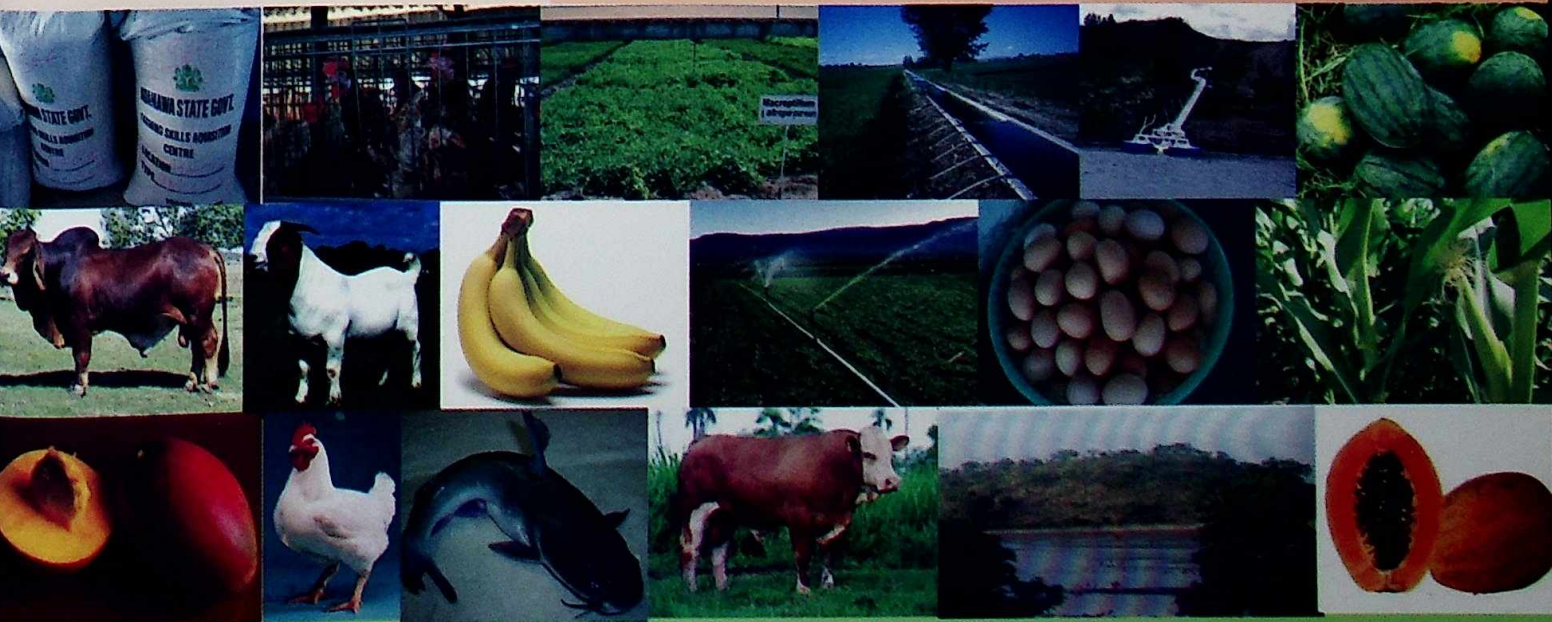


MISSIVE **1 TO
THE PEOPLE OF
ADAMAWA STATE**

On

**NYAKO
ADMINISTRATION**

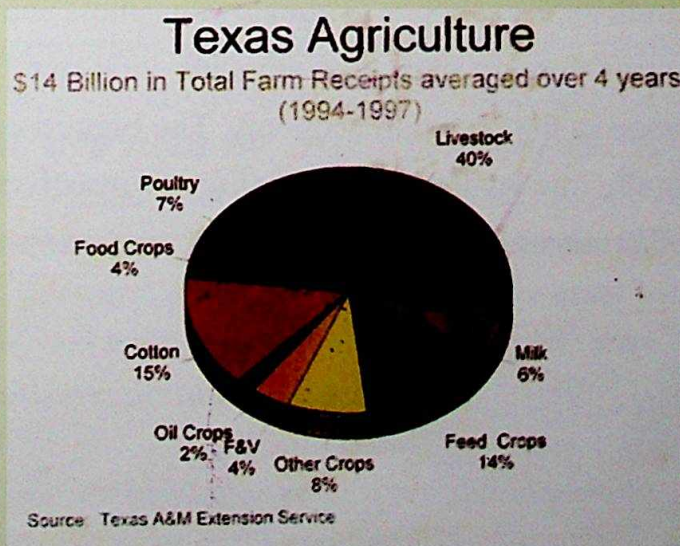
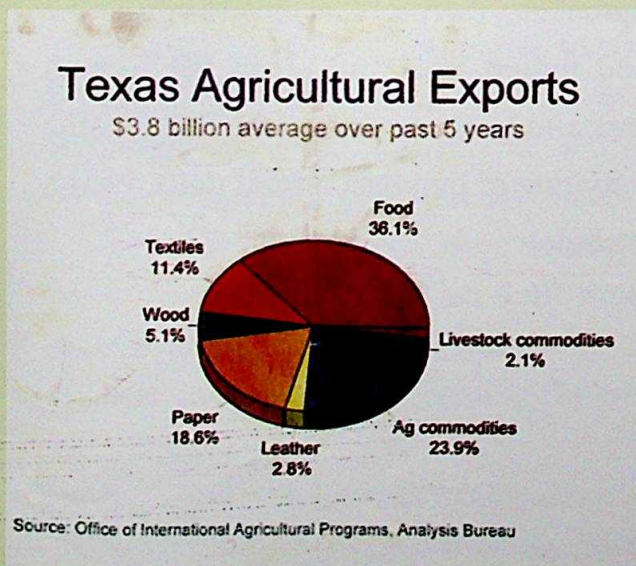
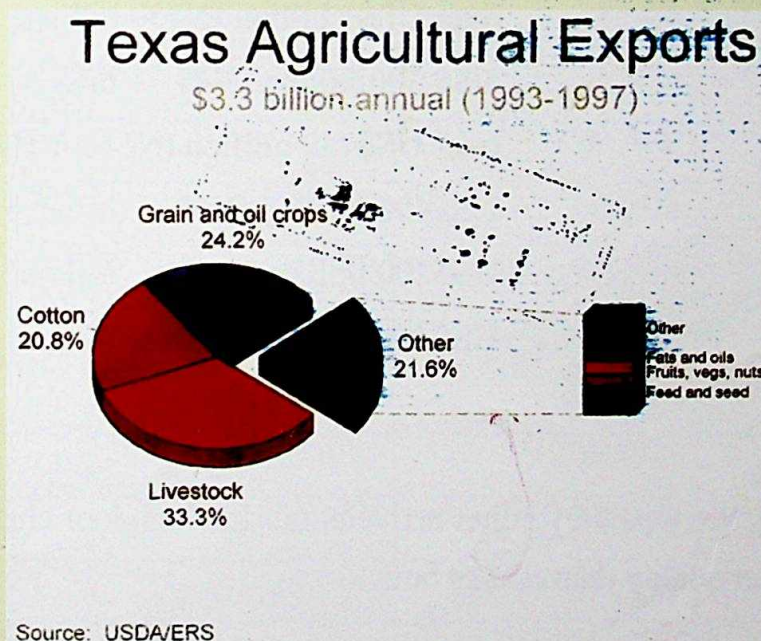
**VISION FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OF ADAMAWA STATE WITHIN THE CONTEXT
OF NIGERIA'S VISION 20:2020**



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Fellow citizens of Adamawa State, further to my letter, **Letter-1**, I am writing you this **Missive-1** to acquaint you with the **NYAKO ADMINISTRATION VISION FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ADAMAWA STATE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF NIGERIA'S VISION 20:2020**. This Missive relates to **Empowering the Grassroot (Farming Populace) through Agriculture**.

Let me commence this **Missive-1** by making an unequivocal statement and citing examples that Agric-Business pays! Our sister ECOWAS member nation, Cote d'Ivoire, earns 75% of its foreign exchange from exports of agricultural products. Brazil's receipts from agricultural and food products are over US\$350 billion annually. The GDP of powerfully industrialized Italy is over 40% agro-based. The food receipts alone of mighty USA are over US\$360 billion annually. The total revenue receipts of Texas farmers being supported by Texas A & M University amounted to US\$14 billion annually averaged over 4 years 1993 - 1997 as shown below.



Another example I should like to give is that of Indonesia; 35 years ago Nigeria and Indonesia had the same yearly per Capita incomes of US\$400 and their source of revenue was the same, namely crude oil sales which constituted over 80% of Government revenue. Indonesia then began a serious exploitation of its agricultural resources. Today the country has per Capita annual incomes of well over US\$1,400 and the component of its crude oil earnings has been reduced to between 2-5%. Nigeria's per Capita income is now less than US\$300 per annum and the dominant role of crude oil in the economy has remained the same over the last 40 years. All this clearly affirms that agric-business pays!

Agric-Business Opportunities for Small-Scalers in Nigeria

Let me also observe that the official yearly Food imports into this country continue to increase and presently run as follows:

- Rice - over US\$1 billion (₦150 billion)
- Dairy & beef - US\$ 300million (₦45 billion)
- Vegetable oil - over US\$450 million (₦67.5 billion)
- Fish - US\$400 million (₦60 billion)
- Fruit juice - US\$200 million (₦30 billion)
- Refined sugar - US\$400 million (₦60 billion)
- etc

We import these items because they either arrive at our kitchen door cheaper than the local products, or are of better quality than ours or both.

The immediate challenge to our agric-business entrepreneurs, therefore, is how to corner the staggering foreign exchange amounts vide our food import bills and retain the foreign exchange in the Nigerian economy. The biggest constraint to meeting this challenge is the abysmally low level and poor quality of virtually every one of our agricultural units, be it a plot of farmland, pond, tree/plant or livestock as shown below:-

The yields of some agricultural units and what can easily be achieved using available technology

Product	Yield (Kg/Ha)		Target (2020)
	Nigeria	Dev. Nations	Target (2020)
CROPS			
Maize	1,200	12,000	6,000
Soya beans	680	3,000	2,000
Groundnut	400	2,700	2,000
Wheat	2,010	5,500	4,000
Rice	1,500	40,000	10,000
Cotton	<500	5,000	3,000
Sorghum	1,130	5,000	3,000
Millet	1060	4,800	3,000
Cowpea	410	3,500	2,500
Onions	4,100	120,000	15,000 – 20,000
Tomatoes	5,000	110,000	15,000 – 20,000
Potatoes	4,000	60,000 – 80,000	30,000
Cocoa	200	2,000	1,500
Cassava	10,680	20,000	20,000
Oil Palm	80,000	200,000	
Yam	9,350	20,000	
Sugar cane	20,000	180,000	

Productivity is undoubtedly the biggest factor in profitability and sustainability. Our limited technology must now be imparted to all appropriate stakeholders to facilitate the production of commodities at commercially acceptable productivity levels and we must seek for better technology at home and abroad. Without high yields and quality products, agri-business anywhere would be pregnant with financial disaster. And this has been so over the years in our country. **With increased productivity handsome financial returns would be expected from our endeavours. With a bit more personal effort, we could achieve even more! I should emphasize that productivity and market for products constitute the sure track out of poverty and to increasing the wealth of individuals and nations.**

I should now give specific examples; suppose, there is amongst us a sensible stakeholder who realizes that he has to do something positive to get out of the economic quagmire in which he

finds himself these days; and our Administration supports him to acquire 2 pregnant Friesian-Holstein heifers, having become conversant with how to look after such dairy animals at one of our Farming Skills Acquisition Centres (FSAC). The two heifers soon calve. He would collect at least 8,000 litres of milk from each dam per lactation of 305 days, making a total of 16,000 litres. At today's milk price of at least ₦125 per litre, he would earn ₦2 million gross and he should be able to make at least ₦1 million net profit after having paid 50% of the loan for purchasing the cows and for the feeds of the cows before calving and during lactation. He may in addition sell his two yearlings at the end of the year and that would increase his earning by at least ₦500,000.00 annually. And by using the manure from the two cows to obtain gas by bio-gas production method, he would also reduce his cooking gas bill, electricity bill and cost of fertilizer for his small farm. Surely, he would be catapulting himself out of poverty virtually from the first year of calving of his two cows!

Another stakeholder might decide to go for the production of beef cows such as the Brahman. Here, the secret for success is to ensure that the animal feeds being consumed by his cows have high feed-conversion ratio which permits a calf to weigh up to 100Kg on her 100th day, 300Kg on her 205th day and over 500Kg on her 365th day. The big hotels in Nigeria that now import quality beef are quite willing to pay very good money for lean beef produced in the country!

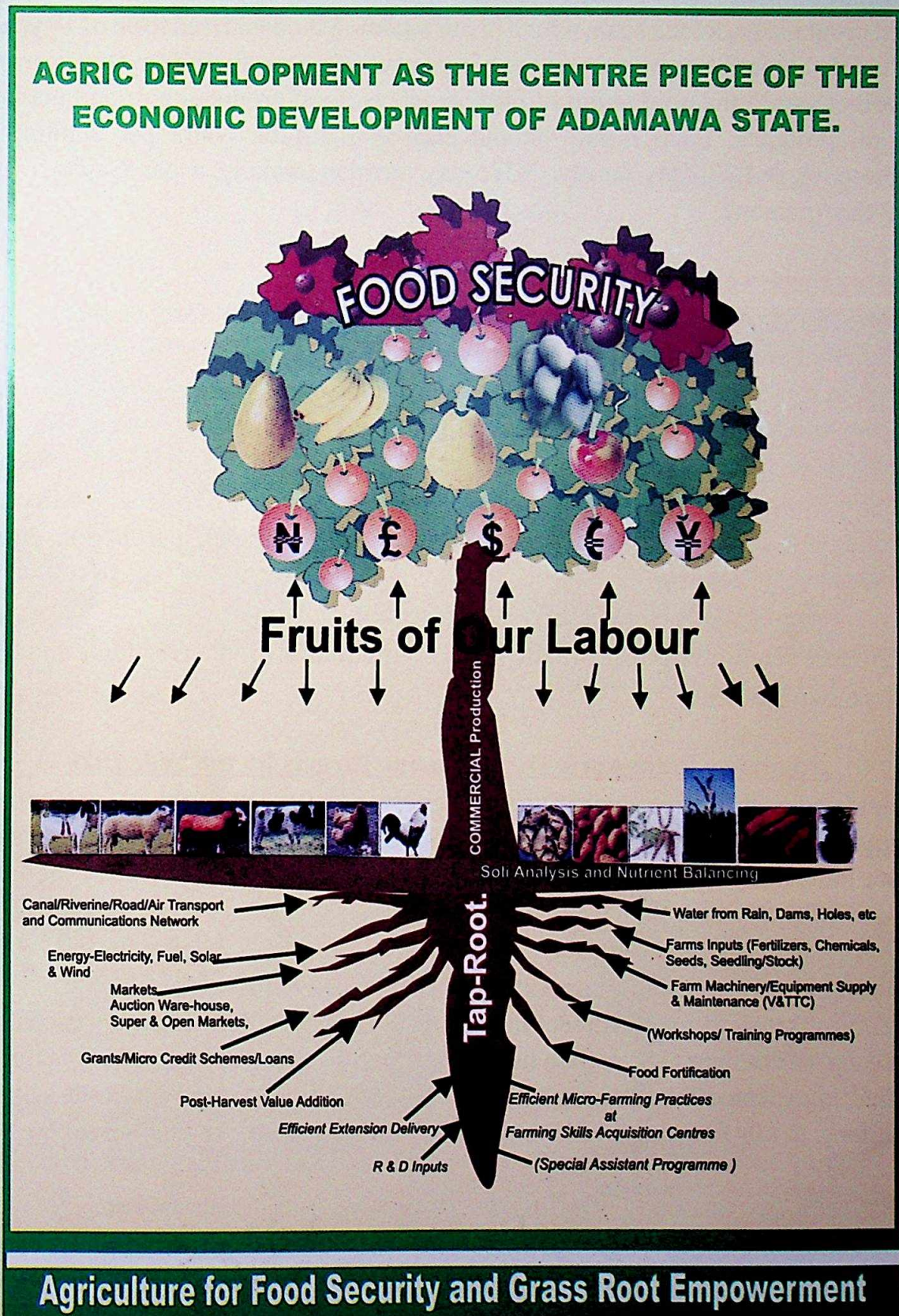
One may opt to produce quality fish such as catfish in a cage aquaculture production unit of 2m x 2m x 2m holding about 26,000 fingerlings, being fed with quality feeds with a feed-conversion ratio of at least 1 to 0.5 and growing to a weight of 700g by the 5th month. The total weight of catfish at harvest time in 1 cubic metre of water should be 0.5tons, making a total of 4tons in a cage and 16tons in a 4cage-array system. Net gains from such an enterprise run into millions of Naira per annum in the country. The costings of such business operations are given later.

Another person may opt to grow vegetables such as banana for fresh consumption (Cavendish William), or plantain (Dominica Harton), melon, tomatoes and onions etc. Net returns from a hectare cultivation of these products range from US\$20,000 to US\$100,000 if of good quality and sold at the right time overseas. A hectare of good mangoes should also fetch at least US\$25,000. One should emphasise that cultivation of fruits and vegetables has the shortest gestation period and should, therefore, remove their producers from the rank of poverty stricken in a very short time.

The foregoing opportunities could be for all-comers while the agric connoisseurs amongst you should have technical partners and go for seeds/seedlings/stock production, products processing and marketing, the production of fertilizers, compost and chemicals appropriate for the development of Nigeria's agriculture. **You should know that those who started these**

types of enterprises in other nations and are now very rich were not better than you as at now when they started these enterprises.

Below is Pictorial agric development Tree showing the features that require development to achieve a successful implementation of a durable Food and Agric development policy.



Ten-Year Rolling Plan For Grassroot Empowerment Through Agriculture

Adamawa State has a population of 3.6 million people that constitute 450,000 families of 8 members per family. The economic activities of the State are such that over 80% of these families, namely 360,000 families, ache for a living through subsistence farming and are poor, earning less than 1US\$/day by a member of their families.

It is platitude to state that to empower such a large number of families would require a dedicated programme, a time span, which in our situation is considered to be of 10 years. That entails that 36,000 families must come out of poverty every year for the next ten years through their involvement in the production of farm products, food production or/and marketing of agricultural products. Each family should earn one million Naira per annum, namely N83,000/month, N2,770/day/family, N385/day/member making a par Capita income of US\$2.55/day/(person).

Strategy for Empowerment

The strategy for empowering these 360,000 families should, therefore, be directed towards raising their family incomes by teaching the families:

- How to substantially increase the yields and quality of their various agricultural unit(s), be it a plot of farmland for grains, fruits, or vegetable, livestock cattle, sheep or goat; poultry bird for eggs or meat; pond/basin for fish production.
- The technique of value addition through the production of livestock, poultry and fish; without a steady supply of grains, commercial livestock production becomes a nightmanish business.
- Processing of foods including Food fortification.
- Entrepreneurial skills to profitably market agricultural products at home and abroad.
- Risk management.

Adamawa State Agric Development Targets by the Year 2020

As the yield and quality of product of virtually everyone of our agricultural unit is considered as the biggest threat to commercial farming in our State and the country at large as explained above, we have decided that Adamawa State Agric Development targets by the year 2020 would be as follows:

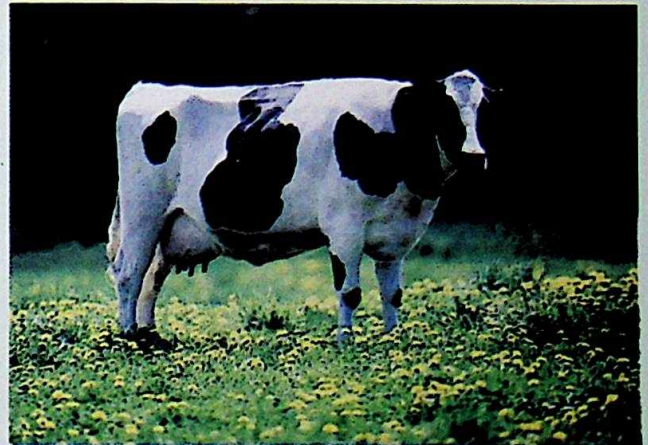
- Production of key grain commodities at commercial yields and of good quality sufficient to meet the requirements of national and international markets and for the farmer(s) to realize handsome profit(s). A minimum of 400% increase in yield is expected for all commodities on completion of appropriate demonstrations training at our Farming Skill Acquisition Centre located in each Local Government area. .
- Production of enough grains for the consumption of livestock to give sufficient yields and quality product to meet State/national security needs and

targeted to achieve following:

- a. Cattle
- initially 2,000 litres of milk per 1st generation (F1) crossbred cow/lactation building to an average of 3,000 litres of milk/cow/lactation by the year 2020.
 - initially a growth rate of 300 Kg/crossbred cow/15 months leading to 400 Kg/cow/15 months. The growth rate should be 20% of feeds weight (5:1)
 - initially 6000 litres of milk/exotic dual purpose cow/lactation building to an average of 7500 litres of milk per lactation by 2020
 - initially 8000 litres of milk/pure dairy cow/lactation leading To 11000 litres/lactation.



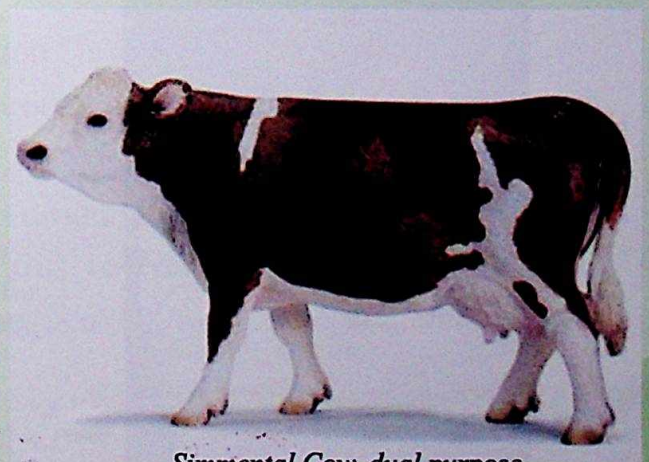
Jersey Cow, most efficient for milk production



Friesian-Holstein Cow, pure dairy

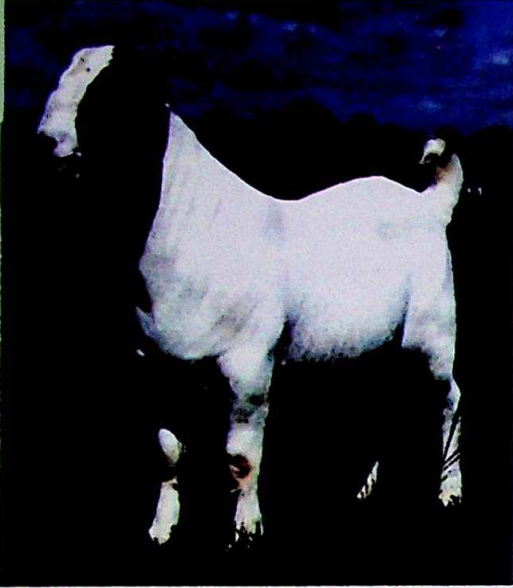


Simmental Bull



Simmental Cow, dual purpose

- b. Small ruminants- Stock to kid twice yearly at the rate of 3-4 kids totaling 6-8 kids/annum

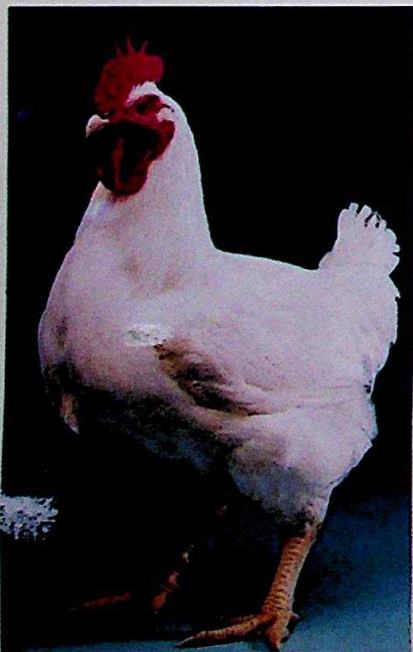


Boar Goat

- c. Poultry - Layers, average yield 244 eggs/layer/50 weeks.



Poultry Layers

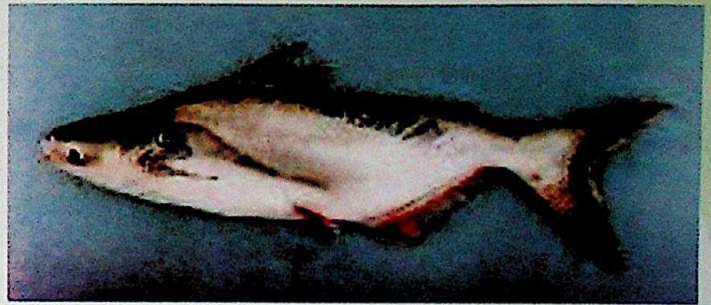


Poultry Broiler, average rate of growth 1 Kg/bird/8 weeks

- d. Aquaculture - From fingerlings to 0.7 Kg weight by 4½ Months.
- Harvesting ½ ton of fish from 1 ton (1.0m³) of water in 5 months.



African Catfish (Clarias gariepinus)



Asian Catfish (Pangasus bacourti)

I call upon all of you and your friends and partners to come and help us achieve these targets. Let's impart to our farmers the appropriate technology and accord them the support to achieve these targets.

Categorization of the Farming Populace

As the livestock is the greatest consumer of grains, it is obvious that large quantities of grains and other nutrients would be required to modernize livestock production for the attainment of foregoing production targets. It is also obvious that there should be a sound business plan for the production of each selected commodity.

It is therefore envisaged that the 36,000 families to be empowered annually on revolving basis would be categorized as follows:

- 16,000 families for grains and legume production of maize, rice, soya beans, cotton, groundnuts etc.
- 5,000 families for dairy and beef production
- 5,000 families for poultry egg and meat production
- 5,000 families for fish production
- 2,500 families for vegetable and tree crop production such as tomatoes, onions, green and red pepper, melon, mangoes, citrus, cocoa etc.
- 2,500 families for food processing and fortification, food marketing and agric auxiliary services.

Grains Production

There should be a sound business Plan for the production of all selected grains. Below is for the production of Maize/Hectare

COST OF PRODUCTION OF HYBRID MAIZE PER HECTARE

Description	COST ₦
Training to achieve Target Yield	
Harrowing of a unit plot (Ha)	
Ridging of a unit of plot (Ha)	
Seed (Hybrid) for a unit (Ha)	
Plant Population – Plants/Ha (53,200)	
Planting Labour	
Fertilizer - 1 st Application	
- 2 nd Application	
Weeding Labour - 1 st Weeding	
- 2 nd Weeding	
Harvesting Labour	
Empty sacks	
Dehusking	
Threshing	
Transportation	
Total Cost of Production	
Insurance	
Exigency	
Grand Total for Production of Yield/Unit	
Average Yield/ Unit	
Gross Income/Unit	
Less Cost of Production	
Net Income/Ha	

Dairy and Beef Cattle Production

It is intended that a large number of the 5,000 families who would be empowered to produce dairy and beef products would be utilizing dual purpose cows. Each member of the family will be supported to own 2 cows making a total of cows to be initially provided as 10,000 at ₦500,000/cow making a total cost of **₦5.0 billion**. The feeds requirement for each cow for a milk yield of 20litres/day is a feed mixture of 12Kg/day made up of 6Kg maize, 2.5Kg soya beans, 1.8Kg cotton seed cake, 1.2Kg groundnut cake and 0.5Kg premix. The feeds requirement per the total herds per annum would therefore be:

6Kg of maize x 305days x 10,000 cows	= 18,300 tons
2.5Kg soya beans x 305days x 10,000 cows	= 7,625
1.8Kg cotton cake x 305days x 10,000 cows	= 5,490
1.2Kg g/outs cake x 305days x 10,000 cows	= 3,660
0.5Kg premix x 305days x 10,000 cows	= 1,525
Total feeds	= 36,600 tons



Friesian-Holstein on grazing ground



Simmental in paddock

The beef cow also requires a large quantity of quality feeds which would facilitate a rate of growth of at least 20% of the weight of the feeds consumed. Such cow would consume up to 5% of its body weight as the weight of its feeds consumables/day.



Red Brahman Bull



Gertrudis bull

Approximately cost of feeds these days is ₦80,000.00/ton making a total cost of feeds of ₦2,958,000,000.00/10,000 cows/lactation. These feeds would be produced by our Grains farmers who would thus earn such amount of money on cows in one lactation cycle.



Maize Field



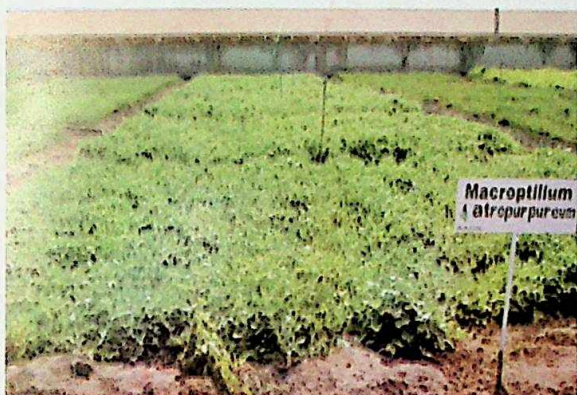
Maize



Soya-bean field

In addition to the feeds, the cattle need “green”(grass) for adequate productivity and just as horses are fed at their stables these days, the cow also should be on “zero” grazing. Alimentation is the order of the day; roaming the countryside looking for fodder is unproductive and no longer acceptable as it gives rise to friction/clashes between the herdsman and the grain farmer and a sense of bitterness even if he/she is the same person.

Present grazing reserves now turned into weed fields should be re-cultivated with improved varieties of grass such as **Purple bush-bean** (*Macroptilium atropurpureum*) for milk production and **Beard grass** (*Brachiaria brizantha*) for quality beef production; the reserves should be demarcated into ranges and owned by cattle farmers co-operation or individuals just like it was done in 1950s and 60s on Mambilla plateau.



Our grazing reserves must, therefore, be developed into lush pastures owned by whoever for commercial “green” production for own cattle or marketing to cattle owners. One dares say that farming quality “green” could be a more profitable business than farming grains, or rearing of cattle! Let's therefore update our practices of livestock rearing to livestock production for enhanced security and incomes! There is a lot to be available for mutual benefit!



Pasture field

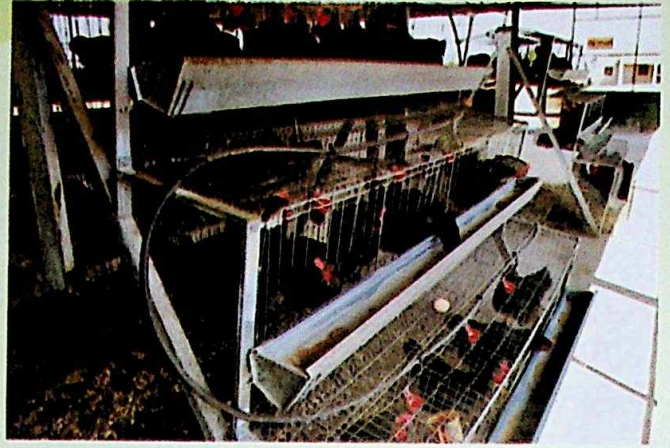
The success of this Empowerment programme for herdsmen would, therefore, not only lead to elimination of suspicion/clashes between the herdsman (cattle & goat farmers) and the grain farmer but it would also be clear to both of them that they need one another. The herdsman would require a large quantity of grains to make his cattle produce more milk and beef and the grain farmer would require the herdsman/consumer of his grains to make grain farming a paying business. It is obvious that agric undertaking would remain a primitive affair if the two of them do not cooperate or merge into one when the cattle herdsman becomes a grain farmer and vice-versa.

Poultry Production

It is also intended to empower each of the 5000 families that would be involved in poultry production with **500 layers/family** making a total of 2,500,000 birds in production per annum. The total cost of establishing a 500 chicks farm per family and the profits to be derived are as follows:

Description	N
Cost of Training to achieve 244 eggs/chick/annum	
Cost of 500 point of lay pullets	
60 adult hanging/trough feeder	
60 adult drinkers	
40 wooden nest	
10 buckets	
2 shovel	
50 egg trays (plastic)	
Feed (layer mash)	
Vaccination (NDUK) = 1 vial	
Medication	
Labour	
Miscellaneous	
Total Cost of 500 Layers	'X'
Expected Income sale of eggs (assuming 70% laying) price/crate	
Total Income from 3925 crates	
Sale of 475 spent Layers	
Sale of 925 bags	
Total Revenue from 500 layers	'Y'
Benefit from 500 layers	'X-Y'
Cost benefit ratio	

The 5000 families involved in **egg production** will also be empowered to be involved in broiler production. Each family would then be supported to earn a revenue up to **₦1.0 million** per annum.



Poultry layers in cages



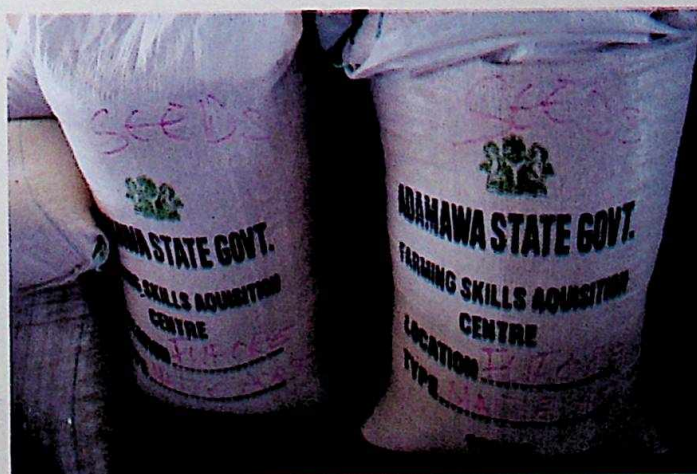
Poultry eggs

Below is the investment profile of Poultry production for 5,000 families with a total of 2,500,000 chicks @ 500 chicks/family:

FAMILIES	5,000
BIRDS PER FAMILY	500
TOTAL BIRDS REQUIRED	2,500,000
EGGS PRODUCTION PER BIRD/ANNUM	244
TOTAL EGG PRODUCTION PER FAMILY	122,000
TOTAL EGG PRODUCTION BY PROGRAMME	610,000,000
ADDITIONAL EGGS FOR CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA IN ADAMAWA STATE	170
CONTRIBUTION TO PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF EGGS IN NIGERIA BY IN ADAMAWA STATE	4.02

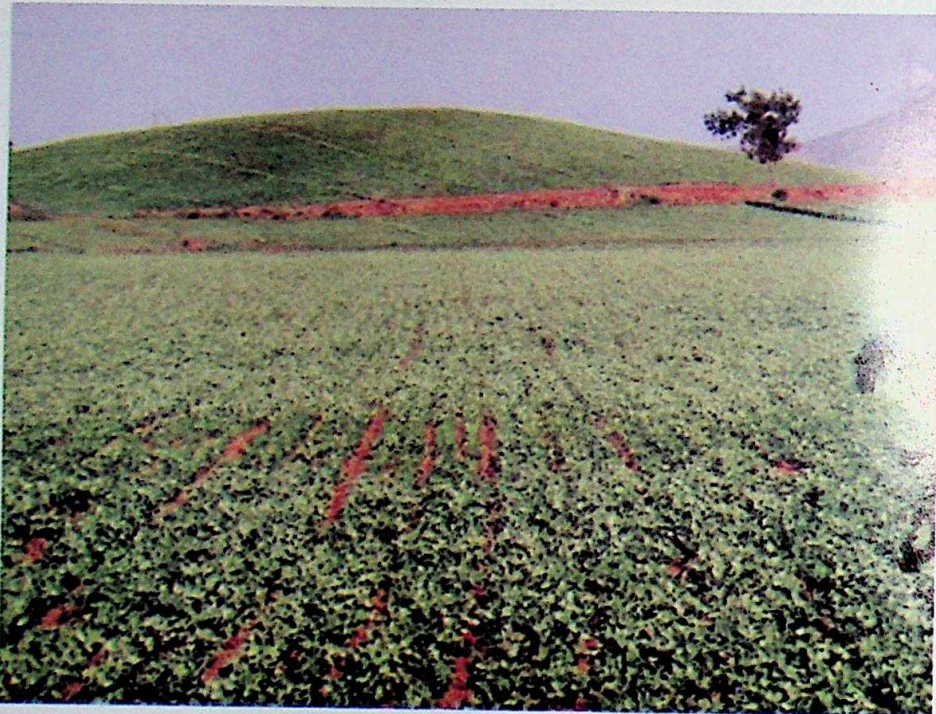
The feeds requirement for 500 chicks poultry farm for 5,000 farming families would be as follows:

- a) **Total feed required per 500 chicks per day**
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Maize | 120 Kg |
| Soya Beans Cake | 31.25 Kg |
| Groundnut Cake | 24 Kg |
| Cotton Seed Cake | 7.25 Kg |
| Offals | 36 Kg |
| Vitamins, minerals, etc | 21.5 Kg |
- b) **Total annual feeds requirement for 2,500,000 chicks**
- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Maize | 80,000 tons |
| Soya Beans Cake | 15,625 tons |
| Groundnut Cake | 12,000 tons |
| Cotton Seed Cake | 3,625 tons |
| Offals | 18,000 tons |
| Vitamins, minerals, etc | 10,725 tons |

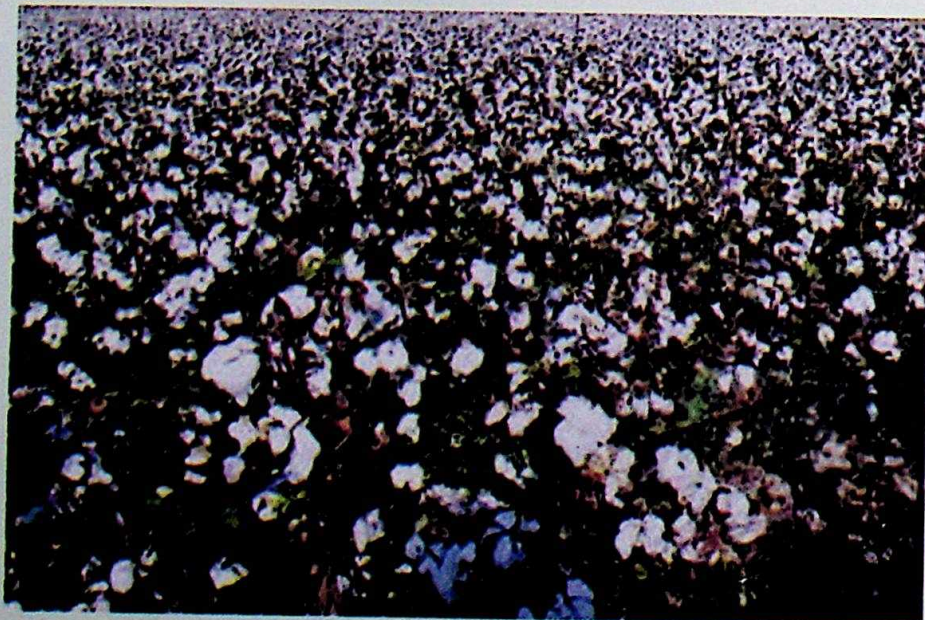


Feeds produced at FSACs

Here again the synergy between the poultry farmer and the grain farmer is obvious. The lack of appreciation of this fact in our national agricultural policy is manifested in the 'yo-yo' that exists between the production of grains and that of poultry. In the year(s) when there is glut supply of say, maize with its price going down, the poultry farmer rushes to establish/expand his farm. In the following year the maize farmer would reduce or even stop growing maize resulting into shortage of maize that year and its price going much higher. But more importantly, there would now be shortage of feeds for available poultry population leading to low productivity and even an unacceptably high level of poultry mortality. Adamawa State is determined to sort out this unbalanced implementation of our Agric Policy.



Groundnut farm



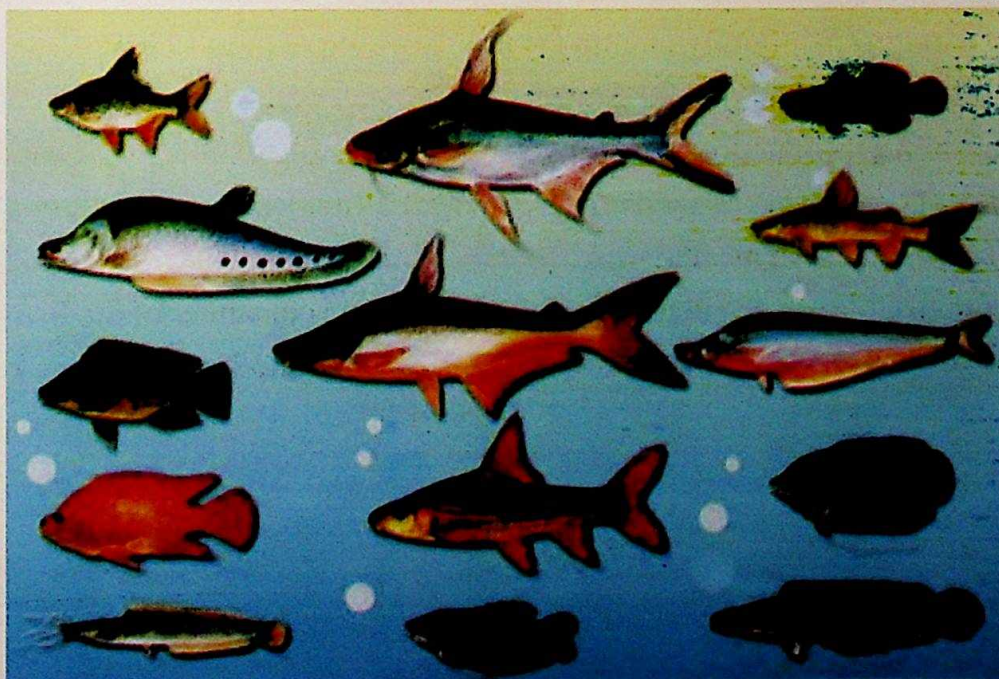
Cotton farm

Fish Production

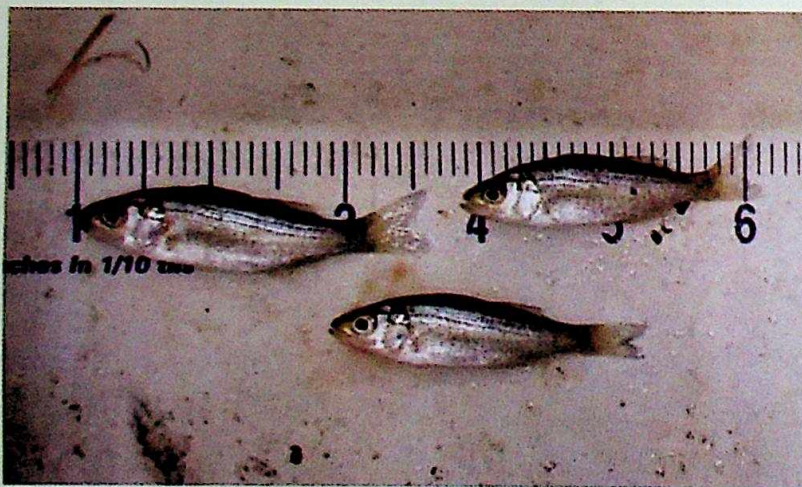
Fish products consumption is known to be vital for good health. The products are known to help in eliminating fatty substances from the blood, thus lowering the risk of heart attack, and in regulating the nervous system. They are also known to help in preventing a number of diseases including breast cancer and cardiovascular disease. Our initial effort in the State is being directed towards the production of warm water fish such as the catfish, tilapia and perhaps prawns and later the cold water fish such as salmon and trout by the connoisseurs. The long and short of it therefore, is that our people must learn aquaculture, the technique of producing the fish of our choice in a controlled condition and to consign "fishing" in small open stream to its modern usage namely recreational purposes.

Water quality is vital for optimum production of fish by aquaculture; the oxygen level in the water has to be appropriate for the fish specie. We have already introduced the use of apparatus that extracts ozone from the atmosphere and supply same into the water at our FSAC, but are yet to introduce chillers that control the water temperature and consequently the oxygen levels in the water. We should do all this if we are to grow all variety of fish in our State.

It is obvious that one of the most important inputs in the development of aquaculture is the quality of fingerling being produced locally. The State Government is, therefore, calling upon the senior stakeholders in the State to take up the challenge of producing all the various fingerlings required to make our programme of empowering our fish farmers a success. **There are presently sufficient facilities for the production of *Clarias gariepinus* (African catfish) fingerlings and new ones for *Pangasus bocourti* (Asian Catfish) being built.**



We intend to initially empower each of the 5,000 families involved with fish production with 6 in No. plastic containers of 1m³ of water with a device of enriching it with ozone air captured from the atmosphere. We are confident that such a facility would permit each family to harvest six (6) tons of catfish per annum, harvesting ½ ton of fish from each container twice a year! That would mean that at today's minimum price of catfish of ₦400 per kilogram, the family would have a gross income of ₦2.4 million per annum. This is very much achievable. The role of the elite/senior stakeholders here is to mass produce the fingerlings and the appropriate feeds that would permit a growth of a fingerling to 1 Kg in 4-4½ months at a feeds conversion ratio of not less than 1:0.5. I should emphasize here that at this rate of conversion, the family would require 12 tons of feeds/annum.



Fish fingerlings

Here again the synergy between the fish farmer and the grain farmer is obvious. For the production of 6 tons of fish/family/annum the family would require 12 tons of good fish feeds per annum. That would mean that the State's Fish Production Programme will incorporate a yearly increase of fish production from 60,000 tons of fish to 600,000 tons in the final year of the Programme. The cost of the feeds required for the first year is ₦6 billion at the rate of ₦100,000.00/ton of feeds. This undertaking would immensely benefit the grain farmer, the feeds miller, the fish farmer, the marketer and of course the consumer of the fish product. All of them, therefore, need one another and would become one another's brother's keeper in due course!!!

Horticultural Production

The climatic condition in Adamawa State with sunshine and heat throughout the year combined with abundant quality topsoil and enough rain to be harvested for irrigation permit the State fruit and vegetable farmers to produce commodities of their individual choice at will and avoiding glut supplies. These commodities can also arrive at the international market at the right time to fetch best prices. The biggest constraint to achieving all this is our farmers' very poor know-how in fruit and vegetable production coupled with the outdated varieties of our products. Our management and production technique should therefore be upgraded to squarely meet the challenges of producing enough of these commodities to meet National Food Security and international quality standards and customers' targets.

We would have to set up an effective commodity standard regulating authority that would ensure:

- **Adequate Quality of product:**- its fitness to fulfill the purpose it is being sold, namely its nutritional content. Continual improvement of seeds/seedlings is therefore very essential requiring modern laboratories and nurseries.
- **Abiding by Quality assurance:**- ensuring in the course of production and handling of the product to the customer, that all necessary measures are taken to gain/retain the confidence of the buyers. A public health scare on your product will spell disaster for your business.
- **Adherence to Quality manual:**- ensuring that the producer is guided by his regulating authority vide a document setting out the quality policies, organizations, producers and practices of the production.
- **Enforcement of Quality system audit:**- using audit/inspections to ensure strict Adherence to Quality assurance.



Mango

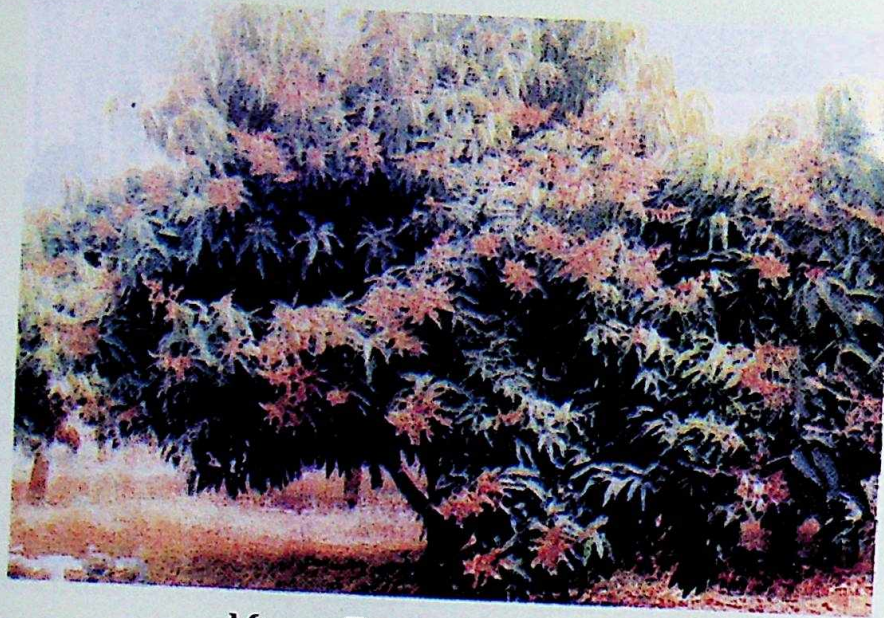


Banana

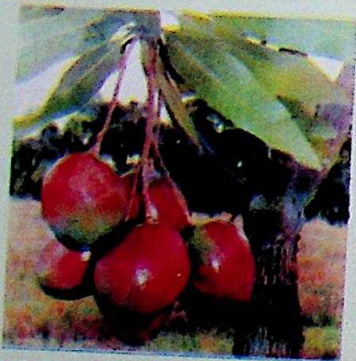


Paw-Paw (papaya)

Let me emphasize the need for continual improvement of the quality of our horticultural products. To this end, continually improved high yielding seeds and seedlings, besides new management practices and technologies would be needed. The responsibility for ensuring this and product quality control and improvement used to be on the shoulders of appropriate Marketing Boards and government agencies. We now have newly established Farmer's Commodity Development and Marketing companies for doing all these functions and to ensure they are effective. Our research Scientists, too, need to come up, with various cultivars from our existing numerous plants such as cocoa, mango, 'dinya', 'kurna' etc if we are to move these plants from the category of being 'wild' to 'commercial' trees.



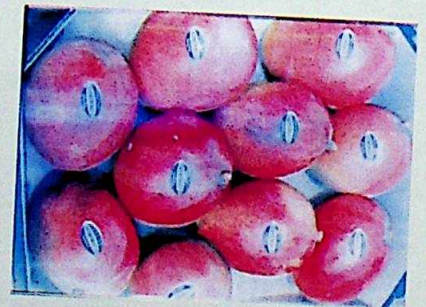
Mango Tree in Sebore Farms



Mango fruits on tree



Final inspection of Mango packaging by Founder of Sebore Farms



Packaged mango



Melon field



Melon harvesting



Melon packaging



Water melon



Packaged melon

We should also have to ensure that on reaching the consumer/customer the product is:-

Physically:

- ❖ Intact
- ❖ Firm
- ❖ Fresh in appearance
- ❖ Sound
- ❖ Clean, practically free from any visible foreign matter

Free from:

- ❖ Black stains or trails which extended under skin
- ❖ Marked bruising
- ❖ Damage caused by low temperature
- ❖ Abnormal external moisture
- ❖ Any foreign smell and/or taste
- ❖ Pests
- ❖ Damage caused by pests

Sufficiently developed and display satisfactory ripeness

Carefully picked at the state of physiological development to allow:

- ❖ Continuation of ripening process to appropriate degree of corresponding variety characteristics.
- ❖ To arrive in satisfactory condition at the place of destination.

The product must also be totally safe in its production and handling and conforms to the international "Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points" growing system which signifies any potential hazard, in production cycle, under the microscope; no rush into the use of chemicals and/fertilizer. It is now a preventive system approach.

Ability to Achieve Quality Products and Export Targets

Our producers must cut the risks of having low and erratic quantities of products, leading to disappointment in target achievements from season to season. This requires constant availability of water from dams, or boreholes good management and effective irrigation systems; marketers would consider our producers unreliable if production targets are not met. It is better to produce much more than targets and sell only the best from our productions.



Mayo-Ine Dam

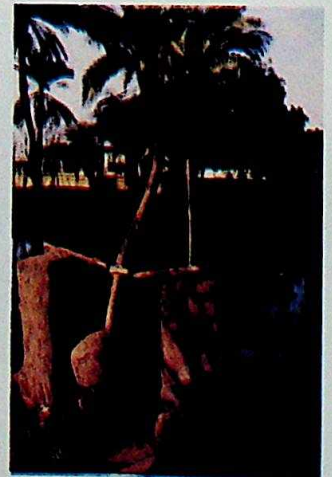


Sebore Dam



Kiri Dam

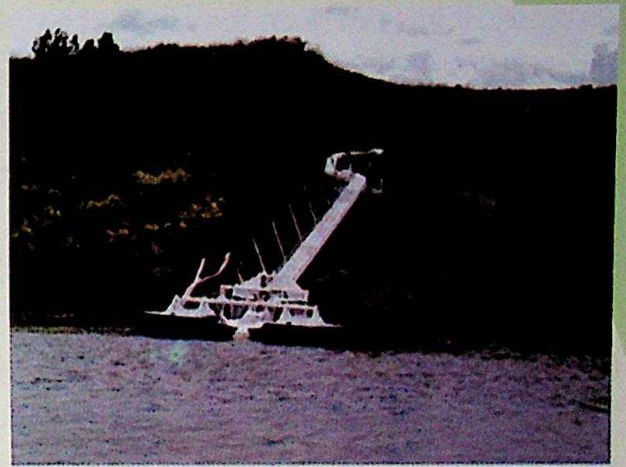
Also we should control the harvesting period to enable the products arrive at the markets at the right time as failure to do so might lead to glut supply with attendant disaster on expected returns from sales. The key to this is again constant availability of irrigation water. Producers must also require improved seeds/seedlings, because the domestic ones are genetically inferior to the exotic ones in facilitating marketing flexibility for harvesting and longer transit period.



Shadoof Irrigation system commonly being practiced in Northern part of Nigeria



Surface Irrigation



Siphon irrigation



Sprinkler irrigation



Basin flood irrigation

Presentation of Products to Customers

Another challenge is how to make an attractive presentation of the product to customers, however healthy and tasty it might be. It should be packaged in correct sizes and colours. The carton or whatever container must be well designed not only to withstand up to one ton pressure of Aircraft take-off and landing and during haulage, but it must also look good. A well packaged horticultural product attracts more consumers and leads to higher sales or even special pricing.

Certainly, it has not been easy to find a right Resource person(s) to be deployed at our FSAC for upgrading horticultural products, and getting our farmers/producers to achieve the foregoing, but we must do so! We must try because we know that whatever effort we put in it would be worthwhile. There is a lot of money to be made if one could produce a horticultural product of the right quality and quantity at the right time and to package and deliver it in good condition to the customer(s) wherever he/she is. We must do all this in the nearest future!

Government Support for Horticultural Commodity Production

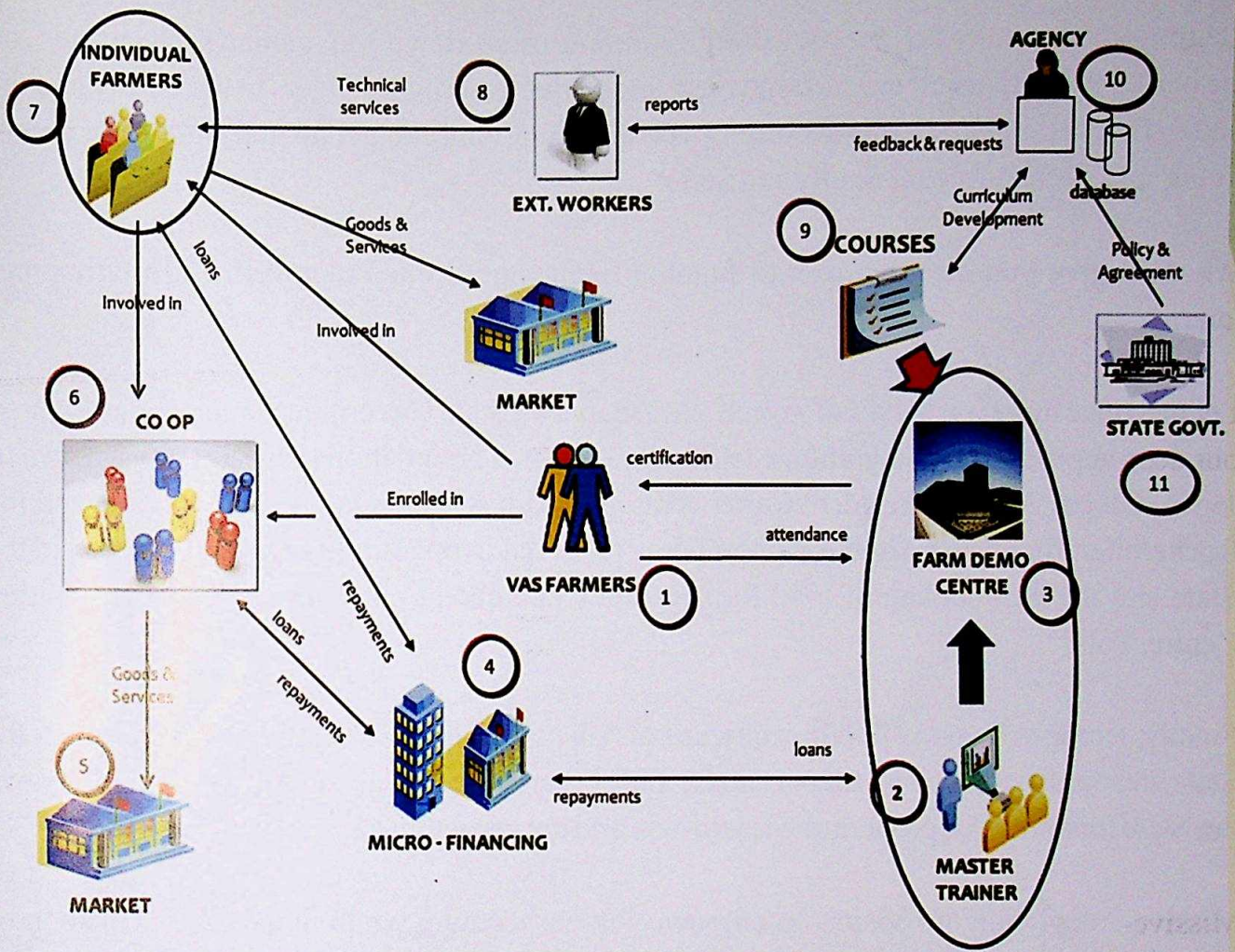
The 2,500 horticultural commodity producers to be empowered annually would certainly require strong public support to make their undertakings profitable. We should start thinking of supplying them with reticulated water along their farmlands just as we do for electricity. The Government should support in finding new improved seeds and seedlings, the production package of each, the technique of each, the packaging of each, the storage system of each and the freighting method of each etc.

Processing and Marketing of Agric Products

For instance, the farmer would produce the milk at his farm and the dairy man must now process the milk into yogurt, cheese, butter, ice-cream etc; the cattle and goat meat and that of the poultry bird and fish should also be properly processed and packaged. All must be conveyed to the customer in aseptic containers and by appropriate transportation means. Jobs galore for the boys and girls! It is to be noted that as our agric development sharpens, less and less people would be involved in food production, but more and more people would be involved in food processing and marketing. It is said that there is today less than 3% of the US population involved in food production but there are over 21% of the population involved in food processing, transportation and marketing. The 2,500 families being earmarked for this task would, therefore, easily find jobs and very good livelihood in the business of horticultural product processing and marketing.

The Vision

The sum total of the foregoing is that our Administration has a very clear vision on how to empower our **farming populace** and eradicate poverty in our midst over the years. We are determined that our Programme of supporting 36,000 families annually to 'work' themselves into an acceptable standard of living is feasible. And let me assure all those that would be involved in it that the Administration is resolved to achieve the objectives of the Programme. It is now for the affected families to be so resolved. Our organogram to achieve this is as given below.



Lest we forget: the main purpose of the Grassroot Empowerment Programme of our Administration is to support a family of 8 members to earn N1.0 (one million Naira) per annum net that will translate to US \$2.55/day per member of an 8 man family. We would maintain our approach to the task simple, but effective.

Empowering our people will permit us to collect more taxes on their improved incomes, thus facilitating more internally generated revenue for development of the State. The present situation of having the largest number of people without work and very few people gainfully employed and with very low taxable incomes forces the State to be virtually totally dependent on stagnant revenue 'Allocation' from Crude oil sales on monthly basis. This is unacceptable not only because of its dire economic consequences of dwindling per Capita income, but also its increasing adverse social (political) impact on our people. Let's all earn decent taxable incomes for a better standard of living and our self respect in addition to speedily building-up the State's internally generated revenue. The Nyako Administration is pushing hard to create the necessary environment for you to raise your family incomes using, in this case, the Agric potential of the State. Let us all apply ourselves to achieve accordingly!!!

Let me say once more that the prevailing syndrome of 'sit-down-see', zaman kashe wando, on the part of many of us means more poverty and portends serious dangers to the family and the State. This Administration is according you the opportunity to get up and fight for a decent living for the glory of your family and State.

We shall give you our approach to funding/financing all our Empowerment programmes later.

Let me, once more, on behalf of myself, the Adamawa State Government and people, express our deep appreciation and gratitude to Sasakawa Africa Foundation made up of Sasakawa of Japan, Global 2000 of President Carter centre US, Bill & Melinda Gate Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation for the support being rendered in upgrading grains production in the State and the introduction of food fortification technique at our Farming Skill Acquisition Centre, Yola.

Finally, let me call upon all fellow citizens of Adamawa State and all those that reside in the State and our friends and partners at home and abroad to help in achieving the Vision to move our State forward. Our programme is win-win and not zero-sum gain!

Missive-2 depicting our Vision on empowering our teeming youth in the State will soon be out.

May the Almighty bless our effort with success, Ameen!

