PRODUCTION AND SECURITY OF FOOD IN GLOBAL CIRCLE: An Exploration Of Its Challenges In Nigeria Since 1970

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ABSTRACT

Food is indispensable to the growth and development of the people across the world. It remains first in the affairs of man regardless of one's background. A nation without food will experience poverty, hunger and malnutrition which are inimical to overall growth and development. Food production is the cultivation of plants and rearing of animal as well as preparing them for human consumption. The Food and Agricultural Organization has been preaching the need for the people around the world to be food secured. Consequently, the developed countries have been on the vanguard of food security by putting strong policies in place to achieve it to her citizen. Conversely, in developing countries especially in Africa, food production has been given less attention by the government owing to bad governance that led to the alarming increase in the prices of staple food stuffs which resulted into global food crises starting from 1970s. This paper focuses on Nigeria which her food production is contrary to the global best practices leading to food insecurity in the country and the developed countries have been using food as a global politics against the country that

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is food in-secured. The paper employed primary and secondary historical research to explore the gargantuan challenges of food production in Nigeria despite her abundance resources to achieve food production for her citizens and for export. The work argues that Nigeria should break away from her dependency syndrome and embark on modern food production for her citizens regardless of interdependency of nations and Ecological Armageddon that threatening the environment. The work concludes that Nigeria needs good leaders that are more proactive to food production rather than politicizing it. The paper recommends that government should synchronize both internal and external remedies of large scale food production to promote food sufficiency that can enhance peace and development in the comity of nations.

Keywords: **Dependency, Development, Food Production, Global Politics, Security.**

INTRODUCTION

Right from the dawn of history, food challenges have been one of man's serious challenges and the provision of adequate food has assumed prominence all through the ages. At present, despite advances in science and technology, mankind still finds it difficult to equate the supply with the ever-increasing demand for food as a result of population growth and inefficient utilization of productive resources. Without proactive measure, this has noxious implications for manpower development including general social welfare. Consequently, food production and its studies continue to receive global attention since the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) realized it as 'no food, no life' and further emphasizes 'food first' and 'it is a right' of any man to eat quantitative and qualitative food. Against this backdrop, the developed countries have been embarking on large scale food production to avoid food crises in their countries. Conversely, developing countries have been paying less attention to food production leading to diseases, hunger and malnutrition.

This paper focuses on Nigeria which is among the developing countries that suffers food insecurity in spite of her good and abundant natural including human resources; she could not produce enough food to feed her citizens. The work examines the gargantuan challenges that can be categorized into two major factors: Nigerian (human) and natural disaster factors. Nonetheless, Nigerian governments and World bodies have been making efforts to boost food production but the challenges continue with deleterious impact on the country. The work argues that since food is a necessity to mankind and it challenges are man-made; therefore Nigerians should have a rethink towards feeding herself. The paper concludes that efforts should be made by Nigerian to break away from importation of staple food stuffs from the developed countries whose interest are inimical

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to food sufficiency in Nigeria. To achieve this food sufficiency, strong and quality leaders are needed to launch Nigeria into a food secured country.

Food studies have been an integral part of economic history. Scholars like A.G.Hopkins, R.O.Ekundare and T. Shaw have written on agriculture as a whole like system of farming, production, means of exchange, transportation, marketing and distribution of goods and services not only in Nigeria but in West Africa as a whole. The gap in their works is that little attention is paid to the food production and its challenges. Since the establishment of FAO in 1945 and thereafter, mimeographs, decision extracts of World Food Day, conferences proceeding including textbooks have been written by FAO. First, 'Malnutrition: Some Measurement and Policy Issues',which centers on malnutrition and its manifestation especially in developing countries as well as policies for eliminating malnutrition where it exist. Second 'Women, Food Chain and Agarian Reform' examines women's role in production of food chain that is weakened since people need food to enable them embark on production. It seeks for agrarian reform programmes by which women are linked with this hence creating healthier agriculture. The above two FAO mimeographs reviewed have created another gap to be filled by this paper. Also, the works of W. Thomas discusses rising price of food thereby making food unavailable to the people of Peru, a country in South America. This creates dichotomy in the living standard of the country. Another article titled 'World Food Problems' is divided into two parts. The first one centers on the most pressing world food issue and its attention in 1982. The second is overall nature of world food problems and it examines the complexity, outlines the long term technical and political that requires action to resolve them. This has a little insight into this present work. C. J. Stevens remarks that no nation can remain isolated from the effect of existing world food

problem and this has created worldwide suffering from chronic under-nutrition of more than billion people across the world. Stevens gives five basic recommendations to avoid future world crises similar to the one which occurred between 1972 and1974. This article still leaves a gap that this present study must fill. M. O Odey's book focuses on strategies of food production, output, distribution and marketing as well as factors responsible for rural poverty neglect among the communities in Benue State. The book is relevant but not in totality. Other works of S. O. Olajide and Food and Drinks in African History edited by Uche Okonkwo have insight to the existing work but the gap is still there. All information from the above reviewed works will be used to enrich this work. On the whole, this work fills the gap of challenges confronting food production in Nigeria and the fruitless efforts of both Nigerian government and the external bodies to ensure food security.

Conceptual understanding

Food

Food is any substance consumed to provide nutritional support for the body. This nutritional support can be from plants or animals origin that contain essential nutrients such as carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins or mineral. The substance is ingested by an organism and assimilated by the organism's cells in an effort to produce energy, maintain life or stimulate growth. In order words, food is any nutritious substance that people eat or drink to maintain life and growth.

Its necessity to human being comes 'first'. FAO has observes that food is a 'right' to people in addition to shelter and clothing. Besides, food satisfies hunger, gives life, enhances growth, maintains and repairs damaged body and worn out tissues. Food also allows specific organs to work at an optimum level. It provides individual gratification, it binds

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mother to children and individual to large families and communities. Food brings prestige and power to those who have it and shame/frustration to those who have not. Finally, food makes nations to be sufficient or dependent on donor for food aid. Good nutritive food gives health while bad or unhealthy food give rise to several diseases. Thus, there is need to have access to a proper diet in both qualitative and quantitative means. However, this affects Nigerian state because there is no availability of food for her teeming population to consume for healthy life.

Food Security / Food Insecurity/ Food Sovereignty

Food security has become a matter of grave concern all over the world. The reason is that all the countries have now realized that large scale production of food is needed to avoid hunger and malnutrition. Food security is a flexible concept and many attempts have been made to redefine it to acceptable standard since the mid 1970s when it was introduced to global domain consequent upon food crises. As at early 1970s, food security was seen as assuring the availability and to some degree, the price stability of basic food stuffs at the national and international level. Also precisely in 1974 at the World Food Summit, food security was defined as the“ availability at all times of adequate food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and the offset fluctuations in production and prices”

Moreover, in 1983, Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) expanded the concept as “ensuring that all people at all times have physical and economic access to the basic food that they need. Furthermore, in 1986, World Bank elaborated the concept of Food security in terms of 'access of all people at all times to enough food for an active healthy life”. Additionally, in 1996 the World Food Summit adopted a more complex definition that “food security is a situation that exists where all people at all

times have physical, social and economics access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life". This means at the household level, there must be cultural and economic acceptability of food. In all, food security can be simply seen as access to food by everybody, ensuring it availability and enhancing the stability of its supplies.

A food secured country is the country that can produce, store or import the food it needs and distribute it equitably. Examples of these are developed countries like USA, UK, France, Canada, Germany and few developing countries like Brazil, Indian and South Africa. Whereas, a food insecure country is the country that could not produce enough for her citizens, lacks storage facilities, and the available foods are not within the reach of the poor, there is hunger and malnutrition among the vulnerable. Examples of these counties are in Africa and they are described as developing countries. Most African countries have remained victims of hunger and leading to food insecurity that threatens the world peace. This food insecurity constitutes daunting challenges in most of African countries and by extension affecting other countries of the world. Food sovereignty is a situation where country provides all the needed staple food stuffs to her citizens. In other words, such country has more to consume locally and many to export that further boosts her economy.

Food Production

Food production is as old as man. Since food is first and a 'right' for human being, thus, there is need to produce it. Food production is the process of transforming raw ingredients into prepared food. It can also bee seen as the growing of plants and animals materials as well as preparing it for human consumption. The food in plants include, grains, nuts, cereals, fruits, vegetables, tubers pepers and so on while food from animals are

meat, eggs, chicken, milk among others. Altogether, plants and animals provide ninety per cent of global energy to mankind. Food production procedure and techniques have been in existence from time immemorial. Its procedure has to do with clearing, parking, sorting, preparing and adding ingredients. The food production techniques like cultivation or rearing, selection and protection, harvesting/slaughtering, management, preserving/storage/smoking, baking, carving, butchering, fermenting picking to name but few.

Above all, two types of food production can be identified; autonomous and market food production. The former is the production of food only for the family consumption, while the latter is production that goes for sale at the markets. In developed countries, their food production is driven by modern and up to date technology leading to large production of foods like rice, wheat, fishes, vegetable oil, frozen meat, noodles among others. Conversely, in Africa most food production is still based on indigenous method of production with little harvest of produce that cannot feed population explosion since 1970s.

Consequently, the inability to produce sufficient food has been leading to hoarding and soaring prices with noxious impact on the poor. In both developed and developing countries, food production depends on the consumption and the profit rate to the farmers or producers. The fundamental fact is that while the developed countries are committed to the food security and improving on its challenges on a daily basis, the developing countries especially in Africa are not committed, they are paying lip service to the production of food stuffs. This lackadaisical attitude of African to food production is alarming inspite of good geographical influence that can lead to bumper production. Mike Odey rightly captures this situation as he remarked that;

> *Most African countries have remained victims of hunger and threatening food insecurity and that is why Africa is currently spending about US$34billion a year on food imports. It is doubtful how many African can afford the imported grains, even one (50kgs) bag of parboiled rice, some persons cannot even once in a year and without exaggeration, never in their life time.*

The above situation shows the precarious food insecurity in African countries leading to multidimensional challenges across Africa where they look for alternative from food secured countries.

From the fore-going, food production is sine-qua-non to human survival which paves way for development of any nation. Food production plays the most determinant and long-term role in the country's economy. Also, it account for 40 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It provides 60 per cent of employment opportunities. Finally, agriculture bellies the veritable growth reserved to drive nation's economy to greatness. However, in African countries, governments have always been paying less attention to the food production that can feed her citizens sufficiently.

Food Crises in Africa

Global Food studies have demonstrated that Africa is the most vulnerable and worst hit by hunger and malnutrition. This is more pronounced in sub-Saharan Africa where hunger is most prevalent with about one out of every four persons, that is about 12.9 per cent of the population being under nourished. People are hungry because they lack

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either access to food or access to resources needed to obtain food. This lack results to being poor, without opportunities to support themselves and their families. This poverty makes it impossible to be productive at work either as farmers or workers elsewhere.

Against this back drop, the problem of food production is very widespread. This is more obvious in the deadly mix of drought and war or insurgency that brought starvation, death to alarming proportion including the production of series of refuges consequent upon food and agricultural challenges. There is no country in Africa that does not import food. The lack of food production and its non availability has led to smuggling of foodstuffs like rice, frozen meat, vegetable oil, tin tomatoes, beer/wine drinks, cans food, textile materials among others across African's porous borders especially in sub-Saharan with noxious impact on African's economy. For instance, in 1980, over five billion naira was spent on food importation which was slightly less than cost of importing oil but the food cost were rapidly catching up and putting more strain on overburdened economics. This problem of food continues. At present in Africa, the annual total of food cost, oil cost, repaying the debts and trying to buy these things amounts to nearly two third of each year's export earnings. This leaves very little money for development. The challenge further deepens to the extent that the volume of food produced per person has been failing persistently for more than two decades. The implication is that the populations increase out numbers in alarming proportion the few farmers. According to Jacque Diouf, food production and distribution have become the greatest humanitarian problem of the twenty first century. Owing to the continue increase in the number of hungry people.

A survey in African countries will further illuminate the understanding of food production and its crisis. In Senegal, Some farmers

stopped the growing of groundnuts and went back to subsistence farming. This was as a result of post harvest lost. Also, in Kenya, a low price for maize caused the crop to lose popularity against sugar which paid the farmer more. Drought and war have made matters very much worse for many countries in East Africa where the Uganda conflict and continuing fighting in the then Ethiopian province of Eritrea and Tigre, and in the disputed Ogden region have generated an enormous flow of refugees across African countries. Those refugees need to be fed and in their host countries like Sudan and Somalia are finding it very hard to cope.

More importantly, majority of African leaders are not having passion for real agricultural development. However, their focus is on corruption, looting, greed and pride. Consequently, much attention is not given to food, shelter and housing of their citizens. After the independence in Africa, food production has been experiencing series of challenges leading to alarming increase in prices of foodstuff across the continent. For instance, according to Awake 2005, in North Africa, the price increase in bread led to sudden protest. The angry mobs rampaged through the streets and this led to wanton destruction of properties, 120 people were killed in the process. Similarly, in 2008, severe riots and protest were experienced in Senegal, Burkina Faso, Cote'Divore, Egypt, Morocco, Guinea, Mauritania over consistence general rise in the price of foodstuffs. This was caused as a result of overdependence on imported rice from the producing countries of India, Thailand and Cambodia, which was halted.

The above shows that food especially staple foodstuffs are essential to human existence testifying to the saying that a hungry man is an angry man. Food to human being is like car without petrol. Besides, many other factors are responsible for hunger and malnutrition. They include social, economic, cultural, political, agricultural, health and psychological

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factors, which prevent the Africa from having access to food in quality and quantity. The high incidence of hunger and malnutrition attest to the failure of the various sectorial policies within African states as well as manifestation of the breakdown of laws and order across the most populous continents. Stability in a nation guarantees individuals opportunity to pursue economics activities which will bring about development.

The world bodies like Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), World Trade Organization (WTO), Group of Eight (G8) and World Bank (WB) understand the need for sufficient and quality food across the globe. FAO especially has been propagating the need for food production and food security around the world though conferences/summits, aid-oversee development assistance (oda), capacity building, improved crops and animals. Disappointingly, most African states refused to catch up with the developed world. However, the developed countries according to Kofi Anna and Jacques Diouf said that 'they are being hypocritical' about global food security, thus making food insecurity to loom large in the most of the developing countries.

Food Production and Crisis in Nigeria

Nigeria is the most populous in sub-Saharan and indeed African continent as a whole. The population according to Google Wikipedia is over 204 million as at March 2020 and still going forward. The challenges facing Nigeria since post civil war of 1970s has been food production and food crisis across the country. Nigeria is indeed a blessed nation. The country is endowed with abundant resources. These include 68 million of hectares of arable land, fresh water resources covering 12 million hectares, 960 kilometers of coastline. It includes ecological diversity which enable the country to produce a wide variety of crops cultivated in a fertile land, livestock, fishery and other aquatic resources like shrimps, snails, wild

animals as well as domestication of all kinds of animals for human consumption.

James Coleman and Obafemi Awolowo referred to Nigeria as a mere 'geographical expression' that practiced subsistence agriculture from earliest till present. However, a little knowledge of modern farming has been introduced to boost the production of crops and animals for human consumption. Consequently, the food production like garri, fufu, yam, cocoyam, vegetables and fruits (pawpaw, oranges, mangoes) pepper were in abundance and sufficient for human consumption. The same scenario was applicable to the production of eggs; livestock (fowls) rearing of animals (goats, sheep, cattle) the game meat including water.

By 1974 however, food production and food crisis began to be felt in Nigeria. Inspite all the natural resources in Nigeria to prevent hunger and malnutrition, the per capital food production has not kept pace with the growing needs of the population. Consequently, the country continues to import agricultural raw materials and processed ones. The Nigerian's arable land according to Seye Adeniyi remains grossly underutilized with 32 million hectares or 46 per cent of arable land under cultivation. Similarly, close to 90 per cent of this accounted for households with less than 2 hectares under-cropping with farm sizes ranging from 0.5 hectares in Southern Nigeria to 4 hectares in the North. Inputs supply to farmer has been very low and of poor quality. Additionally, fertilizer composition at 7 kilograms per hectare is one of the lowest in the sub-Saharan Africa as well as less than 10 per cent of irrigable land is under irrigation. Consequently, between 1974 and 1975, Nigeria could not feed her citizens adequately and the prices of foodstuff both locally and foreign types began to increase till present.

For instance food production and alarming increase of its prices

both indigenous and foreign are reducing the purchasing power of Nigerian to unbearable situation which made Daniel Joseph lamented that:

> *In Edeopoghah,(a community in Idoma)local foodstuffs were in abundance and very cheap. But now both local and foreign foods are expensive. In 1990, a big basin (40kg) of garri was N28, but N1200 in 2019, a basin of oranges (120-130 pieces) in 1990 was N20, in 2019 just 5 or 6 pieces were N20, 6 big tubers of yam in 1990 were N10, in 2019 N1400, brown (local) rice, a tin 50 kobo, now N150, imported rice 50kg was #170 in 1990, in 2019 it was N23,000 the same thing applicable to other staple foodstuffs. Farmers are not encouraged, no health care, farm is not secured... youth are migrating to cities like Makurdi, Abuja and Lagos, food is now scarce in Benue State with its appellation "Food basket of Nigeria".*

Similarly, in 1974, there were abundance evidence in Nigerian newspapers 45*on how both local and foreign foods have been on increase and the poor Nigerians have been worst hit especially during the global festive seasons (Easter, Christmas, New year, Eld fitri, Eid- El-Kabir as well as locked down occasion by Covid-19). It has been the culture as the price of Nigerian staple food like garri, yam, yam flour (elubo), vegetables, pepper, rice, beans, meat, eggs, frozen meat, soup ingredients, sachet of water are always on increase till date. For example, sachet of water popularly called "pure water" was introduced in 1996 where it was 3 for N5

with 50cl, in 2001 it was increased to one sachet for N5. By 2014, it was further increased to one sachet with reduced quantity to N10 as at 2020 the same thing applicable to indigenous and foreign drinks across the country. This shows that Nigeria cannot feed herself. In the same vein, Federal Government has been spending much money on the importation of food stuffs like wheat, rice, sugar, and fish. For instance, in 2005, Federal Government spent $3billion annually on importation of food. This further increased to over N1trillion annually in 2012. The reality is that a large number of Nigerians are unable to eat three square meals. Instead they skip or reduce it to two or one in day. This has made the United Nations Development Programme to analyze the increments in poverty level of Nigeria from twenty seven per cent in 1980 to sixty-six per cent in 1996 and then seventy per cent in 2002. In late 1970s, Uncle Benz rice followed by Caroline rice were introduced to Nigerian markets and Nigerian were buying the rice at the expense of indigenous brown (ofada) rice. This rate is still on the rise in 2020.

The big question is why is it that government indulges in importation of foods? Why it is that government cannot encourage the local producers? Why is Nigerian government not pursuing self sufficiency in food production considering its importance to the nation? Thanks to some few Nigerians for sustaining the production and the flow of staples food across the nation, such food like beans, maize, garri, fufu (akpu), yam, elubo (white and brown), onion, livestock's, fruits, vegetables, palm oil, cocoyam, indigenous (brown) rice, fruits of various types, sachet of water among others. Similarly, smuggling is inimical to both country and the food production in Nigeria. This has been an alternative to food supply where food stuffs like rice, vegetable oil, cans food, soup ingredients, frozen foods (turkey, chicken) both cans and bottles drinks are smuggled with impunity

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into various Nigerian porous borders since 1970s to supplement existing and insufficient food to Nigerians. This not withstanding, there is food insecurity across the state. This further leads to another fundamental question; why are Nigerians not producing enough food? Any challenge to food production and food security? Why do Nigerians farmers still practicing subsistence farming in the twenty fist century? These challenges to food production and distribution that will enhance food security are categorized into two factors: Human (Nigerian) and natural factors.

The Challenges to Food Production

Human (Nigerian) Factors

Food is needed to human being for survival just as fuel enhances the functionality of vehicles. For man to be healthy, nutritious food from plants, animal and water are needed to feed qualitatively and quantitatively. Food production increases incomes and productivity in agriculture which is an indispensable step in the process of economic development. The less attention given to agriculture has been creating daunting challenges to the food production in Nigeria.

The Population/ Food imbalance

The population of a country is a determinant factor among the commit of nations. It is also a task for the country to provide sufficient food for her citizens. Nigerians population according to Malthus focuses attention on the crucial relationship between human population and food supply. In line with this, Nigerian's population increased at geometric rate while food supply is an arithmetic rate. Consequently, the population of Nigeria outgrows food supply. In Lagos for instance, with the population of over 21 million cannot feed herself. There is no production of indigenous crops except few vegetables that are grown with fertilizer. The same scenario is application to other cities like Abuja, Ibadan, Ilorin, Benin City,

Kaduna, and Enugu. This has been observed by Jacques Diouf that:

> *The task of feeding cities adequately constitutes an increasing pressing challenge, requiring the coordinated interaction of food producers, transporters, market operators and myriad. of retail sellers.*

In all, the government is not committed to all the programmes of food production. Thus, the population keeps on increasing while that of food production is depleting across the state.

Land Tenure System

Food production takes place on land and therefore, it remains indispensable to farmer. Land tenure is the act or right of owning land. In Nigeria, the ownership of land is usually exercised by a group of people. When the head of the group dies, thus the land is further shared out among these members of the group continuously thereby making it to be smaller in size. This constitutes challenge to farmer to produce relatively to the size of the given land against his expectation to produce more. Another problem is that farmers are allowed to cultivate on yearly basis whereby they can further renew the land for another period. This act prevents farmer to embark on long term production as well as large scale food production to feed Nigerians adequately.

Subsistence Farming:

Besides, Nigerians are agrarian communities characterized by subsistence system of farming within the limited available land. Thus, the farmers make use of the simple old tools like cutlasses, hoes, axes to name but few to cultivate crops like maize, beans, cassava, yam, cocoyam, vegetables and pepper among others. This subsistence farming with limited farm land poses a big challenge to feed Nigerians in the twenty first century

as against eighteenth or nineteenth century population.

Rural Migration:

Within this context, migration can be seen as social and economic impact on the Nigerians youth. Up to 1960s majority of the children stayed in the rural areas to assist their parents in food production. However, as from mid 1970s this has been changing till present. Consequently, urban drift have been taking away their children who otherwise useful to them in food production. Their usefulness is multidimensional in the area of planting, harvesting, processing, transporting as well as marketing. Since this idea of urban drift started, its impact on the food production is deleterious. The result is that while the population of the urban is on increase, the farming population decreases. Most of the food production is till traditional system that depends on the number of those who farm for the increased in production. As Yiolokun quoted Bamisaye "the decay in the rural areas and massive migration of rural producers to urban centers" have been contributory factors to food insecurity in Nigeria.

Gender Discrimination

History testifies that women together with men have been instrumental in accelerating human progress. In agriculture for example, women involved in cultivation, planting, harvesting, processing and marketing, the same thing applicable in production of livestock, animal and fishes for human consumption. However, women have been marginalized in the scheme of things. While subsistence system of farming recognize the women by co-opting them to the farming styles, method and incentives, the reverse is the case by the government of the day. Emphasis on training and retraining on modern farming education is for men folks, no incentives and recongnization are given to women that take active part in the food production. The need to boost food production through skill accusation and

incentives opportunities to women according to the Lagos plan of Action for Africa of (1980) has not been totally enforced in Nigeria thus, posing problem to food production.

Nigerian Taste and Fashion

Three internal changes have affected the food production thereby making Nigeria to be food insecured. Firstly, up to 1960s, every family across the country was a farmer with many cutlasses, hoes, axes, traps and every one also engaged in rearing of animals with impunity. There was home farm that took care of family food while distance or bush farm for market. The passion for food production in Western Nigeria made the people to design an indigenous anthem that primary and secondary students recited after national anthem as:

Ise agbe, ni se le wa
Eni ko sise, a ma jale
Iwe kiko, lai si ada
Ko i pe o, ko i pe o.

Meaning:
Farming is our work.
He who fails to farm, shall steal
Going to school, without a cutlass
Is not complete, is not complete.

The same practices took place in Eastern, Northern and Niger-Delta regions of Nigeria. All Nigerian children embraced food production and thus Nigeria was then food secured. As from 1985, this passion for food production has been abandoned in schools and the orientations of youth have changed to dependency syndrome.

The second phase of taste and fashion was in colonial era when the

Nigerian attention was shifted from indigenous food production to production of cash crops like cocoa, groundnuts, palm oil, rubber and so on. Since the productions of these cash crops were characterized by exploitation, Nigerian attention followed suit to maximize profits on its production. This affects the production of staple food in Nigeria. However, the taste for imported food started gradually, hence affecting the indigenous food production.

The third changes and taste was the oil discovery in 1958 at Oloibiri, Ogbia LGA, Bayelsa State and oil boom in 1970s. This discovery was a watershed and it further diverted attention of government from home grown food production. The reason has been that there is quick and much money in oil than in cash crops as at them.

Demand for Imported Foods

In connection with the oil discovery and oil boom in 1970s, the government interest on the importation of Europeans foods at the detriment of indigenous production increased owing to the available money of oil boom. This interest on foreign foods have been increasing on yearly basis and thus the peasant farmers' interest in food production especially for market is low as a result of this alarming increase in demand for imported staple foods. The amount of money that the Federal government spend on food importation is on increase from million to billion and trillion of naira. For instance in 2012 alone, government spent over one trillion naira on imported food like wheat 635 billion, rice 356 billion, sugar 217 billion and fish 97 billion. The implication to this demand of imported food is harmful to locally food production.

This discourages local farmers and job creation in Nigeria. However, Nigerian government and their foreign grains producers have been enriching themselves with impunity. While Nigerians government

production has been abandoned, in 1980s, Nigerian fought over bags of imported rice. The government rented the air with 'no more importation of rice', 'government barns rice importation' on mass media are just for lip service. In all the borders of Nigeria, smuggling of rice and other foods have been the order of the day where customs and police chase smugglers to enrich their pockets. The implication is that the locally produce brown rice (ofada) in Abeokuta,Owan, Ekpoma, Abakaliki and Benue are very expensive and enjoy low patronage, while the imported rice is cheaper and enjoy higher demand. This discourages the production of local rice in the country.

Nigeria should be a net food exporter. Yet chunks of staples food are imported with the locally produced fraction overprized. The love for imported food by Nigerians has made investors to be flooding Nigerian markets with all sorts of junks and trashy processed foods. These nasty junks foods drill a hole into our national treasury, worse our trade balance against food exporting nations, create jobs in and develop other economics.

Low Level of Education/Education for Juicy Work

Farmers in Nigeria are mostly peasants. They have their indigenous education but lack the western education that can enhance large scale food production. The training and re-training of the application of fertilizers, methods of weed control and modern treatment of land remain unknown, the farmers still make use of old method system leading to low production of staples food. Worst still, extension workers are inadequate with substandard knowledge to assist farmers in food production. For instance, there is one (1) extension worker per 1,500 farm household in Nigeria compared to FAO best practices estimate of one (1) to 500-1000 farm house holders.

This further undermines food production in the country. Similarly,

the entrenched grabbing tendencies across the nation have made hard work an unappealing option for survival. The rewards of quick and easy money discourage interest in long-term investment. Food production either in plant or animal is strenuous; sometimes one looks dirty and as well remaining inside rain or sun for the whole day, most young Nigerians do not like the job. This is wide spread among the youths that read agriculture in higher institutions of learning. Nigerians are more inclined to make their living from white, blue and pink collar jobs where grabbing opportunities abound. More so, there is no glamour in farming, so no one is interested in exploring it. Disappointingly, no effort is being made by those in government to stimulate and sustain interest in food production even in an economy of hungry unemployed. Sadly, most of the Nigerian leaders do not understand the social implication of food shortage.

Lack of Funds/Defrauding of Farmers:

Most of the farmers are poor. The system of farming is still subsistence whereby enough food is provided to the family while the other produce is taken to market for sale. The sales sometimes fluctuate that can lead to shortage. The little money is not even enough to take care of the social responsibilities. Consequently, to invest in modern equipment/services is a big problem to peasant farmers as well as payment to the labourers since most of their children have migrated to cities. The peasant farmers cannot access loan because of the collateral attachment. According to Adebayo Adejumo;

> *To the best of his knowledge, farmers have been subjected to untold hardship by the government and their officials. They* always *defraud farmers with the need to form group association and dues collected go into private pockets with*

empty promises.

He further lamented on how they have been defrauded especially those farmers that specialized in animal production around Oke Odan, Ihunbo, Ilashe, en-route Ipokia in Ogun State. Consequently, most of them resorted to their subsistence farming system. Also, to buy fertilizer is a problem and most of the time; the fertilizers are sold at exorbitant price to farmers that are fortunate to get it. Politicians and traditional rulers are given more than sixty per cent. Some aides to one governor were caught while trying to divert the state's allocation of fertilizers but they remained free men.*

Post Harvest Losses

It is obvious that immediately a crop is removed from ground or if chicken or animal is slaughtered, it begins to deteriorate. Post harvest treatment largely determines final quality whether a crop is sold for fresh consumption or used as an ingredient in processed food product. Thus, Nigerian famers produce so much food crops but most of them are lost during harvest and others are lost as a result of poor hoarding and poor storage facilities. For instance, production of tomatoes, papers, garden eggs, vegetables, cherry and tangerines suffer this post harvest losses which most farmer lost and this prevents large scale production to hungry Nigerians. The few available attract high prices. There are some research institutes that can assist farmers in post harvest storage and preservation of foodstuffs, sadly, farmers do not know their existence and if known is mostly at urban as against rural areas Hence, farmers sustain heavy financial losses in the process and this discourages them to embark on the production.

Lack of Social Amenities

It is one of the unfortunate treatments to rural community that

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forms the bulk of food producers to the urban centres. Most of their feeder roads lack grading, and farmers are confronted with many difficulties in bringing out their produce to markets. As observed by Daniel Joseph above, there is absence of hospital, electricity, portable water, schools among others. The absence of these encourages people to keep on migrating to cities. Thus, the absence of these amenities have made rural areas uninhabitable to the farmers and prevented rural dwellers to produce at the best level.

Post Nigerian Civil War and Boko Haram Insurgency: Nigerian became food in secured following the impact of civil war on agricultural production during early 1970s. The post Nigerian civil war resulted into aggressive migration of Igbo youths to urban centers. Consequently, within the eastern and western Nigeria, food production suffered a serious setback. Emeka Obi remarks that.

> *in Bende Local Government of Abia State, the agrarians communities of Uzuakoli and Nkpa experience continuous explosion during the bush burning for planting season because most of the farmland have been used for military camps*.

Therefore, all the farm land used by Nigerian military forces were disserted to avoid unforeseen catastrophes. The news of this explosion spread far and beyond the area. The Igbo people reduced the food production within the little available land until the devices were detonated. Emeka Obi comments that the post Nigerian Civil War witnessed disappearance of some well valued indigenous crops like species of yam called triplet leave yam (esuru), 'adu' and 'Ihwu' as well as species of beans

like 'akude' and 'Odudu'. Those crops were used as a reserved food during the planting period.

In the same vein, Boko Haram and Herdsmen are twin obnoxious insurgent groups that have been terrorizing the Nigerian state since 2013 till present. This bad occurrence started in the North east later spread to North central states which are predominantly peasant farmers such as Borno, Yobe ,Taraba, Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa and Gombe where it further spread to some parts of Ogun , Oyo, Osun, Ekiti and Kwara States with daily crisis between cattle's rustlers and farmers thus affecting food production. The wanton killing and destruction of the livelihood of farmers led to the shortfall of food supply across the country. Second, the farmers that were producer of food in the past suddenly became a food dependent on government and Non Governmental Organization. Third, many have abandoned their farm land consequent upon insecurity. The prices of both crops and animal production keep increasing every day as a result of the insecurity on farms land. Sadly, Nigerian government has since been unable to find lasting peace to Boko Haram-herdsmen and famers' crises thus affecting food production across the country.

Natural Disasters

This is the second categories that affect the food production in Nigeria. By natural disaster, it refers to some major adverse events resulting from natural process of the earth. A natural disaster is of colossal loss to man, crops and animals. The natural disasters thus include;

Drought:

This is unusual dryness of soil caused by level of rain fall that is significantly below average over a prolong period. It involves hot dry winds and shortage of water especially in the northern Nigeria. According to Yiolokun:

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> *... the food situation were compounded by occurrence of the Sahelian drought which adversely affected food production... the beginning of serious food crisis was in 1974-1975...*

Therefore, 1970s could be seen as the period of transition to outright food insecure nation. The Nigerian's groundnut production in 1973 was more than half capacity consequent upon the drought, animal as well as people suffered for lack of water and food. The drought also reduced the performance of Kanji Dam and other dams situated at the northern part of the country including the other aquatic resources therein.

In modern world, the drying up of Lake Chad is called climate change. According to President Buhari "like many countries, Nigeria continues to witness the adverse effect of climate change in all its ramifications" This has much impact on economic and social aspect of Nigerians.

Rain

Rain is the natural gift of nature to peasant farmers in Nigeria and beyond. This gift of nature is depended to cultivate the crops in diverse ways. Consequently, the farmers hope on natural rain as against irrigation which is the modern best practices. However, incessant raining often causes slowness of growth in crops or total failure of crops at harvest. This affects both crops and animal production and the examples galore in both Southern and sometimes in the Northern Nigeria.

Flood

Flood is a temporary coverage of the land by water as a result of heavy down pour. The end result is flooding which affects production of crops massively. It also causes severe damages to the top soil and dams.

This is common among farmland close to river and swampy areas.

Pest and Diseases

Nigeria as a tropical region harbours so many diseases both to crops and animals. Consequently, there are continuous war on these evil organisms against corps and animal production. In some bad period of pests or diseases invasion, either on crops or animal production, it frustrates farmers with colossal loss of time, energy and money. For instance, there were insects' invasions in late 1980s called 'caterpillar and grasshoppers' invasion. Also, in animal production, Shehu Shamusudeen has lamented that livestock diseases burden remains the topmost constrained in the production of livestock in Nigeria. Shamsudeen stresses that finding has shown that:

> *Nigeria loses over N29.2 billion to five priority livestock diseases like Pest Des Petites Ruminant (PPR) African Swine Fever (ASF), New Castle disease (NCD), Contagious Bovine Pheuropnuemonia (CBPP) and Trapanosomiasis*

These diseases affect the annual production of animal in many ways. It decreases quality and quantity of eggs and milk yield. It has also led to high increase of the prices of animal. Regardless of government intervention and animals' diagnosis / breeding techniques, the challenges are still on -going.

From the foregoing, Nigeria still remains food in secured consequent upon poor low production of foodstuffs, lack of diversification to complete modern and mechanization means of food production which has led to short fall of national demand. This has made FAO in 2006, to observe that:

> *Nigeria has been rated below many developing countries in average yields of major staple*

> *crops. For instance, In maize production China was 5.15, Mexico/India 2.00, Brazil 3.7, Kenya 1.28, Tanzania 1.77 and Nigeria 1.07. Nigeria also behind all these countries in rice, Sorghum, wheat and millet production*

Similarly, another grave challenge which agriculture has suffered for decades was the official neglect from the 1970s to the present. Nigeria has witnessed steady decline in all indices of economic and human development. The Nigeria's share of world trade for example dropped from 0.55% in the early 1960s to 0.22% in 1990 and it has stagnated within abysmal brackets as 0.20% and 0.22%.

From the above analysis of food production challenges, it has shown that hunger and malnutrition loom large as a result of food in secured in Nigeria. The critical masses of Nigerians are worse hit as noted by National Bureau of statistics that "Nigerians spend half of their salaries income on food". While World Bank President, Mr. Robert Zoellick lamented that "the poor in many developing countries spend up to seventy five per cent of their income on food". These quotations have further confirmed the precarious situation of poor people in Nigerian state.

Nevertheless, challenges are the home of achievement. As Minister of State for Agriculture and Water Resources, Alhaji Adamu Waziri remarked that:

> *We are rising to the challenge of current food crisis and we implore Nigerians to be calm.*

The above shows that the government is aware of the challenges to food production. However, the country has been incapacitated to tackle the problem day in day out.

Governments' Response to Food Production

To counter food production challenges across Nigeria, both Federal and State governments have been making frantic efforts to make Nigeria food secured. Consequently, the below are some efforts and policies that governments have put in place to launch Nigeria into food producer that will enhance food security in Nigeria but the efforts are of little success.

Operation Feed the Nation (OFN): This was launched by Obasanjo in 1976 and was considered a noble idea that will sustain self sufficiency in food production and supply. This was followed by a slogan of the programme 'grow anything anywhere" and people embraced it with zeal. As Yiolokun quoted Forrest that:

> *It was a hurried political initiative launched in the middle of the 1976 farming season by a military regime that was anxious to secure support from urban groups and students.*

This OFN paid less attention to the peasant farmers. The programme was equally seen as a sign of backwardness to Nigerians. The reason was that while nations across the world were embracing technology, the general emphasis was that all Nigerians should be farmers and there was no preparation for OFN.

The Green Revolution (GR)

This was established in 1980 by President Shagari with the intention to revolutionalize agriculture in Nigeria. Shagari began the implementing the GR policy objectives with a set of short term measures aimed at reducing the rate at which food production was being hindered. In line with his agenda, Shagari regime purchased and distributed of tractors to all the nineteen states (as at 1983) for mass clearing of farm land,

distribution of above 500,000 tones of fertilizers of all types, 500 tones of improved maize and rice 500 maize shelters, 500 rice threshers and 500 irrigation pumps among others. A number of reasons have been given for its failure. The GR programme was not deep enough to ensure that a substantive consumer was attained. The programme lacked harmonious relationship among the three tiers of government. The GR was also politicized especially with regards to the impact distribution and supply.

River Basin Development Authority (RBDA)

This is another effort/policy of Federal Government towards ensuring food sufficient in Nigeria. The act that established RBDAs express the need to undertake both surface and underground water resources by constructing dams of various types with a view to providing water for multipurpose use principally for the nation's self-reliance in irrigated agricultural development. Apart from the establishment of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, there was also the promulgation of decree in which at first, ten RBDAs were created and another one in 1977 totaling eleven RBDAs: Anambra-Imo RDBA, Benin-Owena RBDA, Upper Benue RBDA, Lower Benue RBDA, Chad Basin RBDA, Cross River RBDA, Ogun-Oshun RBDA, Niger-River RBDA, Hadjia-Jama RBDA, Sokoto-Rimo RBDA and Niger-Delta RBDA, with over N2 billion as at then.

The various RBDAs experienced difficult times. The authorities directed that within five years, there must be sufficient food to Nigerians regardless of their location. The RBDAs were expected to develop 250,000 hectares with grown crops, out of this target 190,000 hectares were to be irrigated between 1981 and 1985. The programmes and arrangements were perfect but remained a mirage given the technicalities involved before such could be achieved within the relative short period. The operations of the

RBDAs were defective to achieve its objectives. First, the programmes was fraught with political and interference. There was also lack of technical manpower consequence upon the heavy dependence on the service of foreigners. It motives for peasant farmers were changed to that of elites thereby ignoring the principle of small scale management. According Adenle Najim, Ogun-Oshun River Basin Development Authority with his farm at Oke Odan lamented lack of co-opting the community elites into its operation. Hence, the non indigenes were not bordered for its survival but highly interested in looting the establishment.

National Accelerated Food Production Policy (NAFPP):

This programme was established in 1973 by Gowon's administration. The aim was to ensure that extension, import supply and supporting services such as marketing and equipment were integrated at the village level. The target of the programme was to increase staple food production, particularly rice, wheat, maize, cassava, millet, sorghum among small scale farmers through the availability of pest control chemicals, high yielding varieties of seed, fertilizers and improved husbandry practices. The programme was very laudable but confronted with some problems. The budget allocation to agriculture sector was diverted. Also, the seed varieties introduced under the scheme could not meet farmers' traditional preference. There was shortage of staff as well as poor extension services. Finally, with the introduction of African Development Projects (ADPs), NAFPP became dormant and subsequently abandond.

Directorate of Food, Road and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI)

This was a programme introduced by Babangida regime in 1986 to develop the rural areas which produce the bulk of the country's food. Accordingly, it was to make the rural areas less stark. It also aims to

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encourage the inhabitants to continue dwelling in all rural areas across the country. The farmers were to be given portable water, electricity, tarred roads and storage facilities. The farmers were to be given improved seeds and seedlings. A few wells dug, few access road were constructed. Sadly, the programme was abandoned owing to corrupt practices and the farmers' challenges continue.

Research Institutes / Universities of Agriculture

To boost food production across the country, Nigerian government has established many of the research institutes like National Crop Centers, National Rice and Maize Centre, National Cassava Centre among others. The institutes conduct service training for extension officers, organized workshops to equip individuals with the necessary skills that can affect the farmers positively. However, they announce a breakthrough now and then on the pages of newspapers against the farmers' hopes and aspirations concerning food production. Similarly, efforts were made by the Federal Government to establish universities of agriculture in Abeokuta, Makurdi and Umudike to encourage youths on knowledge of modern farming in crops, animals, pesticides and soil production. Disappointingly, the universities of agriculture cannot feed their students and host communities. While the graduates of all the institutions prefer white collar jobs to practicing farming, some graduates of agriculture sometimes compliment their degrees with professional degrees like Institute of Chartered Accountant, Nigerian Institute of Management and so on .This has affected food production greatly.

Mass Mobilization for Food Production and the Accelerated Food Production Programme:

This was another effort made in 2002 to mobilize all citizens towards the production of one food item or the other. Various public and

private organizations including primary, secondary ,tertiary institutions as well as the military were provided necessary assistance to engage in large scale farming with the production of selected basic crops such as rice, maize, sorghum , millet, yam, cassava and soya beans. Above all, each state was encouraged to promote the production of those basic crops in which it enjoys comparative advantage. All these were on pages of paper and lip-service.

Markets Development Drive

In a bid to make Nigeria to be food secured, Federal Government in 2008 guaranteed minimum market price for commodities to encourage farmers to produce without fear of price slum as a result of a glut. Government also subsidies farm inputs like herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers. However, this has not affected positively the hungry Nigerians.

Rice and Wheat Productions

The government made further attempt to increase local annual production of milled rice to 10.3 metric tons. According to Jerry Gana, the details include the cultivation of 130,000 hectares of paddy rice. In addition, existing irrigation land was further increased from 47.498 hectares to 286,000 among others to boost the food supply. The impact has not been felt because government keeps importing rice and for example, the budget for importation rose to #356 billion in 2012. Similarly, government embarked on growing of the wheat and deliberately reducing the importation of wheat to pave way for the cultivation and harvesting of locally wheat production. The programme was well funded but bread did not become cheaper, it became dearer. This later led to re-introduction of wheat importation to save the situation. Since 1970s, the bread that was food for all Nigerians is now food for few people in the country. The

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problem is still on-going.

Other Efforts

Both federal and state governments have been making spirited efforts in many ways. First, so much money and bond have been released to the food production. Disappointingly, such money mostly ends up in various private pockets. Similarly, government established some banks to provide loans to farmers for example Nigerian People's Bank among others did try at the early period of their establishment but later went into extinction. Second, many silos have been constructed across the country like Osogbo, Ekiti, Uyo, Makurdi, Abuja and Kano to take care of postharvest losses and for strategic purposes. While some of the silos are under-utilized, some contractors mandated to construct the silos diverted the money and nothing has being done to punish them. Third, the Agro - Service Center Project that were established to provide agricultural support services to farmers can only be fund in urban centers as against rural areas that they are supposed to be. Finally, most of the farm settlements established by government with adequate attention before have been abandoning to be managed by peasant farmers with fresh challenges like insecurity and bad roads.

In all these efforts and policies of government in favour of food production, the challenges remain with noxious impact on Nigerians. Therefore, the challenges of food production in Nigeria are tragic and it is worse than failure. The government has been making slipshod effort and Nigeria has no agriculture blue print. Its approach to agricultural issues is ad-hoc. According to Akin Fagbamiye, an agronomists, translates total government's effort to thirty per cent. In Nigeria and other developing countries eighty-five per cent efforts is needed for food production that will enhance food sufficiency. Nigeria cannot be left out in this drive for

food production because if food crisis hits Nigeria, it is projected that it would crash sub- Saharan region.

On the whole, both federal and state governments are not committed to the indispensability need of Nigerians. For instance, 'stomach infrastructure' and Obasanjo's deceitful commissioning of livestock farming by governor Ayo Fayose of Ekiti State, deceitful rice production pyramid of governor Ibikunle Amosun of Ogun State and Lake Rice production between Lagos and Kebbi States, agriculture revolution of governor Olusegun Mimiko of Ondo State among others are just political statement that are only for short period of their governance. Some governors may have designed the food production to extend beyond their tenure but the successive governments usually abandon it for the new ones.

World Body's Response and Politics of Food Production

These world bodies include World Trade Organization (WTO),World Bank (WB) Group of Eight (G8) and Food for Agricultural Organization(FAO) have been responding to food production in developing countries including Nigeria. They have been championing "food for all", "food is right" as well as providing enabling environment through policy supports, global summits, conferences, capacity building, oversee development assistance (oda), and incentives. Their response has not really improved food production in Nigeria and other developing countries. Instead the World Bodies are playing global politics on food insecurity across the developing countries as observed below.

First, FAO Director General, Edovard Saouma remarked that food security is a situation where the rich robs the poor. He further described global food situation as "a paradox piled upon paradox" since the number of hungry is still increasing. Second, the policy of 'agro- power' pursued by US and other exporters does great harm to the food situation in developing

countries. For instance, embargo on grain sales were introduced against Afghanistan, Iran, India and Laos. This ban has been on what they must paid for made the developing countries to actively protest the use of food as a weapon of political pressure.

Third, "food assistance" does not improve the food situation in developing countries but helps developed nations to defend their interest and retain developing nations within the sphere of their influence. This 'assistance' makes it possible to continue the oppressive plundering, exploitation of Nigeria and other developing countries. Whereas, the industrialized countries of Europe and North America subsidize their farmers as a national policy, no such incentive is provided for peasant farmers in developing countries. Fourth, a global agreement was reached between developed and developing countries at the World Food Summit held in Rome, Italy 2002. In the summit, both sides agreed to cut down the population of the world's hungry people estimated at 840 million to 400 million by 2015. However, the figure has not reduced but significantly increasing. Similarly, the world leaders stayed away from the same summit. This showed that they were not ready to assist the developing countries to overcome poverty and hunger owing to the terms of WTO which also elevated agriculture and made it unequal partners to poor countries which depend on import from developed world.

Against this unbalanced relationship, at the summit in Rome, 2002, former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Anah and Head of the FAO Jacques Diouf described the western countries policy of heavily subsiding their agricultural sector while strongly opposing any such move by the developing countries as hypocritical. Additionally, former President Obasanjo presence at the same Rome Summit equally lamented that:

> *The crying need for us (Africa) is to review over relationship with the WTO due to the so-called trade liberalizations or trade without- barriers being spearheaded by WTO merchant our markets and shops are inundated with junk food and finished textile products. The result is that our fledgling food processing and manufacturing industries have either died or are on the brink of dying by installments. Our food import bill has officially hit some one billion dollars from 167 million in 1997…*

Consequently, world leaders are not ready to fight hunger in developing countries. However, they still want developing countries to continuously depending on their products.

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the preceding analysis, food crisis is as old as man. The challenge keeps on changing with the growth of modernization as well as the present globalised world. It is a known fact that continuous food production is a necessity to both developed and developing countries. Consequently, food crisis is not totally natural disaster, it more of man-made challenges which can be reduced to the bearest minimum with focus and committed efforts. The post Nigerian civil war of 1970s had led to low capacity to produce at the scales that were economically profitable. The noxious impact to food production has been low input, low technology inputs, limited market outlets, one-sided provision of amenities, drought and flood, insecurity/ insurgency, lack of modern education, lack of political will, ethnic clashes as well as poor funding of agricultural sector. Unfortunately, Nigerians leaders since 1970s have been playing politics of impoundable to the food production that further worsen food security across the country.

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In Nigeria, food production has only been on media as well good policies but with empty promises to the peasant farmers in the country. The challenges are still on owing to the fact that government cannot match its words with concrete action. With the colonial background of dependency syndrome as well as reducing the world into global village since 1970s, most of the developing countries including Nigeria focused on assistance from the developed countries in all aspects of life. However, 2002 was a watershed in discovering the hypocricity of the developed countries against developmental strategies put in place for the poor countries. For instance, the global resolution of Henry Kissinger's of 1977 that stated "no child should go to bed hungry by 1985" has remained a mere pronouncement without action. All the indices for food production and oversee development assistance are just global politics and political noise to further lure developing countries into global orbit of continuous exploitation and dependency. This is also characterized by unequal relationship and dichotomy between the north and the south, thus, widen the existing gap in food production with the latter.

A nation without food is a nation in danger and that can further leads to poverty, hunger and malnutrition which are inimical to the overall development of such country. The interdependency of nations and 'Ecological Armageddon' notwithstanding, Nigeria should provide basic human right which is food to her citizens. This is the adequate supply of food with good nutritional quality and at the prices that are fair to both farmers and consumers. However, the reverse has been the case in Nigeria since 1970s.

It is recommended that Nigerians minds should be reformed for real food production which is a necessity for man across the world. First, the pragmatic approach is the mobilization of all and sundry for farming as

being done in Malaysia where everybody plants palm tree in the farm and around the houses, Nigerian should emulate this habit. Second, Nigeria needs strong leaders with strong institutions to revolutionalize agricultural sector. These leaders should be focused and give attention to real farmers by providing all that can enhance food production to them like provision of expanse of land, loans, amenities close to their farms, education to both famers and extension workers to enhance application of fertilizers, chemical, seedling among others, Famers should be given national honour like other profession across the country.

Third, land is vital resources for food production; therefore, government should re-examine the land tenure system across the country in favour of food production. Fourth, the Federal Government should evolve a realistic food policy for the country and motivate its implementation faithfully. This policy should revive the moribund ones and also include policy of food pricing, transportation, storage system as well as active task force on food production. Firth, government should leave up to expectation of providing adequate security across the country, most importantly to farms land and the famers. If this proactive security measure is in places, farmers will put in their best. Sixth, government should reconsider the re-opening of all farm settlements across the country with the new passion for abundant food in every farm settlement.

Seventh, government should be proactive to all agricultural institutions across the country by supporting these institutions with equipments, chemical, seedlings and regular funding on food production. On a balance and target, students in 200 levels should be given incentives and encourage into agric business. All the institutions should be given marching order on sufficient food to their host communities and Nigerians at large. By so doing, the students can develop interest in food production.

Eighth, women marginalization should be jettison. Rather they should be more encouraged to have direct access to all incentives given to their men counterpart. This will encourage them to perform better in food production. Ninth, Nigerian food production should be on the policy of what Nigerians can produce and consume adequately and later diversify to export. Tenth, if the above suggestion can be pursued with action and committed efforts, the government can shun and warn food importers cartels including smugglers who are frustrating the food production across the country.

In all, if Nigerian governments want sufficient food production that will lead to radical brake from hunger and external dependency in food supply, there is need for radical and committed break from past business of government. Thus, the government should imbibe the principles of good governance characterized by transparency, accountability, rule of law, equity and fairness. By this, Nigeria will be a food basket globally.

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