

Research Article

Economic Diversification and Agricultural Recovery Policies in Nigeria: An Assessment of Food Sustainability Programs of Tinubu Administration

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Abstract

The impact of agricultural recovery and economic diversification policies during the Tinubu government was specifically investigated in this study, emphasising food sustainability initiatives. This paper was guided by the sustainable development theory, which emphasises the significance of striking a balance between social, economic, and environmental goals to attain sustainable growth. The paper explored secondary sources of data such as government papers, scholarly publications, and statistical databases. Based on the findings of the paper, the Tinubu administration has implemented several programs designed to encourage economic diversification and boost food security by reviving the agriculture sector in Nigeria. These programs promoted climate-smart farming techniques, increased access to agricultural funding, and developed public-private partnerships. However, issues including inadequate infrastructure, poor resource management, and the effects of climate change have continued to pose difficulties to full realisation or achievement of food security goals of Tinubu administration. Overall, the paper showed that although the Tinubu administration's policies have brought about some success, more has to be done to address structural issues and guarantee the agricultural sector's resilience in Nigeria. The paper suggested investment in comprehensive rural infrastructure to prioritize the development of rural roads, storage facilities, and irrigation systems to reduce post-harvest losses and improve market access. Public-private partnerships should be leveraged to address funding gaps as well as increasing budgetary allocation to the agriculture sector to fund more researches in agriculture and food production, to grant more Agric loans and provide greater incentives for smart farming.

Keywords: Agricultural Policy, Economic Diversification, Food Security, Food Sustainability, Sustainable Development.

Introduction

Crude oil exports, which provide the majority of government revenue and foreign exchange earnings, have historically been a crucial component of Nigeria's economic structure. Due to this over-reliance, the economy is now extremely vulnerable to changes in the price of oil globally, which can result in delayed growth, fiscal imbalances, and recurring recessions (Luke *et al.*, 2024). A renewed emphasis on economic diversification as a strategic aim for sustainable development has resulted from the recognition of these vulnerabilities. Nigerian economic diversification is lowering reliance on the oil industry and expanding the country's economic base to encompass industries including manufacturing, services, and agriculture. Because of its historical significance and growth potential, agriculture stands out among these sectors. Agriculture was the backbone of Nigeria's economy before the oil boom of the 1970s, accounting for more than 60% of the GDP and employing the vast majority of the country's workforce (Ajuero, 2009). Important agricultural exports that supported the country's economic stability included cocoa, groundnuts, palm oil, and rubber. These products also provided substantial foreign exchange revenues.

However, the productivity of the industry steadily declined as a result of the oil boom era's disregard for agriculture, inconsistent policies, and insufficient investment. Problems including antiquated farming methods, restricted financing availability, and inadequate infrastructure have made the agriculture industry's problems worse. In response, previous governments-including the Tinubu administration-have

made agricultural recovery a top priority to achieve economic diversification and solve issues related to food security. The goal of the Tinubu administration's agricultural policies is to re-establish the industry as a catalyst for economic expansion. The government wants to revitalise agricultural production, improve value chains, and increase export potential by focusing on modern farming methods, enhancing rural infrastructure, and encouraging public-private partnerships. This new emphasis on agriculture is in line with larger diversification initiatives aimed at building a robust, inclusive economy that is less reliant on oil earnings.

A key component of national development and economic diversification is food sustainability. It entails putting in place mechanisms that guarantee food availability, affordability, accessibility, and nutritional sufficiency for every citizen while preserving the environment and promoting social justice (FAO, 2022). Food sustainability initiatives are essential for reducing the strain on food systems and guaranteeing long-term stability in a nation like Nigeria, where urbanisation and population expansion are growing. Nigeria's increasing reliance on food imports is one of its biggest problems, as it puts a drain on its foreign exchange reserves and leaves it vulnerable to fluctuations in international markets. According to Olufowobi (2015), Nigeria spends billions of dollars a year importing staple foods like rice, wheat, and sugar, a practice that stifles the potential of the agricultural sector and undercuts local output. Programs for food sustainability seek to end this reliance by encouraging self-sufficiency through more domestic processing and production.

The Tinubu administration has recognised food sustainability as a key component of economic resiliency. Providing farmers with access to better seeds, fertiliser, and extension services; encouraging irrigation and mechanisation; and funding agro-industrial hubs to boost value addition are some of the main strategies. Policies that promote private sector involvement, make it easier to obtain agricultural financing, and establish favourable conditions for the growth of smallholder farmers and agribusinesses support these initiatives. Additionally, programs promoting food sustainability tackle important problems related to rural development and poverty reduction. Nigeria's greatest employer of labour is still agriculture, especially in the country's rural areas where poverty is most prevalent. These programs have the potential to pull millions of Nigerians out of poverty and boost food systems by assisting small-scale farmers and increasing market opportunities.

Environmental deterioration and climate change make the need for a sustainable food system even more urgent (Prince *et al.*, 2023; Dauda, 2023). Food security and agricultural productivity are at risk due to soil deterioration, desertification, and irregular rainfall patterns. The Tinubu administration has integrated climate-smart agriculture and sustainable land management techniques into its food sustainability agenda in order to reduce these risks and make sure that the nation's food systems are robust and flexible enough to adjust to changing climatic conditions.

The main goal of this paper is to evaluate how well the Tinubu administration's food sustainability initiatives are contributing to Nigeria's agricultural recovery and economic diversification. The study will critically examine the planning, execution, and results of these initiatives, emphasising how they affect economic growth, rural development, and food security. The evaluation's findings will contribute to the body of knowledge already available on Nigeria's economic diversification and agricultural development. Nigeria's experiences can teach policymakers, researchers, and development practitioners a lot, and they can use that information to inform future projects that promote food security and sustainable economic growth in the country.

The paper adopted qualitative methodology using secondary sources of data for information gathering on agricultural policies and food security in Nigeria, especially under the current Tinubu administration. In addition, the paper used online resources from which pertinent publications were carefully selected. Data analysis methods from content analysis were used. As a result, the data used in the paper's analysis were meticulously taken from logical chains of evidence that were given in a variety of publications, including edited books, conference proceedings, journal articles, periodicals, and documentary materials.

Literature Review

The deliberate act of expanding a country's economic base by decreasing dependence on a single industry or product is known as economic diversification. This idea has been thoroughly studied by academics, who have emphasised its importance in fostering economic resilience and sustainable development. Economic diversification, according to Gylfason (2001), is redistributing financial resources among several industries to increase output, provide jobs, and lessen susceptibility to outside shocks. According to this concept,

diversification is a crucial strategy for stabilising economies that rely too heavily on a small number of industries.

Diversification is crucial for commodity-dependent economies, according to the World Bank (2009). It emphasises how putting money into other industries, such as manufacturing and services, can lessen a company's susceptibility to changes in global market prices. In a similar vein, Lederman and Maloney (2007) contend that nations with more diverse economies tend to have faster and more consistent rates of economic growth across time. They emphasise how diversification may promote competitiveness, encourage innovation, and strengthen economic resilience. Economic diversification is the process of lowering reliance on a small number of industries or goods to achieve balanced growth, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD, 2016). This term covers initiatives to make an economy more complicated through technical improvement, skill development, and innovation. To ensure that economies can adjust to shifting global dynamics, UNCTAD underlined that diversification should take into account both domestic and foreign market opportunities. Additionally, the International Monetary Fund (IMF, 2016) emphasises how diversification contributes to greater economic stability. According to the IMF's report, effective diversification initiatives frequently entail enhancing infrastructure, funding education and skill development, and establishing laws that support innovation and entrepreneurship.

Most academics concur that economic diversification is crucial to creating robust economies, especially in countries that rely heavily on natural resources. Structural reforms, infrastructure and education investments, and policies that encourage private sector growth and innovation are all necessary for effective diversification initiatives. Reducing economic volatility, increasing productivity, and fostering sustainable growth all depend on these initiatives. To shape the agricultural landscape of any country, agricultural policies are essential. They cover a variety of tactics and policies used by governments to affect agricultural output, distribution, and consumption. Ruttan (2001) asserts that to increase agricultural output and guarantee food security, agricultural policies involve both direct and indirect interventions, such as price restrictions, subsidies, rural infrastructure investment, and technology development. According to De Janvry and Sadoulet (2001), the goals of agricultural policy are to promote economic growth, enhance rural development, raise food production, and improve food security. These policies also aim to reduce poverty and diversify the economy of emerging nations like Nigeria, especially when the country is dependent on a single export good like oil.

In addition, it is critical to take into account the structural dynamics that impact the development and application of agricultural policies. Strong institutional frameworks that encourage sectoral coherence, raise funds, and guarantee that interventions are in line with more general national development objectives are necessary for effective agricultural policy, according to the World Bank (2007). A mix of external factors, including suggestions from global organisations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and internal interests have influenced Nigeria's agricultural policy environment. According to Swinnen (2015), the idea of policy coherence emphasises how crucial it is to combine agricultural policies with other developmental goals like infrastructure, health, and education. The government's efforts to match agricultural policies with its larger objectives of economic diversification, particularly under recent administrations, have demonstrated policy integration in Nigeria. For example, the implementation of food sustainability programs aims to address the structural issues of agricultural productivity as well as the urgent concerns about food security.

Furthermore, it is now more crucial than ever for agricultural policies to be able to address new global issues. Agricultural policies must confront new challenges brought forth by climate change, market instability, and changing trade dynamics. In light of these difficulties, the FAO (2017) emphasises that agricultural policy should encourage resilience and adaptability, especially in areas like Sub-Saharan Africa where agricultural systems are extremely susceptible to climate shocks. It is well known that Nigeria's agriculture industry is particularly vulnerable to climate change. In response, the Nigerian government has included climate-resilient measures, such as encouraging drought-tolerant crops and enhancing irrigation infrastructure, into its agricultural policies (FAO, 2020). Nevertheless, despite these initiatives, there are still many issues with finance, coordination, and execution, and the efficacy of such policies is still up for question.

Programmes for food sustainability are those that work to ensure that wholesome food is affordable, accessible, and available to all facets of society while also supporting environmental sustainability. Per Ingram (2011), food sustainability refers to the process of guaranteeing that there is an adequate supply of

food for all people both now and in the future while avoiding negative environmental effects and preserving the capacity of future generations to satisfy their own needs. It entails actions that minimise detrimental effects on Earth's ecosystems while promoting long-term food production. Food sustainability, then, is the cultivation and use of food in a way that maintains the health of our world and guarantees that there will be enough for everyone, both now and in the future (Ingram, 2011). Food sustainability, according to Godfray *et al.*, (2010), entails striking a balance between the preservation of natural resources and the demand for food production. To guarantee that future generations have access to enough food that is safe and nourishing, this balance is required. They contend that the establishment of food policies and programs must take into account the economic and social aspects of food sustainability, which go beyond environmental considerations.

A significant aspect of food sustainability is taking into account where our food comes from. Importing bananas from another country or becoming overly dependent on foreign food sources can cause problems. Food transportation requires a lot of fuel, which increases pollution. Plus, it can be challenging to deliver that food to us in the event of an emergency, such as a major storm. Therefore, wherever possible, it's preferable to try to purchase food from a local location (Ingram, 2011). According to Lappé and Lappé (2002), food sustainability is about making sure that there is enough nutritious food available for everyone to eat both now and in the future. She highlights the idea that ensuring equitable distribution of food so that everyone has access to it is just as important as increasing food production in terms of food sustainability. According to Lappé, the existing food system frequently puts profit ahead of people, which causes inequality and famine. She contends that encouraging healthy diets, safeguarding the environment, and empowering small-scale farmers should be the main goals of sustainable food systems. Lappé's theory of food sustainability emphasises how crucial it is to deal with social and economic issues in addition to agricultural output.

Society comes next. Ensuring that there is sufficient nutritious food for all is known as food sustainability. Not everyone has access to healthful meals in some regions. This may be the result of factors like not having enough money or not having healthy food outlets close by. Accordingly, food sustainability policies could include things like ensuring that every neighbourhood has a store selling fresh produce or assisting low-income individuals in purchasing nutritious food (Holt-Giménez and Shattuck, 2011). Policies and initiatives about food sustainability are essential for enhancing food security, but they must be considered within the larger framework of global food systems. According to Ericksen (2008), global trade, changes in international markets, and geopolitical considerations all have an impact on food systems and frequently reduce the efficacy of regional sustainability initiatives. Therefore, to create sustainable food systems that can endure shocks from the outside world and satisfy the demands of an expanding population, Nigeria's agricultural policy must take into consideration both local conditions and global dynamics. Food sustainability is a complex idea that calls for an all-encompassing strategy that incorporates social, economic, and environmental factors. Although Nigeria has several obstacles in its quest for food sustainability, the nation may enhance its food systems and attain long-term food security with the correct policies, plans, and institutional frameworks. The ability of these policies to address the structural issues confronting Nigeria's agriculture sector and to advance resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems will determine their efficacy, especially under the Tinubu administration.

Theoretical Framework

The sustainable development theory provides a critical perspective for comprehending how social justice, environmental preservation, and economic growth interact. The Brundtland Commission's landmark study, *Our Common Future* (1987), popularised this viewpoint, which first surfaced in the late 20th century. Sustainable development, according to the report, is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." This theory's proponents stress the necessity of a well-rounded strategy that incorporates social, economic, and environmental goals into development planning and policymaking (Brundtland Commission, 1987; Sachs, 2015).

A wide range of academics and organisations impacted the fundamental concepts of sustainable development theory. A major contributor to the concept's articulation was Gro Harlem Brundtland, the chair of the UN World Commission on Environment and Development. Leading economist and proponent of sustainable development Jeffrey Sachs developed the theory further by highlighting how it applies to issues like poverty, inequality, and climate change on a global scale (Sachs, 2015). Elkington (1997) and other authors proposed the "triple bottom line" paradigm, emphasising the interdependence of environmental, social, and economic sustainability. The idea that economic activity must redress social inequalities while operating within the ecological bounds of the planet is fundamental to the philosophy. It makes the

argument that attaining long-term prosperity necessitates striking a balance between the use of resources, technological advancement, and human welfare. This strategy is in line with the values of environmental stewardship, equity, and inclusivity.

According to sustainable development theory, when policies are created with sustainability at their centre, environmental preservation and economic growth can reinforce one another rather than conflict. Investments in green technologies, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy, for instance, can promote economic diversification and slow down environmental deterioration. The idea also emphasises the significance of participatory governance, in which local communities, governments, and private sector actors work together to accomplish common sustainability objectives (Meadows *et al.*, 1972).

Within the framework of agricultural recovery, the idea offers a way to deal with issues like climate change, water scarcity, and land degradation. It promotes methods like precision farming, agroecology, and climate-smart agriculture that increase agricultural output while protecting natural ecosystems. Through the encouragement of resource efficiency and resilience, these strategies support both wider economic stability and food security. Since the sustainable development theory offers a thorough framework for assessing the Tinubu administration's food sustainability initiatives, it is especially pertinent to this study. In order to promote economic diversification, these initiatives aim to revive agriculture and lessen dependency on oil earnings. Applying this theory allows for a critical analysis of how these initiatives balance economic, social, and environmental objectives. The theory first emphasises how crucial it is to match agricultural policies with more general sustainability objectives. For example, the Tinubu administration's food sustainability initiatives prioritise climate-resilient agricultural methods and the use of renewable energy in agro-processing. The theory's recommendation to integrate economic activity within environmental restrictions is in line with these attempts.

Second, the sustainable development theory emphasises how important equity and inclusivity are to long-term development. The Tinubu administration's policies, which prioritise gender equity, smallholder farmer empowerment, and improving rural livelihoods, are consistent with the theory's focus on social equity. These initiatives support rural development and poverty reduction by encouraging inclusive growth. Lastly, the theory offers a framework for assessing the governance frameworks and institutional processes supporting food sustainability initiatives. It highlights the necessity of transparent decision-making, adaptive management, and efficient stakeholder collaboration. These ideas are essential for tackling the structural issues that have traditionally impeded Nigeria's agricultural recovery.

Analysis of Current Food Sustainability Programs of the Tinubu Administration

Building on Nigeria's long-standing attempts to become self-sufficient in food production, the Tinubu administration has highlighted food security as a crucial part of its economic plan. There have been several steps to address urgent issues in agriculture, even if full flagship policies unique to the administration are still developing. The National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP), which supports the administration's initiatives, is in line with Nigeria's commitment to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Improving rural infrastructure, expanding access to agricultural financing, and encouraging private sector participation in the agricultural value chain are important areas of focus.

The administration released a national agricultural extension policy document to boost food production and agricultural development. It also acknowledged the enormous potential of agriculture as a major driver of the country's economy and as a weapon to combat poverty, hunger, and unemployment. To maximise resource utilisation and support sustainable agriculture and the nation's socioeconomic development, the extension policy aims to offer all stakeholders-including women, youth, and individuals with special needs-a demand-driven, efficient, and practical extension service that is market-oriented and ICT-enabled. To do this, the government developed initiatives like the National Agriculture Growth Scheme-Agro-Pocket, which provides certified inputs like improved seeds, organic and inorganic fertilisers, and irrigation equipment at discounted prices, as well as training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to millions of farmers (Egboh, 2023).

The Tinubu administration established a new Ministry of Livestock Development to boost government revenue, job opportunities, and protein production. The primary driving force behind the establishment of this ministry is the conviction that the Ministry of Agriculture ought to be divided into two, with one focussing on livestock development due to the potential benefits in terms of protein production, job creation, government revenue, and the impact this would have on the lives of average Nigerian citizens. The

administration stressed that the advantages of this choice would exceed the disadvantages, even though it admitted that establishing a new ministry could seem paradoxical given the government's objective of lowering governance expenses (FFF, 2024).

The emphasis on climate-smart agriculture techniques is another noteworthy feature of the Tinubu administration's strategy (ACIOE Associate, 2024). These include encouraging crops that can withstand drought, putting cutting-edge irrigation systems into place, and incorporating renewable energy sources into farming operations. By taking these steps, the World Bank (2023) hopes to ensure sustainable resource use while reducing the negative effects of climate change on agricultural productivity. Additionally, through collaborations with commercial banks and microfinance organisations, the administration has backed the growth of already-existing agricultural loan programs. The goal of this initiative is to give farmers access to reasonably priced financing for equipment, fertiliser, and seed purchases. Additionally, there has been a renewed emphasis on reducing post-harvest losses (Chiejina, 2024), by investing in storage facilities and modernizing supply chain logistics. These steps align with broader national goals to minimize food waste and improve market efficiency.

Additionally, the administration has pushed for investments in mechanisation and cutting-edge farming methods to increase Nigeria's capacity to produce food. Smallholder farmers are the focus of programs designed to increase their resilience and productivity in the face of climate change. To address food security and advance sustainable agricultural practices throughout Nigeria, the Yobe State administration has started a historic agricultural empowerment program (Mukhtar, 2024). One of the administration's tactics to guarantee food sufficiency is the program. To draw investments in agro-processing, export-oriented agriculture, and agribusiness, public-private partnerships, or PPPs, have also been advocated.

Since many of the Tinubu administration's food sustainability projects are still in the early phases of implementation, assessing their efficacy calls for a balanced approach. However, early signs point to both significant obstacles and some advancements in important areas. Crop yields have started to gradually increase as a result of increased financing for agricultural inputs and the encouragement of mechanised farming. Early indicators point to moderate increases in the output of basic crops like maize and rice. These developments will contribute to a more sustainable trade balance by lessening Nigeria's reliance on food imports. Another area where this approach will have an influence is job development. Through the development of rural infrastructure and agro-processing industries, the administration would facilitate the establishment of job possibilities, especially for women and young people in rural areas. This emphasis is in line with national goals to lower unemployment and diversify the economy.

However, broader agricultural recovery is still hampered by enduring obstacles such as restricted access to arable land, poor extension services, and undeveloped irrigation infrastructure (Raji *et al.*, 2024). These programs' efficacy is further weakened by bureaucratic inefficiency and corruption. Resolving these systemic problems is essential to attaining significant and long-lasting results. The administration's emphasis on agriculture as a major non-oil growth engine demonstrates its understanding of its potential in terms of economic diversification. Achieving substantial diversification will necessitate concerted efforts across several industries, including manufacturing, technology, and services, even though agriculture's GDP proportion has slightly increased.

The food sustainability initiatives of the Tinubu government show both continuity and innovation in comparison to those of other administrations. For example, the Buhari government (2015–2023) established the foundation for agricultural recovery with programs such as the Green Alternative Agricultural Promotion Policy (APP) and the Anchor Borrowers' Program (ABP). These initiatives, many of which have been extended under the Tinubu government, focused on loan facilities, mechanisation, and input subsidies (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2022). The Tinubu administration sets itself apart, though, with its emphasis on value chain development and climate-smart agriculture. The present administration has taken a more comprehensive stance that incorporates agro-processing and export promotion, in contrast to its predecessor, which placed a higher priority on the production of staple crops. This change is a result of the realisation that a competitive agriculture sector that can propel economic expansion and diversify exports is necessary.

The administration's focus on public-private partnerships is another area of difference. The Tinubu administration has made a concerted effort to involve the private sector in the implementation of policies, whereas earlier administrations mostly depended on state-led initiatives. As a result, agricultural programs

are now more innovative, efficient, and scalable. For instance, collaborations with foreign agriculture companies have made it easier to transfer technology and grow capacity, two things that were less noticeable in previous administrations. However, issues that both governments face continue to exist. These include gaps in agricultural research and development, uneven policy implementation, and poor rural infrastructure. The failure of both administrations to adequately address the underlying reasons for land tenure insecurity, which continues to be a major obstacle to agricultural growth, has also drawn criticism. Although the food sustainability initiatives of the Tinubu administration expand upon the framework established by earlier administrations, their eventual success will hinge on resolving persistent structural problems and guaranteeing efficient policy execution. Nigeria's agricultural recovery and economic diversification could benefit greatly from the administration's efforts to solve these issues.

The policies of the Tinubu administration have some noteworthy advantages, especially when it comes to expanding access to funding for agriculture. The government has enhanced access to vital inputs like seeds, fertiliser, and mechanisation tools by increasing finance options for farmers. This program has strengthened smallholder farmers' ability to boost output and support national food security (Federal Ministry of Agriculture, 2023). Furthermore, by enabling farmers to process raw agricultural products and increase their revenue, investments in agro-industrial centres have opened up prospects for value addition. In addition to encouraging entrepreneurship, this value chain development improves economic diversity. Additionally, the administration has encouraged efficiency and innovation in the agriculture sector by promoting public-private partnerships (PPPs). Farmers now have access to cutting-edge technologies and knowledge thanks to partnerships with corporate organisations, making the agricultural sector more robust and competitive. The government's emphasis on climate-smart agriculture is another admirable strength. The administration has shown a dedication to tackling climate-related issues and guaranteeing sustainable resource use by encouraging measures like the deployment of sophisticated irrigation systems and the production of crops resistant to drought.

Notwithstanding these advantages, several drawbacks compromise the efficacy of the laws in place. Inconsistent policy implementation is one major problem (Nura and Tabiu, 2014). Bureaucratic inefficiency and a lack of cooperation across government departments can cause ambitious plans to fail, making it more difficult to achieve the desired results. Furthermore, there are still shortages in vital agricultural infrastructure, including irrigation networks, storage facilities, and highways. These shortcomings worsen post-harvest losses and hinder the effective distribution of agricultural products (Olorunfemi, 2020; Ayinde, 2021). Another issue is the unequal distribution of resources. Because of corruption and poor management, financial aid and subsidies sometimes do not reach the neediest farmers (Ibekwe, 2024). Additionally, the administration's policies have disregarded other important agricultural sectors like fisheries, which are critical to attaining comprehensive food security and economic growth, while continuing to place an undue emphasis on the production of livestock and basic crops.

Nigeria is well-positioned to take advantage of a number of opportunities with its agriculture policies. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) offers a means of increasing agricultural exports and incorporating the industry into global value chains. Additionally, focusing skills development and entrepreneurship initiatives on women and youth is a strategy to minimise rural unemployment and utilise underutilised labour. The development of technology also offers a lot of options. Including digital agriculture tools like mobile-based extension services and data-driven farming can improve decision-making and productivity (Osei-Amponsah, *et al.*, 2024). Agribusiness may also benefit from foreign direct investments (FDIs) brought in by the administration's emphasis on establishing a business-friendly climate, which would encourage innovation and capacity growth in the industry.

To achieve food sustainability, several risks remain, despite these opportunities. Agricultural productivity is threatened by climate change and environmental degradation, which are typified by unpredictable weather patterns and deforestation (Arora, 2019). Furthermore, the competitiveness of Nigeria's agricultural exports may be weakened by global economic volatility, which includes shifts in trade policy and commodity prices (Balakeffi *et al.*, 2019). Another urgent problem is the rapid population expansion, which puts tremendous strain on food systems and necessitates faster production to keep up with demand. Additionally, ongoing instability in rural areas—such as banditry and conflicts—disturbs farming operations and discourages investment. These dangers emphasise the necessity of thorough and proactive approaches to reduce risks and maintain advancement. The Tinubu administration's emphasis on agricultural recovery and food sustainability is a big step in Nigeria's economic diversification. The administration has created a basis for increased agricultural productivity and food security by prioritising policies that tackle systemic issues such

as value chain development, climate change adaptation, and funding accessibility. These initiatives highlight the potential of agriculture as a catalyst for national development and are in line with international best practices. However, enduring obstacles such as inadequate infrastructure, poor resource management, and security issues still make it difficult to achieve these objectives. To solve these problems, the administration must give top priority to efficient execution strategies and encourage cooperation among interested parties. Long-term success will require a comprehensive strategy that incorporates sustainable practices, technology innovation, and inclusivity.

Going forward, there is a chance to make Nigeria's agriculture sector a strong, internationally competitive enterprise by integrating food sustainability measures with more comprehensive economic policies. The Tinubu administration can establish a robust agricultural system that not only guarantees food security but also promotes economic growth and social equality by resolving recognised deficiencies and taking advantage of new opportunities.

Drawing from the foregoing discussions, this paper made the following recommendations:

- 1) Strengthen Policy Implementation Mechanisms:** Establish an independent monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to track policy outcomes and ensure accountability. This approach would mitigate bureaucratic inefficiencies and enhance coordination across agencies.
- 2) Invest in Comprehensive Rural Infrastructure:** Prioritize the development of rural roads, storage facilities, and irrigation systems to reduce post-harvest losses and improve market access. Public-private partnerships should be leveraged to address funding gaps.
- 3) Diversify Agricultural Focus:** Expand support beyond staple crops to include livestock, fisheries, and high-value crops with export potential. This diversification would enhance food security and contribute to economic growth.
- 4) Empower Marginalized Groups:** Design targeted programs to empower women and youth through skills training, access to credit, and entrepreneurial opportunities. Such initiatives would harness untapped human resources and reduce unemployment.
- 5) Adopt Climate-Resilient Practices:** Scale up investments in climate-smart agriculture by promoting the adoption of resilient crop varieties, efficient irrigation techniques, and renewable energy solutions. Collaboration with international organizations and research institutions can support these efforts.
- 6) Enhance Security in Rural Areas:** Implement comprehensive security measures to safeguard farmers and rural communities. This step is essential to restoring confidence in agricultural investments and ensuring uninterrupted food production.
- 7) Foster Innovation and Technology Adoption:** Facilitate access to digital technologies and precision farming tools to improve productivity and decision-making. Incentives should be provided for agritech startups and technology-driven solutions.
- 8) Promote Regional Integration and Trade:** Capitalize on AfCFTA by investing in export-oriented agricultural production and strengthening trade infrastructure. Simplifying export processes and improving compliance with international standards will enhance competitiveness.
- 9) Increase Research and Development (R&D) Funding:** Allocate resources to agricultural research institutions for developing innovative solutions tailored to Nigeria's unique agricultural challenges. This focus will foster long-term growth and sustainability.
- 10) Ensure Policy Continuity and Coherence:** Align current programs with long-term national development plans and provide mechanisms for continuity across successive administrations. This approach will enhance stability and build on existing achievements.

Declarations

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