Summarized Academic Paper

# Introduction

The role of transport is verycrucial most especially in the agriculture and production process. The importance of transport in agriculture cannot be far-fetched from or beyond economic purpose. Transport infrastructure has the prospect to convert subsistence farming into a commercial farming system. It also has a positive and strong nexus with agricultural development.

# Abstract

Poverty and hunger are critical issues that needed urgent attention. The revitalization of rural transportation is vital to enhance agricultural output. High quality and well-managed transportation systems in rural areas will ensure smooth flow of agricultural goods and services. This study focused on investing in road transport infrastructure. Nigeria is principally an agrarian country such that most of the goods transported are agricultural related. Most of the agricultural goods are usually transported from rural areas that are unstructured. This usually results in increased transport charges, reduced vehicle availability, increased travel time, and reduced agricultural productivity. Most rural areas in Nigeria fall into this category. They are faced with multifarious challenges of basic social amenities like good roads, electricity, water, internet access, telecommunication, among others. It is saddening to note that some rural dwellers live as if they are in the primitive era. The enormous increase in oil revenue as a result of the Middle-East war of 1973 created unprecedented wealth. Road density according to the Data Catalogue of the World Bank (2013) is the ratio of the length of a country's total road network to the country's land area. Road density in most African countries as of the early 1990s do not match that of India in the 1950s. Recently in Nigeria, the World Bank offered $243 million in Implication of Transport Development Models on Agricultural Development in Nigeria. This scheme is referred to as the  Rural Access sans Mobility Project (RAMP) The scheme is targeted at constructing 500 kilometers of rural roads in four states. Development is a process of improving the general welfare of the citizenry. It seeks to improve personal security and livelihoods and expansion of life chances. Development is usually marked in the various aspects of the life such as a reduction in the level of unemployment and hunger and poverty. It also seeks to reduce pollution and environmental degradation. Frederick Lugard (1858-1945) attributed the main issue of Africa to transportation. Lugard said “give them transport, and the problem of Africa will be solved” The development of transport infrastructure in Africa led to the following enhancements: Exploration of agricultural produce and natural resources; Facilitation of effective colonial administration; Facilitating of effective security and national defense.

# Methodology

Transport systems invariably play a vital role in the growth and development of a region or a nation. There is a need to understand some basic economic and social principles that support transport development. The general formula of the model is Tij = f (Vi Wj Sij), where Tij is the interaction between location I (origin) and location J ( destination) According to Jean, Claude, and Brian (2006), if location B produces/generates something that location A requires, then the interaction is possible. The same applies in the other direction (A to B), which creates a situation of reciprocity common in commuting or international trade. The availability of the transport facility is a critical investment. Transportation also influences the cost of the commodity consumed and the purchasing power of the consumers. Agricultural hubs are moving beyond their own facilities to help contain more traffic of farm inputs and outputs. Rural transport accessibility is a cornerstone in agricultural development. The phases with emphasis on agriculture in the rural areas are: Initial, Spread and Coordinating. As the economy becomes more developed and integrated, all the ipientprincipal centers and many of the minor centers are linked in the transport system. Some road transport routes may decline if agricultural outputs are not coming forth on a commercial scale. Infrastructure plays a strategic role in producing larger multiplier effects in the agricultural growth. It is estimated that a 1 percent increase in the stock of infrastructure is associated with a 1% increase in GDP across all countries. The agricultural sector accounted for sixty (60) percent of employment in low-income countries in 1995. Agricultural development provides a crucial foundation for economic growth in both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. In India, Binswanger et al. observed that investments in rural infrastructure lowers transportation costs and thus increases farmers' access to markets. The studies carried out by the World Bank (1994) showed that the growth of farm productivity is closely linked to infrastructure. Studies show that infrastructure is essential to increase farmers’ access to input and output markets. Each additional dollar of income from agriculture generates about $2.50 of economic growth in the economy as a whole. In the more open economies of Asia, rice was more tradable than most African staple foods and local prices more easily reflected. In Nigeria, Ajiboye and Afolayan (2009) observed that inadequate supply and high cost of foodstuff is a major constraint to agricultural development. The development of transport cannot be far-fetched from or beyond spatial interaction, economic purposes, and social integration.

# Results

Rural areas will continue to remain without any form of economic value to the nation unless the government catalyzes it. Road transport investment is the most dominant mode that offers door-to-door service and links all other modes. The government of Nigeria should also invest in rail transport infrastructure to connect rural-urban areas. Rural areas and the environs should be included in government developmental plans as they are food providers. Rural areas should be empowered to monitor its usage so that any damage caused by negligence should be repaired by the offender. This will help decongest the overpopulated cities and the nation will be a better place.

# Background

Nigeria is one of the poorest countries in the world, according to the World Food Summit. The World Bank estimates that the country has a population of 1.2 billion people. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that Nigeria's population is 1.3 billion. The WHO has estimated that the average annual income of the country is $1.1 billion. Nigeria is one of the most impoverished countries in the world. Road development is a key part of the country's development plan. The World Bank has offered a $243 million grant to build rural roads in Nigeria. The French government has also offered a similar grant to the World Bank. Implication of Transport Development Models on Agricultural Development in Nigeria: An Empirical Review. Open Journal of Economics and Commerce, 7(2), 2020, pp. 28-41. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction.