

- Graduates of the inclusive early childhood program should be encouraged by giving them automatic employment in accordance with their performance abilities, so also the physically challenge as in the case of the able people.

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THE STATE AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA A CASE STUDY OF DOMA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF NASARAWA STATE

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ABSTRACT

The theme of this research is concerned with the evaluation of state and agricultural development in Nigeria from 2013-2017, particularly in Nasarawa State where it was discovered that agriculture is still operating at a crude, out-moded, rudimentary and traditional age. The aforementioned period was chosen because a lot of agricultural policies and programmes were introduced in the state, for example, Fadama III and host of them. It is clearly shown on this dissertation that the impact of agricultural policies from 2013-2017 has been minimal, this has resulted in gross misallocation of resources and has therefore been counter-productive. The research used a survey method to gather data from respondents and it was analyzed using percentage. Central to development in every society, the government is the engine-room, on this basis we employed the Keynesian theory of development. Results from the empirical analysis show that the productivity of peasant agriculture has to some extent impacted positively on the economic growth of Nigeria. As recommendations to promote farming

Introduction:

Nigeria has a landmass of about 91 million hectares and a population of about 200 million. The most popular country in Africa, largely rural and comprising about 1,200km from east to west and 1, 050 km from north-south and is bounded by Cameroun to the east, Chad to the north-east, Niger to the North, Benin to the west, and the Gulf of Guinea on the Atlantic Ocean to the south. Agriculture is the major employer over 60% of the population and related rural enterprises as their source of livelihood. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible to manage the sector through formulation and periodic review of policies toward

activities, policies and programs designed by the government should be implemented and follow-up-to the later. Mechanized agriculture should be encouraged against, outmoded agricultural practices. Land tenure system should be discouraged and the government should encourage face to face contact with the peasant's farmers to discuss their basic needs, agricultural extension workers sabotaging government efforts should be sanctioned to bring sanity into the system in order to promote socio-economic development in Nigeria.

Keywords: *State, Agricultural and Development*

attainment of food security for all. The term agriculture is an art and science of producing crops and animals for man's consumption. The foundation upon which development of stable human communities e.g rural and urban communities have depended in many parts of the world.

The agricultural sector has the potential to be the industrial and economic springboard in which a country's development can take-off. More often than not most agricultural activities take place in the less developed rural areas such as Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, where there is a need for rural transformation redistribution, poverty alleviation, and socio-economic development.

During the pre-independence period, agriculture contributed heavily to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Nigeria economy. According to Helleiner (1966), export production amounted to 57% of Nigeria's revenue and in that 57%, agriculture made about 80% of the export. The economy of Nigeria could be described as agricultural economy because agriculture served as the engine-room of the overall economy Ogen (2003).

The civil war in Nigeria between 1967-1970 coincided with the oil boom, which resulted in extensive exploration and export of petroleum and its products. It led Nigeria to neglect its strong agriculture in favor of an unhealthy dependence on oil according to United States Department of State, (2005). Since then, Nigeria has been witnessing extreme poverty and insufficiency of basic food items.

Furthermore, the neglect of the agricultural sector and over-dependence of Nigeria on a mono-cultural crude oil-based economy does not augur well for the well-being of Nigeria. In an effort to address this scenario, the Nigeria

government from 1975 became directly involved in the commercial/production of food and cash crops.

Moreover, in an effort to promote agriculture in the country, the successive government introduced the following:

- The Nigeria Agricultural and Cooperative Bank (NACB) was established in 1973 in an effort to invest oil wealth into the agricultural sector through the provision of credit facility to support agro-allied business (Olagunju, 2000)
- The River Basin Development Authority (RBDA) was conceived in 1963 to cater for the development of land and mineral potential of Nigerians.
- Operation feeds the National (OFN) was commissioned in the 1970's with the aim of mobilizing the nation toward self-sufficiency.

Doma local government area of Nasarawa state is the headquarter of Doma town, with an area mass 92,714km square. It has a population 139,607 according to 2006census.

Nasarawa state is generally characterized by a tropical sub-humid climate with two distinct seasons. The dry season is experienced between early November and April with annual rainfall figure ranging from 110mm to about 2000mm.

Statement of the problem

Despite the effort by researchers like Anyanwu (1967), the period between 1861-1960 attention was given to agricultural research and extension workers. Hellemer (1966) said that in 1929, export production amount to 57% of Nigeria research and agriculture made up about 80%of export. But unfortunately on the long man agriculture suffered a serious setback due to poor management inconsistent and poorly implemented government policies and neglect of infrastructural facilities. Nigeria is no longer a major exporter of cocoa, groundnut, rubber and palm products. The decline in the agricultural product was largely base on the rise of oil shipment (see made 2009)

This backdrop in agriculture has kept up with the rapid population growth and Nigeria once a large net exporter of food is now importing most of its food requirements.

Dependence on oil is not the cause of the underdevelopment of the Nigerian agricultural sectors, but also.

According to Falisi and Olayiole(1980) observed that Nigeria agriculture is characterized by illiterate farmers who live rural areas producing over 95 of the total food consumed and other agricultural products with regards to the educational status give little or no room for improvement through science research.

More so, Olayemi(1985) noted that more than 90% of consumed food items in Nigeria is provided by the peasant farmers

The bulk of agricultural activities are done using a local implement that is relatively less effective as compared to modern equipment such as tractors, plow etc.

Lack of finance, storage facilities depend on whether especially rainfall for farming activities.

Research Questions:

- i. What are the various problems facing peasant farmers in Doma local government area?
- ii. How is the nature of land holdings and does it affects productivity?
- iii. Does the use of crude farm implement affect productivity?

The objective of the study

The main objective of the research is to examine the role of state and agricultural development in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State:

- To access the challenge of the peasantry in Doma local government
- To examine the nature of land holdings in the area and how it affects productivity
- To ascertain whether the use of crude implements by the peasant in the production affects productivity

Theoretical Framework

Keynesian theory of development

The aforementioned theory was propounded by Keynes Waynard John (1946): Keynes was an influential British economist, who believes that economy could not regulate itself in the interest of the society as a whole via the free market and this was active in the 1930s. He was of the opinion that general prosperity and full employment, in particular, required government spending and investment.

Furthermore, the great depression of the 1930's that made the western world to give a second thought to the idea of free trade (Laizzes-faire).

He conceived was that the economy of the western world could be reviewed through demand, employment, and consumption that will subsequently lead to development in society.

Moreover, the following assertion was made:

- i. That total income is a function of effective employment factors of production in any society
- ii. The greater the volume of employment, the greater the national income
- iii. Employment of manpower depends on effective demand for goods and services provided by enterprises and what the entrepreneurs produce are demanded, purchases and consumed by the people to keep the system functioning.

According Keynes government is the key player in the economic development of every nation. This can be done through granting entrepreneurs tax-holiday, reduction of interest rate, etc

Conclusively, agriculture in Nigeria plays a vital role in recruiting more than 70% of the country's population. From the foregoing looking at the impact of state in economic development, the Keynesian theory of development has a great impetus and relevance to socio-economic development. Therefore, the need for government commitment, priority to agriculture to promote employment, savings, and investment in Nigeria.

Literature review

Concept of Agriculture

Agriculture has been subjected to so many definitions by experts:

Ighodo (1984); define agriculture as the art and science of cultivation of crops and rearing of animals for man's use. He further looks at agriculture as the production of fibers for industries, processing of farms produces, packing and marketing of farm products.

From the summation above, agriculture requires a tripartite relationship between agriculture education, research, and advisory services.

According to Ogwuma (1985); agriculture is the production of field crops, forestry, fishing and livestock, research and training of extension workers.

Agriculture is not an end to itself but means to an end and production is not finished till the products reach the final consumer.

Considering production is not only complete till the goods reach the final consumer, Anyanwu (1987) responded to the doctrine by defining agriculture as involving the cultivation of land, raising and rearing of animals for the purpose of providing food for man, feed for animals and raw materials for industries. It involves forestry, fishing, processing, and marketing of these agricultural products.

Concept of development

In the word of Seers (1971); development is a normative concept involving the fulfillment of the necessary several objectives of development which according to him should be generally applicable:

- i. Reducing poverty: means making widely available physical necessities of life such as food, clothing, shelter, etc.
- ii. Decreasing unemployment, developing shells, making the job available to a greater number of people.
- iii. Decreasing inequality, achieving some equality in income and social life.

According to Todaro (1939); development is a multidimensional process that includes major changes in social structures, popular attitudes and national institution as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the redirection of inequality and the eradication of absolute poverty development at this level include capacity building, equitable distribution of national wealth, people empowerment, independence of systems and the sustainability of all these components.

According to Gart (1979); "development", "undeveloped", "under-developed" and less developed are often used to denote the socio-economic and political condition of the people in a given country of origin. The concept of development is elusion. It perceived not only as a condition of life but also as a goal to be attained and has the capacity to grow, change and develop.

Concept of state

According to Woodrow (Former American President), a state is people organized for law, within a definite territory.

While Wikipedia online encyclopedia defines a state as an organized political community, living under a government for an entity to be called a state, it usually needs to have the following features:

- i. Population: people made up a state, without people there can be a state
- ii. Territory (Land): for an entity to be called a state, it must possess a definite territory, with clear cut, boundaries
- iii. Government: the government acts as an instrument in which the will of the state is achieved and it determines the existence of a state.
- iv. Sovereignty: independence or autonomy, every state must possess the ability to make, interpret and execute laws, free of direct external control.

State and agricultural production

In the words of Ajaero (2009), in 1960s agriculture contributed more than 60 percent of the GDP, despite the reliance of Nigerian farmers on traditional implements and local farming methods. The farmers produced food to feed the nation and generated enough revenue and the surplus which was used by the government to provide basic infrastructural facilities needed for long term development.

According to Kwanshie, Agilima and Garba (1998), agricultural export was the engine of growth prior to 1973, which provided much revenue that government used in developing the basic infrastructural system and also financed import substitution industrialization scheme.

To Kuznet (1966), the growth process of most developed nations are measured by certain features; (i) is a sustainable increase in the rate of growth of per capita output, input, and population (ii) is the high rate of increase in total factors of production especially labour productivity (iii) is the sustained rise in the rate of structural change which entails a gradual shift from agricultural to non-agricultural activities. In line with Rostow's five stages of development, a nation must first pass through the traditional primitive stage which is characterized by agricultural activities. Every economy is dependent on the agricultural sector, thus agriculture is the foundation of economic growth and its absence the economy is bound to have stunted growth.

No economy can growth nor develop while habouring a community of hungry people as these people can't contribute anything meaningful to national output.

According to Malthus (1760 – 1798); “food is necessary to the existence of man, but food production increases at a slower rate than the population. If population increases faster than food production, the economy is moving towards starvation and making economic growth impossible, Malthus clarified the very relationship necessary for the betterment of human condition: “production of food had to increase faster than population if there has to be any major improvement in the standard of living.

In the words of Thirlwall (1977), agricultural development shall promote the economic growth and development of underdeveloped nations through the following ways:

- i. Providing food for the urban industrial population
- ii. Expanding the size of the domestic market
- iii. Increase income among the rural dweller to be mobilized by the state
- iv. Promoting better living standard in rural areas
- v. Making employment available for teeming population

According to Adelman (2001): Agriculture is necessary to any thinking nation to bring about growth and development since the sector constitutes a large share of national output and often employs a majority of the labour force in most developing countries.

State and peasantry production

Oluwasami (1978) in his words identified the outmoded land tenureship in Nigeria as an important cause of Agricultural backwardness in the country. This explanation is in a sense correct, it is patently one-sided neither does it point out the qualitative difference between land-holdings as a matter of necessity by merely decreeing out archaic, pre-feudal and pre-capitalist land tenureship and making land locally available to people who have economic power. By no means, one is tackling the matter at its root because in India when this was done a long time ago, food crisis remains essential unsolved. Today, India is still a net importer of grains and ordinary people are still suffering and dying of hunger and starvation.

State, peasants, and agriculture in Nasarawa state

Dominantly, farmers in Nasarawa State are subsistence Agriculturalist who has small farm holdings from 0.5 hectares to about 4 hectares. They produced food for domestic consumption at household with little for sale in neighborhood

markets. It is stated that Nigerian farmers are classified into small scale, medium and large scale. About 94.37% of all farm holdings in Nigeria are classified as smallholdings, while the remaining 5.631 are medium-scale holdings.

Furthermore, the record has shown that peasant farmers account for 90% of total food and fiber production in Nigeria. According to National Council Industries (2002), small scale farmers depend on their efficiency in the utilization of basic production resources available to them and make a significant and important contribution to the National production that is 99% of the crop output. Subsistence farmers are the main producers of 98% of most crops consumed in Nigeria. Therefore, they are crucial to the development of Nigeria's economy and should be given needed attention.

State and land use act (caps)

The discussion on state and Agriculture development in Nigeria shall be inconclusive without Deeping into "Land use Act", the law of the federation 2004. The Act to vest all land comprised on the territory of each state except land comprised on the territory of each state (except land vested in the federal government or its agencies) solely on the Governor or the state who would hold such land in trust for the people and would henceforth be responsible for the allocation of such land in all urban areas to individuals resident in the state and to organization for residential, agricultural, commercial and other purposes while similar power with respect to non-urban area is conferred on Local Government (29th March 1978).

Research method

A field survey was used as the research design. It entails the collection of information from a cross-section of the population on a defined subject matter within a given period of time through the use of interviews to assess knowledge, feelings, and opinion about the subject matter under discussion.

Morso, the design describes the approach used in the selection of media through which an interview was conducted, research population sample techniques, data collection methods, and analysis.

The study employed both primary and secondary sources of data collection and it equally involves the methodological collection of both qualitative and quantitative data.

The population of the Study

For the purpose of this discussion, the researcher is specifying the size and composition of the group in which the study is directed. Thus staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and peasant farmers as the targeted population. Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State has a population size of 139,609 according to 2006 population census.

In other to ascertain the population, the entire staff in the Ministry of Agriculture and the peasant farmers data were collected through the random cluster from each district of the locality.

Table 1 population of staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and peasant farmers in Doma Local Government.

Nasarawa state min of Agriculture	No of staff	Districts	No of peasant farmers (Randomly)
8	235	10	100

Source: Data from Survey, 2017

Sample techniques

The entire staff of the Ministry of Agriculture was collected together with the available peasant farmers from each district of the locality as sampling procedures.

The interview was conducted for both males and females of each household, in-line with the tradition of the local setting to ascertain the level of their involvement in peasant agriculture in Doma Local Government Area.

Sample size

List of staff from Nasarawa State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural resources was used to determine the sample size. A total number of two hundred and thirty-five staff and peasant farmers were put together randomly across 08 districts (clusters) in which eighty (80) persons were chosen.

Table 2: Nasarawa State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Departments	No of staff	Districts	No of farmers
Agric services	89	Madauchi	10
Admin	17	Sabon-Gari	10

Fisheries	07	Doka	10
Livestock (vet services)	77	Alagye	10
Planning	08	Okpata	10
Water resources	15	Agbashi	10
Home economics	21	Rukubi	10
Irrigation	06	Madaki	10
Total	235		100

Sources: Data from the survey, 2017

In other to determine the sample size for given population size, this study employed cluster and simple random sampling techniques, using Yamane formula:

$$N = N/1 + N(e)^2$$

N = Population

e = the level of precision

Thus, Doma Local Government of Nasarawa State has a population of approximately one hundred and thirty-nine thousand, six hundred and seven (139,609) as at 2006 population (census).

$$\text{Therefore: } n = n/1 + N(e)^2$$

Where N = 139,607

$$e = 5\% (0.05)$$

$$e^2 = 00.0025$$

$$n = 139,607/1 + 139,607 \times 0.0026$$

$$n = 139,607/350,0175$$

$$398.8572$$

$$n = 399$$

thus: 399 is recognized as the sample size of the study. in view of above, 100 questionnaires were administered to sample respondents base on the sample size. Questionnaires were administered in each department and district using the following formula:

$N_1 \times$ total population of each sampled department and district

Where N_1 = sample size; therefore

Ministry of Agric and Natural Resources (Departments)	No of Staff	Sample size	Percentage
Agric services	89	$399 \times 89/139,607$	26%
Admin	17	$399 \times 17/139,607$	5%
Fisheries	7	$399 \times 7/139,607$	2%
Livestock& vet	77	$399 \times 77/139,607$	22%
Planning	8	$399 \times 8/139,607$	21%
Water resources	15	$399 \times 15/139,607$	4%
Home economics	21	$399 \times 21/139,607$	6%
Irrigation	6	$399 \times 6/139,607$	2%

Peasant farmers: District	No of farmers	Sample size	Percentage
Madauchi	10	$399 \times 10/139,604$	3%
Sabon-Gari	10	$399 \times 10/139,607$	3%
Doka	10	$399 \times 10/139,607$	3%
Alagye	10	$399 \times 10/139,607$	3%
Okpata	10	$399 \times 10/139,607$	3%
Agbashi	10	$399 \times 10/139,607$	3%
Rukubi	10	$399 \times 10/139,607$	3%
Madaki	10	$399 \times 10/139,607$	3%

Source: Data from the survey, 2017

Method of data collection

This research work was based on two main sources, primary and secondary sources. Thus primary sources include the administration of structured questionnaires to selected groups peasant farmers in Doma Local Government Area. While the secondary sources comprise of academic articles, journals, website, official reports, government document and literature on the subject matter.

Method of data analysis

Section A of the questionnaire was analyzed using descriptive statistics, involving percentage while section B of the questionnaire was based on a five-point Likert rating scale (Nworgu, 2006). SPSS software was used to calculate the mean of each item in the research question. Mean and standard deviations of the mean (std) of each item in the question were calculated and presented. All items mean: 2.50 and above indicate agreement while items with a mean less than 2.50 indicate disagreement.

Procedures and results

Data presentation

Data presentation for this study was based on the outcome from respondents and the number of fully completed and retrieved questionnaire. More so, to have relevant information as regards the topic of the research, one hundred questionnaires administered to respondents through personnel interview as sample size.

Furthermore, two forms of instruments (questionnaire and schedule interview) were used for data collection. Section A part of the questionnaire requires a response from Rural farmers to supply necessary bio-data and other necessary information concerning their economic status. While section B of the questionnaire contains the core questions under it. The structuring of the questionnaire was based on a five-point Likert type, of the rating scale: strongly Agree (5 points), Agreed (4 points), Disagreed (3 points) and strongly disagreed (2 points) and undecided (1 point). A total of 22 questions items were raised for the rural farmer's respondent. A number of selected farmers were also interviewed to enable the researcher to gather more information on the level of Agricultural development in Doma Local Government and problems encountered.

Data analysis

The Data Collected for section 'A' part of the questionnaire was analyzed using descriptive statistics, using percentage. The analysis of data collected for section 'B' part of the questionnaire is based on a five-point Likert rating scale (Nworgu, 2006). SPSS software was used in calculating the mean for each item in the research questions.

Mean and standard deviation of means (std) for each item in each question were calculated and presented. Items with a mean of 2.50 and above indicate disagreement.

However, in the process of the research, certain questions were asked and responses were presented in statistical form as follows:

Bio-data and socio-economic features of peasant farmers in Doma.

Table 1: Percentage by gender distribution of Doma Rural peasant farmer's respondents:

Gender	Percentage
Male	70
Female	30
Total	100

Source: Data from the survey, 2017

From the results of the study, the majority of Doma peasant farmers (respondents) are male: 70% only while 30% are female.

Table 2: percentage age range of Doma rural farmer's respondents

The age range in year	Percentage
10 – 15	6.2
16 – 25	9.4
26 – 35	6.2
36 – 45	26.0
46 – 55	49.99
56 – 65	4.2
66 and above	1.0
Total	100

Source: Data from the survey, 2017

From the aforementioned table; 46 – 55 years' age range of Doma rural farmer's respondents are the most active group of moral farmers (49.9%) while 26% of the respondents fall within the range of 36 – 45 years. Other respondents with various age ranges are: 10 – 15 (6.2%) 16 – 25 (9.4%), 26 – 35 (6.2%), 56 – 65 (4.2%) and 66 and above (1.0%)

Table 3: Percentage distribution of the types of Agricultural practices by Rural farmers in Doma.

Types of crops	Percentage
Subsistence common crops	39.0
Cash crops	61.0
Total	100

Source: Data from the survey, 2017

Furthermore, 61.0% of Doma peasant's farmers produced cash crops while 39.0% produced common crops.

Table 4 percentage distribute of the different types of crops farmed by Doma rural farmers (respondents)

Table 4: Percentage distribution of the different types of crops farmed by Doma rural farmers' respondents

Types of crops	Crops (plants)	Percentage
Cash	Sugarcane	15.5
	Ginger (dry, raw, blanched, ginger oil, ginger, candy, and ginger beer)	20.5
	Cotton	15.5
	Flower	10.4
	Grapes	9.5
	Spices (saffron, soya beans sesame seed, cardamom, pure Vanilla beans	11.6
Subsistence crop or common crop	Staples (Rice, corn, root etc)	6.8
	Tuber crops (yam, cassava, etc)	5.2
	Vegetables (Ugu etc)	5.0
Total		100

Source: Data from the survey, 2016

CASH CROP:

20.5% of the Doma rural farmers respondents farm ginger, 15.5% farm sugarcane, 15.5% farm Cotton, 10.11% farm flowers, 11.6% farm spices and 9.5% farm grapes.

Subsistence crop:

6.8% of the farmer farm subsistence crops, such as rice, corn, root, etc 5.2% farm tuber crops such as yam, cassava, etc while 5.0% of the farmer's farms vegetables.

Table 5: Descriptive statistics on the different constraints faced by the farmers (rural farmers) in Doma

Constraints	N	Mean	±std error
Non Availability of farm implement	96	3.30	098
Lack of access to loan facilities	96	2.36	077
Poor preservation of farm produce	96	3.29	091
Poor road network	96	3.32	099
Lack of irrigation system	96	3.52	080
Pesticides (Lack of pest control diseases)	96	3.58	078
The poor land tenure system	96	2.36	077

Source: Data from the survey, 2016

The peasant farmers that were sampled in this study identified a wide range of constraints of farmers in Doma Local Government Area vis-a-vis cash crops and subsistence crops productions. The identified constraints or problems are lack of modern farm implement (3.30 ± 096), poor storage system (3.29 ± 091), lack of direct access to loan facilities (2.36 ± 077), poor road network (3.32 ± 099), lack of irrigation system (3.52 ± 080), crop diseases (3.58 ± 078) and poor land tenure system (2.30 ± 077)

Table 6: Descriptive statistics were used on the condition of the farmers as a result of over-concentration on the production of cash crops.

Condition	N	Mean	±std
Hunger/starvation	96	3.34	087
Crisis	96	33.18	134
Food insecurity	96	3.06	114

Source: Data from the survey, 2016

The result showed a situation of serious hunger and starvation in the Doma Local Government Area amongst the rural farmers (3.34 ± 087). secondly, there is the issue of crisis and food insecurity amongst the rural farmers in Doma (3.18 ± 134), (3.06 ± 114).

Table 7: Descriptive statistics on strategies that would help rural farmers in Doma to mitigate the constraints that face them in improving the state of agriculture vis-a-vis cash crops and common crop production.

Measures that would help in mitigating constraints	N	Mean	±std
Provision of modern farm implement	96	3.28	081
Construction of good access road	96	3.65	063
Provision of good irrigation system	96	3.38	092
Provision and use of pesticides	96	3.54	072
Provision of zero-interest loan to the farm	96	3.36	098
Use of modern crop preservation method	96	3.41	087

Source: Data from the survey, 2016

To mitigate the constraints involved in cash crop and common crop farming in Doma LGA, the respondents positively rated the following measures;

- Provision of modern farm implements (3.28 ± 081),
- Construction of good access road (3.65 ± 063)
- Provision of the good irrigation system (3.38 ± 092)
- Provision and use of pesticides (3.54 ± 072)
- Provision of zero-interest loan facilities to the farmers (3.36 ± 098),
- an
- Use of modern crop preservation method (3.41 ± 087)

Discussion of Findings:

Based on our study, the percentage of the gender distribution of peasant farmer's respondents shows that (70%) are involved in farming are males while 30% are females. This is not suppressing considering the fact that farming activities is tedious in nature and requires enormous strength to do it.

According to Nweke (1980) and King (1992), they revealed that men perform more difficult farming operations such clearing of the bush, preparing land molding of heaps and ridges while the female and children are involved in a lighter operation such as planting and applications of fertilizer, etc.

In Doma Local Government, majority of the peasant farmer's respondents who practiced farming are with the range of 40 – 55 years (49.9%) few others respondents are between the range of 36 – 45 years (26.0%) that also practice farming in their various communities.

But unfortunately today, the active young men and women (26 – 35 and 36 – 45) years who are of the Agricultural productive age are deserting the rural communities to cities in search of white-collar job (employment), of course it obvious that this has not encouraged productive because farming activities are left in the hands of old people, the illiterate and very few energetic men in the village, perhaps only due to unavoidable circumstance (Adegbayo, 1999); most of the peasant farmers respondents in this study engaged on cash crop production. While 83% practice subsistence agriculture. A number of subsistence farmer's respondents in Doma Local Government Area are involved in staple plant are 6.8%, Tubers crops 5.2% and vegetable 5.0% most of them have no access to loan and credit facilities, good road network, modern farm implements storage facilities, etc.

According to Ozowa (1995), most farmers in Nigeria don't feel the impact of agricultural innovation either because they have no access to such vital information or is poorly disseminated.

From the foregoing, in this study, most peasant farmers (respondents) have not benefited from a wider range of agricultural intervention as evidence from the result presented in Table 5. Moreover, the rural farmers interviewed reported that they have not been provided with any form modern farming implement from Nasarawa Agricultural Development Agency and don't benefit from any credit/loan facility from the state.

Other problems encountered by the peasant farmers as evidence from the result of the study include; no irrigation system, which makes them depend on the rain-fed farming system, which makes them depend on the rain-fed farming system, absence of pesticides and herbicides for insect and weed control, lack fertilizer, etc.

Further, there is a high concentration of cash crops production over subsistence crops among farmers in Doma Local Government as indicated in table 4; it is clearly shown that most of the peasant farmers are primary producers of raw materials that are sold to bourgeoisies/state which serve the interest of multinational corporations. This has assisted in promoting capital flight from developing countries of the world to advanced countries.g Nigeria bene-seed (seashem) are taken in raw form to Europe and are refined and brought back in form of cheese and Margarine and sold at an exorbitant rate.

The result of this study in table 6, the peasant farmers identified measures to reduce the constraints been experienced by them to improve their farming

activities in Doma. These include the construction of road, pipe-born water, storage facilities, pesticide, herbicide, improved seed, fertilizer and dams to promote irrigation farming.

Summary, conclusion, and recommendation

The major employer of labour in Nigeria is Agricultures with more than 70% of the population engaged in Agricultural production but still the food situation has gone worst because of the challenges and outmoded agricultural practices in Nigeria: the out-mode land tenure arrangement, which encourages frequent subdivision and fragmentation of land, the use of crude implements e.g. hoes, cutlasses, lack of infrastructure/social amenities e.g. school, good road network, hospital which mitigate rural-urban immigration, problem of pests and disease control, etc. the worst is our encounter with colonialism which transformed the mode of agricultural production from used values to exchange values. And therefore peasant farmers were incorporated into the world economy.

More so, the relationship of people with respect to land, labor, instrument, and products is often in conflict with nature, forms, and origination of the mode of exploitation.

Furthermore, our mode of agricultural production is conflicted in the forms assumed by the structure of land-holdings, level of development and distribution of the instrument of labor and manner in which the fruits of labour were appropriated. The nature of our production in Nigeria seems to be inconvenience against rational agriculture and the innocent peasant are been exploited progressively by the state and their agents at the process of production, distribution, exchange and consumption for example the introduction of Decree 6 (1978) on land usage and the traditional constraints to land acquisition and usage; the continued manipulation and exploitation peasant farmers in the process of distribution of farm inputs, e.g. fertilizer, poor credit system, contributed to the changes of Agriculture in Nigeria.

The backwardness in Agriculture in terms of logistics, physical infrastructure, and modern inputs shall be attributed to the government and need to find the solution to the ailment. There is a need for government to take fiscal measures to inform of farm inputs, credit facilities, tax holidays, and agribusiness corporation. Moreover, to bring an end to challenges faced by peasant farmers the following measures where put-in-place by the government to promote accelerated production e.g. operation feed the nation, green revolution, Agricultural

Transformation Agenda (ATA), the Green Alternative, etc. The aforementioned measures are targeted at increasing food production and raw materials in the country all aimed at promoting mechanized agriculture.

Conclusion

Production is organized for use-value in peasant agriculture and with the target of consumption. But with the emergence of cooperative labour (Oruma Mode of production in Doma), this created room for surplus production.

Moreover, land, labour, and instrument of labour are very important in peasant Agriculture. These elements of labor-process in agriculture have inter-relationship among them. In agricultural production, the level of growth and development is determined by the nature of agricultural production.

The exclusive property of the family inland, every member of the family is expected to have a share for agricultural production purposes and this is acquired through inheritance, gift, lease or sale. At the level land fragmentation and subdivision and the use of crude implements is the order of the day, which affects agricultural production greatly.

However, the coming of the colonial masters marks the turning point in the history of Nigeria agriculture. In a bid of colonial states to meet up with the industrial revolution in Europe, they used their previous pre-capitalist mode of production to satisfy their need for capital accumulation. Even the post-colonial state imposes her own claims on the surplus of the peasant production.

Moreso, the technical problems faced by farmers compelled the government to introduced schemes like the Green revolution, operation feeds the Nation, farmer settlement scheme with the aim of revolutionized agriculture in Nigeria. But yet the condition of agriculture didn't improve because the peasant farmers are not involved, in the decision-making process, and the support given to the small farmers by the government such as farm inputs are usually diverted bigger farmers and merchants.

Recommendation

The major employers of labour in Nigeria are agriculture with more than 70% of the country's population are engaged in Agriculture. The problems of agriculture are attributed to land holdings, use of a crude implement, poor credit facilities, poor storage facilities, etc.

With the aforementioned constraints, I wish to make the following recommendations:

- i. The government should make the challenges of agriculture as a major priority e.g provision modern farm inputs, infrastructural facilities, promote mechanized agriculture.
- ii. All land decree makes land difficult to peasant farmers should be abolished e.g Degree no 6 (1978) and land use Act of 2004.
- iii. Outmoded land tenure system that encourages fragmentation and subdivision of land-holdings should be abolished.
- iv. The government should engage on face to face contact with peasant farmers to know the problems and demands.
- v. Cooperative groups should be encouraged among peasant farmers, this shall promote investment in agriculture.
- vi. Research, seminar, and workshop should be given greater premium by the government to promote water management, soil degradation, etc.
- vii. Assistance and support should be made available for peasant farmers to improve their productivity.

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