



Effects of Budgetary Processes in Enhancing Agricultural Development in Ebonyi State

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Abstract

Agricultural development is important and strategic to economic and national development of Nigerian. Agriculture employs greater number of rural population; yet, it has been neglected in Ebonyi State, with little or no financial attention. Poor attention to agriculture has affected its mandates of solving food insecurity, youth unemployment, poverty, rural-urban migration, etc. Available statistics show that from 2011 to 2021, government budgets to the agricultural sector remained poor in relation to Maputo declaration, that 10% annual budgets be set aside for agricultural production. This problem becomes more worrisome as the meagre allocations were not completely released. The general objective of this study is to determine the effects of budgetary process in enhancing agricultural development in Ebonyi State. The paper was built on modernization theory to clearly show that agricultural development in Ebonyi State could be developed through increased budgetary allocations in line with Maputo declaration. Data were collected by administering 399 questionnaires to respondents, and interview of 6 key-informants, using in-depth interview method. Data from questionnaire were analysed using percentages and frequencies, while data from in-depth interview were analysed using narrative technique. Findings showed that allocation of 10% of annual budget enhances agricultural development in Ebonyi State; and reduction in food insecurity, poverty, unemployment, income inequality, and rural-urban migration are the effects of budgetary process on agricultural development in Ebonyi State. It was recommended, that Ebonyi State House of Assembly should increase agriculture budgetary allocations to 10%, to mitigate negative effects of inadequate budgetary process on agricultural development.

Keywords: Budget; Budgetary Process; Agriculture; Development; Agricultural Development.

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Introduction

Agricultural development is a multi-sectional activity that supports and promotes positive changes in the rural and urban areas. The main purposes of agricultural development are the improvement of material and social welfare of the people. As such agricultural development is viewed as same with rural development. The two concepts are different, yet essentially related. Agricultural development is an integral part of rural development; as no rural society develops without the development of agriculture. This is because 90% of rural population engage in agricultural practice as their source of revenue (Udemezue&Osegbue, 2018).

Agricultural development is to improve the material and social welfare of Nigerian people, yet, only ₦40 billion was appropriated for agricultural research and development in Nigeria, in 2019 budget. The budget for agriculture was 1.8% or (₦183 billion) of total budget size in 2020, far below 10% Maputo Declaration (Oyaniron, 2020). To remedy the situation, the federal government made efforts at revitalising agriculture to spur economic development by adopting agricultural policies and programmes like: Farm Settlement Scheme (FSS), in the mid-1950s, River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs), meant to ensure steady water resources for famers, Green Revolution, Agricultural Development Programmes (ADP), etc, (Ogbodo, 2019). Despite the efforts, budgetary process has not significantly improved agricultural production in Nigeria.

Similarly, Ebonyi State government has made some interventions in agricultural development by selecting and training youths in agricultural production at Songhai Agricultural Centre in Benin Republic, providing start-off loan facility, establishment of rice mills with parboiling plants, procuring and distributing tractors to farmers for increased farm production (Ebonyi State Ministry of Agriculture, 2015). Yet, agricultural development in Ebonyi State is confronted by many challenges despite the interventions, and the budgetary allocations to the sector by the state government over the years. In 2016, agriculture received 2.16% of the total capital expenditure of ₦62.397 billion naira (Ebonyi State Budget, 2017). The budgetary allocation to agriculture in 2017 was ₦5,554,926,343 billion naira, or 4.366% of the total budget of ₦127.233 billion naira, of which only ₦1,603,232,790 billion naira, or 1.2% of the budget was released. In 2018,



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Ebonyi State had a budget of ₦6,153,472,000 billion naira for agriculture, or 2.954% of the total revised budget of ₦81,333,102,377.34k, only ₦1,879,613,815.97k or 2.31% of the revised budget was released (Ebonyi State Budget, 2020). This trend did not change in 2019, 2020, and 2021 as agriculture received budgetary allocations of 2.83%, 2.11% and 1.62% of the total budgets respectively, (Ebonyi State Budget, 2020 & 2021). These allocations are not in conformity with Maputo Declaration of African Union (AU) Heads of States and Governments in 2003, which sets to achieve 6% annual growth rate of agriculture, with member nations setting aside 10% of national budget for agricultural development. This shows that agricultural development in the state has been hampered by inadequate budgetary processes, in relation to the two variables. Therefore, this paper is geared towards the examination of the effect of budgetary process in enhancing agricultural development in Ebonyi State.

Statement of the Problem

Agricultural development is important and strategic to economic and national development of Nigerian. Agriculture employs greater number of rural population, yet, it has been neglected in Ebonyi State, with little or no financial attention. Poor attention to agriculture has affected its mandates of solving food insecurity, youth unemployment, poverty, rural-urban migration, etc. Available statistics showed that from 2011 to 2021, government budgets to agricultural sector have remained poor in relation to Maputo declaration; that 10% of annual budgets be set aside for agricultural. This problem becomes more worrisome as the meagre allocations were not completely released. In 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015, the state government allocated less than 3% of the annual budgets to the agricultural sector (Ebonyi State Budget, 2011; 2012; 2013; 2014; & 2015). In 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, the State budgeted N2,184,224,663; N1,603,232,970; N6,153,472,000; N1,879,613,815.97; N1,301,627,684.36; and N3.7 billion respectively to agriculture. In 2021, N1,193,320,000 was allocated to agriculture (Ebonyi State Budget, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, & 2020). This shows that budgets to agricultural sector was less than 3% in 2016 and 2017, but in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, it further declined to less than 2%, which exacerbated food insecurity, unemployment, poverty, rural-urban migration etc, which directly impinged on economic development of the state, by the insignificant contribution of agriculture to the internally generated revenue. Agriculture contributed less than 18.94% of



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the expected revenue in 2018, less than 1.62% in 2019, and 0.059% in 2021 (Ebonyi State Budget Performance, 2020).

Over the years, administrations in the state created some intervention policies and programmes in agriculture to upscale agricultural production. Such policies and programmes include, distribution of improved seedlings, loans and subsidies, training of farmers on improved farming methods, distribution of tractors to enhance farmers' productive capacities etc. The outcome of the programmes and policies has remained, marginal in agricultural production, thereby denying the State her desire to achieve robust agricultural development (Umahi, 2017). Therefore, it becomes pertinent to determine the effects of budgetary process in enhancing agricultural development in Ebonyi State.

Research Questions

For in-depth assessment of the research problem, the following relevant questions were pertinent.

- i. How does budgetary process enhance agricultural development in Ebonyi state?
- ii. What are the effects of budgetary process in enhancing agricultural development in Ebonyi State?

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to determine the effects of budgetary process in enhancing agricultural development in Ebonyi State. The specific objectives of this study are; to:

- i. evaluate how budgetary process enhances agricultural development in Ebonyi State.
- ii. determine the effects of budgetary process on agricultural development in Ebonyi State.

Research Propositions

- i. Allocation of 10% of the State annual budget can enhance agricultural development in Ebonyistate.



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ii Reduction in food insecurity, poverty, unemployment, income inequality and youth rural-urban migration are the effects of budgetary process on agricultural development in Ebonyi state.

Conceptual Clarification

Budget

Budget and budgeting had been an age-long practice. Studies conducted by (Lucey, 2002), (Adams, 2004), (Lewis, 2007), and (Babalola, 2008), cited in Garuba and Oghuma (2018), showed that budget is a basic tool for aggregating the overall goals and objectives of private and public organisations by determining the likely sources of revenues, and the goals the funds will be channelled into, and allow evaluation of the performance of the people entrusted with such resources. A budget is an exhaustive plan of intended expenditure and revenue for a set period of time, mostly one year.

Budget is the most essential document government produces that drives its policy priorities. Budget is a major political document that is at the centre of the success of every government. It identifies and targets at government annual major concerns, focus, and direction (Aliegba, 2017). The above definitions did not significantly capture the purpose of this paper. This study defines budget as an annual financial and nonfinancial policy priorities or programmes of Ebonyi state government set out in an instrument that contains the receivable financial revenues and expenditures with the expected goals of enhancing agricultural development, that is prepared by the executive and approved by the State Assembly, and signed into law by Ebonyi State governor.

Budgetary Process

Budgetary process has been defined by many scholars such as Agunyomi (2004) cited in Aliegba (2017), (Okolie and Eze, 2006), cited in Ugwuanyi, Nworji and Oruebuor (2015), (Abdullia, 2008), reported in Garuba and Oghuma (2018), Ugwuzor and Ogbuka (2017), among others. From their definitions, the budgetary process involves the selection of essential projects, or programmes to be executed. It is the process where scarce resources are allocated in the most efficient manner to tackle most essential needs and problems. Budgetary process is meant to



achieve certain prime objectives, like reduction in inflationary pressures to sustain growth and development, increase employment opportunities, reduce poverty, and to achieve set goals.

Therefore, in this study, budgetary process means the allocation of funds, release of funds for programmes, and its legislative oversights geared towards enhancing agricultural production as contained in the annual budgets of Ebonyi State, for agricultural development.

Development

Many scholars such as Seers (1969), Rodney (1972), Ake (1982), (Sen,1999), Ibi-Ajayi(2003), cited in Ogbodo, (2019), among others have defined development in various ways. This shows development is a concept that has generated a lot of controversy in intellectual and political discourse, as it is multi-dimensional in nature. Their divergent perspectives of the concept showed that it can be viewed from a number of angles, ranging from development as a long-term process of structural societal transformation, development as a short-to-medium term outcome of desirable targets, and development as a dominant discourse of western modernity.

Therefore, development in this study is the transformation of agriculture, the individual farmers and the farming communities in Ebonyi State from deprivation of budgetary allocation, agricultural education, research information, technology, improved seedlings, pesticides, herbicides, farm inputs, farm lands, agricultural loans and grants, to freedom of choice to access all the materials and technical know-how necessary, and required in achieving increased agricultural production in Ebonyi State; that translates to increase in farmers' income, sustenance, and overall livelihood of the communities.

Agricultural Development

With respect to agricultural development, (Ogpalo,1997), cited in Ogbodo (2019), Gates Foundation (2011), Udemezue&Osegbue (2018), among others, defined the concept by tracing the history of agriculture from the beginning of civilisation. From their definitions, it is clear that agricultural development began by the discovery of plants, herbs, nuts, seeds, fruits etc as edible things for the sustenance of livelihood. This can be said to be the origin of agricultural development. This idea continued to the age of farming, up to the discovery of implements that



helped man to expand his farming ability. It is the idea to expand farming ability and agricultural production, that continued to evolve up to the industrial revolution of the western world.

Udemezue, and Osegbue (2018), contributed to the definition by examining the main purposes of agricultural development which they tied to the improvement of material and social welfare of the people. As such agricultural development is viewed as same with rural development, as it addresses the challenges hindering agricultural practices, in rural areas; like the soil conditions, inadequate seeds supply, fertilizers, irrigation, diseases, and weather conditions. However, these definitions of agricultural development are not significantly aligned to the purpose of this paper. Therefore, agricultural development in this study means the use of budget allocations, budget releases, and legislative oversights in enhancing soil condition, providing adequate seed supplies, fertilizers, disease control, research, technology, security, physical infrastructures like good road network, water irrigation, etc, and general support to farmers for increased agricultural production.

Empirical Review of Related Literature

Budgetary Process and Agricultural Development in Nigeria

Iloh, and Nwokedi (2016) researched on budget processes and participatory budgeting in Nigeria, with the view of drawing lessons from Latin America to elucidate the best processes the Nigerian budgetary process could follow for the desired development goals using Marxist theory. The study observed that the Nigerian publics were not adequately involved in the budgetary process. It highlighted the importance of citizens' participation in governance especially budgeting, and the implementation, as it is the core of good governance. However, it has not paid attention to how budgetary process enhances agricultural development in Ebonyi state.

Jacho and Salau (2015), researched on the social mobilisation as the missing link in Nigeria's quest to attend food security. The study was aimed at finding how smallholder farmers could be socially mobilised by government in addressing the increasing need of access to quality and abundant food supply in the country. The result of the study showed that agricultural development initiatives meant to enhance food security performed minimally due to government commitment towards mass importation of agricultural equipment, thereby neglecting social



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mobilisation of smallholder farmers towards agricultural production. However, Jacho and Salau (2015), did not study how budgetary process could enhance agricultural development in Ebonyi State, which is important to this study. Nwibo, Umeh, Eze, Nwofeke and Mbam (2018) wrote on contributions of homestead agriculture to food security among urban households in Abakailiki metropolis of Ebonyi State. The purpose of the study was to determine the contributions of homestead agriculture to food security in Abakailiki metropolis of Ebonyi State. It was discovered, among other things, that homestead farmers in Abakailiki metropolis mainly engaged in the production of bitter leaf (65.8 %), spinach (71.7 %) as well as cassava and yam (66.7 %). However, the authors did not study how the budgetary process could be deployed to enhance agricultural development in Ebonyi State.

Effects of the Budgetary Process on Agricultural Development in Nigeria

Oserei, Abdulquadri, Muhammed and Daramola (2022) examined the impact analysis of budgetary allocations on Nigerian agricultural sector performance. Data for the study were collected from secondary source and analysed using regression analysis. Findings revealed budgetary allocations to agricultural sector in Nigeria has been very low, averagely 1.5%, which is below 10%, Maputu Declaration. This finding is fairly related to this paper. However, the findings did not determine the effects of budgetary process on agricultural development in Ebonyi State.

Iganigan and Unehilin (2011) examined the linkage between agricultural output and government expenditure in Nigeria. Findings from the study showed that government capital expenditure was positively related to agricultural output. They concluded that investment in agricultural sector is crucial to agricultural growth rate, but the findings failed to determine the effects of budgetary process on agricultural development in Ebonyi State, which is the focus of this paper. Ogunyemi and Adedokun (2012) examined annual budgetary allocation to agriculture, rural income distribution, agricultural growth and development in Nigeria from 1985 to 2005. The paper compared percentage budgetary allocation to agriculture in Nigeria, with the percentage recommendations to the sector by multilateral institutions. Findings revealed that Nigeria's budget distribution to agriculture was very low and inconsistent; with average percentage budget



distribution between 2 to 5% against the recommended 10 to 25% by African Union (AU) and Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) respectively. The mean and variance of budgetary allocation were, N14,043.12 million, and N421,057,420. Million respectively, while rural income inequality reduced between 1996 and 2004, when allocation increased from 0.9% to 3%. Therefore, the paper did not determine the effects of budgetary process on agricultural development in Ebonyi State.

Theoretical Framework

Modernisation Theory

This paper adopts modernisation or bourgeois political economy paradigm of Marx Weber perspective as the theoretical framework of this study. Modernisation theory originated from the ideas of German sociologist, Max Weber (1864-1920), but was further developed by Talcott Parsons (1902-1979). The theory is about the process of social and political changes through which the industrialised west passed through to achieve capitalist economic order and liberal democratic political system. This theory is majorly, the development prescription by the western social scientists and political thinkers, which the traditional societies and cultures in the third world countries must undergo, to achieve modern industrialised culture of the West. The tenets of modernisation theories are: Societies develop by passing through stages of evolution; these evolutionary stages are based on different degrees and patterns of social differentiation and reintegration of structural and cultural components that are functionally compatible for the maintenance of the society; contemporary developing societies are at the traditional stage of evolution and will achieve economic development and take on the social, political, and economic features of western Europe and North American societies that have progressed to the highest stage of social evolutionary development; and this modernisation will emerge as complex western technology is imported and traditional structural and cultural features incompatible with such development are overcome (Eisentadt, 1966 cited in Amer and Katsillis, n.d.).

This theory offers explanation on the steps Ebonyi State can take in order to improve their farming activities and their overall agricultural production. This theory proffers transition from the traditional farming practices of Ebonyi state rice farmers to modernised mechanised farming



method that guarantees agricultural development in the State. The theory is centred on Western Europe and North American culture and sociology, without recourse to Ebonyi State historical agricultural practices.

Research Methodology

The design of this study is a mixed research design involving survey research and historical research designs. The population of the study is 643,688 comprising inhabitants of Abakaliki local government area(LGA), 198,100; Ikwo LGA, 284,400;and Ivo LGA, 160,600; the Budget Office in the Ministry of Finance 236;the Rural development office in Ministry of Agriculture 228; Public Accounts in Ebonyi State Auditor-General Office 114; and House Committees on Agriculture and Appropriation in the State House of Assembly 10. Sample size of the study was 399 respondents which was gotten through the use of Krejcie and Morgan Sample size formula. Also, 6 experts were interviewed on the basis of their knowledge about issues on effect of budgetary process in enhancing agricultural development in Ebonyi State. Data were collected by administering 399 questionnaires to respondents, and in-depth interview of 6 key-informants, using in-depth interview method. Data from questionnaire were analysed using percentages and frequencies, while data from in-depth interview were analysed using narrative technique. Also, content analysis was used for all secondary data collected for this study.

Data Presentation, Analysis, and Discussion of Findings

Statement of Research Question (1): How does budgetary process enhance agricultural development in Ebonyi State?

Data from the questionnaire showed that 130(39.6%) of the respondents agreed that budget allocations enhance the supply of improved rice and yam seedlings to farmers in Ebonyi State, while majority of the respondents, 152(46.3%) agreed that adequate budget allocation is essential for the availability of fertilizers to rural farmers in Ebonyi State. Again, 147(44.8%)of the respondents strongly agreed that legislative oversights on funds allocated to agricultural programmes were vital for the provision of transport and water irrigation infrastructure for farm production in Ebonyi State. Also, 173(52.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed that budget performance monitoring could lead to proper use of funds allocated to agriculture for enhanced



farm production in the State. Equally, the study showed that 160(48.8%) of the respondents agreed that allocation of 10% of the total annual budget to agriculture is the bedrock of enhancing mechanisation of rice and yam farming in Ebonyi State, while majority of the respondents strongly agreed that budget allocation, budget monitoring, and oversight were necessary for agricultural development in the State. Finally, majority of the respondents, 180(54.9%) opined that budgetary process enhances agricultural development through improved budget allocation.

The result from the primary sources of data in this study is minimally related to the findings of previous studies in the areas of issues covered and findings.

Nwibo, Umeh, Eze, Nwofoke and Mbam (2018) found that homestead farmers in Abakaliki metropolis mainly engage in the production of bitter leaf, spinach, cassava and yam, which is different from this study in the area of variables studied. The findings did not show if there is connection between budgetary allocations, releases, and oversight functions and increased production of rice as established in this study.

While, Ilo and Nwokedi (2016) found that participatory budgeting is not feasible in Nigeria. Besides, Jacho and Salau (2015) assert that agricultural development initiatives meant to enhance food security performed marginally due to government commitment towards mass importation of agricultural production, which is slightly related to the findings of this study in the area of improved agricultural production through effective budgetary allocation and release. Okonkwo, Ukaogo, Kenechukwu, Nwanshindu and Okeagu (2021) found that rice production in Abakaliki from 1942 to 1966 was supported by Nigerian economy in terms of foreign exchange. This is related to the findings of this study on how increase in agricultural production can enhance economic development in Nigeria, which is a necessary condition for improved agricultural production, when agricultural development is driven by increased budgetary allocations and releases to agricultural sector in Ebonyi State.

The findings from this study significantly support research proposition (1), showing that allocation of 10% of the State annual budget to agriculture can enhance agricultural development in Ebonyi State. This is because findings of the study showed how effective budgetary allocation



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enhances supply of improved rice and yam seedlings to farmers, enhances availability of fertilizers to rural farmers, and enhances the provision of transport and water irrigation infrastructures for farm production. Also, budget performance monitoring ensures proper use of funds allocated to the agricultural sector for improved farm production in Ebonyi State. Specifically, findings showed that when budgetary allocation to agricultural sector is up to 10% of the annual budget of Ebonyi State, it would increase the level of agricultural mechanisation in the State, which directly leads to improved agricultural production. However, this cannot be achieved without adequate budget allocation, budget release, and budget oversight which were found very essential for agricultural development in Ebonyi State. Therefore, budgetary process enhances agricultural development in Ebonyi State, through improved budget allocation which must not be below 10% of the State annual budget in line with Maputo Declaration.

The findings of this study show that societies develop by passing through stages of evolution; these evolutionary stages are based on different degrees and patterns of social differentiation and reintegration of structural and cultural components that are functionally compatible for the maintenance of the society. This is true given that when Ebonyi State government evolves from allocating less than 2% (percent) of her annual budget that had stunted agricultural development, in the state to allocating 10% percent, it would achieve modern mechanised agriculture. Thereby acquiring modern farming culture that obliterates the traditional farming culture. This modern farming culture would enhance the state economy that leads to development of the state.

The findings of this study, unlike the previous studies clearly showed that effective budgetary process can enhance agricultural development in Ebonyi State. This finding aligned with the basic tenets of Modernisation theory, especially the place of societies developing by passing through stages of evolution. This means, if Ebonyi State moves from poor, to adequate fund allocation to agriculture that can transform rice and yam production from traditional method to modern mechanised production, it will achieve agricultural development. Therefore, research proposition (1), allocation of 10% of State annual budget can enhance agricultural development in Ebonyi State, is valid.



Statement of Research Question (II):What are the effects of budgetary process have on agricultural development in Ebonyi State

Survey showed that 193(58.8%) of the respondents agreed that efficient budgetary allocation enhances rice and yam production in Ebonyi State, while 137(41.8%) of the respondents agreed that enhanced budget allocation to agricultural sector increases farming activities among youths in the rural communities of Ebonyi State. Also, 137(41.8%) of the respondents agreed that enhanced budget allocation to agricultural sector increases farming activities among youths in the rural communities of Ebonyi State, while 211(64.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that mechanised rice and yam farming in Ebonyi State could diversify the state revenue earnings. The data indicated that 237(72.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that mechanised rice and yam production could generate employments for the citizens of Ebonyi State, while majority of the respondents 177(54%) agreed that an enhanced budgetary allocation, releases, and legislative oversights on agricultural sector could reduce food insecurity, unemployment, income inequality, and rural-urban migration in Ebonyi State. Also, 110(33.4%) of the respondents agreed that budgets could affect food insecurity. The results from the primary sources in this study were relatively related to the findings of previous studies in the areas of location, time, variables covered, and findings made.

Oserei, Abdulquadri, Muhammed and Daramola (2022) found that budgetary allocations to agricultural sector in Nigeria over the years has been very low with a total average of 1.5, which is below Maputu declaration. This supports the findings from this study by establishing a nexus between budgetary allocations and agricultural outputs in Nigeria generally. Similarly, findings by Iganigani and Unehiln (2011) revealed that government capital expenditure was positively related to agricultural output in Nigeria, while Ogunyemi and Adedokun (2012) found that Nigeria's budget distribution to agriculture was very low and inconsistent as it is 2 to 5%, which is below 10% and 25% allocations recommended by AU and FOA respectively. This showed that poor allocations to agriculture reduced agricultural output in Nigeria, but the findings did not cover rice production in Ebonyi State.

The findings of this study support research proposition (II), showing that reduction in food insecurity, poverty, unemployment, income inequality, and youth rural-urban migration are the



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effects of budgetary process on agricultural development in Ebonyi State. This is because findings of this study showed how efficient fund allocation to the agricultural sector resulted in enhanced rice and yam production in Ebonyi State that would lead to robust revenue base for the state. Such revenue base is capable of driving the economy to absorb the teeming unemployed youths. The findings also highlighted that enhanced budget allocation to agricultural sector spurs increased farm activities among rural youths in Ebonyi State, meaning youths engagement in farming activities reduced rural-urban migration. The study further showed how increased farming activities through enhanced budgetary allocation, led to increased income of the farmers in Ebonyi State which attracted farm expansion, increased farming capacity and improved agricultural productivity. This means increased economic wellbeing of the citizens, as improved agricultural productivity would positively affect production, transportation, marketing, packaging, distribution and consumption. Findings of this study further showed that mechanised rice and yam farming could diversify Ebonyi State revenue earnings. The rice and yam value chains are capable of providing sustainable economic growth for Ebonyi State, with revenues accruing from various production and distribution sectors of the value chains. Such economic growth jumpstarts the economy to ensure creation of jobs, sustainable incomes, food security, rural youth engagement, security and community wellbeing.

The findings of this study showed that societies develop by passing through stages of evolution; that are based on different degrees and patterns of social differentiation and reintegration of structural and cultural components that are functionally compatible for the maintenance of the society; These postulations are true because agricultural development of rice and yam production in Ebonyi State is hinged on efficient fund allocation to the sector that would guarantee robust revenue base for the State. Therefore, increased agricultural production is determined by the farmers, the farming communities, and the State evolving from the traditional stage of agricultural practice to modern mechanised practice. Also, the findings showed that enhanced rice and yam production is dependent on mechanised farming made possible, by enhanced budget allocation. This means agricultural development is dependent on the development of the productive forces; that is, the development of Ebonyi State farmers' physical and mental capacity to farm, the farmlands, and the farming tools. That is to say, development of the Ebonyi State



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farmers' intellects on how to irrigate arid land to make it arable, how to make rice and yam nurseries, plant seedlings, apply pesticides, herbicides etc .Also, the development of means of farming, the farm practice, technology, in terms of methods of input-output applications, the farm implements, tractors, ploughs, harvesters etc, together constitute mechanised farming. The above support the assertion of modernisation theory that societies develop by passing through stages of evolution; that are based on different degrees and patterns of social differentiation and reintegration of structural and cultural components that are functionally compatible for the maintenance of the society. The findings further showed that rice and yam farm productivity can develop only when the farming practice is modernised from the use of obsolete implements to mechanised method. These, therefore validate proposition (ii).



Conclusion

This paper was centred on the examination of effect of budgetary process in enhancing agricultural development in Ebonyi State. The study revealed that allocation of 10% of State annual budget enhances agricultural development in Ebonyi State; and reduction in food insecurity, poverty, unemployment, income inequality, and youth rural-urban migration are the effects of budgetary process on agricultural development in Ebonyi State. On the basis of the above findings, it is concluded that unless budgetary allocations and releases to agricultural sector in Ebonyi State is increased to meet up with Mapotu Declaration, improved agricultural development in the state would not be achieved.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are important in solving the challenges identified in this paper; Ebonyi State House of Assembly should urgently carry out oversight function on the agricultural programmes in the state to adequately harness the benefits of budgetary process in enhancing agricultural development in the State.

- i. Ebonyi State House of Assembly is to increase budgetary allocations to agriculture to 10% of the state's annual budget to mitigate negative effects of inadequate budgetary process on agricultural development in Ebonyi State.
- ii. Ebonyi State House of Assembly is to increase budgetary allocations to agriculture to 10% of the state's annual budget to mitigate negative effects of inadequate budgetary process on agricultural development in Ebonyi State.

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