MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND ITS IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY IN TARABA STATE

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Abstract

The Paper analyze the management of agriculture and its implication to food security, and the study revealed that a good management of agriculture will result to abundant and available food at all level which will mean available jobs and increase in personal income, and where there is poor management of agriculture, it will result to food shortage, poor income and increase in an unemployment.

INTRODUCTION:

What Is Agricultural Management and Food Security?

Agricultural management is an occupation that involves the science of food production. It deals with farming techniques, the domestication of animals, and the general processing of food. There are many agricultural jobs that require management, especially on projects working in the scientific disciplines and with farm labour. With the changing dynamics of global food production, this field is one of the fastest growing in the world.

Since concepts like productivity and food security play such an important role in the food supply of the world, agricultural management careers have high potential. Outbreaks of contaminated food sources have prompted new government regulatory bodies to manage the process of food production from both plant and animal sources. In addition, population growth and the use of certain foods such as corn as biofuel has limited the growth potential of the industry. The goal today is to strive for new ways to produce the necessary amount of food for the growing population, while maintaining the quality that society has come to expect from its food sources.

The work environment for someone

who works in this field varies drastically depending on where the individual works and the demands of the employer. Some are involved in the strict science aspects, spending much of their time in laboratories or kitchens. Others work with farm labour to find better and safer pesticides and herbicides in large fields. The overall concerns of agricultural labour management also leads to a variety of working conditions. With the rise in industrial farming companies and the consolidation of major market food production, a person could just as easily find himself in a tall office building in the middle of the city, far from any food production whatsoever.

As the field grows, education and training have become a major priority for many companies. In order to understand the full scope of the industry, most employers require at minimum a bachelor's degree. Research and scientific roles, however, may often require post-graduate education, quite possibly even a doctoral degree. Since safety and speed have increasingly become important, understanding the biology of agriculture helps dramatically. In specific, the field of genetics proves to continue being one of the most important aspects of agricultural management, helping to create new strains of food, while also causing controversy amongst scientists, politicians, and the public.

Food security is really such an important consideration nowadays. We really don't know where our food comes from, or what it has touched along the way to the grocery store.

There are so many ways in which it can be contaminated, like bacteria, or chemicals, or parasites, and so on.

Farm management seems like it wouldn't be that prestigious a job, but it would involve all the **food security** checks that mean that we don't have to worry about every bite of food that we eat.

Just think about the panics that happen when the system breaks down, like the mad cow disease break out. It was agricultural managers who had to deal with the consequences of that, which can't have been easy. While biology is important, engineering and chemistry seem like they would be almost as important when it comes to modern agriculture business.

Biology and, in particular, genetics are the superstars of agriculture and to some extent, this is more because of notoriety than because they are the most useful of the sciences, or even the way of the future. Genetic engineering can provide all kinds of exciting headlines for the media, particularly when they want to scaremonger (although not necessarily without cause!)

But the headline "new fertilizer developed" doesn't turn as many heads. At any rate, don't go studying to be an agriculture manager without being prepared to look at all aspects and not just the

glamorous ones.

FOOD SECURITY

Food security may have different meaning for different people. The international conference define food security as "access by all people at all time the food needed for healthy life"

Food security is the state of self-sufficiency in food production achieved by implementing policies that will provide food for the family and crops/raw materials for industries, trade and export.

Food security exists when all residents in a community can reliably access safe, nutritionally adequate, culturally appropriate food. Food security can only exist in a food system that is sustainable; and the most sustainable food systems are predominantly local.

An equitable food system is socially just. It ensures that everyone, regardless of income, can obtain quality food in a dignified manner.

AGRICULTURE IN TARABA STATE

The major occupation of the people of Taraba State is agriculture. Cash crops produced in the state include coffee, tea, groundnuts and cotton. Crops such as maize, rice, sorghum, millet, cassava, and yam are also produced in commercial quantity. In addition, cattle, sheep and goats are reared in large numbers, especially on the Mambilla Plateau, and along the Benue and Taraba valleys. Similarly, the people undertake other livestock production activities like poultry production, rabbit breeding and pig farming in fairly large scale. Communities living on the banks of River Benue, River Taraba, River Donga and Ibi engage in fishing all year round. Other occupational activities such as pottery, cloth-weaving, dyeing, mat-making, carving, embroidery and blacksmithing are also carried out in various parts of the State. In the past few years, agriculture has risen once more to the top of national and international policy agendas.

1. Agriculture lies at the centre of sustainable development. It plays a crucial role in addressing the food security needs of a growing global population and contributing to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and is inextricably linked to poverty eradication and attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. To this end, there must be mobilization of the political will and commitment of Governments and other relevant stakeholders, at the international and national levels, to revive the agricultural sectors in developing countries.
2. Boosting agricultural productivity, improving soil quality, ensuring the safety of food and, as appropriate, enhancing the nutritional quality of

food is essential and needs to be done in ways that are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. Moreover, a comprehensive approach integrating post-harvest storage and processing to reduce losses and add value, distribution and marketing infrastructure to link to markets and capacity-building at all stages, particularly in developing countries, is needed. Farmers and farm workers, female and male, especially small, and resource-poor, indigenous people and rural communities, need to be central actors in a green revolution in a sustainable way, with a sound balance and mutually beneficial linkages among small- and large-scale agricultural enterprises.

CULTURE

The government has made concerted efforts to improve areas of tourist attractions like Mambilla Tourist Center, Gumpti Park and game reserve in Gashaka; and the Nwonyo Fishing festival in Ibi, which is usually held in April of each year where activities such as canoe racing, swimming competition and cultural dances are held. Other festivals are Purma of the Chamba in Donga, Takum and Bali, the Puje of Jukuns, Kuchecheb of Kutebs in Takum and Ussa, Kati of the Mambilla and host of others. Taraba is called "Nature's gift to the nation" as the state is rich and have many ethnic groups, including Jenjo, Kuteb Chamba, Mumuyes, Mambila, Wurkums, Fulanis, Jukun,Ichen,Tiv,Hausa and Ndoro. Yandang.

LACKING SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO GROW FOOD

Travellers in some of the most remote parts of the globe have seen it. No matter how remote the village, there is always a shop selling genetically modified seeds, chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Countless small-scale farmers are negatively affected by the use of genetically modified (GMO) seeds and the chemicals needed to achieve the promised yields.

POVERTY IS CONNECTED TO A LACK OF FOOD SECURITY.

Over time GMO seeds take its toll. Soil quality worsens. Groundwater is contaminated. Pest resistance increases. High nutrient and organic seed varieties indigenous to the area are lost. “Terminator” genes lead to seed sterility and force farmers to buy new seeds every season instead of saving from the harvest.

There's more. The seeds are not always suited to some ecosystems or terrains. Irrigation is not a feature of most remote areas. Weather patterns are less and less predictable every year. Users are often illiterate and may not be able to read product instructions.

IMPACTS ON FOOD SECURITY

Many crop yields are expected to decline due to long-term changes in temperature and rainfall and increased climate variability. The outcome may be higher food prices, along with chronic poverty and under nutrition for farming households already battered by climate extremes such as drought and flood.

Extra facts

- Farming families may benefit from higher food pricesas long as they earn more from their crops than they spend on food. But many small-scale farmers actually spend more on food than they earn from selling food (Hertel and Rosch 2010).
- Climate shocks like droughts and floods impact how people access food through work, trade and transfers, such as from relatives who live in other climates (Devereux 2007).
- The causal pathways from climate change to the various aspects of food security (food availability, access, utilization and stability) are complex. For example, Tirado et al., 2010 note the following;
  - Increased frequency and intensity of extreme climatic events such as heat waves, droughts, storms, cyclones, hurricanes and floods
  - Decrease of fresh water resources, and the impacts of temperature increase and water scarcity on plant or animal physiology
  - Sea-level rise and the flooding of coastal lands, leading to salinization and/or contamination of water, agricultural lands and food
  - Water and food hygiene and sanitation problems
  - Beneficial effects to crop production through CO_2 "fertilization"
  - Influence on plant and livestock diseases and pest species and livestock diseases
  - Damage to forestry, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture

Methods, caveats and issues

- All of these physical pathways will further interact with other ongoing biophysical and socio-economic changes such as loss of biodiversity, loss of ecosystem services, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, political armed conflict, demographic changes and globalization.

DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

But there is some good news. Many of IDEX partners work to promote sustainable organic agriculture, horticulture and livestock rearing. This is to improve food supplies and nutrition while at the same time manage the land, water, and seeds on which their livelihoods and very survival

depend, both now and in the future.

The goal is to lower farming communities' costs and improve the quality and quantity of their crop yields. At the same time, they need to care for the land, find buyers and earn fair prices.

With IDEX funding, local partners are joining the growing worldwide movement to promote sustainable organic agriculture as an environmentally sound and economically viable alternative for small-scale farmers. Training may include:

FOOD SECURITY IS A COMMUNAL ISSUE.

Food security exists when all residents in a community can reliably access safe, nutritionally adequate, culturally appropriate food. Food security can only exist in a food system that is sustainable; and the most sustainable food systems are predominantly local.

An equitable food system is socially just. It ensures that everyone, regardless of income, can obtain quality food in a dignified manner.

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING QUALITY FOOD INCLUDE:

- Having a lower income
- Having to pay higher prices for better food choices
- Living too far from where quality food is sold
- Not having transportation options or full mobility
- Not having knowledge or space for preparing food or storing it

The cost of eating is the primary barrier to food security. The Dieticians of Canada estimate that in 2011 a family of four living in BC needed to pay $868 each month to meet nutritional requirements, which was more than twice the amount of money a family of four on income assistance receives for non-housing expenses.

The effects of prolonged food insecurity are profound: poor pregnancy outcomes, poor growth and development in children, learning deficits and other challenges (from the Dieticians of Canada). Recent studies in Vancouver have shown that when homeless shelters serve three square meals a day, their residents are much less likely to be violent and much more likely to improve their housing outcomes.

Planted partners are moving beyond the usual charitable responses to hunger, shifting the balance towards community development and social enterprise. Emergency food relief will always be necessary, but we believe that by forging a collaborative network of community initiatives, we can help create a strong food system for everyone in our community.

SOLUTION TO FOOD SECURITY IN TARABA STATE

OIC International's Food Security & Agriculture programs aim to make

measurable and sustainable improvements in farming production and resource utilization through instruction and skills improvement in growing, processing and marketing practices. They provide direct technical assistance to farmers through field extension agents, who live and work in communities to promote changes in attitudes and systems, while enhancing clients' skills in agriculture. OIC International does not simply give rural farmers new tools; They empower rural farmers with the skills needed to generate increased production and profit, and also with knowledge, promoting respect for the environment and improving the quality of life of the community as a whole.

Over the past 40 years, they have successfully improved food security for populations at risk through technical interventions in areas such as post-harvest management; processing and storage; animal husbandry; agricultural marketing; bullock traction; agro-forestry; inventory credit; and the formation of farming groups and committees.

The primary objectives of OIC International's Food Security & Agriculture programs are to:

1. increase food availability and food access through improved farming systems, invigorated entrepreneurship, and strengthened market systems
2. improve food utilization through food distribution and better care practices, such as improved food processing, preservation and storage

Recommendations

- All stakeholders must be involved from needs assessment/constraint analysis to selection and implementation of programmes which reflect the priorities of the farmers.
- Effective continuous public enlightenment is essential to secure the interest and participation of many farmers as possible
- Adequate and timely funding of selected projects should be ensured.
- The local communities should be organized into farmer groups/co-operatives to facilitate their access to farm inputs and credit
- There should be policy stability and clear definition of roles and assignment of responsibilities among the various stakeholders.
- Effective project monitoring and evaluation should be ensured.
- Capacity building and farmer training based on upgrading existing indigenous knowledge should be imperative.
- Programme design should encourage community ownership and emphasize sustainability. .

Conclusion

The Taraba State Government had

implemented programmes on food security in the past in response to the demands of a growing population. These did not fully succeed because of many factors. They were conceived and implemented without due consultation with the farmers, they should have involve the communities and other stakeholders from project identification to implementation and monitoring.

For Taraba State Government to succeed, however, it must address the constraints/risks already identified in the areas of timely and adequate funding, effective farmer training and extension building on existing indigenous knowledge, good programme governance, etc. to inspire community programme ownership and sustainability. It will also enhance the impact of the programme and provide alternative livelihood and supplementary income to the farmers. Management of Agriculture and food security can play an important role in food production if properly integrated with food, livestock and fish production in order to achieve food security and poverty eradication in Taraba and other state.

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