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IMPLEMENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICIES IN NIGERIA: AN ASSESSMENT OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON RICE PRODUCTION (2015-2019)

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Abstract

Over the years, studies have highlighted implementation gap as the significant primary barrier to the policy-making process in Nigeria, and this is especially visible in the agricultural policies of the country. This failure has culminated into food insecurity and retarded economic growth. Against this background, this study explored the agricultural policies formulated under the administration of President Buhari (2015-2019) with a focus on rice production policies. The study population is One Hundred and Forty-One (141) registered rice farmers in Ilorin South Local Government Area. The Data gathered through the administration of questionnaire were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) and Chi-square was used for the test of hypothesis. The analysis of the data proved the Null hypothesis (H_0) wrong and proved Alternate hypothesis (H_1) right. This result shows that Buhari's administration has the capacity for the effective implementation of agricultural production policies in Nigeria. The significant findings are that the government has not been effective in the implementation of agricultural policies as rice is still being smuggled into the country. The paper recommended that the government should put in place measures to police the borders effectively to overcome this challenge.

Keywords: Food security, policy-making, agriculture, production

Introduction

Effective policy-making has been identified as the pushing factor for sustainable economic and social development of countries, especially when it is followed by proper implementation and purposeful integration with the relevant stakeholders. Over the years, countries have engaged in policy reforms in significant sectors of the economy to boost their economic, social and community development. One of the biggest economic industries that has received immense attention from policymakers is the agricultural sector. Societies have succeeded in the past through increased agricultural production due to sustainable policies and unhindered implementation process (FAO, 2004). Nigeria is not excluded among the countries that have placed premium importance on measures that will increase agricultural production due to an abundant landmass, agile and youthful population to fast track sustainable development and reduce the hunger rate.

However, as a result of oil discovery, there was a fall in the share of value added of agriculture in GDP (Ayanwale, 2017). Sanya and Babu (2010) countered that the rate of the allocation of capital to the agricultural sector during the oil discovery era was more than 1200% higher than that during the pre-boom period. Also, the problem became complicated with harsh and inconsistent government policies that resulted in short term investment decisions and rent-seeking actions. This problem has created unstable and disconnected gains for the vulnerable majority. Nigerian agriculture is an agrarian type mostly sustained by the efforts of smallholder farmers. It is most worrisome that the Nigerian government has failed to effectively implement agricultural policies that would benefit these smallholder farmers, promote food security and eradicate hunger.

With the growing concern of increasing population and climate change problems, no doubt addressing issues in agricultural policies is imminent, especially rice, that has been regarded as the staple food in the country. In the early stages of 2019, it was revealed by Dr Harold Roy-Macauley, the Director-General of Africa Rice Centre, Benin Republic that Nigeria has become Africa's largest rice producer (African Exponent, 2019). Dr Harold said that Nigeria produced a total output of 4 million tonnes per annum (African Exponent, 2019). Despite this, Nigeria is the world's third-largest rice importer and Africa's largest importer (Business Day, 2019). In Nigeria, the consumption of rice has risen sharply, at about 10% annually as a result of changes in the preferences of consumers (Ajala and Gana, 2015). Effect of inactions of the past has led to various challenges which affect the nation's food security and promote more enormous post-harvest losses (Leadership, 2018). Although over the years, attempts to improve the agricultural sector and increase the rate of economic growth has led to several agricultural policies with feasible

objectives. From the 1970s till date, policies have been formulated to address issues highlighted regarding the agricultural sector; however, they have been discrepant and unsustainable.

In an attempt to improve the country's rice production output, the Nigerian government had in the past initiated several policies on rice production. Ranging from Federal Rice Research Station (1970), National Accelerated Food Production Program (1972), National Cereals Research Institute (1974), The Operation Feed the Nation (1976), Abakaliki Rice Project (1978), Agricultural Development Project (1987), Nigerian Agricultural and Cooperative Bank (1988), The Presidential Rice Initiative (1999) and National Food Security Programme (2008). However, in no small extent, these policies are yet to materialise into their specific policy objectives. These policies failed to achieve their aims as a result of constant policy somersaults occasioned by the lack of ineffective implementation, constant change in governments and ministers (Leadership, 2018). Therefore, the Buhari's administration proposed the Home Grown Feeding Programme, which was also aimed at ensuring food security and self-sufficiency in Nigeria. However, food security cannot be achieved if agricultural policies are not effectively implemented. This research was therefore conducted to determine the capacity level of Buhari's administration in the effective implementation of agricultural production policies in Nigeria.

Methodology

The data adopted for this study were gathered from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data were collected via the self-administered questionnaire. The study population is One Hundred and Forty-One (141) registered rice farmers in Ilorin South Local Government Area. The random sampling technique was adopted. Under this sampling technique, every registered rice farmer of the Ilorin South Local government area had an equal chance of inclusion in the sample. The sample size is the One Hundred, and Forty-One (141) registered rice farmers. The researcher used the whole population as sample size in order to increase the probability of obtaining a more adequate and accurate data and also because of the small size of the population. The secondary sources of data include both published and unpublished materials. Analysis of obtained data was carried out using descriptive statistics such as the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). Frequency distribution and percentage analysis will also be used to find out the trend of response from the respondents.

Literature Review

According to Sharkansky (1978), "policy is a proposal of a programmed major decision or the refusal to make a particular decision". To put it in another way, policy is simply "actions taken or to be taken by the government or private organisation" (Ikelegbe, 1996). Broadly, it might be right to accept that public policy is "what government (any government official controlling or guiding public policy, including school officials, municipal council members, county supervisors, etc.) does or does not do about a problem that comes before them for consideration and possible action" (Birkland and Sharpe, 2011). Hassel (2015) went further saying that public policy is "a set of decisions by governments and other political actors to influence, change, or frame a problem or issue that has been recognised as in the political realm by policymakers and the wider public".

Political System Theory of Public Policy

For this study, the Political System Theory is adopted. This theory fully supports the effective implementation of a policy by having a political system that takes the demand of the people as input into policy formulation, then processes the input into output (implementation) and evaluate the performance of the policy through feedback. The political system theory was first propounded by David Easton in 1953. The theory is useful in understanding the policy-making process and its value to policy analysis lies in the following statements (Augustine, 2010):

- Identifying the important dimensions of the environment that generate demands upon the political system,

- Identifying significant characteristics of the political system that enable it to transform demands into public policy and to preserve itself over time
- Detecting how environmental inputs affect the character of the political system
- Finding out how the characteristics of the political system affect the content of public policy,
- Finding out how environmental inputs affect the content of public policy,
- Finally, discovering how public policy affects, through feedback, the environment and the character of the political system.

This theory has been used in various areas of study by scholars such as Dlakwa (2004) who pointed out that if the system theory is applied in public policy analysis the issues to reflect on include the nature of the components of the system which constitute the sub-systems, and the outside.

In another dimension, Adam (2018) applied the systems theory to the process of policy-making. According to him, the political system receives inputs from its environment and converts them into outputs. The inputs are in the form of demands from groups or individuals for specific policy outcomes. The policy outcomes take the form of determination of societal values and allocation of resources. A feedback loop exists by which the outputs alter the future inputs. This model thus relies on concepts of information theory components that impinge on the system directly, which is referred to as supra-system. It is noteworthy that this theory is also particularly relevant to this study because the agricultural policy and other agricultural incentives such as importation ban, loan are explained as the inputs from the government, which is expected to translate into higher production of food as outputs and ensuring food security as the overall impact. This theory has been used to explain other phenomenon such as the influence of the environment on the effectiveness of agricultural policy. However, Adam (2018) also reported that the usefulness of the systems theory in studying public policy is limited by its highly general and abstract nature. It does not, moreover, say much about the procedures and processes by which decisions are made and policy is developed within the 'black box' called the political system.

Public Policy Typologies

Theodore Lowi (1964) divided policies into distributive, regulatory, redistributive and constituent policies based on purposeful operational procedures, concerns and clients. Distributive policies involve the incremental dispersal of unit to different segments of the population, individuals and institutions (Martha and Abdukkahi, 2007). These can be the real favors, incentives or sponsorship schemes that a small number of people earn (Martha and Abdukkahi, 2007). Redistributive policies deal with the relations between or among classes or categories of the population (Martha and Abdukkahi, 2007). They target particular segments or category of the population such as the unemployed, the homeless, the poor, the retired, etc. Their target and impact is typically large scale or broad (Martha and Abdukkahi, 2007). Regulatory policies refer to law or policy outputs that regulate distribution, practices, actions and activities (Martha and Abdukkahi, 2007). These policies relate to directions, rules and frameworks on activities in various areas such as business, commerce, agriculture, transportation, etc. (Martha and Abdukkahi, 2007). Constituent policy issues are those relevant to the set-up or reorganisation of institutions (Augustine, 2010). Each of these policy questions shapes a particular area of power. However, it may be mentioned here that the view of Lowi on politics as a function of policies has been criticised as over-simplistic, methodologically suspect, and testability (Augustine, 2010). Public policies in Nigeria fails as a result of some agencies or institutions in charge of implementing the given policies not possessing the requisite man power and financial resources to effectively implement them. The turnout of the ineffective implementation of the policy would lead to the inability of such public policies to achieve desirable ends (Nweke, 2006; Ikelegbe, 1996).

Agricultural Policies in Nigeria

The term agriculture implies field cultivation and production of livestock (Amoo and Akinleye, 2017). On the other hand, a concise definition of agriculture proposes that it is the science and art of cultivating the soil, production and management of crops, livestock production-preparation and processing of their products and by-products for the use of man (Amoo and Akinleye, 2017).

Nigeria had in the past, initiated several agricultural policies that had failed as a result of constant policy somersaults occasioned by the lack of ineffective implementation, constant change in governments and ministers (Leadership, 2010). Some of the policies that have been formulated and implemented in the agricultural sector by past governments include National Accelerated Food Production Programme (1972-1973), Operation Feed the Nation (1976-1980), Green Revolution Programme (1981-1983) and Back to Land Programme (1983-1985). The immediate past administration of Dr Goodluck Jonathan also came up with Agricultural Transformation Agenda (2011-2015) which had been undermined by the ineffective implementation, new administrations and subsequently phased out (Leadership, 2010).

Aims and Objectives of Agricultural Policies in Nigeria

Firstly, the achievement of complete self-sufficiency in all basic food products especially those foods that take up a good portion of Nigerian foreign exchange, including rice (Nigerian Finder, 2018). Self sufficiency in the production of industrial crops needed as raw materials for industries (FMAWRRD, 2018). Secondly, to increase the number of exportable products being produced in an effort to increase the amount of Nigerian foreign exchange earnings on these products in order to diversify the economy by increasing the export base (Nigerian Finder, 2018). Thirdly, Improvement in productivity through production and adoption of improved technology and more efficient utilization of farm resources (FMAWRRD, 2018). Lastly, to provide more rural employment opportunities via the development of agriculture towards the increment in farmers' incomes and bettering a lot of rural dwellers. This likewise includes employment opportunity towards reducing rate of unemployment (Nigerian Finder, 2018).

Rice Productions Policies

Rice (*Oryza sativa*) a cereal which belongs to the Gramineae family, a large monocotyledonous family of approximately 600 genera and around 10,000 species. It is regarded as an essential staple food for more than half of the world's population and ranks third in world's production after wheat and maize (Ajala and Gana, 2015). In an attempt to increase the country's rice production output, the federal government had in the past initiated several policies on rice production; from Federal Rice Research Station (1970), National Accelerated Food Production Program (1972), National Cereals Research Institute (1974), The Operation Feed the Nation (1976), Abakaliki Rice Project (1978), Agricultural Development Project (1987), Nigerian Agricultural and Cooperative Bank (1988), The Presidential Rice Initiative (1999), National Food Security Programme (2008), accelerating to the Home Grown Feeding Programme initiated by President Mohammadu Buhari. The focus of this study is the Home Grown Feeding Programme, initiated by President Buhari, which is formulated to end the importation and market monopoly of farm produce that can be planted in Nigeria. The project is a pilot vehicle for sustainable economic, agricultural, academic and job creation across our nation (Vanguard, 2018). Despite the ban, smuggling of rice has continued to thrive as vast quantities of the commodity flood the local market daily (Shulammitte, 2018). According to industry players, it is safe to say that the importation ban on rice has not been effective since its implementation in 2016 because of the nation's porous borders which spanned across well over 1,400 unmanned routes (Shulammitte, 2018).

Presentation of Findings

This segment assesses the trend of responses from the respondents on the capacity level of Buhari's administration in the effective implementation of policy on rice production in Nigeria. The questionnaire was structured and designed in a close-ended format to elicit responses from the respondents. The quantitative data gathered from the respondents were presented, analysed and interpreted in Table 1 in the form of frequency, percentage, mean value as well as in standard deviation.

Table 1.1

Distribution Of Respondents On The Basis of Their Knowledge of Agricultural Policies Made By Successive Governments

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	132	93.6
No	9	6.4
Total	141	100

Distribution Of Respondents On Their Support For TheBan On The Importation Of Rice

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	107	75.9
No	34	24.1
Total	141	100

Distribution Of Respondents On Local Rice Production Being Encouraged By The Ban On The Importation OfRice

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	56	39.7
Agree	68	48.2
Disagree	12	8.5
Strongly disagree	5	3.5
Total	141	100

Distribution Of Respondents On The Importation Ban on Rice Increasing The The Country's GDP

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	63	44.7
Agree	67	47.5
Disagree	9	6.4
Strongly disagree	2	1.4
Total	141	100

Distribution Of Respondents On The Ban On Importation Of Rice To Foster Food Self-Sufficiency

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	55	39.0
Agree	72	51.1
Disagree	11	7.8
Strongly disagree	3	2.1
Total	141	100

Distribution Of Respondents On Rice Still Being Smuggled Into The Country

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	52	36.9
Agree	89	63.1
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	141	100

Distribution Of Respondents On The Rate Of Foreign Rice In The Market

	Frequency	Percentage
High	47	33.3
Moderate	46	32.6
Low	48	34.0
Total	141	100

Distribution Of Respondents On Consumer's Preference Of Foreign Rice To Local Rice

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	22	15.6
No	119	84.4
Total	141	100

Distribution Of Respondents On The Increase In Their Rice Production Output Since The Importation Ban On Rice

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	130	92.2
No	11	7.8
Total	141	100

Source: Researcher's survey, 2019.

Table 1.1 clearly shows that majority of the respondents are aware of agricultural policies formulated by successive governments with 93.6% (132) while only 6.4% (9) are not aware of agricultural policies made by successive governments. The mean of this distribution is 0.04, and the standard deviation is 0.203. Going by this result, it is clear that majority of the respondents are aware of agricultural policies implemented by successive governments. The implication of this is that the respondents are well aware of agricultural policies formulated by the government.

On the ban placed on the importation of rice, table 1.1 indicates that 75.9% (107) of the respondents are in agreement with the importation ban put on rice while 24.1% (34) of the respondents does not support the importation ban put on rice. This distribution has a mean value of 0.03, and the standard deviation value is 0.167. Going by this result, it is observable that majority of the respondents are in agreement with the importation ban put on rice. The result implies that the respondents are in agreement with the policy on the ban on the importation of rice.

On local rice production being encouraged by the ban on the importation of rice, table 1.1 shows that our total number is 141 (100%), 56 (39.7%) out of this number responded that they strongly agree that local rice production will be encouraged by the importation ban on rice. 68 (48.2%) of the respondents agreed that local rice production will be encouraged by the importation ban on

rice. In comparison, 12 (8.5%) disagreed that local rice production will be encouraged by the importation ban on rice.. Finally, 5 (3.5%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that local rice production will be encouraged by the importation ban on rice. The distribution has a mean value of 0.76, and the standard deviation is 0.755. Going by this result, it is clear that majority of the respondents agreed that local rice production will be encouraged by the importation ban on rice. This implies that the importation ban on rice will encourage local rice production.

On the importation ban on rice increasing the country's GDP, table 1.1 indicates that 44.7% (63) of the respondents strongly agreed that the importation ban on rice would increase the country's GDP. In comparison, 47.5% (67) agreed that the importation ban on rice would increase the country's GDP. Hence, 6.4% (9) disagreed that the importation ban on rice would increase the country's GDP while 1.4% (2) strongly disagreed that the importation ban on rice would increase the country's GDP. This distribution has a mean value of 0.65, and the standard deviation is 0.667. According to this result, we could see that most of the respondent's agreed that the importation ban on rice would increase the country's GDP. The implication of this is that the policy on the importation ban on rice would lead to an increase in the GDP of Nigeria.

On food self-sufficiency being fostered by the importation ban on rice, table 1.1 shows that 39.0% (55) of the respondents strongly agreed that the importation ban on rice would foster food self-sufficiency. In comparison, 51.1% (72) agreed that the importation ban on rice would foster food self-sufficiency. 7.8% (11) of the respondents disagreed that importation ban on rice will foster food self-sufficiency. In comparison, 2.1% (3) strongly disagreed that importation ban on rice will foster food self-sufficiency. The mean of this distribution is 0.73, and the standard deviation is 0.696. Going by this result, most of the respondents agreed that the ban on the importation of rice would foster food self-sufficiency. This implies that the policy on the importation ban of rice will foster food self-sufficiency in the country.

On rice still being smuggled into the country, table 1.1 shows that 36.9% (52) of the respondents strongly agreed that rice is still being smuggled into the country. In comparison, 63.1% (89) agreed that rice is still being smuggled into the country. The mean of this distribution is 0.63, and the standard deviation is 0.484. Going by this result, it is clear that majority of the respondents agreed that rice is still being smuggled into the country which implies that government has not effectively implemented the policy on the importation ban on rice. This might have a negative impact on the market demand for local rice.

On the rate of foreign rice in the market, table 1.1 shows that our total number is one hundred and forty-one 141. Out of this number, 34.0% (48) responded that the rate of imported rice in the market is low, while 32.6% (46) responded that it is moderate. Finally, 33.3% (47) responded that the rate of imported rice in the market is high. This distribution has a mean value of 0.63, and the standard deviation is 0.484. Going by this result, we could see that most of the respondents agreed that foreign rice is still being brought to the market for sales.

Regarding the consumer's preference for foreign rice to local rice, table 1.1 indicates that the total number is one hundred and forty-one. Out of this number, 84.4% (119) disagreed that consumers prefer foreign rice to local rice. While 15.6% (22) agreed that consumers prefer foreign rice to local rice, and stated that this is as a result of the unclean nature of the local rice due to the inferior processing methods adopted for it. The mean of this distribution is 0.84, and the standard deviation value is 0.364. Going by this result, we could see that most of the respondents disagreed that foreign rice are preferred to local rice in the market. At the same time, some believed foreign rice are preferred to local rice as a result of the uncleanliness of the local rice, which is due to the inferior processing methods adopted.

Regarding rice production, output increasing since the importation ban on rice, table 1.1 shows that our total number is one hundred and forty-one (141). Out of this number, 92.2% (130) responded that their rice production output has increased since the importation ban on rice while 7.8% (11) responded that theirs has not increased. The mean of this distribution 0.08 and the standard deviation is 0.269. Going by this result, we could see that the majority of the respondents responded that their rice production output has increased since the implementation of the policy for the importation ban on rice. This result confirms that the policy on the importation ban of rice will result in the increase in the country's rice production output.

Test of Hypothesis

This section involves the testing of the hypothesis formulated for this study. This will make it possible to verify its validity or otherwise. The hypothesis states that there is no capacity level of Buhari's administration in the effective implementation of agricultural production policies in Nigeria. To test this hypothesis, data obtained from respondents on the capacity level of Buhari's administration in the effective implementation of policy on rice production in Nigeriawere standardised into mean scores, and chi-square analysis was run on SPSS.

Table 2.1 displays the correlation between two variables which were chosen to test the hypothesis. 0 cells (.0%) have projected count lower than 5. The lowest projected count is 8.11.

Df = 1
Level of Sig. = 0.05

The value of chi-square is higher than the value of the table; by implication, the Null hypothesis (H_0) is not accepted, and the alternate hypothesis (H_1) is accepted. This result shows that Buhari's administration has a capacity level in the effective implementation of agricultural production policies in Nigeria.

Table 2: Correlation of Consumer's Preference of Foreign Rice over Local Rice and Rice Still Being Smuggled into the Country.

		Consumer's Preference of Rice Over Local Rice		
		YES	NO	TOTAL
Rice Still Being	STRONGLY AGREE	11	41	52
Smuggled Into the	AGREE	11	78	89
Country.				
TOTAL		22	119	141

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	Df	Asymp.Sig.(2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1.928	1	.165
Likelihood Ratio	1.873	1	.171
Linear-by-linear Association	1.914	1	.167

No. of valid cases

141

Source: Researcher's survey, 2019.

Discussion of findings

Firstly, it was discovered that the aim of Buhari's administration policy on rice production is to encourage local rice production, maximize the GDP of the country and to facilitate self-sufficiency in food production. Our total number is one hundred and forty-one (141) respondents. One hundred twenty-four (124) respondents agreed that the ban on the importation of rice would encourage the production of rice locally. One hundred and thirty (130) agreed that the ban on the importation of rice would maximize the country's GDP. One hundred and twenty-seven (127) agreed that the importation ban on rice would facilitate food self-sufficiency. However, Oladimeji (2017) reported that the records from the findings of Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) indicates that the self-sufficiency ratio of Nigeria in rice production was as high as 98.8% in the 1960s but dropped to an average of 50% in 1990s, decreasing to between 43% and 25% in 2007 and 2014 with an annual average of about 31% and standard deviation value of 11.7. This also implies that the increase in the production output of food in Nigeria does not commiserate with the increase in population.

Secondly, it was revealed that rice is still being smuggled into the country, which implies that the government has not effectively implemented the agricultural production policy in Nigeria. All the respondents, numbering one hundred and forty-one (141) agreed that rice is still being smuggled into the country. In affirmation, Wale Oyekoya, former Chairman of Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, stated that the policy on the importation ban on rice has not been effective because 80 percent of rice consumed by Nigerians is foreign rice smuggled via the borders and creeks (Ships & Ports, 2018).

Thirdly, it was discovered that consumers prefer foreign rice to local rice. 15.6% (22) out of 100% (141) agreed that consumers prefer foreign rice to local rice and stated that it is as a result of the uncleanliness of the local rice due to the inferior mode of processing adopted for it. In affirmation, Oladimeji (2017) reported that local rice production is experiencing a slow and fluctuating rise that does not match the increasing demand and sometimes shows a downward slope. This leads to yearly rice importation which exhibits continuous increase, particularly in recent years. Ironically, total rice imported slopes upward more gradually than the increase in local rice production. Lastly, it was revealed that Buhari's administration has performed in boosting agricultural production in Nigeria. Our total number is one hundred and forty-one (141); out of this number, one hundred and thirty (130) responded that their rice production output has increased since the importation ban on rice.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study assessed the implementation of agricultural policies in Nigeria, with the federal government policies on rice production (2015-2019) being the focus of the study. Rice farmers in Ilorin South Local Government Area in Kwara State were all selected to partake in the research; through questionnaires administered. The study revealed that the aim of Buhari's administration policy on rice production is to encourage local rice production, maximize the GDP of the country and to facilitate self-sufficiency in food production. It was also discovered through the study that rice is still being smuggled into the country, which implies that the government has not effectively implemented the agricultural production policy in Nigeria. The study further unveiled that Buhari's administration has performed in boosting agricultural production in Nigeria. On the basis on the findings, it can be inferred that there is a capacity level of Buhari's administration in the effective

implementation of agricultural policies in Nigeria. Secondly, it can be concluded that the Nigerian government has failed to enforce the importation ban policy on rice, as all the respondents concurred that rice is still being smuggled into the country. Some of the respondents also stated that consumers prefer consuming foreign rice to local rice and stated that this is as a result of the uncleanliness of the local rice due to the inferior processing methods adopted for it. Regardless of these shortcomings, it was discovered that Buhari's administration has performed in boosting rice production in Nigeria to an extent. On the basis of these findings, the following recommendations were suggested to facilitate the effective implementation of the policy on the importation ban on rice; basically, the government should put in place measures to police the borders effectively. Also, the government should provide rice processing machines to local rice farmers at a subsidised price to enable them to purchase the machines and use them to process their rice appropriately thereby avoiding uncleanliness of the local rice. The paper only focused on the analysis of the implementation of the importation ban policy on rice in Nigeria. Further studies should cover the methods of processing used for the imported rice and the types of machines utilized.

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IMPACT OF FARMERS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (FEP) ON POVERTY REDUCTION IN DAURA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KATSINA STATE

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ABSTRACT

Farmers Empowerment Programme (FEP) is one of the programmes under National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP). The programme is aimed at wealth creation, employment generation and poverty eradication within the farming communities in the rural sector. This paper assesses the impact of FEP on poverty alleviation among farmers in Daura Local government Area of Katsina state. Data used for the study came from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data were gathered through the instrument of questionnaire administered to 40 units of the respondents from the beneficiaries that constitute our population size. Interview was also conducted to complement the data from the questionnaire. Secondary data used were from published materials. Data were analyzed using Pearson chi square test. The study found that the programme recorded low success as a result of inadequate funding, incredible criteria that reigned in selecting beneficiaries to the programme and low level of commitment among the beneficiaries. The study recommends that fund should be made available and adequate to the government poverty intervention programmes; credibility should be ensured in selecting beneficiaries; and government should ensure that farmers get ease access to farm inputs for effective farming practices.

Keywords: Poverty, impact, farmers, programme, beneficiaries and funding