

**ENHANCING THE ROLE OF CIVIL  
SOCIETIES, FARMERS AND  
COOPERATIVES IN SUSTAINABLE  
FARMING THROUGH  
DIGITALIZATION.**

# INTRODUCTION

When we say “Enhancing the Role of Civil Societies, Farmers and cooperatives in sustainable farming through digitalization, which is the purpose of this discussion we are evaluating the works of

Nigeria’s Dr. Adewunmi Adesina who was President Yar-Adua and Goodluck Jonathan Administration Agriculture Minister from 2008-2015 and now the current Executive Chairman Development Bank. Dr. Adesina

was and is the only Agricultural Minister Worldwide that mobilized Civil Societies, Farmers and Cooperatives and Digitalized farming and agriculture in real practical terms to enhance increase in Agricultural Production for the betters, to do justice the following questions had to be answered with the conclusion to give us our theme. Thus:

- 1. What is Digitalization and what role it played on sustainable
- Agricultural Production?
- 2. How Digitalization enhance Sustainable Agriculture Production
- 3. What role do civil societies, farmers and cooperative play therein.
- 4. What hinderance and limitation found and what solution were improvised to minimize the limitation if not eliminated.
- 5. What are the conclusion derived from the exercise.

# What is Digitalization?

- If Ten Information Communication Technologist or Experts are asked to define Digitalization, we shall end up with eleven definitions, with the
- eleven definition agreeing with the other ten definitions. This is so
- because the ten experts will define digitalization from each experts
- background, experience, point of view, usage or type of equipment used
- in course of his\her experience or practice. However, we shall make use of Dr. Adewunmi Adesina Experience in course of his ministerial
- program with Nigeria's Teaching Farmers with the use of Android Mobile
- Telephone, Headset with a solar charger. So, our working definition of
- digitalization shall be "The Utilization of any form of computer based
- electronic equipment used to enhance upward Agricultural production
- and the social welfare of farmer with or without internet or Worldwide web connection

- and with or without are liable source of stable
- electricity to charge the electronic equipment used. We must bear in mind that a typical farmer any where in the world work in Rural Isolated. Environment where there maybe no electric supply for charging.
- These electronic devices despite the noted electricity deficiency we except the electronic device used to be able to manifest the following roles
- expected of it and which is the ability to connect to the internet or World Wide Web to enhance agricultural upward production at a minimal cost with a maximum output in relation with the role play. The civil societies, cooperatives and farmers themselves in the next paragraph.

# The roles and how digitalization enhance sustainable agriculture production.

Many financial and managerial authority and experts, even at the World Bank Level, all agree that the most valuable asset of any organization is NOT MONEY BUT INFORMATION. This is true, because without are liable information or data other resources including human capital, money and other factor of production could not be deployed or allocated to process and attain goal or objective especially in agriculture whose end product or goal is food production which determines man's existence and survival. As a result, adequately information to a farmer crucial for the farm is the sole determinant for any agricultural production process that is needed to be enhanced to timely known via a computerized electronic device these are:

- a) The actual agricultural product needed
- b) What resources are available for the production
- c) How is source and utilizes these resources
- d) The climatic condition on ground
- e) Any other element necessary to the agricultural production such as  
fertilizers, chemical machinery needed etc.

So, with the above manifestation a bumper harvest will be the result.

The role played by the various stakeholders are as follows:

# Role played by the civil societies cooperatives and the farmer

- a)The civil societies: to be franked the only role played during the exercise by a civil society was the farmers apex body. Other civil societies and non-governmental organization especially media houses including opposition government political parties were patriotic as it seem to these bodies that the about fifteen million android handset declared by the government was a waste of public fund but which proved later to be key success of a bumper harvest that took place at the end of the day.
- However, when after the exist of Jonathan's regime and the refusal of Buhari's Administration to continue the civil societies later found that the android in the hand of these farmers proved useful as farmers were able to alert the populace when kidnappers perform there nefarious trade for ransom.
- The ability of civil societies to locate in real time insecurity in rural areas make possible for security agents to flush out these satanic people. The timely realization of security agents to curtail these kidnappers ,famine was averted. Now civil societies are putting farmers and rural dwellers into their advocacy.



b)The cooperative societies: The truth is that Dr. Adesina did not carry along structures within the cooperative movement maybe of the novelty of the service and for reasons best known to the designers of the program. Lessons learnt ring Buhari's regime shows that the cooperative movement can mobilized farmers more faster and at a lesser cost or time delay.

The distribution of agricultural inputs like fertilizers, chemical and agricultural hardware sciting the success of the agricultural sectors during the colonial and flush republic era.

However in Ogun State, the Apex cooperative body“ the Ogun State Cooperative Federation Limited (OGSCOFED) has established a unit solely for farmers cooperatives in Ogun State and have been holding meetings with the planning community so as to make the cooperatives contribute her quota to Nigeria's Agricultural Economy as done during the colonial and first republic era.

c)The farmer: The farmer who are the main beneficiaries responded positively, taking the chance to not only increase agricultural production but also to improve there welfare and social status. As mentioned earlier ,the fifteen million android phone sells distributed by the government for the program generated a lot of interest that motivate the farmers to do better.

Apart from the ability to access the internet or the World Wide Web, feedback from the field in real times directly enable the government to communicate effectively and make prompt decisions that made the program successful, example, when Cameroon republic open up the dam gater in River Benue to release more water down stream, warning of at least fourteen days were given to the farmers downstream the River Benue to evacuate harvested farm products to a safer place which would have lost due to the flooding of River Benue. This is a good example on how the Android phone digitalize equipment minimized farmers loss.

# Limitation and possible solutions

Previous paragraphs has enumerated limitations and hinderance to the digitalization program and steps taken to address these ugly manifestations.

However it is suffice to say that the digitalization of the agricultural sector be not only be continued but that more funds be provided to take advantage of the openings brought in by the link to world market via the internet and the World Wide Web to favour the rural farmers positively.

Conclusion.

Having enumerate via a case study of topic of discuss with that Nigerians experiment, I am convinced that the above topic have been fully treated.

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