2014 Global Water for Food Conference
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Political Considerations

A. Benefits of Technology

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Akinwumi Adesina (October 2014):
• “A major area that requires attention is the need to develop a new cadre of managers for the rapidly growing sector. Federal universities of agriculture and universities with faculties of agriculture need to fundamentally restructure their curriculum to train agricultural entrepreneurs for Nigeria’s rapidly growing agribusiness sector. Their curricula should change to meet the needs of the labor market and prepare students to become agricultural entrepreneurs. It is becoming crucial to ensure that our trade and investment policies are well aligned with the agricultural transformation agenda and drive for domestic food production. Fiscal and agricultural trade policies are needed to protect the gains being made in the agriculture sector. Nigeria must not be allowed to become a dumping ground for cheap, subsidized food and agricultural products from other countries.”

Evolving Policies to Drive Nigeria's Agricultural Sector
Daily Independent (Lagos), October 11, 2014, 3093 words, Chibuzor Emejo
Political Considerations (cont.)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Akinwumi Adesina (October 2014):

“No amount of good policies without adequate funding and effective implementation of such policies can make the required change in the agricultural sector of this country.”

'Good Policies Alone Can't Transform Agriculture' Daily Trust (Abuja), October 09, 2014, 317 words, Ahmed Dio Agbo

http://www.fmard.gov.ng/photo_inside/11
Benefits of Technology

• Efforts from the Food and Agriculture Agency of the United Nations

“FAO has always supported upstream work in Nigeria providing expert advice in key issues relating to the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors. In the 34 years the Organization provided technical Assistance (TA) in the development and formulation of sectoral policies; legislation and sector strategies and programmes. Implementation of these policies and programmes has helped and facilitated some of the progress seen today since 1978.”

http://coin.fao.org/cms/world/nigeria/Projects.html
Benefits of Technology

Ogundari and Okoruwa (2012), education:

- “...for the institution of agricultural policy design, an implication that can be derived from these results seems to suggest that investment in human capital development that provides incentives to the young, able and educated people to come into farming could be explored to increase productivity of food production and hence agricultural productivity in the country. Likewise, intensification of farmers’ training on modern technologies through the activities of extension operation is another needed impetus to achieve growth in this sector of Nigeria’s economy (103).”

B. Political Limits

• Political legacy of colonial rule: legal constructs and conflict

Oba (2011), complicated legal constructs:

“Colonial authorities administered the northern and southern protectorates separately until their amalgamation in 1914. With the introduction of regionalism in 1954, the country was divided into three regions: northern, western, and eastern... regionalism (36 states) holds the key to understanding the current legal arrangements in the country... Today, the bulk of the laws in the states owe their origin to the era of regionalism. Uniformity of laws in the northern states, particularly regarding Islamic and customary laws, continued largely until 1999, when twelve of the nineteen states in the north adopted Islamic law as the basic source of laws in their states in a largely uniform manner (883).”

Political Limits

• President Goodluck Jonathan 2 terms/ People Democratic Party—South Emphasis on agriculture policy. Other issues stress the political progress.

Matt Schiavenz, 10/14/14 *Atlantic Monthly*

• “Having served two terms, Jonathan will not be eligible. But a victory by his People’s Democratic Party, which has governed Nigeria for 14 years and whose voter base resides in the south, may exacerbate the already fierce regional divide in the country….”

Political Limits

• Oil policy, food policy?
• Herstein and Jaffe (2013), bureaucracy and improvement of the ag markets:

“…the Nigerian Government did not sufficiently encourage export and specifically did not support exports by agricultural businesses. The managers pointed out that the Nigerian market structure limits businesses to market internationally because of excess bureaucracy. In addition, it seems that there is a lack of knowledge in the governmental units that are in charge of promoting trade with foreign markets. These limitations reduce and damage the abilities of agricultural businesses to ensure professional implication of the marketing concept (64).”

Political Limits

Odomene (2012), White Zimbabwean farmers:

- “…has belatedly discovered at a huge, painful cost to itself the folly of a dominant agricultural paradigm that does not have a significant native component (Makunike nd). The dangers are not just to food security and export receipts, but in an agrarian society, to the social and political stability of the country itself (74).”

- Kwara– central Nigeria white Zimbabwean farmers


http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/picture_gallery/05/africa_Zimbabwe_farmers_in_nigeria/html/1.stm
Making Technology and Politics Compatible

Daniel Egiegba (2011):

- “The resurgence of ethnic and youth militancy in the Niger Delta and southern areas of the country as well as the recent Boko Haram terrorist attacks are all signs that things are not well with Nigeria (page 23-24).”


- Boko Haram, … "Western education is a sin“
- Rivers State Governor Chibuike Amaechi (2014) :

"The solution to Boko Haram is in education and agriculture. When the youths are engaged in meaningful employment they will not have the time to engage in criminal activities. When we came on board, we discovered that a lot of people involved in militant activities were criminals who were doing what they were doing to fend for their parents. But we were able to stop that and restore peace in the region."

 Daily Trust (Abuja) Abdulsalami Sues for Peace  April 24, 2014, Victor Edozie
Conclusions and Discussion

http://waterforfood.Nebraska.edu/