

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION IN THE NIGERIAN EXPORT CROP SECTOR

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Abstract:

The issue of environmental management has assumed a worldwide dimension cutting across developed and developing nations, necessitated by the impacts generated by diverse social and economic activities including global trade. Developing nations seemed to be the worst hit by environmental degradation arising from the exploitation of their natural resources in the quest to earn more foreign exchange. Most of the exports are from agriculture. For those that were or are oil or mineral resource exporters they have started to switch to agriculture, thereby exploiting more than natural resources.

Nigeria, despite her oil resources, had put in place various trade policies aimed at changing the country from a monolithic oil dependent economy to that which her non-oil sector can contribute substantially to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and exports, among other reasons. Structural Adjustment Policy (SAP), including trade liberalization is a major policy.

Agriculture is a major component of Nigeria's non-oil sector, contributing on average 81 % in 1962-64, 56.41% in 1983-85, 64.64% in 1986-88 and rose to 71.66% in 1992-94. The value of agricultural exports increased by about 1500% from only N 193.6 million in 1985 to an annual average of N2,575 million in 1988-1992. Cocoa, rubber, fish and shrimps, forestry products and cotton are the main agricultural commodities boosting Nigeria's agricultural exports over the years. Several policies and programmes put up by the government significantly contribute to this achievement.

Keywords