



***ENHANCING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH  
EFFECTIVE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES IN  
POST COVID-19 NIGERIA***

**By  
Prof. Ademola A. Ladele  
DAE&RD, UI, IB.**



***A keynote presentation @ the 2020 Symposium of NIFAAS  
Virtually held on  
Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> Dec., 2020***

# 1. Preambles

- Protocols
- Outlines

1 Background of Covid -19

2 Overview of Agric. Ext. Services in Nigeria

a. What is agric ext.

b. Linking ext to agric productivity

c. Challenges

3. The Paradigm shifts

4. Emerging roles of Agric Ext

5. Conclusion

# The Background of Covid -19

- Covid-19, also known as coronavirus issue started as a foreign news item from Wuhan in China
- Shook Nigeria into panic
- Exposed our unpreparedness for emergencies
- Most affected countries in Asia and Europe & America
- By divine help Africa was among list affected
- Despite this our vulnerability and unpreparedness in health and food sectors were not concealed

# Background (contd)

The following were observed during the period:

- Medical and pharmaceutical facilities were grossly inadequate.
- Infrastructures such as isolation centres were non-existing.
- Food reserves for strategic allocation during emergency were fragile.
- Economy to adequately provide stopgaps for citizens during the lockdown was rather weak.
- Breakdown in agricultural supply chain (of food and farm supplies) occasioned by the lockdown was severe.

IT SHOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO LOCATE THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRIC & FOOD SYSTEM

# Background (count)

As agricultural extension is a major cornerstone in agricultural productivity, the topic - *Enhancing Agricultural Productivity through Effective Agricultural Extension Services in post COVID-19 Nigeria* - becomes imperative; to put in proper perspective the lessons learnt from the coronavirus pandemic and how to better package the services for more responsiveness.

# 2. Overview of Agric Ext

## a. WHAT IS EXTENSION?

- Definition is broad and elucidated diversely
- In reality and in our contemporary clime agricultural ext dfn focusing on agric/rural sector will not suffice

For this presentation and post covid-19

- it is a wide spectrum and non-formal educational discipline/service which grew out of **problem solving** need, adopting an on-going process of sharing useful information with people and assisting them to acquire the necessary capability to utilize the information and technologies effectively. it is a wide spectrum and non-formal educational discipline/service which grew out of problem solving need, adopting an on-going process of sharing useful information with people and assisting them to acquire the necessary capability to utilize the information and technologies effectively.

# Overview (count)

## ***b. Linking Ext to Agric Productivity***

- Overwhelming evidence on how extension improves farm productivity and better farmers' Q of L + fvc players
- Taye (2013), Birkhaeuser (1991) etc.
- ***Evidence suggests that when farmers have contact with effective extension, more often than not, their livelihoods are imparted upon, but the real issue is that many of them do not have extension contact at all.***
- Policy makers & politicians also acknowledge so much about , though usually not back up with needed support to do more

# Challenges (traditional & recent)

- (1) Inadequate Coverage of Farmers' Production Environment and the entire Food Value Chain
- (2) Weak Judgment and Faulty Agricultural Policy Implementation
- (3) Poor Funding
- (4) Poor Extension Contact and Capacity Building
- (5) Lack of Professionalism in Extension and Collaboration
- (6) Climate Change, insecurity and poor emergency response
- (7) Culture of Impunity and Corruption



### 3.The Paradigm Shift in the Agricultural/Rural Sector Resulting From Covid-19

Many factors are indicative of the need for a paradigm shift for our extension models to meet up with agricultural productivity that will be robust enough to meet up with our current needs.

- Food & nutrition insecurity
- Increasing population growth
- Growing poverty & unemployment (esp. youth)
- Knowledge explosion due to int-b ICTs
- Now plus covid -19 (new normal)

THESE CALL 4 EXT 2 BE PROFESSIONAL,  
PRO\_ACTIVE & RESULT ORIENTED

# Paradigm shift (count)

- call for a total overhaul of our curricula in tertiary extension education.
- Call 4 a review in the practice of extension as it relates to the functions of the 3-tiers of government according to the constitutional provision.
- Call 4 a space for private extension to be properly integrated into the pluralistic ext system in Nigeria.
- Proper use of innovation platforms to promote agribusiness.

# Emerging roles of Ext to improve agric prod

- **A shift from agriculture to food system; nutrition and herbal extension**
- **A shift from agriculture to food system; nutrition and herbal extension**
- **Youths in Agriculture**
- **Digital extension and Smart Agriculture**
- **Private Extension Models**
- **Agri/Food Policy Leadership and Advocacy**

## 5. CONCLUSION

- The wave of Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria has come with fatality and its disruptive effect on social life and economy; it has equally left us lots of lessons and opportunity to put our house in order. On this premise it is expected that the extension agenda to pursue in Nigeria that will make robust contributions toward agricultural productivity and sound food security must be very versatile capture entire scope of food system.

## CONCLUSION (count)

- For this to be realised, the extensionist must be highly professional, pro-active and result-oriented. Capacity building must be a strong pillar extension could function adequately. While professionalisation of extension is a sine qua non, responsibilities and functions have to be clearly defined among the 3-tier of government with the state and local government taking charge, while the federal plays supportive and regulatory roles.
- Policy that will encourage the private sector to be more active in extension service delivery should be properly fashioned.



**Thanks for listening!**