

Sustainable Development Goals Compliant: Evaluating Nigeria Agricultural Policies

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ABSTRACT

Aim of the Study: The study focuses on the Nigeria agricultural policies vis-à-vis their compliance with the set goals of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It x-rayed the past and present Agricultural policies alongside food security and her compliance or relevance to United Nations set goals or policies framework of Sustainable Development Goals.

Methodology: The research methodology used for this research is a combination of historical and descriptive research design. The main source of data collection was basically the secondary source, which means data were source from advance literature such as; textbooks, journals, historical materials, newspapers, internet material, official government reports, etc. These were then analyse qualitatively using content analysis.

Findings: The paper posits that despite the policies and programmes that Nigeria government has put in place there is still a serious threat of food insecurity to the Nigeria cooperate existence.

Conclusion: Past efforts to address Nigeria agricultural development problems or deficits failed or lagged behind because of 1) Uncoordinated programmes and policies, 2) Programmes and policies instability, 3) Piecemeal programmes and policies, which focus on short-term objectives of achieving programmes and policy results rather than laying durable foundation for sustainable development, 4) Lack of common understanding and grasp of issues, data non-availability and analytical frameworks for facilitating assessments of agreed performance and compliance frameworks, 5) Lack of capacity. Consequently, attainment of a multi-faceted goals and approaches would pose many policy challenges.

Keywords: Agricultural Policy, Sustainable Development, Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goals.

Introduction

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); both represent a development initiatives, planned, designed and expected to be implemented by member states of the United Nations under the supervision of the United Nations in collaboration with other regional and sub-regional agencies/organisations across the globe (African Union inclusive). SDGs 1 and

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2 specifically contain the requirements for agricultural transformation that has to do with “Zero Hunger” tolerance and agricultural systems, practices and policies development and allied issues. It represent an attempt by the supra-national agency to address agricultural development and food insecurity across the globe that has to do with sustainable and integrated local and national agricultural practices, food systems and policies (production and consumption inclusive). As of 2017, only 26 out of the 202 UN member countries were on track to meet the SDGs target to eliminate undernourishment and malnourishment, while 20 percent have made no progress at all and nearly 70 percent have no or insufficient data to determine their progress.

In her desire to comply with SDG 1 and 2, the Nigeria state has displayed a great deal of conviction and optimism in formulating and implementing agricultural policies in the context of the MDGs and its successor, the SDGs. However in the light of past experiences a great deal of skepticism and summersault have greeted these policies/initiatives that have attempted to increase food production, consumption, investment in research, development and engagement of technologies to improve sustainable food system in Nigeria in terms of building resilience of local food systems that are critical to large scale future food surplus to ensuring food security and good nutrition for all.

As at today Nigeria exhibits huge deficit in terms of agricultural transformation (zero hunger tolerance and local food systems inclusive), particularly when compared with other countries in other regions in terms of gross national and regional development, sectorial infrastructures and linkages, interventions and competition. In Nigeria, agricultural development has remained slow and largely untapped despite its huge potentials. However, Nigeria has witness some level of productivity or activity in recent times through host of programmes, funding and policies interventions: Despite these interventions Nigeria agricultural practice and policies are bedeviled with myriad of challenges.

Most rural agricultural projects are poorly designed in terms of economic sectors, production and consumption linkages; incentives are inadequate to encourage the middle class and investors to venture into agriculture and in most cases emphasis is on foreign investors as against domestic investors; the railways capacity is very low and characterized by absence of high quality rail lines for agricultural evacuations etc. Overall Nigeria and agricultural transformation architecture exhibit high level of inadequacies, imbalances, and dys-functionality and perhaps decay policies which are been designed and implemented.

The Evolution of the Nigeria Agricultural Policies

In the past three and a half decades, Nigeria has witnessed the emergence of multi-stake players, partnerships and policies in an attempt to remedy the agricultural sector development and food security deficits and decay in the context of MDGs and its successor the SDGs. These multi-stake holders, partnership and policies provide fresh opportunities for Nigeria to engage on new terms that recognize the need for a new perspectives within the context of agricultural infrastructures and human resources development and investments and economic transformation, that Nigerian in the quest for a development capable region and glorious role in a new and increasingly complex global agricultural and food security economic and investment relations.

From the 1950’s, the Nigeria agricultural transformation partnership and policies have grown beyond the traditional policies and partnerships and has brought along with them opportunities for experimenting with different types of industrial and infrastructures development model and the associated benefits, controversies, dialogue and challenges are abound. Nigeria’s quest for closer strategic agriculture and food security policies has seen her expansively engaged in fragmented infrastructures and investments. This infrastructures expansive engagement inherently carries significant implications; particularly in the power sector, roads, railways, seaport, water supply etc. It has been difficult for sustainable infrastructures development architecture to be put in place as a result of corruption and several national insecurity related challenges. In addition, the policy intervention difficulty on how to explore the

fundamentals for developing and maintaining enduring rural-urban and agriculture infrastructures in the context of MDGs and its successor the SDGs.

The Nigeria agricultural policy indicated that agriculture in Nigeria since the 1960's has evolved with the following characteristics (Tenebe, 2017):

1. Up to the mid-1960's there was strong intervention in agriculture that ensured food self-sufficiency and top exporter of cash crops from Africa.
2. 1970-1986 witnessed a downturn in agriculture due to intense exploitation of crude oil, as a result the crisis of this intense exploitation and through cosmetic programmes and policies.
3. From 1998 the government focused her attention towards the formulation and implementation of agricultural policies that had food security as its core objective.
4. From 2003 in an attempt to meet the requirement of the MDGs, Nigeria formulated and implemented agricultural policies meant to achieve three core objectives:
 - i. Raise the level of food production with a view to attain food self-sufficiency.
 - ii. Raise the level of production with a view to export food for diversification of source of foreign exchange earnings, away from crude oil.
 - iii. Raise agricultural production with a view to create jobs for the teeming unemployed and provide good income for farmers.

To achieve the above the government had engaged a number of programmes and policies:

- (1) Operation Feed the Nation (OFN)
- (2) River Basin Schemes
- (3) Integrated rural development programme
- (4) National Accelerated food production scheme
- (5) The establishment of Agricultural and co-operative banks
- (6) Green revolution programme (GR)
- (7) National Accelerated Food production project (NAFPP)
- (8) Agro Service System
- (9) National Seed Multiplication programme
- (10) Agricultural credit e.g. Nigeria Agricultural and Co-operative bank was established in 1983 to provide the needed capital for farmers
- (11) Land use decree was adopted to remove the landownership bottlenecks.

Five agricultural programmes were engaged within the period 1972 to 1985, immediately after the civil war by the military regimes, these include: National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP) 1972-1973, Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) 1976-1980, Green Revolution Programme (GRP) 1981-1983, Go Back to Land Programme 1983-1985, A restoration of the elements of NAFPP after the military coup in 1985. The policy goal of NAFPP was to make Nigeria self-sufficient in food production. Consequently, land reform and mass literacy policies were recommended for farmers. OFN was initiated by another regime, again its goal was to increase food production on the premise that availability of cheap food would lead to a higher nutritional level which in turn would affect national growth tremendously lasting till another regime came in. The policy goal of GRP had the dual purpose of curtailing food importation through boosting crop production, and promoting big mechanized farming. By 1983, another military regime toppled the civilian government bringing the end of GRP and subsequently introduced the 'Go back to land' programme which aimed at making farmers out of every Nigerian. Two years later the Directorate of Food, Roads, and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) to facilitate rural development was established.

From 1970 Nigeria seems to lack the basic fundamentals to drive the agricultural sector transformation (infrastructures, national security, political will and policies) in line with food self-sufficiency, food security, poverty reduction or agricultural best practice. Distilling the dynamic nature of the SDGs, an examination of the intersection between Nigeria's agricultural policies and the intents of SDGs 1 and 2

reveal a connect in the interplay of a host of controversies and intrigues premised on development cooperation, collaboration and competition.

The issues that plague Nigeria's agriculture and food security policies development revolve around what should be the priorities in the context of SDGs and how to systematically tap the huge agriculture infrastructures development cooperation potentials among others. In addition, how to turn the conflicts in infrastructural policy designs, insecurity and collaborative partnership approaches to the advantage of Nigeria as well as achieve a productive focus on the strategic fundamental measures and current alternatives for national security vis-a-vis agricultural development and "zero hunger" in the context of poverty reduction and job creation.

Consequently, the emerging questions include:

- What are the fundamentals for installing productive agriculture development and food security architecture in a national development policy framework in the context of the SDGs?
- What are the parameters for a Nigerian agriculture and food security infrastructures or architecture in the context of the SDGs?
- What should be the indicators for monitoring and evaluating the success or failure of agricultural Policy dictates for sustainable rural and urban agricultural development in the context of the SDGs?
- What is the degree to which the Nigeria agricultural and food security policies are, in agreement with the SDGs? In other words will the structure of Nigeria agricultural and food security goals, programmes and policies enable or inhibit the attainment of SDGs goals and objectives?

From 2010 to date Nigeria formulated and implemented the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) and the Agricultural Promotion Policy (APP) a successor to the ATA. Despite the fact that these two policies have been relatively successful in the context of the SDGs the above emerging questions remain relevant to which questioning the status quo will provide the answer. The above questions among others are the questions that are addressed in this paper.

Methodology

The research methodology used for this research is a combination of historical and descriptive research design. The main source of data collection was basically the secondary source, which means data were source from advance literature such as; textbooks, journals, historical materials, newspapers, internet material, official government reports, etc. These were then analyse qualitatively using content analysis.

Conceptualization

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 & 2: Zero Hunger

SDGs 1 and 2 are programmes of action for the productive re-engineering of global agriculture. It is a collective vision of the United Nations to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable agricultural policies and programmes. It involve a comprehensive, integrated agricultural development plan to address key economic, poverty issues or priorities for all nations (Nigeria inclusive) in a coherent and balance manner. The aim been to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. It is a framework for agricultural development that has human beings and their agricultural environment as both the subject and the object of development.

Indeed SDGs 1 and 2 arose from the collective realisation of the unacceptable grinding poverty and chronic hunger which the globe has found itself, particularly the under-developed south, with Africa (Nigeria inclusive) presenting the worst case scenario. In addition the desire to arrest and reverse the situation reflected by grinding Poverty; malnutrition and hunger through the integration of SDGs 2 into national development policies and goals.

SDGs 1 and 2 require that all forms of hunger and malnutrition should come to an end by 2030. This could be accomplished by doubling agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers (especially women and indigenous peoples), by ensuring sustainable food production systems, and by progressively improving land and soil quality. Other means has to do with maintaining genetic diversity of seeds, increasing access to land, preventing trade restriction and distortions in world agricultural markets to limit extreme food price volatility, eliminating waste with help from the International Food Waste Coalition, and ending malnutrition and under nutrition of children. Three pathways to achieve this include: 1) agriculture-led; 2) social protection- and nutrition- intervention-led; and 3) a combination of both approaches.

Nigeria Agriculture Policies Framework

The post-colonial Nigeria agriculture was taken for granted and with very little support from government. It was able to provide adequate food for its increasing population; revenue and foreign exchange for government and employment opportunities for over 70% of the population and raw materials for infant industry. With the discovery and export of oil, severe drought and a civil war, the agriculture sector between 1965 – 1979 not only witnessed rapid food supply shortfalls but also rising food prices and declining foreign exchange earnings from export.

As an antidote to these myriad of problems in the agricultural sector, between 1970 – 1985 governments initiated and implemented three successive National development plans; but these development plans failed to revive the situation. Consequently, from 1985- 2000 government articulated and adopted a host of policies instruments in preparedness to further develop and improve agricultural productivity in the country. Some of these policy instruments and programmes include: National Accelerated Food Production Programmes (NAFPP) 1970 – 1975; River Basin Development Authority Concept (1974 - Date); Operation Feed the Nation (1976 – 1979); Green Revolution (1979 – 1983); Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs) 1975 – till date; Strategies Food Reserve Programmes, Agricultural Transformation Agenda (APP), 2010 – 2015; and Agricultural Promotion Policy 2016 – 2020.

In between MDGs and SDGs, to be precise starting from 2010 – 2011 till date, the Nigeria government after years of benign neglect began to reform the agricultural sector. To reform the sector the government implemented the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) 2011 – 2016, with the focus of rebuilding the sector that its relevance shrunk drastically and characterise by dramatic levels of food imports from across the world. By 2016, ATA evaluation identified two (2) gaps: 1. Nigeria has still not met the objective of meeting its Food supply internally; still importing a significant amount of its Food supply; and 2. Nigeria is yet to earned significance foreign exchange from agriculture. To close these gaps and strengthen the ATA, the Agriculture Promotion policy was articulated and implemented alongside other Central Bank of Nigeria funding interventions in collaboration with the Federal Government. ATA was built on the principle that agriculture is a business consequently the policy should be about supporting it. Its main priority was to restart and re – introduced the Nigeria economy to sustainable agriculture, centred on business – like attitude driven by the private sector.

Essentially the ATA provided a platform to:

- i. Re – engage key stakeholders in Nigeria agriculture;
- ii. Re – focus Nigeria agriculture towards a self – sustaining agribusiness;
- iii. Re – focus Nigeria economy towards self – sustaining agribusiness as one of the key ingredients for financing and sustaining the Nigerian economy.

ATA targets include:

- i. Create 3.5 million jobs;
- ii. Generate foreign exchange; and
- iii. Reduce spending on food imports.

ATA represents an important first step towards rediscovery agriculture as a means of further wealth and job creation in Nigeria in the 21st century. ATA in its four years of existence achieved some key successes in the area of input supply, finance, infrastructure and logistics, production, market access, research, etc. However, it also failed to deliver on all the targets. It failed to deliver in terms of jobs generation, Nigeria still import food annually worth billions of USD and high level of wastage in production areas. It has also contributed to closing the demand supply gap in Nigeria agriculture with the policy programme improving the sector growth rate from 3% - 6% per annum in 2011 – 2015.

In an attempt to harness the gains of ATA to remedy the shortcoming of ATA, the Nigerian government in 2016 substituted the ATA with APP that should have a lifespan of four years. It is anchored on three main pillars:

- i. Promotion of Agricultural investments
- ii. Financing Agricultural development programmes
- iii. Research for Agricultural innovation and productivity.

The priority areas of APP includes: food security, import substitution, job creation and economic diversification. APP is founded on a number of carryover principles from ATA because of the strong desire of the Nigerian government to ensure policy stability. It also includes new principles which are as a result of the lessons learnt from the ATA. These principles include: agriculture as a business – focusing the policy construct on a government enabled, private sector – led engagement as the main driver of the sector, agriculture as key to long term economic growth and security – focusing on the inclusion of technologies, financial services, input supply chains, market linkages, commercialization of agriculture vis – a – vis rural economic growth or engagement of poor rural farmer for job creation, economic diversity and growth and improved food and national security, food as a human right – focusing on the linkage of agriculture to government social responsibility vis – a – vis food security, social security and equity in terms of hunger and malnutrition, value chain approach – focusing on policy instruments for enterprise development across successive stages of the commodity value chains for the development of crop, livestock and fisheries subsectors, prioritizing crops – focusing policy on achieving improved domestic food security and boosting export earnings through expanding production of rice, wheat, maize, soya beans and tomatoes (domestic crops); and on bananas, avocado, mango, fish and cashew nuts (export focus), market orientation – focusing policy instruments on stimulating agricultural production on a sustainable basis, and stimulating supply and demand for agricultural produce by facilitating linkages between producers and off takers, while stabilising prices or reducing price volatility for agriculture through market – led price stabilization mechanism, factoring climate change and Environmental stability – focusing policy instruments on the sustainability of the use of natural resources (land and soil, water and ecosystems) with future generation in mind while increasing agricultural production, marketing, and other human activities in the agriculture sector, participation and inclusiveness – focusing policy instruments on measures to maximise the full participation of stakeholders including farmers associations, cooperatives and other groups example NGOs, CBOs, CSOs, development partners and the private sector, policy integrity – focusing policy instruments on measures for sanitising the business environment for agriculture, in terms of accountability, transparency and due process of law, ensuring efficient allocation and use of public funding and fighting corruption on all programmes involving public resources, nutrition sensitive Agriculture – focusing policy instruments on addressing issues of stunting, wasting, underweight and other manifestation of hunger and malnutrition with particular reference to vulnerable groups, example children under 5, nursing mothers etc, agriculture linkages with other sectors – focusing policy instruments on the connected relationship between agriculture and other sectors particularly; industry, environment, power, energy, works, and water sectors.

Nigeria Agricultural Policy & SDGs Compliant

Against the background that 815 million persons are malnourished and a third of the global population are hungry, mostly in Africa (Nigeria inclusive) and Asia. Nigeria in the past decade in the context of

complying with the defunct MDGs and its successor the SDGs have initiated and implemented two comprehensive agricultural policies, the defunct Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) (2010-2016) and its successor the Agricultural Promotion Policy (APP) (2011-Date). This is with a view to tackle stark poverty, backwardness food insecurity and hunger that confront the citizens of Nigeria that is endowed with world class wealth.

CBN Funding Interventions

From 2009 to 2015 Nigeria achieved increased investment in the agricultural sector. The Central Bank of Nigeria identified the agricultural sector as a key priority area in compliance with the dictates of the MDGs and the SDGs for increased funding of the sector tailored to support and promote growth of the sector. Some of these interventions have been in existence since the 1970s and were reinforced and incorporated as a part of the total package for achieving the defunct MDGs and its successor the SDGs 1 & 2. These include the following, among others:

1. Agriculture Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (ACGSF) that was established by Decree 20 of 1997 but became operational in 1998. The fund is owned by the CBN (40%) and the Federal Government of Nigeria (60%). Activities covered include: crops and livestock production. Maximum limit of loans that can be accessed by farmers without collateral is twenty million naira (₦20, 000, 000.00) and the maximum loan limit is fifty thousand naira (₦50, 000. 00). Variation of the scheme include: i. The Trust fund model that was introduced in 2001 to build more confidence for banks to grant credit to farmers and provide a framework for enhancing credit supply to the agricultural and rural sector of the economy as well as reduce the risk of exposure of deposit money banks in agricultural lending to farmers without collateral loans under the ACGSF; ii. The Trust fund model; introduced in 2001 to enhance a framework for credit supply for agricultural and rural sectors of the economy; and iii. The interest drawback programme (IDP) introduced in 2003 with a capital base of two billion naira (₦2 billion) subscribed to by CBN (40%) and FGN (60%). It provides interest rebate to farmers that borrowed under the ACGSF with a view to reduce the cost of borrowing and burden of high interest rate.
2. Agriculture Credit Support Scheme, established with a view to enable farmers exploits the untapped potentials of the countries agricultural sector. The scheme is operated through a fifty billion naira (50 billion) virtual fund set off by the FGN with active participation of deposit money banks.
3. Commercial Agriculture Credit Scheme that was established in 2009 to finance large ticket project along the agricultural value chain. It is administered at a single digit of 9% to beneficiaries for a 7 years period. The scheme has been extended to 2025.

Policy Discussion

These two policies among others have made some gains in increasing food production and security in terms of animal husbandry and food crop, eradication of poverty, marginalisation of farmers and generation of employment. The policies have also made some stride in accomplishing SDGs 1 and 2. Essentially, through these policies Nigeria agricultural sector is currently characterised by improved primary and secondary production, improved share of global agricultural trade, improved and rising output and export, increasing dominance of the private sector and or public-private partnership, among others. These have generated some level of growth in the sector to make meaningful decline in poverty and food self-sufficiency/security.

These two policies have been able to some degree comply with the SDGs 1 and 2 through the adoption of some fundamental actions or frameworks:

1. Redefinition of the role of the state in developing both national and sun-national capacity for agricultural sector production and local consumption and export through high level activity of the private sector. In line with this strategy the state has moved away from the dominance of the state in

agricultural production to a more acceptable role of public- private sector partnership while at the same time encouraging purely private sector activity or participation in the sector. In this context the state intervention in the sector has been in areas of market failure. The state has also encouraged the private sector to play leading role in production, investments and trade.

2. Building a strong Public –Private Partnership; in this relationship both the national and sub-national governments and their agencies are doing all they can within their statutory responsibilities to assist the Nigerian farmers and corporate agricultural businesses to produce enough food for the Nigerian population, and to scale up and dominate global markets. This policy has been advocated through:
 - i. Institutionalised arrangements to bring together various stakeholders and leaders of the agricultural sector together to develop common understanding and share values on how to move the agricultural sector forward.
 - ii. Provide opportunities for joint analysis, deliberations and actions of agricultural policy with a view to achieve broad-based public policy that is for the interest of the sector.
 - iii. Provide practical solutions for eliminating impediments to competitiveness, supporting productivity improvements and promoting intra- and inter-national trade and investments in the agricultural sector.
 - iv. Promoting intra- and inter-sectorial backward and forward linkages.
 - v. Promoting or facilitating joint action planning and joint resources mobilisation through well-coordinated partnerships
3. Development of strong production base predicated on value added agriculture and allied products in relation to the dominance of the undiversified crude oil production base. It provide the impetus to structure the economy away from crude oil production and export structure, reinforced by the high consuming local population and the development of a fledging manufacturing export capability and dependence on nature/commodities as key exports.
4. Rising level of Domestic Investments; data analysis in the agricultural sector reveal an increasing level in domestic investments both in primary and secondary production of agricultural and allied products. What is not clear is if this is as a result of increase domestic savings or some other factors, such as improving private partnership by improving its allocation through such measures aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability in the sector, removing distortions in the sector, providing tax incentives and fostering a climate of confidence and stability. This increase in this decade has seen substantial improvements compared to previous decades.
5. Foreign Direct Investments (FDI): One of the policy focus is to develop the agricultural sector for food self-sufficiency, food security, export and employment generation through encouraging and attracting long-term capital inflows, particularly FDI with all the associated advantages of technological transfer and know how. Tapping into domestic savings is a notable source of domestic savings or narrowing resources gap and hence generating the required goal attainment. The policy realises that with deepening failures of the market, capacity gaps, poverty and social and economic tensions and changes of private capital and experiences over the past fifty years, the chances of private capital inflow into this sector at best is uncertain. A notable exception is the FDI from China which is based on altruistic political reasons and not market forces.
6. Sectorial Priorities: The policy approach targets improvements in the cost profile and business environment in the provision of infrastructures (particularly rural infrastructures), where agricultural productions (primary and secondary) mostly take place. In addition the ascendancy of agricultural (crops, grains, forestry products, poultry, fishery) and the decline in exports. Also the development of human resources through initiatives capable of producing the essential technical, skilled or specialised manpower for the sector.

Conclusion and Policy Prescription

Past efforts to address Nigeria agricultural development problems or deficits failed or lagged behind because of 1) Uncoordinated programmes and policies, 2) Programmes and policies instability, 3) Piecemeal programmes and policies, which focus on short-term objectives of achieving programmes and policy results rather than laying durable foundation for sustainable development, 4) Lack of common understanding and grasp of issues, data non-availability and analytical frameworks for facilitating assessments of agreed performance and compliance frameworks, 5) Lack of capacity. Consequently, attainment of a multi-faceted goals and approaches would pose many policy challenges.

Both the ATA and the APP (its successor) that represent the strategic policy thrust or perspective of the Nigeria government in the context of SDG 1 and 2 compliant and thus overcome some of these challenges. In order to achieve a strong level of compliance the agricultural policy should lay further emphasis on the focus or thrust that includes: Attainment of self-reliance and self-sufficiency in the production of basic food requirements, Increasing agricultural productivity and sustainability through research and development, extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems, Increasing food supply and reducing hunger/combating food and agricultural emergencies, Improving rural infrastructures and market access, Promotion of forward and backward linkages between the agricultural sector and other sectors of the economy, Attainment of equitable and reasonable level of distribution of income among food producers and the maintenance of good nutritional standards, Revamping of the agricultural sector so as to generate employment opportunities for the teeming unemployed youths and other population groups in Nigeria, Attainment of food security through access to good quality food while making Nigeria a major exporter of food stuff, and Creation of more value in production and downstream value chains, such as improved storage, processing and access to agricultural markets.

Consequently the present agricultural policy (APP) consolidated or premised on the attainments of ATA, the developments of previous agricultural policies and programmes, some of which are still been implemented, they possess latent potentials to reposition the Nigerian agricultural sector but also vis-à-vis the SDGs 1 and 2 appearing to optimistic and in agreement with the laudable goals of SDGs 1 and 2. However, despite its agreement the implementation is fraught with several challenges and limitations that make its attainments impossible. For these policy to be realised there is the need for a sustained political will for good sectorial management, commitment and reform, It must also radically accommodate technology, incentives for FDI inflows, infrastructures development, high level private sector participation, all of which should accelerate national economic growth, food self-sufficiency and security, job generation and poverty reduction.

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