

Government Intervention and Economic Development: Lessons from Songhai Development Initiative Farm in Rivers State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study sets to assess the effect of government intervention on economic development adopting Songhai Development Initiative Farm in Rivers State of Nigeria as a case study. It adopted the survey design with the instruments of personal observations, interviews and questionnaires to collect the required data. The data has internal consistency of 0.87, test-retest reliability of 0.85 ($p < 0.001$), split-half reliability of 0.82 ($p < 0.001$). The mean of 3 points was chosen as a cut off point for accepting or rejecting each of the items in the Likert's scale. The Chi-square was also used to test the hypothesis. All items have mean (\bar{X}) that are higher than the cut-off mark and this is supported by low standard deviation for all the items which depicts a low variation of the observations from the mean. With the calculated Chi-square greater than the table value (i.e. $30.34957 > 21.026$) in absolute term, the study concludes that there is a significant relationship between Songhai Development Initiative Farm and the economic development. It, therefore, recommended that such and similar government direct involvements in the agricultural and other sectors should be encouraged for optimum benefits in output, job creation, income, social welfare and technological advancement.

Keywords: Government intervention; Economic development; Classical apologists; Keynesians; Songhai development initiative; Farming.



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1. Introduction

Market failure which is predominant especially in the Less Developed Countries (LDCs) and in the developing and presently the emerging economies has given credence to the rethink of the propositions of the classical apologists on their assumption of Laissez-faire economy. The role of the public sector expanded with the advent of Keynesians and Welfare economists especially in the areas of regulations, infrastructural provision and public entrepreneurship.

The classical apologists insist that the economy should be left alone in the hands of the invisible market forces and that the efficient quantities of all the desired goods and services of the society will be produced and distributed guided by the invisible hands at the long-run. They proposed the idea that government should not intervene as its intervention distorts the effective and efficient workings of the market mechanism. Apparently, the governments of most third world economies seemed to have had swallowed this classical pill: folded their arms and expected the market to provide all their needs – but were disappointed. One of such economies is Nigeria where by allowing the market forces to manage its economy, more resources were allocated to the oil sector which is more foreign driven and ended up producing a mono-cultural economy. Successive government have waited for the long-run effect which was expected to be a diversified economy with technological advancement, only to have an economy that serves the interest of the advanced economies. Consequently, Nigeria turned to an import-dependent economy such that she buys almost all her needs from other countries including petroleum and agricultural products that she was noted for. Should the government still stand aside and watch the market forces? Keynes answer to this is no (Akpakpan, 1998). In the view of Akpakpan (1998), the government should intervene because in the long-run we will all be dead and will not know whether the market mechanism was able to diversify the economy or not.

Before the political independence of the 1960, the agricultural sector was the dominant sector of the Nigeria economy. However, in spite of the neglect of the sector occasioned by the discovery of crude oil, it still constitutes a very important sector of the nation's economy. About 70% of the Nigerian population depends on the sector for their means of livelihood. It has also struggled to perform the above functions over the years in spite of declining effectiveness of policy attention since the 1980s (Anowor *et al.*, 2013a). Also rates of poverty reduction have historically been very closely related to agricultural performance – particularly to the rate of growth of agricultural productivity (Anowor *et al.*, 2013b). The sector also provides raw materials for the manufacturing sector and contributes to the foreign exchange earnings of the economy (Odoemenem and Inakwu, 2011).

This neglect of the agricultural sector, according to Adekun (2005) as cited in (Anowor *et al.*, 2013a), turned a threat to national food security leading to massive and continuous food importation with an erosion of value addition gains of the sector as agricultural raw commodities were exported only for finished goods to be imported. It is due to the importance of the sector that several efforts have been made by past administrations to develop it. Such effort

include the establishment of Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Green Revolution (GR), River Basin Authorities (RBA), Nigeria Agricultural Land Development Authorities (NALDA) etc. (Anyanwu, 1997). It is estimated that about 20 to 40 percent of the yearly harvest is lost during processing. The primary cause is the lack of storage facilities, harvesting and processing techniques.

In Rivers State of Nigeria, the government intervened in the agricultural sector to establish a farm to ensure a more efficient supply of a number of agricultural products and provide leadership in agro processing and technology. The Songhai Development Initiative Farm was established at Tai Local Government Area of the State and has been operated for about seven years. The establishment of Songhai Development Initiative Farm was established to contribute to the development of the State through, among others, minimize the unemployment problems, increase food production, provide leadership in agro-technological advancement and create income both for individuals and the government.

However, there is the fear that this project is tending towards abandonment like other previous programmes. What was the reason for abandonment of this far? Is it that it was not contributing to the development of the state? There is need to ascertain the effect of the farm on the development of the State. Unfortunately studies as this are yet to be carried out. This paper therefore wants to bridge this knowledge gap.

This research therefore aims at evaluating the effect of Songhai Development Initiative Farm on job creation; examining the effect of Songhai Development Initiative Farm on Social Welfare; assessing the effect of Songhai Development Initiative Farm on Technological Advancement; ascertaining if Songhai Development Initiative Farm has increase farm output in Rivers State; and investigating if the presence of the farm has led to increase in both individual income and government internal revenue generation. In summary the study examines the development effects of the government's intervention in Rivers state with particular reference to Songhai Development Initiative Farm and draw lessons there from.

2. Review of Literature

Early development theories viewed agriculture as an important source of resources to support the development of the industrial sector. The agricultural production growth serves as an engine of growth for the overall economy. Theorists such as Sir Arthur Lewis in the 1950's viewed economic development as a growth process of reallocating factors of production, especially labour from an agricultural sector, characterized by low productivity and use of traditional technology to a modern industrial sector with higher productivity (Lewis, 1954). Although passive, agricultural development was seen as necessary for successful economic transformation to ensure the supply of food and to utilize land as an additional "free" source of growth that would not compete with resources for industrial growth.

The Solow-Swan Neoclassical growth model and its extension are popularly adopted framework for analyzing economic growth process and development. Assuming a constant return to scale, aggregate production function is expressed as

$$Y_t = K_t^\alpha L_t^\beta B_t \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

Where

Y, K, L and B represent real GDP per capital, real gross capital, labour and hicks-neutral productivity term, respectively.

The contribution of agriculture to aggregate economic growth could be modeled via its effect on the total factor productivity or as an intermediate input in the industrial production sector (Ruttan, 1998; Timmer, 2007).

Hwa (1988) argued that agriculture is an engine of growth and added agriculture to the standard Solow-Swan growth equation as a major linkage between the rural and industrial sector of the economy. Similarly, we also include additional determinants of growth (agriculture, exports and inflation rate) that have been found to be robust in explaining aggregate productivity growth (Hwa, 1988); (Barro and Jong-Wha, 1994).

Thus, B in equation 1 is assumed to be a function of agriculture (A), exports (x) and inflation (F), a proxy for other macroeconomic factors

$$\therefore B = f(A_t, X_t, F_t) = AXF \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

Substituting the above equation into equation 1, will yield the following:

$$Y_t = K_t^\alpha L_t^\beta A_t^\delta X_t^\phi F_t^\nu \dots\dots\dots (3)$$

The Contemporary growth theory views unemployment, poverty and income inequality as related phenomena (Todaro and Smith, 2009). Employment is seen both as a means of creating income and as a vehicle for income distribution. The magnitude of unemployment and under employment in many LDC's is enormous (Todaro and Smith, 2009). Nowhere does this problem feature more prominently than in the agricultural sector. However it has been observed equally that the basic problem facing agriculture in developing countries is acute shortage of high level man power and scarcity of highly trained management personnel in agricultural production which has militated against rapid expansion of agricultural output and hence growth in industrial production and employment in Nigeria.

A realistic assessment of the structure and size of the labour force and prospects for non-agricultural employment expansion suggest that agricultural development should not only increase output but also increase labour absorption if the available labour has the needed technical know-how.

Prior to the growth of modern development thinking, economic development has often been strongly associated with industrialization. This warranted the perception of agriculture, not as a primary stimulant of development, but a subsidiary of the industrial sector, which in the words of Todaro and Smith (2009) was thought to be the dynamic and "leading sector" in any overall strategy of economic development. Modeling economic development along the above lines was successful in creating severe distortions in many backward regions of the world. Economic

development models based solely on industrialization rather than solving the problem of hunger, unemployment and human deprivation created issues of rural-urban drift and its attendant sordid implications.

The neglect of agriculture in the attempt to achieve industrialization, not only failed in delivering economic development, but also deepened underdevelopment. Evolution of modern development thinking brought agriculture back to the fore of development strategies (Todaro and Smith, 2009). One major unaddressed problem is that the government of third world countries still feels agricultural production and its development should be carried out by the underdeveloped private sector that do not have the necessary capital and technology.

2.1. The Rationale for Government Intervention

Agiobenebo (1998) rationalized government intervention in an economy with several reasons which include the existence of market failure by incentives and signal. Where price does not exist or the price is too low or uncertain, the signal is zero or low profit and therefore there is no incentive for the private sector to invest hence the market mechanism will fail in allocating resources to that sector. Another major rationale for government intervention is technological advancement. Time is a scarce and non-renewable resource. An investor may not be willing to spend his time and money investing in a research that will consume so much time, energy and money when there are alternatives abroad. It takes the government's leadership to drive the technological advancement of an economy. The works of Okowa (1991) and Ohale and Agbarakwe (2009) corroborate this position.

The summary of the all the related theories and literature on this area of study is that agricultural development is essential for meaningful industrialization, poverty reduction, economic growth, reduction in unemployment and underemployment, self-reliance and economic independence. This realization made development of agriculture a top priority objective for any responsible government that is genuinely interested in driving its economy out of underdevelopment.

Following the prescriptions of the classical economists this very important objective should be achieved by the private sector. The government should only come up with the necessary policies and incentive mechanisms to encourage investors to invest in the sector. The Nigerian government has always adopted these prescriptions but unfortunately the private sector has been so weak and slow and hence the market has always failed in achieving agricultural development. It is the incessant failures of the market in this sector that informed government intervention in Rivers State in 2007 in establishing the Songhai Rivers Initiative Farm.

2.2. Songhai Rivers Initiative Farm

Songhai derives its name from one of the largest and wealthiest empires of West Africa, which flourished during the early 16th to late 16th century. The Songhai Empire had its capital at Gao around the bend of the Niger River in present day Niger and Burkina Faso. It was noted for its learning, economic prosperity, agriculture, trade, military might and great political leadership, which created separate departments for agriculture, the army and treasury (Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency, 2011). The programme came about when the State government visited the Songhai Centre in Porto Novo in 2007. Impressed with what she saw as a good model in developing agriculture in Africa, the state government decided to replicate it in Rivers State.

The Songhai Rivers Initiative Farm (SRIF) was developed to be the hub of agricultural development in the State. It is a partnership between the Rivers State Government and the Songhai International Centre in Benin Republic. Songhai Rivers Initiative Farm sits on 314 hectares of land and is about 20 times the size of the Songhai farm in Porto Novo. The farm was to provide the opportunity to train young Rivers State men and women in new farming methods. That way, low productivity which is associated with traditional agricultural methods is replaced with modern innovative and adaptable technologies in agriculture that would attract and keep young men and women in agriculture.

Work began at the farm in 2010. Before then a group of 110 young Rivers men and women from 23 Local Government Areas (LGAs) had been sent to Songhai International Centre to receive an 18 months training in various specialized agricultural and agro based areas. They also imbibed an entrepreneurial culture. Fifty of them have already been deployed into the farm to form part of the first corps of workers. They were to be given opportunity to drive their own farm units and sharpen their entrepreneurial skills, and eventually progress to start their own businesses in their communities with the support of the center (Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency, 2011).

Songhai Centre, Porto Novo, Republic of Benin was set up 31 years ago as a centre for training, agricultural production, research and development of sustainable agricultural practices. This model has developed new approaches and farming systems that rely heavily on the combined inputs from local experiences, indigenous knowledge base on one hand and business communities and research institutions on the other hand. The result is a robust, zero-waste, integrated agro-allied model promoting rural growth through training, technology adaptation and strong business and commercialization strategy.

One of the strategic beliefs in the Songhai model, according to the founder, Godfrey Nzamujo in 1985, is that sustainable agriculture could become a "weapon of mass construction". That is why Songhai and its partners have been committing themselves to a high level of investment in human and material development.

The Songhai human capacity building model is quite a unique one. Songhai is an incubation centre. This innovative institution has four components. It is a technology park where new ideas and techniques are developed and contextualized. The model is also an industrial park/production centre where the techniques and ideas are turned into enterprises and many different types of production activities. The teachers are entrepreneurs. Songhai is as well a service centre. The game is not over after the initial formation period. Services like marketing, input procurement,

networking, financial/loan and advisory services are provided to enable the young entrepreneurs to stand on their own.

3. Materials and Method

The survey design was used for the study to gather the required primary data from Songhai Development Initiative Farm in Tai Local Government Area (LGA). Data collected include data on the effect of Songhai Development Initiative Farm on job creation, the effect of the Farm on food production and effect of the farm on both individual and state. The data were sourced directly from purposefully selected respondents which include the staff, contractors, agents, agro-marketers, members of host community and any others who has some sorts of business to do with Songhai Development Initiative Farm. We believed the required information through the administration of questionnaire, interviewed and observations were gotten.

Four hundred (400) questionnaires were distributed out of which 389 were correctly filled and retrieved constituting about 97 percent response rate. The instruments that were employed in collecting the data are observations, interview and the questionnaire which was validated through peer review. Its Cronbach coefficient of internal consistency is 0.87, test-retest reliability is 0.85 ($p < 0.001$), split-half reliability is 0.82 ($p < 0.001$). This study used SPSS: 22.0 software package for its statistical analysis.

Psychometric scales were used by the respondents to present their views:

SA - Strongly Agree

A - Agree

U - Undecided

D - Disagree

SD - Strongly Disagree

Their responses were rank thus in the [table 1](#) below:

Table-1.

SA	A	U	D	SD
5	4	3	2	1

Source: Researchers' field report, 2017

The data were presented using the Likert's 5 scale format and analyzed using the mean and standard deviation. The mean of 3 points was used as cut off point for accepting or rejecting each of the items in the Likert's scale or table. That is any item that has a mean of 3 points and above is accepted while any item with mean of less than 3 points is rejected. The Chi-square was also used to test the hypothesis.

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(F_o - F_e)^2}{F_e}$$

Where: F_o = observed events from respondents

F_e = expected event

X^2 = chi-square

The calculated chi-squared are compared with the critical or table value of chi-square at a 5% (0.05) level of significance.

4. Results and Discussions

We presented and analyzed the primary data obtained from the field through the use of questionnaire. We first presented the response rate followed by the data from the questionnaire. This is followed by the testing of the hypothesis, the discussions of findings, conclusion and recommendations.

5. Data Presentation

The questionnaires which were correctly filled and retrieved were 389, constituting about 97 percent response rate. See [table 2](#) below:

Table-2. Response to Questionnaire by the 389 respondent

S/N	Effect	Question	SA 5	A 4	U 3	D 2	SD 1	Total	\bar{X}	S. Deviation
1	The Effect of Farm on Output of Rivers State	Farm Output Greatly Increased in terms of quantity in Tai LGA with the presence of the Farm	219	170	0	0	0	389	4.56	0.24
		The variety of farm output has also increased significantly in Tai LGA	214	165	5	2	3	389	4.50	0.23
		The quality of farm output has improved significantly	225	150	0	10	4	389	4.49	0.23
		Farmers from other parts of the State now come to Tai for	204	165	0	11	9	389	4.39	0.23

		improved varieties of farm inputs								
2	The of Farm on Technological Advancement of the State	You have gained a lot of experience through the training and working on this Farm	360	29	0	0	0	389	4.93	0.27
		Those Trained by the SDIF can now train others and manage agricultural production successfully	374	15	0	0	0	389	4.96	0.27
		The Processed Products Especially the fruit juices from the Songhai Development Initiative Farm are comparable to imported ones	256	120	3	7	3	389	4.59	0.24
		The Songhai Development Initiative Farm has Achieved the Objective of Developing a Resilient Integrated Programme that Links Agriculture with Industry	189	130	5	40	25	389	4.07	0.20
		Songhai Development Initiative Farm has Developed the Technology of Fruit Juice Production, Cassava Processing, Palm Oil Processing, Garri Processing, etc	360	25	4	0	0	389	4.92	0.27
3	The of Farm on Social Welfare in the State	Improvement in income as a result of the presence of the Farm has positively affected the lives of the Tai communities by improving their capacity to consume	206	159	2	17	5	389	4.39	0.23
		More commodities are now available and affordable at cheaper prices in Tai LGA	267	104	10	3	5	389	4.54	0.24
4	Effect on Income of the State	The Songhai Development Initiative Farm has Contributed Greatly to the Internal Revenue Generation of Rivers State	179	135	1	40	34	389	3.99	0.19
		The Songhai Development Initiative Farm has Contributed Greatly to the income of workers	349	35	0	3	2	389	4.87	0.27
		Tai generated extra income through house rentage	235	125	1	13	15	389	4.42	0.23
		People engaged in other commercial activities which the farm encouraged enjoyed increased income	261	121	1	2	4	389	4.64	0.24
5	Effect of the Farm on Job Creation	The presence of The Songhai Development Initiative Farm created job opportunities for Rivers people	338	51	0	0	0	389	4.87	0.27
		The Songhai Development Initiative Farm has contributed greatly to Tai commercial activities	249	126	1	13	0	389	4.57	0.24

Source: Researchers' field report, 2017

6. Analysis of Data

From the table it can be seen that all the items, apart from 4.1 which has a mean of 3.99, have means that are above 4.00. In other words all items have means that are higher than the cut off mark of 3 points and are therefore all accepted. This is supported by low standard deviation for all the items in the table which depicts low variation of the observations from the mean. This clearly shows that the effect of Songhai Development Initiative Farm in Rivers State on output, technological advancement, social welfare, and income and job creation is positive.

7. Hypothesis Testing

H_0 : There is no significant relationship between Songhai Development Initiative Farm and the Development of Rivers State.

The Table below 3 shows the Observed and Expected Frequencies on the Contribution of Songhai Development Initiative Farm to the Economic Growth and Development of Rivers State.

Table-3.

S/N	Effect	Items	SA 5	A 4	U 3	D 2	SD 1	Total
1	The Effect of Farm on Output of Rivers State	1	219	170	0	0	0	389
		2	214	165	5	2	3	389
		3	225	150	0	10	4	389
		4	204	165	0	11	9	389
2	The of Farm on Technological Advancement of the State	1	360	29	0	0	0	389
		2	374	15	0	0	0	389
		3	256	120	3	7	3	389
		4	189	130	5	40	25	389
		5	360	25	4	0	0	389
3	The of Farm on Social Welfare in the State	1	206	159	2	17	5	389
		2	267	104	10	3	5	389
4	Effect on Income of the State	1	179	135	1	40	34	389
		2	349	35	0	3	2	389
		3	235	125	1	13	15	389
		4	261	121	1	2	4	389
5	Effect of the Farm on Job Creation	1	338	51	0	0	0	389
		2	249	126	1	13	0	389

Source: Researchers' field report, 2017

Table-4. Distribution by age group

Age Group	SA	A	D	SD	Total
20 and below	40 (28.75)	10 (21.25)	0(0)	0(0)	50
21 – 30	100 (86.25)	50 (63.75)	0(0)	0(0)	150
31 – 40	40 (57.5)	60 (42.5)	0(0)	0(0)	100
41 – 50	40 (46)	40 (34)	0(0)	0(0)	80
51 and above	10 (11.5)	10 (8.5)	0(0)	0(0)	20
Total	230	170	0	0	400

Source: Researchers' computation, 2017

Table-5. Chi-square computation

f_o	f_e	$(f_o - f_e)$	$(f_o - f_e)^2$	$X^2 = \sum \frac{(Fo - Fe)^2}{Fe}$
40	28.75	11.25	126.5625	4.4022
10	21.25	-11.25	126.5625	5.9559
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
100	86.25	13.75	189.0625	2.1920
50	63.75	-13.75	189.0625	2.9657
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
40	57.5	-17.5	306.25	5.3261
60	42.5	17.5	306.25	7.2059
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
40	46	-6	36	0.7826
40	34	6	36	1.05882
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
10	11.5	-1.5	2.25	0.19565
10	8.5	1.5	2.25	0.2647
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
				$X^2 = \sum \frac{(Fo - Fe)^2}{Fe}$ $= 30.34957$

Source: Researchers' computation, 2017

8. Decision

Since the calculated Chi-square is greater than the table value (i.e $30.34957 > 21.026$) in absolute term, we reject the null hypothesis (H_0) and conclude that there is a significant relationship between Songhai Development Initiative Farm and the economic development.

8.1. Summary of Major Findings

Based on the mean scores and standard deviations of the items on, the following major findings were made:

1. Farm output greatly increased in terms of quantity with the presence of the Songhai Development Initiative Farm in Rivers State.
2. The variety of farm output has also increased significantly in Rivers State.
3. Also the quality of farm outputs has improved significantly in Rivers State.
4. Farmers from other parts of the State now come to Tai LGA for improved varieties of farm inputs
5. The workers have gained a lot of experience through training and working on this Farm
6. Those Trained by the SDIF can now train others and manage agricultural production successfully
7. The processed products, especially the fruit juices from the Songhai Development Initiative Farm, are comparable to imported ones
8. The Farm has achieved the objective of developing a resilient integrated programme that links agriculture with industry
9. Farm has developed the technology of fruit juice production, cassava processing, palm oil processing, garri processing, etc
10. Improvement in income as a result of the presence of the Farm has positively affected the lives of the Tai communities by improving their capacity to consume
11. More commodities are now available and affordable at cheaper prices in Tai LGA.
12. The Songhai Development Initiative Farm has contributed greatly to the internal revenue generation of Rivers State
13. The Farm has contributed greatly to the income of workers
14. Tai generated extra income through house-rent as a result of the presence of the farm.
15. People engaged in other commercial activities which the farm encouraged enjoyed increased income
16. The presence of the farm created job opportunities for the unemployed.
17. The Farm has contributed greatly to Tai commercial activities.

The chi-squared analysis shows that there is a significant relationship between Songhai Development Initiative Farm and the development of Rivers State.

9. Other Findings

During the course of this study, other findings that were made are:

- i) The road network in the host communities of the farm has improved

- ii) The skills of the host community farmers in fish farming, poultry, snail farming, pig rearing, juice processing etc. has greatly improved
- iii) The presence of the Farm has greatly reduced the different social vices such as youth restiveness and theft which characterized the communities. This, the study revealed, is because some of those who were hitherto involved in these vices are now either gainfully employed by the farm or are engaged in other commercial activities boosted in the area by the farm.
- iv) The community market has improved from once a week to daily market as a result of the presence of the Farm. The communities also trade on the products of the farm which has enhanced their income.
- v) The Songhai Development Initiative Farm presently face the fear of abandonment and the consequent of this will certainly not going to be sweet.

10. Conclusion

In summary, the study found that Songhai Development Initiative Farm had a significant positive effect on output, technological advancement, social welfare, and income and job creation. For this reason and the fact that the chi-square result shows a positive and significant relationship between the farm and the development of the State the study concludes, that the farm has contributed significantly to the economic development of Rivers State.

10.1. Lessons from Songhai Development Initiative Farm, Rivers State

Two major lessons could be drawn from this study. They include:

- i) Government intervention in the agricultural sector is desirable and should be encouraged. This is in consonance with the postulations of public sector economics as can be found in [Agiobenebo \(1998\)](#) when talking about the phenomenon of market failure. The government is invited to intervene whenever the market fails to produce desirable outcome or unable to stop an undesirable outcome. The market has been producing undesirable outcomes – dependence of the economy on foreign products for the importation of commodities that can be produced locally with government intervention such as this. We can no longer afford to wait for the market forces, for we do not know how long the long run will be. Governments should continue to encourage private sector to drive the economy but should not only intervene but should urgently do so whenever and wherever the market fails.
- ii) The implication is the same for technological advancement. If the intervention in the agricultural sector could have such a great positive effect on technological advancement within such a short interval, then government leadership in industrial production and Research and Development (RD) could drive the economy out of this technological underdevelopment. This again is in line with the argument of [Ohale and Agbarakwe \(2009\)](#) when discussing the rationale for government intervention in development and planning. Technological advancement is not easy to come by, especially at this point in history where countries plan and hatch anti-economic development policies to ensure that others do not develop and maintain market for themselves. We cannot continue to rely on the market forces for technological advancement. Government deliberate and direct intervention should generate viable option and outcome.

11. Recommendation for Policy

It is therefore recommended that:

- i) Governments should continue to support and manage the farm instead of abandoning it. Abandoning the farm for whatever reason is anti-developmental and therefore most unwelcome.
- ii) Such and similar government direct involvements in the agricultural and other sectors of the State should be encouraged for optimum benefits in output, job creation, income, social welfare and technological advancement.
- iii) Other state governments should emulate this from Rivers State and establish theirs to attract similar benefits.
- iv) The farm couldn't have been so successful without close government monitoring of expenditure and activities of the farm. Therefore government continued close monitoring of the farm is also recommended.
- v) Governments of developing nations should stop folding their arms expecting the market forces to provide everything for them. Therefore they should always intervene to ensure that societal desirable outcomes are achieved.

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