

**FOOD PRODUCTION IN OKE OGUN, OYO STATE, NIGERIA,
1900 – 1999**

BY

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(UNILAG), M.A. (IBADAN)**

**A Dissertation in the Department of History,
Submitted to the Faculty of Arts
In Partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of**

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Of the

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, IBADAN, NIGERIA

MAY, 2020

ABSTRACT

Oke Ogun in Oyo North region of Oyo State has been one of the largest producers of food crops in the pre-colonial and early period of British colonial rule in southwestern Nigeria. Existing historical studies on Oke Ogun have concentrated on the socio-cultural and religious aspects of the lives of the people, with little attention to food production and its dynamics. This study was, therefore, designed to examine food production in Oke Ogun, with a view to analysing its changing patterns and effects on rural livelihood between 1900, which marked the commencement of colonial rule, and 1999 when the Oyo North Agricultural Development Programme was converted to Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme.

The study adopted the historical approach, while the interpretive design was used. Primary and secondary sources were utilised. Primary sources included oral interviews and archival materials. Archival materials such as annual reports and newspapers were obtained from the National Archives, Ibadan. Oral interviews were conducted with 40 purposively selected persons aged between 45 and 95 for their knowledge of food production in Oke Ogun. They were two lecturers, eight retired teachers, 15 farmers, eight civil servants and seven traders. Secondary sources including books, journals, dissertations, theses and papers were consulted. Data were subjected to historical analysis.

Food production was the mainstay of the rural economy in Oke Ogun prior to the advent of colonial rule. The introduction of cash crops such as tobacco and cotton to Oke Ogun in the 1930s was received with great enthusiasm among farmers due to its lucrative nature. However, it diminished the production of food crops. Land, labour, and other means of production that were used for the cultivation of food crops were redeployed for cash crop plantations. This caused eventual food scarcity in the region. In the 1950s, the Western region government identified agriculture as being fundamental to the progress of the nation so as to increase food production and self-sufficiency in food supply. The Farm Settlement Scheme of 1959 initiated by the government of Western Nigeria encouraged the youths to pursue careers in farming. The Operation Feed the Nation Programme of 1976 created significant awareness of mechanised farming system. This led to the establishment of Asamu Farms Limited, specialising in maize plantation at Okaka; Oyo North Agricultural Development Programme between 1982 and 1990, and the National Agricultural Land Development Authority between 1992 and 1999. This promoted food production in Oke Ogun. The challenges faced were inadequate funding, bad roads and the frequent attacks by Fulani herdsmen on farmers, all of which reduced interest in food crops production.

Food crops production that boosted the economy of Oke Ogun declined due to the promotion of cash crop plantations and the menace of pastoralists. Government interventions remain crucial in sustaining food crops production in Oke Ogun in the 20th Century.

Keywords: Food Production, Cash Crop Agriculture, Rural Livelihood, Food Security.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this study was carried out under my supervision by **Amosun, Timothy Alaba** for the award of the degree of Master of Philosophy in the Department of History, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

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DEDICATION

This Dissertation is dedicated to the almighty God, the author of life and my late parents, Pa. David Olaofe Ambee Akano Amosun and Mama Comfort Ayanronke Amope Amosun.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Let me first give thanks to God Almighty for the ability He has given me to accomplish this study in spite of so many challenges that came my way in the course of this MPhil programme.

My sincere and heartfelt appreciation also goes to my hardworking Lecturer and Supervisor, Prof. Olutayo C. Adesina. His constructive criticisms and useful suggestions that shaped and reshaped this project before its final status cannot be quantified. Thanks to Prof. Victor Osaro Edo and Dr. Muritala Monsuru who made themselves available for regular consultations in the course of this research. I acknowledge my Lecturers in the Department of History, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Prof. CBN Ogbogbo, Prof. S. A. Ajayi, Prof. Babatunde Sofela, Dr. Rasheed Olaniyi, Dr. David Ajayi and Dr. Mutiat Oladejo for their constant support, cooperation and contribution that gave this research focus. Thanks to Dr. Kemi Adesina also for her immense contributions to this project. All of you are greatly appreciated.

I appreciate the contributions of Revd. Prof. Dayo Ajayi of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. He was quite supportive at every stage of this programme. I appreciate Revd. Moses and Yemisi Oke, Mr. Adebimpe Aderounmu, Deacon Ajibade Adio, Mr. Elisha Opabisi and Mrs. Titilayo Opabisi, Pastor Adewoyin Favour Adewale, Olutayo Irantiola, Pastor Adeola Ojeniran, Dr. Ayo and Mrs. Grace Opatye, Mr. Segun and Seun Ajayi, Dr. Yinka and Mrs. Modupe Otepolo, Barrister Olugbenga Elemide and Mrs. Yemi Elemide who selflessly instructed and contributed, in no small measure, to the successful completion of this Thesis. I pray God will replenish you and reward all your labour of love.

The unflinching support of my wife, Dr. Mrs. Folasade Tinuke Amosun, is sincerely acknowledged. She gave her support to ensure the completion and success of this Master of Philosophy in History. Thanks for the understanding from Naomi Adesewa Olusetemipe Amosun who has been denied of my fatherly attention so many times in order to achieve this academic result. The parental support of my parents, Pa. David Ambee Amosun, and Mama Comfort Ayanronke Amosun, during the foundation stage of my informative years cannot but be acknowledged. I also appreciate my Cousin, Mama Alice Fadeke Ogundiran, who made her resources available at any point of my need right from my formative stage in life till date.

I appreciate my siblings, Elder Dayo Amosun, Mrs. Taiwo Akinteye and Mrs. Grace Adegoke for their moral, spiritual and material supports always. I am thankful to Pastor Sola Olakojo and Mrs. Florence Olakojo, Revd. Femi Alade and Mrs. Modupe Alade, Pastor Bunmi and Mrs. Bunmi Ijehin and Mr. Folarin Odulana and Mrs. Adetutu Odulana whose assistances and sacrifices I cannot estimate. I value the contribution of Mr. Jesufemi Olanrewaju who has demonstrated brotherly love in the course of my training in the University of Ibadan. I need to acknowledge the support of my friends, Mr. Felix Ajiola and Mrs. Olubunmi Olawoyin of the Department of History and Strategic Studies, University of Lagos, Akoka Lagos who availed me the opportunity to discuss and share knowledge at every point of need. Thanks to all of you and those of you whom I forget to mention your names or that space has not allowed me to mention in this acknowledgment.

Timothy Alaba Amosun

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABU	-	Ahmadu Bello University
ACP	-	Agriculture Credit Corporations
ACSF	-	Agricultural Credit Scheme Fund
ADB	-	African Development Bank
ADC	-	Agricultural Development Corporation
ADO	-	Assistant Divisional Officer
ADP	-	Agricultural Development Programme (Project)
AISU	-	Agricultural Inputs Services Unit
APMEPU	-	Agricultural Projects Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning Unit
ARD	-	Agricultural Research and Development
ARMTI	-	Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute
ASP	-	Advanced Service Package
BATC	-	British American Tobacco Company
BERDA	-	Benue Rural Development Agency
BERWASSA	-	Benue Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency
BLP	-	Better Life Programme
BNARDA	-	Benue Agricultural and Rural Development Authority
BPCC	-	Budgeting and Planning Coordinating Committee
BSP	-	Basic Service Package
CDC	-	Colonial Development Corporation
CSD	-	Commercial Services Division
DFRRI	-	Directorate for Food Road and Rural Infrastructures
DO	-	Divisional Officer

EA	-	Extension Agent
ERR	-	Economic Rate of Return
FACU	-	Federal Agricultural Coordinating Unit
FAO	-	Food and Agricultural Organization
FDA	-	Federal Department of Agriculture
FDRD	-	Federal Department of Rural Development
FEAP	-	Family Economic Advancement Programme
FEM	-	Foreign Exchange Market
FGN	-	Federal Government of Nigeria
FMAWR	-	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources
FOS	-	Federal Office of Statistics
FSC	-	Farm Service Center
FSP	-	Family Support Programme
FSS	-	Farm Settlement Scheme
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
IFAD	-	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IITA	-	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
IMF	-	International Monetary Fund
JAST	-	Journal of Agricultural Science and Technology
LBRBDA	-	Lower Benue River Basin Development Authority
LGA	-	Local Government Area
MANR	-	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Oyo State
MDT	-	Manpower Development and Training
MSADP	-	Multi-State Agricultural Development Programme
M & E	-	Monitoring and Evaluation

NACRDB	-	Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative and Rural Development
NACB	-	Nigeria Agriculture and Cooperative Bank
NAFCON	-	National Fertilizer Company of Nigeria
NAFPP	-	National Accelerated Food Production Programme
NAK/MAKPROF-		National Archives Kaduna/Makurdi Provincial Office
NAI	-	National Archives Ibadan
NAIC	-	Nigeria Agricultural Insurance Company
NIPSS	-	National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies
NNPC	-	Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation
NTC	-	Nigeria Tobacco Company
OFAR	-	On-Farm Adaptive Research
OFN	-	Operation Feed the Nation
ONADEP	-	Oyo North Agricultural Development Programme
ONPMU	-	Oyo North Project Management Unit
ONTCC	-	Oyo North Technical Coordinating Committee
OORBDA	-	Ogun Osun River Basin Development Authority
OPEC	-	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Country
OSG	-	Oyo State Government
OSWC	-	Oyo State Water Corporation
OYSADEP	-	Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme
OYSICC	-	Oyo State Investments and Credit Corporation
PBN	-	Peoples Bank of Nigeria
PCR	-	Project Completion Report
PMU	-	Project Monitoring Unit
RBDA	-	River Basin Development Authorities

SAP	-	Structural Adjustment Programme
SAR	-	Staff Appraisal Report
T&V	-	Training and Visit (Extension System)
TVD	-	Training, Visit and Demonstration
UAC	-	United African Company
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
WALDA	-	National Agricultural Hand Development Authority
WATSAN	-	Water and Sanitation Agency
WB	-	World Bank
WNDC	-	Western Nigeria Development Corporation
WRFC	-	Western Region Finance Corporation
WW	-	Word War

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Introduction

The colonial administration recognised very early the position of agriculture in the entire colonial process. As a result of this, agricultural policies were designed to intervene in the agricultural production process. The colonialists recognised the potentials of agriculture as the driving force for the economic growth of Nigeria. This was why various policies were put in place to inspire agricultural production in cash crops.¹ A major philosophy of the period was surplus extraction; and, with that doctrine, raw materials were taken and transported from the rural areas to feed the industries in metropolitan countries.² The most prevalent products included forest and sylvan products, cocoa, rubber, coffee, groundnut and palm oil.³

The colonial administrators built some basic amenities such as roads and railways to enable them exploit the available resources of our people. They also created farm schemes in different places in Nigeria. The motive of the colonialists reflected in the nature and pattern of the facilities provided and such agricultural programmes they introduced in different areas. The primary objective of the colonialists was to cart away both the agricultural and mineral resources of our people to develop Britain into a metropolitan status. The frantic economic concentration of the colonialists also discouraged the actors from promoting industrial activities, particularly the manufacturing industry. This was, in a way, to safeguard the goods and services from the metropolitans to the colonised people of Nigeria. So, the economy of the Oke Ogun people during the pre-colonial era was rooted in food production. The people of the area built their livelihood around the cultivation of innumerable food crops which provided secure streams of income and surplus food for the individuals, family and community nourishment and sustenance.

One of the major strategies adopted by the colonial government was to weaken food production which was indigenous to the Oke Ogun farmers was the introduction of Tobacco farming. They re-established cash crops to increase the income of the Oke Ogun farmers.⁴ During the period of study, many firms were involved in tobacco production in Nigeria. To

¹ Aigokhan, B. E. 2001. *Resuscitating Agricultural Production for Export*. Proceedings of the 10th Annual Conference of the Central Bank of Nigeria's Zonal Res. Units.

² Ayoola, G. B. 2001. *Essays on The Agricultural Economy I: A Book of Readings on Agricultural Development Policy and Administration in Nigeria*: Ibadan: TMA Publishers.

³ Onimode, B. 1981. Imperialism and Nigerian Development. In: Nnoli Okwudiba (Ed.): *Path to Nigerian Development*. Dakar: Codesria, pp. 80-81

⁴ Oral interview, Amosun Julius Adedayo, Age 65, Civil Servant, at Ilua, May 11th, 2013

be sure, tobacco planting as a business started in 1934 at various centres in the area. Surprisingly, most of them were abandoned as unsuitable in the following year, 1935.⁵

It was in 1961 that the United African Company launched the second cigarette producing company. The name was Kwara Tobacco Company. This was so because the company later metamorphosed into Philip Morris Nigeria Limited when the latter bought a controlling interest of the original company in 1969.⁶ There was Philip Morris Nigeria Limited with its headquarters in Ilorin that used to visit tobacco farmers working for NTC in Ogbooro, Ago-Are, Igboho and the entire axis to secretly buy tobacco leaves from Farmers.⁷ It was in Ago-Are that the production of flue-cured Tobacco farming first started where the British began to substitute locally grown tobacco for its importation.⁸ Tobacco production started in Ago-Are and was later introduced to Okaka, Igboho, Ogbooro, Tede, Irawo, Otu, Ilua, Ilero, Adekunle, Okeho and many other towns in Oke Ogun.⁹ The tobacco plantation period was from March to December of every planting year.¹⁰

As a result of these activities, myriad of food producing farmers eventually diverted their hectares of land meant for food production to involve in Tobacco production without financial benefit or compensation from the British American Tobacco Company for using their expanse of Land. It was only in Ago-Are that hectares of Land were on lease to the BATC.¹¹ In the area, Tobacco production and cultivation were carried out much in the same way that other agricultural products were cultivated. Tobacco was noted to be a yearly crop, which when harvested, they used to store for curing. Curing process involved placing tobacco leaves in a large pile in bans with tubular vents that allowed heat to escape from the storage to dry the tobacco leaves. It was generally known that when Tobacco leaves became dry, there must be low oxidation and degradation. Immediately after the harvesting, tobacco would be stored for curing. This could be by sagging, bundling or assigning in big piles with tube-shaped outlets to allow the heat to discharge.

⁵ NAI Oyo Prof file No. 1376. vol. 1 from the Agricultural Officer, Oyo Province to The Resident, Oyo Province, Oyo on Tobacco Industry". July 8th, 1939

⁶ Anthonio, O. B. and Oshun, S. "Economics of Tobacco Production in Oyo Division of Western State of Nigeria". Nigerian Agricultural Journal, Vol.10 No. 2, p.14

⁷ Oral interview, Kuranga Ganiyu Kolawole, Age 75, (Tobacco Farmer), at Ayetoro, June 16, 2013

⁸ Anthonio, O. B. and Oshun, S. "Economics of Tobacco Production in Oyo Division of Western State of Nigeria". In Nigerian Agricultural Journal, Vol.10 No. 2, p.14

⁹ Oral interview, Kuranga Ganiyu Kolawole, Age 75, (Tobacco Farmer), at Ayetoro, June 16, 2013

¹⁰ Oral interview, Thomas Fadairo Fadeyi, Age 78, (Tobacco Farmer since 1964), at Ogboro, July 6, 2013

¹¹ Interview, Kuranga Ganiyu Kolawole, Age 75, (Tobacco Farmer since 1964), at Ayetoro, June 16, 2013

The farming production system was characterised by different methods. Production and marketing style adopted by the Nigerian Tobacco Company (NTC) was called contract farming (farming by agreement). Contract farming was defined by Brown et al as the, “arrangement between farmers and buyers that placed conditions on cultivation and the disposal of such commodities.”¹² The farmers were given assurance for the market of goods they produced. But the buyers supplied the needed mechanical assistance, the required production inputs, proper extension services and timely credit facilities. The cost of credited inputs were deducted from the produce sales of each farmer.¹³

In most cases, the buyers used to buy the tobacco leaves that were graded low poorly. That notwithstanding, the company always used the low graded-leaves as part of raw materials needed for the finished cigarettes production. The farmers, having discovered this, would put Middle Bad Leaves (XD) and Bottom Dark Leaves (BD) in the highly grades Leaves so as to get higher price from the NTC.¹⁴ A large part of the cash income of the villages of Ago -Are, Otu, Okaka, Tede, and Irawo, Ago Sabe derives from the growing of tobacco for flue-curing in the British American Tobacco Company barns at Ago-Are, Irawo and Okaka. This cash income used to fall despite the increase in the acreage under cultivation.¹⁵

Unlike food production, tobacco production exposed farmers to harsh weather, malaria bites, water borne diseases and insecurity as there were occasions of kidnapping and snake bites of the children that worked on tobacco plantations and factories due to the distant journey of about ten to twenty kilometres between the towns and the tobacco farmlands. There were no health facilities and farmers always resorted to self-medication.¹⁶ The health and general living of the people in the area were precarious because there were few hospitals within reach in the entire Oyo North.

The study examines the changing nature of agriculture in the present day Oyo North in the southwest Nigeria. It investigates historical trajectory of food production in relation to the roles played by different colonial governments, post-colonial governments and the

¹²Brown, A. B., W.M. Suell, and U. H. Tiller. 1999. The Changing Political Environment for Tobacco: Implications for Southern Tobacco Farmers, Rural Economics, Taxpayers and Consumers. *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, 31(2): pp. 291-309.

¹³ Adewole, A. O. 1988. *An Analysis of the Nigerian Tobacco Company's Agricultural Assistance Programme in Iseyin Local government Area of Oyo State*. B.Sc Thesis. University of Ibadan. pp. 24 -30.

¹⁴ Oral interview, Okanlawon Lasisi, Age 78, (Tobacco Farmer since 1970), at Igboho, July 6, 2013

¹⁵ NAI Oyo Prof file No. 1376. vol. Cotton as District Officer i/c Oyo Division to The Resident, Oyo Division on Tobacco Industry". June 25th, 1934

¹⁶ Ibid

indigenous people as well as all other factors or agents responsible for sustainable food security in Nigeria.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Oke-Ogun in Oyo area is naturally endowed with large farm area. Food crops production was the major occupation of the people prior to colonial intervention. The major agricultural products produced in Oke Ogun could be broadly divided into three: trees, roots and cereals. The main tree crops are palms while yam, sweet potato and cassava still remain the major root crops: maize and millets are the predominant cereals. However, since the introduction of different cash crop cultivation like tobacco, cotton and oil palm in the colonial epoch, land and other means of production that were used for the cultivation of food crops has been taken over by cash crop plantation.

Between 1960 and the 1990s, food production in the area stagnated owing to some changes. These included but not limited to migration, and rural-urban movement resulting into abandonment of land and loss of land to migrant Fulani. For example, agriculture which was the mainstay of the Nigeria's economy nosedived to the lowest level of investment. Many Nigerians, including those who did not come from the oil-producing states, have accepted crude-oil as the common wealth and the prospects of partaking in the oil wealth drove many able-bodied men out of farms in search for salaried employment in the urban centres.¹⁷

In the case of Fulani attacks on farmers; around March 1987 when rain was delayed and flowing streams of drinkable water were drying up, a set of Fulani herdsmen who were desperately looking for water for their animals and grass to feed them invaded Ilero and the neighbouring communities. The Fulanis were so aggressive because they were losing their animals to hard and elongated drought. The Fulanis began to go about maiming and killing the farmers who owned the land. Farmers either fled from their farmlands because of insecurity, those that resisted the Fulani invasion lost their lives or were maimed. An example was Mr. Banusomo who lost his ten fingers to the attack of the Fulani as he resisted the invasion of the Fulani because of the farm products he stored.¹⁸ There was also the incident of

¹⁷ Olorunfemi, A. and Adesina, O. C. 1998. Politics and Nigerian Agriculture in the First Decade of the 'Oil Boom', 1970-1980: *A Preliminary Assessment in the Nigerian Journal of Economic History* NO 1. September. p.57

¹⁸ Oral interview with Ajayi, Samuel Adetunji, Age 78, Teacher, at Ayetoro in April 14th, 2013

the Bororo men that invaded the farms of the people of Isale Oke area of Saki on the western outskirts of the town and caused great havoc in the farm.¹⁹ The people of Saki, which included the hunters decided to chase the Herdsmen away from Saki environment. During the process of chasing the Bororo men away, many lives and properties were lost from both sides.

Although a few numbers of farmers were engaged in food production in the region, yet the level of poverty in the postcolonial period was still high. It was sure that the style of living of the people deteriorated with peasant kind of agricultural practices. In 1990s, the intense decline in household participation in farming in Oke Ogun was profound. These in addition to the ruthless activities of Fulani herdsmen which destroyed farms and terrorize indigenous farmers and the drastic growth of Tobacco industry in the area reinforced the need to investigate the problem faced by food producing farmers in the study area.

The introduction of Tobacco offered Farmersthe opportunity for making money and trade which had for long eluded them. Tobacco cultivation was therefore received with great enthusiasm in the region. The Assistant Divisional Officer for Oyo Division once said; “the Bale and Chief of Ogbomoso are very keen on tobacco cultivation for export or sale, to the European firms because with the exception of cotton, no other crop could bring trade and money to the district.”²⁰This began to lead to eventual reduction in food crops production and thus had a very high tendency of resulting in food shortage. Foodstuffs became insufficient unlike before the introduction of tobacco plantation. Robert N. Proctor in his submission²¹ pointed it out that tobacco production also contributed to world famine because the tobacco industry diverted fast acreages of land because of tobacco production.²²

More so, existing studies have concentrated on socio-cultural and religious aspects of lives of the people of Oke Ogun with little attention to food production and its dynamics in the area. The study was, therefore, designed to examine food production in Colonial and Post-Colonial area of Oke Ogun in Oyo State with a view to analysing its changing patterns and effects on rural livelihood between 1900 and 1999. The study hopes to fill this gap in the historiography of Yorubaland and food security.

1.3 Aim and Objectives of the study

¹⁹ Oke Ogun Community News, *Bororo menace Engulfs Saki*. Edition 32. May 1999. p. 1

²⁰ Oyeleye, D. A. 1969. “*Impact of Tobacco Cultivation on the Agricultural Economy of Oyo Division*,” M. A. Thesis, Ibadan (Unpublished). p.12.

²¹ Robert N. Proctor 2012. The history of the discovery of the cigarette-lung cancer link: evidentiary traditions, corporate denial, global toll, Tobacco Control: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>

²² Ibid

This study aims to analyse the changes brought to food production in Oke Ogun which started with colonialism and climaxed with internal challenges in post-independence Nigeria. Emphasis shall be on the impacts of colonial agricultural policy on food production, post-independence government interventions, agricultural policies and the effects of cash production on the standard of living of farmers as well as food crops supply. It is therefore, the specific objectives of this work to:

- a) Investigate the history of agriculture in Oke Ogun in relation to food production;
- b) Analyse Food Production in Oke Ogun during the colonial period as it relates to the imperial needs;
- c) Examine food production challenges and government interventions in Oke Ogun in Post-Colonial Period;
- d) Examine food production in Oke Ogun in the context of sustainable livelihood and development;
- e) Identify the changing pattern in food production in the post-colonial era.

1.4 Significance of the Study

A number of works have been published on Agriculture and food production in Nigeria but little studies have only been done specifically on Oke-Ogun. The significance of the study is in its departure from the empirical and scientific interpretations of food production by scholars in the Sciences and Agriculture. It is a qualitative research designed to enhance our knowledge and understanding of how food production practices in Oke Ogun was sustained over time.

An array of some critical historical moments that have been omitted by other works were carefully captured in this work. Importantly, this allows academics and researchers gain broader insight not only into the history of food production in Oke Ogun but also into the history of food production in the Nigerian context.

1.5 Scope of the study

The study begins in 1900 when colonial rule began in the area and terminates in 1999 in order to cover a significant period of 100 years. More importantly, 1900 marked the beginning of a shift from subsistent household food crops cultivation into a dominant cash crops, notably, tobacco, cotton and oil palm. The year 1999 represents a period of agricultural change after the failure of neoliberal economic policies. In addition, the late 1990s indicated the conversion of the Oyo North Agricultural Development Programme (ONADEP) into Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme (OSADEP). This will give enough room for analysis and comparism. The period ushered in the presence and influence of colonial agents, who introduced cash crops production into the area to the disadvantage of food crops production. Therefore, this study set out to historicize the changes colonialism brought to food crop production during and after colonialism in Oke Ogun of Nigeria. Thus, the alteration and transformation in food crops production in Oke Ogun between 1900 and 1999 remains the major focus of this study.

Geographically, Oke Ogun consists of thirteen (13) Local Government Areas out of which Ibarapa has three (3) Local Government Areas. The three Local Governments from Ibarapa area are Ibarapa Central Local Government at Igboora, Ibarapa East Local Government, in Eruwa, and Ibarapa North Local Government, located in Ayete. The remaining ten (10) Local Governments areas politically referred to as Oke Ogun in recent time which corresponds to the administratively delineated as Oyo North. This study is however limited to the ten (10) Local Government Areas.

The area known in popular literature as Oke Ogun (Oyo North) is considered as the source of food supply of Oyo State and the surrounding communities around the enclave. Historically, agriculture was the leading occupation of the indigenous occupants of the province. The modern-day Oyo North, also known as Oke Ogun, covers ten local governments. This started from Iseyin town in Oyo to Bakase which is a border settlement in Kwara up to Benin Republic. This geographical entity comprised of towns that spread along Ogun River starting from Ibeṛekodo town to Iganna, Şaki, Okeho, Isemi-Ile, Ilua, Imia, Ilero, Ayetoro, Ilaji, Ado-Awaye, Iseyin, Otu, Iwawun, Igboho, Şeṣeṣeṣe, Ogbooro, Agbonle, Alaga, Okaka, Kisi, Ago Amodu, Owotoro, Tede, Baasi, Igbeti and several communities up to Kwara boundary which lied along the bank of Ogun River²³ The region, also named Upper Ogun, has been of great historical relevance in Yoruba history.

²³Yoruba From 19th Century to date. The Progenies of Oduduwa-The People: <http://yorupedia.com> Retrieved on 02/10/2014

1.6 Research Methodology

This study adopts the historical approach in its investigation of food production in colonial and post-colonial Oke Ogun region of Oyo State from 1900 to 1999. The research is based largely on the combination of primary and secondary sources. Primary data, include oral interviews with experienced farmers, traditional leaders within the age bracket of 40-95 years, women, migrants and indigenous youths who specializes in food and cash crop productions in the area. Archival materials including annual reports, provincial documents and colonial diaries, notes as well as post-colonial administrative office records. Documents from Oyo North Agricultural Development Programme (ONADEP) and Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme (OYSADEP) were also consulted. Relevant magazines, newsletters, and unpublished works from libraries and research institutes across Nigeria of which appropriate and applicable, references were made to the study area were used.

The study also used some secondary sources. This include, books, journal articles, thesis and dissertations, seminars and conferences papers. A number of books on Okeho history, Oke Ogun and Southwest, including material of Nigeria's economic history and political economy constituted the basic source of information on performances of agricultural sector and food economy in the study area.

1.7 Literature Review

This is a review of some relevant works on agriculture and economic history of Nigeria. The first, H. A. Oluwasanmi²⁴ focuses on the *Agriculture and Nigerian Economic Development*. This is very useful for students, researchers, Investors and other relevant stakeholders in the activities of agricultural production business in Nigeria. Oluwasanmi sees agriculture as one of the most significant segment of the Nigerian economy. Nearly 70% of its population is involved in farming, forestry, fisheries and livestock which contributes approximately about 60% of the national revenue. Oluwasanmi opines that an enhanced farming is critical to industrial growth and national prosperity. It is observed that primitive agriculture cannot provide adequate support for industrialization. All factors of

²⁴ Oluwasanmi, H. A. 1966. *Agriculture and Nigerian Economic Development*. Ibadan: Oxford University Press.

production must be gainfully engaged and improved upon to achieve nation wealth and growth. The strongest point of this book lies in the language of analysis, vivid expression and comprehensive research carried out by the author. Oluwasanmi's work is very relevant to this study, even though he did not discuss specifically Oke Ogun in any context.

Kassali and Ayanwale et al²⁵ in their presentation titled, "*Farm Location and Determinants of Agricultural Productivity in the Oke-Ogun Area of Oyo State*," discusses the significant effects of farming on farm distance, residential location of farmers, farming capability. Farmers' opportunity to access to credit facility, the size of lands allocated for yam tubers, the use of fertilizer by the food production farmers and their technical efficiency were discussed. The level of participation in farming on both full time or part time basis and farm size had no substantial consequence on farmer's efficiency. However, the study did not identify the influence of farm remoteness on food farmer's output. The work emphasised the tactical significance of credit facility and the extension services provided for the female food production farmers. This work provides a useful insight into the dynamics of farm operations in the study area.

F. C. Nworgu's²⁶ work on the *Prospects and the Pitfalls of Agricultural Production in Nigeria* deliberates on the projections and the challenges of farming activities in our country. He examines the efforts ever made by various administrations, roles of some governmental and non-governmental organizations in agricultural production and the likely resolutions for the pitfalls of Nigerian farming production. By virtue of its contents, his analysis suggests that the book is a must read for every Nigerian, farmers, lecturers, researchers, policy makers, politicians and government functionaries. Though he did not capture the investigative focus of this study, it renders useful approach to understand the interplay between government initiatives and rural income in Oke Ogun.

Also, Liverpool-Tasie Lenis Saweda, Oluyemisi Kuku et al²⁷ focuses their attentions on the relationship between *Agricultural Productivity and Social Capital as it relates to Food*

²⁵Kassali. R. and Ayanwale A. B. et al. 2009. *Farm Location And Determinants Of Agricultural Productivity In The Oke-Ogun Area Of Oyo State, Nigeria* on the Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa (Volume 11, No. 2, 2009)

²⁶Nworgu, F. C. 2006. *Prospects and Pitfalls of Agricultural Production in Nigeria*.
Ibadan: University of Ibadan.

²⁷ Liverpool-Tasie Lenis Saweda, Oluyemisi Kuku et al. 2011. *Agricultural Productivity, Social Capital and Food Security in Nigeria* in Nigeria Strategy Support Program (NSSP) NSSP Working Paper No. 21

stability in the nation. The paper shows that in spite of the swift speed of growth in Nigeria, many Nigerians are still living in villages, hamlets and farm settlements. It is obvious that most of the rural dwellers found themselves practicing self-sustenance agriculture. Agriculture therefore remains the essential part of the national economy of Nigeria. It was a major springboard for raw materials, food supplies and foreign exchange. The sector of the economy remained for decades, the employer of more than half of the percentage of the Nigerian labour force. It worked on food security and social capital in Nigeria. He laid the groundwork for investigating the interrelationships that existed among them. The Nigerian farmers were described as the most inefficient smallholder farmers that produced significantly below their production frontiers. Many Nigerians are reported to be experiencing acute shortage of food supplies. It also considered the problems that the individuals or associations are passing through to secure formal and informal loans.

Ephraim Olabode Olusegun captured his impression on his writing named, “*Too Much Food For Thought, But Very Little for the Table*” in his Inaugural Lecture.²⁸ It is a scholarly work as maiden lecture. It discusses the state of agriculture and food situation in Nigeria. It mentioned some of the programmes/projects/institutions introduced to revamp agricultural production and bring food to the tables of the Nigerians. It stresses further the attempts by successive governments to make Nigeria a self-reliant country in food production. It further made some recommendations towards providing food for its populace. The suggestions on how to find likely lasting solutions to food crisis in Nigeria was a plus on the book.

The Root and Tuber Crop Production as it relates to the concept of *Weed Management among Small Scale Farmers in Nigeria* attracted the attention of Iyagba A. G.²⁹ In the submission of Iyagba, weed plague was one of the challenges confronting the peasant farmers while cultivating root crops. He enlightens on the impacts of weeds on farming activities and the damages in farm crop yields. He made clarifications between weed control and its management. The methods adopted in removing weeding comprises of cultural technique which involves the use of hand for weeding at different clearing regimes for numerous crops. Also discussed is the biological method as the use of low growing crops; while chemical method is the use of various herbicides. They are the recommended ways of

²⁸ Ephraim, O. O. 2007. “*Too Much Food For Thought, But Very Little for the Table*” is an Inaugural Lecture on Thursday, 13 December, 2007. Ibadan: Ibadan University Press.

²⁹ Iyagba, A. G. July 2010. *Root and Tuber Crop Production and Their Weed Management Among Small Scale Farmers in Nigeria* on ARPN Journal of Agricultural and Biological Science of VOL. 5, NO. 4.

overcoming the challenges associated with the use of herbicide and integrated weed management practices.

In the book titled the *Best Seeds of the Best Crop Varieties* written by A. M Oghenovo,³⁰ he discussed availability of food as it applies to the status of food supply to people in a defined place. It further conversed the opportunity to feed some population of neighbouring countries. It also expressed the value attached to seeds as the sacrifice that needed be made today for a better tomorrow. It discussed various aspects of seeds and the fact that he mentioned the preservation of such seeds filled a gap.

Increased Food Production in Nigeria by Shimada Shuhei discusses *the Effect of the Structural Adjustment Program on the Local Level* is a comparative analysis of what happened during the structural adjustment era in Nigeria.³¹ He was of two different opinions. In his first opinion, he did the analysis of modifications in the Nigerian policy in food production in relation with the governmental plans and focus. The second opinion was a finding in indigenous farming cultivation practices in relation with that of national practices in food production. It was in the mid-1980s that Nigerian food production began to increase. This food increase was due to the emergence of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) which was assessed using the methodology of political ecology. It attempted to show the changes in farming production activities at the national level and the connection with that of the local one. It is possible that the commencement of SAP led to the increase in food production.

Iwuchukwu J .C. and Igbokwe E.M.³² book, *Lessons from Agricultural Policies and the application of such policies in the Programmes in Nigeria* is a study that studied several agricultural policies and programmes that were initiated in Nigeria. It was through these objectives and achievements that we realised the challenged that impeded the dreams of the policies and the programmes in Nigeria. They were able to identify the issues between the policy formulation, execution and management. The writer was able to offer recommendations for future policies and programmes executions.

³⁰ Akoroda, M. O. 2009. *The Best Seeds of the Best Crop Varieties: A Basis for Nigeria's Food Security*. Ibadan: University of Ibadan

³¹ Shimada, S. *A Study of Increased Food Production In Nigeria: The Effect Of The Structural Adjustment Program On The Local Level* African Study Monographs, 20 (4): p. 175-227, December 1999

³² Iwuchukwu, J. C. and Igbokwe, E. M. 2012. *Lessons from Agricultural Policies and Programmes in Nigeria* on Journal of Law, Policy and Globalization Vol 5, 2012

The work of Kehinde Adekunle Adetiloye³³ on *Agricultural Financing in Nigeria and An Assessment of the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (ACGSF) targeted towards Food Security in Nigeria (1978-2006)* considered the various aspects of credit that can be secured in order to guarantee the provision of food in Nigeria. His study addresses the efforts of the Western countries crusade to eliminate wastages from agriculture products in developing countries. The Credit facilities for the agricultural sector declined considerably. The Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (ACGSF) has been impactful to the food sector though the livestock sector which has expanded more and cash crop was highly insignificant. The only challenge was the Fund delay in the settlement of guaranteed credits. Finally, it was resolved that Nigeria's food security condition was *unsecured*. They recommended education and enlightenment crusades as means of advancing the understanding of farmers and the intending farmers. With the new motivations for the Linkage Banking Group and Interest Drawback scheme, the patronage of peasant farmers should also be improved and encouraged. This will lead to eventual reduction in the rate of defaulters of farming loans. This would thus inspire lenders to provide more credit services.

As posited by Okojie Christiana in her work titled, "*Achieving Self-reliance in Food Production through the Maximizing the Contribution of Rural Women Development policies in Nigeria*,"³⁴ industrialization eventually made farming to be neglected. The prosperity of oil in the 1970s aggravated the situation thereby made the agricultural sector to be deserted. The oil surplus of 1980 made it compulsory to overhaul the economy of the country. The Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) was introduced in 1986 in order to fix the worsening economy. One of the major goals of the agricultural sector then was to achieve food self-reliance production with eventual elimination of food imports.

Adeshina W. O, Ologbon O. A et al³⁵ in their extensive works, *Analysis of Efficiency among Rice Farmer in Oyo State*, identifies the size of farm, the number of labour, farming experience and extension contact among the reasons that can assist to promote efficiency of Rice Farmers in Oyo State. It went further to mention increase in adult literacy and increase in farmland to ascertain maximisation of resources to achieve farmers' effective performance in their farming activities in Oyo State.

³³ Adetiloye, K. A. *Agricultural Financing in Nigeria: An Assessment of the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (ACGSF) For Food Security in Nigeria 1978-2006*

³⁴ Okojie, C. 1991. *Achieving Self-reliance in Food Production in Nigeria: Maximizing the Contribution of Rural Women in the Journal of Social Development in Africa*. pp. 6, 2, 33-52

³⁵ Adeshina W. O, Ologbon O. A et al. 2020/ *Analysis of Efficiency Among Rice Farmer in Oyo State*

Okojie Christiana, opined that to achieve the objective of self-reliance in food production, rural women who are producing and processing the substantial part of Nigeria's food crops must become a target group. Women are facing constraints such as limited access to education and lack of available land for farming. Other peculiar challenges mentioned were lack of farming support services, logistic contributions, credit and suitable equipment for improvement. It was suggested that the strategies to exterminate these limitations should be an integral part of agricultural expansion programmes in Nigeria. However, it provides the necessary data for the aspect of women's involvement in food crop production process in the Country.

Agboola's work³⁶ on *An Agricultural Atlas of Nigeria* is value adding. He concerns his work with farming. He also mentioned the challenges associated with the production of food in both the colonial and the post-colonial period in Nigeria. Agbola's work will be a great resource for this work. He further discussed the three-dimensional supply of crops and livestock. It also identified that there was famine in his submissions. It was noticed that there were increases in the prices of food crops while agricultural export production was increasing. This led to a revisit of efforts to boost food farming activities in Nigeria. New Institutions were therefore established to cater for rural agriculture, to improve social and economic standard of living for Nigerians. The thesis was based on its rich knowledge of the farming environment in both colonial and post-colonial Nigeria. The emergence of new institutions to take care of agriculture and the continuation of rural capital received copious attention in this work. Its capacity to reconstruct meaningful social and economic actions are vital for certain aspects of this work.

Another crucial literature, is *Feeding More People in a Better way in West Africa: The Case of Benin*, by M.C. Mensah.³⁷ He traced the modern history of economic policy as practiced in Benin. The work explains the strategies that Benin people can adopt to achieve food security in their enclave. The growth in population means that food ration in Benin will double in volume by 2020. Mensah suggested that to make Beninese food secured, numerous steps must be taken into consideration. These are parts of agricultural and rural development, agricultural research and regional cooperation. The steps also include faster decentralization of government so as to empower local communities, improve on infrastructure and rural

³⁶ Agboola, S. A. 1979. *An Agricultural Atlas of Nigeria*. Oxford University Press

³⁷ Mensah, M. C. 1998. *Feeding More People and Better in West Africa: The Case of Benin*. A

Lecture presented in November 30, 1998 by the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington D.C

services. It is for the extension packages and better incorporation of Benin into proper regional marketing and cooperation arrangement. This work is very germane for a comparison of the changes in farm techniques in relation with Oke Ogun.

Michael Fiebig in his *Prudential Regulation and Supervision for Agricultural Finance*, takes a pragmatic approach and makes extensive use of example material ably drawn from a variety of institutional types in a number of developing countries. Fiebig's eye financing was seen as a means of enforcing policy. Fiebig emphasized the Policy implementations with the cost issue are very critical to the success of the agricultural project in the book. In his monumental work, N.A. Fadipe³⁸ critically discusses the history of the Yoruba as unanimously agreeing to the Oduduwa as their common ancestor and claiming Ile-Ife as their place of origin. His *Sociology of the Yoruba work*, also examines the principles underlying Yoruba kinship system, economic organization, political, association, religion and morals. Nathaniel Akinremi Fadipe further discussed Yoruba social psychology and the process of social control and social change.

The position of Ogugu C. Aworth's paper³⁹ on *Food Preservation* as it relates to *the art, the science and the technology* of it is worthwhile for consideration. The central theme is food preservation before the consumption. The theme poses major challenge in developing countries. Nigeria inclusive! Developed and highly industrialized countries are deeply concerned with the adverse health effects of excessive nutrients intake, poor and developing countries continue to grapple with food shortage and nutritional deficiency diseases. The literature examines modern mechanical and electrical techniques of processing and preserving food items. It captures the advantages of producing quality food products, reducing unnecessary food wastage with modern technologies to replace slow, labour-intensive manual operations with outputs and shortage.

Daud S. A, Omotayo A. O et al⁴⁰ focuses on, *Rural infrastructures and profitability of food crop production in Oyo State, Nigeria*. They explains the position of Infrastructure development as essential services that should be put in place to enable development to occur. It is investment in infrastructure that can cause the expected turn around for economic development in rural areas. Undermining infrastructure is like working against rural

³⁸ Fadipe, N. A. 2012. *The Sociology of the Yoruba*. Ibadan: University Press

³⁹ Aworth, C. O. 2004. *Food Preservation: the art, the science and the technology* is a 17th Interdisciplinary Research Discourse of the Post-Graduate School. Ibadan: University of Ibadan

⁴⁰ Daud, S. A. Omotayo, A. O. 2018. *Rural Infrastructure and Profitability of Food Crop Production In Oyo State, Nigeria*

development. Rural infrastructural is the basic physical and organisation structures required for the operation and sustenance of a society. It is the provision of these facilities that will enhance the standard of living of rural famers.

The *Nigerian Economic and Social History* as edited by I. A. Akinjogbin and S. O. Osoba⁴¹ is an important reference material to this work. The book discusses the pre-colonial patterns of indigenous economy among the Igbo, Benin, Oyo, Ibadan, Egbado and Northern part of Nigeria. All the contributors indirectly undermined the assumption that African economy was subsistence. It further discusses the agricultural changes and transportation systems and development in colonial Nigeria and the socio-economic trends in post-colonial Nigeria.

The collected essays on Government and Agriculture titled, *Good Intentions Are Not Enough* by F. S. Idachaba⁴² was written over a period of thirty years. It contains wide arrangement of themes dealing with agricultural research policy, national agricultural research systems, rural infrastructures, and sustainability issues in agricultural development. It does a comparism analysis of the relationship between diversification and instability of foreign exchange earnings and government revenues. He explained in his writing that good intentions and publicly stated noble intentions are not sufficiently enough in agricultural policy just like in other areas of human behaviours. He reinstated that there is the need for policy to bring about the desired change; concrete and mandated actions to translate them into practical results. It is insightful research work that is seriously useful for students, researchers, Public and private individuals to grasp and utilize the ideas contained for proper reorientation in the agrarian sector of Nigeria.

The above critique of existing knowledge on the agriculture, farm management and food security provides deep understanding of the nature, factors-actors and changing environmental conditions of farmers in Nigeria. However, these studies only presented a general picture without any specific reference to Oke Ogun in the present day Oyo North as the central focus of this study.

A review of *Technical Efficiency in Food Crop Production in Oyo State, Nigeria* used a stochastic frontier production methodology to estimate the technical efficiency of 100

⁴¹ Akinjogbin, I. A. and Osoba, S. O. 1980. *Topics on Nigerian Economic and Social History*. Ile-Ife: University Press

⁴² Idachaba, F. S. 2006. *Good Intentions Are Not Enough* are the collected essays on Government and Agriculture. Volume 3 Agricultural Research, Uncertainty and Diversification. Ibadan: University Press

farmers in Oyo State, Nigeria by Fasasi's⁴³ is value-adding. Efficiency analysis is an issue of interest given that the overall productivity of an economic system is directly related to the efficiency of production of the components within the system. The empirical results show that the mean level of technical efficiency is 70 percent. The estimated technical efficiencies of the farmers ranged between 18 percent and 93 percent indicating that with the present technology there is still room for a 30 percent increase in food production. The Age of farmers, the farming experience and the level of education were factors that significantly influenced the level of technical efficiency. Technical inefficiency of farmers increases with age while it decreases with years of experience and the level of education. This is an important work that have direct bearing with the farmers within a period of study.

CHAPTER TWO

OKE OGUN UP TO 1900

⁴³ Fasasi A. R. 2007. *Technical Efficiency in Food Crop Production in Oyo State, Nigeria*

2.1 Introduction

Oke Ogun, as it is popularly addressed by many scholars and other people, is the food production zone of Yorubaland.⁴⁴ Historically, agriculture was the predominant occupation of the people of Oke Ogun region. Alaafin, the Paramount king over the Oyo Empire had the sovereign control over the affairs of the entire Oke Ogun Region. Beginning from Iseyin in Oyo to Bakase, a border town in Kwara, the modern-day Oke Ogun covers ten local government administrative areas.⁴⁵ Formerly known as Eḱun Oṭun under the sectional commander, the Oḱereḱ of Ṣaki, Oke Ogun comprised major towns that stretched from Iḱereḱodo to Iganna, Ṣaki, Okeho, Iseyin, Eruwa, Igboho, Sepeteri, Ogbooro, Agbonle, Kisi, Igbeti and several other settlements and communities up to Kwara all of which are along the banks of Ogun River. Oke Ogun, means the towns and villages that are beyond Upper Ogun and it occupied a historically significant place in Yorubaland.⁴⁶

2.2 Geographical Location

In the present Oyo State, South-western part of Nigeria, Oke Ogun is one of the geo-political zones. It covers the land areas beginning from Olorunsogo Local Government and all the entire land mass to the Upper western bank of Ogun River. The Ogun River from which Oke Ogun derives its name has its source in Oke Ogun forms the natural boundary among different towns in Oyo State and with the neighbouring Ogun State. In the past, the river naturally was the boundary. In addition, varieties of Onko dialect cuts across the many towns and communities of the Oke Ogun villages.⁴⁷ Located within the Guinea Savannah Zone of northern part of the state, Oke Ogun is bounded in the South by Ogun State, in the North by Kwara State, in the East by Ogbomoso and finally in the West by the Republic of Benin in neighbouring country.

This study was however limited to ten (10) Local Government Areas as presented in Figure 1. The total land mass of Oke Ogun is about 13,537 Square Km. this represents about 60% of the total land mass of Oyo State. Oke Ogun, the second most populous geo-political zones in Oyo State after Ibadan, had a population of about 1.5 million based on 2006

⁴⁴ Ajani, O. I. Y. 2002. *Resource Productivity in Food Crop Farming in the Northern Area of Oyo State, Nigeria*. Unpublished Ph.D Thesis, Department of Agricultural Economics, Ibadan: University of Ibadan.

⁴⁵ The Progenies of Oduduwa-The People: <http://yorupedia.com/subjects/yoruba-from-19th-to-date/progenie-of-Oduduwa> Retrieved on 02/10/2014

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ Aderounmu O. Adebimpe, 2016, *Yoruba Ancestral Web: Oke Ogun in Historical Perspective*. Ibadan, Procon Publishers. p. 1

National Census. With almost a homogenous population and culture, Oke Ogun people speak Yorubalanguage with varieties of dialects. They live in the Southwestern Nigeria and they are the largest ethnic group in the West African Coast. However, there are other ethnic groups from Nigeria and other neighbouring countries like Togo, Republic of Benin, Ghana, Niger and Cameroon who live in different Oke Ogun towns and villages. Nigerians of different ethnic backgrounds like the Fulanis, the Hausas, the Igbos, Urobos, Itsekiris, Ebiras, Egedes, Tapas, Eguns reside side by side with the Yoruba people.

The towns in Oke Ogun are many. Some of them are Iseyin, Saki, Igboho, Okeho, Kishi, Igbeti, Iganna, Ago-Are Tede, Ilero, Ipapo, Okaka, Sepeteri, Ago-Amodu, Otu and Iwere-Ile are assuming some urban statuses. More Oke Oguntowns Ogboro, Oje-Owode, Irawo, Ado-Awaye, Ofiki, Igbojaye, Itasa, Ijio, Isemi-Ile, Imia and many others we cannot mention here. However, none of these towns have reached the peak of its potential for more development. All the towns can accommodate further population growth without any damage to the carrying capacity of the available land spaces.⁴⁸

Agriculture remained the traditional mainstay of the economy of the indigenous people of the region. The area provides sufficient food for the population which guaranteed food security in the area. However, the farmers in the area were peasant farmers who were dealing in subsistence farming to produce what to eat by their families. But, there were cash crop farmers that produced cashew, citrus, oil, raffia, mango and coconut in the area.⁴⁹ There were also root crop farmers who were dealing in yam, sweet potato and cassava. There were maize, millets and cereals farmers in the area too.⁵⁰

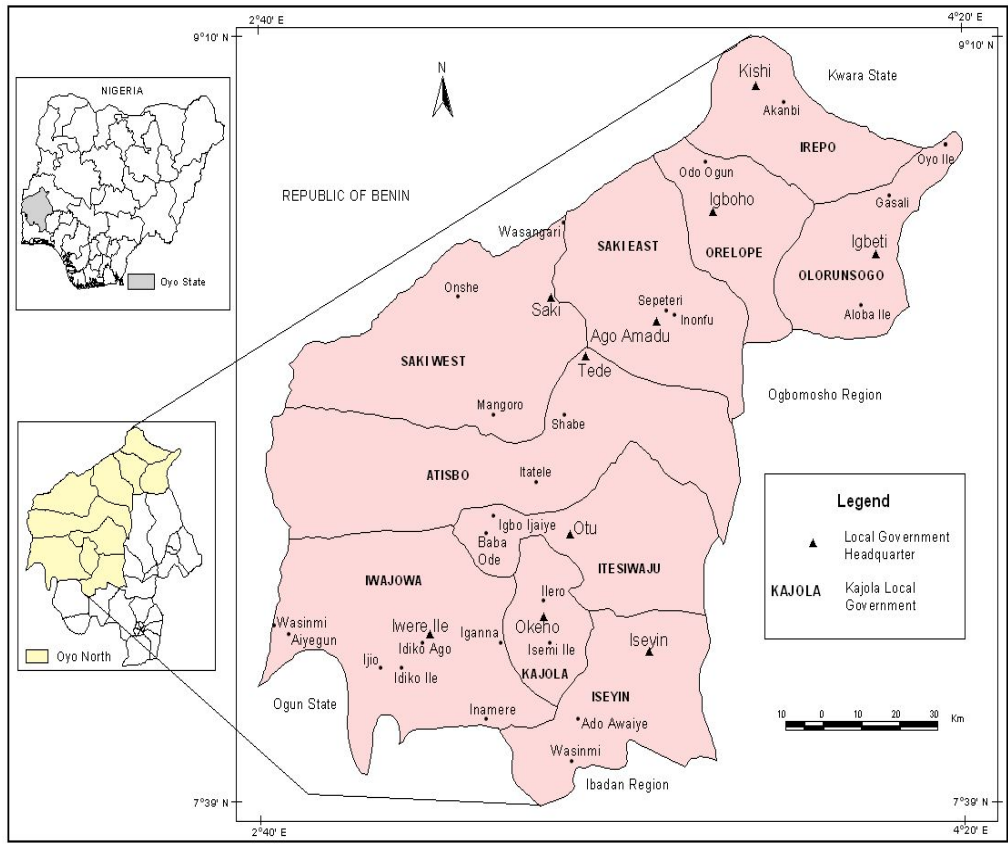
Under the belly of the soil in nearly all the towns in Oke Ogun are large deposits of mineral as gold, tantalite, beruit, white marble, red and Ceramic Clay, Kaolin, Ampholites among many others. Oke Ogun has enormous forest filled with wildlife and agricultural resources with not less than 15 water dams of which Ikere gorge that can be useful for power generation, irrigation system, animal rearing, oceanic discharge and hydroelectric power supply remained the largest.

⁴⁸ Aderounmu O. Adebimpe, 2016, *Yoruba Ancestral Web: Oke Ogun in Historical Perspective*. Ibadan, Procon Publishers. p. 1

⁴⁹ Aderounmu O. Adebimpe, 2016, *Yoruba Ancestral Web: Oke Ogun in Historical Perspective*. Ibadan, Procon Publishers. p. 33

⁵⁰ Ibid

Figure 1: Map of Oke Ogun demarcated from the neighbouring Local Government Areas, States and Republic of Benin



Source: Aderounmu Adebimpe. 2013. Oke Ogun Roots

The region was also endowed with men and women of great capacities who were noted for hospitality and virtuous behaviours that was popularly referred to as "Omoluabi".⁵¹ It is good to also mention that Oke Ogun farmers adopted the traditional cultivation methods and traditional tools like cutlass, hoes and axes, particularly during the colonial period. Farm locations at this time was far from the farmers' homesteads or what they called 'abule', 'budo' or 'ahere'. So, farmers had to trek long distances daily before and after work before they got to their settlements.⁵²

2.3 Climatic Condition

The region of Oke Ogun has three agroecological zones which are rainforest, savannah and derived savannah zone.⁵³ The features of rainforest is high relative humidity that supports the cultivation of tree crops like citrus, oil palm and cocoa. This rainfall also gave support to the production of arable crops. The vegetation of this savannah zone essentially supports the cultivation of food crops. These crops are sorghum, beans, maize, cocoa yam, cassava and yam. Others includes such crops as rice, plantains, cocoa, rubber, palm produce, cashew and many others by both male and female farmers.⁵⁴

Like other part of Nigeria, there were two predictable seasons in Oke Ogun. They are the dry and the wet seasons. Dry season always spanned from November to March while the raining season used to span the months between April and October each year. The main annual rainfall for the region is 1,220mm with the southern zone experiencing heavier rains than the northern zone. There used to be short dry period of around two weeks between late July and early August. This "August Break" splits the rainy season into long raining seasons (April/May to early August), and the short raining period (September to early November). December/January period invariably introduce a period of Harmattan. This was usually a dry,

⁵¹ Aderounmu, O. A. 2014. *Strategies For Socio-economic Development of Oke-Ogun Area Under Democratic Dispensation*. Ibadan, Nigeria, Procon Team. p. 5

⁵² Kassali, R., & Ayanwale, A. B. *Farm Location And Determinants Of Agricultural Productivity In The Oke-Ogun Area Of Oyo State, Nigeria* in the Journal Of Sustainable Development In Africa (Volume 11, No.2, 2009)

⁵³ Agboola, S. A. 1979. *An agricultural atlas of Nigeria*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

⁵⁴ Adegeye, A. J. 1998. "Production and Marketing in Cocoa in Nigeria", in A. J. Adegeye and W.O. Ajayi (eds.), *Cocoa Revolution in Nigeria Proceedings of a National Seminar on Revolutionizing Nigeria's Cocoa Industry*. Ibadan: University of Ibadan, 28th –30th November.

dusty and wind blowing time from across the Sahara in the north-east.⁵⁵ But, things have changed to the extent that these seasons are no longer predictable like before.

2.4 Land Tenure Systems

Land was one of the major factors to consider before one can embark on farming and Oke Ogun region is blessed with vast and fertile arable land. It was difficult for any prospective farmer to secure any size of farmland to cultivate in respect of kind of crop he or she wanted to embark upon.⁵⁶ Land tenure was either the legal or the customary act, right, manner and term involved to use a piece of landed property for farming purposes by an individual or a group of individuals.⁵⁷ The guidelines for land tenure system explained how property rights to land were apportioned within the given society. Land tenure system defined the ways people accessed land. Other things involved in land tenure system are the land administration, management and transfer. In simple terms, land tenure systems determined the usability of land resources, including duration and conditions.⁵⁸

Land tenure practices are different from community to community. There existed as many tenure systems as there were ethnic groups in Nigeria. Nevertheless, there were certain common concepts related to traditional land tenure in Nigeria which formed the foundation of every tenure system in the country. Land was viewed as the possessions of a community.⁵⁹ The term community denotes a family or a clan comprised of a number of lineage groups or families.

Historically, the inhabitants of different towns in Oke Ogun are by-products of different wars. As a result of wars that were ravaging the communities in the olden days, people were migrating from one place to another for security purposes. Most often, many of them settled in numerous rocky and hilly places in search of security and safety for their lives.⁶⁰ Wherever people got to and settled to cultivate land to plant their crops without any

⁵⁵ Aderounmu, O. A. 2014. *Strategies For Socio-economic Development of Oke-Ogun Area Under Democratic Dispensation*. Ibadan, Nigeria, Procon Team. p. 5

⁵⁶ Helleiner, G. K. 1966. *Peasant Agriculture, Government and Economic Growth in Nigeria*. Homewood, Illinois p.1

⁵⁷ Read Bromley, D. ed. 1992. *Making the commons work*. San Francisco, Institute for Contemporary Studies.

⁵⁸ Read Bruce, J. & Migot-Adholla, S. eds. 1993. *Searching for land tenure security in Africa*. Dubuque, IA, Kendall Hunt Publishing Company.

⁵⁹ Ibid p. 24

⁶⁰ Oral interview with Adewuyi Amos, Age 98, A Farmer, at Okeho on June 23rd, 2013.

challenge became their family and community land. And, as settlers in the same community increased, they were claiming more lands till a settlement will emerge after some years⁶¹ It was settlement that became a village and, later, village developed into towns and towns developed into a city. This was how all the towns and cities came to be.

In pre-colonial time, no freeborn person had problem with land use. They had free access to land as much as they needed.⁶² Every family had access to land. Land constituted family property and family members worked hard to make living by leveraging on such land through farming. Selling of land was not a common practice then; but, whenever it became necessary to sell land, no family member had the right to sell any portion of the family land without due consultation with the other members of the family.⁶³ There were situations where the family head or any member of or group in a family sold land without the knowledge of or due permission from the other principal members of the family. In such situations, the transaction was considered null and void and money returned to the buyer or a new payment was made for the land.

Much of the land acquired by a group of people was only allotted on a family basis to for the purpose of equality; neither the head nor any member of the family had the right to estrange his or her portion of the land from the family land because lands were owned communally. The Yoruba people were living a kind of common-wealth lifestyle and everything they owned was controlled through communal values.⁶⁴ In other words, it was the community that used to exercise control over the land within the limits of its territory; and, this confined the possession and the use of land to such members of the families and known individuals in the community who have settled there who must be willing and ready to play the land use by the set down rules.

2.5 Food Production in the Pre-colonial Period

Farming was the main occupation of the Oke Ogun people. They were making use of crude agricultural implements like hoes, cutlasses, knives and so on and so forth. Like other Nigerians from other regions, Oke Ogun farmers were subsistence farmers whose interest was

⁶¹ Oral interview with Amosun C. Osinbola, Age 87, Trader, at Okeho on November 15th, 2013.

⁶² Famoriyo Segun. 1974. Land ownership and Land Use in some selected villages in Western State of Nigeria. Paper presented at the 10th annual Conference of the Agricultural Society of Nigeria at the cultural Centre, Jos, Nigeria. 1-5 July, 1974

⁶³ Oral interview with Adeagbo Joseph, Age 78, A Farmer, at Okeho on October 12th, 2013.

⁶⁴ Oral interview with Adebayo Olusegun, Age 57, Teacher, at Isemi-Ile in January 15th, 2013.

to cultivate what they were going to eat.⁶⁵ Production under subsistence arrangement was not meant for business that involved exchange of goods and services.⁶⁶ But, when the society began to grow to allow socio-economic interactions among one another through several ways, trade, commerce, migration, marriage, diplomacy and warfare began to come on board to determine the common life of the people.

Subsequently, some new crops were introduced to Nigeria by the Westerners. But, that notwithstanding, it was clearly apparent that agriculture developed naturally in Nigeria with no external involvement for many years.⁶⁷ When the cash crops came, they were made to spread to all parts of Nigeria and Oke Ogun region was not exempted. So, farmers in towns like Okeho, Iganna, Okeamu, Ofiki, Saki, Ago-Amodu, Ogbooro, Otu, Sepeteri, Tede, Ago-Are and many others in Oke Ogun had access to the cash crops.⁶⁸ Farming was the most prominent occupation among the Okeogun farmers. Food crops production dominated the economic activities of the people.⁶⁹ Food is a major life-sustainer, so food crop farming was regarded as the mother of all professions among the Oke Ogun people. *Agbe loba* concept which enthroned farmers as 'the king' became popular. The saying '*ebi kii wo 'nu, ki oran mi wo ibe*', which means one cannot be hungry and remember something else' became a generally acceptable dictum among the Yoruba people including the people of Oke Ogun region.⁷⁰

Apart from agriculture, there were other vocations like crafts and trading which served as part time jobs for farmers. Some of the part time work were wood weavers, carvers, cloth weavers, dyers, potters, textile makers and many other ones. However, apart from farming, weaving was the other generally acceptable work among the Oke Ogun people. Nearly all the towns and villages in Oke Ogun had Professional weavers. But, Iseyin ranked as number one town when it comes to weaving and Okeho can be ranked as the second town in the same profession.⁷¹ Other prominent indigenous crafts that existed in the Oyo North were basket weaving, leatherwork, calabash making, mat weaving, blacksmith and many others.⁷² In those days, farmers used to engage in 'Ogba'. 'Ogba' was a garden closed to the compound with fences to prevent incursions from domestic animals.⁷³ 'Ogba' (garden) was used to plant

⁶⁵ Ogunremi, G. O. 2009. *The Structure of Pre-colonial Economy*: p.16: www.articlesbase.com/precolonial-Nigeria-economy-dynamic-or-stagnant. Retrieved 28/05/2013

⁶⁶ Zeleza, J. A. 1993. *Modern Economic History of Africa* Vol. 1 (Senegal: CODESTRIA) pp.15 –16.

⁶⁷ Ogunremi, G. O. 2009. *The Structure of Pre-colonial Economy*. p. 15.

⁶⁸ Oral interview with Adebayo Olusegun, Age 57, A Farmer, at Okeho in January 15th, 2013.

⁶⁹ Ibid

⁷⁰ Ise Ojojo (Professions). www.africa.uga.edu/Yoruba/

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid

⁷³ Oral Interview, Isaac Ayegboyin, Age 95, (Farmer since 1938), at Okeho on May 10th, 2013

vegetables, tomatoes and peppers for domestic consumption. Owing to urbanization, however, gardens are speedily going into extinction. Only few families have gardens near their homes again like in time past.

The second aspect of farming activities what farmers referred to as 'oko etile'. 'Oko etile' was the farm that was not so far from the town, but it was not like the garden that was near the house that can easily be attacked by domestic animals like goats. 'Oko etile' was meant to plant food crops like yam, cassava, maize, cereals and others. Farmers also used to plant everything they used to plant in garden in 'Oko etile'. With 'Oko etile', farmers used to go and return home the same day because it was not far from the town.⁷⁴ It was the family name, compound or quarter names that they used to give as names to many of the neighbourhood farms. There were 'Gbayere' and 'Okeobo' at Okeho, 'Tero' in Isemi-Ile and many others in other communities in Oke Ogun region. The farmers worked in their farms till around noon before receding to their temporary huts (Aba or Ahere) to eat and rest for a while. After brief rest, they would return to the farm to work for few hours more before they finally return home in the evening.

Finally, the farmers engaged in what they used to call 'oko iwaju'. 'Oko iwaju' was a farm that used to take many kilometers before one can get there. While 'oko etile' was a one day journey that the farmers used to trek, 'oko iwaju' cannot be trekked because of its distance and farmers always live in such farm for days, months and even a whole year. That was the farm that was like home for the farmers and his family which they only returned back to town during festivals. In those days, farming was not gender-biased because both male and female not and even children were not spared from farming activities. Most times, women and children who were unable to go to the far away farms used to in gardens or 'oko etile' which was neighbourhood farm.

Throughout Oke Ogun area, traditional tools were used in the pre-colonial days. No doubt, the areas usually cultivated were relatively insignificantly small. Clearing the land of weeds and grown up trees was the first obligation to make a farm. Heaps were later made in preparation for planting. A plot could have about two hundred heaps arranged in ten ridges, each containing twenty heaps. Planting was the next stage that would follow after making the ridges. The farmers from their knowledge of environment knew what seed could grow to maturity in a particular neighbourhood and at a specific time.

⁷⁴ Oral Interview, Ojewunmi Oke, Age 85, (Farmer since 1950), at Isemi-Ile on May 10th, 2013

As said earlier, there were two main prevalent seasons. These were dry and the raining seasons. Preparations for the agricultural year always began during the dry season which between September and February. The planting is done during the raining season between March and August. In Ogboro, Otu, Ago-Are, Ofiki, Okaka, Sabe and all other environs, Cassava and yam were the main root crops. Corn, beans, pepper, Okro and vegetables of different varieties were also grown.⁷⁵ There were relatively small Farmlands and the sizes were limited compared to the available labour. The main implements used by the farmers were locally made billhook, cutlass, axe and hoe for farm works.⁷⁶ The first three were used for clearing, particularly in the forest areas like Iganna, Iwere-Ile, Igbogaa, Adekunle and Ebi while the last one was used for making ridges and cultivating the soil in and around towns and villages around Oyo North.

There were no ploughing instruments for farmers to use as at the time. Every farm work was done by physical human labour. So, they could not go into big farming because they had to remove trees before they could do farming. Even if there were ploughing machines, they would have needed training to operate the machines; and, apart from training, the presence of the trees would have made it difficult for the farmers to use ploughing machine.⁷⁷ Farmers used to maximise the use of their farmlands traditionally by allowing the land to rest from cultivation for long period of time after they had cultivated for two or three years.⁷⁸ By abandoning the land for two to three years, the land would have become rejuvenated. Farmers also used to maximise their farmlands through another approach to shifting cultivation by planting another type of crop on the same farmland without abandoning the land.⁷⁹ Their belief was that there were different nutrients on the soil for different crops. Farmers in Oke Ogun used to measure the sizes of their farm through the number of heaps they cultivated. The thickness of cultivation actually varied from one area to another, but it still depended on the fertility of the land.⁸⁰

Labour units were usually and typically small at this period. Household labour comprised of the man, his wife or wives, the children and other relatives who lived with him. Besides, there were slaves and hired labourers who added to the labour force and worked on

⁷⁵ Olurode, Lai and Olusanya, P. O. 2005. *Nigerian Heritage: The Yoruba Example*. Lagos: Rebonik Publications Limited. pp. 44, 45.

⁷⁶ Atanda, J. A. 1980. *An Introduction to Yoruba History*: Ibadan University Press, p.25

⁷⁷ Ibid

⁷⁸ Ojo, G. J. A. 1966. *Yoruba Culture*, London: University of London Press

⁷⁹ International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences (1968):
<http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/agriculture.aspx>

⁸⁰ Oral interview with Adewale Adesope, Age 45, Lecturer, at Igboora in September 12th, 2016.

farms. There was 'age-grade associations' of friends who worked on different farms through what the Yoruba farmers referred to as 'Owe'.⁸¹'Owe' was a type of labour force provided during harvest when friends of the same age-grade moved from one farm to another to help one another to harvest their crops.

In the past, a man's cultivated farmland depended largely on the size of his labour force. For this reason, men used to marry many wives and bear many children. In addition, the prosperity of typical Oke On farmer depended on how big his labour force was.⁸² Apart from labour force from the immediate family members, farmers also hired labourers to work on their farms when necessary. Patrilineal group farming that required that all the men in a lineage worked together under the direction of the oldest man was another means by which farmers secured labourers to work on the farms in the region.⁸³ Money was not the consideration to get labourers to work on farms in those because there were many ways to secure labourers among the farmers as discussed above.

Farm outputs were not just meant for family consumption. Farmers also engaged in business and they mostly sold their farm outputs raw to the end users on market days, at road junctions, at river banks, under shady trees and by the road sides.⁸⁴ Trade by barter that allowed exchange of one product for another was the initial mode of business transactions. But, when barter system became cumbersome, money became the legal tender for business transactions.

The Yoruba people devised different types of money currency to replace the barter system. As standard measurement of goods and services, the usage of 'isu-elu, (balls of elu) was introduced. 'Elu' was a type of green leaves that were processed as dyeing material to dye clothes. Cloth dyeing was a lucrative business at some point in history among the locals in Yorubaland and so 'Elu' became a means of legal tender in many Yoruba towns including Oke Ogun region. Apart from 'Isu elu', salt also became means of exchange in the past when salt had economic value like gold or crude-oil. But, after some time, cowry shells became the means of exchange and the use of 'isu-elu' and 'salt' became obsolete. These local name for

⁸¹ Akinjogbin, Adeagbo. 1998. *War and Peace in Yorubaland, 1793 – 1893*. Ibadan: Heinemann Educational Books Plc. p. 337

⁸² Smith, Adam. 1971. *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, London.; p. 29

⁸³ Ojo, G. J. A. 1966. *Yoruba Culture*, London: University London Press

⁸⁴ Akinjogbin, Adeagbo. 1998. *War and Peace in Yorubaland, 1793 – 1893*. Ibadan: Heinemann Educational Books Plc. p. 338

cowries was 'owo eyo' or 'esa'. Cowries became very prominent as means of transaction until the arrival of the colonialists.⁸⁵

But, apart from trade by batter which involved exchange of product, 'Isu elu', 'salt' and cowries, another means of exchange was what the Yoruba used to call "Igba". The concept of 'Igba' was when friends could no longer pay his or her debt, they used to send their children to work in their creditor's farm till the money was defrayed.⁸⁶ Phrases like 'won sin'gba' or 'won f'omo sin'gba' was common and popular among the Yoruba in the olden time and each of the phrases refer to the exercise of deploying children and wards to work in the farms and houses of creditors as slaves till the amount owed was paid.

'Owe' or 'Aaro' was greatly utilised. Whenever people of the same age or friends in the same locality decided to help one another to plant, clear new farm fields, weed old farm fields during the raining season or harvest on rotational basis, they were into 'Owe or 'Aaro'. They also helped with weeding during the raining season. 'Owe' or 'Aaro' group used to be large in number with up to a hundred or more membership. The members were not working for money but to help their colleagues so they can enjoy the same help when it came to their turn. Apart from expectation to return the same gesture of collective work on rotational arrangement, the other common compensation method for 'Owe' or 'Aaro' was supplies of food and drinks at intervals during the work time. They are also immensely used during the harvest seasons in the study area.⁸⁷ The major advantages of 'Owe' or 'Aaro' was the speed with which large farms were cultivated.

2.6 Women in Food Production

Oke Ogun women were actively involved in the production of grains like maize, millet, vegetables, peppers, tomatoes and also in the production of yam tubers and cassava. Bush clearing and tilling of land was not part of women's duties because such was the primary assignment for men.⁸⁸ Men were mostly saddled with the responsibility of clearing the bush while women were exempted from such practice.⁸⁹ Women actively participated in

⁸⁵ Aderounmu, O. Adebimpe. 2014. *Oke-Ogun Root: A Web in Yoruba History*. Ibadan: Procon Publishers. pp.34-35

⁸⁶ Ibid

⁸⁷ Oral interview with Olafimihan Samuel, Age 73, Farmer, at Adekunle in January 15th, 2013.

⁸⁸ Patel, A. U. and Anthonio, Q. B. O. 1973. *Farmer's Wives in Agricultural Development: The Nigerian Case*: Paper presented at XV International Congress of Agricultural Economists Sao Paulo, Brazil, August, pp. 20-29.

⁸⁹ Osuntogun, Adeniyi. 1976. *Rural Women in Agricultural Development: A Nigerian Case Study*, Paper

food production and processing in Oke Ogun.⁹⁰ They were the ones cooking for the entire household and they also engaged in trading business of farm produce and locally processed food like 'gari' (cassava flakes), 'elubo' (yam flour), 'lafun' (cassava flour) and many other farm produce.

The women performed different duties and responsibilities on the farm such as:

- (i) gathering/burning of grass
- (ii) seed/seedling selection
- (ii) seed treatment
- (iv) planting
- (v) transplanting
- (vi) manual labour like hoeing or weeding
- (vii) fertilizer/insecticide application
- (viii) harvesting, processing, transporting of products and selection of livestock.

Some women were also involved in birds and animal husbandry.⁹¹ However, low participation of women may be caused by certain socio-cultural factors, drudgery and lack of adequate farming skill.⁹² Oke Ogun women were very hardworking people. They were utility workers who participated in all aspects of farming that ensured food production.

2.7 Agricultural Production and Self Help

The Yorubas had various ways by which they help themselves to achieve their farming targets. Oke Ogun farmers and people in other fields used these self-help activities to acquire properties and social amenities like water, passable roads constructions and so on and so forth. We have talked earlier about *Aaro, Owe, igba or Iwefa, Esusu and Ajo*.

presented at the Conference on Nigerian Women and Development in Relation to Changing Family Structure, University of Ibadan, April, pp. 26-30.

⁹⁰ Adeyokunnu, Tomilayo. 1981. *Women and Agriculture in Nigeria. African Training and Research Centre for Women, Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa.* p. 43.

⁹¹ Olawoye, G. 1985. *Rural Women's Role in Agricultural Production. An occupational Survey of Women from six selected Rural Communities in Oyo State.* Nigeria Journal of Rural Sociology. 2 (1). p. 34-39.

⁹² Ibid

'*Owe*' and '*Aaro*' was associated with age-grade or friends who involved in rotational farming. It was a group-labour-turn-by turn self-help farming system. It was a non-group and loose type of self-help labour where people mutually agree to assist and work for each other on trust turn-by-turn. Youths from ages 20 to 40 years at village level used to take turns to work for one another without monetary consideration. Food and drinks were always made sufficient for workers.⁹³

Owe was like a club or network of relationship formed by people of the same age group to render help and provide support to group members when the need arises. Under *Owe* system, members were called, or put on notice by the group leader to give information about a task, the nature of it, the time, and the date it would be carried out.⁹⁴ *Owe* system used to identify and support members in times of joy and sadness. This was very prevalent in all Yoruba towns and villages especially during ceremonies such as burial, marriage, anniversary, house warming and others. Little wonder then why various groups supported their affected members. This practice had greatly assisted members to produce quick results in their projects and it equally saved time.

Esusu was one of the ways of saving money in the pre-colonial period. Minimum of four members can mutually agree to be contributing money for *Esusu*. There will be a specific amount that each member can contribute at a fixed time. A trust worthy person among the members will be keeping the money. There will be arrangement on how they will be taking the money in turns among themselves. '*Esusu*' was a method the farmers and Yoruba people generally were using to empower the weak ones with meagre money to start farming or small-scale business.⁹⁵

Ajo was another means of self-help introduced by the Oke Ogun people. There was no major difference between *Esusu* and *Ajo*. Both were self-help methods as they with the same rules and regulations guiding them.⁹⁶ *Ofa* or *Isqfa* was similar '*Igba*' as a kind of labour based on service provided by a debtor to pay off the interest on the money being owed on a particular loan. '*Iwofa*' could be a man, a woman, a girl or a boy. According to Samuel Johnson, *Iwofa* system was "one in service of interest." Alternatively, he was the one who served another person occasionally as a result of interest on money or loan collected that he

⁹³ Yoruba Culture Economy: [Http://yorupedia.com](http://yorupedia.com). Assessed in October 15th, 2014

⁹⁴ Ibid

⁹⁵ Aderounmu O. Adebimpe, 2016, *Yoruba Ancestral Web: Oke Ogun in Historical Perspective*. Ibadan, Procon Publishers. p. 38

⁹⁶ Ibid

has not settled.⁹⁷ *Iwofa* labour practice was earlier misunderstood by the Europeans when they compared it to a pawning system where a debtor deposited his/her valuables as collateral and security before a loan was granted. However, Yoruba version of pawning, *Ifi-do-go or dogo*, did not apply to humans because the individual *Iwofa* still had his social status remained the same. It must be made clear that his civil and political rights were not tampered with in any form. *Iwofa* was only subject to his master in the same universal sense that "a borrower is servant to the lender".⁹⁸

2.8 Seeds and Planting

Seed was the first connection in the food chain. It is preserved as the basis of food sovereignty in global food production. It is a removable organ of plants' reproduction from new plants of the same kind. Seeds must develop from fertilised vegetative leaf. It could also be from the stem, cutting of the root and ex-plants before food production can be achieved.⁹⁹ Seed continuity is not possible for farmers when they lacked access to fertilised varieties they can keep. It is the essential aspect of farming required to achieve the increase in agricultural production.¹⁰⁰ In Oke Ogun, the common crops were often produced based on the regional specialty which included yam, cassava, okro, vegetable, maize, cocoyam, melon, plantains, kolanuts and oil palm.¹⁰¹ The use of good and quality seed was important to ensure the increase in food production and farming productivity.¹⁰² However, most seeds were usually from the previous harvests and generally shared with friends and co-farmers in need of it. The sharing, many at times, were free of charge among these farmers.

Many of these crops, both indigenous and foreign, were grown extensively by farmers in Oke Ogun.¹⁰³ Typical examples of these indigenous crops were yam, oil palm and cola nitida. The imported ones came largely from America after the 15th century when trade, particularly the slave trade, brought West Africa in contact with America. The earliest example of imported crops was maize. By about 1800, the list of crops, both indigenous and

⁹⁷ Ibid

⁹⁸ Ibid

⁹⁹ Obiefuna, J. C., & Ibeawuchi et al. 2010. *Horticultural Seed Production to meet National Demand*. World Rural Observations. p. 59

¹⁰⁰ Atanda, J. A. 1980. *An Introduction to Yoruba History*: Ibadan University Press, p. 25

¹⁰¹ Oral interview with Adeagbo Joseph, Age 78, Farmer, at Okeho in October 12th, 2013.

¹⁰² Oral interview with Alani Oguntona, Age 66, Trader, at Owotoro in June 14th, 2015

¹⁰³ Oral interview with Egunjobi Olugbade, Age 62, Teacher, at Isemi-Ile in August 14th, 2016.

foreign, was impressive. The most imported ones were yam, cocoyam, oil palm, kola nitida, kola acuminate, maize, potato, cotton, sorghum or guinea corn, rice, cassava, melon, beans, groundnut, sugar cane, orange, okro, and various types of vegetables. Cocoa, the most profitable cash crop in Yoruba-land today did not feature until 1800 as it was introduced only in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.¹⁰⁴

Farming for food production in the Pre-colonial Oke Ogun was subsistence in nature. One cannot define subsistence farming in just one opinion.¹⁰⁵ But, generally speaking, subsistence farming is the farming where crop production and cattle rearing are focussed towards a single family consumption. In essence, subsistence farming is a method of agriculture in which enough food is produced to feed the family working on it. Subsistence farm workers are those growing what they need to eat, build their shelter and live without involvement in selling and buying activities.¹⁰⁶ A typical example of subsistence farming is when farmers always cultivate some variety of crops and rear variety of animals needed by the family to nourish themselves in a particular season. Parts of their farm produce could also be used for hospitality. Commercial farming, whether agrarian or livestock, is a large-scale production of crops or animals for sale. Under money-making farming, farmers always grow crops and combine it with animal rearing for economic activities. They deploy reasonable amount of output to cultivate large stretch of land with heavy machineries or acquire large expanse of land for animal rearing.

2.9 Post Planting

In Oke Ogun, post planting activities like weeding and dressing were achieved manually through the use of hand and implements by the farmers with his household and or cooperative activities like *owe*, *aaro* and few other methods. There was no herbicide in use and chemical fertilizer was practically alien to the people. The use of decomposed manure and animal waste, though limited, were used as available.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁴ Atanda, J. A. 1980. *An Introduction to Yoruba History*: Ibadan University Press, p. 25

¹⁰⁵ Wharton, C. R. 1970. *Subsistence Agriculture and Economic Development*. London: Frank Cass and Company Limited.

¹⁰⁶ Tony, Waters. 2007. *The Persistence of Subsistence Agriculture: life beneath the level of the Market Place*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

¹⁰⁷ Oral interview with Okunlola Nathaniel, Age 59, Teacher, at Ayetoro in August 15th, 2016.

2.10 Harvesting and Storage

Harvesting of crops in Oke Ogun during this period was also done manually with the use of cutlasses, knives and hoes. At times, they used bare hands to achieve results. Prevalent then was the use of baskets made from palm fronds, calabashes and sacks for packing and carriage. Also very peculiar was the locally constructed barns in the open yards which were useful for storage after harvest especially for maize, guinea corn, cowpea and other food crops. Harvested produce was kept on the ceiling of the house while some were hanged in the kitchen. The essence of these practices was principally for preservation purpose.

During the harvesting period in the study area, Owe was known as the main source of getting helping hands in order to rescue the crops from rodents and pests' invasion and wastages. Sorting and packaging, as expected, was often done by the farmers and members of his household after the harvest had been done. For proper storage, shelling of most cereals were done to encourage proper packaging. In order to resist pests while in the store, some leaves with peculiar odours were introduced as local insecticides inside the cereals packs.¹⁰⁸

2.11 Food Processing and Preservation

Food processing is any method used to turn fresh foods into food products.¹⁰⁹ Food processing involved converting the harvested crops into further edible products that could be eaten or sold to end users or consumers. The main aim behind food processing is to add value to the raw perishable food. The aim is to preserve the food and make it to have more shelf life than it would have had if left in its raw state. This practice is not a recent phenomenon but, it dated to the primordial days. Through attractive, eye-catching and aesthetically beautiful packaging, products like gari, fufu and others have become exportable products that are seen in international markets.

Food processing is not a recent phenomenon. It dated to the primordial days when unsophisticated methods of processing was involved such like fermenting, sun drying and preservation of food with salt against decay. There were other ways of cooking for edible food substances. The examples of such cooking techniques included roasting, smoking and

¹⁰⁸ Oral interview with Ajayi Adedayo, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (Deputy Director of Farm Settlement, OAU) in November 6, 2016

¹⁰⁹ Monteiro C, Levy R, Claro R, et al. 2010. *A new classification of foods based on the extent and purpose of their processing*. Cad Saude Publication 26 (11), pp. 2039-2049.

steaming. Diets preserved with salt was particularly common as the warriors and sailors choices. This was their peculiar condition until the eventual introduction of the prevalent canning techniques.¹¹⁰ Food processing included outright removal of toxin, preservation against needless damage, marketing and distribution to the doors of the end users. It also increased annual availability of many foods for consumption. Food processing encouraged movement of perishable food items to long distances and allowed preservation of food to be safe for edible consumption.¹¹¹

There are locally-made machines invented to handle food processing.¹¹² Through these engines, foods were processed to meet the diet need of the indigenous people of Oke Ogun. Starch were removed from cassava during the Gari and fufu processing. There were machines that can now process tubers, grains and plantains in many Oke Ogun communities unlike in the past. As said earlier, Oke Ogun women played significant roles in food production, processing and distribution of goods and services.¹¹³ Grain processing was exclusively done by women in Oke Ogun. This was common in Okeho, Ilero, Saki, Ofeegun, Olorunda, Komu and other parts of Oke Ogun region.¹¹⁴

Grains production in Oke Ogun followed similar process. The mush were placed in a permeable bag and allowed to ferment for one or two days. Different weighty iron, big stones and other heavy materials were placed on the bag to press and force the water out. This took about three to eight days.¹¹⁵ It is then filtered and roasted by heating a container with intense fire. The resulting product would be dry grainy gari which could be stored for up to three months or more to make a local diet among the Yoruba called 'Eba'. Eba was not a common food in Oke Ogun in time past. The people only produced grains in exchange for other items.

Yam was sliced to the choice sizes and put in the pots with water and then placed on a fire and cooked for about twenty minutes to arrive at audible yam. The greater part of the world's population consume yam and other food products made out of yam like 'amala' and 'iyan' (pounded yam). It was one of the commonest foods throughout the region. Yam flour

¹¹⁰ Levenstein, H. 2003. *"Paradox of Plenty"*, University of California Press, pp. 106-107.

¹¹¹ Oral interview with Prof. Ajayi Adedayo Olufemi, at the Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (Deputy Director of Farm Settlement, OAU), in November 6, 2016

¹¹² Oral interview with Olafimihan Samuel, Age 73, Farmer, at Adekunle in January 15th, 2013.

¹¹³ Oral interview with Gbadegesin Samuel, Age 75, farmer, at Okeho in August 12th, 2012

¹¹⁴ Oral interview with Okunlola Nathaniel, Age 59, Teacher, at Ayetoro in August 15th, 2016.

¹¹⁵ Oral interview with Olafimihan Samuel, Age 73, Farmer, at Adekunle in January 15th, 2013.

has long been the main food of the Oke Ogun people. They can eat yam flour popularly known as 'amala' or 'oka' three times in a day.¹¹⁶ It is only the Yoruba people in Nigeria that attach importance and give value to yam flour. To others outside the region, it was regarded as inferior substitute for freshly pounded yam. The reason is because it was often made from damaged tubers. What was not known to people of other cultures is that the nutritious value of yam flour and pounded yam are still the same¹¹⁷

In preparing yam flour, yam tubers are sliced into a measurement of about 10mm depending on the dryness of the weather. The slices are then parboiled and allowed to cool in the cooking pot with water. The parboiled slices are peeled and dried in the sun to reduce the moisture content.¹¹⁸ The dried slices are then grounded to flour in a wooden mortar and repeatedly sieved to produce a uniform texture.¹¹⁹ Before the advent of modern preservation methods, Oke Ogun people used to preserve their foods by placing them in containers like airtight clay jars where the natural air and moisture that are capable of spoiling the food. What they used to do was to slow the process of decay.

However, salt was the earliest chemical preservatives the people of Oke Ogun used during the middle age.¹²⁰ It also created a condition which is critically unfriendly to micro-organisms.¹²¹ Food storage required traditional skills. Food was stored by both human beings and animals. Many primitive storage methods like selection/growth of naturally dormant crops, drying, smoking and adding salts to meats, fruits and vegetables were developed by the Oke Ogun people to avert easy food decay and rotteness.¹²²

Apart from 'iyan' (pounded yam) and 'amala', Okeogun people used to eat cocoyam which they used to boil and eat with or without palm oil or stew. It could also be prepared into porridge. Cocoyam was popular among the low class in Oke Ogun. Generally speaking, cocoyam, in any Yoruba society was lowly rated. At other time, cocoyam were sliced and sun dried to make 'elubo' for cocoyam type of 'amala'. Sometimes, the people used to crush cocoyam and grind it into paste form to make soup. Sometimes, they grind cocoyam into paste and wrap them in leaves in small quantities and put on fire till it steams for about five to

¹¹⁶ Oral interview with *Gbadegesin Samuel*, Age 75, Farmer, at Okeho in August 12th, 2012

¹¹⁷ Wageningen University, Netherlands (www.wageningenuniversity.nl/) Retrieved in July 4th, 2017.

¹¹⁸ Ibid

¹¹⁹ Ibid

¹²⁰ <http://www.preservefood.com/drying.shtml> Retrieved on 24/02/2013.

¹²¹ Ibid

¹²² Oral interview with *Oyebisi Adeoye*, Age 78, Farmer, Age 78, at Okeho in December 12th, 2013

ten minutes before they eat it. But, cocoyam is different from yam and it was too tough to reach the level of consistency as white yam or what the people referred to as 'isu'ko' no matter the amount of effort in pounding.¹²³

Beans of different colours like brown, white and maroon (ẹwẹ) were produced in the area. Beans were used to make edibles like beans-pudding or beans-cake that the people called 'Mọin-mọin' or 'Olele or 'Oole', akara-elepo (fried bean cake), ẹwa (boiled beans with or without condiments), Ekurufunfun (White colour) or Brown Ekuru (Ekuru aro) and Ekuru is a beans pudding like 'mọin-mọin' or 'oole'. These foods were eaten in various homes and during social functions and religious festivals. Corn/Maize called 'Eko-Yangan' or 'Ogi', Adalu or Agidi (corn and beans cook together), Ipaka (corn flour) were also some of the food menus that the people used to eat in those days.¹²⁴

More than garri that was earlier mentioned that they were using cassava (*Gbaguda*), Cassava was also used to produce 'fufu', 'lafun' (white cassava flour) were often prepared as 'amala'. Apart from pounded yam (Iyan) and yam flour (amala), from different types of yam like white yam, yellow yam, water-yam, cocoyam, Ewuru, *Kukudunku* and potatoes, the Oke Ogun people also used to produce *Ikọkọrẹ*, *Dundun*, *esun-iṣu* (roasted yam), *Ojojo* (fried-grated yam). There were varieties of vegetables or 'efo' as the Yoruba people call it that were largely grown in Oke Ogun.¹²⁵ Different vegetable (*Efo*) soup were used for different meals. Some vegetables soup can be made for exigency which the people used to call 'ajapa'. But, there used to be special meal, may be during ceremonies or other occasion, that will require time to cook its vegetables.

Common in Oke Ogun was/is the beans soup called 'gbẹgiri'. 'Gbẹgirisoup' is rich and it used to accompany amala. Another thing about the Yoruba meal is the stew made out of plain tomato and pepper that they cook with meat, cow skin (*ponmo*) and other things used to be served with other soups like viscous vegetable (*ewedu*), okro soup (*viscous okro*), *Ogbono* is another's viscous soup to eat foods like *amala*, *iyana*, *ẹba*, *fufu*.¹²⁶

¹²³ Ogundele, Samuel Oluwole. 2006. *Understanding aspects of Yoruba gastronomic culture*. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge Vol 6 (1) January 2007 – pp. 50-56

¹²⁴ *The Encyclopedia of African-American Heritage* by Susan Altman. p. 183

¹²⁵ Oral interview with Egunjobi Olugbade, Age 62, Teacher, at Isemi-Ile in August 14th, 2016.

¹²⁶ Ibid

CHAPTER THREE

FOOD PRODUCTION IN COLONIAL OKE OGUN: 1900-1960

3.1 Introduction

Britain was concerned with the exploitation of mineral and non-mineral resources of her colonies. This was based on the fact that colonial territories were solely open market and the market was free to all foreign enterprises without recognition for the interests of local population.¹²⁷ According to Fredrick Lugard, the open market concept “was to develop the colony for the benefit of its own people and of the outside world”.¹²⁸ However, Lugard was hypocritical with his statement that the colony was developed to benefit ‘its own people’ – that is the local people. What he actually meant to say was that the colony was to be exploited for the benefits of Britain. He made his motive clear when he said in his mandate, “Let it be admitted at the onset that European brains, capital and energy. Have not expended in Africa from the motive of pure philanthropy, but that the benefit of European efforts can be reciprocal”.¹²⁹

Governor Bourdillon also shared the same view as Lugard when he said: “our duty to the British tax payers is to extend the source of supply of raw materials and the ready market for the British manufactured goods.”¹³⁰ From the onset, the British colonial government had targeted substantial returns on investments in whatever they did in Nigeria. Every enterprise and industry were established to make high profits in favour of the home country at the expense of Nigeria.

The colonial government developed the Nigerian economy by tapping into agriculture. Many policies were positioned to encourage development with a view to extract and redirect the surpluses to the advantage of home country in Britain.¹³¹ The principal focus of development at the erathen was the ‘excess extraction policy’ whereby enormous products were generated from the hinterland to provide the needed raw materials for industrial

¹²⁷ Wiesoheff, H. A. 1940. *Colonial Policies in Africa*. Negro University Press. P. 16. For British Policy in Nigeria during the Colonial Period: See T. Falola and Ihonvbere. I. 1989. Britain and Nigeria: Exploitation or Development. Zeb Press.

¹²⁸ Mansfield, G. B. 1954. “The Development of African Agriculture”, African Affairs, Vol. 53, No. 210.p. 42.

¹²⁹ Lugard, Fredrick. 1965. *The Dual Mandate in British Africa*, Frank Cass. P. XIX

¹³⁰ N. A. I. CSO 18 File Vno. 90 “on Colonial Economic Policy of the Government”.

¹³¹ Aigokhan, B. E. 2001. *Resuscitating Agricultural Production for Export*. Proceedings of the 10th Annual Conference of the Central Bank of Nigeria’s Zonal Res. Units.

development in the metropolitan Britain.¹³² In other words, the economy of African countries were planned to improve the conditions of the colonising masters without adequate attention paid to the indigenous colonised population during the colonial period. The only time the colonial government was taking the African population into consideration was when they wanted to oppress them. The colonial government, at different times and under different leaders, used to deploy the indigenous people to work either to produce cash crops and food crops.¹³³

The 'extraction policy'¹³⁴ was directed at forest resources and agricultural exports. Cottons were produced as raw materials for use at British Textile Factories. Rubbers were also exported as raw materials for use at British Tyres Industries. Palm oil and kernel were also exported as raw materials to make soap and margarine in Britain. Groundnuts were manufactured and shipped as raw materials to all kinds of oil. Hides and Skins were not exempted as raw materials to manufacture leather products. Timbers were cultivated and transported as raw materials to manufacture furniture. Tin, coal and many other raw materials were sourced from Africa through the labour of Africans to develop Britain during the colonial period.¹³⁵ To achieve all these, Britain introduced taxation, forced labour, legislations and other measures to coerce the local farmers to produce maximally to meet the targets of the colonial demands.

All of these were in line with the original design for colonialism where colonies were expected to serve as centres for raw materials production to feed the industries of the metropolitan country.¹³⁶ Governor Bourdillon summarised the interest for establishing the colonial government when he said, "Our duty to the British taxpayers is to expand the supply of raw materials and the market for the British manufactured goods."¹³⁷

Finally, as we have been saying before, the clear intention that should not be lost on anybody was that the colonial government expected the colonial territories to serve as raw materials production centres to feed the industries in Britain on the one hand and as the end

¹³² Ayoola, G. B. 2001. *Essays on The Agricultural Economy I: A Book of Readings on Agricultural Development Policy and Administration in Nigeria*: Ibadan: TMA Publishers.

¹³³ See for further readings, Shokpeka, S. A. and Nwaokocha, Odigwe A. *British Colonial Economic Policy in Nigeria, the Example of Benin Province 1914 - 1954*.

¹³⁴ Onimode, Bade. 1981. Imperialism and Nigerian Development. In: Nnoli Okwudiba (Ed.): *Path to Nigerian Development*. Dakar: Codesria, pp. 80-81

¹³⁵ Ibid

¹³⁶ Onimode, Bade. 1983. *Imperialism and Underdevelopment in Nigeria*. Ibadan: Macmillan. p. 42

¹³⁷ N.A.I. Oyo Prof 2/3 File No. 217, Memorandum by Governor B.H. Bourdillon on "Economic Development of Nigeria". April, 1939

buyers of the finished manufactured products that were to be exported back to the territories later. But, one more thing to add is the different protests that the aboriginal farmers registered against the domination of the colonial policies to make them produce under force and duress. Historians did their best to capture these protests and demonstration.¹³⁸

3.2 Oke Ogun Farming Community at the Dawn of Colonial Rule

Part of the extensive struggle to control trade and increase empires in the Africa, was the European's move to establish trading posts in the cost of West African by mid-1600s to the mid-1700s. Like other beginners in the newly found slave trade activities, the British sensed contending with the Dutch in West Africa only by establishing nationwide trading businesses. The Royal Adventurers as an enterprise became chartered in 1660. In 1672, the establishment was succeeded by the Royal African Company. It was only a company without competition that could afford to establish and maintain forts considered necessary to hold stocks of slaves and goods. It was a fact of history that in the first quarter of eighteenth century, Britain and France were able to successfully destroy Dutch hold in West African trade. The end of the French Revolution and the succeeding Napoleonic War that occurred between 1799 and 1815 marked the emergence of Britain as the leading moneymaking power in West Africa.¹³⁹

Many colonies like Nigeria eventually became part of British imperial expansion that had her focus on exporting raw materials, such as minerals and foodstuffs, for Western industrial development in Britain. The Britain eventually became the grower of humid export crops in Nigeria and encouraged serious demands for British mass-produced goods. In the 1890s, railway networks were built in colonies and, after 1930s, many roads were constructed by the colonial government to aid businesses. Pound sterling was introduced as the worldwide means of exchange for convenience in business transactions. All of these developments encouraged exportation activities of the colonial authorities as Britain did all to maintain her economic dominance over other colonies through the use of strong military influences, strategic coalitions and partnerships between the colonial government and the indigenous rulers.¹⁴⁰

¹³⁸Chima J. Korieh. 2001. Women, Gender, and Colonial Agricultural Policy in the Igbo Region of Nigeria, 1913-1954 in *African Economic History*. No. 29 (2001), pp. 117-162. University of Wisconsin Press

¹³⁹Source: The Library of Congress Country Studies: History of European Slave Trade in West Africa.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid

There were devastating internecine war caused by the slave trade in southern Nigeria; this was about three centuries before the abolition that happened in the middle of 1800. In the nineteenth century, Britain main interest was primarily directed towards the opening of markets for its manufactured goods in West Africa and also the expansion of commerce in palm oil. To achieve this interest, Britain usurped the leadership influence of the coastal chiefs in the territories which later developed into Nigeria as a country. Great incursions were made into the virgin land as the population grew and this led into the emergence of what was indigenously called Oko Aba or Abuleko (*farmsteads*). A typical farmstead had temporary house or houses where farmers and their families used to return to after work in their farmlands. They used to go to towns during festivals or whenever they had social or religious engagements.¹⁴¹

3.3 Colonial Economic Policies and Food Production

All over Africa, wherever there was colonial administration, the British controlled government used to introduce cash crops economy. Nigeria was not an exception. The cash crop economy introduced by the British colonial authority crashed down the indigenous economy. Farmers focus was shifted to the money they were making from their involvements in cash crop economy without due consideration for food production which had been sustaining their economic needs and that of their family members.

Even, in a place like Oke Ogun region where the Savannah farmland supported cash and food crops production, the policy that placed cash crops cultivation above food production was enforced to ensure that the British colonial policy generated the required raw materials for industries in the metropolitan Britain was not jettisoned.¹⁴² Though the farmers in Oke Ogun still engaged in production of food crops, the overriding policy that placed the interest of Britain for cash crop economy that will produce raw materials to feed industries in Britain above the interest of the indigenous farmers that supported food crop that aided food sufficiency was a rule that must be obeyed.

To achieve this general rule, a native authority ordinance of Land Cultivation order 19 which stated that: "every land-owner in the area, provided he has sufficient land, shall plant

¹⁴¹ Ibid

¹⁴²The Library of Congress Country Studies:
http://workmall.com/wfb2001/nigeria/nigeria_history_european_slave_trade_in_west_africa.html.
Accessed in October 4th, 2014

annually the amount of food crops mentioned in the first schedule... order" as enacted.¹⁴³ The following are the recognised policies of the era put in place: Forest Policy of 1937, Forest Policy 1945, Agricultural Policy of 1946, Policy for the Marketing of Oils, Oil Seeds and Cotton of 1948, Forest Policy for Western Region of 1952, Agricultural Policy of 1952, Policy for Natural Resources (undated) and Western Nigeria Policy of Agricultural and Natural Resources of 1959.¹⁴⁴ An integrated Department of Agriculture to coordinate farming activities was formed in 1921 in Nigeria. This was done as a result of the amalgamation of both the southern and the northern protectorates of Nigeria.

The key programme of the Central Department of Agriculture was to increase production of export crops for the British market for industrial growth. Agricultural extension services and activities were directed towards increasing the crops production and marketing activities. There were regulations made to set and enforce export and production.¹⁴⁵ Now, the problem was that Cocoa was the choice cash crop adopted for the south-west Nigeria, but cocoa was not indigenous to Oke Ogun area because only few portions of the land which was predominantly Savannah supported cocoa plantation. This caused a shift from the production of food crops like maize, yam, melon, legumes, beans and cereals.

Apart from the more attention given to cash crops, at the expense of food crops, the Central Department of Agriculture in Oke Ogun, during the period under review, did not focus its attention on animal production. The colonial policies, programmes, projects, strategies, goals and objectives were not geared to benefit the indigenous farmers. Aside from the Farm Settlement Scheme which came toward the end of the colonial era, as documented agricultural scheme, no other policy or scheme benefitted Oke Ogun farmers.¹⁴⁶

3.4 Food Production and Tobacco plantation

In the 1930s, tobacco was introduced to Oyo Division, Nigeria and it marked the emergence of a new crop into an area alien to cocoa and coffee production. Tobacco farming and business provided a money-making window of opportunity to the indigenous farmers and this offered a great relief to them. They welcomed tobacco cultivation with great enthusiasm

¹⁴³ N.A.I. Oyo prof 1, File No.2922, a correspondence from the Residence Officer to the Administrative Officer on Local Production of Food stuffs.

¹⁴⁴ Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), 2004. *The Ethics of Sustainable Agricultural Intensification*.

¹⁴⁵ History of Agriculture in Nigeria: <http://agriculturenigeria.com/introduction/history-of-a-griculture-in-Nigeria> assessed in September 4th, 2014.

¹⁴⁶ Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), 2004. *The Ethics of Sustainable Agricultural Intensification*.

and, the general enthusiasm of the indigenous farmers was captured in a statement credited to the Assistant Divisional Officer for Oyo Division when he said; “the Bale and Chief of Ogbomoso are very keen on tobacco cultivation for export or sale, to the European firms because with the exception of cotton, no other crop could bring trade and money to the district.”¹⁴⁷

This new crop was mainly grown in places like Ago-Are, Ipapo, Okaka, Ago Amodu, Kisi, Igboho, Ofiki, Tede and Irawo.¹⁴⁸ Tobacco, an annual crop, can grow in any climate and in great variety of soils. But, for it to thrive well, it must be grown in warm moist climate with definite season, non-acidic, porous and well-drained soil. The type of soil in an area determines the variety of tobacco that could thrive in such environment. For instance, bright and yellow tobacco are produced on sandy soils, while clayed soil gives dark brown or reddish tobacco when cured.¹⁴⁹ Similarly, well distributed rainfall is required for proper development and growth of tobacco.

Generally, light sandy loamy soils are ideal for flue and air-cured tobacco.¹⁵⁰ Tobacco may be air-cured or fire-cured. When tobacco is air-cured, the leaves are strung together with ropes as soon as they are harvested and then hung in fresh air under the roof until they become reddish brown. But when it is fire-cured, the leaves are strung together in barns and allowed to be treated under heavy fire-wood heat until they turned reddish brownish.

Tobacco was used for divergent purposes in Nigeria. The seeds are sown around compounds because of its offensive smell to scare away insects, reptiles and other dangerous animals. The leaves were also chewed and used to make snuff.¹⁵¹ Tobacco is also smoked in pipes.¹⁵² A fresh tobacco leaf was equally used for medicinal purposes. Tobacco leaves may be mixed with other leaves and administered on children to prevent convulsion. It is also used by native medicine men for the preparation of other curative drugs.¹⁵³ With time, the people of Oke Ogun Region became familiar with the Tobacco leaves to its multifaceted uses. Many have even claimed that Tobacco predated the colonial era in Africa.¹⁵⁴ Unlike Cocoa, the introduction of tobacco cultivation boosted the economy of the indigenous farmers in Oke

¹⁴⁷Oyeleye, D. A., “Impact of Tobacco Cultivation on the Agricultural Economy of Oyo Division,” p. 12.

¹⁴⁸Ibid

¹⁴⁹Ibid

¹⁵⁰Ibid

¹⁵¹Ibid

¹⁵²Ibid. smoking Pipes have been studied by scholars to establish linkage between smoking and pipes on one hand, tobacco source and diffusion in Africa on the other. See John Edward Phillips, “African Smoking and Pipes” *Jah* Vol. 24, No. 3. pp. 303-309.

¹⁵³Oyeleye, D. A. *op cit.*, p.18

¹⁵⁴Phillips, John Edward, “African Smoking Pipes” *op cit.*, p. 304

Ogun Region, Though, it brought economic diversification into the region, but it affected the production of food crops.¹⁵⁵

Apart from all the other uses of Tobacco mentioned, the main objective for introducing it was for export with a view to add to the exportable raw materials to boost the production need by the British industries. This came about as a result of the needs to cultivate large chunks of land acreages by farmers and the more acreages cultivated the more the volume of tobacco they produced; and the more the volumes of tobacco produced, the better for the farmers economically. Within few years of its introduction, farmers were becoming richer than before. This simply indicated that indigenous farmers were not unreceptive to new ideas and innovations, they only rejected ideas and innovations that didn't improve their economic conditions. To indicate that there was a wider acceptability of Tobacco, Statistics indicated that only three communities in Oyo Division were exposed to the cultivation of the crop before 1950, But by 1960, the number had eventually grown to fourteen communities.¹⁵⁶

¹⁵⁵ Oral interview with Okanlawon Lasisi, Age 78, Tobacco Farmer, at Igboho in July 6th, 2013.

¹⁵⁶ Interview with Ahmed Bello, Age 69, Farmer, at Elekoka in August 13th, 2014.

Table 1 Spread of Tobacco Cultivation in Oyo Division

Year	No.	Places
Before 1950	3	Oshogbo, Ogbomoso, Fiditi
1950 - 1955	4	Otu, Ago-Are, Okaka, Ilero
1955 – 1960	7	Shaki, Tede, Aha, Irawo, Igboho, Ayetoro, Elewure

Source: A brief History of Tobacco in Oyo Province. N. I .A. File No. 1376.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁷ A brief History of Tobacco in Oyo Province. N. I .A. File No. 1376.

Tobacco cultivation was like the cultivation of other related farming products. Tobacco seeds were sown in cold frames to make them safe from insects' attacks before subsequent transplanting into the fields. Tobacco was a yearly crop. Its harvest was either through mechanical, through harvester or through physical labour. After the harvest, tobacco must be stored for curing purpose. This could be either by hanging, bundling or placing it in large piles with tubular vents in order to permit the heat to escape from the centre. Curing allowed for the slow decay and degradation of carotenoids in tobacco leaves.¹⁵⁸ This was to enable the agricultural products to take on properties that were usually attributed to the "smoothness" of the smoke. Subsequently, tobacco must be neatly packed into its various forms of consumption. These include smoking, chewing, snuffing and many other forms. Most cigarettes incorporated flue-cured tobacco which produced a milder and more inhalable smoke. The use of low-ph, inhalable, flue-cured tobacco was one of the principal reasons why smoking has caused many lung cancers and other diseases that were associated with smoke inhalation.¹⁵⁹

As tobacco business improved, food production severely deteriorated because more farmers were involved in the production of the cured tobacco leaves. This experience led to drastic reduction in food crops production and consequently resulted in food shortage in most communities all over the Oke Ogun region.¹⁶⁰ The end result of all these was inflation as there came a time when more money was only able to buy little food stuffs. Robert N. Proctor¹⁶¹ captured the inflation that followed the effects of the farmers' total shift to tobacco when he said that tobacco plantation similarly contributed to the global famine as the tobacco business diverted vast acres of land meant for producing the much needed food crops for feeding to the production of tobacco. Ganiyu Kuranga also validated this by confirming that tobacco production obviously led to the low production of food production in the region.¹⁶²

The tobacco's small piece use of land denied about 15 to 25 million people of food for survival.¹⁶³ The reason was predominantly because tobacco cultivation required more expanse of land to cultivate. Land that had been used for tobacco cultivation had become

¹⁵⁸Robert, N. Proctor. 2012. The History of the Discovery of the Cigarette-Lung Cancer Link: [Http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/21/2/87](http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/21/2/87).

¹⁵⁹ Ibid

¹⁶⁰ Interview with Bamikunle Oluwaseyi, Age 48, Civil Servant, at Igbeti in July 6th, 2013.

¹⁶¹Robert, N. Proctor. 2012. The History of the Discovery of the Cigarette-Lung Cancer Link: [Http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/21/2/87](http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/21/2/87). Accessed in October 14th, 2016.

¹⁶² Oral interview with Ganiyu Kuranga, Age 75, Tobacco Farmer, at Ayetoro in June 16th, 2013.

¹⁶³ John, Madeley. 1999. *Big Business Poor Peoples; The Impacts of Transnational Corporations on the World's Poor*. Zed Books. pp. 53, 57.

destroyed or degraded and can no longer be used to plant any other crops later. The soils of the new forests that were cleared to plant tobacco were no longer protected because rain falling on the exposed land was washing away the fertility of the top soil.¹⁶⁴

3.5 The Effects of the First and the Second World War on Food Production in Oke Ogun: 1914 - 1945

World War I popularly called WWI commenced on the 28th day of July, 1914. The war lasted till November 11th, 1918. The First World War was called the Great War until the start of the World War II in 1939 which made the First World War become a child-play.¹⁶⁵ The Second World War included all the world's great powers that gathered in two differing coalitions. The global effects of Second World War over all the nations and countries of the earth was crunching. This was with no exception on the economy of the colony of Nigeria. Western Nigeria had its fair share of the protracted economic crisis and depression as seen in the prices of commodities.¹⁶⁶

These wars continued unrestrained and it took different dimensions when the colonial administrators reorganised the architecture to meet the economic and security priorities required to manage the conflict. The Second World War produced acute food scarcity and supplies with negative consequences on governance. It also affected negatively the normal way our people were living under the western Nigeria during the colonial period. This thereafter created grave shortage of food supplies nationwide.

During the wars, adult males from Oke Ogun were indiscriminately conscripted into the army to fight. During this time, women and children suffered significantly as they were gruesomely massacred. The civilian population suffered serious psychological and emotional trauma as a result of the wars.¹⁶⁷ There were mass demolition of cities and the news of such had serious lasting effects on both the people and the economy of Oke Ogun region. The war had direct and indirect consequences on social order of many countries of the world. As said before, many able bodied men were conscripted into the army and this rendered countless women to become widows and many children became fatherless. Hunger started as a result of

¹⁶⁴ Ibid

¹⁶⁵ Willmott, H. P. 2003. *World War I*, New York: Dorling Kindersley. pp. 10–11

¹⁶⁶ Byfield, J. A. 2007. "Feeding the Troops: Abeokuta (Nigeria) and the World War 11". *African Economic History*, No. 35. P. 78

¹⁶⁷ Impact of Armed Conflict on Children as presented to the General Assembly of the United Nations' 1996 Report, New York. [Hhttp://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/en/](http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/en/) Accessed in April 12th, 2017.

inability to get timely and sufficient food supply. Forced migration became the order of the day during the time. Many families left farm work due to insecurity and it resulted in shortage of manpower.

The department of Agriculture was directed to embark on grow-more-food campaign by taking the drive to the door steps of the farmers.¹⁶⁸ The Agricultural department was also put on the alert to be prepared to help the imperial government in the production of such crops as might be required from time to time.¹⁶⁹ In Oyo Province for instance, the Resident directed District Officers in Oyo, Ife, Ibadan and Ilesa to give the Agricultural Officers the facility for their task, and meet Native Authorities to discuss plans that may be considered practicable to achieve production improvement on both local foodstuffs and export crops.¹⁷⁰

The war, as long as it lasted, determined the agricultural policy to be adopted by the Agricultural department. Production of certain crops for export, some others for domestic consumptions and more others for the army during was controlled by the exigencies of the time. But, in spite of the war situation, extension services and research were intensified as officers were encouraged to undertake special investigations for crop improvements. The colonial administration concentrated on the cultivation of export crops. Such included palm produce, Tobacco and rubber to meet international market expectations and food crops like maize, millet, yam, cassava and cereals to meet local demands.¹⁷¹

To ensure regular supply of essential commodities for the Allied Forces and to see that the British Public were assured of adequate food supply at the cheapest price possible, a supply Board headed by the Controller of Supplies in England was created.¹⁷² In order to ensure the success of the production drive, the Controller was given wide powers to buy the whole output of the empire, or demand for certain definite quantities from a particular country, or decide to buy from the open market.¹⁷³ To mount an intensive and vigorous propaganda for the production drive, the British employed all means including sentiments and psychological warfare to persuade the farmers in Western Nigeria to increase production. This was captured in the common saying among the residents that “In many countries, people

¹⁶⁸NAI: Oyo Prof. File No. 252/8, On the War-Time Policy of the Agricultural Department, October 26, 1939.

¹⁶⁹ NAI: Prof. File No. c232/8, “On War-Time Policy of the Agricultural Department”, From Resident, Oyo to District Officers, November 18, 1939.

¹⁷⁰ Ibid

¹⁷¹ NAI: CSO 20 File No. 37909/S/14 C/2 West African War Council “On Food Production and Supply”.

¹⁷² NAI: Oyo Prof. 2/3 File CSO, Memo on, “On War-Time Policy of the Agricultural Department.

¹⁷³ NIA: Oyo Prof. 2/3 File No. CSO, “On War-Time Policy and Food Production”, From Director of Agricultural to Chief Secretary Southern Provinces and others, October 26, 1939.

are not only working for victory but dying for victory. In Nigeria, we can work and live for victory.”¹⁷⁴

3.6 Agricultural Loans, Credits and Subsidy Programmes

Farmers who settled in rural areas had no access to formal credit facilities that could assist to provide needed funds for work in their farms. There were no formal financial institutions such as commercial banks in rural communities. Apart from this, the farmers had nothing to provide as the required collaterals to guarantee their loans. Besides all these, there was a lack of adequate information about the credit facilities available that the farmers can enjoy.¹⁷⁵ Another problem was that, the headquarters of most banks and their branches were located in cities. As a result of this, farmers in the rural areas could not access credit loan facilities for farming.

However, subsidies such as agrochemicals, fertilisers, seed varieties, high yield seed/seedlings, day olds chicks, machet, sickles and hoes were always provided for the farmers. That notwithstanding, there was high cost of transaction involved in administering small-sized credit for the isolated small farmers.

3.7 Cooperative and Culture of Group Farming

In developing countries, farmers were always encouraged to organise themselves into cooperative societies. These associations, all over the world, has been the apparatuses of social and economic transformation to farmers and traders.¹⁷⁶ Examples of traditional cooperatives were the Esusu’, ‘ajo’ (*contribution clubs*), the age-group and work relation arrangements which were common among the local people in western Nigeria.

3.8 Farm Settlement Schemes

In 1959, the government of the Western Nigeria initiated a Farm Settlement Scheme (FSS) to encourage youths to choose career in farming. This was done to reduce rural-urban drifts among the youths who were always found in cities seeking for white-collar jobs after

¹⁷⁴ NAI: Oyo Prof. File No. 3474, “West African Production for Export”, Dispatch from Colonial Secretary to Chiefs and Peoples of Western Provinces: Release No. 1.

¹⁷⁵ Bastelaer, T. 2000. *Does social capital facilitates poor people’s access to credit? A review of the Microeconomic literature. Social Capital Initiative Working Paper No. 8:* pp. 1-24

¹⁷⁶ Ijere, M. O. 1992. *Prospects of Nigerian Cooperatives, Enugu*, ACENA Publishers, p. 177

they have left school. This scheme also served as an agricultural training centre for skill acquisition where young farmers can learn some ongoing agricultural best practices. There were eight farm settlements in Oyo State that were located in towns like Ipapo, Ilora, Eruwa, Ogbomoso, Iresaadu, Ijaiye, Akufo and Lalupon. The Ipapo farm settlement scheme was established in 1962 occupied 2,460 acres of land in Oke Ogun. The farming arrangement was 25 Acres per Allottee and not less than 236 Allotees were settled to plant any crop of their choices.¹⁷⁷ At Ipapo, as at 1990, the rent per acre per annum was Two Hundred Naira Only (N200.00).

The Ipapo farm settlement initially serviced Oke Ogun in the areas of demonstration, extension and advocacy services which led to the establishment of many backyard small-scale livestock farm activities in other areas of Oke Ogun region. This was how poultry eggs, pork, chicken and the likes became introduced into the business and food-intake in the Oyo North Division of Oyo State. The Farm settlement provided job opportunities for people and also enhanced the food security of Oke Ogun.¹⁷⁸ But, this lasted only for a brief period because the government could not sustain the settlements to meet the expectations of some prospective youth farmers.

In the early 1990s, sharp increase was recorded, as a result of the rate of unemployment with the Structural Adjustment Programme. In spite of this, it had no significant implication in the food production in Oke Ogun. The reason was due to lack of necessary infrastructure and adequate supports promised by the government as well as the inexperience of many of the allottees on farming.¹⁷⁹ The farm settlements were unable to meet the installation capacities; so, the food production continued in the circles of peasant farmers who were only working on small portion of lands that yielded what they were eating by themselves. Peasant farmers didn't have access to mechanised farming equipment because they didn't have the money involved to acquire them. Farmers in Oke Ogun farmers were unable to produce food crops for commercial purpose.

¹⁷⁷ Interview, Opawusi Taliat Olalekan, Age 54, (Director of Farm Settlement, Oyo State), at Ibadan in November 6, 2017

¹⁷⁸ Ibid

¹⁷⁹ Oral interview, Prof, Ajayi Adedayo, Lecturer, at the Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (Deputy Director of Farm Settlement, OAU), November 6, 2016

CHAPTER FOUR

FOOD PRODUCTION IN OKE OGUN IN THE POST-COLONIAL PERIOD, 1960-1999

4.1 Introduction

The period between 1960 and 1999 can be described as one of the most fascinating in the agrarian history of Oke Ogun of Southwestern Nigeria. Agricultural production in Nigeria in general and in Oke Ogun in particular has progressed through identifiable stages. The introduction and expansion of the cash crop economy into colonial Nigeria had created a cash crop export and food deficient in local economic terrain. This was because the farmers were involved more in cash crop cultivation than in food production.

The introduction of cash crop economy to Nigeria was due to the creation of British colonial administration. Nigeria witnessed the reduction in the indigenous food production that used to give families self-sufficiency in food and other socio-economic needs. The reason behind the establishment of cash crop policy by the colonial authority was to offer adequate raw materials for the industries of the cosmopolitan authority.¹⁸⁰ A unified Department of Agriculture was formed in Nigeria in 1921 after the amalgamation of the Southern and the Northern protectorates for the benefits of the foreign authority.

The main policy of the Central Department of Agriculture was to increase the production of export crops for the British which had a ready market to absorb the crops for its industrial growth. Extension activities of the policy were therefore directed towards increasing efficiency in crop production and marketing at the expense of food crop production.¹⁸¹ Unfortunately, this had adverse effect on agricultural activities and food production in many parts of Nigeria and, Oke Ogun region which is our study area, was not exempted. Attention was diverted from food crops like maize, yam, melon and other food crops that were initially grown in the area.

The Western Region government, in their agricultural development policy, identified agriculture as being fundamental to national development. They realized that without a

¹⁸⁰The Library of Congress Country Studies:
http://workmall.com/wfb2001/nigeria/nigeria_history_european_slave_trade_in_west_africa.html.
Accessed in November 16th, 2016

¹⁸¹ History of Agriculture in Nigeria: <http://agriculturenigeria.com/introduction/history-of-a-griculture-in-Nigeria> assessed in October 12th, 2016.

flourishing and expanding agriculture, the growth of industry will be retarded.¹⁸² Agriculture was regarded as the needed key to the prospect and rate of Nigeria's industrialisation. Such regional specialisation presented outstanding prospects harnessed by the colonised state to boost the survival of the dominant government through direct taxation and forced cultivation of cash crops. It also encouraged the export of basic foods and raw materials through the activities of the Marketing Boards and Corporations.

Many farmers were targeting high volume of production for sales within and outside Nigeria. Farmers from Oke Ogun were able to record huge successes in the volumes of export products. However, improvements in the quality of the farmers' work did not keep the pace with the level of physical outputs achieved. The basic problems confronted by farmers included tillage, cultivation, drainage and protection of crops from wind. Issues like pruning, manuring, control of pests and diseases received no significant attention from the indigenous peasant farmers. These and few other problems needed be attended to by the government and some interested private initiatives that established businesses in Nigeria.¹⁸³

Until 1971, food importation into the country was very limited since the country operated a policy of national self-sufficiency in basic food-stuffs. Liberalized food import policy was later put into operation despite objections from the Nigerian farmers and the outcry of the press that importation of basic foods was the wrong way to check famine.¹⁸⁴ It was later realised that uncontrolled food importation was having damaging effects on the indigenous agriculture and food producing industries. The demand for industrially prepared foodstuffs became higher everywhere in the mid-1970s as the country experienced a period of oil boom. Higher incomes, and sudden growth in urban population led to increasing demand for finished and half-finished foodstuffs. With intensive advertisements of products on radio, television and on bill boards, the hygienic and nourishing qualities of many imported foodstuffs were drummed into the ears of Nigerians who gradually changed their buying patterns accordingly.¹⁸⁵

Consumption of imported foodstuffs was accompanied by a demand for acquisition of kitchen equipment, such as refrigerators, Freezers, gas cookers, blenders and electric yam

¹⁸² Awolowo, Obafemi. 1981. *Voice of Reason: Selected Speech of Obafemi Awolowo*. Akure: Fagbamigbe Publishers. p. 64

¹⁸³ Ekundare, R. O. 1973. *An Economic History of Nigeria 1860-1960*. London: Methuen and Co. Ltd., p. 177

¹⁸⁴ Daily Sketch, Importation of Basic Foods was the Wrong Way to Check famine. 29 June, 1971 p. 10

¹⁸⁵ Stuttgart, Francis Steiner Verlag. 1994. *Food and Society in Nigeria: A History of Food Customs, Food Economy and Cultural Change. 1900-1989*. Germany: DruckereiProff, Eurasburg. p. 134

pounders by many Nigerian families. The acquisition and the use of the appliances certainly improved kitchen operations and lightened the job of pounding condiments and *foofoo* with mortars and pestles, and grinding with stones which usually make African cooking seem like a very difficult and time consuming exercise.¹⁸⁶ Hence, the rush for imported foods increased. From the above therefore, it is obvious that uncontrolled food importation was detrimental to the local food production as some local foodstuffs partly lost their appeal, especially, among the educated middle-income class and young people. This penchant for imported foodstuff negatively affected agricultural production of some indigenous crops like cassava, maize, melon, beans and rice which were easily supplemented by imported rice, wheat and maize.

The introduction of tobacco meant an appearance of additional crop into the non-cocoa or coffee producing region and into a semi-subsistence economy which was an innovation in itself. Secondly, it was not only an improvement to an economy which had previously depended exclusively on food crop cultivation, it also expanded the entire economy of the area.¹⁸⁷ It was glaring that the cultivation of tobacco boosted the economy of Oke Ogun region. It brought economic diversification to the people with new ideas and exposure.¹⁸⁸ The excitement response from the farmers to the profitable opportunity offered by the new crop was justified by the acreage of land cultivated for tobacco and the tonnages produced within little years it was introduced. It also indicated that they were interested in new ideas and invention.¹⁸⁹ Essentially, it was an effort to replace the locally grown tobacco leaf for imported one for the manufacture of tobacco locally.

The development of tobacco business adversely affected food crop production as more farmers got engaged in the cultivation of cured tobacco plants. This eventually led to drastic reduction in food crops production in the province. This sadly led to food shortage as a resultant effect.¹⁹⁰ It is not surprising therefore that foodstuffs became insufficient unlike before the introduction of tobacco plantation. As pointed out by Robert N. Proctor,¹⁹¹ “tobacco production also contributed to global food shortage because the industry diverted

¹⁸⁶ Ibid

¹⁸⁷ Kranedonk, H. C., “*Rural Changes in the Savanna Area of Western State of Nigeria with reference to Tobacco Production*”, NISER, April, 1968. p. 1

¹⁸⁸ Oral interview with Okanlawon Lasisi, Age 78, Tobacco Farmer, at Igboho in July 6th, 2013.

¹⁸⁹ Ibid

¹⁹⁰ Oral interview with Bamikunle Oluwaseyi, Age 48, Civil Servant, at Igbeti, July 6, 2013

¹⁹¹ Robert, N. Proctor. 2012. The History of the Discovery of the Cigarette-Lung Cancer Link:

[Http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/21/2/87](http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/21/2/87). Accessed in October 14th, 2016.

acres of land meant for producing food to the cultivation of tobacco.”¹⁹² The statement that the small portion of land diverted for tobacco cultivation denied 15 to 25 million people of food is a mere repetition of the obvious.¹⁹³ This was because tobacco cultivation required a large expanse of land. The deployment of scarce land for tobacco cultivation caused negative implications on nearby farms. As forests are cleared to make way for tobacco plantations, for example, soil protection provided is lost and it is more likely to be washed away during heavy rains. This has obviously led to real soil degradation and deteriorating yields.¹⁹⁴

Another profitable cash crop in Oke Ogun was cotton which was also accepted and grown on a large scale. Like tobacco production, it ended up as a clear diversion from the regular food crops production which the farmers were used to from the cradle. The plantation of cash crops made food crops cultivation declined significantly. But, cultivation of cotton did not increase their earnings of the farmers because they were at the mercy of the buyers who exploited them in spite their labour inputs. An attempt to create a platform open market that would improve their earnings from cotton at Iseyin generated a very discouraging feud between the cotton farmers and Ijebu middlemen that required the intervention of the Divisional officers.¹⁹⁵

This experience left the production of food crops in the hands of fewer peasant farmers who mostly worked on small plots of land with low inefficient technologies. The continued emphasis on cash crops production eventually created the conditions for the food insecurity which the area later experienced.¹⁹⁶ The farmers could not therefore produce much of food crops in their farms thereby having very little as profit; while much was consumed by the household. The economy of the people was inevitably low and poverty caught up with the community as people began to live in want of many things.

Shortly before and immediately after the independence, Nigeria had the challenge of nation building and how to achieve economic development. Agriculture was the mainstay of the nation’s economy, though selectively developed. Preferences was given for cash crops for export against food crops. This was partly to meet the needed raw materials needed for the British colonial administration to service the industries in Britain. The Agricultural policies in Nigeria has evolved substantially since the nation had its independence. The 1960s were

¹⁹²Ibid

¹⁹³ John, Madeley. 1999. *Big Business Poor Peoples; The Impacts of Transnational Corporations on the World's Poor*. Zed Books. pp. 53- 57

¹⁹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁹⁵ N.A.I. File No. 3939 Trade in Cotton Thread at Iseyin, 3rd June, 1943, Oyo resident Department.

¹⁹⁶ Helleiner. 1966. *Nigeria - The Colonial Economy*, in Bade Onimode. *1860-1960*. p. 332.

characterized by strong public interventions in agriculture with development guidelines. Both the federal and the state governments established and implemented workable plans. In this policy, it was hoped that future imports would be replaced, and internal growth nurtured to ensure that the costs of the strategies would be mostly borne by the advanced countries supplying the manufactured consumer goods.¹⁹⁷

The first national development plan was effected between 1962 and 1968. Among the several set objectives, it underlined the introduction of more modern farming methods such as farm settlements, co-operative (nucleus) plantations, supply of improved farm implements (e.g. hydraulic hand presses for oil palm processing) and a greatly expanded agricultural extension service.¹⁹⁸ The year 1970-1986 was coincided with a period of intensive petroleum exploitation in Nigeria and marked by policies that didn't support agricultural development. There was a serious decline in domestic food production which eventually reduced the country to the status of over dependent on imported foodstuffs. As a result of the major food crisis in the post-civil war era, some programmes were eventually introduced in order to manage the situation. The status of the agricultural products in the national economy later declined relatively owing to the enormity of crude oil earnings.¹⁹⁹

4.2 Nomadic Fulani and Food Crop Production

Cattle-rearing has been an ancient agricultural practice which was/is the predominant occupation of the Fulanis who had specialised in animal business as their major agricultural focus. As a matter of fact, the Fulanis relied on foods produced by the farmers to buy and eat. They also depended on merchants and the city dwellers to buy their cows for survival. Previously, the rapport between the nomads and the hosting communities was not as violent as we had it during the study period. There were several cases of intertribal marriages, trade relations and partnership.²⁰⁰

Herdsmen have engaged in the archaic systems of moving their animals from one location to the other regardless of the distance to seek for greener pastures and escape from

¹⁹⁷ Pearce. 1986. In: Ayoola, G. B. 2001, *Essays on the Agricultural Economic: A book of Readings on Agricultural Development Policy and Administration in Nigeria*. Ibadan: T.M.A. Publishers.

¹⁹⁸ Ayoola, G. B. 2001. *Essays on the Agricultural Economy 1: A Book of Readings on Agricultural Development Policy and Administration in Nigeria*: Ibadan: TMA Publishers.

¹⁹⁹ Olorunfemi, A. and Adesina, O. C. 1998. Politics and Nigerian Agriculture in the First Decade of the 'Oil Boom', 1970-1980: *A Preliminary Assessment in the Nigerian Journal of Economic History* N0 1. September. p. 57

²⁰⁰ Oral interview with Ajayi, Samuel Adetunji, Age 78, Teacher, at Ayetoro in April 14th, 2013

harsh weather conditions. The movements of the nomadic Fulanis were not, in any way, controlled thereby taking advantage of these unrestricted movement to go into people's ancestral lands to destroy their agricultural produce without remorse. This has led to clashes and counter-clashes among the farmers and the herders which have claimed many lives and properties. The only solution to farmers'-herders' clashes is ranching system. So, if the herdsmen had embraced the ranching systems that allow keeping their animals in confined spaces, most of these clashes and killings would have been avoided.

Fulani invasions among the Yoruba race had been for a very long time. In the 17th century, Chief Arilesire of Ijo in Okeho called all the other neighbouring settlements together to fight the Fulani Jihadists²⁰¹ who had constituted themselves dangers to the lives and properties of Yoruba people because they had the advantage of calvary raids across the grassy vegetation of Oke Ogun.²⁰² During the period, the Fulani attacked the Yoruba people who were predominantly farmers and carted away their properties and captured their people for slavery. It was this forceful and illegal adventures of the Fulanis that made the Onjo Arilesire to suggest the coming together of the people. Similarly, Ajibesin, a warrior and royal son to Ikole-Ekiti throne led the forefathers of the people of diverse settlements in today's towns of Ago-are, Okegbadui, Otu, Okaka, Ofiki, Gbojaye, Komu, Baba-Ode, Ipapo, etc to fight against the Fulani warriors who were attacking them to carry away their people and properties.²⁰³

Around March 1987, when farmers and the community people were preparing for Christian Easter celebration which was usually celebrated by all and sundry regardless of religious divides, rain was delayed and flowing streams which was the available source of drinkable water were drying up, a set of Fulani herdsmen who were desperately looking for water for their animals and grass to feed them invaded Ilero and the surrounding villages. The Fulanis were so aggressive because they were losing their animals to hard and elongated drought.

Whenever the Fulanis began to seek for greener pastures to secure food for their animals, they were always throwing good and godly behaviour to the winds as the go about to maim and kill the farmers who owned the land. Many farmers have fled from their farmlands because of insecurity. Many have reported to the security agencies without any tangible result. Many have reported to the paramount rulers of different communities, yet the Fulani

²⁰¹ Oral interview with Adewoyin Adewale, Age 52, Civil Servant, at Ofiki in July 6, 2017

²⁰² Gbadegesin, Segun. 2017. *Okeho in History* Mitchellville: Harvest Day Publications. p. 96

²⁰³ Ibid

onslaught did not stop. Many who had resisted the Fulani invasion lost their lives or were maimed. An example was one Mr. Banusomo of blessed memory who lost his ten fingers to the attack of the Fulani because he resisted the invasion of the farm products he stored by the Fulani cattle. This singular incident rendered him disabled and unproductive till his demise.²⁰⁴

The recent occurrences from around 1991 saw the incursion of another tribe of Fulani called Bororo into the study area. The activities of this new entrants had generated a serious heat in the relationship between the Fulanis and the host communities. Cases of crop destruction were reported to the traditional rulers of several communities. Some crop farmers were killed in the process of protecting their investments. There was the incident of the Bororo men that invaded the farms of the people of Isale Oke area of Saki on the western outskirts of the town and caused great havoc in the farm.²⁰⁵ The people of Saki, especially the hunters saw the Bororo men's act as an affront and great provocation. They therefore decided to chase the Herdsmen away from Saki environment. During the process of chasing the Bororo men away, and because of their stubbornness, many lives and properties were lost from both sides. When the Police in Saki stepped into the matter, only the Saki people were arrested and locked up by the police men at their Sango Road, Afotee Station.

The action of the policemen infuriated the people which resulted into the invasion of the Police Station to register their protest. Lack of cooperation of the police therefore led to the vandalism of the Police Station. The clashes continued at the outskirts of Saki where the Bororo men had continued to rob and kill innocent people. It took the intervention of Saki West Local Government's Chairman, Deacon S. O. Adebolu, the Okere of Saki, Oba Abimbola Oyedokun and his Chiefs before they were able to put a stop to the mayhem.²⁰⁶ The efforts of Saki Parapo as the town's umbrella development Organisation also contributed towards resolving the issue.²⁰⁷

Since then, towns and villages in Oke Ogun such as Okeho, Ilero, Otu, Ilua, Saki, Aha (Ojeowode), Okaka and others had been experiencing Fulani attacks. This challenge occurred severally leaving many farmers stranded after their food crops had been destroyed without any compensation. These new experiences resulted in open hostilities, raids and warfare

²⁰⁴ Oral interview with Ajayi, Samuel Adetunji, Age 78, Teacher, at Ayetoro in April 14th, 2013

²⁰⁵ Oke Ogun Community News, *Bororo menace Engulfs Saki*. Edition 32. May 1999. p. 1

²⁰⁶ Oke Ogun Community News, *Bororo Menace Engulfs Saki*. Edition 32. May 1999. p.2

²⁰⁷ Ibid

between the hosts and the migrant Fulani.²⁰⁸ The herdsmen, mostly the Bororo were always looking for green areas where their animals could feed. In the absence of specially designated grazing zones or areas, farmlands were becoming attractive to the animals and those who led them. It was a common occurrence for the Fulani/Hausa (Bororo) to encroach into many farmlands with their cows to graze and destroy their farm plants. The farmers who had toiled to prepare their farms who were waiting for harvest always had nothing to harvest in the end. So, instead to allow such waste on investment, farmers always did all to defend his investment even with their lives.²⁰⁹

In summary, what has always been the main reason behind the farmers'-herders' clashes was a clash of interests. The farmer who has tilled his land did so for economic gains. The herders who was looking for food and water on the farmer's farmland was doing so for economic reason. When the interest was economic, nothing could prevent a fierce battle to lead to anything including loss of life or lives because profit making was the focus of the two groups of people.

Any farmer who asked for compensation from the pastoralists was either physically attacked or reported to the Sarkin Sasa in Ibadan. Sarkin Sasa was a pastoralist before he settled down in Ibadan. It was the interest of the latter to get the aggrieved Yoruba farmer reported to him, detained in police station or in prison yard rather than taking the accused farmer to court. The people of Oke Ogun became violent following the demise of Abacha in 1998.²¹⁰ The farmer-pastoralist conflict is a perennial one. The persistent clash between the farmers and pastoralists in Oke Ogun was always bloody. Several cases of conflict were reported in Okeho, Saki, Ogbooro, Igboho, Ofiki, Iganna, Ijio, Iwere-Ile, Itasa, Kisi, Igbeti, Isemi-Ile and Iseyin from the early 1990s. The causes of the conflicts included competition over the use of land, water, grazing and deficiencies in overall strategies for managing agricultural development.²¹¹ This mostly affected food production in the area.

²⁰⁸ Oladele, Olajide Taiwo, 2004. *Effects of Nomadic Pastoralists' Uncontrolled Grazing on Livelihood Activities of Agro-Pastoralists in Iseyin Local Government*. p.16.

²⁰⁹ Oral interview with Waheed Odusile, Age 54, Civil Servant, on the Menace of the herdsmen, at Ogbooro in March 25, 2014

²¹⁰ Albert, I. O, "Alternative Approaches for Managing Farmers-Herdsmen Conflict: The Oke-Ogun Case Study in Nigeria", Research Report Submitted to the Development Policy Centre, Ibadan, October, 2002.

²¹¹ Oladele, Olajide Taiwo, 2004. *Effects of Nomadic Pastoralists' Uncontrolled Grazing on Livelihood Activities of Agro-Pastoralists in Iseyin Local Government Area of Oyo State*. Unpublished.



Figure 4. 1 showing typical herdsmen destroying a farm in Idi Igba, Oke Ogun.

Source: Field Work, 2018



Figure 4.2:showing typical Fulani Herders with Cattles in Oke Ogun

Source:Newspeak, June 26, 2018

4.3 Tobacco Plantation and Food Production

The introduction of tobacco into Oyo Division, Nigeria, in the 1930s meant the introduction of a new crop into a new area. It was a great relief to the farmers of the area, as it offered them the opportunity for making money and trade which had for long eluded them. Thus, tobacco cultivation was received with great enthusiasm in the province. This was received by the Assistant Divisional Officer for Oyo Division when he said; “the Bale and Chief of Ogbomosho are very keen on tobacco cultivation for export or sale, to the European firms because with the exception of cotton, no other crop could bring trade and money to the district.”²¹² Tobacco was grown in Oyo Province of Western Nigeria, mainly in Ago-Are, Ipapo, Okaka, Ago Amodu, Kisi, Igboho, Ofiki, Tede and Irawo, all located in Oke Ogun.²¹³

The expansion of tobacco business unpleasantly affected food crop production due to more farmer’s involvement in the production of cured tobacco leaves. This began to lead to drastic reduction in food crops production and thus had a very high tendency of resulting in food shortage.²¹⁴ It was not surprising therefore that foodstuffs became insufficient unlike before the introduction of tobacco plantation. As pointed out by Robert N. Proctor, in his submission²¹⁵ tobacco production also contributed to world famine because the tobacco industry distracted vast acreages of land from producing food crop to the production of tobacco.²¹⁶ The cultivation of tobacco denies an average of Fifteen Million (15,000,000) people of food supplies for survival.²¹⁷ The reason was because tobacco cultivation requires a large expanse of land. Meanwhile, acres of land that has been deployed to grow tobacco has negative effects on nearby farms. For example, as forests are cleared to make way for tobacco plantations, the soil protection it provides is lost. The tendency therefore is that topsoil will be washed away in heavy rains. This has, in several places, led to soil degradation and worsening of harvests.²¹⁸

²¹² Oyeleye, D. A. 1969. “*Impact of Tobacco Cultivation on the Agricultural Economy of Oyo Division*,” M. A. Thesis, Ibadan (Unpublished). p.12.

²¹³ Ibid

²¹⁴ Oral interview with Bamikunle Oluwaseyi, Age 48, Civil Servant at Igbeti in July 6, 2013

²¹⁵ Robert N. Proctor 2012. The history of the discovery of the cigarette-lung cancer link: evidentiary traditions, corporate denial, global toll, Tobacco Control: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>

²¹⁶ Ibid

²¹⁷ John. Madeley. 1999. *Big Business Poor Peoples; The Impacts of Transnational Corporations on the World's Poor*. Zed Books. pp. 53- 57

²¹⁸ Ibid



Figure 4.3: showing a typical Tobacco field in Ago-Are, Oke Ogun.

Source: British American Tobacco Company, Iseyin Office



Figure 4.4: showing a typical Tobacco drying rack in Ilua, Okeho Road, Oke Ogun.

Source: British American Tobacco Company, Iseyin Office

In Oke Ogun, cotton was also adopted and grown on a large scale. Like tobacco, it ended up as a distraction from the regular food crops production which the farmers were used to. Food crops cultivation declined significantly, and the cotton crop could not increase their earnings but rather put them at the mercy of the buyers. An attempt to create a platform at the Iseyin open market that would have improved their earnings from cotton generated a very discouraging feud between the cotton farmers and Ijebu middlemen that required the intervention of the Divisional officers.²¹⁹

This left the production of food crops in the hands of fewer and less privileged peasant households who habitually worked on small plots of land with low ineffective technologies. Thus, the emphasis on cash crops production created the conditions for the food insufficiency and insecurity which the area eventually experienced.²²⁰ This was the exact situation and the practice with Agriculture and food production in Oke Ogun. The farmers were only able to produce little of food crops thereby having very little for profit-making purpose. While much of the food produced was consumed by the household, the economy of the people was necessarily low and poverty pervaded the fabric of the farming community.

Shortly before and immediately after independence, Nigeria began the process of nation building and serious economic expansion. Agriculture continued as the mainstay of the nation's economy, though partially developed with inclinations for cash crops production against food crops production. The principal reason was partly because the British colonialists required the raw materials from Nigeria to service their industries in Britain. In Nigeria, the policies on Agriculture has progressed considerably since the country got her independence. The 1960s were characterized by robust public involvement in agriculture and food production because of development strategies established at the federal level and implemented in the states. In the same strategy, it was expected that imports would be replaced, internal growth would be nurtured and the costs of the approach would be generally borne by the advanced nations that supplied the manufactured consumer goods.²²¹

The first attempt of Nigeria towards national design was the development plan of 1962-1968. Among several striking objectives, it highlighted the introduction of more modern agricultural approaches through farm settlements, co-operative plantations, supply of

²¹⁹ N.A.I. File No. 3939 Trade in Cotton Thread at Iseyin, 3rd June, 1943, Oyo resident Department.

²²⁰ Helleiner. 1966. *Nigeria - The Colonial Economy*, in Bade Onimode. *1860-1960*. p.332.

²²¹ Pearce. 1986. In: Ayoola, G. B. 2001. *Essays on the Agricultural Economic: A book of Readings on*

Agricultural Development Policy and Administration in Nigeria. Ibadan: T.M.A. Publishers.

enhanced farm implements such as hydraulic hand presses for oil palm processing and a greatly lengthened agricultural extension service.²²² The 1970-1986 period was marked by policies' lack of interest in supporting agriculture that was coincidental to the intensive petroleum exploitation period. The steady decline in domestic food production reduced the nation to the status of rising dependence on imported food items. In the stir of the major food crisis that infiltrated the country after the civil war, some programmes were quickly introduced to manage the situation.

The effect of the production of flue-cured tobacco on the economy of the rural communities of Ago-Are, Okaka, and Ilero was significant.²²³ With the development in the tobacco business, food production became negatively affected as many farmers were getting involved in the production of cured tobacco leaves. As a result, this began to lead to acute shortage in food production which had highly resulted in food shortage and food insecurity. Smoking also greatly contributed to world hunger since tobacco industry diverted huge amount of land from producing food items to the production of tobacco.²²⁴

In Oke Ogun, tobacco cultivation required expanse of land, a situation that denied a significantly number of food crop farmers' access to land with affordable reach. The need to search for land in a far distance also discouraged many food crop farmers. It was evident that those that were committed could not cultivate as much land as they would have loved to do because the time required to get to the farm to work and return home has taken a chunk of their available time. Therefore, less time was available to work on the farm. Obviously, since time spent on the farm had reduced, the work done reduced and all resulted in farm size reduction. The consequence of this circumstance is a significant reduction on food production in Oke Ogun area.

As forests were cleared to make way for tobacco plantations, it soil was drained of essential nutrients especially during heavy rains. This consistently led to soil degradation and failing yields.²²⁵ In effect, food crop production in Oke Ogun was adversely affected by this situation. Most indigenous food crops had equally gone into extinction and biodiversity was unpreserved. Addiction to tobacco and poverty are inseparably linked with each other. Many

²²² Ayoola, G. B. 2001. *Essays on the Agricultural Economy 1: A Book of Readings on Agricultural Development Policy and Administration in Nigeria*: Ibadan: TMA Publishers.

²²³ Oyeleye, D. A. 1969. *The Impacts of Tobacco Cultivation on the Agricultural Economy of Oyo Division*. M. A. Thesis Ibadan. Unpublished.

²²⁴ Madeley, Jaohn. 1999. *Big Business, Poor Peoples: The Impact of Transnational Corporations on the World's People*. Zed Books. pp. 53, 57.

²²⁵ *Ibid*

studies have obviously shown that in the poorest households in some low-income countries like Nigeria, about 10% of the total household expenditure was on tobacco products. This therefore reflected that less money was meant for basic items like food, education and health care delivery. The introduction of Tobacco farming into Oke Ogun has also exposed and turned many innocent indigenes to tobacco smoking entrants. This further made the impact as mentioned above to be deep-rooted in the area. The low patronage of production has negatively affected the continued investment in agricultural activities in Oke Ogun.

Another direct health effects is that tobacco led to serious malnutrition, increased health care costs and thereby resulting into premature death of many.²²⁶ The reason was because addicted people were eating less, spent more on their health and they died prematurely. It was evident that the contract farming arrangement committed the farmers to produce a particular agreed crop using agreed specific techniques under an agreed pricing scheme and system.²²⁷ It left little flexibility for the farmers to adapt to the changing climate, economic or agricultural conditions. Therefore, a significant number of farmers in Oke Ogun were confined to growing tobacco at the expense of food crops. Unfortunately, these contract farming schedules left farmers impoverished in circle of indebtedness as the tobacco companies made high interest loans and sell the farmers inputs at exorbitant prices. This reduced their purchasing power of food produce which rather discouraged food crop production or extended poverty to those food crop and livestock farmers.

The research carried out by the International Labour Office gave its reports that Tobacco was the most intensive aspect of agriculture that employed children as workers in strenuous conditions. It was such a hazardous type of work that encouraged child-abuse.²²⁸ The tobacco industry engaged large percentage of children who were supposed to be studying in various schools to work in tobacco farms. Large number of children on farms in Igboho, Ogbooro, Tede, Ago-Are, Ilua, Adekunle, and other areas of Oke Ogun were thereby deprived of having early access to formal education.²²⁹ This is one major factor that later affected food production adversely because those children ended up not being educated which cut them off from the possibility of engaging in the practices of modern farming and processes of food production. The child labourers were always given low-pay which used to

²²⁶ World Health Organization www.who.int/tobacco/resources/publications. Retrieved 28 September 2016.

²²⁷ Ibid

²²⁸ ILO. International Hazard Datasheets on Occupations: Field Crop Worker

²²⁹ Oral interview with Bamikunle Oluwaseyi, Age 48, Civil Servant, at Igbeti in July 6, 2013

lead to their poverty ultimately. They were always exposed to long hours of hard labour and physical assaults which often discouraged them from farming.²³⁰

It would be recalled that on December 18, 1946, R. W. Walker, the BAT Officer wrote in his letter to the Oyo Province Agricultural Officer that much employment of juveniles particularly girls may be deployed by the company. In paragraph eight of the letter, he stated that; "There is however, a danger that farmers will begin to rely on their tobacco for their income and will start to buy food".²³¹ This is an indication of how much the farmers depended on tobacco activities to be able to feed. It shows that their pay was likely to be low to the extent that they could not afford any saving. This phenomenon continued in the post-colonial period in Oke Ogun.

Many Tobacco farmers, especially the children suffered from sicknesses associated with tobacco.²³² This was a form of nicotine poison which tormented tobacco cultivators. When handling wet leaves, nicotine from it were absorbed in the skin, caused nausea, vomiting and faintness among other related diseases. Smokeless tobacco was also strongly linked with leukoplakia.²³³ Wet tobacco leaves increased the dangers for pre-eclampsia which is the ailment that included high blood pressure, protein in urine and fluid retention in pregnant women. Tobacco farming also had a very important effect on the manpower depletion of a family where some could have engaged in food production. The fact that Tobacco production must be given constant attention more than any kind of food crop production made it to require more hands to achieve. Enough hands were no longer available for food crop farming at the start of tobacco farming in Oke Ogun which resulted in low food production and subsequently food insecurity.

Tobacco producers in Oke Ogun lackedunhindered access to such useful items as coal and petroleum products for drying tobacco which could be used as alternatives to wood. Meanwhile, those in certain nations such as Brazil, Germany, China and United States had free access to such opportunities.²³⁴ Most developing countries in Africa such as Ghana, Togo, Liberia, Gambia and the study area of Oke Ogun depended on the use fire wood in the curing process of Tobacco. The fire wood used for curing tobacco in some areas of Oke

²³⁰ Ibid

²³¹ Walker, R. W. Tobacco industry 18/12/1946. 147-8. Retrieved on 22 August, 2016.

²³² Ibid

²³³ Ibid

²³⁴ Walker, R. W. Tobacco industry 18/12/1946. 147-8. Retrieved on 22 August, 2016.

Ogunlike Iseyin, Ilua, Ago Are, Ogbooro, Igboho and Igbeti has led to acute deforestation and climate change.²³⁵

4.4 Cotton Production and Food Production

Over many years in Oke Ogun region, Cotton farmers in collaboration with weavers had been adding value to cotton to manufacture cloth.²³⁶ Cotton, at its full blown on the farm when it reached maturity, used to be soft, lightweight and fibre that grew in a wrapped shielding case around the seeds. Under natural condition, the bolls used to increase by opening its seed pod.²³⁷ Towns such as Otu, Ilua, Iganna, Adekunle, Saki, Okeho and many others were specifically noted for planting Cotton as far back as late 1960s. These cotton growing communities were around the same area and they engaged in trade relations. There were, therefore, exchange of ideas on how to cultivate the cotton seeds by farmers for maximum yields.²³⁸ For several years, cotton was a ‘white gold’ by virtue of its alluring appearance and its profitability. As a result of cotton production in Oke Ogun, the cotton farmers declared large sales, and; they recorded much profits which enabled them to build houses, send their wards to school and lived fairly comfortable lifestyles.²³⁹

In the words of Ekundare,²⁴⁰ “Spun was hand-woven, simple clothe and dyed with colour was always acquired from native plants.” This provided greatest number of the clothing for the people of Oke Ogun area. During this time, all the ginning, spinning and weaving equipment were made locally from wood. The one used by men to produce narrow strips of cloth measuring about six inches wide was made of wood. The looms were separately placed in a half-open shed and each loom was operated by one man. It was usually in the inner courtyard of the compound or within the family compound. Apart from the materials which were often provided by the weavers themselves, the other tools such as the iron rods used as pedals and the iron bar upon which the finished strips of cloth were manufactured by the blacksmith.

²³⁵ Oral interview, Joseph Aderogba, Age 47, Teacher, at Igboho in July 6th, 2013

²³⁶ Ibid

²³⁷ The Biology of *Gossypium hirsutum* L. and *Gossypium barbadense* L. (cotton). ogtr.gov.au

²³⁸ Oral interview with Saka Adeleke, Age 78, Cotton farmer, at Sepeteri in July 7th, 2013

²³⁹ Akinselure Wale, on Tears of Oke-Ogun cotton farmers: when the ‘white gold’ no longer glitter as interviewed on June 20, 2018 in in the Nigerian Tribune

²⁴⁰ Ekundare, R. O. 1973. *An Economic History of Nigeria 1860-1960*. London: Methuen and Company. Limited, p. 42

However, it was realised that hectares of land required for the planting of Cotton was much. This made farmers to divert their farmlands meant for food production into the production of Cotton.²⁴¹ Thus, food production in large quantity was significantly affected by this action. With time, improvement in the quality of the farmers' work did not keep pace with the increased physical outputs which were initially achieved. There were problems such as tillage, cultivation, drainage, protection of crops from wind, pruning, manuring and control of pests and disease received no significant attention from the indigenous peasant farmer.²⁴²

²⁴¹ Ibid
²⁴² Ibid



Figure 4.5 showing typical Cotton field in Oke Ogun.

Source: Nigerian Tribune January 17th, 2017



Figure 4.6 showing typical Cotton field in Oke Ogun.

Source: The Sun Newspaper 26th January, 2017

One of the serious challenges facing the Cotton farmers in Oke Ogun was the absence funds. A community leader decried the inability of farmers to cultivate five to seven acres of land allotted for cotton farming because there were no funds.²⁴³ There were no established procedure for providing immediate relief to the farmers and for financing their enterprises.²⁴⁴ Financial help used to come from locally-organized community and few agricultural association and cooperative societies developed in some areas in the twenties and the early thirties. There was lack of adequate funding needed to tender crops till it was ripe for successful harvest. Funds were not available for the large quantities of fertilizer and water needed for Cotton farming and this brought discouragement to the farmers.²⁴⁵ Ginnery which was needed to process the cotton with a view to boost the textile industry was lacking and there was no hope for any.

Lack of focus of government on cotton had affected its capability to generate employment for many. This was because to harvest two hectares of land, about 40 labourers were needed to work for three days. The textile industry which used to provide 700,000 jobs and contributed about 25 percent to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the 1980s too vanished. One of the reasons was because cotton farmlands in Oke Ogun area had recorded losses and the community leaders lamented lack of social infrastructure for profitable cotton farming.²⁴⁶

Cotton farmers were also victims of animal grazing activities that used to destroy their crops. Only one-time grazing on a farmland can destroy the farmland. In the case of Oke Ogun and many other farming areas in Nigeria, grazing areas were not separated from agrarian areas for peacefully coexistence among the farmers and the herders.²⁴⁷

²⁴³ Oral interview with Fatokun Stephen, Age 84, Cotton farmer, (Community leader and the Balogun of Ago Amodu land) at Ago Amodu in March 18th, 2017.

²⁴⁴ Tears of Oke-Ogun cotton farmers When the 'white gold' no longer. www.tribuneonlineng.com

²⁴⁵ Oral interview with Obaniyi Toyin, Age 65, Trader, at Otu in August 12th, 2015.

²⁴⁶ Tears of Oke-Ogun cotton farmers •When the 'white gold' no longer. www.tribuneonlineng.com

²⁴⁷ Oral interview with Awoleyin Gabriel, Age 70, Farmer, (Chairman, Cotton Strategic Committee for Saki East Local Government), Saki in June 2nd, 2017

4.5 Palm Plantation and Food Production

Table 2

Area	Acreage	Stage of Development	Location in the Relation to Land Area and distance from Native Court Centre
Oyo	15	Almost at maturing stage	2 miles away
Okeho	3	Early stages	4 miles away
Ilero	2	Early stages	2 miles away
Okaka	8	Expected to bear fruit by 1928	1/2 miles away
Out	4	Expected to bear fruit by 1928	1/2 miles away
Ago Are	2	Not promising	No Court
Shaki	2	Land not suitable plant withered away	3 miles away from Court

Source: Memo from District Officers Oyo to Residents Oyo, No. C14127 on Palm Plantation round Native Court Houses, June 6, 1927.

The campaign for palm planting was less popular in Western Nigeria than some part of Eastern Nigeria where people depended palm oil exclusively for their living. Apart from the fear that palm plantation might be used by the government to impose tax, there was also the fear that planting of palms would confer on the farmers' permanent right to own the land which is contrary to the belief and tradition of an average westerner.²⁴⁸ Coupled with this was the failure of the government policy, intention and poor execution that did not allow the programme to succeed in the western region. However, it should be stressed that palm oil production, like other farm produce, fell within the bracket of subsistence farming produce.

With savannah location, there was a limit on the cash crops that could be cultivated in Oke Ogun. The tree crops that could grow in the area included Shea butter known as *emi* and locust bean (*Igba*). It should be pointed out, however, that in the past, these tree crops, including palm tree, grew naturally in the forest and farmers simply took advantage of them.²⁴⁹ Palm trees were commonly found in Okeho, Isemi-Ile, Adekunle, Iganna, Ilero, Ofiki, Ago-Are and many other towns in the region. It was a source of money for feeding and shelter for most families whose land yielded palm trees in large quantities.

Palm tree is identified as one of the best known and widely planted and cultivated plant families in Oke Ogun enclave. From all perspectives, palm tree has been very significant to humans throughout history. Palm tree offered many useful products for human use and it provided food of various kinds for human survival. Obviously, it was widely used in landscaping; thus making them one of the most economically essential plants.²⁵⁰ The palms industry as a significant sector of the Nigerian economy provided raw materials for food, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals industries.²⁵¹

Among major palm plantation states in Nigeria included the Oyo province. So, Oke Ogun was not an exception in the growth of palms because of the abundance of heat and rainfall necessary for its plantation.²⁵² Palm Trees, which was one of the major cash crops planted everywhere in Oke Ogun from time immemorial, yielded palm fruits which contained a fleshy part that covers the kernel.²⁵³ Traditionally, palm fruit processing was part of the daily activities of women in all the villages and towns in Yorubaland including Oke Ogun.

²⁴⁸N.A.I: Ondo Prof. 11/1/44, Mr. M. F. B. Bridge, Report on Oil Palm Industry, 1938.

²⁴⁹Gbadegesin, Segun. 2017. *Okeho in History* Mitchellville: Harvest Day Publications. p. 96

²⁵⁰Landscaping with Palms in the Mediterranean Archived June 21, 2006, at the Wayback Machine.

²⁵¹"Oil Palm". *www.nifor.gov.ng*. Retrieved 12 May, 2018.

²⁵² Oral interview with Akinfenwa Olusegun, Age 65, Trader, at Iseyin in February 14th, 2017

²⁵³"Oil Palm". *www.nifor.gov.ng*. Retrieved 12th May, 2017.

The estimated number of people required at a time by the oil palm fruit processors used to be between eight and twelve. As said a few while ago, women were always more in palm-oil processing. Again, when it comes to marketing, women and the children used to be actively involved more than men. But, employing children in palm processing like it was with any other agricultural sector was nothing but child-abuse because it prevented those of school age from attending.

Hectares of land was required by farmers in order to engage in Palm plantations. The maturity stage for the oil palm plantation was between three and four years before it could grow. Literally, it means that the waiting period without gaining anything in reward irrespective of time and the resources invested was much. The investment ranged from clearing of farmland, paying labourers, buying of fertilizers and the seedlings.²⁵⁴ No doubt, it could be very highly rewarding at the end of the waiting, but the farmland that was converted for palm trees always had negative impacts on food production.

The fact is that almost all the parts could be used for various applications made palm production a lucrative business to farmers.²⁵⁵ Edible Palm-oil (epo pupa) can be extracted from palm fruits. The residue or chaff called 'iha' or 'oguso' that remains after the oil has been extracted can be used as to sustain fire. The palm kernel ('*ekuro*') which is the hard part of the palm fruit can also be crushed and pressed to produce palm kernel oil (*yanko*). Palm kernel oil can be processed into edible oil, it can be used to produce bar soaps for domestic use.²⁵⁶ The cake derived from the pressed kernel can be processed into animal feed for dairy cattle due to its high-protein content and also for pigs. Broom that we used to sweep the floors of our homes and offices is one of the products of palm. Palm tree could also be exploited to get palm wine popularly called '*emu funfun*' throughout Oke Ogun area.²⁵⁷ Palm wine, a common drink among the Yorubas that they often used at ceremonies and occasions, is another product that can be extracted from palm tree. In fact, palm products could be used as a cleaning agent, baking ingredient, cosmetic, confectionery, shampoo, toothpaste and detergents. Palm tree is an economic tree that has all-round value.²⁵⁸

²⁵⁴ Oral interview with Akinfenwa Olusegun, Age 65, Trader, at Iseyin in February 14th, 2017

²⁵⁵ Ibid

²⁵⁶ The importance of the Palm tree in the economy of pre-colonial Period

www.virtualkollage.com/.../the-importance-of-palm-tree-to-pre-colonial-economy. Retrieved in April 24th, 2016

²⁵⁷ Gbadegesin, Segun. 2017. *Okeho in History* Mitchellville: Harvest Day Publications. p. 96

²⁵⁸ Ayodele, Thompson, Director, Initiative for Public Policy Analysis, an independent public policy group. A version of this paper appears in print on October 16, 2010, on Page A19 of the New York



Figure 4.7 showing typical harvested Palm fruits bunch in Oke Ogun.

Source: Field work, February 18th, 2016.



Figure 4.8 showing harvested Palm fruits for processing in Oke Ogun.

Source: Field work, February 18th, 2016

4.6 Petroleum Exploration and Food Production

Petroleum exploration in Nigeria started through a German company. The Nigerian Bitumen Corporation drilled 14 wells around Lagos in 1908.²⁵⁹ It became a thing of joy, until the initial success was terminated by the First World War. The renewed interest for exploration came up after the war when the Shell D'Arcy Exploration Parties commenced geological work in 1937. Shell was a consortium of company jointly owned by both the Royal Dutch Shell and the British Petroleum which was later converted to the Shell-BP Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria. The company struck Nigeria's first major crude oil found at Oloibiri well in 1956. Exploration of petroleum started in 1958 when Nigeria's production got to an average of 6,000 barrels per day. The level of production of the company increased while its importance in the country's economy rose phenomenally.²⁶⁰

Oil boom era came in the 1970s and, of all that had been mentioned, no one has ever posed a serious threat to farming activities like oil exploration and its prosperity in Nigeria. Agriculture which was the mainstay of the Nigeria's economy plummeted to the lowest level of investment. Many Nigerians, even those who did not come from the oil-producing states, have come to accept that crude-oil as the common wealth of Nigeria and the prospects of partaking in the oil wealth drove many able-bodied men out of farms in severe hunt for salaried employment in the urban centres.²⁶¹ The contribution of the major agricultural export earnings as compared with total export earnings for the first ten years of the oil boom was a clear signal of the decreasing significance of farming as a foreign exchange earner for Nigeria.²⁶² The good news is that crude oil as the main revenue earner since the early 1970's transformed the economic profile of Nigeria, but the bad news is that agriculture became marginalised as it enjoyed low or no patronage at all levels. The earnings from commodities like Tobacco, cocoa, coffee, cotton, palm produce, cashew, rubber, etc were no longer of any significance since crude oil became the goose that was laying the golden eggs.²⁶³

²⁵⁹ Ekundare, R. O. 1973. *An Economic History of Nigeria 1860-1960*. London: Methuen and Co. Ltd. p. 177

²⁶⁰ Oyekunle, Seun. *effect of petroleum on agricultural development in Nigeria*:
www.academia.edu. Assessed on Thursday 23, October 23th, 2014.

²⁶¹ Olorunfemi, A. and Adesina, O. C. 1998. Politics and Nigerian Agriculture in the First Decade of the 'Oil Boom', 1970-1980: *A Preliminary Assessment in the Nigerian Journal of Economic History* NO 1. September. p.57

²⁶² Ibid

²⁶³ Oil boom in Nigeria and its consequences for the country s economic development:
projectfaculty.com/resources/resource- economics-ecn422.htm

In Oke Ogun towns and villages. During the oil boom era, there was absolute increase in the net food consumption despite the growing demand yearly.²⁶⁴ On the other hand, increased activities in the more attractive non-agricultural sectors suddenly deprived agriculture of the needed labour force. Since modernisation of the agricultural sector could not keep pace with developments in other sectors of the economy, there was soon a lot of strain put on local food supply. Demand for food became higher than supply because farmers had left the farms to join their children who had secured white-collar jobs in cities as a result of the proceeds from the oil boom.²⁶⁵

In the final analysis, agriculture was later neglected completely. Farm settlements were abandoned. Many people lost their jobs. Costs of foodstuffs were becoming high because the supplies were no longer meeting the demands as population began to explode. Poverty began to rear its ugly head as many people began to live below the breadline standard. In all this, the rural population was not spared!

4.7 Government Intervention Schemes and Policies

The awareness created for the role of agriculture shifted the collective interest of farmers in the region away from subsistence farming which focused only on putting foods on family tables to business farming that availed them the opportunities to sell from their farm produce. There were policies, programmes and schemes which involved rebuilding the structures of the agricultural sector.

4.8 Green Revolution Programme (GRP)

Green Revolution reflected different researches, developments and initiatives between 1940 and late 1970. It improved farming activities.²⁶⁶ It was Norman Borlaug, the father of Green Revolution, who led the initiatives. The intent was to protect more than a billion of people from grave hunger. Norman Borlaug developed value-adding ranges of cereal grains, extension of irrigation system, innovation of management techniques, delivery of crossbred seeds, artificial fertilisers and insecticides to farmers. Subsequently in the 20th century,

²⁶⁴ Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Memorandum on Food Production and Supply, 1976. p.7

²⁶⁵ Ibid

²⁶⁶ Hazell, Peter B. R. 2009. *The Asian Green Revolution*. International Food Policy Res Institute. GKEY: S2UT4LADZD

world-wide yield rose significantly. Many diversities of common and basic grains such as rice, wheat and maize were introduced during the Green Revolution period. The policy was used to export technologies which included pesticides and artificial nitrogen was from the developed countries to the developing nations of the world.²⁶⁷

In 1979, the menace of food shortage also attracted the attention of the civilian administration. This was because it caused ditch in the nation's foreign investments and its attendant danger to the national economy. Alhaji Shehu Shagari therefore made the Green revolution programme as the major agricultural policy of his administration in April 1980.²⁶⁸ The programme was inaugurated and the Federal government instantly disbursed Eighteen Million and Three Hundred Thousand Naira Only (18,300,000.00) for the improvement of food, fish and livestock production.²⁶⁹ The programme aimed at increasing raw materials and food production in order to achieve self-support and sufficient food supplies. In addition, Green Revolution in the second republic was designed to enhance the production of livestock and fish to meet both home and export needs.

Furthermore, it extended the modification of the nation's ready foreign exchange earnings through the production and processing of export crops.²⁷⁰ Through the Green Revolution Scheme, the Federal Government introduced programmes that made agrochemicals, improved seedlings, irrigation arrangement and mechanization available to the farmers. During the programme, credit facilities, improved marketing and favourable pricing policy for the agricultural products was accelerated.²⁷¹ But, the Green Revolution programme did not have direct impacts on Oke Ogun due to the low level of farming methods, techniques and access to government intervention agencies that could connect the peasant farmers with available government intervention programmes.

²⁶⁷ Barrionuevo, Alexei; and Bradsher, Keith. 2005. *Sometimes a Bumper Crop Is Too Much of a Good Thing*. *The New York Times* 8 December 2005

²⁶⁸ Adeyemo, Remi. 1984. *The food marketing system: Implications of the green revolution programme in Nigeria*, *Agricultural Systems*, Volume 14, Issue 3.

²⁶⁹ Ibid

²⁷⁰ Sagari Shehu "Green Revolution Programme Launched" *The Challenges of Change* (Collected Speeches of President Shehu Sagari). pp. 149-150.

²⁷¹ Ibrahim Gusau. *Nigeria's Green Revolution*, *Africa Report*, 26:4 (1981: July/Aug.)

4.9 Operation Feed the Nation (OFN)

Another approach to stimulate food crop production in Nigeria came with the inauguration of Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) programme by the Federal Military Government (FMG) in 1976. It evolved on 21st May, 1976 under the military rule of General Olusegun Obasanjo.²⁷² The programme was launched to increase food crop production throughout the country by ensuring active participation of every Nigerian, irrespective of work, career or profession. The aim of the Federal Military Government was to increase food production, and achieving self-sufficiency.

Under the OFN programme, every available piece of land in urban, sub-urban and rural areas which included Oke Ogun was cultivated. The Federal Government provide the inputs, which were highly subsidised. Individuals received agricultural inputs at subsidised rates. The programme created a very significant awareness for mechanised farming system in Oke Ogun. A good example of mechanised farming in Oke Ogun was the Asamu Farms at Okaka which served as a premier farm with specialty in maize production. A high percentage of the farm outputs from Asamu Farms were sold to Oyo feeds where it was further processed into Animal feed that were sold to Oke Afa farms.²⁷³

Asamu Farm was the first mechanised farmer who ventured into a large food crop production in Oke Ogun region. This was made possible through the OFN Scheme which boosted food production of maize. The large outputs of maize production from Asamu Farms influenced other farmers to also focus on maize production, but this affected the productions of common beans like *Otili*, *Awuje*, *Popondo*, *Gbagbagungi*, *sangidi* and others all of which gradually went into extinction.

The main target of Operation Feed the Nation was to promote public awareness on agriculture in order to achieving food security for the country. The eventual policy summersault had since left a wide gap in food crop production capacity of the Oke Ogun region. In fact, the most important achievement of the programme remained the 3% success allegedly recorded at the end of the year.²⁷⁴ The programme gave the nation awareness of food shortage and mobilised its efforts in the fight against the problem.²⁷⁵ The

²⁷² Osuntogun, S. and Olufokunbi, L. C. 1986. History and assessment of agricultural policies in Nigeria In S.Osuntogun and E. Ugorji (Eds.); *Financing Agricultural development in Nigeria*. Ilorin: ARMTI Seminar Series; Nov.

²⁷³ Oral interview with Olafimihan Samuel, Age 73, Farmer, at Adekunle in January 15th, 2013.

²⁷⁴ Obasanjo, Olusegun. 1977. "Budget Speech", *A New African*. p. 519.

²⁷⁵ Anyanwu J. C, Oyefusi. A. et al. 1997. *The Structures of the Nigerian Economy (1060 - 1997)*, Anambra:

disappointment from the programme were attributed to many factors. One of them was the fact that farming activities were done on any available piece of land regardless of its suitability for agriculture. There was lack of farming orientation by the majority of people that benefitted from the inputs. This resulted in high input but low farm products were produced. Another notable cause for failure of OFN was the preference given to government institutions and privileged individuals in authority over the poor farmers (real producer of food) in terms of input distribution.²⁷⁶

4.10 Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs)

Agricultural Development Programmes (ADP) was a World Bank Assisted Project which was first introduced into Nigeria in the early 1970s formerly bearing Integrated Agricultural Development Projects (IADP). The first set of Agricultural Development Programmes began in Gusau (1974) and Gombe (1975). Later, other ADP were established in Ayangba (1977), Lafia (1977), Funtua (1979), Bida (1979), and Ilorin (1980). By 1989 every state in the country had an ADP farm settlement. The purposes of ADPs were (World Bank, 1984, 1986): to increase food production and incomes of small farmers to strengthen agricultural services, to improve the coverage and maintenance of supporting rural infrastructure and to strengthen the management and technical staff capabilities of the ADPs.²⁷⁷

The collaborative method towards agricultural and rural development was the tripartite method of the national government, state government and the World Bank.²⁷⁸ In 1983, ADP started in Saki as one of the towns within Oke Ogun enclave. One of the core strategic initiatives for achieving the purposes of increasing food production and incomes of small farmers was the introduction of a new technology package based on fertilizers and inputs. One of the significant attributes of the plan was reliance on the small scale farmers as the main people that would bring about increase in food production. The purpose of wanting

Joanee Educational Publishers. p 23

²⁷⁶ Osuntogun, S. and Olufokunbi, L. C. 1986. History and assessment of agricultural policies in Nigeria In S Osuntogun and E. Ugorji (Eds.); *Financing Agricultural development in Nigeria*. Ilorin: ARMTI Seminar Series; Nov., 1986

²⁷⁷ Ayichi, D. 1995. Models of rural development in Nigeria: with special focus on the ADPs. In E. C. Eboh, C. U. Okoye and D. Ayichi (Eds.); *Rural Development in Nigeria: Concepts, Processes and Prospects*. Enugu: Auto Century Publishing Company.

²⁷⁸ Amalu, U. C. 1998. *Agricultural Research and Extension Delivery systems in Sub-Saharan Africa*: Calabar: University of Calabar Press.

to execute the programme was to bring about solution to the decrease found in agricultural productivity by sustaining domestic food supply through massive infusion of World Bank funds. Agricultural Development Programmes was established basically to provide extension services, technical input support and rural infrastructures to the farmers and rural dwellers.²⁷⁹

However, there were difficulties in the process of executing many of these projects because of shortage of funds due to decline in oil prices that started in 1982. This could not encourage the recruitment of knowledgeable staff let alone make provision for materials needed for the project's immediate take off. This made implementation much slower than scheduled and anticipated. The Agricultural Development Programmes (ADP) emphasised more of modern and high input technology such as single cropping while majority of the farmers in the area were known to have been practicing mixed cropping for many years. Delay in the supply of subsidised input for the programme was another major problem that faced the ADP.

The teething challenges in achieving the desired results were reactive rather than proactive. The ADP continued to emphasise technicality rather than giving attention to socio-economic implications. They were giving inadequate attention to demonstration schemes; and, there was deficiency in staff transportation. The supply of fertilizers to farmers were not constant. The reason for this was as a result of government's policy of centralised control of international procurement. In addition to this, the bureaucracy and bottlenecks involved in the government subsidy programme discouraged timely delivery of agricultural input, especially in periods of economic difficulties.²⁸⁰

The supply of water was made possible mainly through the construction of wells and drilling of boreholes operated with hands. This was in agreement with the local government authorities. The Agricultural Development Programmes (ADP) engaged private contractors to drill boreholes. ADP also built dams with water filtration systems. Where boreholes were not achievable in some parts of Oke Ogun, dams were constructed to serve the people. Therefore, boreholes with manual hand-pumps and wells were successfully managed by many communities. There were maintenance systems put in place by the local Government Councils and villagers. There were early pumping problems that happened in these communities. The Local communities did not support the rather multifaceted and expensive

²⁷⁹ Ayoola, G. B. 2001. *Essays on The Agricultural Economy I: A Book of Readings on Agricultural Development Policy and Administration in Nigeria*: Ibadan: TMA Publishers.

²⁸⁰ The World Bank Group: Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) Agricultural Development Projects in Nigeria. <https://www.researchgate.net/> Accessed in February 12th, 2016. Retrieved in July 5th, 2016.

maintenance of dam-based water treatment and distribution facilities in Oke Ogun. This probably reflects the lack of community involvement in developing these supplies. The local water boards and population consider the schemes "ADP projects" in which they were not consulted or involved.²⁸¹

The set target aimed at multiplying improved seeds was not achieved; but, in spite of all the problems, the ADP cassava production programme in Oke Ogun and Ilorin was a success.

The continuation of Agricultural Development Programmes in Oke Ogun area was the Oyo North Agricultural Development Project (ONADEP). It was established to aid food crop production and rural incomes of the farmers. It was designed to support services and physical infrastructure to impact the lives of about 55,000 smallholder farm families located in Saki, the headquarters of ONADEP and its environs. Such support services included extension advice, crop protection measures, weed control, improved seeds, fertilizers, and the provision of credit facilities. Physical infrastructure included the construction of 550 kilometres road network; improvement of about 250 kilometres and the maintenance of gravelled feeder roads. Also, dams and wells were constructed, and the establishment of project headquarters and farm service centres.²⁸²

4.11 The River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs).

The development of water resources in Nigeria was a reactionary measure by the Military government that promulgated Decree 25 of 1976 because of the drought that happened in the country between 1972 and 1974, was labelled as the worst that ever happened in the West.²⁸³ The Decree for River Basin Development was promulgated in 1976. This was the handiwork of General Olusegun Obasanjo. Eleven River Basin Development Authorities (RBDA) were variously made in different parts of Nigeria.²⁸⁴ The essence was to harness the nation's water resources. It was also meant to achieve abundance of food.

²⁸¹ Ibid

²⁸² *Oyo North Agricultural Development Project: www.worldbank.org*

²⁸³ Kumolu Charles: *River Basins: How Unending Policy Reversals abet Inefficiency*: <http://www.vanguardngr.com>. Retrieved in April 14th, 2015

²⁸⁴ Ayoola, G. B. 2001. *Essays on The Agricultural Economy I: A Book of Readings on Agricultural Development Policy and Administration in Nigeria*: Ibadan: TMA Publishers.

The River Basin Development Authorities (RBDA) included the Upper Benue Basin, Lake Chad Basin, Maiduguri was among them. Benin-Owena Basin and Sokoto-Rima Basin, Sokoto were included. Hadejia-Jema River Basin, Kano; the Lower Benue Basin, Makurdi and the Cross River Basin, Calabar made the list. Others are Oshun-Ogun Basin, Abeokuta; Anambra-Imo Basin, Owerri; the Niger Basin, Ilorin; and Niger Delta Basin, Port Harcourt. This development, reportedly, raised hope among the populace because it was assumed that the RBDA was going to provide other basic needs associated with water resources.²⁸⁵ Instructively, the RBDAs were primarily established to provide water for irrigation and domestic water supply, improvement of navigation, hydro-electric power generation, recreational facilities and fisheries projects. The basins were also expected to enhance plantation farming and encourage the establishment of industrial complexes that could bring the private and public sectors in joint business partnership. Additionally, RBDAs were expected to bridge the gap between the rural and urban centres by taking development to the grass roots and discourage migration from the rural areas to the urban centres.²⁸⁶

This objective was to be achieved through surface impoundment of water by constructing small, medium and large dams, to facilitate farming activities in the country. But nearly four decades after its establishment many are in doubt if the RBDA has really lived up to its mandate. The performance of the RBDA has increasingly been questioned because of the failure in power generation and water or food supplies. A zonal office of the Authority was established at Sepeteri Saki-East Local Government to serve the whole of Oke Ogun. A medium dam was constructed at Sepeteri for fisheries and irrigation farming activities. This was a boost on food production in Oke Ogun as farmlands were allotted to farming within the land acquired by the authority to cultivate. Apart from the River Basin in Sepeteri, there was another one in Ofiki where fishery and farming activities took place to boost the food production and the agribusiness of the people in Oke Ogun Area.

There used to high yields because of the input support and technical services rendered to the farmers by the authority. Dry season cultivation was greatly motivating in the region through irrigation system because of water supplies. Oke Ogun was opened to outside markets, particularly Ibadan, Lagos, Abeokuta and Ijebu which boosted the economy of the

²⁸⁵ Okorie, A. and Umezurike, C. A. C. 1990. Nigerian agricultural policies: a review In A. I. Ikeme

(Ed.); *The Challenges of Agriculture in National Development*. Enugu: Optimal Computer Solutions Ltd.

²⁸⁶ Kumolu Charles: *RIVER BASINS: How Unending Policy Reversals abet Inefficiency*:

<http://www.vanguardngr.com> Retrieved in April 14th, 2015

area because of the quality and cheaper farm produce. The Ogun-Osun River Basin Development Authority (OORBDA) also improved rural road infrastructures which aided easy conveyance of farm inputs to the farms and farm products from the farms. Another impact made by OORBDA to boost the agricultural activities and food production in Oke Ogun was through the Ikere Gorge dam in Iseyin Local Government for Upper Ogun irrigation programme and power generation. Ikere Gorge Dam project was designed to serve irrigation purposes among others. Its establishment gave a ray of hope for food crop agriculture in Oke Ogun, but the project has stagnated and a visit to the place has become an eyesore to the people.

4.12 Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP)

Two of the Bretton Woods institutions, the IMF and the World Bank, introduced Structural adjustment policies. In the 1980s, the IMF and World Bank packaged loans for most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to ease their economic predicaments.²⁸⁷ Since the early 1950s, IMF and the World Bank has been attaching ‘conditionalities’ for their loan facilities to the beneficiary countries. But, in spite of this, the military government under the headship of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida went for the loan which introduced Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) or in layman language ‘Austerity Measures’ into the Nigeria economy in 1986.

So many conditions were attached to the IMF loan. These conditions ranged from the deregulation of the agricultural sector which included the abolition of marketing boards and elimination of price controls. Privatisation of public enterprises, devaluation of the Nigerian naira to improve the competitiveness of the export sector and relaxation of restraints on foreign investment were put in place by the Gowon and Obasanjo governments during the 1970s. These were part of the conditions attached to run the Structural Adjustment Programme in Nigeria.²⁸⁸ During the period, Oke Ogun as known in other parts of the nation, has experienced extensive infrastructural degradation and left farmers with low or outright no purchasing power. The prices of inputs and labour got out of hand; and many, especially young ones, were left with no option than to abandon farming to migrate to the urban centres.

²⁸⁷Lensink, Robert. 1996. *Structural Adjustment in Sub-Saharan Africa (1st ed.)*. Longman.

²⁸⁸Lewis, Peter. 1996. "From Prebendalism to Predation: The Political Economy of Decline in Nigeria". *The Journal of Modern African Studies*. 34 (1): pp. 79–103

The Directorate was initiated in Nigeria in January 1986 under General Ibrahim Babangida administration and it was a kind of home grown Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) that was embarked upon in most sub Saharan African countries by the World Bank, African Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The programme was designed to improve the quality of life through nutrition, housing, health, employment, road, water and industrialisation. Unfortunately, most activities under this directorate in Oke Ogun, particularly on roads and agriculture were abandoned and the hope of improving food production was dashed at that time. Many of those that rushed to take advantage of the programme to participate in agriculture eventually got discouraged and this reduced rural participation in farming activities, a situation that caused major setback for food crop production in Oyo state.²⁸⁹

4.13 Better Life for Rural Women

The worst hit regarding the biting effects of Structural Adjustment Programme were the women and their children. Poverty became very evident in all the regions of the country as many families were feeding below poverty line. Prompted by the nasty experiences of women and their children, a programme was introduced and named “Better Life for Rural Women” by the then first lady of Nigeria, Mariam Babangida, in September 1987. The programme, Better Life for Rural Women, was replicated in all the States of the country and the wife of Col. Adetunji Idowu Olurin was the first lady and the chairwoman for the scheme in Oyo State. The wives of the Local Government chairmen were the leaders managing and coordinating the programme for women. The main mission of the Programme was to bring women together with a view to better their lives.

Essential commodities like sugar, milk, salt, rice, groundnut oil and cloth were distributed to in the market places mostly during the women group meetings to cushion the biting effects of poverty.²⁹⁰ Adult literacy among women was another mission of the Better Life programme. This literacy involved training the rural women on agricultural know-how as well as vocational skill acquisition. After training, most women were given money to establish small cottage industries like garri processing, palm oil processing, groundnut oil processing, fish smoking, Dadawa production (indigenous spice from the north), yam flour

²⁸⁹Ibid

²⁹⁰Ibid

production, candle making, soap making, pomade making, detergent making, salt making, cloth/mat weaving, shoe, bag making, pottery making, tie dyeing and drink production.²⁹¹

Better Life for Rural Women introduced basic farm and mechanized inputs such as cutlasses and subsidised tractor for hire service. In order to give better assistance and justifiable impacts, food processing machines were made accessible for women farmers.²⁹²

4.14 Oyo North Agricultural Development Project (ONADEP)

In 1982, Oyo North Agricultural Development Project (ONADEP) was established and its operation commenced at the beginning of 1983 with its headquarters in Saki, one of the major Oke Ogun towns. The establishment covered approximately 12,310 square kilometres (1,231,000 Hectares) which was about 32% of Oyo State (One third of the land). The World Bank Assisted Project served a population of about 688,831 with estimated farming families of 103,974, out of which 55,000 were listed as contact farmers and duly registered as such.

The main objectives of ONADEP were:

1. To increase food production and farm income through the development of productivity;
2. To make available enhanced seed of a standard quality and inputs of fertiliser, chemicals, mechanical assistance in terms of hiring implement to achieve this;
3. To offer support for the development of infrastructural facilities which included new roads and improvements of existing roads. The improvement of water supply both by construction of dams, wells and to ensure coordination of the them for the Local, state and federal utilities;
4. To eventually improve the private sector in order to implement the farmer's input needs on a commercial basis under its own organization.

The technical services division has its duty solely within the agricultural intent of Research Trials, Extension (Teaching) Seed Production, Land Use Planning and Farm

²⁹¹Gabriel A. O. I. 2017. *A Better Life Program for Rural Women in a Developing Nation:*

<https://www.researchgate.net>. Assessed in October 16th, 2017.

²⁹² Ibid

Management Advisory Services and planting of Seed. It established Seed and Research Farms at Saki, Wasangari, Tede, Igboho, Kisi, Iganna and Ilero at which new seed was put into trials, tested, improved and adapted to environments and then put into multiplication production for sale to the farming community. Appropriate technology with adaptation to local conditions was in practice by what was called “TVD Formula” (Training, visit and demonstration) within the project. Land Use Planning was then established in a small way so that farmers looking for further land may seek guidance on its suitability for whatever activity was intended.

The Village extension workers visited and trained over 44,000 farmers from January 1983 till 1986. In addition to this, 1,066 demonstration plots, 1312.7 ha of various seed crops and 191 adaptive research trials were established during the same period.²⁹³ Also included was the extension drama and an audio-visual aid in extension methodology which was introduced in 1983 had been staged in 57 locations in the project area with 5,158 farmers in attendance.²⁹⁴

From 1983, the Engineering Division constructed roads serving Saki to Irawo Ile, Saki to Ogbooro, to Oloko and other farm Service Centres. Some existing roads like Ogbooro to Igboho and Irawo to Ago-Are in part, Otu-Alaga-Ilero-Iganna and Okeho feeder roads were constructed or rehabilitated. By October 31th, 1986 a total of new 207 km roads have been constructed and 140kmroads rehabilitated. In the area of water (Hydrology) works, the construction of nine dams at Ago-Are, Ago Amodu, Ilero, Iganna, Kisi, Aha, Ogbooro and Igbeti with 3.25 million cubic meters for 300,000 people were completed. A Livestock dam was also extended at Saki for the MANR Livestock farm. Extensive fish husbandry was started at Ago Are, with the aim of replication as other dams fill up.²⁹⁵

Commercial Services on farm inputs, Cooperative Development, Marketing, Credit Lending, Investment and Mechanical, implement hiring services were also very significant. Farmers benefited from the Credit Scheme Project before commencement of planting seasons to allow them take best advantage of the project’s credit in kind. This made the control of field pests on cowpea, harvesting, storage and planting of yam possible. In 1986 alone 4,776 hectares of yam were established. Majority of farmers stored their maize

²⁹³ First Decade of Agricultural Development Programmes: Brief History of Oyo North Agricultural Development Project. November 26th-28th, 1986. pp. 1-5.

²⁹⁴ Ibid.

²⁹⁵ Ibid. 1-5.

awaiting better price. The feasibility reports for farmers are prepared to accompany loan Applications to Banks. Table 1: shows the position of credit-in-kind for the year 1984.²⁹⁶

²⁹⁶ Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme Annual Report for the year 1984. December 31st, 1984. (Period: January 1st - December 31st, 1984) p. 15.

Table 3 Credit and Input Supply in 1985

LGA	NO of farmers benefiting	Fertilizer N	Chemical N	Thun N	Seeds N	Minor Equipment	Amount Disbursed	Amount Approved N	% Utilized
Ifedapo	232	9,471	236.00	9,648.11	44.50	360	19,290.31	48,000	40.18
Irepo	135	9,772	357.00	3,090.00	-	300	13,521.00	29,000	46.62
Kajola	364	23,562	2291.45	11,816.00	20.00	-	36,860.05	73,000	50.49
Total	731	42,805	2884.45	24554.11	64.50	660	69,671.36	150,000	46.44

Source: Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme Annual Report for the year 1984.

December 31st, 1984. (Period January 1st - December 31st, 1984) p. 15.

Low percentage of utilization was recorded owing to late take-off of the Scheme in June. The operational period was merely four months. Efforts were also geared towards the reorganisation of the farmers multipurpose Cooperative Societies in the Project area so that the farmers can benefit from the Credit Scheme.

4.15 Inputs and Farm Services

Fertilizers

There was a reduction in the volume of sales of fertilizer in the quarter as planting was almost over for the year. Below is the table of Sales in Metric Tons in 1984.²⁹⁷

²⁹⁷ Ibid. p.16

Table 4. Sales of Fertilizers in Metric Tons in 1984

LGA	NPK	UREA	SSP	CAN	MOP	AMMSULP	DAP	TOTAL
B/F Last Quarters	1673.50	285.35	6.35	321.55	2.15	18.70	2.70	2310.30
Ifedapo	332.05	34.45	0.05	15.25	2.10	-	2.25	386.15
Irepo	81.75	9.30	-	32.60	0.40	10.55	-	134.60
Kajola	188.85	50.05	0.50	-	-	-		239.40
Total	602.65	93.80	0.55	47.85	2.50	10.55	2.25	760.15
G/Total	2,276.15	379.15	6.90	369.40	4.65	2925	4.95	3070.45

Source: Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme Annual Report for the year 1984.

December 31st, 1984. (Period January 1st - December 31st, 1984) p. 16.

4.6:Agro Chemicals

Agro-Chemicals were in short supply of farmer's demands in 1984. However, the total sales of agro-chemicals in the year are presented in Table 3 below:

Table 5.Sales of Agro-Chemical in 1984

LGA	INSECTICIDES KG	HERBICIDES KG	SPRAYING EQUIPMENTS KG
Ifedapo	1263.73	1203.00	175
Irepo	471.75	780.00	149
Kajola	354.25	617.00	87
Total	2089.75	2600.00	411

Source: Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme Annual Report for the year 1984.

December 31st, 1984. (Period January 1st - December 31st, 1984) 16.

4.16 Extension Services

Field staff of ONADEP paid regular farm visits to farmers' fields to advise them on modern crop husbandry. It was also used to assess adoption rate of improved practices by farmers and to identify farmers' problems with a view of finding practicable solutions. In 1984, a total of 8,212 farmers were paid visits on their farms.

4.17 Farmers Training

Training of farmers on improved management practices was a major activity of the Extension Department. Altogether 6,616 farmers were trained in 1984.²⁹⁸

²⁹⁸ Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme Annual Report for the year 1984. December 31st, 1984. (Period: January 1st - December 31st, 1984) p.20.

4.18 Seed Multiplication

Table 6. Crop varieties to meet the Seed needs of the farmers in 1985

The following crops were grown to meet the Seed needs of the farmers in 1985.		
CROP	HA	YIELD/HA (TON)
Maize	107.0	3.6 (Unshelled)
Cassava	27.0	12.0
Groundnut	6.7	0.5
Soybeans	8.0	0.7
Cowpea	111.6	0.4

Source: Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme Annual Report for the year 1984.

December 31st, 1984. (Period January 1st - December 31st, 1984) 23

4.19 Out-grower programme

All benefits in kind given to help the out-growers that achieved their objectives was paid back in cash or seeds. A vegetable garden was maintained in each of the six farm centres. Thus, both seed and leaf vegetables were available for sale throughout the year.²⁹⁹

²⁹⁹ Ibid, p.23.

Table 7. Inbrid and hybrid seeds produced.

HYBRID SEED PRODUCTION:			
PROGENY	HA	YIELD (KH)	KG/HA
9848 X 9490 (Hybrid)	6.0	5,940	990.0
9848 (Female)	3.5	4,960	1417.1
9490 (Male)	1.5	1,584	1056.0

Source: Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme Annual Report for the year 1984.

December 31st, 1984. (Period January 1st - December 31st, 1984) p. 23

4.20 Maize and Cowpea

After two years trial it was obvious that minimum tillage had no advantage to recommend it in place of conventional tillage practice. In all cases, maize yields obtained were lower as shown below in Table 6:³⁰⁰

³⁰⁰ Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme Annual Report for the year 1984. December 31st, 1984. (Period: January 1st - December 31st, 1984) p. 24.

Table 8. Comparism of Tillage for Maize and Cowpea

LOCATION	MAIZE KG/HA		COWPEA	
KG/HA	MINIMUM	CONVENTIONAL	MINIMUM	CONVENTIONAL
Wasangari	728	3207	215	237
Iganna	3000	3300	447	476
Tede	957	2074	-	-
Igboho	3679	4909	610	700
Saki	2341	2869	392	238

Source: Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme Annual Report for the year 1984.

December 31st, 1984. (Period January 1st - December 31st, 1984) p. 24.

Table9. Seed Needs of the Farmers per Local Government in 1984

LGA	Grains Seeds M/T	Maize Cowpea M/T	Legumes Cowpea M/T	Vegetable (Assorted) KG	Cuttings (Cassava) Bundles
Ifedapo	20.33		3.10	0.93	-
Irepo	11.66		1.60	0.45	-
Kajola	11.66		160	0.47	113
Total	43.65		6.40	1.85	113

Source: Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme Annual Report for the year

1984 December 31st, 1984. (Period January 1st - December 31st, 1984) p. 24.

4.21 Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme (OYSADEP)

When ONADEP was expanded across the LGAs in Oyo state and renamed as Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme (OYSADEP), the impact in Oyo North was significantly reduced and the continuity of the existing pace was threatened. For instance, as at the end of 1990; 19,770 of the 249,758 farmers registered were from Oyo North Zone (Saki).

Table10. Farmer's Training Registrations Reduction Pattern

Towns	Ibadan	Ilesa	Ogbomoso	Osogbo	Oyo	Saki	Total
Farmers Registered CY	68,661	57,449	23,772	56,377	23,729	19,770	249,758
Contacted Farmers Trained CY	4,505	6,819	3,118	3,961	3,543	1,232	+23,178
Other farmers trained CY	34,363	12,835		42,022	9,840		+144,879
Total Number of farmers reached CY	38,868	15,953		45,983	13,383		+168,067
No of visits by EA	15,877	6,166		9,070	8,973		+56,861

Source: Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme Annual Report for the year 1990.
(Period January 1st - December 31st, 1990)

A total of 297 Cassava, Yam, Locust bean and Shea butter processing centre were established across Oyo North. This was a value-addition to food production and agriculture in Oke-Ogun area. The participation increased in farming activities.³⁰¹ As at 1991, there was a very significant downturn in Agriculture and food production in Oke-Ogun due to the creation of Osun state from the old Oyo state. The OYSADEP assets were shared and the impact of the programme further reduced.

4.22 Tractor and Implement Services:

Tractor Hiring and implements services were also given for farming operations. Below is the summary of such activities for the year 1984.³⁰²

³⁰¹ Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme Annual Report for the year 1990. March 1991

³⁰² Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme Annual Report for the year 1984. December 31st, 1984. (Period: January 1st - December 31st, 1984) p.27.

Table 11 showing the distribution of Tractor and implement services.

Zone	Ploughing	Ridging	Harrowing	Others	Total
Ifedapo	1,645	24.59	43.44	118.41	1,832
Irepo	764	-	-	-	764
Kajola	671	-	-	-	671
Total	3,081.44	24.59	43.44	118.41	3,267

Source: Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme's Annual Report for the year 1984.

December 31st, 1984. (Period January 1st - December 31st, 1984) p.27

4.23 National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA)

In 1992, National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) was established after the Land Use Decree of 1978 and that of 1979. It was the aim of the authority to give open funding for the development of agrarian land use activities in Nigeria. It was in their plan to assist and promote in the adequate usage of Nigeria's rural land and their inherent resources. It was part of their motives to boost many gainful employment opportunities for the rural dwellers. It also aimed at raising the standard of living of the rural dwellers. Through self-reliance and sufficiency, assisting in achieving food security was their target. For a short while, a zonal office of this government agency was located at Ilero in Kajola Local Government of Oke Ogun. The establishment of this government agency brought hopeful excitement to the entire people of Ilero and its environment.³⁰³ The Authority acquired large parcels of land across Oke Ogun for Agricultural activities.³⁰⁴

A significant number of farmers that approached NALDA in Oke Ogun were given one support or the other. The given supports started from fertilizers that really enhanced food production capacity in the area within the few years of its operation. National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) gave cassava and maize production greater support and attention.³⁰⁵ Requests for assistance for other food crop for production such as yam, beans and the likes could not get the Agency's attention.³⁰⁶ The Organisation's performance was also constrained by inadequate and untimely release of funds and insufficient farm machinery and equipment.³⁰⁷

³⁰³ Oral interview with Ajayi, Samuel Adetunji, Age 78, Teacher, at Ayetoro in April 14th, 2013

³⁰⁴ Ibid

³⁰⁵ National Agricultural Land Development Authority:

<https://www.agriculturenigeria.com/research/introduction/history-of-agriculture-in-nigeria>

³⁰⁶ Oral interview with Ajayi, Samuel Adetunji, Age 78, Teacher, at Ayetoro in April 14th, 2013

³⁰⁷ Anyanwu J. C, Oyefusi. A. et al. 1997. *The Structures of the Nigerian Economy (1060 - 1997)*, Anambra: Joanee Educational Publishers. P. 30

CHAPTER FIVE

5.1 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The establishment of British colonial administration, without doubt, resulted in the introduction of cash crops economy. This study has shown that Oke Ogun had been a farming society for a long time. However, agriculture relatively remained at the peasantry level over the period under deliberation. The introduction of cash crop therefore unavoidably limited the cultivation of food crops in spite of the agricultural potentials of this area. The negative effect of this agricultural underdevelopment also contributed largely to the small quantity of food production in the Southwest and generally in Nigeria. The policy of Agriculture in Nigeria has developed considerably since the time of nation's independence in October 1st, 1960.

The activities in the 1960s were characterised by strong Government interventions to revamp agriculture. There were laid down developmental procedures and strategies established at the federal level with eventual execution in all the states. The eventual introduction of tobacco to Oyo Division, Nigeria, in the 1930s meant the emergence of another crop into a non-cocoa producing region of Oke Ogun. The cultivation of Tobacco improved greatly the economic status of the people. The resultant effect was that it had reduced drastically the cultivation of food crops. The impact of the production of flue-cured tobacco on the economy of the rural communities of Ago Are, Okaka, and, Ilua, Ilero was significant.³⁰⁸ With the development in the tobacco business as a new cash crop, food cultivation became affected because more farmers were getting involved in the production of cured tobacco leaves. This began to lead to severe reduction in food crops production which had highly resulted in food shortage.

Many Tobacco farmers, particularly the children suffered irredeemably from the green tobacco sickness which was a form of nicotine poison which inflicted most tobacco cultivators. For instance, when wet leaves were handled, nicotine from the leaves got absorbed in the skin and caused nausea, incessant vomiting and dizziness among others.³⁰⁹ It increased the risks for preeclampsia which was a situation that caused hypertension, fluid preservation and enlargement. Other negative implications for growing tobacco in Oke Ogun was the premature birth and low birth weight. Smokeless tobacco used by men was capable

³⁰⁸ Oyeleye, D. A. 1969. *The Impacts of Tobacco Cultivation on the Agricultural Economy of Oyo Division*. M. A. Thesis Ibadan. Unpublished.

³⁰⁹ Ibid

of causing reduction in spermatozoa and irregular in men.³¹⁰ Tobacco farming shifted the focus of the farmers from food farming and this affected food security in Oke Ogun Region.

Both the first and the second World Wars as well as the instability of the post-independence agricultural policies drastically affected labour and manpower in the region. These wars caused rural-urban migration of the able-bodied men who were necessary for land preparation, weeding, planting, harvesting and all other agricultural activities. This labour shortage led to increased cost of labour for farmers in Oke Ogun. Also, it resulted in poor agricultural productivity of smallholder farmers who did not have the financial strength for high level of production in the research area.

In Oke Ogun during the post-colonial period, the unavailability of labour affected the usage of farmland in the traditional farming arrangement. It became critical because agriculture was virtually non-mechanised. Moreover, farming was generally labour intensive which contributed to the reasons why farmers often experienced labour shortages. It is important to mention it that agricultural activities included land preparations, planting, maintenances, harvesting, storage and processing into intermediate or final finished products.

Many of the government policies and programmes introduced after the civil war by the government never captured Oke Ogun or were only heard by the Oke Ogun farmers with no impacts except for few ones. Of the very few that had positive impact on the food production and Agricultural activities in Oke Ogun was Farm Settlement Scheme (FSS) of 1959 initiated by the government of Western Nigeria established in 1962 in Ipapo. It encouraged the youths to choose career in farming and stem the drift of young school leavers to the urban communities for white collar jobs. The Operation Feed the Nation Programme of 1976 created significant awareness of mechanised farming system. This led to the establishment of Asamu Farms Limited at Okaka as a premier farm that specialised in maize plantation.

The most significant and revolutionary programme was Oyo North Agricultural Development Project (ONADEP) that was established between 1982 and 1990. It significantly boosted agriculture and food production in the area, but unfortunately the project diminished, over a time. National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) was also established between 1992 and 1999 to continue where the former had

³¹⁰ World Health Organization. *Smokeless Tobacco and Some Tobacco-Specific N-Nitrosamines*. International Agency for Research on Cancer Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans Vol. 89. Lyon, France: World Health Organization, 2007 Accessed 2011 Jan 26.

stopped. These programmes were specially located in Oke Ogun area with its headquarters in Saki by the government between 1960 and 1999 which touched upon people's lives and their environment.

Over the period of consideration, 1900 to 1999 as it was in other parts of Nigeria, simple, effectual and cost effective technologies and amenities for suitable storage and processing fragile food items like tubers, fruits and vegetables were not developed in Oke Ogun. So, this still accounted for a lot of post-harvest wastages of the food productions. Generally, the major problem that prevented investment in agriculture in Oyo North region of Oyo State was the difficulty in assessing funds, grants and credit facilities. The cost of hoe, matchet, sprayer, cutlass, tractor and agro-chemicals had risen beyond the reach of the farmers.

The intended policy beneficiaries, especially the Oke Ogun farmers, were not consulted and carried along during the policy formulation stage. This did not enable few facts to be factored into the whole process. Therefore, execution were faced with few preventable problems. These have been the challenges facing the development efforts from independence till date. There was no collaborative approach by discussing with the farmers in the study area before the policy making process. This could have stem the tide of disconnection between the policy beneficiaries and the government. There were no consideration for massive investment in training, research and development programmes through the strengthening of research centres and institutes.

Therefore, there is the need for better approach to food production, processing and trade where there is unhindered access to land. Technology in terms of improved inputs, credit and training should be basically encouraged. Modern farming and husbandry practices such as planting of improved seeds and seedlings, application of agricultural chemicals for pest and disease control should be introduced and improved upon. Tractors to reduce drudgery and enhance yields should be facilitated by assisting the farmers in sourcing for improved technologies. Small-scale irrigation in all agro-ecological zones of the country should be promoted and strengthened.

In the same way, cotton was also adopted and grown on a large scale in Oke Ogun, but it ended up as a distraction from the regular food crops production which the farmers were used to. Food crops cultivation declined significantly and the cotton crop could not increase the earnings of the farmers. Rather, it put the farmers at the mercy of the buyers. An

attempt to create platform at the Iseyin open market that could improve their earnings from cotton generated a very discouraging dispute between the cotton farmers and Ijebu middlemen that required the intervention of the Divisional officers.

This left the production of food crops in the hands of peasant households who mostly worked on small plots of land with low inefficient technologies. Thus, the emphasis on cash crops production created the conditions for the food insecurity which the country later experienced. As noted, in Oke Ogun, Farmers could not produce much of food crops thereby having very little for commercial purpose. While much was consumed by the household, the economy of the people was consequentially low and poverty permeated the fabric of the community.

From the foregoing, it is clear that the economy of Oke Ogun reflected the nature and character of the post-colonial economic system adopted by the Nigerian state. Agricultural activities especially food crop production that sustained the people and the economy of Oke Ogun subsisted intensively in the post-colonial period. A number of factors, which ranged from increase in oil exploration and exports, inadequate government interventions in the area of food production had damaging effect on the economy of the people.

As noted, one major problem that faced the agricultural activities in the area was the low level of investment by the peasant farmers who were virtually the producers of food crops. The prospects of partaking in the oil wealth drove many young and able-bodied men out of their farms in search of salaried employment in the urban centres and this affected the farm output. During the oil boom, many villages in Oke Ogun were affected. For example there had been a considerable growth in the outputs of net food production in the region between 1960 and 1970, it declined rapidly between the mid-1970s and 1980s.

Food production in many villages in Oke Ogun also reduced as a result of the growing demand for tobacco and cotton. Since these crops brought better incentives to producers, a number of food farmers in the different communities were drawn into the production of tobacco. Given that tobacco cultivation required large expanse of land, this important means of production became scarce and many food crop farmers could not have access to land at affordable reach. This, in addition to the unguided issue of Nomadic pastoralist that suddenly moved to Oke Ogun areas in large numbers in the 1960s, caused a lot of havoc in many villages. Investments on farms were destroyed by the activities of herdsmen. There were

instances where animals destroyed food crops leading to conflicts and unrest in some communities.

In the 1970s, the emergence of crude oil as a major revenue earner transformed the nation's economic profile which marginalized agriculture but supported the petroleum industry. In the agricultural sector, diversification could be horizontal or vertical. These required processing primary agricultural commodities into intermediate and finished products, with considerable value-added. This process was expected to fetch higher export earnings with such commodities as cocoa, cotton, palm produce, rubber, etc.³¹¹ It was unfortunate to realise that the agricultural sector was later abandoned thereby leading to an impoverishment of the rural population. The rising national income from crude oil export so much affected food production and the economy everywhere³¹² including the towns and villages in Oke Ogun. During the oil boom era, there was a 100 per cent increase in the net food consumption between 1960 and 1976 and the demand was growing yearly.

Except for the establishment of the Oyo North Agricultural Development Programme of between 1982 and 1990 and the National Agricultural Land Development Authority of between 1992 and 1999 that was specifically designed and located in the area, myriad of agricultural programmes introduced by the government between 1960 and 1999 did not touch upon the lives and environment of Oke Ogun. The success story of Oyo North Agricultural Development Programme in Oke Ogun food production did not live long due to the relocation of its headquarter to outside the region. It is needful to say, at this juncture, that the government of Nigeria had introduced several policies to restore agricultural sector to its rightful place in the economy. Future programmes and policies should learn from history of success stories of Oyo North Agricultural Development Programme (ONADEP) and National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) which positively impacted on food and agricultural production of Oke Ogun that housed them.

Emerging facts from this study revealed the following contributions to the existing body of knowledge:

- i. The cultivation of cash crops that improve the economic status of the people has a very significant effect of drastically reducing the cultivation of food crops.

³¹¹ Oil boom in Nigeria and its consequences for the country's economic development: projectfaculty.com/resources/resource-economics

³¹² Ibid

- ii. To have an improved food production system, the government needs to engage more inclusive government policies and future programmes so as to learn from the success stories of some past Agricultural Development Programmes.
- iii. That the level of investments in agricultural activities, training, research and development programmes greatly determines the volume of food crops production, food security and economic development of an agrarian society.
- iv. The state of Agricultural activities especially food crop production could be a reflection of the political economy of a state.
- v. Increased attention to non-agricultural productions and exports, inadequate government interventions and weak technological capacity have damaging effect on the economy of the peasant farmers in the area of food production.
- vi. Unguided issue of Nomadic pastoralist remains a critical challenge to food production in West African countries.

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1	Pastor Adedayo Idowu	Secondary School Principal	56	Ilupeju Estate, Okeho	October 19, 2012
2	Mr. Gbadegesin Samuel	Farmer	75	Imoba-Ile Farm, Okeho	August 12, 2012
3	Hon. Ajayi, Samuel A.	Primary School Headmaster	78	Ayetoro, Near Ilaji	April 14, 2013
4	Mr. Okedere Oyelola	Secondary School Principal	65	Ilua, Near Isemi-Ile	April 4, 2014
5	Chief Olafimihan Samuel	Farmer	73	Adekunle Village	January 15, 2013
6	Mr. Oyebisi Adeoye	Farmer	78	Lafinha Area, Okeho	December 12, 2013
7	Mr. Adewale Sunday	Field Supervisor	58	Liaison Office, Ministry of Agriculture, Ogboro	June 6, 2013
8	Mr. Ezekiel Adepoju	Trader	67	Maye, 11, Okeho	February 4, 2013
9	Mr. Isaac Ayegboyin	Farmer	95	Okeobo Farm, Okeho	May 10, 2013
10	Mr. Adewuyi Amos	Farmer	98	Okeho	October 5, 2013
11	Mr. Adeagbo Joseph	Farmer	78	Okeobo Farm, Okeho	October 12, 2013
12	Pastor Adebayo	Secondary	57	Community Grammar	January 15, 2013

	Olusegun	School Principal		School, Isemi-Ile	
13	Mr. Ojewunmi Oke	Farmer	85	Isemi-Ile, Near Okeho	May 10, 2013
14	Hon. Bamikunle Oluwaseyi	Civil Servant	48	Local Government Secretariat, Igbeti	July 6, 2013
15	Mr. Ganiyu Kuranga	Tobacco Farmer	75	Ayetoro	June 16, 2013
16	Mr. Joseph Aderogba	Teacher	47	Igboho	July 6, 2013
17	Okanlawon Lasisi	Farmer	78	Igboho	July 6, 2013
18	Mr. Segun Olanrewaju	Farm Supervisor, ONADEP	64	ONADEP Office, Ago- Are	October 12, 2013
19	Mr. Opawusi Taliat Olalekan	Director, Farm Settlement, Oyo State	54	Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture, Ibadan	November 6, 2017
20	Mr. Oyebisi John	Education Supervisor	58	Oyo State Education Board, Okeho	October 17, 2017
21	Mrs. Amosun Oshinbola	Trader	89	Gbonje Market, Okeho	November 6, 2014
22	Mr. Joseph Moyosade	Trader	75	Lafinha Area, Okeho	June 24, 2017
23	Fatokun Stephen	Farmer and Community Leader	84	Ago Amodu	March 18, 2017
24	Mr. Akinfenwa Segun	Trader	65	Ojo Oba Market, Iseyin	February 14, 2017
25	Mr. Awoleyin	Chairman	70	Farmers' Cooperative	June 2, 2017

	Gabriel	Cotton Strategic Farmers		meeting, Saki	
26	Mr. Thomas Fadairo Fadeyi	Farmer	78	Ogbooro	July 6, 2013
27	Dn. Oyedemi Samuel A.	Community Leader/Retired Principal	88	Okeho	August 2, 2016
28	Elder Amosun Adedayo	Civil Servant	65	Ilua	May 11, 2013
29	Prof. Ajayi Adedayo O.	Deputy Director, OAU Research Farm, OAU, Ile-Ife	51	Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, OAU, Ile-Ife	November 6, 2016
30	Mr. Ahmed Bello	Farmer	69	Elekokan	August 13, 2014
31	Mr. Ojedele Jacob O.	Farmer	62	Agunrege	August 13, 2014
32	Mr. Waheed Odusile	Civil Servant	54	Ogbooro	March 25, 2014
33	Mr. Saka Adeleke	Farmer	78	Sepeteri	July 7, 2018
34	Mr. Alani Oguntona	Trader	66	Owotoro	June 14, 2015
35	Mrs. Obaniyi Toyin	Trader	70	Shaki	August 12, 2017
36	Pastor Adewoyin Adewale	Civil Servant	52	Farm, Ofiki	July 6, 2017
37	Mr. Adesope Wale	Lecturer	45	Oyo State Colloege of Agriculture, Igboora	September 12, 2016
38	Mr. Ojetunde	Trader	53	Okeho	August 14, 2016

	Abiodun				
39	Mr. Egunjobi Olugbade	Retired Principal	62	Isemi-Ile	August 14, 2016
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