

Adeoye, Babatunde Wasiu; Iwegbu, Onyebuchi

Article — Published Version

Harnessing new sources of economic strength to achieving sustainable development goals in Nigeria

The Nigerian Journal of Energy & Environmental Economics

Suggested Citation: Adeoye, Babatunde Wasiu; Iwegbu, Onyebuchi (2020) : Harnessing new sources of economic strength to achieving sustainable development goals in Nigeria, The Nigerian Journal of Energy & Environmental Economics, ISSN 2006-8395, Department of Economics, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Vol. 11, Iss. 1, pp. 41–54-, <https://nauecojournals.com/index.php/stage/pdfreader/130>

This Version is available at:

<https://hdl.handle.net/10419/222515>

Standard-Nutzungsbedingungen:

Die Dokumente auf EconStor dürfen zu eigenen wissenschaftlichen Zwecken und zum Privatgebrauch gespeichert und kopiert werden.

Sie dürfen die Dokumente nicht für öffentliche oder kommerzielle Zwecke vervielfältigen, öffentlich ausstellen, öffentlich zugänglich machen, vertreiben oder anderweitig nutzen.

Sofern die Verfasser die Dokumente unter Open-Content-Lizenzen (insbesondere CC-Lizenzen) zur Verfügung gestellt haben sollten, gelten abweichend von diesen Nutzungsbedingungen die in der dort genannten Lizenz gewährten Nutzungsrechte.

Terms of use:

Documents in EconStor may be saved and copied for your personal and scholarly purposes.

You are not to copy documents for public or commercial purposes, to exhibit the documents publicly, to make them publicly available on the internet, or to distribute or otherwise use the documents in public.

If the documents have been made available under an Open Content Licence (especially Creative Commons Licences), you may exercise further usage rights as specified in the indicated licence.



HARNESSING NEW SOURCES OF ECONOMIC STRENGTH TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN NIGERIA

ADEOYE Babatunde Wasiu and IWEGBU Onyebuchi

Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos,
Nigeria, Correspondence: badeoye2010@yahoo.com

Abstract

There were many failures recorded in the execution of the Millennium Development Goals which elapsed in 2015; a major cause of this was the limited resources in financing the programmes. The Sustainable Development Goals have been rolled out with higher number of goals as well as targets which elapses in 2030. The Nigerian economy is just recovering from recession and is currently faced with high debt profile coupled with oil price fluctuations. Thus, to finance the sustainable development goals, Nigeria must look away from the current production capacity by harnessing other opportunities that awaits her. This study therefore uses exploratory style of investigation to analyse the other sources of economic strength in achieving the sustainable development goals in Nigeria. From the exploratory investigation, the study found that expansion and massive development in Agribusiness through improvement in the agricultural value chain remains a viable new source of economic strength; this is because it has the ability to reduce massive importation of such product thereby reducing the demand gap. More also, there will be rapid export of such products thereby increasing foreign earnings which further creates massive employment opportunities for the people. Additionally, massive investment in tourism and investment in solid minerals are viable sources of economic strength in achieving the sustainable development goals.

Keywords: *Economic Strength, Sustainable Development Goals, Solid Minerals*

JEL Classification: O21, O39

1. Introduction

The quest for development and improvement in the lives of the citizenry is the desire of all nations and this becomes very paramount for developing economies in which Nigeria finds herself. Nigeria since her independence has continued to pursue developmental goals in order to achieve development thereby improving the welfare of the citizens; such strategy and policy designs are both internally developed and some of them are

internationally developed while Nigeria aligns herself with such target (Davies, 2012). Part of the internal policies developed in time past in order to spur development started with the National development plan which was rolled out in the 1960s and this was followed by the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) of the 1980s. The Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) policy was designed to improve the balance of payment deficit as well as the price shock of the 1980s. The

SAP policy did not see its end as the government was eager to redirect the economy away from slow growth to recovery trajectory. Away from the SAP, the new democratic dispensation from 1999 rolled out different development strategies ranging from the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) and now the Economy Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP).

Considering international policy frameworks, Nigeria has not been left out in aligning herself with United Nation's development strategies for its member countries of which Nigeria is a signatory to. One of such policy that can be easily seen is the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of 2000 which elapsed in 2015. The MDG was a development framework designed by UN in order to help developing economies come out of poverty and ensure social development. The MDG elapsed in 2015 and given the average performance of the policy, together with evolving societal developmental challenges, United Nations launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which is made up of 17 goals and 169 targets. The development goals are the blueprint of achieving better and more sustainable future for all. The goal majorly addresses the issue of poverty, inequality, climate, prosperity, environmental degradation, peace and justice. The goals include No poverty; Zero Hunger; Good health and well-being; quality education; gender equality; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; decent work and economic growth; industry, innovation, and infrastructure; reducing inequality; sustainable cities and communities; responsible consumption and production; climate action; life below water; life on land; peace, justice, and strong institutions; partnership for the goals (Sustainable Development Report, 2019).

In achieving all or part of the sustainable development goals, resources must be

harnessed in order to meet its demand. Various strategies and frameworks have been used by the past administration in financing the MDG goals with some proving to be more successful and others not¹. In order to finance the MDGs, the federal government set aside the monies that accrued to it as a result of the debt cancellation by the Paris club creditors in the debt relief gains fund. Although, the fund proved to be useful but some of it came late as the funds had to pass through the federal government budgetary process. Also, inter-governmental partnership for funding was another stream of income used in financing the MDG. A conditional grant scheme was introduced and this was used by the federal government to leverage co-financing for MDGs projects by state governments. Despite the funds mobilized, the mechanisms were less successful as they were diverted to the payment of salaries and other recurrent expenditure. Also, even the funds promised by the donor countries as aid did not come at the point it was needed and when it came, there were few measures put in place to track the usage of the funds for the purpose which it was meant for.

The MDG programme was not sufficiently financed as highlighted above and the SDG goal is larger implying that there is the need for greater mobilization of resources needed in order to finance the new programme. With dwindling oil prices which is a major source of government revenue, and considering the recession the economy recently plunged into, it is obvious that for the SDG to be properly financed, the nation must seek for other sources in financing the sustainable development objectives.

According to the CBN (2018) report, the economy plunged into recession between the first quarter of 2016 at 0.67% negative growth rate till the first quarter of 2017 at 0.91% negative growth. Although, she

later came out of it and ever since, the country has been experiencing crawling growth between 1.50% and 2.38% for the periods of Q1 2018 and Q4 2018. The core oil sector that contributes to growth has also recently experienced dwindling returns of -3.95% in Q2 2018, -2.91% in the subsequent quarter and -1.62% in the fourth quarter of 2018 while the non-oil sector maintained a positive growth trajectory for the period. In order to augment the falling revenue and meet the ever increasing demand of the nation, the nation's debt profile has been increasing geometrically that as at December 2018 according to the Debt Management Office, the total external debt stands at 7.7 trillion naira while the domestic debt stands at 16.6 trillion naira. The debt-to-GDP ratio is about 34.8%. The implication of these is that the current productive capacity of the country cannot sufficiently fund the Sustainable Development Goal as the nation needs to borrow in order to buy up 34.8% of her output. This study therefore seeks to examine ways in which the country can harness new sources of economic strength in achieving sustainable development goals in Nigeria. The study provides an answer to the question on what are the strategies in which the country can adopt in order to finance the sustainable development goals.

In the present world of constant innovation and dynamism in technological improvement, economies must strive to develop strategic sources of earning stable revenue in a bid to generate employment opportunities and prosperity for the nation. Such economies must come up to speed in identifying sectors that can propel long term growth in which they have strong advantage over other economies. Without a doubt, other emerging and transition economies have once in their life cycle, identified such sector and sources and this has made them become stronger in terms of foreign exchange earnings and global competitiveness; this study therefore seeks

to identify the strategies Nigeria can take in order to join such league of nations.

Many advocates (Suberu, Ajala, Akande & Olure-Bank, 2015) have long preached this for Nigeria, many terminologies have been used from diversification to restructuring; however the first key step to be taken can be seen as identification of the new sources of economic strength for the economy. In order to identify this, the scope of the study spans through the identification of where the country started from during independence; that is, what has been the economic strength in the past decades and what are the challenges today before we can now identify the new sources of economic strength in achieving sustainable development goals.

The remaining section of this paper examines the theoretical construct in which nations can follow in identification of new sources of economic strength, this is followed by the research methodology, then we have the data analysis and interpretation before the conclusion and policy implication.

2. Review of Related Literature

In order to identify and harness viable sources of financing the sustainable development goals as well knowing the critical sector to channel resources into, two strands of theoretical literature exists; these are the balanced growth model and the unbalanced growth otherwise known as the lop-sided goal strategy; these two theoretical literature are massively discussed in this section.

Balanced Growth Theory

The balanced growth theory as developed by Ragnar Nurkse in 1953 proposes that an economy can only grow when there is simultaneous investment in all the sectors of the economy. Nurkse was in favor of attaining balanced growth between consumer goods and capital goods industries; agriculture and industry; export and import; demand and supply (Perkins, Radelet, Lindauer & Block, 2013). He

considers this approach as the only way of escaping vicious circle of poverty in developing countries.

The theory holds that the major obstacle to the development of the underdeveloped countries is the vicious circle of poverty. This vicious circle of poverty shows that income in underdeveloped countries is low. Low income leads to low savings. Low savings will naturally result in low investment, which will result in less production. Low production will generate low income. Low income will create low demand for goods. In other words, it will result in smaller markets (limited extent of markets). Thus, there will be no inducement to invest.

The low level of productivity however is a result of the small amount of capital used in production which in turn may be caused, at last partly, by inducement to invest. So, in order to break the vicious circle of poverty in the under-developed countries, it is essential to have a balance between demand and supply (Perkins, Radelet, Lindauer & Block, 2013).

According to the theory, the vicious circle of poverty cannot be broken with industrial investment decisions. This means that the vicious circle of poverty cannot be broken only by making investment in one industry or one sector. Rather, there should be overall investment in all the sectors. This is the only way to enlarge the size of the market. The implication of this is that this theory presupposes that in order to achieve the sustainable development goals, there should be massive investment and funding on all the sectors of the economy as well as all the goals and targets. Thus, to achieve the SDG goals using this theory, there must be the discovery and identification of new sources of funding which the nation must harness in order to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Balanced growth helps in accelerating the pace of economic growth, Meier is of the

view that "Balanced Growth is a means of getting out of rut". Nurkse is of the view that increase in investment in different branches of production can enlarge the total market. This can break the bonds of the stationery equilibrium of underdevelopment. The transmission mechanism of increasing the welfare of the citizenry follows that as economy grows due to increase in income, demand of those goods rises whose demand is income-elastic. If the production of these goods does not increase, there may appear several bottlenecks. However, in case of balanced growth, it is possible to increase production of those goods whose income elasticity of demand is more. Thereby, chances of bottlenecks in different sectors will be quite remote (Nafziger, 2006).

This theory has however been criticized as simultaneous establishment of industries is likely to raise money and real costs of production and so make them economically unprofitable to operate in the absence of sufficient capital equipment, skills, cheap power, finance and other necessary materials. Advocates of balanced growth emphasize on the simultaneous growth in all the sectors of the economy; however, in reality a country cannot grow rapidly if it fails to specialize on the sector it has comparative cost advantage (Perkins, Radelet, Lindauer & Block, 2013).

Unbalanced or Lop Sided Growth Theory

This theory was developed by Hirschman (1958) and it presupposes that deliberately unbalancing the economy, in line with a predesigned strategy, is the best path for economic growth. The theory argues that the major shortage in developing countries is not the supply of savings, but the decision to invest by entrepreneurs, the risk takers and decision makers. The ability to invest is dependent on the amount and nature of existing investments. The theory supports that poor countries

need a development strategy that spurs investment decisions. According to the theory, since resources and abilities are limited, a big push is sensible only in strategically selected industries within the economy (Nafziger, 2006). Growth then spreads from one sector to another. Thus, a major argument of this theory is that since resources are scarce most especially for developing economies, sustainable development goals can only be achieved when the government identifies some of the goals that have spill over effect on the economy and thus allocates resources to the execution of such goals. In doing this, the scarce resources will first be allocated to the critical sectors so that the limited resources are efficiently utilized (Nafziger, 2006).

However, this theory has been criticized as it placed too much emphasis on investment decisions while neglecting the relevance of administrative, managerial and policy decisions in developing countries. It must be noted here that even if the unbalanced growth strategy is adopted; still, Nigeria's existing resources are inefficient in executing part of the critical sectors. Thus, the two growth strategies provide a framework for harnessing other sources of financing the sustainable development goals.

Empirical Review

Suberu, Ajala, Akande and Olure-Bank (2015) examined the various ways of possibly diversifying the Nigerian economy in order to achieve economic development. the study employed the descriptive style of investigation, the study compared the performance of the economy pre-oil exploration and since oil has been discovered. The study noted that there is the need for diversification and that the Agricultural sector is a possible way of diversifying the economy. The study also noted that innovation will principally drive the economy towards development.

Orgi (2018) examined the possibilities of diversifying the Nigerian economy from oil to the Agricultural and solid minerals sector. The study employed correlations, co-integration test and the Ordinary Least Square to examine the objectives. The findings from the study revealed that the Agricultural sector is a viable sector; however, not much attention has been placed on the sector. Also, solid mineral production can have trickle down positive effect on the economy. Thus, the study recommends that capital and infrastructure must be provided to these critical sectors in order for the economy to enjoy positive spillover effects.

In a similar study, Muttaka (2015) investigated the consequences of Nigeria economy solely dependent on oil for growth trajectories to occur. The study noted that enormous resources have been committed to the government over the years, but the mismanagement of the resources has crippled the economy and limited her from experiencing growth and sustained development. The study noted that the main drivers of economic diversification are investment, governance and appropriate management of the economy.

Suleiman and Aminu (2010) examined the contribution of the petroleum, manufacturing sub-sector and the agricultural sector on economic growth. The study employed both descriptive style of investigation and graphical illustration. The study found that the Agricultural sector contributed the largest share to economic growth compared to the petroleum sub-sector.

3. Methods and Procedure

This research follows an exploratory method of investigation. Exploratory research method is used to investigate a problem which is not clearly defined. It starts with general idea, then the researcher identify issues, and is willing to change his direction subject to the revelation of new

data or insight (Bhat, 2019). Exploratory research method of investigation draws out definitive conclusions with an extreme caution and hence, it relies on secondary data by reviewing the available literature and an in-depth case study of other countries that have once identified other sources for their economic strength (Shields & Rangarian, 2013). This style of investigation takes place when problems are in preliminary stage and the issue of research is new and data is difficult to collect. Thus, given that the sustainable development goal of 2016 which will elapse in 2030 is just barely 3 years of implementation, this style of investigation becomes relevant as the topic under investigation is new and relevant data is not yet sufficient to gather.

This study therefore through secondary style, uses the amount of information available in the internet, library, newspapers, government agencies and annual reports to carry out the investigation and thereby draws out a meaningful recommendation for policy makers. The strong argument for adopting this style of investigation is because of its low cost, extent of interactivensess and

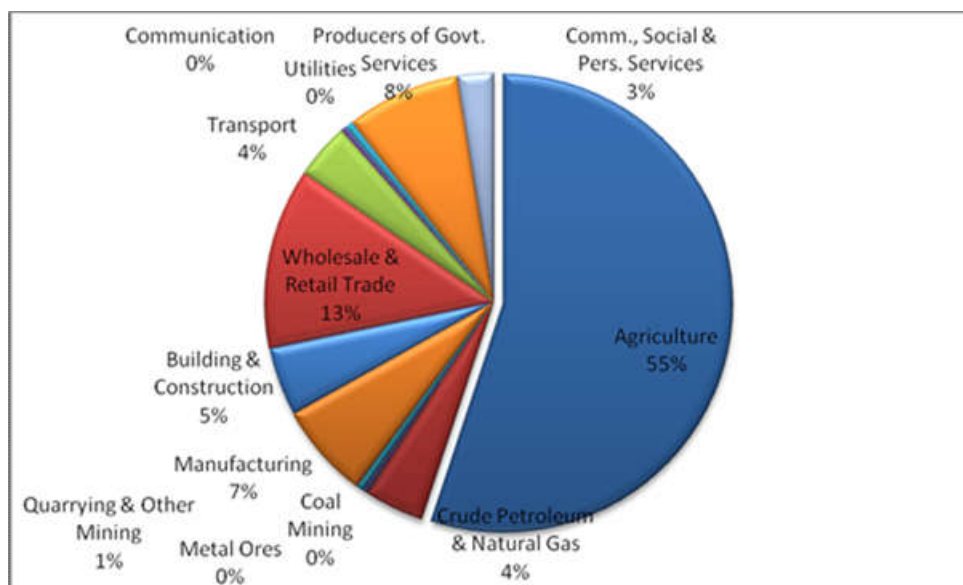
open-ended style. This is also useful as there are few existing studies that have been conducted on this subject matter and also, they do not answer the problem precisely enough. This research method does not come without its flaws as it is time consuming as in abid to conducting the research, there are much irrelevant information retrieved and thus, there is a need to sieve them out in order to collect the relevant ones.

4. Results and Discussion of Findings

We begin this section by examining the past strength of the Nigerian economy, then this is followed by identification of new sources of economic strength in order to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Past Strengths of the Nigerian Economy

Immediately after Nigeria's independence, her economy was robust and the order of the day was solely agriculture. Without a doubt, the agricultural sector was a strong force for Nigeria economy to be reckoned with; earning over 55% of her foreign exchange revenue and generating over 70% of jobs for the nation.



Source: Authors' Construct using CBN Data

Figure i: Nigeria's Output Performance for the periods on average (1960 – 1970)

Figure i shows the different sectoral contributions to output over the period 1960 -1970. It can be vividly seen that the Agricultural sector has contributed 55% to the nation's output and other silent sectors which performed minimally were

communication services (0%), manufacturing accounted for 4%, mining accounted for 1%, metal ores (0%), coal mining (0%) and building and construction (5%). This simply shows the dominance of the agricultural sector over the period

Table i: Sectoral/Sub-sectoral Contributions to Output

Sectors/Sub-sectors	Period	
	(1981- 1990)	(2001-2017)
Agriculture	18.0%	24.3%
Crude Petroleum & Natural Gas	31.7%	15.8%
Solid Minerals	0.3%	0.1%
Manufacturing	9.4%	7.8%
Cement	1.4%	0.5%
Food, Beverage and Tobacco	5.8%	4.3%
Textile, Apparel and Footwear	0.9%	1.3%
Motor vehicles & assembly	0.1%	0.1%
Other Manufacturing	0.3%	0.3%
Transport	1.2%	1.2%
Information and Communication	1.5%	8.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	0.2%	0.6%
Finance & Insurance	2.5%	3.4%
Real Estate	7.1%	7.2%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Serv.	3.7%	3.5%
Administrative and Support Services Business Services	0.0%	0.0%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	0.0%	0.1%

Source: Authors' Construct using CBN Data

However, the discovery of oil caused a paradigm shift of Nigeria's economy away from agriculture to crude oil exploration in such a way that between 1981-1990, as evidenced in table i, Agriculture only contributed 18% while crude oil petroleum and natural gas accounted for 31.7%. Solid minerals still remained very low at 0.3% and manufacturing managed to gulp up 9.4%. Another notable sub-sector that managed to come up was food, beverage and tobacco which accounted for 5.8% within this period under investigation. Arts, entertainment and recreation contributed nothing to output. There was also the emergence of real estate accounting for 7.1% and also the financial institution accounted for 2.5% (CBN, 2017 Statistical Bulletin).

The period of 2001 – 2017 saw the emergence of new sub-sectors coming up such as the telecommunication industry contributing 8.9% up by 7.4% and also arts, entertainment and recreation in which the movies industry belongs to contributed 0.1%. Real estate managed to experience only a 0.1% increase from the previous two decades. However, crude oil exploration dwindled greatly by 15.9% while agricultural sector showed a significant improvement of 6.3%; manufacturing declined by 1.6% (CBN, 2017 Statistical Bulletin). The critical question a researcher should ask therefore is what is the implication of such trend over the past four decades? We can thus deduce that:

- i. The agricultural sector can be a safe haven for Nigeria economy if attention is placed on it.
- ii. Crude oil exploration has declined greatly primarily due to oil
- iii. price fluctuations and internal uncertainties; this could pose a great threat to the Nigeria's foreign exchange earnings.
- iv. Innovation in Art, entertainment and recreation sub-sector is a

promising prospect to Nigeria's economy.

- v. Untapped solid minerals remain an abandoned sub-sector that has the potentials of driving the economy to a new height.

New Sources of Nigeria's Economic Strength

It must be first acknowledged that the old and existing source of Nigeria's economic strength-crude oil exploration will not be totally overlooked because as at today, it forms a basis for generating revenue. Identification of new sources of economic strength for Nigeria implies development and following leading theories, growth-present source of output increases is a prerequisite for development. As such, we must carefully identify the new sources without neglecting the existing sources. Constructively speaking, the following can be carefully identified as the new sources of economic strength for Nigeria:

Enhancement of Agricultural Value chain

The agricultural sector remains a viable option for Nigeria in which it can produce her total demand internally without necessarily importing any of her final produce. FAO (2016) reported there is 92.4 million hectares of total land mass out of which 82.0 million hectares are arable land; this is good news for the agricultural sector. The report further showed that the top five agricultural products in Nigeria are cassava (66.3 million tonnes), yam (44.7 million tonnes), maize (17.2 million tonnes), sorghum (16.4 million tonnes) and millet (11.4 million tonnes). Surprisingly, out of these producing commodities, none of them are amongst the top five exported; UNCTAD (2016) reported that the top five exported products are cocoa earning about 698 million USD, oil seeds earning about 216 million USD, fruits and nuts earning about 156 million USD, milk products accounted for about 68 million USD and spices was 48 million USD. A more

appalling situation is that food imports accounted for 5.3 billion USD while export earnings was meagre 1.4 billion USD. The implication of this is that the agricultural sector has produced little to meet up with domestic demand and has also earned little in terms of foreign exchange earnings.

The major products imported according to FOA (2016) were fish (1.4 billion USD), wheat (1.1 billion USD) and sugar (373 million USD), milk products (295 million USD) and vegetables (250 million USD). All of these top imported products can be produced in Nigeria with the available arable land; environmental condition and government policies, however the reversal has been the case. The implication of this is that there is massive efficiency loss in the processes through which agricultural products are made available to the final consumers and manufacturers. There have

been various measures taken by respective regulatory agencies such as the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) and National Agency for Food and Drug Administration (NAFDAC) to ensure efficiency is achieved; yet this has yielded minimal progress. Further policy interventions by the government have been implemented in enhancing crossbreeding and providing soft loans to agriculturalists; all have yielded little significant improvement.

Agricultural value chain is the connected variants of companies, firms and stakeholders working as a team to satisfy the market demands of agricultural products.

The major agricultural value chain includes input, production, processing and marketing; this is presented in figure ii:

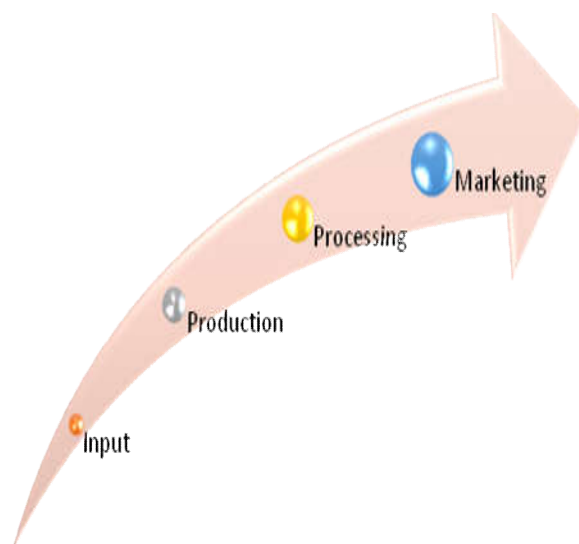


Figure ii: Agricultural Value Chain

This value chain if optimally harnessed will bring agriculture to its top echelon. However, there are challenges that has stormed this process such as high cost of generating power, poor and limited storage facilities, bad road networks, illegal food importation, inadequate market information on availability of products, land grabbing otherwise called illegal acquisition of land, inadequate skilled personnel, poor irrigation system and high cost of acquiring processing equipment and agrochemicals.

Emerging economies have focused on developing strategic ways of improving the value chain processes on agricultural sector. In 2012, Brazil was able to significantly enhance their value chain in agricultural production and this led to the generation of 16 million new jobs and a producer of global agro processed commodities which includes sugar, ethanol and oranges(PWC, 2016). Their value chain developed due to the improvement in the availability of seeds, soil fertility, better use and provision of technology and finally, improvement in research and innovations in the sector (Marin, 2016).

Nigeria finding a strategic way of ameliorating these challenges in the value chain process might become a testimony and will experience the replica of what Brazil has experienced in the past three years. Thus, a new source of economic strength for Nigeria will be on enhancing the value chain of agricultural production and in order to enhance this, the following strategies can be adopted:

- Improvement in the quality of inputs used in agricultural processing such as improved seedlings and agrochemicals.
- Improvement in the provision of credit facilities for agricultural experts across the various value chains. BOI reported that over 1.512 billion naira multiple loan facility was given to agriculturalists; however, this is

relatively small in spurring the sector towards massive growth.

- Investment in agricultural enhancing technologies in order to stimulate extension.
- Develop comprehensive intervention programme in the area of technical assistance and Infrastructure through public private partnership.
- There is a need to orientate the mindset of Nigerian farmers in shifting their attention away from self-sufficient production to market oriented production and competitiveness.
- Research and development remains the key and thus, there must massive investment in research by various stakeholders in developing new ideas of cropping, fishing, cattle rearing, cultivation, processing and distribution of agricultural products.

Massive Investment in Tourism

The role of tourism in the economy cannot be undermined as it can be seen as a pulsating power house with deep and layered cultures and environment. Tourism has the potentials of stimulating output and as such act as a strong force to stimulating and sustaining growth. Lonely Planet in the year 2016 (This Day, 2018) reported that the tourism industry contributed about \$7.6 trillion to the world economy accounting for about 10% of the global GDP. Nigeria tourism contributed about \$1.5 billion, a hope to anchor on in terms of future output expansion sector dependants. For the sector to become a centre of attraction and growth driver, several actions must be taken by relevant stakeholders in achieving this.

- United Arab Emirates (UAE) used technology to transform their cities making it a centre for world tourists. Nigeria already has the landscape and other climatic conditionings in making her a centre of attraction for tourist.

However, with massive investment in technology, hotels can better market their services and tourist centres can effectively enhance their centres. Kenya is not left behind contributing 10.4% to her GDP in 2017 (World Travel and Tourism Council, 2018).

- Public private partnership cannot also be ruled out. There is a need for the public and the private to massively invest in tourism as this would allow stakeholders to participate in the development of tourism strategy, communicate, achieve their various goals and interests, and successfully implement tourism programmes, and collaborate to achieve a common goal. The private sector

can provide the funds needed to make the industry competitive while the government would create the adequate infrastructural and regulatory environment for the industry to thrive. The government must play a key role in improving on transport services which is a very crucial factor in promoting tourism.

- Attention must be made to see how the tourism products can be effectively and efficiently marketed in the international market. Awareness of a destination is a motivation to visit the place. Marketing will create the awareness that is needed to increase massive patronage in the tourist centres.

Investment in Solid Minerals

Following figure i and table i, it can be deduced that solid minerals only accounted for 0.0% between 1960 –1970; then between 1981 – 1990 it accounted for 0.3% of GDP² on average and between 2001 –2017, this declined to 0.1% (CBN, 2017). This shows the dilapidating state of the solid mineral sub-sector. However, Nigeria has a large deposit of solid minerals as revealed by table ii.

Table ii: Composition of Mineral Deposits in Nigeria

	Solid Mineral Type	States Found	Uses	Countries extensively exploring it
1.	Iron Ore	Kogi, Abia, Anambra, Bauchi, Benue, Kwara, Plateau, Nasarawa	Steel making for automobiles	China (produced 1.3 billion tonne in 2012, 44% of the world output), Australia (519 million tonnes, 18% of the world output) (Duddu, 2014)
2.	Lignite	Akwaiabom, Anambra, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Imo State	To generate electricity and fertilizer production	-
3.	Gold	Osun, Abia, Abuja, Bauchi, Edo, Cross River, Niger, Sokoto, Oyo, Kebbi, Kaduna, Kogi and Zamfara	For jewelry and decoration, to conduct electricity, food additive, used for cancer treatment.	China (426 tonnes, 13% of global mine production), Australia (295.1 tonnes, generates 8% of her GDP) (US Global Investors, 2017)
4.	Silver	Kano and Taraba	Used for water filtration, making of jewelries, solar panels, ornaments, utensils, used as electrical conductors.	Mexico (5,400 tons of silver in 2013), China (4,000 tons) (World Atlas, 2013a)
5.	Granite	Abuja, Cross River and Ekiti State	Used in buildings, pavings, bridges, monuments.	India (exported \$738.7 million), Brazil (\$191 million) (World Atlas, 2013b)
6.	Tungsten	Kano, Kaduna, Bauchi, Plateau and Niger States	Used in Arc-welding, electrodes, jewelry making, manufacture of cemented carbides	-
7.	Tar Sands	Abia, Ondo	Used in production of oil for gasoline, road peving	
8.	Limestone	Abia, Akwaiabom, Anambra, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Borno, Edo, Enugu, Imo, Ogun, Ondo and Sokoto	Used as a building material, for making railroads, glass manufacturing, as a filler in paints, toothpaste, for iron purification	

Source (FinLib, 2016)

Table ii reveals that Nigeria can join the league of solid mineral resources producers and exporters if the sector can harness its potential; however several efforts made by the government to resuscitate this sub-sector have failed. It might be difficult to become a major producer of solid minerals looking at the world country makers; however, Nigeria can still greatly benefit from the streams of solid mineral production.

5. Conclusion, Recommendation and Policy Implication

Nigeria's continuous dependent on oil as a major stay of the economy is like walking on a gold mine waiting to explode. Attention must be placed in identifying new sources of new economic strength for her economy to be able to achieve the sustainable development goals. The study concludes that the earlier programme (MDG) was marred with inability to finance the projects and as such, the implementation rate was low for Nigeria. Thus, in order to finance the new

sustainable development goal, attention must be made to first understand structure of the economy, its strengths and peculiarities. There are new sources of economic strength for other countries which might not be obtainable for Nigeria considering its structure and the advantage it has.

New sources like Digital ecosystems to drive future growth; the place of Artificial Intelligence in future growth and Blockchain Technology might not be a viable option for Nigeria. However, expansion and massive development in Agribusiness through improvement in the agricultural value chain remains a viable new source of economic strength to make

the future happen; this is because it has the ability to reduce massive importation of such product thereby reducing the demand gap. More also, there will be rapid export of such products thereby increasing foreign earnings. Finally, this will create massive employment opportunities for the people. Attention should also be placed on tourism as this will massively spur growth as well as increase foreign earnings and job creation. Further conclusions and policy implication drawn from this study is that massive investment in tourism and investment in solid minerals are viable sources of economic strength in achieving the sustainable development goals.

References

- Bhat, A. (2019). *Exploratory research: Definition, methods, types and examples*. Question Pro.
- CBN, (2017). CBN 2017 annual statistical bulletin. Retrieved from https://www.cbn.gov.ng/Out/2018/SD/2017%20Statistical%20Bulletin_Real%20Sector_Final.xlsx
- CBN, (2018). 4th Quarter 2018 statistical bulletin. Retrieved from https://www.cbn.gov.ng/Out/2019/STD/2014Q4%20Quarterly%20Statistical%20Bulletin%20compilation_Final.xls
- Davies, J. (2012). *Conservation and sustainable development: Linking practice and policy in Eastern Africa* (1st ed.). Ottawa: Canada.
- Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group.
- Duddu, P. (2014). Ferro giants- the world's biggest iron ore producers, retrieved from <https://www.mining-technology.com/features/featureferro-giants-the-worlds-biggest-iron-ore-producers-4280601/>
- FAO, (2016). *FAO statistics, 2016*. Retrieved from <http://www.fao.org/nigeria/en>
- FinLib, (2016). List of gold (AU) natural resources deposit states in Nigeria. Retrieved from <https://www.finelib.com/about/nigeria-natural-resources/list-of-gold-au-natural-resources-deposit-states-in-nigeria/66>.
- Marin, D.C. (2016). Agriculture business to the rescue. Retrieved from <https://www.gfmag.com/magazine/april2016/agribusinessrescue-brazil>

- Muttaka, M. (2015). The intrigues of Nigeria's diversification strategy. Retrieved from <http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/business/43325-the-intrigues-of-nigeria-s-diversification-Strategy>
- Nafziger, E.W. (2006). *Economic development* (4th ed.). United Kingdom, Cambridge University Press.
- Orji, M.C. (2018). Diversification of Nigeria's economy through agriculture and solid minerals in the face of dwindling economy. *International Journal of Advance Research and Innovation*, 6(3), 192 – 196.
- Perkins, D.H., Radelet, S., Lindauer, D.L., & Block, S.A. (2013). *Economics of development* (7th ed.). NY: New York, W.W. Norton and Company.
- PWC, (2016). Transforming Nigeria's agricultural value chain, *A case study of the cocoa and dairy industries*. Retrieved from www.pwc.com/ng
- Shields, P., & Rangarjan, N. (2013). *A playbook for research methods: Integrating conceptual frameworks and project management*. Stillwater: Ok.
- Suberu, O. J., Ajala, O. A., Akande, M. O., & Olure-Bank, A. (2015). Diversification of the Nigerian economy towards a sustainable growth and economic development. *International Journal of Economics, Finance and Management Sciences*, 3(2), 107 – 114, doi: 10.11648/j.ijefm.20150302.15.
- Suleiman, G.P., & Aminu, U. (2010). Analysis of the Contribution of the three Key sectors (Agriculture, Petroleum and Manufacturing) of the Nigerian economy. *Journal of Management Studies*, 3(1), 34 – 62.
- Sustainable Development Report, (2019). 2019 Sustainable development report. Retrieved from <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019.pdf>
- This Day Newspaper (June 20, 2018). Tourism: Nigeria untapped goldmine. Retrieved from <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2018/06/20/tourism-nigerias-untapped-goldmine/>.
- UNCTAD, (2016). Data retrieved from United Nations conference on trade and development (UNCTAD) statistical database; <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/statistics.aspx>
- US Global Investors (2017). Top 10 gold producing countries. Retrieved from <http://www.usfunds.com/investor-library/frank-talk/top-10-gold-producing-countries/>
- World Atlas (2013a). The world's leading silver producing countries. Retrieved from <https://www.worldatlas.com/article/s/the-world-s-leading-silver-producing-countries.html>
- World Atlas (2013b). Top exporters of granite, basalt, and sandstone. Retrieved from <https://www.worldatlas.com/article/s/top-exporters-of-granite-basalt-and-sandstone.html>
- World Travel and Tourism Council (2018). Travel & tourism economic impact 2018 Kenya