

# **CAN NIGERIA FARMERS FEED NIGERIANS**

## **Who is a farmer?**

A farmer is a person who engaged in agriculture, raising living organism for food or raw material. The term usually applies to people who do some combination of raising field crops, orchard, vineyards, poultry, or other livestock.

Farmer is a person who promotes or improves the growth of a plant, crop, etc.)

Farming has been dated back as far as the Neolithic era. Agriculture in Nigeria is a branch of the economy providing employment for about 30% of the population as at 2010. However, the sector is being transformed by commercialisation as the small, medium and large scale enterprises level. Growth in agricultural output has no doubt been on the rise as Nigerian farmers are stepping away from subsistence agriculture and embracing modern civilization investing in large scale farming and ultimately increasing agricultural product.

To buttress my point, Nigeria is strategically located on Latitude  $9.082^{\circ}\text{N}$  and Longitude  $8.675^{\circ}\text{E}$  which reposition her soil and climate condition to be favorable or suitable for the production of wide varieties of crops. There are over a hundred food crops produced by farmers in Nigeria on yearly basis which include yam, maize, millet sorghum, beans, potatoes, rice, onion, garbage, carrot, pear, cocoa, cocoyam, vegetable and very many others. God has been so kind to Nigerians to the extent that I continue to think He is a Nigerian. So many other countries it is very difficult to grow anything on their land unless through high technology. For example, there is no State in Nigeria where rice cannot be grown so also, most other crop.

Nigeria is world number one producer of cassava. Cassava farming has taking the centre stage in Nigeria and contributes over 45% of Nigeria agriculture GDP. Agriculture in Nigeria contributes merely about 20% of Nigeria total GDP, trailing behind petroleum which is the major Nigeria domestic produce.

Nigeria depends heavily on the oil industry for its budgetary revenue (mono-economy) it is believed that if the agricultural sector is properly managed and enhanced. It will greatly boost the country gross domestic product, feed Nigeria and even replace oil on the top of the list. Considering the vast area of suitable land that is unused in about 80 million hectares out of Nigeria total land area.

God himself has now redirected our leaders to go back to Agriculture because our main hope on oil is now being dashed to the dwindling price in the world global market. This development gave way to the thought of diversification in our economy and with special emphasis on Agriculture.

A little push on the part of the government is demanded to bring solution to the Nigeria farmers strategic problem points such as education, tools, connecting roads, electricity, funds silos and so on to enable us realise the dreams of feeding Nigerians and even have excess for export.

There is a need for the education of farmers, provision of necessary tools and adequate resources, electricity and good connecting road.

There will be gross improvement in Nigeria agricultural sector, the land would be properly utilized and this will greatly reduced the high level food stuff importation and ultimately increase employment.

## **Way forward**

If the government of Nigeria and ministry of agriculture would intervene in solving the problem of farmers as mention above, it is believed that soonest the country would witness a gross decrease in the importation of foods stuff and animals. With good planning and the needed resources, Nigeria has what it takes to multiply her GDP just with cassava.

Calling on government to comply with the 10% Maputo declaration particularly now that the budget has been signed into law.