

EFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION ON THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY

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Abstract

The impact of globalization on the agricultural sector of the Nigerian economy was critically examined. The paper highlighted on the definitions and concepts of globalization, the ideology behind globalization, opportunities of globalization, and the contributions of globalization to agricultural development in Nigeria. It was recommended that the Nigerian government should give agriculture her pride of place in the economy through increased and sustained budgetary allocations to agriculture. Veritable strategies to improve national security and investment climate and private sector participation in agriculture should be designed and implemented to guarantee the sustainability of the gains/benefits of the various agricultural programmes in the country as a result of globalization.

Introduction.

Definitions and Concepts

The term 'globalization' etymologically derives from the Latin word 'globus' which means sphere or ball. Globalization refers to the increasing interconnectedness of nations and peoples around the world through trade, investment, travel, popular culture and other forms of interaction. Some view it as a process that is beneficial key to future world economic development. Others regard it with hostility, and even fear, believing that it increases inequality between nations, threatens

employment and living standards, and thwarts social progress (Michael 2000).

Globalization refers to the multiplicity of linkages and interconnections between the states and societies which make up the present world system. It describes the process by which event, decision and activities in one part of the world come to have significant consequences for individuals and communities in quite distant parts of the globe. Globalization has two distinct phenomena: scope and intensity. On the other hand, it defines a set of process which embraces most of the globe or which operates worldwide. The concept therefore has a special combination on the other hand; it also implies intensification on the level of interaction, interconnections or interdependence between the states and societies which constitute the world community.

Globalization can easily be described as the new form of business structure in the world today. It is the development of global network in form of international consortia, cross-licensing, and agreements, joint ventures, the aim of which is to reduce the cost of production by finding low cost suppliers of factors of production and material inputs and intermediate products and also by expanding the market scope to enjoy economies of scale. Globalization firm attempts to sell in many markets its products for the purposes of benefiting from economies of scale at all levels.

Globalization is a process. It is systematic and it is real. The world is changing from what it used to be, from being country specific to being interwoven and interlinked. Globalization has been defined according to Nigerian Labour Congress, NLC, (2005), training manual as the process by which countries' economies become increasingly interwoven and affected by each other. This comes about by the increased flow, across national borders of goods (trade), companies (foreign direct investment), money (finance), and people (migration).

Globalization is the process whereby economic, political, social and cultural links between countries, industries, companies and organizations and individuals of the world are increasing.

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Globalization is not new, it has been happening for a long time, but since the 1970's it has increased in speed and breadth, aided by technology. While the vehicle for globalization is the development of technology, the driver that determines the shape and direction of globalization is the trans-national corporations.

The Ideology behind Globalization

The set of ideas behind the process of globalization is referred to as "neo-liberalism". A good understanding of this is important just as that of the characteristics earlier discussed, for a good comprehension of the impact of this process on the agricultural sector. The globalization ideology has its roots in the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States of America (USA) in the 1980s.

The core assumptions of this neo-liberal economic philosophy are (NLC, 2005):

- Over spending by the Keynesian welfare states of UK and USA led directly to the global economic crises of the past two decades (60s and 70s).
- The State should reduce its role in regulating the economy and allow market forces to allocate resources.
- The market is the most efficient means of allocating resources.
- The State should reduce levels of social spending so as to limit budget deficits, which are seen to be inflationary.
- Countries should liberalize and open their economies to foreign trade and investment
- Countries should adopt open-door policies on profit repatriation by trans-national corporations (TNCs).
- Labour markets should be deregulated to allow the flexibility required for business expansion and economic growth.
- Centralized collective bargaining leads to labour market rigidities.
- Wage increase should be kept in check as they are seen to be inflationary.

- Private management is intrinsically more efficient than public management.
- Private sector involvement and investment in state-run enterprises should be encouraged.

With the above ideologies in mind, one could see that the operations of Nigerian economy for long has been patterned to fit into the new world order, to move with the global economic trend so as not to be left behind. That is why one should not be surprised when the enormous impacts that this has made in the agricultural sector of this nation are unfolded.

Characteristics of Globalization

Globalization has been characterized by a number of features and developments, which are very salient. Some of these features are:

- The fast movement of capital across borders. This is made possible by a new set of economic rules (produced by the World Bank, the International Monetary Funds-IMF and the World Trade Organization).
- Large Trans-National Corporations who compete aggressively with each other in order to maximize profits.
- The shift of investments from capital for productive activities to speculative investments.
- Economic powers are concentrated in fewer and even larger TNCs.
- A single global market is emerging
- TNCs are developing integrated global strategies with other companies.
- Globalization of technology is changing the work being done: smaller workforce, more contracted work (NLC, 2005: 37-38). Apart from the above features, globalization manifests itself in various ways in various segments. It touches cultures. The cultures of Western Countries are undermining that of poorer

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nations in such areas as food, clothing, music etc. It touches governments. Every government especially of the developing nations is aggressively trying to offer the best deals to the TNCs in order to attract foreign direct investments in their countries in various sectors including agriculture.

Opportunities of Globalisation

Globalization is about increasing inter-connectedness and interdependencies among world's, region's, nation's, government's, businesses, institutions, communities, families and individuals. It not only integrates world economies but also the culture, technology and governance with religious, environmental and social dimensions. However, the economies aspect appears to be at the centre stage. Economic globalization refers to the process of change towards greater international economic integration through trade, finance flow, exchange of technology and information, and movement of people (Evbuomwan, 2004).

The opportunities of globalization are many: global markets, exposure to new ideas, technology and products, economies of scale in production, gains in efficiency in the utilization of productive resources, greater specialization between nations, better quality products and wide option for consumers, increased competitiveness and increased output, and ability to tap cheaper sources of finance internationally (Evbuomwan, 2004).

Greater integration with world economy through trade and capital flows has afforded some developing countries the avenue to partake I the opportunities and benefits of globalization, to develop their comparative advantages and gain access to never, more appropriate technology, while financial liberalization has increased their access to international private capital, permitting them to realize much higher rates of economic growth.

For instance, spectacular economic performances of the East Asian countries reflect significant benefits from globalization as opposed to the African countries, many of which are the world's

poorest. While economic growth rates in East Asia and Pacific averaged 7.2, 7.1 and 6.7% percent in 1981 – 90, 1991 – 99 and 2001 – 2002, respectively, those in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) were just 1.8, 2.0 percent respectively. Furthermore, while the SSAs GDP per capita which was US\$15.0 in 1999 dropped to US\$450.0 in 2002 thus recording negative growth rates. In Asia, per capita incomes have been moving quickly toward levels in the industrial countries since 1970 averaging US\$960 in 2002 (World Bank, 2004).

Globalization and Agricultural Development in Nigeria

The United Nations has been using the instrument of globalization to ensure the integration of world economies. All the countries that are signatories to the UN charters are obliged to obey and respect the content of those charters and they equally reap the benefits arising from such. Through the process of globalization, the UN has ensured that and encouraged their agencies to fund various aspects of agricultural development in various countries of the world including Nigeria. The above scenario could be divided into two segments, viz: periods preceding 1995 and post 1995 to the present period.

Pre-1995 Era

Akwuwa (1996) noted that apart from the funding provided by the various Nigerian governments and Non-Government bodies like banks, foreign investors and foreign sponsors have played and will continue to play very significant roles in agricultural development in Nigeria. Some of these aids received in the past can be classified as direct, indirect, technical and financial.

The World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development-IBRD) has been the major source of external finance for agricultural development in the country. According to him, before the onset of the third National Development Plan period (1975-1980), most World Bank lending to Nigeria was for non-agricultural projects, mainly infrastructural development. He substantiated this by saying that of the sum of US\$617.2 million borrowed by Nigeria between

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1958 and 1974, only US \$27.2 million was for agricultural development. This trend however changed greatly from 1975 to date as most of the World Bank loans have gone to agriculture.

Apart from the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and some other non-bank establishments outside the country have also played significant roles in funding agricultural projects in the country. IFAD's funding was channeled through the Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs). They had prior to 1995 funded the development of roots and tuber crops including cassava. According to Akwuwa (1996), between September and October 1995, an IFAD mission had gone round the ADPs in the country to assess the impact of their previous funding in readiness for another phase of their programme captioned "Roots and Tuber Expansion Programme (RTEP) which was scheduled to take off as from 1996. This is a positive effect of globalization on the production of the nation's staple food crops. In other words, this arm of the Bank is seeing the success of this programme as a positive step towards the sustained development of the nation and the world as a whole. Continuing further in the World Bank's involvement in Agricultural Development funding Nigeria, Oyaide (traced their first loan for this purpose to 1971 when a loan of US \$7.2 was approved for cocoa rehabilitation in the Western Region. Since then till 1981, he continued, the Federal Government has received the sum of US \$763 million for agricultural developments broken down as follows:

Table 5.1 *World Bank Financed Projects in Nigeria (pre 1981)*

S/N	Type of Project	Loan Amount (US \$ Million)	As % of their Lending to Agriculture
1	Tree Crops Development	122.7	16.1%
2	Integrated Rural Development (ADP)	561.8	73.6
3	Agricultural Manpower Development (Building of ARMTI)	9.0	1.2
4	Rice Development	17.5	2.3
5	Forestry Plantations	21.0	2.7
6	Forestry Plantations	31.0	3.1
	Total	763.0	100

Source: Akwuwa (1996)

From the above Table 5.1, there was the tendency towards small-holder projects and aggressive shift to the Integrated Rural Development Projects (ADPs) which accounted for 73% of the agricultural loans financed by the World Bank.

It has gone beyond 1981 to include all projects funded up to 1995 as presented in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2: On-going projects under the Sponsorship of the World Bank as at 31st March 1995

S/N	Name of Project	Agency/State Involved	Bank Contr. US \$ million	Effective Date	Cum. Disbt. US \$ million	Balanced Undisb. US \$ million
1	L/stock Dev. 11	Federal	67.0	April 89	57.9	9.1
2	MSADP-1	Fed., Abia, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Benue, C/River, Delta, Edo, Enugu, Imo, Ogun, Plateau	162.0	June 1987	63.1	98.9
3	Forestry 11	Fed., Bauchi, Borno, Jigawa, Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Ogun, Ondo, Plateau, Sokoto and Yobe	71.0	Sept. 1987	63.1	7.9
4	MSADP-11	Fed., Adamawa, Kogi, Kwara, Niger, Taraba	77.7	Nov. 1989	72.6	5.2
5	MSADP-111	Fed., Lagos, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, and Rivers	100.9	March 1990	88.7	18.1
6	National Seeds	Federal	14.0	Dec. 1990	8.9	5.1
7	Tree Crops	Fed., Abia, Akwa Ibom	56.0	July 1991	11.9	44.1
8	Nat. Agri. Research	Federal	78.0	June 1992	15.6	74.1
9	Fadama-ADP	Fed., Bauchi, Jigawa, Kano, Kebbi, Sokoto	67.5	February 1993	17.5	50.1
10	Environ. Managt.	Federal	25.0	March 1993	0.9	24.1
11	Agric. Tech. Support	Federal, Bauchi, Jigawa, Kano, Kebbi, Sokoto	42.5	June 1993	9.4	33.1

Source: Akwuwa (1996).

Some of the above projects had continued beyond 1995 while some got redesigned in order to attract fresh funding.

It should, however, be noted that the impact of globalization on agricultural development in the country does not lie only on its the funding of the sector. There has been some technical transformation and re-engineering of the concepts and approaches to agricultural development. On the basis of technical transformations, agricultural mechanization in all its ramifications is not an indigenous concept. Globalization has opened the country's agriculture to various aspects

of mechanization that the idea of traditional means of production was almost becoming obsolete, and emergence of tractorized big farms is taking root for developing the country's agriculture and increasing food production. Through this system, small farm holdings were discouraged, more so with the promulgation of the Land Use Decree of the 1970s. The essence was to give government access to land and discourage land fragmentation and encourage the emergence of large scale farms. However, the emergence of the Agricultural Development Projects (ADP) changed the above view to give prominence to the small holder farmers.

The adoption of the ADP system using the Training and Visit (T&V) System of Agricultural Extension delivery can also be ascribed to the impact of globalization. The ADP system was a brain child of the World Bank while the use of the T&V system was adopted from India. The Training and Visit System of Extension has some salient features which made it significantly different from the various indigenous extension systems used in the country. Some of these features include:

- Single Line of Command
- Professionalism
- Field and farmer orientation
- Continuous training
- Time bound operations
- Linkage with the research
- Concentration of efforts.

The ADP system emphasized so much on the Small Holder farmers as veritable tools for agricultural transformation and increased food production. The system was a success.

Post-1995 Era

Some of the projects enumerated in table 2.2 had continued beyond 1995 while some got redesigned. One of such ones that got redesigned was the Multi-State Agricultural Development Programmes (MSADP-1). The original loan design from the IBRD had elapsed and the re-

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design was now to enable various sector and project specific arms of the Bank to step in and finance aspects of the project. In addition to the ADPs, most of the agricultural programmes being ran in the country were World Bank intervention projects. These areas of intervention are as follows and they all came as a result of the World seeing herself as a global village where problems in one end of the globe affects the other ones:

1. IFAD's Cassava Multiplication Project (IFAD-CMP):
The project was financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). It was conceived to counter the attack of two alien pests; Cassava mealy bug and Cassava green speeder mite in the late 19970s and early 1980s. The loan closed on June 30th 1997. These pests were said to be alien because they never originated from this country. They came down to the country in the first place from other African countries as a result of free flow of goods and materials through the borders made possible by globalization. In any case, it was the globalization activity that made it possible for it to have received international attention. The programme no doubt was very successful. Left to Nigeria alone, that could have signaled the end to cassava production in the country. That means massive hunger and starvation, since cassava is a major staple food in the country. That would also have equally posed a very big threat to world peace and stability since Nigeria's population formed one-fifth of Africa's.
2. Root and Tuber Expansion Programme (RTEP):
RTEP is another programme that has been made possible as a result of the impact of globalization. The Programme was formulated by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) investment Centre in 1995, appraised by the World Bank as a follow-up to the earlier Cassava Multiplication Project which closed in 1997. It was approved by IFAD Executive Board in 1999. The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) signed the

loan agreement in May 2001 and disbursement became effective in June 2002. The overall objective of the RTEP was to increase small holder production of Cassava, yam, potato and cocoyam as well as their end-products, thus enhancing national food self-sufficiency and improved household food security and income within the Southern and Middle Belt States of Nigeria. The success recorded by the above programme was enormous. It has helped propel the country into becoming the leading producer of cassava in the world. This is a very positive effect of globalization on the nation's agriculture. As a member of this global village, the success story in cassava production from Nigeria is having a spill over beneficial effect in the world economy. Chinese industrialists and others are now looking up to Nigeria for the supply of cassava chips and pellets for livestock feed production. Likewise details of research findings in the various utilizations for cassava recipe and other by-products are coming into the country, thus expanding cassava utilization horizon.

3. National Special Programme on Food Security (NSPFS):
In order to still ensure self-sufficiency in food production within the country, the international donor agencies were ready to partner with the country to ensure further development of the agricultural potentials of the small holder farmers in the country, since a threat to peace in Nigeria as a result of hunger will spill over to other nations of the world. They, therefore, partnered with the country in formulating and funding the NSPFS programme.

The NSPFS was initiated by the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and the FAO as a means of ensuring food security for the nation. It commenced in Enugu State for instance in March 2002. For the selected states where it took off, it was on a pilot scale. Effectively, the programme commenced in 2001 and the pilot phase ended in 2005. The

expansion phase took off 2007 and is now renamed National Programme on Food Security, NPFS (ENADEP, 2006). The first phase of the programme involved the establishment of three sites per state with each site accommodating more than 300 farmers being funded in various agricultural enterprises of their choice. The second phase is an improvement on the first. It involved the establishment of six additional sites per state, bringing each state's number to nine. Through this programme, millions of international funds are being pumped into each site in form of recyclable soft loans, thus energizing the nation's agricultural development at the grass roots. All these because of globalization.

4. FGN/Chinese South-South Cooperation (SSC):

The objective of the SSC as conceived was to enhance an effective solidarity among the developing countries and to allow the recipient countries to benefit from the relevant experience and low cost technology of China in food production.

The SSC technical assistance according to the agreement documents consists of few senior staff and a substantial number of technicians with strong practical field experience in agriculture. They are to work directly with farmers in the rural communities in Nigeria either as individuals or groups (ENADEP, 2006). In as much as the above programme was meant to be a means of technological transfer to the developing countries, one should not lose sight of the fact that it is a veritable means of ensuring integration and cooperation among nations. It has helped Nigeria develop her agriculture and to further cement the bilateral relations between Nigeria and China, thereby fostering the World peace.

5. Sasakawa Global 2000 Management Training Plots (MTPs):

This is a new technology that has been used to boost grains production in some countries and has been introduced into the country. It comprised close adherence to the time of planting, spacing and relevant inputs in the production of grains. It got to the country also as a result of free flow of technologies occasioned by globalization.

6. Presidential Initiative on Cassava Production:

One other area that the nation's agriculture is currently benefiting through the positive effects of globalization is in the area of boosting of cassava production, processing and utilization through the opening up of international markets. This was made possible through the Presidential Initiative on Cassava Production, a policy trust put in place by the past Obasanjo regime. Through this programme, lots of cassava varieties were pushed to the farmers with the accompanying inputs to boost the production of the crop. Processing equipment were equally distributed to cassava producing groups to help them with the processing of the crop into various products that would be acceptable to both the local and international markets.

Through this programme also other sub-policies were put in place to further boost the production, processing and utilization of this crop. Such include the policy on the mandatory inclusion of 10% cassava flour by Flour Millers in composite flours for bread baking. There is no gainsaying the fact that this programme has further energized cassava production in Nigeria.

Apart from the above interventional funding, lots of direct foreign investments in the agricultural sector of this nation has been made possible, including the areas of agrochemicals production, because of free flow of technical expertise and technology. In the area of direct production we have the likes of the much celebrated case of

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South African farmers that have settled in Kwara State of Nigeria. In the areas of other farm inputs, there are investments in fertilizer blending plants, animal feeds production, among others. There are other foreign assisted projects (World Bank funded in particular) that have promotional effects on agriculture also brought about by globalization. These include the National Economic and Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) and State SEEDS projects which are helping to open up the rural areas for rural and agricultural development. Such programmes need to be further discussed as follows:

- a) The Local Empowerment and Environmental Management Programme (LEEMP):

The above programme is being executed currently in nine (9) states of the federation. According to Onyenweze (2007), the policy instrument establishing the programme was signed between the Federal Government of Nigeria and the World Bank on December 3rd 2003, while the implementation took effect from April 2005. LEEMP is a Community Driven Development Project (CDD), which has helped among other things develop rural feeder roads and agro-processing projects.

- b) The World Bank Rural Access and Mobility Programme (RAMP):

This is one of the latest positive effects of globalization on the Nigeria's agriculture through the development of rural infrastructure.

RAMP is a comprehensive five-year action programme developed by the Federal Department of Rural Development (FDRD) of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development (FMARD) in close collaboration with the participating State government

ministries, local governments and key stakeholders. The overall project development objective is to assist participating states and local governments improve access and mobility in their rural areas in a sustainable manner and thereby contribute to the improvement of their rural livelihood. The programme is being funded by the World Bank currently in three states of the federation.

Apart from the above, one salient area that globalization has had an effect on the nation's agriculture and the economy in general, which tends to be over looked, is the planning process. If one takes a closer look at most of the programmes above, it will be seen that the bottom-top approach was used in identifying the intervention areas in each programme. This is a complete departure from the practice in the past and has contributed to the success of the programmes. There is, therefore, no gainsaying the fact that the nation's agricultural sector has had tremendous positive impacts from the influences of globalization.

Structural Changes and Transformations

Some structural changes have been observed in the agricultural sector as a result of globalization. With respect to technology transformation, there has been a gradual shift from reliance on traditional farm inputs (hoes, cutlass, low yielding plant and animal varieties) to modern ones (hybrid seeds/seedling, agrochemicals, fertilizers, farm machineries and implements). Furthermore, with the activities of research institutes and other agents of change (e.g. extension activities), crops, such as cassava, irish potatoes and oranges, which were hitherto confined to certain ecological zones, are now grown in other ecological zones.

Generally, the greatest impact of globalization so far had been in the following areas:

- Transmission of new ideas to the farmers by the agricultural extension agents to upgrade technological conditions and increase output of agricultural products

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- Trade increase in tubers eg. cassava and in non conventional exports such as flowers and fruits helping to diversify the export base away from a reliance on a narrow range of traditional export whose markets were mostly stagnant. In fact, most traditional export products, such as groundnut, palm and cotton, disappeared from the export list. This was also a result of implicit and explicit taxation of cash crop producers. During the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), export earnings grew to N1,822.9 million in 1986-1990 for primary agricultural commodities alone. The export basket also expanded with non-traditional export commodities, such as tubers, fruits, and spices. In addition, export of manufacturers and semi-manufacturers of agricultural products, which earned only N37.2 million in 1981-1985, recorded the sum of N214.9 million in 1986-1990, as Nigeria became an exporter of textiles, soap/detergents, beer/beverages, tyres and processed skins in addition to cocoa products. Food imports also rose astronomically from N45.0 million in 1966-1970 to N163.8 million in 1971-1975. By 1976-1980, it had grown to N991.0 million, reflecting the food supply gap and the impact of depreciating exchange rate. To discourage further food importation after 1980, when the price of oil crashed and foreign exchange earnings declined considerably, the government imposed outright ban on the importation of major food items that had hitherto attracted quotas cum tariff protection (rice, maize, vegetable oils, wheat and poultry).

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

Nigeria is virtually marginalized in the globalized world economy. According to the 1997 budget, the Nigerian economy is characterized by several problems, including import dependence, dependence on a single economic sector - oil, weak industrial base, a low level of agricultural production, a weak private sector and dependence on foreign loans. The gross domestic product grew by 3.25 percent representing a market improvement from 1.3 percent in 1994 and 2.2 percent in 1995. The agricultural sector grew by 3.7 percent. However, Nigerian agriculture has had some transformations. From its battered state in the 1970s as a result of shift of emphasis due to the impact of crude oil discovery and exportation, this sector is gradually coming to live. The major problem though is that given the long period of neglect and the

degree of disorientation of the economy away from this sector, it will really take time and huge investment of funds to get it back on course. One obvious World phenomenon that has helped pump in the required capital (funds) into this sector has been globalization. Globalisation is the key symbol of the changing world order (Olayemi, 2001). In as much as many multinationals and foreigners have been involved in funding our agriculture, no nation can develop her agricultural sector by largely depending on borrowed funds and grants. Thus, there is the need for a radical and fundamental agricultural revival in Nigeria. In order to do this, certain actions should be taken by the government, which include the following:

1. It should be recognized that the problem confronting agriculture is more than introducing mere policies without implementation. Sectoral analysis capability and implementation should therefore be strengthened. This entails reconciling planning with implementation and carrying out regular analysis of sector-specific issues, such as markets, pricing and land policies.
2. There is a close relationship between security and investment climate. The economic environment and security need to be greatly improved in Nigeria to enable investors to willingly come with funds to invest in the agricultural sector of the economy. Anomalies with respect to lending should be rectified while private sector investments should be encouraged.
3. Sustained development of agricultural institutions to contribute to competitive marketing, pricing, and quality control of agricultural produce should be accorded high priority by the present government.
4. For effectiveness, privatization of fertilizer procurement and distribution should be functional with Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs), farmers' cooperatives and private individuals as the major agents. This would ensure timely availability of farm inputs and the desired impact on crop yields.
5. Farmers should be encouraged to adopt modern farming/husbandry practices, such as planting of improved seeds/seedlings, agricultural chemicals for pest and disease control and mechanization to reduce drudgery and enhance yields. Farmers should be assisted to source improved technologies capable of increasing output at reasonable costs.

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