

CHALLENGES OF FOOD SECURITY IN NIGERIA: OPTIONS BEFORE GOVERNMENT

EME, OKECHUKWU I. & ONYISHI, TONY

*Department of Public Administration and Local Government,
University of Nigeria, Nsukka*

Uche, Okala A. & Uche, Ijeoma B.

Department of Social Work, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Abstract

There has been renewed interest in food security related issues in many developing nations. This revival is occasioned by the dramatic rise in food prices across the globe occasioned by increased global food demand, diminishing global food reserves, erratic weather patterns, increased cost of petroleum products and illegal land use among others. In Nigeria, several agricultural policies have been formulated to curtail food security challenges. Unfortunately, these policies have not yielded the desired results of increase food production. This paper, thus, explores the various challenges confronting food security in Nigeria with a view of highlighting the reasons that account for these problems. The paper also suggests ways of address these challenges and concludes by positing that the task of feeding the populace adequately constitutes an increasing challenge, requiring the coordinated efforts and interaction of food producers, transporters, market operators and a myriad of retailers.

Keywords: Food and food security, Urban and Urbanization Challenges, Agricultural policies, Climate change and Insecurity

Introduction

The issue of food security has been on the front burner for long and statements about several countries in Africa that are food insecure. We have been confronted with horrific photographs of starving children in countries lying on the Horn of Africa, countries such as Somalia, Ethiopia, some parts of Kenya, among others. These frightening photographs depict an avoidable disaster. Africa's agricultural system is backward, and worsened by high global food prices.

In Nigeria, food accounts for a large, and increasing, share of family budgets for poor and urban families. If prices of staple foods soar, poor people bear the brunt. The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), an agency of the United Nations (UN), once raised alarm that Nigeria, Morocco and Bangladesh faced imminent food crisis. The report stated that the world food situation was in dire straits.

As clothing and shelter serves as the basic necessities of life, food remains the most vital because of its centrality to human existence. It is a known fact that the ruthless expedition for food has shaped human history, provoking wars, driving migration and underpinning the growth of nations. The recent escalation of food prices call for sober reflection, due to challenges facing the globe is worsening food crisis period unheard of in the last 30 years and the potential of

leading to catastrophe. This vital issue has taken the centre-stage among world leaders, thereby increasing the concern for the world's ability to feed its 6.5 billion people, to avert world-wide unrest and political instability as reported in most countries (FAO, 2007).

Consequently, various international organizations and individual countries embarked on aggressive food security crusades to remedy the situation in order to make food affordable to all. The Food Security assessment in 2005 proves that 750 million people were food insecure in 70 low-income countries. Asia and Commonwealth of Independent States experienced a 30% drop in the number of hungry people. In Latin American and Caribbean countries has varied slightly over time, but there has been a discernible trend across the region as a whole. Despite the strong growth in food production, Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region where hunger has risen in the last decade. The challenge today is that high food prices will cause increase in food security and widespread food crisis in many developing countries. Poor people in developing countries spend between 50-80% of their income on food meet consumers need. Any increase in food prices will reduce food consumption and increase hunger. In Nigeria the prices of rice, corn and wheat record high roof-tops recently (FAO, 2008).

This global food crisis has been attributed to a number of factors including climate change, population growth, increased demand for bio-fuels, failure to improve crop yield, high oil prices, leading to increased input loss for producers and traders. The structural problems like under-investment in agriculture and dominance in supply chain of food and agricultural policies sky rocket prices of food. Rapid urban growth for instance, is raising concerns about food supply. Will there ever be a time when one will have to worry about where his or her next meal is coming? This challenge among others and modestly constitutes the thrust of this paper.

Conceptualizing Food Security

There exists a plethora of definitions on food security in the literature. Carter (1989) has this to say about food security; food security may be defined as the ability of food-deficit regions or countries, or households within these countries, to meet target levels of consumption on a yearly basis. They noted that what constitute target consumption is being referred to as two central issued of a country's food policy. For Adisa (1992, cited in Okpanachi, 2004), 'food security can be defined simply as access by all people at all times to enough food for an active and healthy life.

Accordingly, Eboh (1995, cited in Idachaba, 2004) described it thus: food security simply refers to the ability of individuals and households (especially the rural and urban poor) to meet staple food needs all year round'. Continuing, Eboh (1995), states that the above description is essentially intra-generational food security as opposed to inter-generations to meet their food needs, on season and off season. According to the 1996 World food Summit, food security is the people's right to define their own policies and strategies for the sustainable production, distribution and consumption of food that guarantees the right to food for the entire population on the basis of small and medium sized production, respecting their own cultures and the diversity of peasant, fishing and indigenous forms of agricultural production, marketing and management of rural areas, in which women play a fundamental role. Food security is also seen as a state of affairs where all people at all times have access to safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life (Gurkarm, 2005).

Abudullahi (2002, cited in Dauda, 2004), adds that food is not only a basic need; it also provides the physiological foundation upon which other considerations and human activities are structured. He noted that for us in Nigeria, food security is both a national objective and a challenge. Food security is not simply having sufficient and adequate quantities of our various staple foodstuffs but it also entails access to the entire citizenry to these food items at affordable prices. It further means that not only must we engage in mass food production, but also we need to ensure that most Nigeria have sufficient purchasing power to acquire food items that guarantee good feeding and nutrition.

Food security can also be defined as a condition where all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (World Food Summit, 2003). Indicators of food insecurity in a given region can include numbers of hungry or malnourished people, of underweight children and of people suffering from micronutrient deficiency. The importance of food to individuals and households cannot be overemphasized.

For Siamwalla and Valdes (2004), food security is the ability of the countries, regions or households to meet target levels of food consumption on a yearly basis. In a similarly vein, the Committee on World Food Security posited that food security connotes physical and economic access to adequate food for all household members, without undue risk of losing the access. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) also defined food security as a state of affairs where all people at all times have access to safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy and productive life. This implies: availability, accessibility, and proper utilization. Food security means ensuring that sufficient food is available; maintaining sufficient supplies through domestic production at relatively stable levels; allowing access to food for those in need of it; and ensuring biological utilization of food. This implies adequate storage against spoilage, disease and ensures nutrient balance. In addition, the World Bank (2007) looked at food security as access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food security is thus people-oriented and it implies a situation in which all households have both physical and economic access to adequate food for all members and households are not at risk of losing such.

Food security has three aspects; food availability, food access and food adequacy (Nwaniki, 2007). Food availability has to do with the supply of food, that is to say food should be sufficient in quantity and quality and also should be in variety. If food security is to be attained, appropriate adaptation measures to climate change need to be taken within the global agricultural environment. The right to sufficient food is enshrined in the universal declaration of human rights and in subsequent international law. It is unfortunate to note that only 22 countries have embedded this right in their constitutions. Food security has to do with the absence of threats of hunger or malnutrition people face in their lives. In a broad sense, it entails safety from basic physiological needs. The lack of safety will be manifested in chronic hunger or starvation and malnutrition. It can either be chronic or transitory. Chronic food insecurity is a perpetual inadequate diet resulting from the lack of resources to produce or acquire food. Transitory food insecurity on the other hand, is temporary decline in household's access to enough food. It results from instability in food production and prices, or in household incomes. Both conditions are prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa and some parts of Asia. It is informative to also note that food security measures are in tandem with the UN MDGs of reducing population of hungry people by half in 2015.

All the above definitions have stressed that food security is of supreme importance in improving the nutritional status of many millions of people who suffer from persistent hunger and under nutrition and many others who are at the risk of facing the same situation. They have also touched some important components of the concept of food security. For instance, Carter (1989 and Adisa (1992, cited in Ogiji, 2004) talked of food sufficiency, food adequacy and food accessibility. World Bank (1989), Kennedy and Haddad, (1992, cited in Dakare, 2004), noted that food security is access by all peoples at all times to enough food supply, food access and food utilization. These concepts will further be analysed. Akinyele (2009, cited in FAO, 2011) supports the view of World Bank (2006) by noting that food availability, stability of supplies and food access are related determinants of food security.

From the above perspectives, it can be implied that food crisis can occur when at a point in time it is no longer possible for people to have access to food or even have the capacity to purchase it. Currently, the situation seems to be the case in Nigeria and elsewhere in Africa. The crisis has arisen, as shall be seen, due to poor implementation of agricultural policies and

programs, a situation that has resulted into food insufficiency both in quantity and quality due to prolonged years of neglect or insensitively on the part of the institutions responsible for encouraging food production.

Challenges of food security in Nigeria

Attaining food security in its entirety poses a huge challenge in a country like Nigeria, as a result of a wide spectrum of problems. More than 90 per cent of agricultural production in Nigeria is rain-fed with about 79 million hectares of arable land, of which 32 million hectares are cultivated (Nwajiuba, 2012, cited in FAO, 2012). Both crop and livestock production remains below potentials. Despite a seven percent growth rate in agricultural production (2000 to 2008), the growing population is dependent on imported staple food (e.g rice, beans) exemplified by increase in food import bill.

First and foremost, the primary cause of food insecurity in developing countries is the inability of people to gain access to food due to widespread poverty and unemployment, which also inhibits purchasing power and prevents assured access to food supplies.

Secondly, global food prices have risen dramatically in the last few years and are forecast to rise further or become more volatile (IAASTD, 2009, Nelson et al, 2011, cited in, FAO, 2011). Food price volatility has exerted considerable pressure on global food security, and many Nigerians depend on market for their food supply and vulnerable to high food prices. Related to high food prices is a high cost of input which limit yield and production levels that many time lead to sub-optimal input utilization. For instance, fertilizer consumption in Nigeria is one of the lowest in sub-Sahara Africa at 71g per hectare (Abu, 2012, cited in, FAO, 2012).

Thirdly, the inherent characteristics of climate that manifest themselves as changes of climate over a period time affect food security significantly in unpredictable ways as a result of their detrimental effect on pests, crops diseases, crop production, animal husbandry, and humans. Changing climatic conditions affect both the physical and the economic availability of certain preferred food items. Their impacts on income-earning opportunities can affect: the ability to buy food, the availability of certain food products, and price. Changes in the demand for seasonal agricultural labour, consequent upon changes in production practices, will in turn affect income-generating capacity.

Fourth, farmers in Nigeria also have limited access to credit, and less than 10 per cent of irrigable land is being irrigated. Fifth, the global economy is knowledge-driven and food system efficiency is dependent heavily and directly on agricultural technological innovations and innovations in relevant sectors. Nigeria's adult literacy level is 54.5 per cent (NBS, 2009). However, the rural poor who are the active stakeholders in food availability account for 33.4 percent and are mainly involved in subsistence farming.

The violence has also affected the state's trade in Kola. The upsurge in violence has made it difficult for farmers in Kano to market their produce due to persistent insecurity in the capital city. Consequently, lots of Kolanut remain unsold, according to Yaya Haliru, a Kolanut trader. Although many farmers in the state were expectant of a bumper harvest this year, many of them dread the situation whereby they would not be able to find any market for their crops. "If the current situation persists, it will severely hamper crop sales for many farmers," stated Auad Bako, a large scale grocer.

The crisis in the North has forced some of the crop farmers and pastoralists to abandon their lands and relocate to the neighbouring countries of Niger, Chad and Cameroun. In March, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said about 65 per cent of northern farmers had migrated to the South because of the insecurity they faced. The agency warned that the country faced a famine by the end of this year because most of the small-scale farmers and mechanized farmers in the Nigeria's northeast are threatened by terrorist attacks. "The attacks on these farmers who produce beans, onions, pepper, maize, rice, livestock and catfish in the Lake

Chad area for the southern states, have forced them to migrate since the Boko Haram insurgency broke out in Borno State in July 2009,” it said.

A countrywide food crisis, therefore, looms, considering NEMA’s disclosure. Since most of the foodstuffs consumed and traded in Nigeria are grown in the north, the agency warned about an impending famine. Incessant bombings and other violent attacks on local markets perpetrated by both the Boko Haram sect and Nigerian armed forces pose grievous risks to northern farmers, livestock breeders and dealers in farm produce, forcing them to migrate to new locations far from their farmlands, while placing additional burden on the transportation of food and farm produce to other states. Consequently, prices of foodstuffs have skyrocketed, particularly in the southern part of the country.

Finally, the apparent inconsistency in government’s targeted policy intervention and implementation strategies further compounds the problem of food security. For instance, weaknesses and threats to Agricultural development in Nigeria include: (a) Poor access to credit, technical inputs, machines and farm implements (i.e. fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, tractor, plow, harvesters etc) by farmers (b) Degradation of agricultural natural resources especially soil and water bodies. (c) Poor infrastructure (i.e. rural roads, water supply, storage facilities and market infrastructure) (d) Bad and inconsistent government policy (e) Poor budget allocation to agricultural sector (f) Poor and inadequate irrigation facilities (g) Uncontrolled grazing and livestock migration in some areas and (h) Poaching and settlement within protected areas and bush fires. For the genuine transformation of Nigeria agricultural sector in order to make it relatively more attractive to people (especially the youth and unemployed), it is recommended that all tiers of government (Federal, State and Local), as well as public and private organizations should sincerely adopt policies and strategies that will address and reduce the above weaknesses and threats to agriculture.

At the production stage, certain factors affect the quantities and types of food produced. Likewise, food security activities like land clearing, crop production, animal husbandry, food processing and preservation and food distribution which lead to the production and release of GHG (such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide) cause global warming and impact on climate change.

The Nigerian Government Responses to Food Security Challenges

Majority of the rural populace depends on agric-related activities for their livelihood, the appraisal on the past shows that successive administrations in Nigeria had initiated programmes towards ensuring food is availability and accessible for the teeming population. The sustenance of idea is to fulfill their mandates has remained a dream. It includes Farm Settlement Scheme, National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP) by Gen. Yakubu Gowon; Operation Feed the Nation by Murtala/Obasanjo administration; River Basin and Rural Development Authority; Green Revolution and World Bank funded Agricultural Development Project (ADP) by Shehu Shagari and Babangida’s Directorate for Food, Road and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI).

Despite these efforts, agriculture has been constrained by numerous challenges like rural-urban migration, wavering policy formulations, implementation, insufficient infrastructural support poor input distribution system, focus on oil economy; pricing system; over dependence on rain-fed farming; poor capacity utilization, low investor’s confidence; environmental degradation’ poor access to funds; poor socio-economic status of farmers, insufficient technological transfer system, corruption and poor commitment to implementation of agricultural policies.

Therefore, for Nigeria to transform as one of the 20 leading economies in the world by 2020, an agricultural revolution should be the catalyst to its industrialization. Besides, the targets of the MDGs of reducing hunger and poverty and sustainable development can only be attained through increased attention to agriculture, food security and sustainable water resource

development by the flaws of the past, The current global food predicament by late Yar'Adua cum Goodluck administration took a proactive measure by outlining agriculture as part of his agenda and vision 2015 of curbing hunger and poverty to improve the lives of 140 million Nigerians. Over N134 billion approved for Agriculture in the 2008 budget is a clear testimony. The Federal Government constitutes National Economic Council and Federal Executive Council for practical and positive intervention towards eliminating hunger. So far, the intervention result on the release of N80 billion from the Natural Resource Development Fund for importation of 500,000 metric tones of rice from abroad and 11,000 metric tones of grains to complement the local output.

As part of the palliative schemes to keep hunger away, Federal Government approved the release and distribution of 65,000 metric tones of assorted food from the Strategic Food Reserve to cushion the effect of low yield during 2007 season while stocking food items in the reserves to guarantee the required level of food security, with a view to adopt a policy of guaranteed Minimum Price (GMP) of food commodities. This strategy will enhance food security through preservation and storage of items in the rural areas nationwide.

Livestock development is not out as fisheries production was promoted in the determination to address general concern on agriculture in Nigeria. In the crop sector, government is refocusing on the production of major key crops in which the country has comparative advantage; access to credit facilities by farmers is one of the major constraints facing agriculture development in the country of which the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources has secured approval for a sum of \$39.0 million for rural financing project to provide credit facilities to small-scale farmers. The importance of land as a factor of production shows that the existing land tenure system in the country lacks organization in terms of documentation thus render illegal secure of land as a means of collateral for credit facilities.

Natural disasters affect everyone on a global scale. Hardly would one find a society or settlement that has not in one way or another been affected by the destructive side of the forces of nature, be it earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, forest fires, tomatoes, or even tidal waves known as tsunamis. All across the world, the effects of these so-called acts of God turn the fortunes of many of the affected victims and leave destruction and misfortune in their wake.

Floods are among the most devastating natural disasters in the world, claiming more lives and causing more property damage than any other natural phenomenon. Floods affect and displace more people than any other disaster; it also causes more damage to property. The destructive power of flood became more argument to Nigerians following the recent floods.

The flooding has left tens of thousands homeless and destroyed property and economic activity to the tune of over N2 billion in Adamawa, Benue, Taraba, Bayelsa, Rivers, delta, Edo, Anambra out as to the actual causes of the debate, but what is incontrovertible is that the effects of climate change and poor disaster management are now national priorities. However, despite the trail of woe that has visited affected states and the attendant effects of the flood-including food price inflation, insecurity, loss of income for millions of households there appears to be an emerging phenomenon never before seen in Nigeria. This phenomenon is commonplace in developed countries where multi-billion dollar companies, the military and civil society have honed their disaster management skills and are able to synchronise their aid machinery with that of the various governments to achieve rapid response and give instant succour to victims. One easily remembers how the United States government achieved a low mortality rate in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy as an example of clock-work-like collaboration between state governments, the Federal Government and the Military Climate Institutions.

In the midst government despair it is refreshing to see corporate Nigeria rise to its noble obligations. This has complemented the efforts of the federal and state governments who have shown that swift response and leadership in the face of crisis is not the sole preserve of the private sector.

Corporate giants such as Guinness, Nigerian Breweries, Mouka Limited, Nestle, MTN, Nigerian Bottling Company, to mention but these, have risen to the task by making donations to alleviate the sufferings of the affected persons. Corporate Nigeria gave persons. Corporate Nigeria gave in terms of donations of basic supplies ranging from food to mattresses, and so on.

The renewed vigour to be our 'brother's keeper' also went beyond expectation with the fundraising dinner organized by the Presidential Task Force on Flood Relief co-chaired by no less a corporate titan than Atiko Dangote (Chairman/CEO, Dangote Group) and legal luminary Olisa Agbakoba. About N11 billion has been raised with many more Nigerians joining this chariot of progress. The response of Corporate Nigeria hints at possibilities that were once dwelt only in the realm of fantasies. It shows that Nigeria can get things right when we put aside our individual agendas for the good of the common man; that we are moving into the era of less talk, more work as evidenced by the outpouring of material support and good will from within our shores. More importantly, the response of Corporate Nigeria attests to the potential of a self sustaining country.

Have we reached the Promised Land? The answer is an emphatic NO. There are things that could have been done better. Disaster prevention is always safer and more cost-effective than rebuilding. We must as a matter of national security invest in early warning systems, beef up enforcement of environmental laws, strengthen the capacity of the National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA), and develop a comprehensive national policy to combat global warming and climate change. Notwithstanding the enormity of the challenges ahead, we must salute and recognize that the brave response from Corporate Nigeria as a beacon of hope and a promise of a better future as we strive to rebuild our lives from the ruins of the flood.

Recommendations

Back in 2008, at the height of the global economic recession and the attendant food crisis, the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, LCCI, lent its voice on the measures of intervention it considered fit to enhance sustainable food security in the country. It is pertinent to take a closer look at them after six years; to appraise which of the recommendations deserve a second look and which should be taken with a pinch of salt.

Among its notable suggestions was the need to restore zero duty on agricultural machinery and equipment including fishing boats, agro-chemicals as well as pesticides. Furthermore, it said that 'there should be a deliberate government policy to encourage indigenous manufacturers machineries, instead of depending on foreign ones meant for the temperate region'. On this, industry watchers would actually be more disposed to a situation that encourages local fabrication and production of machines that we require to facilitate mechanized farming. That would not only boost employment generation and wealth creation for our local machinists, technicians and engineers but save the country much of the huge foreign exchange spent on the importation of all manner of such equipment leading to capital flight.

Truth is to make the dream a reality the long-delayed full implementation of Ajaokuta Steel Company should be fast-tracked. Good enough, the Federal Government has set in motion the processes for its revitalization by bringing on board the involvement of the private sector. What remains to lessen the burden on the shoulders of the local technicians and fabricators is stable electric power supply. Unfortunately, the amount of power generated nationwide has dropped drastically over the past few months. The hope is that the engineering firms. Which have indicated interest to invest in the sector would assist to mitigate the problem of epileptic power supply.

The body also suggested that 'more emphasis should be placed on developing the rural areas. Provision of rural feeder roads, electricity, pipe-borne water would mitigate rural-urban cities.' It also went ahead to canvass that states and Local Government Councils should be supported financially via private partnerships to boost rural agricultural production. This well-

thought our suggestion is at the heart of any meaningful transformation agenda in the field of agriculture.

While it is gratifying to note that the current administration has merged the Ministry of agriculture with rural development with efforts to reach the grassroots, and the ministry is doing all it can to connect with the rural farmers, this recommendation would be more meaningful in true fiscal federalism. Many analysts have wondered what business the Federal Government has to do with food production. To them, the states as well as the local government which are closer to the people would make the desired impact if the critical issue of food security (production/processing, availability, accessibility, affordability and awareness to nutritious food) is vested in them. That has engendered the clarion call for a holistic review of the constitution for governance to be brought closer to the people.

Simply put, if the states have firm control over their resources the issue of sustainable infrastructural development which some policy makers do not situate within the context of food security would command greater attention. That would also make it easier for LCCI's next suggestion to make more meaning.

And that is the call for multiple cropping all round the year through irrigation in all parts of the country. It has similarly advocated for environmental protection to safeguard arable land, the country's water resources and reduce desert encroachment. The sense in these suggestions is made more manifest because of the new and increasing challenges of climate change. Some two decades ago the issue of irrigation would be consigned to the Northern part of the country.

But not any more. But for NIMET's timely warning many a farmer would be confused on when to sow or plant and when to reap or harvest.

Times have changed, with extreme weather conditions as our constant companion. A lot more needs to be done in reaching out to farmers in the different geo-political zones to create more awareness on the freaky weather fluctuations. There is the fast spreading desert encroachment from the North, floods across the country, gully erosion in the south east, oil spillage in the south-south and deforestation in the south west. All these impact negatively on food production and its distribution.

Notable among its recommendations is that of the need for farm extension workers. Their services, the Chamber suggested, should be re-introduced across the country. This would enhance the understanding of the rural farmers regarding the use of improved seedlings, fertilizers and disease/pest control. While appreciating the fact that the current administration is already making use of this, there is more to be done. First, this is one area with job creation potentials. All the youth corps members with the knowledge or degrees in agriculture, food science and technology, agric economics and related fields should be posted to rural farm settlements instead of classrooms.

Taking its assessments a notch higher it has advocated that government should operate as a buyer of last resort. In addition, it wants subsidy for farmers while cooperatives should be formed for the rural farmers for them to benefit from the economics of scale. These suggestions have taken firm root with this administration. All that is needed is for enlargement of scale and scope so that those yet to benefit would do so.

Notwithstanding, the involvement of the financial sector in the agric transformation agenda is crucial. It is however, a sad development that so far community-based financial institution has virtually collapsed. And even in the urban areas banks would prefer to lend to oil marketers for quick returns rather than in the agric sector because of the long gestation period. This is an area that is commanding the attention of the concerned ministry, as it seeks valuable partnership with the private sector.

Indeed, one can not but appreciate the suggestions that agriculture research institutes should be adequately funded and emphasis placed on the mass production of time-tested inventions and innovations. Several other stakeholders have put similar one forward nothing the

absence of workable symbiosis and synergy with the private sector as inimical to the growth and development of the sector.

Instead of opening our borders to the influx of all manner of foreign processed foods special grants should be made available to research institutes to mass produce their local inventions, in partnership with the manufacturing sector. Therefore, the Ministry of Science and Technology as well as Trade and Investment should partner with that of agriculture and Rural Development for a master plan in this area.

The suggestion that adequate technology to process cassava, cocoa beans and sesame seed would add economic value to Nigeria's export products is needed now. But important also is the request that government should be pro-active to ensure that post-harvest management programmes are effectively carried out to reduce losses of farm produce.

In all, LCCI deserves pat on the back for the useful ideas it has proffered as a way out of the nation's food crises, worsened by the grave implications of climate change. Other professional bodies should learn from this. Talk is cheap. Anyone can criticize those in government but few realize that for governance to be effective we all must play our parts, and effectively too.

Conclusion

Agriculture has remained an important aspect of any economy. Viable agricultural programmes and activities in any nation are capable of sustaining the food supply and reserves needed for the welfare of the citizens. But in Nigeria, Agriculture is despised. Able bodied young man and woman in Nigeria do not have interest in Agriculture. Both the educated and the non-educated roam the nooks and crannies of the cities in the urban areas looking for non-existent white collar jobs. As a result of poor attitude to Agriculture, there is also this disequilibrium in the production, demand and supply of food. We discover that a lot of what we eat is not produced here.

It is also discovered that when food is not properly utilized by an individual, it affects the behavior of such individual and also affect his output towards national development. Beside, government must cultivate local initiatives by promoting grassroots awareness on the importance of cooperative farming which will result to greater gain of food production and government should provide a platform for interaction with the local farmer in order to discover their problem and provide the solution. Therefore they are need for bottom-up approach in making agricultural policies.

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