



SECTION ONE

NEW AGRICULTURAL POLICY

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AGRICULTURE IN NIGERIA: THE NEW POLICY THRUST

1.0 PREAMBLE

Agriculture in the context of the economy is tied with the various sectors and is essential for generating broad based growth necessary for development. Agriculture is fundamental to the sustenance of life and is the bedrock of economic development especially in the provision of adequate and nutritious food so vital for human development and industrial raw materials for industry. Sustainable agricultural development is propelled by agricultural policy. The first National Policy on Agriculture was adopted in 1988 and was expected to remain valid for about fifteen years, that is, up to year 2000.

2.0 THE AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Nigeria's agricultural policy is the synthesis of the framework and action plans of Government designed to achieve overall agricultural growth and development. The policy aims at the attainment of self sustaining growth in all the sub-sectors of agriculture and the structural transformation necessary for the overall socio-economic development of the country as well as the improvement in the quality of life of Nigerians.

2.1 THE BROAD POLICY OBJECTIVES INCLUDE:

- (i) Attainment of self-sufficiency in basic food commodities with particular reference to those which consume considerable shares of Nigeria's foreign exchange and for which the country has comparative advantage in local production.
- (ii) increase in production of agricultural raw materials to meet the growth of an expanding industrial sector;
- (iii) increase in production and processing of exportable commodities with a view to increasing their foreign exchange earning capacity and further diversifying the country's export base and sources of foreign exchange earnings;
- (iv) modernization of agricultural production, processing, storage and distribution through the infusion of improved technologies and management so that agriculture can be more responsive to the demands of other sectors of the Nigerian economy;
- (v) creation of more agricultural and rural employment opportunities to increase the income of farmers and rural dwellers and productively absorb an increasing labour force in the nation;

- (vi) protection and improvement of agricultural land resources and preservation of the environment for sustainable agricultural production;
- (vii) establishment of appropriate institutions and creation of administrative organs to facilitate the integrated development and realization of the country's agricultural potentials.

2.2 FEATURES OF THE POLICY

The main features of the policy include the evolution of strategies that will ensure self-sufficiency and the improvement of the level of technical and economic efficiency in food production. This is to be achieved through the introduction and adoption of improved seeds and seed-stock, husbandry and appropriate machinery and equipment, efficient utilization of resources, encouragement of ecological specialisation and recognition of the roles and potentials of small scale farmers as the major producers of food in the country. Reduction in risks and uncertainties were to be achieved through the introduction of the agricultural insurance scheme to reduce natural hazards factor militating against agricultural production and security of credit outlay through indemnity of sustained losses. A nationwide, unified and all-inclusive extension delivery system under the Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) was put in place in a joint Federal and State Government collaborative effort. Agro-allied industries were actively promoted. Other incentives such as rural infrastructure, rural banking, primary health care, cottage industries etc. were provided, to encourage agricultural and rural development and attract youth, including school leavers to go back to the land. The agricultural policy is supported by sub-policies that facilitate the growth of the sector.

These sub-policies cover issues such as labour, capital and land whose prices affect profitability of production systems; crops, fisheries, livestock and land use; input supply, pest control and mechanisation; water resources and rural infrastructure; agricultural extension, research technology development and transfer; agricultural produce storage, processing, marketing, credit and insurance; cooperatives, training and manpower development agricultural statistics and information management.

Implementation of the agricultural policy is, however, moderated by the macro-economic policies which provide the enabling environment for agriculture to grow *pari pasu* with the other sectors. These policies usually have major impact on profitability of the agricultural system and the welfare

of farmers as they affect the flow of funds to the sector in terms of budgetary allocation, credit, subsidies, taxes etc and , therefore, must be in harmony and mutually reinforcing with the agricultural policy. The macro policies comprise the fiscal, monetary, trade, budgetary policies and other policies that govern macro-prices.

3.0 APPRAISAL OF IMPACT OF THE AGRICULTURAL POLICY:

3.1 The agricultural policy was designed to stimulate growth and development of agriculture so as to positively impact on the overall growth of the Nigerian economy. The response of the sector to the various policy measures have been mixed. Between 1970-1982 agricultural growth rate stagnated at less than 4% with sharp decline in the production of export crops. Per capita calorific food supply declined from surpluses in the 1960s to a deficit of 38% in 1982, while Nigeria turned a net importer of vegetable oil, meat, dairy products, fish and grains, notably rice wheat and maize with the food import bills rising astronomically. Some factors at work included increasing rate of urbanization, high population growth rate, impact of the civil war and unfavourable external environment.

3.2 The performance of the sector was undermined by disincentives created by the macro economic environment. The Economic Stabilization Act enacted in 1982 affected expenditures on agriculture and restricted imports of agricultural products and inputs. The trade policies which placed bans on imports of some foods and the provision of some other incentives induced marginal improvement in the performance of the sector. The minimum administrative control of economic activities and the wide scope for free market forces in the economy attendant on the 1986-88 Structural Adjustment programme (SAP) led to policy shifts relating to agricultural pricing trade, investment, production extension and technology transfer as well as credit. It was in this period that the first formal and deliberate agricultural policy was formulated and launched in 1988 with the strategies for its implementation.

Under SAP, the tariff structure was adjusted to encourage local production and to protect agricultural and local industries from unfair international competition. The Marketing Boards for scheduled crops, were abolished. Bans were placed on the importation of a number of food items including most livestock products, rice, maize, wheat and vegetable oils. Agricultural input subsidies were phased out. A number of new institutions

were created for agricultural and rural development namely; the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) and the National Directorate of Employment (NDE). Some existing institutions were also reorganised (e.g. the River Basin Development Authorities), while most public-owned agricultural enterprises were privatised or commercialized. These SAP measures to some extent had positive impact on the agricultural sector due mainly to price increase as a result of devaluation of the currency and ban on importation of wheat, rice and maize.

The ban placed on the importation of some food items increased the output of local production especially rice. However poultry and fishery production became less profitable because of the resultant exorbitant costs of imported inputs attendant on SAP. Sharp rises on imported inputs such as fertilizer, agro-chemicals etc. were also witnessed while the cost of providing large scale irrigation rose because of the high cost of foreign components. The increase in the cost of the import component of equipment for research and technology development stultified their further growth.

Although SAP substantially addressed problems of price distortions to farmers, new problems were created by the effects of the changes in macroeconomic policies. Implementation bottlenecks arising from scarcity of basic farm inputs and slower rate of adoption of new technology also contributed their impending achievement of policy objectives. These produced the expected benefits of yield accruable from the adoption and use of modern farm inputs such as improved variety of seeds. The withdrawal of subsidies which increased production costs, substantially reduced the profitability of agricultural activities leading to reduction in size of farm holdings and enterprises. The problem of inefficient marketing persisted as a result of existing imperfection in the markets, dwindling marketing infrastructures and limited availability of storage facilities.

Despite the problems enumerated above, the performance of agriculture in the post SAP era 1989-1997 was one of steady positive progress in production, growth rate and contribution to the Gross Domestic (GDP). From a food deficit situation of the late 1970s and early 1980s the country recorded significant improvements in agricultural production through the 1990s. The percentage contribution of agriculture to the GDP was 38.00 in 1994, 38.20% in 1995, 39.0% in 1996, 39.20% in 1997, 40.40% in 1998 and 41.30% in 1999. The average growth rate during the period 1990 to

1999 was 4.0%. Agriculture accounts for 88% of the non-oil foreign exchange earnings and employs about 70% of the active labour force of the population. The sector is a catalyst and major source of raw materials for the industrial sector and provides most of the staple food consumed by the 140 million Nigerians.

With the exception of a few commodities, the period 1999-2000 witnessed a rising trend in agricultural output generally. Table I shows the output of some major food commodities.

Figure 1. Output of some major agricultural commodities 1998-2000 (1000 tonnes)

Commodity	1998	1999	2000
Maize	5127	5476	4107
Rice	3275	3277	4298
Sorghum	7516	7520	7711
Millet	5956	5960	6105
Cassava	32695	32697	33854
Yam	24768	5873	26201
Cowpea	2055	2148	2150
Groundnut	2534	2894	2941
Palm oil	845	896	899
Beef	226	228	230
Goat-meat	14	144	147
Mutton	90	92	94
Pork	463	487	511
Poultry meat	250	268	273
Fish	483	477	482

Source: Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development.

3.4 Total food output increased from 64.76 million tonnes grain-equivalent in 1998 to 57.11 million tonnes in 1999 and to 57.70 million tonnes grain - equivalent in 2000. The aggregate index of agricultural production rose by 4% in 1999 and 2.5% in 2000 which is about 3.3% on the average during the two-year period. All the sub-sectors of agriculture contributed to the increase. Using 100 for 1984 as the base year, the index of crop production rose from 288 in 1998 to 298.8 in 1999 and 308 in 2000 with percentage increase of 3.7% between 1998 and 1999 and 3.1% between 1999 and 2000, averaging 8.4%. In the livestock sub-sector the percentage increases in the index

were 2.40% and 2.5% with an average of 2.4% while increases in fisheries were 2.9% and 3.3% with an average of 3.4%.

3.5 The growth rate for the agricultural sector in 2000 was 4.7%, a slight improvement on the 4.50% recorded in 1999 and 4.25% of 1998. Viewed against the population growth rate of 2.83% the agricultural growth rate which is higher than the population growth rate, has continued to guarantee the sector's ability to meet the demands on it for food. Food prices have, however, risen in recent months in tandem with the general price rise in the macro-economy and in response to increase in Government spending arising from increased income from oil exports, high cost of democracy, high level of money supply and declining value of the Naira. The famine in neighbouring West African countries and the consequential increase in trans-border out-flow of food have also contributed to the current high food prices in Nigeria. There are indications that cassava products export to Europe for livestock feeds in the wake of the foot and mouth disease have reduced domestic supply. The rising food prices and increased demand for agricultural products are expected to stimulate food production by farmers in this and subsequent years. There is therefore need to ensure sustained increase by putting in place mechanism to absorb the expected production surpluses to break the cyclical glut experienced in the past.

3.6 The experience gained in the implementation of the agricultural policy over the years and the recent trends in agricultural development world wide have necessitated the formulation of more focused sub-sectoral policies. The most current efforts in this direction are the Land Resources Policy which will guide sustainable use of agricultural lands, National Agricultural Mechanisation Policy, National Cooperative Development Policy, and the National Seed Policy which assigns primary responsibility for commercial seed supply to the private sector while Government shall be responsible for foundation and breeder seed development, seed certification and quality control and certification while providing the enabling environment for the seed industry development. The National Policy on Integrated Rural Development will integrate the rural economy into the mainstream of national development process to ensure its effective coordination and management and make the rural areas more in tune with the urban areas so as to moderate the rural-urban draft, redress the past neglect through provision of critical rural

infrastructure and empowerment of the rural population to create wealth and eradicate rural poverty. These are prelude to the general review of the entire body of the national agricultural and rural development policy, which is now due.

- 3.7 Institutional arrangements have been adopted for realising sector objectives in view of the fact that agricultural and rural development are sine qua non for generating economic growth. These include the relocation of the Department of Cooperatives of the Ministry of Labour and its merges with the Agricultural Cooperatives Division of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Chapter One

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa. It is blessed with a population of over 110 in (1998), thus it accounts for a quarter of the total population of the African continent. Nigeria is also richly endowed with diverse natural resources, which include a land area of 924,000 square kilometers for agriculture, industry and mineral resource extraction including oil and gas.

Past attempts at national development have divided Nigeria into two very distinct socio-economic sectors, namely, the urban and the rural sectors. Each of these sectors shows great diversity in terms of natural resources endowment, aggregate investments and the resultant physical quality of life of the inhabitants. The rural sector, with abundance of human and natural resources, has remained the "treasury trove" of the nation accounting for over 70 percent of the nation's population. Yet, Nigerian rural communities are "centers of deprivation" with a life often devoid of opportunities and choices and an environment lacking in infrastructural facilities including roads, water supply and sanitation, energy, communication facilities, community-based organizations, etc.

The above scenario mirrors decades of rural neglect arising from urban-biased approach to development, which lacks a well coordinated and properly integrated all-sector approach to development.

The shortcomings of these past attempts at national development underscore the imperatives of a national policy on integrated rural development as a means of evolving and adopting an approach through which rural development would be synergistically linked with national development efforts at all times and in all spheres.

This document therefore embodies a **National Policy on Integrated Rural Development for Nigeria**. It is based on extensive consultative dialogues with relevant Federal and State Ministries and Agencies, Local Governments, Community-Based Rural Development Organizations (CBRDOs), NonGovernmental Organizations (NGOs), and Professional Groups, Labour, Farmers' Cooperative Societies, Research Institutes and

other special interest groups. It builds on, and expands, the past efforts of other Ministries and Agencies, notably the then Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development (1983), erstwhile Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) (1991)' the then Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (1999).

It is divided into six Chapters. Chapter 1 dwells on the meaning and scope of integrated rural development; relates integrated rural development to national interest, overviews rural development conditions in Nigeria and traces the evolution of the country's integrated rural development policy. Chapter 2 enunciates the overall policy objectives and strategies while Chapter 3 discusses in detail the focal policy areas. Chapter 4 outlines the institutional frame work for promoting integrated rural development, highlighting not only the role of the three tiers of Government and various public agencies but also the central significance of community effort. Chapter 5 spells out the strategies for secured funding of integrated rural development through internal and external sources. Chapter 6, which is the concluding chapter, deals with the coordination, monitoring, evaluation and review of the policy, and the programmes and projects emanating there from.

1.2 MEANING AND SCOPE OF INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Simply defined, rural development is a strategy and process designed to transform the nation's rural life and landscape by ensuring progressive social, economic, cultural and political improvements. It stresses a fundamental principle that the rural people must share fully in this development process through equitable access to resources, inputs and services and participation in the design and implementation of development programmes.

Meaningful development of rural people must be on a self-sustaining basis, through transforming the socio-spatial structures of their productive activities. It implies a broad-based organization and mobilization of the rural masses so as to enhance their capacity to cope more effectively with the daily tasks of their lives. Integrated rural development has to do with putting together all the elements of rural development, clarifying and unifying the objectives and bringing together all the agencies, facilities and programmes necessary to attain the objectives. At the national level, integrated rural development means a process by which the development of the rural areas

is integrated with, supports, and is supported by the entire national development effort.

1.3 INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE NATIONAL INTEREST

Broadly defined, national interest is an expression of the collective aspirations of a people concerning the best possible conditions under which they wish to live as a nation. These aspirations and values guide the general direction in which nations move from generation to generation. A shared colonial past and broad similarity in social outlook has forged a sense of common destiny and national identity among the peoples of Nigeria. Over the years, they have also come to expect the Nigerian nation state to establish its legitimacy, mainly by promoting and protecting their collective interests.

Nigeria's national interest can be seen in terms of three national needs, namely, the need for continued co-existence as one indivisible, indissoluble and sovereign nation; the need for growth and development (economic, political, social, cultural); and the need to ensure that an adequate and favourable world order exists which will facilitate Nigeria's continued co-existence and collective survival as a nation-state, as well as its all-round growth and development in the economic, political, social and cultural spheres.

In order to promote these collective interests most effectively, it is necessary that Nigeria mobilizes and harnesses fully all its resources, especially its natural endowments and the energy, will and ingenuity of all its citizens. The rural population often tends to constitute an area of large systematic neglect and continue to endure severe deprivations as they eke out a paltry livelihood at the margin of society.

In a predominantly rural country such as Nigeria, integrated rural development must be regarded as a major instrument for the attainment of the various independent components of the national interest. Thus, national economic and social development requires the full participation of the vast rural population in the development process. It requires that the rural population have equitable and adequate access to resources, inputs, credit and other support services; and that they participate in the design and implementation of development programmes.

Furthermore, the promotion of the national interest through integrated rural development is an essential guarantee of national security. The existence-survival aspect of our national interest demands a situation in which the democratic state is safe from disruption from both internal (locally-specific) and external forces.

1.4 RURAL CONDITION IN NIGERIA: AN OVERVIEW

Historically, Nigeria's rural development efforts had been considered mainly in the context of agricultural development. This unfortunate situation, which neglected contributions of other sectors to the improvement of the quality of life of the rural dwellers, hindered a multi-sectoral and integrated approach to rural development programming in Nigeria. Nevertheless, the rural sector is predominately agriculture-based (including livestock, forestry and fisheries). It employs about 90% of the labour force and contributes about 40% of the GDP.

However, over the years, the benefits of development have by - passed large segments of the rural society. It is estimated that 85% of the extremely poor in Nigeria currently live in rural areas.

1.4.1 DIMENSIONS OF RURAL POVERTY

Available data on present rural condition in Nigeria reveal that though rural poverty has many faces, it can be seen in two broad dimensions:

1.4. 2.1 Rural Mass Deprivation

This is manifested in the following forms:

- 1.4.2.1.1 Inadequate availability and accessibility to socio-economic infrastructure and basic social amenities such as feeder roads, health centers, education, sanitation facilities, water supply, electricity, markets, etc;
- 1.4.2.1.2 Limited employment and income earning opportunities due to the absence of commercial and industrial facilities or lack of resources to establish them, and inadequate access to agricultural inputs (especially land, fertilizer, credit facilities and extension services); and
- 1.4.2.1.3 Environmental and natural degradation such as desertification, loss of soil fertility, fuel wood scarcity, environmental pollution and over population.

1.4.2.2 Individual Deprivation

This is manifested in terms of; -

- 1.4.2.2.1 Inability to eat or clothe oneself adequately, to afford other basic necessities such as decent shelter, to meet social and economic obligations and to have gainful employment; and
- 1.4.2.2.2 Physical insecurity, lack of skills, inadequate assets, ignorance, powerlessness to improve one's situation.

These two broad dimensions of rural poverty collectively translate to the denial of choices and opportunities to the bulk of rural Nigerians for living decent, healthy and creative life consistent with self-esteem, freedom and dignity.

1.5 Evolution of integrated rural development policy

The present poor state of rural areas reflects the cumulative policy neglect and faulty planning and inadequate resource transfer; a legacy inherited from the colonial era. Until independence, the main objectives of development policy was extraction of surpluses from the rural areas for export. Thus, infrastructural development in the rural areas was dictated by the need to access these areas.

After independence, more conscious steps were taken to promote rural development. Regional governments became principal agents for rural development, including delivery of support services and improvement of social welfare. With the oil boom, less pressure was exerted on the rural areas with the migration of labour to urban areas, marginal increases in investment in the rural sector and the land tenure system.

By 1976, Government created the River Basin Development Authorities to concentrate resources on irrigation. Government also invested heavily on the provision of water supply and rural roads to rural communities. However, the overall impact was limited due to high cost of development, policy inconsistency and funding problems.

Further attempt were made to promote rural sector, including the National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), and the Green Revolution (GR). Though these programmes sought to mobilize and attract the involvement of the farming communities through specific strategies, their impact was limited because they were unsustainable. *In an effort to enhance the capacity of each state to*

plan and implement agricultural projects, Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs) were launched. Major components of these projects were:

- (i) Rural infrastructure (rural roads, potable water supply);
- (ii) Development of improved planting material;
- (iii) Provision of agricultural research and extension services; and
- (iv) Enhancement of impact of agricultural Operations

Although ADPs have achieved some of their stated development objectives, they will need continued enhanced budgetary support by all the three levels of government.

Additionally, the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) was created in the President's Office in 1986, with the mandate to strengthen the rural economy and tackle the wider problems of rural poverty. DFRRI together with existing sectoral ministries and public agencies (water resources, agriculture, education, health, communication, culture, banking, credit and insurance, energy, technology, trade marketing, transportation, and housing etc) established basic strategies and programmes for the rural sector. Despite these efforts, there was no National Policy on Integrated Rural Development. Recognizing the problem, DFRRI organized a workshop in 1990 to discuss policy issues and options for Integrated Rural Development. Proceedings of the workshop were presented in the publication entitled *Integrated Rural Development In Nigeria: Policy Issues and Options (1995)*. Thereafter, a draft National Policy on Integrated Rural Development was prepared, after very wide consultations. Government gave provisional approval but the Policy was not launched. However, following the resolution of the National Council on Water Resources and Rural Development in 1996, the then Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development reviewed the draft policy document and produced the Proposed National Policy on Integrated Rural Development.

Further consultations culminated in the Workshop on National Policy on Integrated Rural Development held in October 1999, which was organized by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development under which the Department of Rural Development has been domiciled since June of the same year after excision from the Federal Ministry of Water Resources.

POLICY OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

2.1 POLICY OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives of the National Policy on Integrated Rural Development draw from the national objectives of developing the rural people, alleviating rural poverty and using rural development to contribute to laying a solid foundation for national development.

Specifically, the objectives include:

- 2.1.1 To ensure significant reduction of poverty and ultimately its eradication in the shortest possible time.
- 2.1.2 To mobilize and empower the rural population to create wealth through increased agricultural, industrial and other productive activities;
- 2.1.3 To promote the expansion of the productive base of the rural economy through the creation and expansion of non-agricultural enterprises;
- 2.1.4 To provide rural support services needed to bring about increased production of goods and services and provide access to extension services inputs, credit and marketing services, and to raise rural productivity in general;
- 2.1.5 To establish an integrated network of cottage and rural industries, and promote the acquisition of vocational and trade skills, arts and crafts;
- 2.1.6 To improve the human resources and technological capacity of rural communities through education, training, extension and technical support services that facilitate the adoption of relevant technology by rural producers;
- 2.1.7 To promote the delivery of mass literacy in rural areas;
- 2.1.8 To promote the formation and proper management of producer co-operatives;
- 2.1.9 To strengthen rural organizational and institutional capacities for democratic and autonomous development;
- 2.1.10 To develop the rural areas and raise the quality of life in rural communities through the provision of rural feeder roads, potable water, sanitation, regular power supply, good health facilities and other socio-economic facilities.

- 2.1.11 To create a network of rural marketing and distribution infrastructure to enhance profitable exchange of products between markets;
- 2.1.12 To facilitate the transformation of power and social relations at the community level in order to create the enabling environment for popular participation, wealth creation and fair distribution of benefits; and
- 2.1.13 To conserve rural environment as the basis for daily living and the key to sustainable development with a view to enhancing the preservation of life forms and conservation of natural resources for renewable use.

2.2 STRATEGIES FOR INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT

To achieve integrated and even development on a sustainable basis, the strategies to be adopted will empower rural dwellers through the development of productive employment, enhancing their income, ensuring protection of the environment, promoting gender responsiveness and ensuring adequate care for vulnerable groups. This will involve:

- 2.2.1 Community-Driven Participatory Approach (CDPA) in project identification, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
- 2.2.2 Rationalization and realignment of public sector rural development institutions;
- 2.2.3 Heavy reliance on the private sector to lead investment in the rural sector to promote economic growth;
- 2.2.4 Collaborative efforts between government and other stakeholders for input delivery and marketing of agriculture and other rural products; and
- 2.2.5 Promotion of even development as a cardinal objective of integrated rural development.

PRIORITY AREAS OF INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Policies are implemented through the design and execution of programmes. The National Policy On Integrated Rural Development lays special emphasis on five priority areas:

- 3.1.1 Promotion of rural productive activities;
- 3.1.2 Supportive human resources development;
- 3.1.3 Enhancement of enabling rural infrastructure;
- 3.1.4 Special programmes for target groups;
- 3.1.5 Rural community organization and mobilization.

The policy framework, objectives and strategies and specific programmes in each of these focus areas are as specified below:

3.2 PROMOTION OF RURAL PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

3.2.1 Policy Statement

Employment and income generating opportunities and activities shall be accorded a central place in the nation's integrated rural development agenda by all levels of government, since enhanced income at individual and household levels is the most effective and sustainable means of improving the quality of life of the rural dwellers. All agencies participating in the nation's integrated rural development programmes shall also be encouraged to emphasis employment and income generating activities to ensure full employment, by year 2001 in all rural communities.

3.2.2 Objectives

3.2.2.1 To diversify and expand employment and income-generating opportunities and activities at the level of the rural community, particularly in the following areas:

- Agriculture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Forestry;
- Mineral Resources Development;
- Manufacturing and Industry
- Marketing and Distribution; and
- Rural Financial Systems.

3.2.2.2 To improve the access that the ordinary rural dweller has to gain-full employment opportunities and to facilities and inputs which enhance the utilization of such opportunities; and

3.2.2.3 To improve, in particular, the employment opportunities available to rural youth and the productive capacity and income status of rural women.

3.2.3 Strategies

3.2.3.1 Optimizing the exploration and exploitation of the natural mineral and cultural resources endowments of the rural areas for employment and income generation.

3.2.3.2 Adopting appropriate measures to ensure that the private sector plays and active role and contributes adequately towards the expansion of employment and income-generating activities and opportunities in the rural areas;

3.2.3.3 Emphasizing labour-intensive technologies and techniques in project implementation, in order to optimize rural employment opportunities; and

3.2.3.4 Promoting appropriate legislation to facilitate the implementation of these strategies.

3.2.4 Policy Areas

3.2.3.1 Agriculture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Forestry

These are the dominant rural activities. The policy emphasis is on the small-scale producers. Although these producers are responsible for the bulk of the sectoral output, they are yet to be effectively reached with solutions to their technical, socio economic and organizational problems which can assist them enhance their productivity and productive capacity.

Provision will be made for increased investment in research and extension services in support of the small producer. Although there is a long rich tradition of agricultural research in Nigeria, many areas of particular relevance to the small producer remain unattended to or inadequately investigated. Such areas include research into feasible farming system for small farmers, appropriate technologies for small-scale fisheries and economic and sustainable forestry exploitation. Traditional animal husbandry methods are very inefficient and wasteful, resulting in very low meat yield-to-herb ratios. Other critical areas of research include crop research, to expand the

range of crops produced, improve yields and produce disease-resistant varieties.

Dissemination of the results of research and development has been very problematic, partly because there are not enough linkages between the researchers and the practitioners at the research stage, and partly because of the weaknesses of the extension system, notably, insufficient personnel and inappropriate training. Efforts will be directed towards rationalizing the unified extension service system and intensifying its coverage to a target of one extension worker to 500 farmers or less by year 2010.

Communities will be encouraged to bring more land under cultivation, and to adopt more efficient methods, techniques and technologies for increased productivity, towards the achievement of national food self-sufficiency and a strong export base.

3.2.4.2 Mineral Resources Development

Nigerian is blessed with a wealth and variety of minerals, widely distributed in every part of the country. Only a small proportion of these has been discovered and assessed, and of this only a small proportion is being exploited. While this limited exploitation has already contributed significantly to the nation's Gross Domestic Products (GDP) and accounts for the bulk of our exports and foreign exchange earnings, it has done too little to improve the economy of the rural areas involved, and too much to bring social disaffection and environmental degradation. The objectives of the rural development policy in this sector is to correct this situation and transform the mineral sector into a powerful instrument of sustainable rural development, with special emphasis on the empowerment and participation of the rural communities:

- 3.2.4.2.1 To explore, develop and exploit the mineral resources for rural areas with a view to expanding their economic base;
- 3.2.4.2.2 To ensure that those rural communities endowed with mineral resources have appropriate and adequate stake in the local mining enterprises therein and derive full benefits from their operations; and
- 3.2.4.2.3 To ensure that the rural environment is protected and conserved by mining operators in the interest of sustainable development.

Strategies to achieve these objectives include:

- i. Promoting indigenous and local enterprises in the production of equipment and materials as well as the provision of services to the local mining enterprises;
- ii. Encouraging indigenous and local enterprises in the production of equipment and materials as well as the provision of services to the local mining enterprises;
- iii. Establishing local committees involving government, the mining enterprises and the relevant communities to take appropriate and adequate steps to protect the environment, monitor the environmental impact of mining operations and ensure that adequate preventive, corrective or compensatory measures are taken as and when necessary;
- iv. Ensuring that local people have a fair share of employment in local mining operations; and
- v. Encouraging local mining enterprises to be good corporate citizens by contributing to social and infrastructural development of the communities in their areas of operation.

3.2.4.3 Manufacturing and industry

The enormous potential of rural industrialization for energizing the rural economy is yet to be exploited. Rural industrialization involves traditional arts and crafts, vocations and skills, as well as small-scale industry, but is not confined to these. In the modern information era high technology industries are "footloose", locating wherever skills can be attracted, even in rural areas. Large-scale resource-based industries are also naturally attracted to rural areas, provided, of course, there is a conducive environment.

In order to promote, encourage and support rural industrialization, Government will:

- 3.2.4.3.1. Promote an enabling environment for rural industrialization, through the development of rural infrastructure
- 3.2.4.3.2. Promote the establishment of small-scale industries in rural areas, with special emphasis on food processing and other agro-based industries;
- 3.2.4.3.3 Promote the establishment of linkages between rural small-scale and large-scale industries;

- 3.2.4.3.4 Rationalize, improve and expand the operations of the specialized government agencies and programmes involved in promoting rural industrialization, such as the Industrial Development Centers, the Technology and Skills Acquisition Centres, the National Directorate of Employment, and Small Scale Industries Loan Schemes;
- 3.2.4.3.5. Encourage Research Institutes and other relevant agencies to conduct research relevant to the needs of rural industrialization and to disseminate the results of such research to local entrepreneurs; and
- 3.2.4.3.6 Promote patronage of the products of rural industries by Government institutes at all levels.

3.2.4.4 Marketing And Distribution

Marketing and distribution services are critical for the effective functioning of any economy; but these are very deficient in the rural areas. Rural marketing is a mass activity directly involving the tens of millions of rural producers selling their own produce and millions of small-scale businesses part-time and full-time operating in rural market places. Traditionally, official interest has been mainly in promoting export crop marketing, which has become less urgent with the decline in agricultural exports. However, improved domestic marketing and distribution has great potential for lowering the cost and increasing the range and volume of domestic marketing, thereby stimulating increased employment, output and income.

The small-scale trader will continue to play the major role in domestic marketing and distribution. The role of Government will be to promote and support the improvement of their operations. Accordingly Government will:

- 3.2.4.4.1 Promote and provide market information services at national, state and local government levels;
- 3.2.4.4.2 Facilitate the improvement and modernization of the structure of the commodity market through the specification of standards and the introduction of quality control, grading and standardization;
- 3.2.4.4.3 Promote export marketing;
- 3.2.4.4.4 Intensify research into and disseminate effective methods of storage, packaging and preserving perishable commodities;

- 3.2.4.4.5 Promote structured linkages between rural producers and the manufacturing sectors so as to develop and expand stable marketers for rural produce;
- 3.2.4.4.6 Reduce the vulnerability of the farmer to seasonal and random producer price fluctuations by establishing guaranteed minimum prices for designated commodities, supported by the operation of buffer stocks; and
- 3.2.4.4.7 Support the development and management of facilities in rural markets.

3.2.5 Rural financial System

Finance has long been recognized as the major constraint to rural enterprise. Most rural businesses rely on the very limited resources of the owner themselves and the assistance of relations and friends for the bulk of their financing. Traditional credit institutions cannot fill the gap and rural money lenders are usurious. Appropriate measures will be pursued by all levels of government to facilitate the access of rural producers to rural financial services in support of their production activities.

Accordingly, Government will:

- 3.2.4.5.1 Promote measures to facilitate the access of all categories of rural producers, (individual farmers, individual rural industrialists, co-operatives, other economic groups,) to credit on reasonable terms; encourage the development of traditional saving-and-credit institutions;
- 3.2.4.5.2 Encourage all relevant existing banking and credit institutions to extend their operations and facilities to rural areas; and
- 3.2.4.5.3 Promote the establishment and support for the operations of banking and credit institutions, which are particularly responsive to the needs of rural producers.

3.3.0 SUPPORTIVE HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION

3.3.1 Policy Statement

The critical and dynamic role of the total man in rural and national development must be recognized. It is man, properly oriented, effectively organized, ably led and highly motivated, who plays the single most decisive role in the development process.

The National Integrated Rural Development Policy therefore focuses on bringing the best out of the rural dweller, through appropriate supportive human resources participation in, and benefit from, the development process. Rural human resources development and utilization shall also be made relevant to local needs and, in particular, to the promotion of rural economic, socio-cultural and political development.

Appropriate measures shall be adopted to ensure the attainment and maintenance in the areas of the national standard in education, health and social welfare, as stipulated in the relevant sectoral policies of the nation.

3.3.2 Objectives

3.3.2.1 To raise the quality of life in rural communities, thereby creating a conducive environment for social justice and raising the morale and sense of belonging of rural dwellers;

3.3.2.2. To enhance the quality of formal education and ensure the maintenance of national education standards in rural development

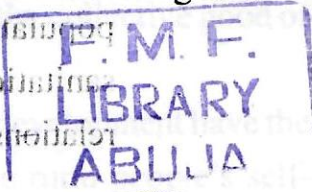
3.3.2.3 To formulate and implement suitable adult, functional and non-formal education strategies and programmes for rural development;

3.3.2.4 To ensure comprehensive development and mobilization of human resources in rural areas in the task of rural transformation;

3.3.2.5 To ensure that both formal and non-formal education contribute fully to the development of productive capacities, political awareness and organization and effective citizenship among the rural population, in line with the democratic values enshrined in the Nigerian Constitution;

3.3.2.6 To ensure that the rural communities have equal access to information, thus enabling them understand their circumstances, the opportunities and threats facing them and take appropriate decisions and action;

3.3.2.7: To inform, educate, conscientise, and mobilize Nigeria's rural populations to organize themselves properly to exercise their full rights as citizens and to participate fully and effectively in the economic, socio-cultural and political decisions and programmes affecting their welfare and progress.



3.3.3 Strategies

Development is about people, and the people are the best agents and judges of their own development. Government will promote programmes for improving the quality of life of rural people, enhancing their knowledge and skills and mobilizing them to participate more fully and more autonomously in the development effort.

Special emphasis will be laid on the following areas:

- 3.3.3.1 Health and Population
- 3.3.3.2 Culture and Social Development
- 3.3.3.3 Education, Technology and Skills Development;
- 3.3.3.4 Research and Extension Services; and
- 3.3.3.5 Information and Communication.

3.3.4 Policy Areas

3.3.4.1 Health and Population

The African concept of health and population is wholistic. It relates to the general ability to function in one's socio-economic and cultural milieu. On every index of health and population development, the rural areas score poorly relative to the urban areas. Comparatively, the rural populations bear a heavier burden of health risks, morbidity, incapacitation, infant, child and maternal mortality, which limits their state of welfare and their ability to function productively in the society and economy.

In recognition of these facts, both the National Health Policy and the National Population Policy have given special attention to the needs of the rural communities. Accordingly, the health and population component of the National Policy on Integrated Rural Development will be in harmony with the extant policies mentioned above. The main focus will be on the following areas:

- 3.3.4.1.1 Establishing a comprehensive healthcare facility in each rural community, within the Nation's Primary Health Care System;
- 3.3.4.1.2 Providing and disseminating relevant health information to rural populations on such matters as personal hygiene, environmental sanitation, prevention and control of communicable diseases, the relationship between life-style, health and illness, etc;

- 3.3.4.1.3 Organising and mobilizing traditional medical knowledge and facilities as part of the nation's healthcare system;
- 3.3.4.1.4 Enlarging the role of local governments in the organization, delivery and management of healthcare services to rural communities;
- 3.3.4.1.5 Strengthening of data on health resources, health status, health behaviour, utilization of health services, etc, at the level of the rural community;
- 3.3.4.1.6 Promoting the development of health resources at local government and rural community levels, e.g., the establishment of botanical herb gardens, laboratory facilities,
- 3.3.4.1.7. Coordination and integrating the operations of all healthcare agencies in local government areas and communities, to ensure rational and adequate coverage.
- 3.3.4.1.8 Collaborating with relevant agencies to enlighten the rural people on the prevention/control of such deadly diseases as HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Typhoid, Guineaworm infection, etc
- 3.3.4.1.9 Providing information and education to rural populations on the relationship between population growth, resource endowments and quality of life;
- 3.3.4.1.10 Promoting programmes and activities aimed at enhancing infant and child survival as well as curbing maternal mortality in the rural areas;
- 3.3.4.1.11 Facilitating access to family planning information, advice, means and services to interested individuals and couples; and
- 3.3.4.1.12 Improving the collection and analysis of demographic data and of its utilization in planning, especially at the local government and community levels.

3.3.4.2 Culture And Social Development

Simply defined, culture is the totality of the way of life of a people and comprises the material, institutional, philosophical and creative aspects, while social development entails the improved capacity, ability and willingness of man, as an individual and as a member of society to contribute his maximum to the advancement of the collective good of society.

If creatively managed, culture and social development have the potentials in helping in the achievement of the rural people's self-

actualization and self-fulfillment as well as enhancing their contributions to national growth and development. These have been recognized in the National Cultural Policy and the National Social Development Policy. Accordingly, the culture and social development component of the present policy is designed to be consistent with and to complement the two national Policies mentioned here above.

Specifically, emphases will be laid on:

- 3.3.4.2.1 Encouraging and assisting each rural community to identify, preserve and promote its cultural heritage and revive, promote and update its viable traditional crafts, technologies and occupation; harnessing Community-based Rural Development Organisations (CBRDOS) for the integrated rural development effort for the promoting of the cultural dimension;
- 3.3.4.2.2 Taking into account the viable traditional occupations as well as the natural resource endowment of each rural community in developing industrial and commercial projects within the community; supporting, patronizing and popularizing local crafts, technologies and industries and stimulating the demand for them in order to ensure the viability of cultural industries on the part of the private sector and government;
- 3.3.4.2.5 Showing concern for the intellectual needs of the rural dwellers by writers and publishers;
- 3.3.4.2.6 Expanding the rural people's opportunities for cultural and social development through enhanced food and nutrition security, improved access to qualitative and functional education, good health, information, including postal and other communication services, productive employment and other social welfare services.
- 3.3.4.2.7 Promoting sports and recreation improving the mental and physical rural population; and encouraging CBRDOs, NGOs, PSEs to sponsor cultural and sports development activities in the rural areas.

3.3.4.3 Education, Technology And Skills Development

People bring about development. Relevant and sustainable rural development requires that the rural people have the knowledge and skills to understand their environment and circumstances, and articulate their needs. They should be able to interact on an autonomous basis with other stakeholders and use such instruments and processes to

do or get done what needs to be done. To bring all this about, special attention will be paid to education, appropriate technology and relevant skills development and utilization.

The introduction of Universal Basic Education (UBE) addressed one of the most critical needs; it will correct the present situation in which many rural areas in some parts of the country record very low primary school enrolment and female enrolment ratios. Adult illiteracy, which is also acute in rural areas, will be massively attacked, so as to enable a larger proportion of rural people participate more fully in the development process and between the people and the various tiers of government as well as to promote mass consciousness and mass participation in integrated rural development activities;

Accordingly, Government will:

- 3.3.4.5.1. Promote measures to expedite the provision and utilization of appropriate and adequate channels of information and communication to rural areas and the more effective utilization of such channels and facilities. Such channels include rural newspapers and community resource centers (comprising library, information bureau, meeting rooms, viewing centers and documentation room) at local government and community levels;
- 3.3.4.5.2. diversify channels of information and communication, including traditional channels, to ensure improved coverage and relevance;
- 3.3.4.5.3. encourage the systematic and effective collection, organization, dissemination, accessing and utilization of development and other information;
- 3.3.4.5.4. organize campaigns to promote mass awareness and mobilize Nigerians in general and rural populations in particular so that they can initiate and/or participate actively in programmes aimed at enhancing rural development; and
- 3.3.4.5.5. encourage the mass media to give due prominence to issues affecting rural development.

3.4 ENHANCEMENT OF ENABLING RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

3.4.1 Policy Statement

Infrastructure deprivation is one of the major constraints to rural development.

This makes the rural environment a difficult one to live in and adversely affects the level of productivity and welfare. Government will take adequate measures to promote the development and improvement of rural infrastructure with a view to stimulating and promoting sustainable growth of rural productive activities. In view of the enormity and complexity of the problem, Government will cooperate with Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Non-Profit Organizations (NPO), Private Sector (PSEs), Community-Based Rural Development Organization (CBRDOs) and other relevant agencies in the choice, design, implementation and maintenance of rural infrastructural projects. This will ensure their appropriateness and sustainability.

Special attention will be paid to the following key areas:

- 3.4.2.1. Transport infrastructure and facilities;
- 3.4.2.2. Communication;
- 3.4.2.3. Housing;
- 3.4.2.4. Environment;
- 3.4.2.5. Energy; and
- 3.4.2.6. Water and Sanitation.

3 4.2. Objectives

- 3.4.2.1 To increase public investment in rural infrastructure so as to reduce the present unacceptable inequalities between urban and rural areas;
- 3.4.2.2 To ensure the provision and maintenance of an adequate level of infrastructural facilities and services in the rural areas;
- 3.4.2.3 To improve the capability of local governments and communities to participate effectively in the planning, provision and maintenance of rural infrastructure; and
- 3.4.2.4 To promote the participation of NGOs, NPOs, PSEs, etc in the provision and management of rural infrastructure.
- 3.4.2.5 Empowering local governments through financial and other appropriate assistance, to continue to increase and to maintain rural infrastructural projects; Encouraging state Governments to increase investment in rural infrastructure;
- 3.4.2.6 Mobilizing rural communities for participation in the provision and maintenance of rural infrastructure.

- 3.4.3.7 Promoting the training and hiring of qualified technical manpower at local government level for the construction and maintenance of rural infrastructure;
- 3.4.3.8 Training local government personnel in the provision and maintenance of rural infrastructure;
- 3.4.3.9 Encouraging local governments to patronize locally manufactured construction equipment; and
- 3.4.3.10 Encouraging private sector enterprises, especially large corporate organizations, to be more involved in the provision of rural infrastructure in the areas they operate in partnership with the relevant government agencies and local communities.

3.4.4. POLICY AREAS

3.4.4.1 Transport infrastructure and facilities

The deficiency of transport infrastructure and facilities in rural areas drastically reduces the job opportunities and productivity of rural dwellers. It also seriously limits and raises the cost of their access to the nation and the world.

Not surprisingly, the provision and improvement of roads and waterways ranks first among the felt development needs of rural communities.

In order to improve rural transport infrastructure and facilities, Government will:

- 3.4.4.1.1 Link all rural areas to the national network of roads and waterways;
- 3.4.4.1.2 Promote the provision and effective maintenance of rural roads, waterways and jetties to cover all communities and settlements in Nigeria;
- 3.4.4.1.3 Encourage State Governments to construct more inter-local government roads;
- 3.4.4.1.4 Enhance the capacity of local governments and communities to participate effectively in the construction and maintenance of roads and waterways in their areas;
- 3.4.4.1.5 Mobilize rural communities for participation in the provision and maintenance of rural roads, water ways and jetties; and
- 3.4.4.1.6 Promote rural mobility through appropriate and low-cost intermediate modes of rural transport (IMRT)

3.4.4.3 Communications infrastructure

The very low level of development of communications infrastructure in Nigeria is out of the tune with the demands of the present information age. With most of the few existing facilities in the urban areas, the rural communities are very poorly linked with the rest of the country and the world in general. Less than 20 per cent of the rural communities have postal agencies. Where they exist, mail collection, circulation and delivery service is in frequent, uncertain and unreliable. Telecommunication facilities are very rare in rural areas.

In order to reduce the isolation of rural communities and integrate them more closely in the national communications system, Government will:

- 3.3.4.2.1.1. Encourage the establishment of more sub-post offices in the rural areas;
- 3.3.4.2.1.2. Encourage local communities to establish postal agencies, in order to ensure that every community is within convenient walking distance of a postal facility;
- 3.3.4.2.1.3. Ensure frequent and reliable collection, circulation and delivery of mail;
- 3.3.4.2.1.4. Extend the service range of existing telephone exchange to more rural communities;
- 3.3.4.2.1.5. Promote the use of modern communications facilities, such as telex, fax, and electronic mail in rural areas; and
- 3.3.4.2.1.6. Provide adequate coverage of rural communities by radio and television networks.

3.4.4.3 Housing

The normal unit of housing in the rural areas is the household compound, usually a set of buildings and spaces originally linked. While rural housing is generally less crowded than urban housing, the quality of housing and housing facilities is much lower.

The objective of rural housing policy is to improve the quality of housing while keeping it affordable and retaining the traditional values and relationships within the cohesive household unit. A self-reliant and sustainable process of upgrading and improvement will be encouraged and supported. Government will encourage and promote

effective private sector participation in the provision of rural housing and also invest adequately and systematically in the provision of related infrastructure and utilities, such as water, light, and sanitation.

Strategies for promoting rural development include:

- 3.4.4.3.1 Encouraging and popularizing the use of local building materials in all building construction projects;
- 3.4.4.3.2 Encouraging the modernization and upgrading of traditional housing designs and building materials in order to ensure greater safety, comfort, reliability and easy maintenance; Developing and promoting improved and cost-effective building technologies;
- 3.4.4.3.3 Promoting the formation of housing cooperatives in rural areas as a means of providing access to credit facilities; Providing training opportunities for building professionals and artisans to improve their skills in the application and maintenance of local building material; and Expanding the activities of mortgage banks to cover housing in rural areas and promoting the establishment of building societies as source of credit for housing construction.

3.4.4.4 Environment

Integrated Rural Development Programmes shall fully support the objectives of the National Policy on Environmental Issues into developing planning and decision making, strengthening the legal basis for sustainable development, strengthening, improving and coordinating the implementation of sound environmental management strategies, creating and improving capacity for sustainable development, promoting environmental education, information and public awareness and forging viable partnerships among various stakeholders and interest groups at community, national and international levels.

Accordingly, Government will promote measures to:

- 3.4.4.4.1.1 Conserve rural environment for sustainable development of rural livelihood;
- 3.4.4.4.1.2 Reclaim degraded rural lands and ensure improvement in the planning, management and utilization of land resources in the rural areas;

- 3.4.4.4.1.3 Conserve soil fertility in the rural areas as a basis for sustained agricultural production and productivity;
- 3.4.4.4.1.4. Promote community-based environmental conservation and rehabilitation programmes as well as support community-based initiatives to public education and enlightenment on good environmental practices;
- 3.4.4.4.1.5 Develop and utilize capacity at Local Government and community levels for efficient rural environmental management;
- 3.4.4.4.1.6 Give adequate protection to rural areas located in marine and costal areas as well as along water-ways regarding point and non-point sources of pollution and accidental spillages;
- 3.4.4.4.1.7 Encourage research into rural planning so as to develop and promote appropriate models of rural settlement;
- 3.4.4.4.1.8 Encourage states, local governments and communities to delineate parcels of land for parks, gardens, play grounds, forest reserves and grant communities a stake in the delineated reserves;
- 3.4.4.4.1.9 Mobilize rural communities to embark on tree planting to combat desertification and erosion, and to support and participate in environmental sanitation campaigns and activities; and
- 3.4.4.4.1.1 Promote appropriate legislation to facilitate the enforcement of the rights of the rural people when their environment is degraded.

3.4.4.5 Energy

There is a serious energy crisis in the rural areas. Fuel wood accounts for over 85 per cent of the domestic cooking fuel households. It is becoming more scarce and expensive to obtain. Its gathering takes a significant proportion of the working day of women and children and has led to extensive deforestation, desertification and environmental degradation. The only other significant source of domestic fuel is kerosene, which accounts for about 10 per cent of rural fuel use. Less than one per cent comes from electricity.

With most rural communities not connected to the national electricity grid or any local scheme, more than 80 per cent of rural households have no access to electricity. The quality of rural life is thereby considerably diminished. Lack of access to electricity also discourages the establishment of modern industries.

Government will promote the provision of electricity and other energy sources, including renewable and non-conventional forms, to all rural communities on a regular and sustainable basis. Accordingly Government will:

- 3.4.4.5.1 Pursue vigorously the programme of connecting all major towns and villages to the national grid distribution network;
- 3.4.4.5.2 Encourage and support initiatives to connect all communities to the national grid;
- 3.4.4.5.3 Promote the development and utilization of non-conventional energy sources for electricity generation and other energy applications, including solar, wind biogas, geothermal, mini-hydro, etc;
- 3.4.4.5.4 Expand the existing national gas pipeline network to serve industries and domestic consumers both in urban and rural areas;
- 3.4.4.5.5 Encourage private sector entrepreneurs to establish fuel delivery facilities in the rural areas, subject to the relevant safety regulations;
- 3.4.4.5.6 Promote electricity consumption in rural areas by supporting realistic preferential tariff structures and developing effective cost-recovery methods;
- 3.4.4.5.7 Encourage research and development on other forms of energy suitable for the rural areas, particularly biogas, solar and wind energy; and
- 3.4.4.5.8 Encourage local fabrication of simple kerosene and gas stoves and other suitable devices at affordable prices, so as to discourage the use of firewood as main source of domestic energy.

3.4.4.6 Water And Sanitation

Lack of access to potable water is a critical problem in the rural areas. Consequently, use of unsafe water is a major factor in the high rate of morbidity and child mortality in rural Nigeria including inadequacy of sanitation facility. Generally, about half of total households have no access to proper toilet facility, not even pit latrines.

The improvement of rural water and sanitation will receive high priority. Accordingly, Government will:

- 3.4.4.6.1 Explore and utilize all appropriate technologies to provide potable water to at least 10,000 communities each year;

- 3.4.4.6.2 Promote the use of cost-effective technologies for providing potable water at local levels such as schemes based on local streams, and ponds, constructing small earth dams, bore holes and wells and ensuring the maintenance of water supply systems and equipment;
- 3.4.4.6.3 Encourage local governments to train requisite staff and members of the communities for maintaining water and sanitation systems and equipment;
- 3.4.4.6.4 Encourage the local production of equipment for rural water supply and sanitation, as well as water treatment plants and chemicals; and
- 3.4.4.6.5 Promote the development and adoption of improved sanitation practices.

3.5 SPECIAL PROGRAMMES FOR TARGET GROUPS

3.5.1 Policy Statement

While the powerlessness, marginalization, deprivation and poverty of rural life affect every community, some social groups and geographic areas suffer conditions much worse than others do. They are affected by such special circumstances and confront such special problems that they deserve special attention. The most significant of these are:

- 3.5.1.1.1. Women;
- 3.5.1.1.2. Youth;
- 3.5.1.1.3. Children;
- 3.5.1.1.4. The Orderly and the retired;
- 3.5.1.1.5. The handicapped;
- 3.5.1.1.6. Emergencies and natural disasters;
- 3.5.1.1.7. Disadvantaged areas; and
- 3.5.1.1.8. Border areas.

3.5.2 Objectives

- 3.5.2.1 To integrate disadvantaged groups and areas into the mainstream of the national development process;
- 3.5.2.2 To improve the economic life quality and social status of persons and communities in disadvantaged circumstances in rural areas; and
- 3.5.2.3 To promote full respect for the human rights, enhance the welfare and promote the full human development (economic, socio-cultural,

political and legal) of persons and communities in disadvantaged circumstances and areas.

3.5.3 Strategies

Specific programmes will be designed to address their special problems. The purpose of the specific programmes is not to isolate the groups from the general programmes but to highlight their special problems and ensure that all relevant institutions and programmes take these duly into account and that, all efforts are adequately supported, coordinated and integrated, in the specific interest of the target groups.

3.5.4 Policy Areas

3.5.4.1 Women

Government will seek the accelerated improvement of the productive capacity, conditions of domestic life, life chances and social status of women in rural areas and the promotion and protection of their human rights.

- 3.5.4.1.1 Enhancing the access of women in the rural areas to production inputs, especially land, credit and modern agricultural inputs;
- 3.5.4.1.2 Enlightening women in the rural areas on the opportunities and facilities available for their economic, social and political advancement as well as for their personal and family health and well-being;
- 3.5.4.1.3 Promoting basic literacy, functional literacy and income-generating action among rural women;
- 3.5.4.1.4 Encouraging parents and guardians to keep their daughters in school up to the age of 18 years.