

NIGERIAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND THE GLOBAL CONNECTION: SOCIAL RELEVANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

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ABSTRACT

In Nigeria the sustainable agricultural development implications of the social relevance of externally-funded agricultural development strategies have intensified the debate about the wisdom of transnationally-funded agricultural development paradigms that are the hallmarks of agricultural strategies that started in the 1970s through the twilight years of the last century to the present. The strategies include the famous agricultural development projects (ADPs) of the 1970s, national accelerated food production program (NAFPP) of the early 1980s, and the current root and tuber expansion program (R-TEP) and national special program for food security (NSPFS).

The paper is an exploration of the social relevance and sustainability of the externally-funded (FAO, IFAD, IMF, World Bank) agricultural development strategies of the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN). Specifically, the paper articulates the political, cultural, institutional and economic consequences of these and other agricultural development strategies on which the FGN and the FAO, IFAD, IMF and World Bank have had to collaborate. Unrealistic expectations (the quick-fix), suspicion of intentions of government, a wrong notion of extension, indigene-settler conflicts, and perception of development funds as a 'share of the national cake' on the part of farmers and conflict of interest among strategy implementers are found to characterize the strategies. Measures to remedy the identified negative characteristics are recommended.