

## **FOOD SECURITY CHALLENGES: AN IMPEDIMENT TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs 2) IN NIGERIA.**

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### **Abstract**

SDGs-2 is about the shared responsibility to ensure that every one has access to nutrition and affordable food. The heightened interest in food security is the result of a recognition that a number of important factors constitute a setback to the success of SDGs-2 in Nigeria. The main objective of the study is to identify the challenges to achieving Sustainable Development Goals on food security in Nigeria. The theoretical framework of the paper is Political Economy Theory by Karl Marx (1883-1883). Methodologically, the paper used secondary data, the study primarily drew evaluation and statistical information from Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, National Bureau of Statistics, Nigerian Living Standard Survey, and SDGs Base line Reports. While the results have shown that the Nigerian government has embraced the idea of rolling out plans and programs to address the gaps in food security at one time or the other, little has been achieved in curbing insecurity in food. The findings from the study show that Nigeria has about 85 million hectares of land where almost everything can grow, currently produced 110,798 metric tons of seeds in 2022, which is a summation of some major seeds that are established in the formal seeds sector, has the manpower favorable for the advancement of Agriculture and to boost livestock as well as food security. The paper concludes that it is important government removes barriers that increases vulnerability to poverty and hunger by providing an integrated security strategy to address issues of security threats in the agricultural sector. The paper recommends that government should partner with key private agencies to increase investments in the agricultural sector by empowering small and medium scale farmers in particular with access to credits and modern tools.

**Key Words:** Achieving; Bane; Challenges; Food Security; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs- 2)

## Introduction

It is imperative to briefly highlight the foundational effort at promoting global development, as it was this effort that gave impetus to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were a common yardstick of global progress in the decade prior to 2015 (Kenny & Dykstra, 2015). The MDGs which were born out of the Millennium Declaration agreed to, at the United Nation General Assembly in 2000 to spread global progress lifted from shaping the 21<sup>st</sup> Century targets to halve absolute poverty, hunger, and the number of people lacking access to clean water, to ensure universal primary education and gender equity in education access, and to reduce maternal mortality. The MDGs have been a success that spurred the global community into a frenzied round of discussion that later culminated in the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 and both processes ended up suggesting a far broader sets of areas and targets that contained the original Millennium Development Goals where the 2001 set had 8 goals and 18 subsidiary targets. While the MDGs were essentially about focusing aid on the poorest and most disadvantaged in a few narrow areas, the mantra has become that the new goals should be universal, not just about a few narrow areas, but a holistic vision of human flourishing that is inclusive of the myriad concerns of sustainability (Kenny & Dykstra, 2015).

A future that is socially inclusive, environmentally resilient, and economically sustainable is what the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals aims to achieve. The formulation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 169 targets, and 230 key performance indicators reflects this. The SDGs-2 connotes the promotion of sustainable agriculture, drive to end hunger, attainment of food security and improved nutrition. To guarantee that future generations have enough food, food systems must be sustainable and able to support the entire population. According to Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), for social and mental development to occur, every individual, regardless of gender or age, has the right to be free from hunger and malnutrition (FAO, 2006). In international efforts to combat hunger, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs-2) aim to eradicate all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

Although the Food and Agricultural Organization reported that global hunger has been declining, as the prevalence of undernourishment decreased from 18.7% in 2000 to 8.9% in 2020, it has, however, increased recently in Sub-Saharan Africa primarily as a result of the region's rapid population growth, low agricultural productivity, and economic downturns (FAO, 2021). Africa's prevalence of malnutrition increased from 17.6% in 2015 to 19.1% in 2019. Furthermore, in 2020, it was estimated that about 21 % of Africa's population was suffering from malnutrition, and as of 2022, the prevalence of undernourishment in Africa stood at 19.7%, indicating that the continent is still not on track to eradicate hunger by 2030 (FAO, 2023). Despite the large body of research on food security indicators, the fundamental parameters required to accurately assess the state of household food security globally at both the micro and macro levels remain unresolved (Akukwe, 2020).

The terms "food security" and "food insecurity" refer to the degree of availability-or lack thereof-of sufficient and nutrient-dense food for a given population. Access, availability, use, and sustainability of food are all factors in food security (FAO, 2017). Therefore, having access to sufficient, secure, and nutrient-dense food throughout the year qualifies a person as having food security. Food security has emerged as a critical issue for both developing and developed nations, despite the fact that the majority of food insecure people live in these nations.

Since gaining independence in 1960, Nigeria has developed a number of interventions aimed at boosting agricultural productivity, creating jobs, and guaranteeing food security. The Operation Feed the Nation (1979), The Green Revolution (1980), the Food Security Council, and

other notable agricultural policies were introduced during the previous administrations in an attempt to revitalize the nation's agricultural sector. Unfortunately, a lot of these initiatives failed because of weak institutional underpinnings, a lack of modern mechanized farming practices, security risks, corruption, and inadequate execution, which were to blame for the food insecurity in Nigeria (Abdulwahab, 2020).

Evidently, Nigeria's inflation rose to a 21- year high of 29.90%, while food inflation rate quickened to 35.4% in January 2024, on a year on year basis, which was 11.10% point higher compared to the rate recorded in January 2023, 24.32 % (NBS, 2024). The perspective of the study is holistic covering security, the economic policies of the government, the removal of fuel subsidy, the health challenges, poor nutrition which are associated with the risk of mortality, as a result of food insecurity in Nigeria.

Over time, a number of Nigerian government administrations have persisted in considering the issue of sufficient food security to be crucial (Ejimeke, 2017). Nigeria is ranked 25th out of 28 Sub-Saharan African nations and 107th out of 113 countries in the index (Global Food Security Index, 2022). Also, Nigeria ranks 113th out of 195 countries with a score of 25points, indicating a serious problem with food affordability in the nation. This is one of the four pillars of food security for 2022. Nigeria is ranked 26th in the region and 108th in the world for food availability. Nigeria received its highest scores in the quality and safety category, placing it seventh in the region and 79th overall. With a score of 53.7 in the sustainability and adaptation category, Nigeria is ranked eighth in the region and joint 57th overall (Global Food Security Index, 2022).

Nigeria was ranked as the second poorest country in the world in terms of food affordability by the United Kingdom-based Institute of Development Studies (2022) using a cost of "food basics" analysis that compares the average wage in 107 counties with the monthly minimum recommended spent on food per adult. In consonance with the above, statistics released by National Bureau of Statistics revealed that 133 million Nigerians were estimated to be multidimensional poor based on four indicators: employment, health care, education, and food security (NBS, 2022).

It is practically impossible for farmers to continue engaging in agricultural production at an optimal level due to the insecurity in many rural communities; this has disrupted the market and resulted in shocks to food prices. The difficulties have been growing, ranging from the Covid-19 pandemic that hampered the economy to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, to a faltering national currency and the most recent widespread flooding that caused supply chain disruptions. The situation is made worse by the ongoing fighting between farmers and herders in the country's food belt, which has an impact on Nigeria's ability to meet the SDGs 2.

The International Monetary Fund (2022) expressed concern over Nigeria's difficult economic outlook due to high food prices and elevated inflation. These challenges faced by Nigeria prompted the Minister of Agriculture to intone that "In 2023, the consequences of flooding and high fertilizer costs became more ingrained, having a detrimental influence on food prices and agricultural output" (Kyari, 2023). According to the IMF, Nigeria runs the risk of experiencing a food crisis, which could turn into social unrest. Millions of Nigerians already lived in constant hunger prior to the IMF's warning. Nigerians require long- and medium-term sustainable plans to address food insecurity because of flooding, galloping inflation, and insecurity. This persistent challenge further led the Minister of Agriculture to aver that "Unless something is done, we will never be able to overcome these issues; our population is growing at a rapid geometrical ratio while our food supply is decreasing" (Kyari, 2023).

Based on this, the FAO's (2023) statistics predict that approximately 25.3 million Nigerians will experience severe food insecurity. Food inflation climbed by 31.52% YoY in October 2023, indicating a 0.88% increase over the 30.64% recorded in the previous month. According to the NBS (2023), food inflation has been steadily rising, and there is a serious risk that the nation's food insecurity will impede the achievement of SDGs- 2. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (2023), Nigeria has reached an unacceptably high food consumption threshold as a result of a notable increase in the price of staple foods that followed increases in fuel prices, inflation, and the high cost of food production. Affordability is just one aspect of food security; accessibility and food safety are also important. Due to inadequate infrastructure and logistics for appropriate aggregation, storage, and processing, 40% of Nigeria's food production is wasted (Kayode, 2023).

The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which gauges how quickly prices for goods and services are changing, rose by 0.61% to 27.33%. Nigeria's GDP grew by 2.5% in the third quarter of 2023 compared to 3.5% in the same period in 2022. This represents an exceptional period of decline in food productivity in a nation where the population grows by roughly 2.5% annually (NBS, 2023). According to the Global Hunger Index (2023), Nigeria is rated as "serious," ranking 109th out of 125 countries. These illustrate Nigeria's degree of food insecurity even more. According to data from the Central Bank of Nigeria (2023), food capacity utilization decreased from 61% in the corresponding period of 2022 to 49% in the half-year ending in June 2023 (H1'23), showing a 20 percentage point drop, which came after consumer demand declined due to high prices, which was mirrored in a further increase in the food prices rate to 31.52% in October.

The research contextualized the root causes of food insecurity in Nigeria to the pervasive insecurity that plagues several parts of the country, manifesting in armed conflicts, kidnapping, banditry, terrorism, and communal clashes. These have not only displaced millions but also disrupted agricultural activities, leading to reduced food production and distribution channels. The study identified critical chains that have been disrupted, hindering the transportation of food from surplus producing regions to deficit areas, thus exacerbating unequal food distribution and leaving vulnerable population particularly susceptible to hunger and malnutrition. Through the research, the symbiotic relationship between security and food availability is evident. Food inflation prices, poverty, climate change, conflict between farmers and herders, insecurity, population growth, ineffective policy implementation, inefficient agricultural practices, post-harvest losses, low budgetary allocation to agriculture, removal of subsidies, infrastructure & logistics, and the Russia-Ukraine war are some of the major factors that have been identified as contributing to food insecurity in Nigeria.

The study differs from that of other researchers in that, it pin pointed a multifaceted approach toward rural development which is crucial for enhancing food production, and distribution networks, making them more resilient to security challenges, strengthening governance, rule of law, and community resilience. The call for the nations to make investment in commercial agriculture and implement cutting-edge farming practices like irrigation, green technology, and emerging technologies is a standout for the research.

### **Objectives of the study**

The general aim of the study is to contribute to the development of policies and actions that promote food security and Sustainable Development in Nigeria. The specific objectives are:

- (a) To evaluate the extent of food security within the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria.
- (b) To identify barriers to achieving food security in Nigeria.
- (c) To determine how socioeconomic indices of Nigeria affected food security in Nigeria.

- (d) To investigate the intervention policies aimed at improving food security in Nigeria

### **Conceptual Review:**

**Achievement:** Achievement in Sustainable Development **Goals** refers to progress made towards the targets set by the United Nations to address global challenges such as poverty, food insecurity, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice. These goals aim to ensure a better and sustainable future for all.

**Challenges:** Are situations or barriers that call for skill, effort, and will power to get past. Difficulties can take many different forms, such as obstacles, intricacies, or difficulties that organizations face while pursuing their goals. Comprehending obstacles entails acknowledging them as elements that hinder advancement and demand methodical methods to be addressed.

**Food Security:** When everyone, everywhere, has physical and financial access to enough wholesome food that satisfies their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, food security has been achieved. Food insecurity is commonly defined as a nation's incapacity to meet these requirements (FAO, 1996). Food utilization, stability, economic and physical access to food, and physical availability of food are the four primary components of food security, for the goals of food security to be fulfilled (World Bank, 2023).

**Sustainable Development Goals:** The United Nations adopted the 17 global objectives known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 with the aim of promoting sustainable development and tackling various social, economic, and environmental issues. They address many different objectives, including the eradication of poverty, the preservation of the environment, gender parity, food security, and the development of clean energy (UN, 2015). Targeting "End hunger, food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture" by 2030.

### **Empirical Review**

In order to take advantage of the new opportunity that the SDG-2 presented, the Nigerian government established institutional frameworks and carried out social reforms to improve coordination in order to mainstream the SDGs-2, which allowed it to advance agricultural production and improve food security (Ajibade, 2019). Despite these, Nigeria's inability to diversify its food import profile, corruption, lack of harmonization, and recession prevent it from achieving self-reliance and resilience in the food production sector (Ajibade, 2019). The nation's food production remained severely disrupted, and hunger remains widespread. For instance, the Anchor Borrowers program is a significant project. Subsistence farmers in rural areas are often extremely poor and unable to provide for their basic daily needs of enough food (Akukwe, 2020).

Because of the high number of undernourished individuals residing in agricultural households, Nigeria has been included in the list of 55 Low Income Food Deficit (LIFD) countries (Ambali, 2015). Food insecurity access scale, food consumption core, per capita food consumption, share of dietary intake, and coping strategy index are just a few of the indicators that have been used to measure food security indices globally. There has been food inflation in the final few months of 2023: 29.34% in August, 30.64% in September, and 31.52% in October, respectively. In August, headline inflation was 25.8%; 26.72% in September and 27.33% in October, the highest in decade which all impacts on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals on Food security in Nigeria (NBS, 2023).

The Global Food Security Index (2022), showed that Africa is home to the world's poorest nations, many of which experience persistent poverty and food insecurity. These nations rely

largely on rain-fed agriculture, which puts them at risk for a variety of environmental problems like droughts, desertification, erosion, and more. As a result, nations have had to create a variety of coping strategies to lessen the impact of household food insecurity or increase their resistance to it. In an analysis of food security in an agrarian community in southeast Nigeria, Akukwe (2020) found that 46.5% of households had food security and the majority, 53.5%, experienced food insecurity.

A Federal government report in 2023 indicated that 88.5 million Nigerians were threatened with insufficient food consumption, 80% surge in food importation alarming, and that food inflation stood at 31.52%. Furthermore, it indicated that Nigeria had the highest rate of stunted children globally (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2023). In its "Trade and Development Report," the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (2022) examined the state of affairs throughout Africa, focusing on Nigeria in particular. The report noted that "A shortage of cash, triggered by the replacement of the highest denominations of the country's currency hobbled the economy, especially the informal sector," and warned of the potential consequences for the nation's food security.

### **The Challenges of Food Security in Nigeria.**

Food inflation prices, lack of access to credit facilities, poor road networks and transportation system costs, poverty, climate change, conflict between farmers and herders, insecurity, population growth, ineffective policy implementation, inefficient agricultural practices, post-harvest losses, low budgetary allocation to agriculture, and removal of subsidies are some of the major factors that have been identified as contributing to food insecurity in Nigeria. These obstacles make it challenging to deal with food production issues locally, which has an impact on achieving the SDGs-2 target. It is challenging for people to get access to and afford nourishing food because of the high rates of poverty. Nigeria's index and ranking indicate that the country's hunger index and food security are indicators of the global hunger index, which serves as a gauge for the international hunger target and SDGs-2.

The issue of improved seeds had to be on the front burner given the challenges posed by climate change and the constraints to crop yields due to drought, heat and cold stress, including altered soil properties due to deteriorating soil fertility, floods and diseases and pests among others. The production system must overcome biophysical and socioeconomic constraints causing yield gaps in crops production and cultivation of improved seeds (Kyari, 2023). In addition to poverty, unfavorable weather patterns including droughts, high temperatures, and floods have an impact on food production and agricultural productivity both in Nigeria. The length and intensity of rainfall in some states have varied over time from normal, according to data from Nigeria's Meteorological Agency (NiMet) (2022), having a disastrous effect on agricultural practices. Over 2.4 million people were forced to flee their homes as hundreds of villages and urban centers in Nigeria were inundated by one of the worst floods in the country's history. Large areas of agricultural land were also devastated, which had an impact on the nation's food supply, cost, and safety. The objective can be undermined by unpredictable weather patterns, such as droughts, floods, and crop failures that interrupt agricultural activities and result in food shortages (Williams & Davis, 2020).

Conflicts between farmers and herders as well as rising levels of insecurity in some areas of the nation—particularly the northwest, northeast, and central regions—have also caused disruptions to agricultural operations and forced farmers to relocate. Due to concerns about attacks by bandits or herdsmen during the past ten years, many farmers have been unable to visit their farms, which has hampered the production and distribution of food. Nigerian farm settlements are plagued by a number of issues, including inadequate access roads, ineffective transit networks,

and a dearth of functional storage facilities. In addition to inadequate investment in infrastructure for preservation that could help extend the shelf lives of food items before they reach consumers, this frequently results in massive spoiling and waste. Because of Nigeria's expanding population, the high percentage of poor harvest losses being reported deteriorates food availability, making it difficult to meet the increasing demand for food (Anderson & Clarke, 2017).

**Inadequate budgetary allocation:** Nigeria has not complied with the 2003 Maputo Declaration on Agricultural and Food Security in Africa, which among other things mandates that signatories set aside 10% of their national budgets for the advancement of agriculture throughout the continent. Even in the face of corruption and waste, the sector has received incredibly little funding over the past ten years. Budgetary support for agriculture has been meager since 2015; in 2015, it received 0.9% of the total federal budget; in 2016, it received 1.3%; in 2017, it received 1.8%; and in 2018, it received 2.01%. Prior to showing the smallest increase of (1.37%) in 2021 and (1.8%) in 2022, the rate dropped to (1.56%) in 2019 and (1.34%) in 2020 (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, 2023).

Nigeria has implemented several ineffective agricultural policies in an attempt to increase production and enhance food security, but the results have been mixed. Both financial investment and machinery are insufficient. The nation's farming system is also antiquated. Because few farm lands in Nigeria have irrigation systems, the majority of farmers still rely on rainfall for planting. Harmful practices such as burning of vegetation, repetitive tillage, and overgrazing still occur among some farmers. The government carries out subpar programs and projects in agriculture. Inadequate oversight of government agencies has resulted in inefficiencies, misappropriation of public finances, and inadequate execution of economic strategies and directives. Policies pertaining to land use, agriculture, and social welfare that are inconsistent or ineffective frequently obstruct attempts to accomplish food security (Johnson & Brown, 2019).

Agricultural practices that limit agricultural productivity and impact food availability and access include traditional farming methods, restricted access to modern technology, and inadequate knowledge transfer (Smith, 2018). The increasing demands on food resources due to rapid population growth make it difficult to meet the nutritional needs of the growing population, which affects health and poverty alleviation goals (Taylor & Robinson 2019). Gornall (2010) argued that the areas sown with the major crops have all seen an increase in the percentage area affected by drought from 5-10% to 15-25% since 1960. Miliband (2023) contented that Nigeria loses 60% of its agricultural produce due to lack of storage and agro- processing facilities, there by farm produce couldn't reach the market as expected, this is one of the major factors affecting food security in the country while Kyari (2023) opined that Insecurity and the naira redesign policy impoverished the farmers and severely threatened food security in the country, noting that “the cash crunch caused by the naira redesign made most of the farmers to sell their farm produce at giveaway prices for survival since buyers couldn’t access cash to buy the produce from them. The policy which coincided with the harvest season, ended up rendering the farmers empty financially”.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The study makes use of Karl Marx's Political Economy theory (1818–1883) to examine how economic variables and governmental policies interact in the particular context under study. It focuses on the people, institutions, and laws related to the notion that free markets can self-regulate by eliminating subsidies and enacting tax laws. Marx’s political economy theory provides a

critical perspective on the challenges facing Nigeria, offering insights into the structural inequalities and power dynamics inherent in the global capitalist system. The theory provides insights how resources are allocated, who benefits, and who loses from different policies and interventions.

The Nigerian economy seeks to place development interventions in the context of the dominant political and economic processes in society, with a focus on incentives, reforms, the elimination of fuel subsidies, and the unification of the interest rate and exchange rates. Key ideas in Marx's political economy theory include the Labour theory of value, which explains relative differences in market prices, declining profit, and growing wealth concentration. The interaction of different factors, such as trade, productivity, and government laws, is the focus of political economy. Marxism's central tenet is that the relationships of exchange and the modes of production constitute the foundation of society.

Political economy theory is useful to the study because it clarifies the reasons behind the federal government's specific economic interventions in Nigeria, including government ideology, socioeconomic issues, and economic downturn. Sub-national political economies are influenced by the interplay of the political and economic systems in real-world societies, and the actions of foreign governments like the World Bank and IMF.

### **Methodology**

In order to explore various challenges and to identify the precise issue that needs to be solved, the study employed an exploratory research design to investigate SDGs-2-Food Security Challenges to achieved Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. Exploratory research design is used to generate new ideas and hypotheses that can be explored in future studies, also the exploratory research takes the form of qualitative data in data collection. Karl Marx's Political Economy theory served as the study's theoretical foundation.

Nigeria, a large country in West Africa covering 923,768 km<sup>2</sup>, is the study area. It is home to the great rivers Niger and Benue. Abuja, the nation's capital, is situated in the middle of the country. Nigeria is one of the most ethnically diverse countries in Africa and boasts the largest economy in the continent. Nigeria is a federal republic that consists of 36 states, 774 local government units, and a Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Using secondary data to extract evaluation and statistical information from Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Nigeria Living Standard Survey (NLSS), and SDGs Baseline Report, the sampling procedures are applied to the six geopolitical regions of Nigeria, through analyzing the results and contrasting the reports in relation to the issue under investigation.

### **Discussion**

The geopolitical regions pursued infrastructure, social services, mining, agriculture, industrialization, and food security during the First Republic. However, the agricultural industry collapsed following the discovery of crude oil, leading to the abandonment of farming, which is why food insecurity has persisted. Due to free money from the oil sector, food security has become an issue, suggesting that agriculture is being neglected along with other sectors. It is evidence of the government's lack of initiative and disregard for preparation and notice. After comparing the 12 months ending in October 2023 to the previous 12 months average, the average annual rate of change for food was 31.52%, which represents a 23.72% increase from the average annual rate of change recorded in October 2022 (23.72%).

The current administration of Nigeria has declared a "State of Emergency" in response to the threat to food security in the country. This includes providing 200,000 metric tonnes of grains

from strategic reserves to households in the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) at moderate prices; 225,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer, seedlings, and other inputs to farmers; 50 billion each for the cultivation of 150,000 hectares of rice and maize; 50 billion for the cultivation of 100,000 hectares of wheat and cassava; \$50,000 each for 1,300 small business owners in each of the 774 councils; and \$75.1 billion for 100,000 MSMEs and start-ups with investments ranging from \$500 to \$1 million at 9% interest.

Additionally, it allocated \$200 million to promote the cultivation of 500,000 hectares of farmland and the approval of a state-specific infrastructure support (Ogundele, 2023) and approved a 50% price cut for farmers on agricultural inputs, including seedlings, pesticides, herbicides, and other essential resources. At least \$1.52 billion in donor funds will be directed by the National Economic Council into 36 unique agro-industry processing zones around the country, serving 100,000 farmers nationwide (Kyari, 2023).

Some of the steps taken to ensure food security by the present administration include, certification of available planting materials in readiness for dry season farming. Reviewing the mechanism and processes for delivering fertilizers and agro-pesticides input to farmers under a transparent and accountable regime. Fast tracking the takeoff and operations of the “National Agricultural Development Fund” among others. For the 2024 fiscal year, a total of ₦362,940 billion was earmarked for the agricultural sector (Kyari, 2023).

## **Conclusion**

A well-thought-out structural policy is needed to address these issues, in addition to coordinated fiscal and monetary measures. If Nigeria could effectively execute the brilliant agricultural policies that previous administrations have formulated, it could become a food exporter rather than a net importer. To meet their food needs, governments all over the world are investing in agricultural biotechnology. The nation needs to move past relying solely on hoes and cutlasses to meet its food needs. Due to the ongoing high levels of insecurity, which have disrupted supply chains and important economic activities and prevented many farmers from accessing their farmlands, the nation's output and productivity have declined. Inflation and food shortages have resulted from this in different regions of the nation. Food security is still largely influenced by the high cost of transportation, which is a result of rising energy costs brought on by the removal of gasoline subsidies, middlemen activities in the food distribution chain, and the enduring shocks from legacy infrastructure bottlenecks.

## **Recommendations**

- (a) Biotechnology breakthroughs have been demonstrated in developed economies to boost agricultural productivity, lessen environmental impact, and improve food quality. Nigeria must use agricultural biotechnology in order to produce more food and improve the nutritional value of that food.
- (b) To reduce the pressure of inflation on consumers, the government must work with relevant stakeholders to implement policies aimed at improving supply chains, stabilizing prices, and boosting local production. Maintaining a sustainable balance between supply and demand in the future to guarantee cheap food supplies.
- (c) The nation needs to make investments in commercial agriculture and implement cutting-edge farming practices like irrigation, green technology, and emerging technologies. The Nigerian government needs to provide incentives that are applicable to both parties in order to promote private investments in the agricultural sector.

- (d) In addition to tax breaks, the government ought to promote agricultural sector investments by means of insurance programs and agricultural credit guarantee funds. Any proposed agricultural intervention projects should be implemented transparently and on time, and the ministry of agriculture should establish an independent body to oversee this process.

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