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Analyzing agricultural funding, poverty alleviation, and economic growth in Nigeria: A Focus on the Abuja Federal Ministry of Agriculture

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Abstract

Agriculture, pivotal for economic development in many developing countries, serves as a major GDP contributor and employer, driving growth, reducing poverty, and ensuring food security through increased productivity, income generation, and export revenues. This study evaluates the validity of a research instrument used to assess agricultural funding, poverty alleviation, and economic growth in Nigeria, with a specific focus on the Abuja Federal Ministry of Agriculture. The instrument's validity was primarily assessed through content validity, supplemented by face validity involving executives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Abuja Metropolitan chapter. Their feedback prompted adjustments to enhance clarity and reliability. The study employed a stratified random sampling method to select 100 staff members from various departments within the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Abuja. Measures to mitigate sampling errors included pre-survey contacts and follow-up interviews post-survey. Data analysis utilized Spearman's rank correlation and included demographic analysis presented through tables and graphs. Findings reveal significant perceptions among respondents regarding agricultural funding's impact on poverty reduction and economic growth in Nigeria. Specifically, a strong positive relationship was found between agricultural funding and both poverty alleviation and economic growth. This research underscores the critical role of adequate agricultural funding in socioeconomic development, highlighting implications for policy and practice within Nigeria's agricultural sector.

Keywords: Agricultural funding; Poverty alleviation; Economic growth, Food Security; Rural development

1. Introduction

Agriculture plays a pivotal role in economic development, serving as the backbone of many economies, particularly in developing countries. It provides employment opportunities for a large segment of the population, driving rural development and reducing poverty. By producing food and raw materials, agriculture ensures food security and contributes to the stability and health of a nation. Additionally, agricultural activities generate income for farmers and stimulate demand for goods and services, creating a multiplier effect that spurs growth in other sectors of the economy. The agricultural sector also attracts investments in infrastructure such as roads, storage facilities, and irrigation systems, further promoting economic development. Agriculture contributes significantly to export revenues, helping countries earn foreign exchange and improve their balance of payments. As agricultural productivity increases through

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the adoption of modern technologies and practices, it enhances the efficiency and competitiveness of the sector. This leads to higher yields and better-quality products, opening up new markets and opportunities for trade. In turn, the increased income from agricultural exports can be reinvested in other areas of the economy, fostering industrialization and innovation. Overall, the role of agriculture in economic development is multifaceted, driving growth, reducing poverty, and ensuring sustainable development (Pawlak and Kołodziejczak, 2020).

With over 65 percent of the world's poor living in rural areas and primarily dependent on farming, agriculture is crucial to global economic growth, poverty reduction, and environmental sustainability. In many low-income countries, such as those in West Africa like Nigeria, agriculture is the most significant productive sector in terms of its contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the number of people it employs. Broad-based growth in agricultural incomes is essential for stimulating overall economic growth, particularly in nations where agriculture constitutes a large share of employment. The sector's ability to generate GDP growth and reduce poverty varies by country. In West Africa, where the majority of the poor and food insecure depend on agriculture, investing in smallholder agriculture is critical for poverty reduction and food security. In Nigeria, agriculture, which accounts for over 40% of GDP and employs about 60% of the workforce, is vital for poverty reduction. However, the sector also has the highest poverty incidence, highlighting the need for addressing agricultural underdevelopment to tackle poverty. Economic growth in Nigeria has been driven by resilient agricultural performance across crops, livestock, fisheries, and forestry, yet the sector still underperforms relative to its potential (Targowski, 2014).

Agriculture plays a pivotal role in economic development, particularly in low-income countries where it often represents the largest sector in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employment. By providing livelihoods for a significant portion of the population, especially in rural areas, agriculture drives economic growth and poverty reduction. It stimulates the overall economy by generating income, improving food security, and creating employment opportunities. Additionally, agricultural development fosters rural development, reduces regional income disparities, and curtails premature rural-urban migration. Investments in sustainable agricultural practices and smallholder farmer support are essential to enhance productivity, resilience to climate change, and long-term economic stability, ultimately contributing to global economic growth and environmental sustainability (Johnston, & Mellor, 1961; Oshireku et al., 2023).

Food security and agricultural expenditure are intricately linked, with the latter playing a crucial role in ensuring the availability, accessibility, and affordability of food. Investment in agriculture, including infrastructure, technology, and research, directly influences crop productivity, food distribution systems, and rural development. Adequate agricultural expenditure helps to enhance food security by improving farm outputs, reducing post-harvest losses, and supporting sustainable farming practices. Additionally, it fosters economic growth in rural areas, reduces poverty, and increases resilience against food crises, making it a vital component of national and global food security strategies (Gomina, et al, 2024).

The relationship between agriculture and economic growth is deeply interwoven, especially in developing countries where agriculture often constitutes a substantial portion of the economy. Agricultural productivity directly influences economic growth by generating employment, increasing incomes, and enhancing food security. Growth in agriculture boosts rural economies, stimulates demand for goods and services, and fosters linkages with other sectors such as manufacturing and services. Furthermore, improvements in agricultural efficiency and output can lead to surplus production, which supports export revenues and contributes to overall economic stability. By providing a foundation for sustained economic development, agriculture plays a crucial role in poverty alleviation, economic diversification, and the achievement of broader development goals (Wijerathna-Yapa & Pathirana, 2022).

Agricultural expenditure plays a critical role in poverty reduction in Nigeria by enhancing agricultural productivity and supporting rural development. Investments in agriculture, such as improving infrastructure, providing access to modern farming technologies, and offering financial services to smallholder farmers, can significantly increase crop yields and farm incomes. These expenditures help create employment opportunities, reduce food insecurity, and stimulate economic activity in rural areas, where poverty is most prevalent. By prioritizing agricultural expenditure, the Nigerian government can foster a more inclusive economic growth model that directly targets the livelihoods of the poor, leading to substantial reductions in poverty and improved living standards across the country (Balana & Oyeyemi, 2022; Kola, et al, 2024).

Agricultural expenditure and drinking water supply are closely connected, as investments in agriculture can significantly impact water resources. Agriculture is a major consumer of water, and efficient water management practices are essential to ensure that agricultural activities do not deplete or contaminate drinking water supplies. Targeted agricultural expenditure can fund the development of sustainable irrigation systems, water conservation

technologies, and practices that minimize water waste and pollution. By investing in these areas, governments can help safeguard drinking water sources while promoting agricultural productivity, thus balancing the needs of food production with the essential requirement of providing clean, safe drinking water for communities (Onivefu et al., 2024, a,b).

Agricultural growth has a profound impact on poverty reduction, particularly in developing countries where a significant portion of the population relies on agriculture for their livelihoods. Increased agricultural productivity leads to higher farm incomes, improved food security, and lower food prices, which directly benefit poor households. As agricultural output expands, it creates employment opportunities both on and off the farm, stimulating rural economies and reducing poverty. Moreover, agricultural growth can lead to better access to education and healthcare, as higher incomes enable families to invest in these essential services. By driving economic development from the ground up, agricultural growth serves as a powerful tool for alleviating poverty and fostering sustainable development (Irz, et al., 2001).

To collect data in population studies on agricultural funding and economic growth, researchers should first identify and define the target population, including farmers, agricultural organizations, and financial institutions involved in agricultural funding. They should then design and distribute structured surveys or questionnaires to these stakeholders, focusing on key metrics such as funding levels, agricultural productivity, income changes, and economic growth indicators. Lastly, the survey data should be supplemented with secondary data sources, such as government reports, economic databases, and relevant literature, to enhance the robustness and reliability of the findings.

To collect data in population studies on agricultural funding and economic growth, researchers should first identify and define the target population, including farmers, agricultural organizations, and financial institutions involved in agricultural funding. They should then design and distribute structured surveys or questionnaires to these stakeholders, focusing on key metrics such as funding levels, agricultural productivity, income changes, and economic growth indicators (Ozigagu et al., 2024).

The Adams-Bashforth method is an explicit, multistep technique used for numerically solving first-order ordinary differential equations (ODEs), particularly useful in population sampling within research studies. It is designed to predict the future value of a population by utilizing the values of the function at previous time steps, making it a practical choice for modeling population dynamics where data points are known at discrete intervals. By employing a linear combination of past evaluations of the derivative, the Adams-Bashforth method efficiently approximates the solution to an ODE, allowing researchers to forecast population trends over time. This method is especially advantageous when a high degree of accuracy is required, and previous data points are available, making it a preferred choice in population sampling and other related research scenarios (Deborah et al., 2024).

Random walk theory in population sampling refers to a method used in research to select a sample from a population in a way that mimics the process of a random walk, where each step is taken randomly and independently from the previous one. In this context, a researcher starts with an initial subject or unit in the population and then moves to the next unit based on a predefined random rule, such as moving to an adjacent household or individual according to a random direction or number. This process continues until the desired sample size is reached. The random walk method aims to reduce biases by ensuring that the selection process is not influenced by any systematic patterns or pre-existing structures within the population, thereby allowing for a more representative and unbiased sample for analysis (Oluwafemi et al., 2024).

1.1. Statement of the general problem

Sub-Saharan Africa has long been characterized by pervasive and chronic poverty, despite its abundance of human and material resources. In Nigeria, this widespread poverty has led to significant deterioration in human conditions, with real disposable incomes declining and malnutrition rates increasing. For most Nigerians, poverty is a harsh reality, manifesting in severe shortages of food, housing, health care, and security, and affecting both urban and rural populations. By 1998, nearly half of Nigerians lived in poverty, a figure that worsened dramatically from 46.3% in 1985 to 65.6% in 1996. With limited access to social amenities and a lack of a robust social welfare system, the poor in Nigeria often rely on relatives and friends for survival. Addressing this endemic issue requires comprehensive programs including industrialization, agricultural investment, the development of small-scale industries, and investment in education by both government and the private sector.

1.2. Purpose of the study

The primary aim of this study is to examine the interconnections between agricultural funding, poverty reduction, and economic growth. The specific objectives include:

- Assessing the level of poverty in Nigeria.
- Evaluating the impact of economic growth on poverty reduction in Nigeria.
- Determining the relationship between agricultural funding, poverty reduction, and economic growth in Nigeria.
- Analyzing the current level of agricultural funding in Nigeria.
- Recommending strategies to enhance agricultural funding, reduce poverty, and improve the Nigerian economy.

1.3. Research questions

- Agriculture is a Major Aspect of any Economy
- Agricultural Funding is Generally Poor in Nigeria
- The Level of Poverty in Nigeria is High
- There is a Significant Relationship Between Agricultural Funding and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria
- Agricultural Funding Would Help Alleviate Poverty While Improving the Economy of Nigeria
- There is a Significant Relationship Between Agricultural Funding and Economic Growth in Nigeria
- There are Factors Militating Against Effective Agricultural Funding

1.4. Research hypotheses

- H0: There is no statistically significant relationship between agricultural funding and poverty reduction in Nigeria.
- H1: There is a statistically significant relationship between agricultural funding and poverty reduction in Nigeria.
- H0: There is no statistically significant relationship between agricultural funding and economic growth in Nigeria.
- H1: There is a statistically significant relationship between agricultural funding and economic growth in Nigeria.

1.5. Significance of the study

The study holds significant importance for the development of Nigeria's agricultural sector, a critical component of the economy. It stands to benefit governmental bodies, policymakers, and stakeholders involved in efforts to eradicate poverty and foster economic growth. Additionally, students, researchers, and scholars interested in advancing studies on this subject will find value in the findings and recommendations of this research.

1.6. Scope and limitation of the study

This study focuses exclusively on agricultural funding, poverty alleviation, and economic growth in Nigeria, specifically utilizing data from the Abuja Federal Ministry of Agriculture.

Limitation of the study

Financial limitations hinder researchers by restricting their ability to acquire necessary materials, literature, and information essential for data collection through sources like the internet, questionnaires, and interviews. Concurrently, time constraints arise as researchers balance this study alongside other academic commitments, reducing the available time dedicated to the research endeavor.

2. Research methodology

2.1. Area of the Study

The study was conducted in Abuja, Nigeria, one of the country's most beautiful cities. According to the Federal Government, Abuja has a population of 19.5 million. However, this figure is disputed by the Nigerian Government and considered unreliable by the National Population Commission of Nigeria.

2.2. Source of data collection

Data for this study came from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data was generated through a field survey using a structured questionnaire as the main research instrument. Secondary data, on the other hand, was obtained from relevant literature, including textbooks, journals, articles, periodicals, seminar papers, and dissertations

2.3. Sampling technique

Due to the researcher's inability to effectively study the entire ministry, a representative sample was chosen. A sample size of one hundred (100) staff members was selected. The sample size was calculated using the Taro Yamani scientific formula, which is given as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

N is the Population

e is the degree of error expected

n is the sample size

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} = \frac{100}{1 + 100 (0.05)^2} = \frac{100}{1 + 100 (0.0025)} = \frac{100}{1 + 0.25} = 80$$

Therefore, a sample size of **80** respondents out of the entire population of **100** respondents would therefore be the lowest acceptable number of responses to maintain a **95%** confidence level.

3. Method of data collection

In this study, questionnaires and interviews were the research instruments used. The questionnaire served as the primary research instrument to gather necessary data from the sample respondents. It was structured to provide answers to research questions. The questionnaire was divided into two sections: Section A and Section B. Section A dealt with the personal data of the respondents, while Section B contained research statements postulated in line with the research questions and hypotheses outlined in Chapter One. Each statement in Section B had options or alternatives for the respondents to select or tick the appropriate response.

3.1. Method of data analysis

To analyze the data collected effectively and efficiently for easy management and accuracy, the simple percentage method was employed as the primary analytical tool for this research project. A sample size of one hundred (100) will be represented by 100% to facilitate the analysis of the responses. The correlation statistical analytical method will be used in this research work. Correlation is a statistical technique used to test hypotheses and predict the relationship between two variables. It helps draw conclusions by collecting observed values from the questionnaires administered to respondents, testing the degree of freedom, and determining the critical value of the hypothesis.

$$r = \frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x}) (y_i - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \sum (y_i - \bar{y})^2}}$$

Where *x* represents the independent factor and *y* represents the dependent factor, the gathered data through the administration of questionnaires will be coded, tabulated, and analyzed according to the research questions and hypotheses.

3.2. Reliability of instrument

The reliability of the instrument was determined through a reliability test using a pilot study. A test-retest approach was adopted, with the pretest conducted using questionnaires administered to respondents from selected companies. A total of twenty (20) copies of the questionnaire were distributed to five selected departments in the Ministry of Agriculture, Abuja. All the distributed questionnaires were completed and returned. Using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the reliability was found to be high ($r = 0.96$), indicating a high level of consistency in the survey items.

Table 1 Pearson – Product Moment Correlation Coefficient showing the reliability of instrument

Departments	First Average Response (x)	Second Average Response (y)
Procurement Department	5	5
Maintenance Department	5	5
Human Resource Dept.	3	3
General Service Dept.	3	3
Planning and Policy Dept.	4	3
Total	20	19

Source: Researcher’s Field survey April 2024.

Calculation

$$\bar{x} = \frac{5+5+3+3+4}{5} = 4$$

$$\bar{y} = \frac{5+5+3+3+3}{5} = 3.8$$

$$\Sigma(x_i - \bar{x})^2 = (5-4)^2 + (5-4)^2 + (3-4)^2 + (3-4)^2 + (4-4)^2 = 4$$

$$\Sigma(y_i - \bar{y})^2 = (5-3.8)^2 + (5-3.8)^2 + (3-3.8)^2 + (3-3.8)^2 + (3-3.8)^2 = 4.8$$

$$\Sigma(x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y}) = (5-4)*(5-3.8) + (5-4)*(5-3.8) + (3-4)*(3-3.8) + (3-4)*(3-3.8) + (4-4)*(3-3.8) = 4$$

$$S_{XY} = \frac{\Sigma(x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{n - 1}$$

$$S_{XY} = \frac{4}{5 - 1} = 1$$

$$r = \frac{\Sigma(x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{(\Sigma(x_i - \bar{x})^2)(\Sigma(y_i - \bar{y})^2)}}$$

$$r = \frac{4}{\sqrt{(4*4.8)}} = \mathbf{0.9129}$$

Table 2 Pearson – Coefficient showing Calculation for the data in Table 1 (Calculated with Statistic Kingdom, 2024)

Parameter	Value
Pearson correlation coefficient (r)	0.9129
r ²	0.8333
P-value	0.03047
Covariance	1
Sample size (n)	5
Statistic	3.873

The sampling data indicates a strong positive linear relationship between the two variables under study, as evidenced by the Pearson correlation coefficient (r) of 0.9129. This suggests that as one variable increases, the other variable also tends to increase significantly. The coefficient of determination (r^2) is 0.8333, meaning that approximately 83.33% of the variance in the dependent variable is explained by the independent variable. The P-value of 0.03047 indicates that the correlation is statistically significant at the 5% significance level, implying that the observed relationship is unlikely to have occurred by chance. The covariance of 1 further supports the positive relationship between the variables. The sample size (n) is 5, and the test statistic is 3.873, reinforcing the strength and significance of the correlation.

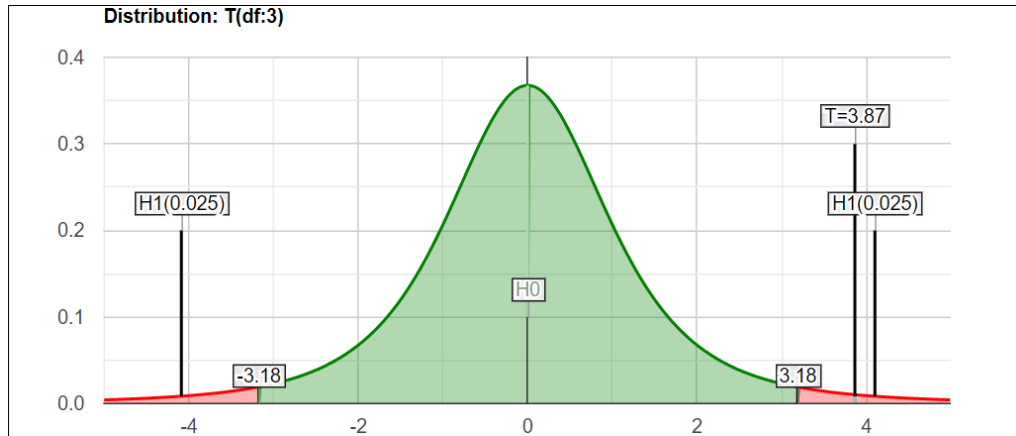


Figure 1 Correlation Test (Calculated with Statistic Kingdom, 2024).

The correlation test using the T-distribution with 3 degrees of freedom and a two-tailed approach validates the significance of the correlation observed in the sample data. Since the null hypothesis (H_0), which assumes zero correlation, is rejected due to the p-value of 0.03047 being less than the significance level (α), we conclude that the correlation in the population is significantly different from zero. This means the sample correlation of 0.9129 is strong enough to be statistically significant. The test statistic T equals 3.873, which lies outside the 95% region of acceptance, further reinforcing the rejection of H_0 . The 95% confidence interval for the correlation, calculated using the Z distribution over Fisher transformation, ranges from 0.1573 to 0.9943, indicating that the true correlation is very likely positive and strong, thus supporting the alternative hypothesis (H_1).

3.3. Validity of the instrument

Validity is determined by the degree to which a research instrument provides correct responses from sample objects, as ensured by the relevant research design. To ascertain the validity of the instrument, content validity was adopted. The researcher subjected the instrument to face validity by giving it to two executives of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Abuja Metropolitan chapter. These executives examined the items to ensure they aligned with the study's objectives. Based on their feedback, the structure and language of the questionnaire were modified to address any inconsistencies and ambiguities. This process aimed to minimize errors and enhance the accuracy and reliability of the instrument.

Limitation of study

Issues of sampling error were minimized in this study. Population specification error was limited as the researcher had a clear understanding of the population to be surveyed, which primarily consisted of staff from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Abuja. Selection error was also minimized by the researcher through several measures: initiating pre-survey contact to request cooperation, conducting the actual survey, and following up with respondents post-survey through interviews. These efforts helped ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data collected.

3.4. Sampling procedure

The sampling method adopted in this study was the stratified random sampling method. This approach was used because the population had a sample frame, and questionnaires were distributed in proportion to the population size of each department within the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Abuja. This method ensures that every element of the population has an equal chance of being selected, thereby providing a greater degree of representation. The study's population consisted of 100 selected staff from various departments within the ministry.

Table 3 Table of Illustration of the distribution of questionnaires

	No of questionnaire shared	No of questionnaire returned	No of questionnaire not returned
Procurement department	20	20	0
Maintenance department	20	20	0
Human Resource dept.	20	20	0
General Service	20	20	0
Planning and policy	20	20	0
Total	100	100	0

4. Results and discussion

This chapter focuses on the presentation and analysis of the results obtained from the questionnaires. The gathered data are presented in sequence corresponding to the research questions. Demographic information of the respondents is analyzed using simple percentages and pie graphs. To test the research hypotheses, Spearman's rank correlation is employed for statistical analysis.

4.1. Bio data of respondents

Table 4 The gender distribution of the respondents used for this study

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	60	60.0	60.0	60.0
	Female	40	40.0	40.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: field survey, April, 2024

Table 4 above illustrates the gender distribution of the respondents in this study. Out of the total population, 60 respondents (60.0%) are male, while the remaining 40 respondents (40.0%) are female.

Table 5 The age grade of the respondents used for this study

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	below 17years	15	15.0	15.0	15.0
	18-20years	15	15.0	15.0	30.0
	21-30years	40	40.0	40.0	70.0
	31-40years	10	10.0	10.0	80.0
	41-50years	10	10.0	10.0	90.0
	above 50years	10	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: field survey, April, 2024

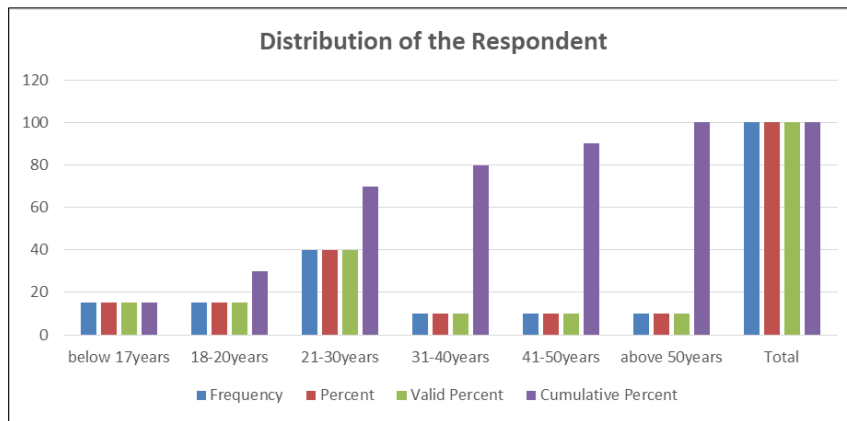


Figure 2 The age grade of the respondents used for this study

Out of the total population, 15 respondents (15.0%) are below 17 years old, 15 respondents (15.0%) are between 18-20 years old, 40 respondents (40.0%) are between 21-30 years old, 10 respondents (10.0%) are between 31-40 years old, 10 respondents (10.0%) are between 41-50 years old, and 10 respondents (10.0%) are over 50 years old.

Table 6 The marital status of respondents used for the survey

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	single	60	60.0	60.0	60.0
	married	30	30.0	30.0	90.0
	divorced	5	5.0	5.0	95.0
	widowed	5	5.0	5.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: field survey, April, 2024

Out of the total population, 60 respondents (60.0%) are single, 30 respondents (30.0%) are married, 5 respondents (5.0%) are divorced, and 5 respondents (5.0%) are widowed.

4.2. Tables based on research questions

Table 7 Agriculture is a Major Aspect of any Economy

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly agree	40	40.0	40.0	40.0
	Agree	50	50.0	50.0	90.0
	Undecided	2	2.0	2.0	92.0
	Disagree	3	3.0	3.0	95.0
	strongly disagree	5	5.0	5.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: field survey, April, 2024

Table 7 shows the responses of respondents that agriculture is the major aspect of any economy. 40 respondents representing 40.0 percent strongly agree that agriculture is the major aspect of any economy. 50 respondents representing 50.0 percent agree that agriculture is the major aspect of any economy. 2 respondents representing 2percent were undecided. 3 respondents representing 3.0 percent disagree that agriculture is the major aspect of any economy while the remaining 5 of the respondents representing 5 percent strongly disagree that agriculture is the major aspect of any economy.

Table 8 Agricultural Funding is Generally Poor in Nigeria

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly agree	50	50.0	50.0	50.0
	Agree	25	25.0	25.0	75.0
	Undecided	5	5.0	5.0	80.0
	Disagree	10	10.0	10.0	90.0
	Strongly disagree	10	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: field survey, April, 2024

Table 8 shows the responses of respondents that agricultural funding is generally poor in Nigeria. 50 respondents representing 50.0 percent strongly agree that agricultural funding is generally poor in Nigeria. 25 respondents representing 25.0 percent agree that agricultural funding is generally poor in Nigeria. 5 respondents representing 5.0 percent were undecided. 10 respondents representing 10.0 percent disagree that agricultural funding is generally poor in Nigeria while the remaining 10 of the respondents representing 10.0 percent strongly disagree that agricultural funding is generally poor in Nigeria.

Table 9 The Level of Poverty in Nigeria is High

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly agree	50	50.0	50.0	50.0
	Agree	30	30.0	30.0	80.0
	Undecided	5	5.0	5.0	85.0
	Disagree	10	10.0	10.0	95.0
	strongly agree	5	5.0	5.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: field survey, April, 2024

Table 9 shows the responses of respondents that the level of poverty in Nigeria is high. 50 respondents representing 50.0 percent strongly agree that the level of poverty in Nigeria is high. 30 respondents representing 30.0 percent agree that the level of poverty in Nigeria is high. 5 respondents representing 5 percent were undecided. 10 respondents representing 10.0 percent disagree that the level of poverty in Nigeria is high while the remaining 5 of the respondents representing 5 percent strongly disagree that the level of poverty in Nigeria is high.

Table 10 There is a Significant Relationship Between Agricultural Funding and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly agree	40	40.0	40.0	40.0
	Agree	50	50.0	50.0	90.0
	Undecided	2	2.0	2.0	92.0
	Disagree	5	5.0	5.0	97.0
	strongly disagree	3	3.0	3.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: field survey, April, 2024

Table 10 shows the responses of respondents that there is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and poverty reduction in Nigeria. 40 respondents representing 40.0 percent strongly agree that there is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and poverty reduction in Nigeria. 50 respondents representing 50.0 percent agree that there is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and poverty reduction in Nigeria. 2 respondents representing 2 percent were undecided. 5 respondents representing 5.0 percent disagree that there is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and poverty reduction in Nigeria while the remaining 3 of the respondents representing 3 percent strongly disagree that there is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and poverty reduction in Nigeria.

Table 11 Agricultural Funding Would Help Alleviate Poverty While Improving the Economy of Nigeria

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly agree	40	40.0	40.0	40.0
	Agree	30	30.0	30.0	70.0
	Undecided	15	15.0	15.0	85.0
	Disagree	10	10.0	10.0	95.0
	strongly disagree	5	5.0	5.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: field survey, April, 2024

Table 11 shows the responses of respondents that agricultural funding would help alleviate poverty while improving the economy of Nigeria. 40 respondents representing 40.0 percent strongly agree that agricultural funding would help alleviate poverty while improving the economy of Nigeria. 30 respondents representing 30.0 percent agree that agricultural funding would help alleviate poverty while improving the economy of Nigeria. 15 respondents representing 15.0 percent were undecided. 10 respondents representing 10.0 percent disagree that agricultural funding would help alleviate poverty while improving the economy of Nigeria while the remaining 5 of the respondents representing 5.0 percent strongly disagree that agricultural funding would help alleviate poverty while improving the economy of Nigeria.

Table 12 There is a Significant Relationship Between Agricultural Funding and Economic Growth in Nigeria

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly agree	50	50.0	50.0	50.0
	Agree	15	15.0	15.0	65.0
	Undecided	15	15.0	15.0	80.0
	Disagree	10	10.0	10.0	90.0
	Disagree	10	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: field survey, April, 2024

Table 12 shows the responses of respondents that there is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and economic development in Nigeria. 50 respondents representing 50.0 percent strongly agree that there is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and economic development in Nigeria. 15 respondents representing 15.0 percent agree that there is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and economic development in Nigeria. 15 respondents representing 15.0 percent were undecided. 10 respondents representing 10.0 percent disagree that there is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and economic development in Nigeria while the remaining 10 of the respondents representing 10.0 percent strongly disagree that there is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and economic development in Nigeria.

Table 13 There are Factors Militating Against Effective Agricultural Funding

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly agree	50	50.0	50.0	50.0
	Agree	30	30.0	30.0	80.0
	Undecided	5	5.0	5.0	85.0
	Disagree	10	10.0	10.0	95.0
	strongly disagree	5	5.0	5.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Source: field survey, April, 2024

Table 13 shows the responses of respondents that there are factors militating against effective agricultural funding. 50 respondents representing 50.0 percent strongly agree that there are factors militating against effective agricultural funding. 30 respondents representing 30.0 percent agree that there are factors militating against effective agricultural funding. 5 respondents representing 5 percent were undecided. 10 respondents representing 10.0 percent disagree that there are factors militating against effective agricultural funding while the remaining 5 of the respondents representing 5 percent strongly disagree that there are factors militating against effective agricultural funding.

5. Research hypotheses

5.1. Hypothesis 1

- H0: There is no significant relationship between agricultural funding and poverty reduction in Nigeria.
- H1: There is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and poverty reduction in Nigeria.

5.2. Level of significance: 0.05

Decision rule: reject the null hypothesis if the p-value is less than the level of significance, accept the null hypothesis if otherwise.

Table 14 Correlations

		There is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and poverty reduction in Nigeria	Agriculture funding would help alleviate poverty while improving the economy of Nigeria
There is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and poverty reduction in Nigeria	Pearson Correlation	1	0.913**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.000
	N	100	100
Agriculture funding would help alleviate poverty while improving the economy of Nigeria	Pearson Correlation	0.913**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	
	N	100	100

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

5.3. Conclusion based on the correlation table above

The conclusion that a strong relationship exists between accounting information processes and business succession in Nigeria is based on a correlation coefficient of R=0.913. Although this value indicates a robust positive correlation between the two variables, it is important to note that the term "significant" typically refers to statistical significance, which necessitates additional analysis beyond the correlation coefficient alone.

5.3.1. Hypothesis 2

Given the hypotheses and the level of significance provided:

- Null Hypothesis (H0): There is no significant relationship between agricultural funding and economic growth in Nigeria.
- Alternative Hypothesis (H1): There is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and economic growth in Nigeria.
- Level of Significance (α): 0.05 (5%)

5.3.2. Decision Rule

- Reject the null hypothesis (H0) if the p-value is less than 0.05.
- Accept the null hypothesis (H0) if the p-value is greater than or equal to 0.05.

So, if the p-value obtained from the statistical analysis (such as the correlation analysis) is less than 0.05, you would reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and economic growth in Nigeria. If the p-value is 0.05 or higher, you would fail to reject the null hypothesis, suggesting that there is no significant relationship between these variables based on the data analyzed.

Table 15 Correlations

		There is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and poverty reduction in Nigeria	Agriculture funding would help alleviate poverty while improving the economy of Nigeria
There is a significant relationship between agricultural funding and poverty reduction in Nigeria	Pearson Correlation	1	0.913**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.000
	N	100	100
Agriculture funding would help alleviate poverty while improving the economy of Nigeria	Pearson Correlation	0.913**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	
	N	100	100

** Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

5.4. Conclusion based on the correlation table above

The correlation coefficient $R = 0.913$ suggests a strong positive relationship between agricultural funding and economic growth in Nigeria. Based on this finding, it can be concluded that there is a significant relationship between these two variables, indicating that increased agricultural funding tends to coincide with higher levels of economic growth in the country.

6. Conclusions and recommendations

The study aimed to address several key objectives concerning poverty, economic growth, agricultural funding, and their interrelationships in Nigeria. Firstly, it sought to assess the current level of poverty across various regions and demographics within Nigeria. This objective aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the scope and severity of poverty, highlighting areas needing targeted interventions and policy reforms.

Secondly, the study examined the impact of economic growth on poverty reduction in Nigeria. By analyzing economic indicators and poverty rates over a specified period, the research aimed to identify how changes in economic conditions correlate with improvements or setbacks in poverty levels. This analysis helps in evaluating the effectiveness of economic policies and development strategies in alleviating poverty.

Thirdly, the research aimed to determine the intricate relationship between agricultural funding, poverty reduction, and economic growth in Nigeria. It explored how investments in agriculture influence poverty alleviation and economic

development, considering factors such as funding adequacy, distribution mechanisms, and policy frameworks that support agricultural productivity and rural development.

Additionally, the study focused on assessing the current state of agricultural funding in Nigeria. By examining budget allocations, expenditure patterns, and investment trends in the agricultural sector, it aimed to identify gaps and inefficiencies in funding mechanisms that hinder agricultural productivity and rural development initiatives.

Based on the findings, several critical insights emerged. Firstly, agriculture was identified as a fundamental pillar of Nigeria's economy, underscoring its significance in providing livelihoods, ensuring food security, and contributing to economic stability. However, agricultural funding was found to be generally inadequate and poorly distributed, posing challenges to enhancing productivity and rural development.

Moreover, the study highlighted the persistently high levels of poverty in Nigeria, emphasizing the urgent need for targeted interventions and policy reforms to address socio-economic disparities effectively. It revealed a significant positive correlation between increased agricultural funding and reductions in poverty rates, suggesting that strategic investments in agriculture could potentially alleviate poverty and stimulate economic growth.

Furthermore, the research identified key factors that hinder effective agricultural funding in Nigeria, including bureaucratic inefficiencies, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to financial services for rural farmers. Addressing these barriers and implementing reforms in agricultural financing mechanisms were recommended as crucial steps towards improving productivity, reducing poverty, and fostering overall economic development in Nigeria.

In conclusion, the study's findings underscored the pivotal role of agriculture in Nigeria's economic landscape and highlighted the importance of targeted interventions and policy reforms to enhance agricultural funding, alleviate poverty, and promote sustainable economic growth. By addressing these challenges and leveraging agricultural potential, Nigeria can unlock opportunities for inclusive development and improve the well-being of its population.

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

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