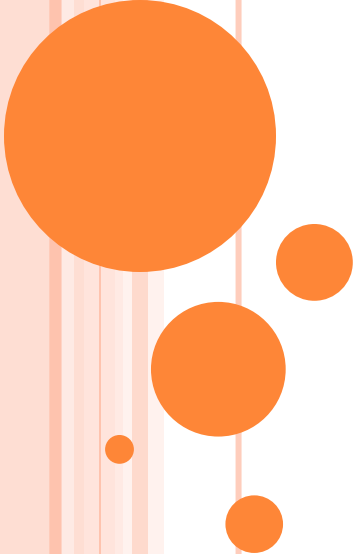


AN ANALYSIS OF POPULATION GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA



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CONTENT

- **1.0. Introduction**
- **1.1 The Dynamics of Demographic change in Nigeria**
- **1.2 The Rural –Urban Nexus**
- **1.3. A comparative Trend in Agriculture and Population Growth in Nigeria**
- **1.4. Increase demand without corresponding increase in food production**
- **1.5 High consumption of goods and services leading to waste generation, environmental degradation, climate change among others**
- **1.6. The rural-urban Migration and Agricultural output drivers in Nigeria today.**
- **1.7. The way forward**
- **1.8. Conclusion**



INTRODUCTION

- Population growth rate especially its demographic change affects its prospects for economic growth and its agricultural development.
- Rapid population growth in a developing country impedes the provision of basic infrastructure.
- High migration net can create an imbalance in the population structure of a country.
- Sustainable food production is appreciably affected by the dynamics of increasing change in the demographic characteristics of a population.
- Agricultural activities in the rural areas depend on manual labour provided by the economically productive age group.
- The Agricultural sector is facing many challenges and fast declining in meeting up with the food demand of the growing population.



THE DYNAMICS OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN NIGERIA

Table 1. Age Groups in the 1963, 1991 and 2006 Population Censuses

Age Group	1963 Census		1991 Census		2006 Census	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
0 - 4	9,549,163	17.2	14,438,889	16.2	22,594,967	16.1
5 - 9	8,439,298	15.2	14,500,458	16.3	20,005,380	14.2
10 - 14	5,937,125	10.7	11,148,681	12.5	16,135,950	11.5
15 - 19	5,251,184	9.4	9,335,788	10.5	14,899,419	10.6
20 - 24	6,923,188	12.4	7,671,570	8.6	13,435,079	9.6
25 - 29	5,570,585	10.0	7,311,671	8.2	12,211,426	8.7
30 - 34	4,325,578	7.8	5,913,927	6.6	9,467,538	6.7
35 - 39	2,478,446	4.5	4,214,933	4.7	7,331,755	5.2
40 - 44	2,410,144	4.3	3,845,918	4.3	6,456,470	4.6
45 - 49	1,168,048	2.1	2,416,703	2.7	4,591,293	3.3
50 - 54	1,216,899	2.2	2,570,799	2.9	4,249,219	3.0
55 - 59	463,476	0.8	1,119,769	1.3	2,066,247	1.5
60 - 64	785,792	1.4	1,690,374	1.9	2,450,286	1.7
65 - 69	272,899	0.5	763,940	0.9	1,151,048	0.8
70 - 74	314,323	0.6	886,302	1.0	1,330,597	0.9
75 - 79	125,838	0.2	351,823	0.4	579,838	0.4
80 - 84	191,156	0.3	480,686	0.5	760,053	0.5
85+	246,893	0.4	424,989	0.5	715,225	0.5
TOTAL					140,431,790	100.0
	55,670,055	100.0	88,992,220	100.0		

Source: National Population Commission Publication (2009)
The Dependent age groups (0-14 and 60-89) far outstripped the productive age group (15-59)



THE DYNAMICS OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN NIGERIA..... AGE AND OCCUPATION DISTRIBUTION

Table 2: Distribution of Population by Age and occupation

NIGERIA	Total	Age In Ten Years Age Groups								
		10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 - 69	70 - 79	80 - 89	90+
Total	36,634,541	2,662,394	8,261,921	10,005,297	7,480,587	4,284,651	2,243,920	1,069,960	535,481	90,330
Professional Technical and Related Workers	6,013,059	88,571	982,724	2,045,836	1,698,786	841,967	259,071	62,524	28,800	4,780
Administrative and Managerial Workers	709,675	78,057	165,427	101,459	154,362	73,227	74,413	39,462	20,253	3,015
Administrative and Office Support Workers	789,041	49,614	227,653	233,968	137,429	78,926	29,833	19,344	10,726	1,548
Sales and Related Workers	8,721,791	563,757	2,295,823	2,621,502	1,623,744	855,571	478,780	180,712	89,064	12,838
Service Workers	1,558,221	116,206	522,959	451,901	241,874	124,455	51,519	31,629	15,315	2,363
Installation Maintenance and Repair Workers	2,068,970	125,040	569,213	506,650	382,513	262,767	126,391	58,437	31,737	6,222
Agriculture Animal Husbandry and Forestry Workers Fishermen/Women and Hunters	11,891,490	999,387	2,217,799	2,781,976	2,353,506	1,605,695	1,041,279	562,972	278,938	49,938
Production Construction and Extraction Workers	2,465,096	126,989	828,526	675,309	402,184	207,416	113,370	69,620	36,238	5,444
Transportation and Material Moving Workers	2,417,198	514,773	451,797	586,696	486,189	234,627	69,264	45,260	24,410	4,182

Source: National Population Commission, 2012

Only 26% of the population is gainfully employed in the productive sector of the economy where only 8.5% are in the Agricultural sector and a high proportion practise subsistence farming.

THE RURAL – URBAN NEXUS

Majority of migrants from rural areas to urban areas are between the ages of 16-40 years and a greater percentage are males

○ Rural- Urban Migration as a result of:

1. Search for job opportunities;
2. Education attainment,
3. Insufficient land for farming,
4. Low income from farming,

○ Effects of rural-urban migration

1. Acute shortage of farm labour,
2. Increase in child labour,
3. Increase in workload for women,
4. Underutilization of arable land,
5. Declining food production.

Remittances sent back to the rural areas by migrants also discourage agricultural practices



A COMPARATIVE TREND IN AGRICULTURE AND POPULATION GROWTH IN NIGERIA

Year	Population in Millions	Agricultural output	Per capita output
1991	88.9	191.7	2.156
1992	91.5	206.4	2.256
1993	94.1	211.4	2.247
1994	96.7	209.7	2.169
1995	99.5	216.8	2.179
1996	102.3	224.8	2.197
1997	105.2	231.1	2.197
1998	108.1	242.4	2.242
1999	111.2	249.1	2.240
2000	114.3	252.0	2.205
2001	117.5	260.1	2.214
2002	120.8	272.4	2.255
2003	124.2	294.6	2.371
2004	129.7	301.4	2.324
2005	134.3	303.7	2.261
2006	140.0	309.2	2.209
		Meanscore	2.232
		S.D.	±0.056

Agricultural output over time has not significantly increased with population growth as per capita output mean score is 2.232 (±0.056).

This implies that agricultural productivity is on a decline and this is suggestive of a likely mode of change in the demographic structure, economic and environmental situation in the rural areas where agriculture is majorly practised



INCREASING DEMAND WITHOUT CORRESPONDING
INCREASE IN FOOD PRODUCTION

Table 4: Comparison of Food production and demand with Shortfalls and Imports (Million tonnes)

Description/Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Production in tonnes	86.70	89.25	93.35	95.64	98.74	100.41	102.12	103.86
Food demand in tonnes	87.23	89.55	96.26	99.03	101.87	104.63	107.46	110.37
Shortfall surplus	(0.53)	(0.30)	(2.91)	(3.43)	(3.13)	(4.22)	(5.34)	(6.51)
Food import	0.67	0.58	2.95	3.47	3.24	4.48	5.59	6.91

Source: Federal office of statistics (FOS), 2002

Rapid increase in population does not enjoy corresponding rate of increase in food supply (local Supply). The food demand far outstripped the level of supply which is creating an immense pressure on the teaming population.

However, increase in importation by government is making up for the deficit.

HIGH CONSUMPTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES LEADING TO WASTE GENERATION, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Increase in population leads to increase in the consumption of good and services.
- Consumption in good and services exacerbate waste generation and disposal.
- Improper management of waste contaminates and pollutes the arable land (soil).
- Increase in Green house gases emissions from goods and services consumption and waste affects the micro climate and adds up to the climate change phenomena.



THE RURAL MIGRATION AND AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT DRIVES IN NIGERIA TODAY

- Inaccessibility to farm produce and Market.
 1. Poor infrastructure: Road network, storage facilities, market among others
 2. Poor pricing mechanism and access to loan
- Declining productivity
 1. Non availability of farm inputs,
 2. Continued cultivation,
 3. Environmental degradation and climate change impacts
- Herdsmen Conflict and Insurgency.
 1. Expansion of herdsmen and farmers conflict.
 2. Insurgencies in the North eastern and South- south regions



THE WAY FORWARD

- Government is advised to encourage the practice of urban agriculture
- Government should provide a lasting solution to the incursion of herdsmen to farm lands by encouraging ranching.
- Multi-cropping system is advocated among farmers
- The peasantry should be assisted to upgrade by mechanization
- Reproductive health education should be encouraged among rural dwellers and the urban poor.



CONCLUSION

The reduction in agricultural output per capita due to rapid population growth is the major envisaged trouble leading to food insecurity and migration. Therefore it is obvious that this increasing growth rate is exacerbating some of the economic challenges found in the country. It is very imperative to put in place measures to first solve the alarming demographic changes and then the agricultural sector as well as resultant food insecurity.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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