

ROLE AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE EDUCATION IN COMBATING INSECURITY AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This paper the role of agricultural science education in combating insecurity and economic challenge. Whenever there is a problem there must be a cause, the causes of insecurity in Nigeria are not too far away from poverty. Inadequate job opportunities are one of the causes poverty that is why the number one goal of millennium development goals (MDGs) is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. The role of agriculture in Nigeria in-terms of provision of job opportunities cannot be over emphasizes considering the careers available in agriculture be it crop production, animal husbandry, fishing agricultural engineering, veterinary poultry production, land scarping and off. farm opportunities like agricultural processing and marketing all these can be achieve through agricultural science education to stimulate economic growth and combat insecurity. Agricultural contributes about 30% of Nigerian (GDP) and employs about 70% of Nigerian population 50% of rural areas involves in agricultural activities

Keywords: Agricultural Education, Security Economic, Insecurity and Challenges

Introduction

Agriculture is a subject/ course an activity that offers a sequence of skills that provides an individual with academic knowledge and experience that individual needs to prepare for further education and careers, musa (2014) education is valuable tool for socio- economic development of many nations education also serves as instrument to equip the citizen with knowledge, attitude, values, skill and competence toward a stable and economically vibrant society that will guarantee the individual well being.the objectives of agriculture in secondary levels according to FGN (2014) is to provide students with sufficient knowledge and skill that will enables them explore the talent and enrich agricultural science education in Nigeria, the national policy on education. State that objectives of agricultural science among other involve (i) Imparting functional knowledge and practical skill in agriculture to student (ii) prepare student for further studies in areas of agriculture (iii) prepare student for occupation in agriculture (iv) stimulate and sustain student interest in agriculture. Agriculture provide various career opportunities in crop production, animal, fishery poultry production, floriculture landscaping, veterinary, agricultural engineering etc.

Agriculture is the cultivation of land to plant crops and rearing animals for man use as well as raw materials for industry. Agriculture refers to as farming which involves the raising of animals and taking care of crops for the benefit of man, this means that agriculture requires the application of knowledge and skill gained in the study of science and technology in order to improve the economy of farmers (Abdullahi, 2012). Agriculture is cultivation of land to produce crops and industrial raw materials and animal production for economic development. Farming is the basic form of economic activities best known to man ever before the discovery of oil in 1950s. It also be seen as the art, science of cultivating soil to produce crops producing livestock, processing livestock products for human use. Agriculture also means the production of crops rearing of animals and the general management of soil (Damina,2012).

Character and moral behaviors in order to introduce some change in society. Hence it is seen as the most important instrument for developing (Naram 2014). According saleh (2014) education is the milestone of every types of development, education provides knowledge to do any work in systematic way. The role of education in improving the choice and quality of lives. Enhancing social cultural economic productivity and initiating the process aim at imparting general knowledge attitude and skill in a particular job area to the learner. Nigeria determined to use education as an instrument for national development as contains in the national policy on education (2007). This can be achieved through five main national goals namely:

- A free and democratic society
- A just and equalitarian society
- A united strong and self-reliant nation
- A great and dynamic economic
- Land full of bright and opportunities for all citizen

Concept of Security

In the world today matters of security are of utmost important to the progress and development of any nation. As result no nation can afford to treat with levity any issue that treat its security. Security according to musa (2017) is the requirement to maintain the survival of the state through the use of economic, diplomacy, protection and political power and is on the option that the real reason for violence is not ethnic or religious differences but scramble for scarce resources and joblessness.

Security refers to a situation by the rate of crime, anti-social vices that result from high rate of unemployment and gross restiveness and can be arrested through job creation and acquisition of right skill. Therefore security can be simply implies to be peace of mind or the absent of fear, threat, to acquired valuable needs of man. The high level of prevalence of insecurity in the country which has attained an endemic nature is becoming worrisome, insecurity had make Nigerian to attain an un-avoidable status such that government. At all level one form of security or the other to protect her citizens. Lack of job opportunity causes insecurity because idle mind is a devil workshop.

Insecurity and terrorism have presented major challenge to the Nigeria government in recent years, Nigeria faced series of challenges in the form of terrorism and banditry. The pattern of insecurity has now been regionalized and there are militia group in the south, insurgency and banditry in the north, kidnapping, killing and destruction of properties in the east west, ritual killing in south west.

Concept of agricultural education

Osinem (2007) perceived agricultural education as a process of imparting knowledge, skill and attitude in agriculture to the learner at any level. Agricultural education seeks to prepare and develop student abilities to make a beginning and advance in farming and produce farm products efficiently. Umoh (2006) define agricultural education as a systematic programme of instruction for public school leaver's out of school post secondary youth and established farmers, organized for the purpose of improving agricultural scientific method in rural areas.

Role of agricultural science education in combating insecurity and economic challenges

Unemployment, literacy are cause of poverty, and causes of insecurity are not too far away from poverty. Agricultural education is the answer to these problems because agricultural provides jobs, income, raw material to industries, food etc. undoubtedly since most Nigerian communities are agrarian where about 70% of its population are engage in agriculture. F.A.O (2011) Agriculture which had become the back-bone of the Nigerian economy, employs about three quarters (3/4) of the Nigerian working population .

Agricultural education in a broad sense is that from of education which prepare an individual to perform his/her chosen vocation/ occupation, its that education which is designed to teach skills develop attitudes and competencies that are requisite to success in a given occupation. Agriculture is the main stay of the economy of most countries balance of payment etc it is undoubtedly common fact that social up-liftment of lives of people have significant relationship with the available of basic human need of food, cloths, shelter or good health. Where these basic human need cannot be accomplished without agriculture. Playing the major role in the

supply of the raw-materials to produce those basic it is worth nothing therefore, that agricultural education is a social as well as an economic investment, this is so because agriculture is a very importance sources of economic growth as it enhance stock of human capital.

Similarly efficient agricultural is one of the essential tool/ ingredients in social and economic development of most developing countries. Thus agricultural education plays a significant role in promoting social status and general well-being of Nigerians. Agricultural education aims at making both youth and adult occupationally competent at any level of education for one reason or the other. Consequently a programme of agriculture education is human resources development out of which energies not only increased human social satisfaction, but complete stimulant of economic growth and development (Ahmed 2017). Role of agriculture in livestock production 58% of pastoral /extensive farmers and 48% of small holders indicated livestock as their main activity and relatively important to the farmers of tangible benefits of production of sheep and goat (such as regular cash income, meat milk and manure. Similarly smaller ruminant as an insurance against emergency. The importance of small ruminant i.e sheep and goat to the socio economic well-being where about 70% of the nation populace/ labour force where engaged in (Ibituye, 2011).

Sesame is an important export crop to Nigeria and the economic it is quite extensively cultivated and widely use within Nigeria and as important component of agricultural exports. Sesame is an important export crop and Nigeria has play a susubstantial role in the global sesame trade annual crop extant of sesame from Nigeria are valued at about us \$20 million and Nigeria is the primary supplier of sesame seed to the world market. Agriculture contributes 40% of the gross domestic products (GDP) and employs about 70% of the working population in Nigeria, it is the largest economic activity in the rural areas where about 50% of the population lives. Similarly, the importance of agriculture includes among others that i. sources of food ii. Creation of employment opportunities iii. Supplying industries with raw-materials source of foreign exchange (Agbulu 2014).

Agriculture is the centre of Nigerian economy providing the source of livelihood for majority of Nigerians farming sector of west African countries employs about 70% of the entire labour forces force, it is also key economic transformation food security and nutrition it. Plays a critical in transforming economy to reach the goal along with achieving their essential development like ensuring food security and improving nutrition.

Suggestions

1. Government should encourage farmers by funding agricultural banks to give loan to farmers.
2. Agricultural extension agent has to be employs in order to educate farmers in new farming techniques.
3. Government should try to do everything possible to improve security in the country to enables the refugees back to their towns and farming respectably to continue with their farming activities.
4. Agricultural skill acquisition centres has to be establish to check the menace of joblessness among youths.

Conclusion

The role of agricultural education is human resources development in terms of knowledge skill acquisition food production poverty alleviation, provision of employment raw-materials for industries economic growth and development. No nation has ever been successful and developed without well educated people and a strong agricultural base that guarantee food security soud economic growth. Agricultural is the first sources of Nigerian economy in non-oil revenue. Agriculture contributes 40% of the GDP that employs about 70% of the working population in Nigeria. Is also the largest economic activity in rural areas where about 50% of the population lives.

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