the Colonial government. Those strategies affected the production of agricultural goods as it was desired by the Colonialist. Two factors brought about this transformation, firstly, the urge by Britain to secure and control important raw materials, principally agricultural and forest products native to Nigeria and needed by British industries and, secondly, the desire to establish markets for their finished products.¹⁴

The Colonial agricultural policies could be conveniently divided into two periods. The first period between 1900 and 1945 could be described as a period of colonial Laissez Faire oriented development policy, while the second phase lasting from 1946 to 1956 was a period of active government participation in agricultural production. It was during the first two decades of the 20th Century that regional specialization in crop production emerged with cocoa and rubber replacing palm products and cotton in Western Nigeria and the region soon became a major world producer of cocoa.¹⁵ Available statistics (See Table below) show that during the first decade of the 20th Century the ancient palm oil trades still hold the pride of place as the major export of the western provinces.¹⁶

Table 1. Palm Produce Export 1906-1910 (Western Provinces) Lagos Palm Oil Palm Kernels

Year	Tons	Value (E)	Tons	Value (E)	Combined value as % total of all exports
1906	10,271	198,676	48,341	529,282	71.0%
1907	12,829	285,751	57,505	729,138	74.6
1908	12,829	221,247	52,899	503,284	74.0
1909	17,004	305,646	67,817	775,252	75.4
1910	18,420	442,086	79,157	1,176,186	78.5

Source: Southern Nigeria Annual Report, 1910

Between 1945 and 1960 Colonial agricultural policy abandoned the Laissez-Faire attitude. It instituted three important agencies which influenced agricultural development. First, government Marketing Boards were established; second, a Biological Research Station system for sustained

¹⁴. Ahuzem, J. O. and Falola, Toyin .1987. "Production for the Metropolis Agriculture and Forest Products in, Falola, T., (ed.) *Britain and Nigeria Exploitation or Development?* (London, Zed Books Ltd.), 25-6.

¹⁵. Eicher, K. Carl, "The Dynamics of Long-Term Agricultural Development in Nigeria" in Eicher K. C., and Liedholm Carl (oda.), *Growth and Development of the Nigerian Economy* (Michigan, University Press, 1970). 7.

¹⁶. N.A.I. AR3/1, Southern Nigeria, Annual Report 1910.



research into export crops was inaugurated in 1940 and third, deliberate development planning was started in 1946.¹⁷ Each of these periods will now be examined in turn.

The Colonial Laissez-Faire Period

This period was characterized by the provision of infrastructural facilities for the easy exploitation of the resources of the region. In order to achieve its objectives of procuring raw materials for the home industries and the disposal of finished goods, the Colonial government enunciated and operated various policies designed to bring its objectives to fruition.¹⁸ In the sphere of the production of the crops needed by the imperialist, the stated policy declared the intention of the government "to encourage in every way the development of other products which nature may have already bestowed upon the country and also the cultivation of new ones suitable to its soil and climate".¹⁹

As a corollary to the enunciated policies, the government also made provision for "intensified research and experimentation on the main problem of agriculture and for the application of the results."²⁰ The background to the agricultural economy they envisaged was made manifest in the 1920s by the pronouncements of Sir Hugh Clifford, then Governor of Nigeria, he opined that, Land policy should also primarily, mainly and eventually at the development of the agricultural resources of these countries through the agency of their indigenous inhabitant²¹, tacit recognition of the dynamism of the indigenous farmers who were legacies of the pre-colonial period.

The discussion on the colonial Liaison-Faire period will focus mainly on the following: (a) prelude to Colonial Agriculture Policy Commercialized world culture and monetization (b) Developing the infrastructure of Agricultural Exploitation, (c) Land Law. Transportation and. This will make us understand how the Colonial administration paved the way for the appropriation and the incorporation of the raw materials they needed.

(a) Prelude to Colonial Agricultural policy: Commercialized agriculture and monetization

Before the introduction of European currency, cowries shells had been the medium of exchange.²² But with the introduction of a money currency by the British and its gradual acceptance by the people, one of the obstacles to European economic penetration was removed.²³ The monetization of the economy was achieved, in part by persuasion. Aynion, creation of new wants²⁴

¹⁷ Adesina Olutayo, C. 1989. "A Historical Evaluation of the Western Nigeria Government Agricultural Policy, 1951 – 1966". M.A. Thesis Department of History, O.A.U, Ile-Ife. VII

¹⁸ Adesina Olutayo, C. 1989. "A Historical Evaluation of the Western Nigeria Government Agricultural Policy, 1951 – 1966". M.A. Thesis Department of History, O.A.U, Ile-Ife. VII

¹⁹. British Parl papers (C.7916) Africa No.9 of 1895 cited in Anene, d, C., Southern Nigeria in Transition (London, Cambridge Univ. Proas, 1968), .284.

²⁰. N.A.I, PR/B1, Nigeria: Statement of Agricultural Policy (Lagos, Government Printer, 1946), p.20.

²¹. Buchaman, K. M. and Pugh, J. C. op. cit.. 100.

²². Olorunfemi, A, The export trade of South Western Nigeria 1900 1950, Unpublished M.Phil. Thesis, University of Ife, Nov. 1972, 16-18.

²³. Olorunfemi, A, The export trade of South Western Nigeria 1900 1950, Unpublished M.Phil. Thesis, University of Ife, Nov. 1972, 16-18.

²⁴. Olorunfemi, A, The export trade of South Western Nigeria 1900 1950, Unpublished M.Phil. Thesis, University of Ife, Nov. 1972, 16-18.



and other subtitle v crops such as cocoa, groundnuts and cotton for the export market were encouraged in the agricultural sector while the ancient oil palm industry on which 'legitimate trade' had been Anchored²⁵ was given a new lease of life.

It is clear therefore that the colonial monetary system drew a close link between agricultural dash crops export and money supply as mechanisms of agrarian change, this led to the "manipulation and management of an indigenous agricultural sector."²⁶ The currency brought Nigeria into the mainstream of International trade and tied her into the sterling currency area thereby restricting the peoples' freedom to trade with all cameras on a "first come, first served basis."²⁷

To ensure total compliance, now goods were peddled by European and African merchants who stimulated now wants hitherto unknown in the indigenous economic system. The desire to avoid penalties for tax defaulting led the farmer to exert more than the usual amount of effort required in the traditional economy to provide for his needs and those of his family. The desire to meet those now wants and to acquire some surplus wealth encouraged the farmer to work harder to produce more cash crops.²⁸

The institutional link between cash crop agriculture and the Colonial money supply lay in the mechanism for currency issue recommended by the Emmott Committee in 1912, the result of which was the establishment of the West African currency Board.²⁹ The monetization of the economy was designed to complement the British trade in the colony and also to enhance her manipulation of the monetary system to her economic advantage.³⁰ But the reverse was the case for the traditional cultivator who bore the brunt of the now economic policy.

The real beneficiaries of this policy were the Lebanese traders and European exporters who bought the farm products cheaply from the to the farmers and exported them abroad at huge profits The cultivator, apart from his low income, was faced with o problem of taxation and the production he engaged in was geared towards buying necessary goods and paying taxes. Farmers living in areas where cash crops did not thrive were forced partly because of the need to pay tax, to migrate to cash crop-producing arenas where they worked as laborers.³¹ Others became indebted as a result of credits they took but could not afford to pay back.

Rather than alleviate the tribulations facing the farmers, this colonial policy, apart from not improving agricultural techniques, upset the indigenous economy. It also created among other things a shortage in the supply of traditional crops, unsatisfied demand for farming skills, shifts in population and the dependence of the economy on a few export crops.³² Commercial agriculture

²⁵ Pike, K. O., Trade and Politics in the Niger Delta 1830-1885 (Oxford: OUP, 1966) See Chapter 6 for details.

²⁶ Hogendorn Jans and Gomory, A Henry, 1982. "Cash Cropping, Currency Acquisition and Seigniorage in West Africa 1923-1950," *African Economic History No.11, 16*,

²⁷ Adesina Olutayo, C. 1989. "A Historical Evaluation of the Western Nigeria Government Agricultural Policy, 1951 – 1966". M.A. Thesis Department of History, O.A.U, Ile-Ife. VII

²⁸ Adesina Olutayo, C. 1989. "A Historical Evaluation of the Western Nigeria Government Agricultural Policy, 1951 – 1966". M.A. Thesis Department of History, O.A.U, Ile-Ife. VII

²⁹ Hogendorn Jans and Gomory, A Henry, "Cash Cropping, Currency Acquisition and Seigniorage in West Africa 1923-1950," *African Economic History No.11, 16, 1982*.

³⁰ Olanrewaju, S. A., "The Infrastructure of Exploitation: Transport, Honetary, Changes, Banking etc." in Falola, Toyin (od.) op. cit., .74.

³¹ Adesina Olutayo, C. 1989. "A Historical Evaluation of the Western Nigeria Government Agricultural Policy, 1951 – 1966". M.A. Thesis Department of History, O.A.U, Ile-Ife. VII

³² Ake, C., A Political Economy of Africa (London, Longman, 1981),45



thus became the essential mechanism by which the British objectives of "fostering the growth of trade and finding an outlet for manufactured and surplus energy"³³ was achieved. Their policy of "encouraging the development of both traditional and new cash crops" also found fulfillment under this policy.

However as a corollary to a commercialized agriculture the Colonial masters developed infrastructures to facilitate the easy removal of agricultural products from the region in the form of railways, roads and port facilities.

(b) Developing the Infrastructure of Agricultural Exploitation: Transportation

The colonial development of transportation in Nigeria centered on the development of the inland waterways, railways and roads was to facilitate the easy removal of the raw materials produced by the farmers.³⁴ Two reasons compelled this early development of the transportation system. First, the establishment of effective territorial administrative machinery was inconceivable in a vast territory like Nigeria unless adequate arrangements were made to facilitate easy mobility in the territory. Secondly, the vast interior of the country could not be fully exploited without an efficient transportation system.

The Colonial administration therefore embarked upon the construction of the railway system which began at Lagos in 1896 and reached Kano in 1911.³⁵ The railway system greatly facilitated the easy removal of agricultural products from the interior. It was however inadequate because it tapped a comparatively small area of the territory. Roads were required to carry produce from areas not reached by railways to railheads or directly to the coast and consuming areas,³⁶

The first motorable road in Nigeria was built in 1906 from Ibadan to Oyo and it was linked to the railways by a railway operated transport service. This was followed by similar services from *Osogbo* (the center) to *Ife, Ilosa, Ogbomoso* and from *Ede to Iwo*.³⁷ The road being an instrument of exploitation was also aimed at enhancing trade in the hinterland³⁸ rather than for the benefit of Nigerians. Many of the roads constructed were of poor quality. They, nevertheless, served the purpose for their construction. As shown by H. Robinson et al, out of a total of 12, 147 km of road constructed in the West between 1906 and 1960 only a negligible part was finely tarred.³⁹

³³ Lugard, E. D., *The Rise of Our East African Empire*, (London, 1893), Vol.1.,381-2.

³⁴ Adesina Olutayo, C. 1989. "A Historical Evaluation of the Western Nigeria Government Agricultural Policy, 1951 – 1966". M.A. Thesis Department of History, O.A.U, Ile-Ife. VII

³⁵ Adesina Olutayo, C. 1989. "A Historical Evaluation of the Western Nigeria Government Agricultural Policy, 1951 – 1966". M.A. Thesis Department of History, O.A.U, Ile-Ife. V

³⁶ Adesina Olutayo, C. 1989. "A Historical Evaluation of the Western Nigeria Government Agricultural Policy, 1951 – 1966". M.A. Thesis Department of History, O.A.U, Ile-Ife. VII

³⁷ Walker, G., *Nigerian Transport in 1950: An Example of An Underdeveloped Tropical Territory* (London, Colonial Office, 1955), cited in Olarewaju, op. cit..70.

³⁸ Adesina Olutayo, C. 1989. "A Historical Evaluation of the Western Nigeria Government Agricultural Policy, 1951 – 1966". M.A. Thesis Department of History, O.A.U, Ile-Ife. VII

³⁹ Robinson, H. et al, *The Economic Coordination of Transport Development in Nigeria* (Minho Park, Stanford Research Institute, 1961). 137.

**Table 2. Road in Nigeria between 1906 and 1960**

Region	Total Road Length (kms)	Tarred Road (kms)	Percentage of tarred To total road length
1. West	12,147	2,144	17.65
2. East	14,026	1,060	8.58
3. North	20,000	1,800	9.00
4. Nigeria	46,173	5,004	10.84

Source: H. Robinson et al, *The Economic Coordination of Transport Development in Nigeria* (Menlo Park, Stanford Research Institute, 1961), 137.

As a result of road development, the motor vehicle became part of the agencies for exploitation. The provision of harbor and wharf facilities at great public expense chiefly in Lagos, Port-Harcourt, *Sapele* and *Calabar* and other minor ports not only contributed to the expeditious shipment of goods, but it also facilitated the easy exploitation of the hinterland. In order to assure a continuous flow of goods from the interior, the Colonial Administration took steps to stem any kind of disruptions in the production of raw materials by putting into operation Land Laws designed to keep land in the hands of the indigenous populace.

Land Law

Perhaps the most remarkable British policy that played a central role in Nigerian agricultural development was the colonial policy. As shown in the preceding chapter before colonial rule, the system of land tenure and land use generally ensured that a community had enough land to engage themselves as farmers.⁴⁰ The introduction of permanent crops changed some of the features of the land tenure system but the Colonial administration made sure that farmers still held rights to land much the same way as they did before the introduction of an exchange economy.

Changes brought about by the introduction of permanent crops were significant to agricultural production of land. The reapportionment on the death of the family head, formed with permanent crops such as cocoa were passed on to the children of the deceased holder and remained the property of that section of the family so long as it was beneficially occupied by them.

This new system also had an impact on the traditional loan system in the region. In the 19th Century, a man who wished to borrow money could "pawn" himself or one of his children to the creditor until the loan was repaid.⁴¹ As cultivation of cocoa and other tree crops spread in Western Nigeria, farmers began to pawn their tree instead of themselves or their children.⁴² But the land held by the holder remained family land within the strict construction of native law and custom insofar as it could not be transferred to a stranger without the permission of the original family.

In order to prevent any disruption in the traditional pattern of the tenure system which could have a deleterious effect on the agricultural economy, the colonial administration enunciated its

⁴⁰ Adegboye, R. O.. "An analysis of Land tenure structure in SORU selected areas in Nigeria." *Nigerian Journal of Economics and Social Studies*, Vol.8 (No.2), 259-268, July, 1966.

⁴¹ Johnson, Samuel, *History of the Yoruba* (Lagon, C.H.S. Bookshops, Nigeria Ltd., 1921., 126-30.

⁴² Lloyd, F. C., *Yoruba Land Law* (London, Oxford University Press, 1960), 125-35



policy of "allowing agricultural development through the agency of the indigenous inhabitants."⁴³ This is achieved by putting forward provisions and ordinances to protect traditional cultivators in Southern Nigeria against unlawful transfer of land to foreign concession seekers. The Native Land Acquisition proclamation of 1910 forbade any alien from acquiring "any interest or right over or in any lands within the protectorate from a native except under an instrument which has received the approval in writing of the Governor."⁴⁴

Food Insecurity in Lagos State

Lagos State has the highest number of food-insecure people among the 21 states and the Federal Capital Territory so far analyzed by the Federal Government in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Food Programme, Action Against Hunger, among others. In the Food Security analysis report, otherwise called the Cadre Harmonize, put together by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and released in Abuja on Friday, it was stated that a total of 1,780,194 people were food insecure in Lagos.⁴⁵ Borno, Katsina and Sokoto had 1,429,988; 1,200,906; and 1,027,646 food insecure people in their domains, as they joined in the top four ranking states with food-insecure citizens in Nigeria. The 21 states in the March to May 2022 cycle of Cadre Harmonize include Abia, Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Cross-River, Edo, Enugu, Gombe, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano and Katsina. Others include Kebbi, Lagos, Niger, Plateau, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe, Zamfara, and the FCT. This, it said, included 979,687 in emergency across Borno, Adamawa, Katsina, Niger, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara.

This projected marginal increase in the population of people who may require the immediate need of humanitarian assistance could be related to the insecurity wave in the North-East states (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe) and activities of bandits in some North-West and North-Central states (Zamfara, Sokoto, Katsina, Kaduna, Benue and Niger), the report stated.⁴⁶

Also, He said,

This is a framework for estimating the number of people who are food insecure and may need assistance. It's done nationally, but for this round, we have done it in 21 states plus the FC.T⁴⁷

⁴³ Adesina Olutayo, C. 1989. "A Historical Evaluation of the Western Nigeria Government Agricultural Policy, 1951 – 1966". M.A. Thesis Department of History, O.A.U, Ile-Ife. VII

⁴⁴ Laws of the Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria London, 1908, vol.2).1, 188 cited in Oluwasanmi op. cit., 38.

⁴⁵ Lagos has the highest Number of Food-Insecure People –FG report Punch Newspaper. Retrieved on 12/08/2022 goggle chrome <https://punchng.com/lagos-has-highest-number-of-food-insecure-people-fg>

⁴⁶ The Food Security Analyst, FAO, Jasper Mwesigwa, told journalists on the sidelines of the event that the report was put together in order to reveal the number of people who needed assistance.

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Lagos State Government Ensuring Food Security for Sustainable Economic Development

With a population in excess of 25 million, Lagos understandably has a peculiar food security challenge.⁴⁸ It is in order to tactically address this that the Babajide Sanwo-Olu led government makes food security and the Food Security Analyst, FAO, Jasper Mwesigwa, told journalists on the sidelines of the event that the report was put together in order to reveal the number of people who needed assistance, integral part of its T.H.E.M.E.S. (acronyms for Traffic Management and Transportation, Health and Environment, Education and Technology, Making Lagos a 21ST Economy, Entertainment and Tourism and Governance and Security) Developmental Agenda of 'Making Lagos State a 21st Century Economy'. With most of its people engaged in activities outside the agricultural sector, if nothing radical is done, Lagos might be in danger of being engulfed in a food crisis.⁴⁹

Consequently, in the last two years, the government has put in place cogent strategies to stimulate food security. Part of the plan is to treat agriculture as a business venture by concentrating on value chains where the State has comparative advantage, and thus develop strategic partnerships that would stimulate investment in the sector. This is to deliberately develop an Agro-economy that would serve the twin purposes of producing sufficient food for the growing population, as well as developing a smooth-running Agric sector that would truly transform the State into 21st financial hub.⁵⁰

Interestingly, these efforts are beginning to yield positive results in ensuring that Lagosians have reliable access to affordable and nutritious food. The most recent of the plans is the launching of the 2021 Agricultural Value Chains Enterprise Activation Programme. The State Governor, on that occasion, deployed massive agricultural investment that empowered 3,000 urban and rural farmers in key sectoral value chains. The beneficiaries included women, youths and peasant farmers, who were selected for the scheme through a merit-based system anchored by independent associations of farmers across the state. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Sanwo-Olu said the government, through the programme, is supporting Agripreneurs with modern equipment and inputs that would help them make significant difference and scale up their agricultural practices.⁵¹ The support was majorly for agripreneurs in poultry, piggery and artisanal fishery, which are the three sub-sectors largely affected by the disruption of COVID-19. In the scheme, 300 youths trained in Aquaculture and Poultry Production at the Lagos Agripreneurship Programme (LAP) were empowered with agricultural inputs valued at N245 million, which represented 46.7 percent of the programme's total investment.

⁴⁸ National Population Commission. NPC, 2006. "List Of Nigerian States By Landmass And Population Density".

⁴⁹ Adebayo, Mobolaji. 2021. Lagos, Food Security And Economic Development- Features Unit, Ministry Of Information And Strategy, Alausa, Ikeja. Retrieved 20/4/2022 <https://lagosstate.gov.ng/blog/2021/09/20/lagos-food-security-and-economic-development-mobolaji-adebayo/>

⁵⁰ Adebayo, Mobolaji. 2021. Lagos, Food Security And Economic Development- Features Unit, Ministry Of Information And Strategy, Alausa, Ikeja. Retrieved 20/4/2022 <https://lagosstate.gov.ng/blog/2021/09/20/lagos-food-security-and-economic-development-mobolaji-adebayo/>

⁵¹ Adebayo, Mobolaji. 2021. Lagos, Food Security And Economic Development- Features Unit, Ministry Of Information And Strategy, Alausa, Ikeja. Retrieved 20/4/2022 <https://lagosstate.gov.ng/blog/2021/09/20/lagos-food-security-and-economic-development-mobolaji-adebayo/>

***Agriculture Youth Empowerment Scheme (AGRIC-YES)***

The AGRIC-YES initiative completed a full cycle of Trainees, Internship and Settlers with course 1 consisting of 100 youths graduated and fully settled at Araga Farm Settlement with N454 million credit facilities. The Course II & III (200 youths) have graduated and are ready for empowerment while the Course IV of 100 youths have commenced internship. Products from the Scheme which include over 2,111 crates of egg per day, 18,000 broilers per month, 35 tons of fresh fish per cycle and about 160 tonnes of cabbage, sweet melon, water melon, cucumber, pepper and assorted leafy vegetable per month are already being marketed in the State.⁵²

AGRIC-YES, Avai-Badagry

The Agric-yes project in Avai, Badagry is fashioned after the project Songhai of Benin Republic and replicated in other states in Nigeria. The Songhai model is a blueprint for translating the socio-demographic opportunities into reality, and turning agriculture into a productive, efficient, sustainable, and remunerative enterprise.⁵³ It is designed as a catalyst for a broader, multi-partnership programme to support the State Government in promoting access of Youths, men and women, to appropriate agribusiness entrepreneurial, leadership and management skills in agribusiness. A network of beneficiaries would be set up to promote zero waste as the input of one will be the output of the other. An average of 1,000 youths would be trained by the programme per annum and the Trainers had been trained at project Songhai, Benin Republic. Facilities are already being put in place at the center and vegetable production has already commenced.⁵⁴

Other beneficiaries include 400 pig farmers that participated in the Agricultural Youth Empowerment Scheme (Agric-YES), 680 fishermen, 190 fish cage culture artisans, 300 eggs marketers, 500 fish processors, 200 rice farmers and 370 crop farmers. They received variety of modern tools, such as tractors, plows, fishing boats and gear, harvesters, threshers, destoning machines, defeathering machines, herbicides, fish juveniles, pig growers, smoking kilns, crates of eggs, and inputs, which are to be utilized in farming communities across Lagos agricultural zones of Badagry, Epe and Ikorodu.⁵⁵ It is important to state that this programme is part of the achievements of the Five-Year Agricultural and Food System Development Roadmap, aimed at ensuring development of the agricultural value chain. Recall that on the 22nd April, 2021, Sanwo-Olu launched the five-year Agricultural and Food System Development Roadmap to chart a coordinated path for the desired development for the agricultural sector and boost food security. The roadmap, which is the government's strategy for the sustainable agriculture sector, will focus on the development of the upstream sector through technology in the selected value chain. It will, however,

⁵²Adebayo, Mobolaji. 2021. Lagos, Food Security And Economic Development- Features Unit, Ministry Of Information And Strategy, Alausa, Ikeja. Retrieved 20/4/2022 <https://lagosstate.gov.ng/blog/2021/09/20/lagos-food-security-and-economic-development-mobolaji-adebayo/>

⁵³Adebayo, Mobolaji. 2021. Lagos, Food Security And Economic Development- Features Unit, Ministry Of Information And Strategy, Alausa, Ikeja. Retrieved 20/4/2022 <https://lagosstate.gov.ng/blog/2021/09/20/lagos-food-security-and-economic-development-mobolaji-adebayo/>

⁵⁴Adebayo, Mobolaji. 2021. Lagos, Food Security And Economic Development- Features Unit, Ministry Of Information And Strategy, Alausa, Ikeja. Retrieved 20/4/2022 <https://lagosstate.gov.ng/blog/2021/09/20/lagos-food-security-and-economic-development-mobolaji-adebayo/>

⁵⁵Adebayo, Mobolaji. 2021. Lagos, Food Security And Economic Development- Features Unit, Ministry Of Information And Strategy, Alausa, Ikeja.



help to grow the midstream and downstream sector, which includes processing, commercialization and packaging among others.⁵⁶

Rice for Job Programme

The project re-introduced modern rice farming techniques and as a result area cultivated to rice in the state increased from less than 50 Ha annually to over 250 Ha annually with 200 youths at Itoikin in Epe LGA and Itoga, Badagry. Yield has improved from less than one tone per hectare to over 4 tons per hectare with double cropping. 35 hectares of modern irrigation facilities have been provided at Itoga, Badagry and additional 120 youths were engaged to broaden the scope of the programme.⁵⁷

Presently, the Sanwo-Olu administration is speedily working towards completing the Integrated Rice Mill at Imota, in Ikorodu. The 32 metric tonnes per hour rice mill, when completed, is expected to produce 2.4million bags of 50kg rice per annum, as well as provide a total of 267,580 jobs at different stages of the value chain. This will also reduce the cost of rice locally, enhance self-sufficiency and revenue generation in the state and the country at large. The government has already trained, built capacity and empowered 800 farmers across the state, as part of the preparation for the take-off of the mill. Another commendable stride of the government in boosting food security is the Agro-Processing, Productivity Enhancement and Livelihood Improvement Support (APPEALS).⁵⁸ This project, which is in conjunction with the Federal government and World Bank, is a proactive measure to tackle food insecurity in th state and it started in 2018 and will be implemented over a period of six-year. It is aimed at enhancing the productivity of small-scale farmers in the three identified value-chains of poultry, aquaculture and rice through capacity building, provision of infrastructure, and empowerment. The project is also targeted at service providers, transporters, input manufacturers and suppliers within the system, whose services are required for the successful implementation of the project.⁵⁹

Women and Youth Empowerment Programme (WYEP)

Also, speaking during the Ministerial Press Briefing in commemoration of the second year in office of Governor Sanwo-Olu, Commissioner for Agriculture, Mrs. Abisola Olusanya, said the government has identified, verified and trained 8,156 farmers and SMEs in relevant areas of agribusiness under the APPEALS project.⁶⁰

She ⁶¹ also revealed that another 462 beneficiaries, under the Women and Youth Empowerment Programme (WYEP), have been trained in agribusiness management, soft skills among others, and have been empowered to start off production. In order to boost Agric related

⁵⁶ Adebayo, Mobolaji. 2021. Lagos, Food Security And Economic Development- Features Unit, Ministry Of Information And Strategy, Alausa, Ikeja.

⁵⁷ Lagos State Ministry Of Agriculture Yearly Brief, 2019

⁵⁸ Lagos State Ministry Of Agriculture Yearly Brief, 2019

⁵⁹ Lagos State Ministry Of Agriculture Yearly Brief, 2021

⁶⁰ Ministerial Press Briefing in Commemoration of the Second year in office of Governor Sanwo-Olu, Commissioner for Agriculture, Mrs. Abisola Olusanya, said the government has identified, verified and trained 8,156 farmers and SMEs in relevant areas of agribusiness under the APPEALS project.

⁶¹ Ministerial Press Briefing in commemoration of the second year in office of Governor Sanwo-Olu, Commissioner for Agriculture, Mrs. Abisola Olusanya, said the government has identified, verified and trained 8,156 farmers and SMEs in relevant areas of agribusiness under the APPEALS project.



enterprise in the state, in 2020, the maiden edition of the Eko-City Farmers' Market was held with a total transaction of N7.9million. It was a platform where the best of Lagos farmers met with consumers and end users by using the traditional and innovative methods to showcase a well-organized high quality market. A notable objective of the initiative is to provide Lagosians access to a wide variety of fresh, local, in-season farm products direct from the producers, thereby promoting food security and economic growth.⁶²

Strategic Food Production

In line with the Federal Government policy on inclusion of 20% cassava flour in breads, the increased demand for cassava-based products and the ban on importation of cassava products have increased the need for higher Quality Cassava flour. Lagos State being one of the foremost states that has keyed in this initiative, has decided to establish its own High quality Cassava Flour Factory.⁶³ Hence, the Lagos State Government adopted the establishment of a High Quality Cassava flour factory as a vehicle for Youth empowerment and Employment Generation in the State. Similarly, the Agric-YES facilities at Badagry and Araga, Epe have been upgraded to Lagos State Food Production Centres. This is to further improve food production and stimulate economic growth in the state. At full capacity, the centers will produce 62,250 birds for egg production per cycle; 104,000 birds for meat production per cycle; 267.6 tonnes of fish per cycle and 25 tonnes of assorted vegetables per cycle.⁶⁴ Other programmes of the government aimed at ensuring food security include the newly commissioned Food Market at Agbalata (FADAMA), Badagry, development of vegetables value chain in terms of production, transportation, storage, as well as deployment of Information and Community Technology (ICT) for agricultural development and food security, to mention but few.

Strategically, the effort of the Ministry is geared towards areas of livestock, fisheries, rice and vegetable production where the State has comparative advantage with emphasis on value addition. So, the implementation of programmes and projects had been through the Strategic Programme for Accelerated Agricultural Growth (SPAAG) driven by 6in's. The "6-ins" highlights the Ministry's various approaches to food production as indicated below;

- **Incentives** for farmers, to enhance production(prices, input and other costs)
- **Inputs** for production (availability, quality and prices)
- **Innovation** (using technology to increase productivity)
- **Information** (effective extension system)
- **Infrastructure** (power, roads, mechanization, processing storage and distribution)
- **Institutions** (linkages with credit, market, land, insurance: leading to **Investments** (opportunities in agriculture).⁶⁵

⁶² Ministerial Press Briefing in commemoration of the second year in office of Governor Sanwo-Olu, Commissioner for Agriculture, Mrs. Abisola Olusanya, said the government has identified, verified and trained 8,156 farmers and SMEs in relevant areas of agribusiness under the APPEALS project.

⁶³ Ministerial Press Briefing of Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture. 2021.

⁶⁴ Ministerial Press Briefing of Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture. 2021.

⁶⁵ Ministerial Press Briefing of Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture. 2018.



Cooperative College Development and Operation

The state with over 13,000 cooperative societies and over 2.5 million members with an asset base of more than forty billion Naira (N41 billion) in the private and public sector deserved a well-informed and competent trustees as well as executives for its continuous growth. In view of the potential of the Cooperative movement in economic and social development of the State, the Government has established a modern Cooperative college at Agege, which is of the best in Africa. The center has trained a total of 442 (four hundred and forty-two) co-operators in various courses.⁶⁶ The Directorate, in collaboration with Lagos State cooperative Federation Limited, organized workshops/seminars for three thousand six hundred and sixty-two (3,662) cooperators across the State. A vibrant cooperative Federation has been successfully established in the State.

Estate initiative

In response to the declining land for agricultural activities and minimizing the activities of land speculators as well as promoting the utilization of agricultural land for its intended purposes, the Ministry has intensified the establishment of agricultural estates where beneficiaries would take advantage of scale while operating in its micro level. The State Government will provide the enabling environment to facilitate the private sector in taking advantage of these initiatives. The Estates of reference include:

- ❖ Poultry estate at Ikorodu, Ikorodu
- ❖ Vegetable Estate at Iyaaafin, Badagry
- ❖ Fish farm Estate at Ketu-Ereyun, Epe
- ❖ Arable crops Estate at Agbowa.⁶⁷

Public presentations of the Estates have been carried out and shortlisted investors have been allocated land. The specific status of each of the estates is given below:⁶⁸

- ❖ **Poultry Estate Development:** The Poultry Estate at Erikorodo, Ikorodu LGA of the State established to produce about 1 million eggs and 600,000 live birds annually has been laid out and allocated to 137 investors. The allocation is made up of 70 high density or small scale, 18 medium scale and 49 small density or large scale operators. Production activity is already going on at the Estate with a fully functioning processing facility and feed mill.
- ❖ **Vegetable Estate, Iyaaafin, and Badagry:** The vegetable Estate has started on 25 hectares of land at Iyafin in Badagry area of the State. Land development and layout has commenced with each allottee given opportunities to a quarter of an hectare each 100 youths had been employed under the irrigated agriculture with emphasis on tomatoes and other fruit vegetables as well as choice local and exotic leafy vegetables.
- ❖ **Fish Farm Estates:** The 400-Plot Ketu-Ereyun Fish Farm Estate to produce about 10,000 Tons of fish per annum at full capacity has been laid out and allocations made to the first 162 investors. Based on the experience at Ikorodu Fish Farm where land speculators were observed, the allottees were given only six (6) months to mobilize to site or lose the allocation.

⁶⁶ Ministerial Press Briefing of Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture. 2018.

⁶⁷ Ministerial Press Briefing of Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture. 2017.

⁶⁸ Ministerial Press Briefing of Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture. 2017.



Reallocation of unutilized plots had also been done. This action is to improve food security and employment generation in the State.⁶⁹

- ❖ **Arable Crops Estate at Agbowa:** Arable crops such as pineapple, Maize and plantain that command high values would be cultivated on large scale at Agbowa in Agbowa-Ikosi, Ejirin LCDA to provide employment for 100 youths on a basis of a minimum of 1 hectare per person. The land has been surveyed and laid out and 1,292 youths have indicated their intention to participate in the programme.

Eko Farmers Mart

In order to minimize the marketing problems of farmers in the State and make food available to the citizens in a modern and hygienic form and affordable prices, the Ministry in addition to the premier Farmer's Mart at Alausa, secretariat, Ikeja established 2nos of farmers' mart at Surulere and Ajah. The operation of the Marts is similar to the Cooperatives foods in Great Britain as a means of ensuring food security, Poverty reduction and wealth creation.⁷⁰

Farm Service/Entrepreneurship Center

In order to take advisory services nearer to the farmers and ease coordination of the Ministry's activities, the Farmers service center approach has been adopted in the State with the premier one commissioned on the 18th of April, 2012 at Oko-Oba, Agege to serve Ikeja Division. The centre has representatives of all Departments and Agencies in the Ministry of Agriculture and is a one stop shop to solve any of their problems instead of coming to the Ministry. The centre had been built with modern facilities to introduce entrepreneurship courses in Agriculture for school leavers, retirees and professionals intending to invest in Agriculture. The Badagry Centre at Mowo is fully completed.

Coconut Rehabilitation Project

The 180Km coconut groves along the coastline of the State is over 50 years old, and this administration has commenced its rehabilitation through the Coconut Development Authority. As of now, 60 ha coconut seed garden/Nursery located at Gberefu, Badagry, Irewe, Ojo, Okun Ajah, Eti-Osa and Okun-ise, Lekki have been established to produce 100,000 seedlings per annum. The coconut House with a demonstration centre and orchard had been completed at Mowo, Badagry to coordinate the coconut development activities in the State. The technologies for the production of Coconut milk, Oil and water have been perfected for investors to adopt on a commercial basis.⁷¹

Commercial Agriculture Development Project (CADP) Outstanding Achievements

- ❖ Improved land preparation system through provision of 4wd Tractors and Implement which reduce the cost of land preparation from N30,000 to N5,000 per Hectare
- ❖ Provision of 12.38km Farm Access Road to reduce the travel time and cost: These roads include;⁷²
 - i. Farm Access Road in Itoikin
 - ii. Abijo in Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Area.

⁶⁹Ministerial Press Briefing of Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture. 2014.

⁷⁰ Ministerial Press Briefing of Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture. 2021.

⁷¹ Ministerial Press Briefing of Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture. 2021.

⁷² Ministerial Press Briefing of Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture. 2021



- iii. Farm Access road in Ise
- iv. Rhysal valley view Farm Access Road in Ikorodu
- v. Improved paddy/field labour transportation through supply of ONE to Use Rice Farmers from N4, 000 to N10, 000.
- vi. Improved agronomic practices through the adoption of Rice through the use of rotary dryers has reduced the drying time from 18 hours to 6 hours and this has enhanced the packaging and branding of Rice and linkages to big shopping malls.
- vii. The use of Nipple fitted Battery Cage has resulted in reduction in disease transmission and wastages. The total intervention by the Project is over 1 Billion as of date and this has tremendously improved productivity and marketing of the value chains.

Third National Fadama Development Project (NFDP III)

The National Fadama Development Project (NFDP) has continued to assist small scale farmers and other groups along the value chain in the provision of production assets, infrastructure, capacity building and advisory services.⁷³ 481 Fadama Users Group were supported with matching grant for the Procurement of 431 bags of fertilizer for rice and livestock feeds, 11 FCAS and 65 FUGS were assisted with Capacity building and inputs and 34no FUGS benefitted from various productive assets. The 100 meters footbridge was acquired by Okunlape Community in Ibeju Lekki LG, this will give them access to various markets in the State thereby increasing their income. The mid-term assessment of these projects showed that the income of about 75% beneficiaries increased during the period with 46% as the maximum rate of increase.⁷⁴

Agricultural Inputs Supply to Farmers and Fisherman

The agricultural inputs Supply Authority (LAISA) during the period was reviewed with a view to getting quality inputs at lower prices available to farmers. The state has approved its participation on the e-distribution of inputs to farmers while importing others to complement the supply. Also, 58 farmer groups benefited from inputs worth N32, 325,000 (Thirty two million, Three Hundred and Twenty five thousand Naira) under the crop, livestock and fisheries sub-sectors.⁷⁵ These benefit include 9 units of outboard Engines, 1,434 bundles of Fishing Nets and 9,500 pieces of floats; 23 metric tons of maize grains and 15 metric tons of soybean; and different types of crop inputs ranging from Fertilizers (17.9 metric tons), Maize seeds (178kg), Farm implements (356 units) and Agro chemicals (234 litres).

- Distribute over 5,000 tonnes of fertilizer;
- 12,500 liters of agro-chemicals ;
- 643 outboard engines ;
- 2,101 bundles of fishing nets;
- Reorganized and Recapitalized for better services delivery
- Diversification of operation to act as buyer of last resort
- Promote organic farming in the state
- Distribute over 5,000 tonnes of fertilizer
- 10,500 liters of agro-chemicals

⁷³ Third National Fadama Development Project (NFDP III) Report Retrieved online September 20, 2021.

⁷⁴ Third National Fadama Development Project (NFDP III) Report Retrieved online September 20, 2021.

⁷⁵ Ministerial Press Briefing of Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture. 2021



- 6423 outboard engines
- 2,101 bundles of fishing nets.⁷⁶

Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GESS)

The growth enhancement support scheme (GESS) is one of the schemes under the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) of the Federal Government aimed at making material inputs readily available to farmers across the country. It seeks to lift 20 million poor farmers out of subsistence into self-sufficiency. Fertilizers and seeds will be made available, accessible and affordable to farmers and the programme has been designed to run for 4 years. At present, farmers' enumeration exercise is being conducted in all the LGAs/LCDAs of the state, and over 40,000 farmers have been registered and a minimum of 30,000 farmers are expected to benefit from the scheme this year.⁷⁷

Farm Mechanization

Sixteen mini tractors with implement sets were delivered by AGZAT to the Ministry, 7 nos new John Deere tractors each with complete implements set consisting 1 no each of plow, 17 tractors and 23 implements were refurbished, 8 community based agro-processing facilities/center's were maintained.

Agricultural Land Holdings and Management

Over 2,703.86 Hectares of land have been acquired in the state for agricultural purposes; land owning families at Avia in Badagry LGA have been compensated for the use of their land for the Songhai project. The 100ha vegetable estate at Iyafin has been surveyed and laid out into blocks and plots.

Acquisition of Land in other States

Acquisition of land for dedicated food supply to the State in line with global practices of advanced Nations. The State government has started oil-palm processing at the 84 ha farmland in Okinni, Osogbo. Irrigation equipment has been purchased for the production of high valued vegetable crops for Lagos Market. The farm at present can boast of a standard farm house that will house AGRIC-YES trainees as part of their training will be done at the farm in Okinni.

- ❖ Ago Owu, Osun State -1,000 ha
- ❖ Eggua, Ogun state – the state government has approved funds for 500ha land in Eguia, for rice production. The maiden harvest of the farm products from Orile-Owu will get to Lagos before the end of the year. Further acquisition will be carried out with preference for River Basin Development Authority where Production infrastructure already exists.

Nigerian Incentive-Based Risk Sharing Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL)/Credit Delivery

The state has signed into the NIRSAL project initiated by the Central Bank of Nigeria in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to de-risk the lending to the sector under the Scheme, farmers would take facilities from participating banks, insure their investments and would be entitled to a refund of 40% of interest paid as and when due. The priority set for the State through

⁷⁶ Ministerial Press Briefing of Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture. 2021

⁷⁷ Ministerial Press Briefing of Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture. 2021.



active participation of the private sector in the entire value chain is to produce 1,000,000 tons of fish annually as an import substitution.⁷⁸

Rural Finance Institution Building Project (RUFIN)

The intensification of RUFIN's activities in mobilizing farmers and village saving groups through capacity building and linkages. The Project has mobilized 389 rural saving groups with 103 already registered as cooperative societies out of which 32 had benefited from First Bank Micro-finance Bank with an average facility of N2.5 million each.

Development of Modern Abattoirs

The development of a modernized abattoir at Achakpo, Ajegunle through PPP arrangement has been completed. The abattoir has the capacity to slaughter 500 cattle per day. 200 Eko Refrigerated Meat Vans had been launched and ready to be rolled out to Lagos State butchers. This will improve the mode of meat transportation from the Abattoir to various markets in the State.⁷⁹

'Green Lagos' campaign/ Climate Change Mitigation

Apart from the beautification and maintenance of the Secretariat, Lagos House, Ikeja, other adjoining roads during the period, the Ministry is putting emphasis on the establishment of a gene pool for extinct local trees and shrubs that are useful to man. Such trees include jathropha plants for medicinal purposes. It has also initiated a plan to organize private horticulturists operating in the State for better Performance.⁸⁰ In a bid to mitigate the effect of climate change in the State, avenue planting within Government and private Estates is now being promoted while felling of trees is being discouraged. Climate change clubs at secondary schools are also being assisted with the planting and maintenance of orchards within their schools.

However, this initiative and others, are interventions that will contribute to inclusive agricultural growth in the state, which will in turn increase food production from the current 20 percent to at least 50 percent by 2025.

Conclusion

The Sanwo-Olu led government has, no doubt, improved investment in food security in the last two years. However, for the dividends of the investment to be enduring, the spirited participation of all stakeholders in the sector towards mitigating the challenges of food security in the state is still desirable. In the light of this foregoing assertion, this paper concludes that the developments of agricultural policies and programmes that took place during the period of 1967 and 2019 when the government became actively involved in the sector for the sustainable development of food security for the people in the state and Nigeria at large. These were designed to boost agricultural production in the country as well as to consolidate the insecurity of foods already made in the previous era. Each of these programmes brought into existence between these periods really met their targeted goals as it was properly implemented, executed and monitored by individual agencies in the sector.

⁷⁸ Lagos State Ministry Of Agriculture Yearly Brief 2015

⁷⁹ Lagos State Ministry Of Agriculture Yearly Brief 2015

⁸⁰ Lagos State Ministry Of Agriculture Yearly Brief 2015.