Effect of Agriculture Promotion Policy on Farm Productivity in Ogun State, Nigeria

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Abstract: The study examined the effect of agriculture promotion policy on farm productivity in Ogun State. Specifically, the study seeks to verify the effect of agriculture promotion policy on productivity in Ogun State. There are claims that recent agriculture policy led to increased food production, yet quality output in terms of improved yield and nutrition value is relatively low due to low productivity. The problem of low productivity in the agricultural sector is attributed to several factors including inefficient extension services, low level of adoption of improved seedlings, poor inputs quality and inefficient input distribution system, ineffective and inadequate mechanisation and irrigation facilities, poor access to credit, poorly managed soil fertility profile and aging farmer population. Objective of the study is to examine the effect of agriculture promotion policy on farm productivity in Ogun State, Nigeria. Methodology used in the study was a descriptive survey designed with the aid of administration of questionnaire to collect data from key respondents. Two hundred and eighty-three (283) samples were derived using Taro Yamane statistical formula. Using random sampling techniques, two hundred and thirty-six (236) respondents comprising of farmers, agripreneurs, members of commodity associations returned the questionnaires. The study used regression analysis to determine the effect of agriculture promotion policy on farm productivity and analysed research hypotheses using SPSS version 20. The findings of the study reveal that agriculture promotion policy has a positive significant effect on farm productivity indicated by (coefficient of 0.353, f test= 86.568 and p=0.000). The study recommended that since Ogun State has no agriculture research centres, collaborations with agricultural research centres is vital to improve varieties of seeds, livestock and other input.

Keywords: Agriculture Promotion Policy, Agricultural system, Farm productivity, Food production, improved yield and Nutrition value

Introduction

Before, during and a few years after the independence era, agriculture was the backbone of the Nigerian economy and the nation was self-sufficient in the production of numerous crops and livestock (Odunze, 2019). Suddenly, oil boom boosted the economy in the early military era from 1966 till late 1970s. This led to gradual neglect in the agriculture sector, crude oil became the main source of revenue. The consequence of overdependence on crude oil made Nigeria a net food importer. Agriculture in Nigeria today, has become a source of livelihood especially to people in the informal sector. However, these people are small hold farmers mainly holding less than one hectare of crops farmland. For those in animal husbandry, very few small ruminants and other livestock let to roam free range. The limitation of small-scale farming or subsistence agriculture in Nigeria, is that it led to rural-urban migration of young people, leaving behind an ageing farming population that

cannot sustain agricultural production sufficient enough to cater for the food needs of the country (Lokpobiri, 2019). Dellal and Bolat, (2019) defined agriculture is defined broadly as the set of activities that use land and other natural resources to produce food and animal products for subsistence or commercial purpose. According to Ahmed et. al (2022), agricultural policy refers to a set of laws that govern domestic agriculture as well as imports of foreign agricultural products. Agricultural policies are typically implemented by governments with the goal of achieving a specific outcome in domestic agricultural product markets.

The Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) is the successor of the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) which was implemented over the period 2011 and 2015. It was developed and approved by the Federal Government of Nigeria as the national policy framework for driving the growth and development of Nigeria's agriculture sector over the period 2016 – 2020 (Oladunni, 2021). One of the thematic areas of the APP is productivity enhancement, with focus on: access to land, soil fertility, access to information and knowledge, access to inputs, production management, storage, processing and marketing. The expected outcome includes: an increase in agricultural productivity measured annually, reduced post-harvest losses, increased share of agricultural input used in Nigeria by manufacturing enterprises in form of raw materials and market orientation.   The policy impact on farm productivity may be reflected on its successes. In one of the APP objectives, which is promoting agribusiness sector to optimally play its driving role for increasing productivity, and jobs in agriculture and food system in Nigeria. According to the APP policy document report, there have been increase in output of staple foods, example rice, maize and millet by 5.74%, 1.3% and 9.21% respectively.

Farm productivity is a result-based phenomenon that harps on increment, improvement and positive outcomes as it relates to agriculture. Omodanisi, Egwakhe and Ajike (2020) insist that smart agripreneurship dimensions have a significant effect on farm productivity. However, the focus is on result. Awotide et al (2015) in their study identified that increase in agricultural productivity translates to an increase in farm income, food security, poverty reduction, and improved rural household welfare, while leading to inclusive industrial development and economic growth on the aggregate. Various policies formulated by successful Government indicates that that agriculture still remains the largest sector of the Nigerian economy and employs the largest proportion of the country's entire labour force. However, according to Lokpobiri, (2019) the sector remains bedevilled with challenges such as outdated land tenure system that constrains access to land with about 1.8 million ha/farming household, limited adoption of research findings and technologies, high cost of farm inputs, poor access to credit, inefficient fertilizer procurement and distribution process, inadequate storage facilities and poor access to markets have all combined to keep agricultural productivity low at an average of 1.2 metric tons of cereals/ha, with high post-harvest losses and waste (FAO, 2015).

Ogun State in recent times has shown more commitments to agricultural development. The State Ministry of Agriculture through its organ Ogun State Agriculture Development Project (OGADEP) have demonstrated commitments through providing inputs, example, improved seedlings and trainings to beneficiaries. With good chunk of arable land of about 350,000 hectares (OGADEP) with likelihood of becoming number one in cassava production output and highest numbers of agro-allied industries in Nigeria. It has become imperative to examine the effect of APP on farm productivity in the State.

The thrust of this paper is to examined the effect of APP on farm productivity in order to determine how the APP addresses productivity enhancement vis-à-vis the thematic areas and its relationship with farm productivity in Ogun State. Thus, the objective of this paper is to examined the effect of APP on farm productivity of farmers and agripreneurs in Ogun State. Hypothesis was tested to ascertain statistically the effect of APP on farm productivity in Ogun State. The significance of the study is the value or contribution that the research will make to existing knowledge. It has theoretical and practical significance, it serves as a guide to researchers, agripreneurs and policy makers. There is no literature relating statistically agricultural promotion policy on farm productivity in Ogun State; the closest was a study on the performance assessment of Ogun State Agricultural Credit Agency in Credit Delivery and Operations by Adegbite, Olaoye & Oloruntoba (2008). Thus, this study sought to contribute by analysing statistically how agriculture promotion policy affects the farm productivity in Ogun State.

Problem Statement
Two salient problems highlighted by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD, 2016) in the Agriculture Promotion Policy are the inability of Nigeria to meet its domestic requirement for food and the failure to meet the quality requirement for success in international markets (Odunze, 2019). The former problem is a productivity challenge driven by an input system and farming model that is largely inefficient. The later challenge is driven by an equally inefficient system for setting and enforcing food quality standards, as well as poor knowledge of target markets (FMARD, 2016). There are claims that recent agriculture policy led to increased food production, yet quality output in terms of improved yield and nutrition value is relatively low due to low productivity.   The problem of low productivity in the agricultural sector is attributed to several factors including inefficient extension services, low level of adoption of improved seedlings, poor inputs quality and inefficient input distribution system, ineffective and inadequate mechanisation and irrigation facilities, poor access to credit, poorly managed soil fertility profile and aging farmer population (Olomola & Nwafor, 2018). The APP as a strategic document is designed to raise productivity and quality standards of food production in Nigeria, however, this cannot be achieved if the policy does not critically address productivity problems, ensure food security and promote value chain participation.

Literature Review
Agriculture Promotion Policy
The Agriculture Promotion Policy statement is anchored on three main pillars, in line with the constitutional provision for the role of Federal Government in agricultural development; promotion of agricultural investment; financing agricultural development programmes and research for agricultural

innovation and productivity (FMARD, 2016). According to Lokpobiri, (2019), the Agriculture promotion policy choices would boost productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and expand market access related activities. The target outcome is a blend of metrics that includes rises in farm productivity versus base year (% yield increases), reductions in post-harvest wastes, share of agricultural inputs used in Nigerian by consumer goods companies, and share of Nigerians fresh goods for the export markets. The Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) main focus is eliminating various constraints which affect agricultural productivity in Nigeria. The inability to meet domestic food demand and the failure to deliver quality yield for the export market are the two key identified gaps in the agricultural sector in this new plan. In the APP, there are set targets aimed at increasing agricultural production, expanding and improving quality export and ensuring that essential infrastructure and farm inputs are available for farmers at all levels (FMARD, 2016), (Ahmed et al. 2022). Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) is an action plan of Government that focuses on solving the issues of limited food production and delivery of quality standards, for the overall benefits of the citizens and the country. The citizens benefit through improved standard of living, the country benefits through improved foreign exchange earnings.

Productivity

For the purpose of this study, farm productivity is relevant to agricultural productivity.

Fowowe, (2020) viewed agricultural productivity as the ratio of agricultural outputs to agricultural inputs. It arises more due to efficient use of one or more of the three factors of production that is land, labour and capital. These give rise to three broad categories of agricultural productivity: land, labour and capital productivity. Sheng and Chancellor, cited in Omodanisi, Egwakhe & Ajike (2020) opined that the productivity of a farm be measured by how long it takes to produce. Ajekwe and Ibiamke (2020) insist that farm inputs examples, seeds, fertilizers, and agrochemicals, need to be available, affordable, accessible, and of good quality and are essential for improving the productivity and incomes of agripreneurs. Otache, (2017) opines that when people develop entrepreneurially in agriculture and their capacity is enhanced, the outcome is that productivity is boosted. This is what makes agripreneurial productivity an ingredient of agripreneurship.

From the plethora of definitions and relevance to productivity, farm productivity is an outcome that arises from the efficient and timely use of agriculture inputs and resources (human, financial, physical and social) that results in more than commensurate output. So many factors affect farm productivity, however, these factors can be categorised as internal (agricultural practices, managerial decision, and biological (diseases, insects, pests, weeds) and external (environmental (climatic condition, soil fertility, topography, water quality, etc).

Nexus between Agriculture Promotion Policy and Productivity

Ojong and Anam (2018) concluded that policy implementation is a perennial problem and poses a big challenge to developing

the agricultural sector. They opine that the agriculture promotion policy did not specify in clear terms how the vulnerable rural poor will be able to access farming support programmes without collaterals, considering the fact that they constitute the largest group of primary producers in the value chain. Ositanwosu and Qiquan, (2016) considering the aspect of productivity, enhanced income for farmers and food security, opine that agricultural policy programmes have impacted positively on farmer/agripreneurs. Meludu, et al (2017) based on access to inputs, skills, yield and income generation among studied farmer/agripreneurs, confirmed a positive effect of agriculture promotion policy programmes. Alhassan, Umar and Ayuba (2019), in view of inputs, such as improved varieties of seed, agro-chemicals, value addition techniques, capacity building and farmers' training, facilities provisions, as market stalls, overhead tanks, affirmed a positive impact of agricultural policy programme on the livelihood of participants. Uche and Familusi (2018) opine that smart agripreneurship is a productivity enhancement method that adopts innovative and technological methods.

Empirical Review

Olanrewaju (2019) made an assessment of awareness and determinants of anchor borrowers program's adoption among rice farmers in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Primary data was obtained from 240 respondents with the aid of a well-structured questionnaire using a multistage sampling procedure. The results revealed that only 40% of the respondents were aware of ABP. Other findings revealed that access to credit, engagement in off-farm work, and memberships of cooperative society were critical to adoption of ABP. It found that there is no awareness created on government intervention programmes. However, this work focused on the anchors borrowers' programme, and credence mainly given to rice production that is an aspect of the anchors borrowers programme. Okeke, Mbanasor and Nto (2019) did a comparative analysis of the technical efficiency of beneficiary and non-beneficiary rice farmers of the Anchor Borrowers' Programme in Benue State, Nigeria. A well-structured questionnaire was administered to the respondents', collected data were analysed using descriptive statistics, multiple regression analysis, and stochastic frontier production function. The findings revealed that the beneficiary rice farmers achieved lower levels of technical efficiency compared to the non-beneficiary rice farmers due to fertiliser and other agro-chemical usage. It further revealed that socio-economic characteristics of the beneficiary rice farmers significantly influenced their level of technical inefficiency. The work was on anchors borrowers programme, it focused on Benue State. Inference cannot be, for reasonable generalisation, given the Nigerian peculiarities. Moreover, the focus was on rice production. Awotide et al (2015) examined the impact of access to credit on agricultural productivity focusing on small hold cassava farmers. Primary data were obtained through the issue questionnaires. The major finding was that access to credit has a positive impact on productivity. However, credit (finance) is not only the input that can enhance productivity. Ahmed et al, (2021) examined the role of agricultural policies in economic development and integration in Nigeria. The study involved a literature review for retrieving documents and analysing them. The findings of the study indicate that from

1960 to 2020 integration in Nigeria. The study involved a literature review for retrieving documents and analysing them. The findings of the study indicate that from 1960 to 2020 there were numerous policies aimed at enhancing agricultural development and economic integration in rural and urban areas. However, the success of this policies depended on Government's commitment and farmers' assimilation. Ogunsumi et al (2013) examined the prospect of Agricultural Transformation Agenda amongst rice farmers in Ogun State where rice production is a growing industry in attempt to achieve food sustainability. Well-structured and validated questionnaires were used on respondents to get needed information. It found that the level of awareness of the agriculture transformation agenda was very low in the area of study. Though the theme was on food security, the focus was on rice, there is need for studies on other food items aside rice.

Theoretical Framework

The ABARES (Australian Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Sciences) framed a model that can suite farm productivity in Ogun State. The definition of productivity is defined and made to suite the agricultural practices in Australia. Productivity measures the efficiency with which farmers use inputs (such as land, labour, capital, materials and services) to produce outputs (such as crops, livestock and wool). Productivity growth measures changes in productivity over time. In the long term, productivity growth reflects changes in the efficiency with which farmers use inputs to produce outputs, largely driven by technological progress. Ongoing productivity growth has enabled Australian farmers to maintain profits by producing more output from each unit of input that they use.

Productivity movements over time reflect changes in input and output quantities. Productivity will increase if: Output increases while inputs decrease and remain unchanged, if output and input increases but output increases at a faster rate and both output and input decrease but output decreases at a slower rate. Thus, farm productivity is driven by three Ps: production, profit and productivity. Production and profit, enhances productivity. The essence is that why production is maximised at the least cost, more profits is made at maximum point. The criticism of this model is that profit is determined by the quantities of inputs used and outputs produced, and by prices paid and received. Farmers generally cannot control the input or output prices they face. The main objective of farm productivity is to contribute to higher profits in two ways, to reduce production cost and boost revenue. This model if internalised and adopted by stakeholders especially policy makers and implementers in Ogun State will boost farm productivity.

Methodology
Population, Sample and Sampling Techniques

Five hundred and seventy-eight (578) registered farm businesses with Ogun State Ministry of Agriculture serve as population of the study. The sample size of two hundred and thirty-six (236) was drawn from the population using Taro Yamane's statistical formula. In order to ensure that minimum samples are met the sample size is increased by 20% to cover for non-response rate. Hence the sample size is (236 + 236 * 0.20) that is, 236 + 47 = 283. The main sample size adopted for

this study is two hundred and eighty-three (283). A simple random technique was applied in reaching out to respondents.

The sample size was derived using Taro Yamane's statistical formula (for arriving at given sample). Taro Yamane's formula for sample size determination is:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

n =   Sample size
N =   The population size
e =   Expected error of 0.05
1 =   Constant

$$n = \frac{578}{1 + 578(0.05)^2}$$

$$= \frac{578}{1 + 578(0.0025)}$$

$$= \frac{578}{2.445}$$

$$= 236.400818$$

$$= 236 \text{ sample size}$$

Data Collection

For primary data, questionnaires were measured using five-point Likert scale with range of values in descending order (5 to 1) indicating, 5-strongly agreed, 4-agreed, 3-neutral, 2-disagreed and 1-strongly disagreed were administered. Secondary sources of data were recent scholarly works done within the subject matter, periodicals, governmental agencies report example, FMARD.

For the reliability test, a pilot survey involving twenty-nine (29) respondents were administered the structured questionnaire to ascertain the clarity of the instrument. Cronbach Alpha was used to ascertain the internal consistency. Outcome of the Cronbach test was (0.7746), value that is greater than 0.70 is considered to be good to conduct a study.

The statistical technique adopted in this was regression. Regression technique was used to test the hypotheses and it is useful for estimating the independent variable (agriculture policies) regressed on each of the explanatory variables. There is a relationship between the independent variable (agriculture promotion policy) with the dependent variables farm productivity). The software package for social sciences (SPSS) was used to analyse the data.

Model Specification

The model parameters $\beta_0 + \beta_1 + \ldots + \beta_\rho$ and σ are estimated from data.

$$Y = f(X)$$
$$FP = \beta_o + \beta_1 AP + e_i$$

Where FP = Farm Productivity
AP = Agriculture promotion policy
β_0 =   constant
β_1 = regression coefficients
$\sigma = \sigma$ residual standard deviation.

Data Analysis and Results

The number of questionnaires distributed was 283 out of which 231 was appropriately completed and returned representing 81.6% response rate.

Agriculture promotion policy has no significant effect on farm productivity in Ogun State.

Model Summary Table 1

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.524a	.274	.271	1.93521

a. Predictors: (Constant), AP

Source: SPSS OUTPUT 2021

The coefficient of determination (R Square) 0.274 in table 1 implies that agriculture promotion policy accounts for 27% variation in farm productivity, while the remaining 73% is explained by other factors that are not included in the model. This is further justified by the .271% result of the Adjusted R-Square.

ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig
1	Regression	324.202	1	324.202	86.568	.000a
	Residual	857.616	229	3.745		
	Total	1181.818	230			

a. Predictors: (Constant), AP

b. Dependent Variable: FP

Source: SPSS OUTPUT 2021

The F-test table above shows the goodness of fit of the model. The criteria are that if (Sig value is less than 0.05) at alpha 0.05 and 95% level of confidence, it means the model is fit for the study. However, the value of our Sig is less than 0.05, which means that the model is fit for the study.

Table 1.3

Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig
1	(Constant)	-.829	.454		-1.826	.069
	AP	.353	.127	.524	9.304	.000

a**. Dependent Variable: FP**

Source: SPSS OUTPUT

The result from the table above shows that Agriculture promotion policy has a coefficient of .353 and a p-value of 0

.000. Based on the p-value that is less than 0.05 level of significant, it means that there is no sufficient evidence to accept the null hypothesis one, which states that, Agriculture promotion policy has no significant effect on farm productivity in Ogun State.

Discussion of Findings

The result of our analysis shows that agriculture promotion policy has a positive significant effect on farm productivity in Ogun State, which means that the agriculture policy already on ground is effective according to the stakeholders. The finding is in line with those of Awotide et al (2015), Olanrewaju (2019) and Omodanisi, Egwakhe and Ajike (2020).

Aligning this finding with the theoretical model adopted in this study, ABARES which harps on productivity outcomes. Stakeholders in the State develop a productivity model using ABARES has a guide, however, taking in cognizance the peculiarities in the State.

Conclusion and Recommendation

This study examined the effect of agriculture promotion policy on farm productivity in Ogun State, and the research is categorised into five: Introduction; brief overview of the subject matter, stating the objective and discussion of the problem. Literature review; conceptual review of agriculture promotion policy and farm productivity, empirical review and developing a theoretical model. Methodology; sampling and sampling techniques, method of data collection, techniques and model specification. Data analysis and results, finally discussion of findings and conclusions. Conclusively, the study found that the Agriculture Promotion Policy has a positive significant effect on farm productivity in Ogun State. In line with the findings and conclusions from this study, the study makes the following recommendation: Since agricultural promotion policy anchored upon improving the productive capacity of farmers, Ogun State has no agriculture research centres, however collaborations with agricultural research centres is vital to improve varieties of seeds, livestock and other input and improvement on the deplorable infrastructure through infrastructural renewal; this will bring down production cost and ensure global price competitiveness of agricultural products. It will make financing more accessible and readily available by reducing lending rate to agriculture practitioners and encouraging private sector led lending. The subsidy programme should be re-introduced and re-focused to ensure that it gets to target end users by ensuring accountability, monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment on beneficiaries.

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