IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL EXPENDITURE ON UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN NIGERIA

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Abstract
This study empirically investigates the impact of Government Agricultural Expenditure on Unemployment Rate in Nigeria from 1985 to 2015. The study used time series data and econometrics tools were used for testing for the stationarity and causality. To show the impact and the relationships among the variables Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) was used. From the result there is a strong relationship between Unemployment Rate and Government agricultural Expenditure in Nigeria and the R^2 of 0.62 per cent indicates that 62 per cent of the variations in the Unemployment Rate is explained by variations in the Total Agricultural Production in Nigeria, Total Agricultural Exportation in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Capital Expenditure in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria and Total Expenditure in Nigeria. This implies that agricultural sector has impact on the reduction of Unemployment Rate in Nigeria. The result shows that Total Agricultural Production in Nigeria, Total Agricultural Exportation in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Capital Expenditure in Nigeria and Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria are negatively related to Unemployment Rate in Nigeria both Total Agricultural Production in Nigeria and Government Agricultural Capital Expenditure in Nigeria were statistically significant at 5 per cent level of significance while Total Agricultural Exportation in Nigeria and Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria were statistically significant at 5 per cent level of significance. On the other hand Total Expenditure in Nigeria is positively related to Unemployment Rate in Nigeria and it is statistically significant at 5 per cent level of significance.

Keywords: Government, Agriculture, Expenditure, Unemployment

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1.0 INTRODUCTION
Unemployment is one of the developmental problems that face every developing economy in the 21st century. International statistics portray that industrial and service workers living in developing regions account for about two-thirds of the unemployed (Patterson, Okafor and Williams, 2006). Unemployment has been a problem in Nigeria, especially since 1980, when the nation's economy took a turn for the worse as world petroleum prices tumbled, the Nigerian

currency became devalued, corruption became rampant, and the population of Nigeria ballooned at a breath-taking pace (Akintoye, 2008). The economic benefits of large-scale agriculture are recognized, this is why Rostow (1960) in his Stages of Economic Growth, explained that agriculture is crucial for the "take-off stage" of a nation's economic growth and development. A strong and efficient agricultural sector would enable a country to feed its growing population, generate employment, earn foreign exchange and provide raw materials for industries. The agricultural sector has a multiplier effect on any nation's socio-economic and industrial fabric because of the multifunctional nature of agriculture (Ogen, 2007).

In Nigeria, in the areas of employment, agriculture is by far the most important sector of Nigeria's economy, engaging about 70% of the labor force and According to Sharma. (2010), functional investment in all sectors of agriculture will help solve the problems of unemployment, hunger and poverty in the country. Due to the role of agricultural sector in job creation and employment opportunities to Nigerians. Government agricultural financial policies have over the years been used to reduce unemployment and increase job creation Nigerian government has involved in the agricultural development programmes over the years through its spending in form of subsidies, purchase of improved seedlings as well as training of extension workers has boosted the sector and directly engaged the services of researchers and extensions workers and examples of these agricultural development programmes are Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (ACGSF), Small and Medium Enterprises Equity Investment Scheme (SMEEIS), Refinancing and Rediscounting Facility (RRF), Agricultural Credit Support Scheme (ACSS), Large Scale Agricultural Credit Scheme (LASACS), Supervised Agricultural Loans Board, River Basin Development Authority (RBDA), National Grains Production Company, Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC), National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) etc.

Despite the government financial support and many national and international agricultural development programmes in order to reduce unemployment in Nigeria the unemployment rate is continuously on the increase from 13.1 percent in 2000 to a woeful 2014 and 2013 recorded 24.3 and 24.7 percent respectively. Furthermore, the unemployment rate in Nigeria has drastically increased from 29.1 percent in 2015 to 35.2 percent in 2016 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2016). Similarly, the country is also rank as the 20th on the table of countries with the largest number of hungry people in the world (Fashola, 2005). On this background, this paper seeks to empirically examine the impact of government agricultural expenditure on unemployment in Nigeria.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW
2.1 Conceptual Review
According to Ebomuche and Ihugba, (2010) agriculture involves the cultivation of land, raising and rearing of animals for the purpose of production of food for man, feed for animals and raw materials for industries. It involves cropping, livestock, forestry and fishing, processing and marketing of these agricultural products. Essentially it is composed of crop production, livestock, forestry and fishing. This implies that agriculture is the process of using land as a factor of production for the cultivation of land and rearing of livestock for man use and the engagement of agribusiness activities as a means of livelihood. Then Government spending is a fiscal instrument that serves useful roles in the process of controlling inflation, unemployment, depression, balance of payment equilibrium, and foreign exchange stability (Murital and Abayomi, 2011).They equally said that in the period of depression and unemployment, government spending causes aggregate demand to rise and production and supply of goods and services follow the same direction.

While Aigbedion and Anyanwu, (2015), opined that public expenditure is classified into two namely capital and recurrent expenditure. They sees capital expenditure as expenses incurred in developmental projects and programmes. While recurrent expenditure is expenses incurred in payment of salaries and administrative processes in the economy. On the other hand Muhammed (2010), described unemployment as the state of wordlessness experienced by persons who are members of the labour force who perceived themselves and are perceived by others as capable of work. Unemployed people can be categorized into those who have never worked after graduation from the university and those who and those who have lost their jobs thereby seeking re-entry into labour market. From the above views of scholars government spending, public spending and government expenditure mean the same and government expenditure is a macroeconomic tool used by the government to achieve macroeconomic goals in the economy while unemployment is one of the macroeconomic problems in the economy and this unemployment rate is the degree or the total number of willing and capable labour which are not engaged in any productivity process in the economic.

2.2 Empirical Review

The following are empirical studies on government expenditure, unemployment and inflation. Loto (2011) investigates the growth effect of government expenditure on economic growth in Nigeria for the period 1980 to 2008, with a particular focus on five sectorial expenditures, including securing, health, education, transportation, communication and agriculture. The result indicates that in the short run, expenditure on agriculture was found to be negatively relates to economic growth. The impact on education, though also negative and was not significant. The impact of expenditure on health was found to positively related to economic growth while expenditures on national security transportation and communication were positively related to economic growth, their impact were not statistically significant.

While, Aminu and Anono (2012) investigated the relationship between unemployment and inflation in Nigerian economy between 1977 and 2009. The results of the study indicated that inflation impacted negatively on employment. The causality test revealed that there was no causation between unemployment and inflation in Nigeria during the period of the study and a long-run relationship exists between them as confirmed by the co integration test. Among their recommendations is the use of inflation, unemployment theory that is drawn from data sourced within the country and also improvement in the existing theories in order to ensure their applicability in the Nigerian context, so as to achieve desired reduction in unemployment and inflation which in turn boost economic development.

Then, Danjuma and Bala (2012) explored the role of governance in employment generation in Nigeria. The study employed primary data obtained through the use of interviews and observed that unemployment rate in Nigeria had created tension and hatred among the haves and have not leading to communal clashes; resulted in the emergence of militants groups (like Boko Haram sect and Niger Delta Militant), prostitution, armed robbery, and child trafficking, constituting hiccups to security of lives and properties. The study recommended that investment in education. In 2013, the effect of government purchases on unemployment was examined by Holden and Spearman in 20 OECD countries for the period of 1980 to 2007. The study observed that an increase in government purchases equals one per cent of Gross Domestic Product reduced unemployment by about 0.3 per cent point in the same year. The effect was observed to be greater in down turns than in booms, and also greater under a fixed exchange rate regime than a floating regime.

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Nwosa (2014) studied the impact of government expenditure and poverty rates in Nigeria for the period of 1981 to 2011 using the ordinary Least Square (OLS). The study observed that government expenditure has positive and significant impact on unemployment rate while it has a negative and insignificant impact on poverty rate. The study recommends that urgent attention should be accorded to rising unemployment and high poverty rates in order to achieve the objective of being among the 20 economies of the world by 2020 and to meet her MDG goal of halving poverty rate by 2015. The gap in the empirical studies reviewed is that none of the studies dwell on the impact of government are expenditure on unemployment reduction in Nigeria. Therefore, the study is to fill up that gap.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

Wagner's Law is named after the German political economist Wagner (1835-1917), who developed a "law of increasing state activity" after empirical analysis on Western Europe at the end of the 19th century. He argued that government growth is a function of increased industrialization and economic development. Wagner stated that during the industrialization process, as the real income per capita of a nation increases, the share of public expenditures in total expenditures increases. The law cited that "The advent of modern industrial society will result in increasing political pressure for social progress and increased allowance for social consideration by industry".

Wagner (1893) designed three focal bases for the increased in state expenditure. Firstly, during industrialization process, public sector activity will replace private sector activity. State functions like administrative and protective functions will increase. Secondly, governments needed to provide cultural and welfare services like education, public health, old age pension or retirement insurance, food subsidy, natural disaster aid, environmental protection programs and other welfare functions. Thirdly, increased industrialization will bring out technological change and large firms that tend to monopolize. Governments will have to offset these effects by providing social and merit goods through budgetary means.

Adolf Wagner pointed out that public spending is an endogenous factor, which is determined by the growth of national income. Hence, it is national income that causes public expenditure.

3.0 METHODOLGY
3.1 Sources of Data and Method of Analysis

All the data concerning government expenditure were generated from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Statistical Bulletin specifically from Bulletin of December, 2016, unemployment data were generated from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) online databank while the estimates procedure adopted in the study to drive the estimates of the parameters of economic relationships is the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS). To state the relationship between government expenditure and unemployment in Nigeria, a linear multiple regression will be employed. The preference of Ordinary Least Square (OLS) estimation method is based on the fact that it has smaller variance than any other linear unbiased estimator; they are linear and normally

distributed; are efficient; consistent and are symmetrically unbiased. Therefore, the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) is said to be the Best Linear Unbiased Estimator (BLUE).

3.2 Model Specification

In order to find out the impact of Government Agricultural Expenditure on Unemployment Rate in Nigeria as the major objective of the study and having reviewed some relevant literatures, the modified version of the model earlier formulated by Loto (2011) is adapted in this study but with little modification to suit the present work specified as:

UNE = f (TAP, TAE, GACE, GARE)   3.1

The econometric expression of this model is;

UNER= $\alpha + \beta_1 TAP + \beta_2 TAE + \beta_3 GACE + \beta_4 GARE + \beta_5 TEXP + \mu$ 3.2

Where:

UNE = Unemployment (Dependent variable)
TAP = Total Agricultural Product
TAE = Total Agricultural Export
GACE = Government Agricultural Capital Expenditure
GARE = Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure
μ =   Stochastic or Error Term
α = Intercept of relationship in the model/constant
$\beta_1 - \beta_5$ = Coefficient of each independent or explanatory variable

The *a priori* expectations of the explanatory variables used in this study are expected to bear the following signs ($\beta_1 > 0$, $\beta_2 > 0$, $\beta_3 > 0$, $\beta_4 > 0$ and $\beta_5 > 0$) this implies that the explanatory variables in use are expected to have negative signs and have negative impact on the Unemployment Rate in Nigeria.

4.0 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

4.1 Presentation of Data

The variables for regression both dependent and independent variables are presented below which are Unemployment Rate in Nigeria, Total Agricultural Production in Nigeria, Total Agricultural Exportation in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Capital Expenditure in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria and Total Expenditure in Nigeria. These data are presented in Appendix I below.

4.2 Descriptive Analysis of Variables

Table 4.2: Descriptive Analysis of Variables

	UNER	TAP	TAE	GACE	GARE	TEXP
Mean	6.288065	1060.487	142745.8	195099.8	15396.30	1605069.
Median	4.500000	1000.000	29163.30	169613.1	7064.550	947690.0
Maximum	13.20000	3064.600	536312.2	509120.5	65400.00	5185320.
Minimum	1.800000	38.70000	497.1000	892.7000	20.36000	13041.10
Std. Dev	3.787833	870.9362	188300.1	174843.6	18770.69	1800141.
Skewness	0.695510	0.656179	1.149518	0.357392	1.184628	0.881605
Kurtosis	1.953414	2.597952	2.733321	1.800362	3.380330	2.229152
Jarque-Bera	3.914109	2.433401	6.919049	2.518811	7.437444	4.783193
Probability	0.141274	0.296206	0.031445	0.283823	0.024265	0.091484
Observation	31	31	31	31	31	31

Source: *Authors computation from E-views, 2017*

From the table 4.2, the highest value for unemployment rate during the period of study is 13.2 percent this occurred in 2015 as shown in the table of data presentation. Also, peak value for Total Agricultural Production in Nigeria, Total Agricultural Exportation in Nigeria, Government

Agricultural Capital Expenditure in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria and Total Expenditure in Nigeria are ₦3064.6billion, ₦536312.2billion, ₦509120.5billion, ₦65400billion and ₦5185320billion respectively. However, the lowest value for unemployment rate during the period of study is 1.8 percent.

Also, lowest value for Total Agricultural Production in Nigeria, Total Agricultural Exportation in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Capital Expenditure in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria and Total Expenditure in Nigeria was ₦38.7billion, ₦497.1billion, ₦892.7billion, ₦20.36billion and ₦13041.1billion respectively. On the average the values of the Unemployment rate is 6.28 percent. Total Agricultural Production in Nigeria, Total Agricultural Exportation in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Capital Expenditure in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria and Total Expenditure in Nigeria also have average value of ₦1060.48billion, ₦142745.8billion, ₦195099.8billion, ₦15396.30billion and ₦1605069billion respectively as indicated by their mean values.

Table 4.3: Summary of Unit Root Test

Variables	5% level	Critical ADF	Order of Integration
UNER	-2.9705	-4.346518	I (1)
TAP	-2.9705	-3.903395	I (1)
TAE	-2.9750	-5.620790	I (2)
GACE	-2.9705	-4.582660	I (1)
GARE	-2.9705	-6.664990	I (1)
TEXP	-2.9750	-7.302326	I (2)

Source: Authors computation from E-views, 2017

Table 4.3 shows the stationarity test of the variables used in the study and from the table Augmented Dickey-Fuller test results revealed that the Unemployment Rate in Nigeria, Total Agricultural Production in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Capital Expenditure in Nigeria, and Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria are stationary at first difference at 5 percent level of significance. While the Total Agricultural Exportation in Nigeria and Total Expenditure in Nigeria are stationary at second difference at 5 percent level of significance.

4.4 Causality Test

Table 4.4: The Causality Test Result

Null Hypothesis:	Obs	F-Statistic	Probability
UNER does not Granger Cause TAE		9.23040	0.00106
TAP does not Granger Cause TAE		9.24958	0.00105
TEXP does not Granger Cause TAE	29	11.4340	0.00033
TAE does not Granger Cause TEXP		7.79705	0.00246
GACE does not Granger Cause GARE		8.81940	0.00134

Source: Authors computation from E-views, 2017

Table 4.5 above shows Pairwise Granger Causality tests. From the results, all the listed pair of variables have causal relationships among them. That is, there is a causal relationship among the variables given the probability values of the variables at 5 percent level of significance. Therefore, the null hypotheses which stated that there are no causal relationships among variables are rejected.

4.5 Presentation and Interpretation of Regression Results
Table 4.5: Regression Results

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistics	Prob.
C	2.837681	0.742781	3.820349	0.0008
TAP	-0.000700	0.001058	-0.661690	0.0142
TAE	-3.72E-05	2.39E-05	-1.558774	0.1316
GACE	-1.61E-06	9.69E-06	-0.165796	0.0497
GARE	-4.16E-05	4.98E-05	-0.834856	0.4117
TEXP	5.59E-06	2.98E-06	1.876958	0.0022
R-Squared	0.623849			
Adjusted R²	0.548619			
F-statistics	8.292535			
DW	1.7			

Source: Authors computation from E-views, 2017

The R^2 of 0.62 percent indicates that 62 percent of the variations in the dependent variable are explained by variations in the independent variables that is 62 percent variation in Unemployment Rate is caused by Total Agricultural Production in Nigeria, Total Agricultural Exportation in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Capital Expenditure in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria and Total Expenditure in Nigeria. Also, the Durbin Watson statistic of 1.7 suggests that the model is free from serial auto correlation. The F-statistics of 8.3 shows that the model has a good fit in explaining variation in Unemployment Rate in Nigeria and meaning that agricultural sector has good fit in determining the reduction in Unemployment Rate in Nigeria.

The result shows that Total Agricultural Production in Nigeria, Total Agricultural Exportation in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Capital Expenditure in Nigeria and Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria are negatively related to Unemployment Rate in Nigeria both Total Agricultural Production in Nigeria and Government Agricultural Capital Expenditure in Nigeria were statistically significant at 5 percent level of significance while Total Agricultural Exportation in Nigeria and Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria were statistically significant at 5 percent level of significance. On the other hand Total Expenditure in Nigeria is positively related to Unemployment Rate in Nigeria and it is statistically significant at 5 percent level of significance.

4.6 Discussion and Implication of Findings
From the result there is a strong relationship between Unemployment Rate and Government agricultural Expenditure in Nigeria and the R^2 of 0.62 percent indicates that 62 percent of the variations in the Unemployment Rate is explained by variations in the Total Agricultural Production in Nigeria, Total Agricultural Exportation in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Capital Expenditure in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria and Total Expenditure in Nigeria. This implies that agricultural sector has impact on the reduction of Unemployment Rate in Nigeria.

The result shows that Total Agricultural Production in Nigeria, Total Agricultural Exportation in Nigeria, Government Agricultural Capital Expenditure in Nigeria and Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria are negatively related to Unemployment Rate in Nigeria both Total Agricultural Production in Nigeria and Government Agricultural Capital Expenditure in Nigeria were statistically significant at 5 percent level of significance. This implies that Total Agricultural Production in Nigeria and Government Agricultural Capital Expenditure in Nigeria can be used to reduce the rate of unemployment in Nigeria by increasing them.

While Total Agricultural Exportation in Nigeria and Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria were statistically insignificant at 5 percent level of significance which implies increase in these economic variables may not have strong impact in the reduction in unemployment rate in Nigeria. This may be due to the fact that our Agricultural Exportation has less impact on job creation in Nigeria and that the Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria are not well channelled to the real agricultural areas that have economic impact on unemployment rate in Nigeria.

Finally, Total Expenditure in Nigeria was found to be positively related to Unemployment Rate in Nigeria and it was statistically significant at 5 percent level of significance. This implies that Total Expenditure in Nigeria is part of the cause of high unemployment in Nigeria this may be due to the fact that less money from the Total Expenditure in Nigeria is given to agricultural sector and while large sum are given to unproductivity thereby reducing the production of agriculture in Nigeria.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS
5.1 Conclusion
In conclusion, government agricultural expenditure has strong relationship with unemployment rate in Nigeria and there is a positive impact of government agricultural expenditure on unemployment rate in Nigeria. Despite the impact of government agricultural expenditure on unemployment rate reduction in Nigeria most agricultural variables like Total Agricultural Exportation in Nigeria and Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria were statistically insignificant at 5 percent level of significance which implies increase in these economic variables may not have strong impact in the reduction in unemployment rate in Nigeria. This may be due to the fact that our Agricultural Exportation has less impact on job creation in Nigeria and that the Government Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria are not well channelled to the real agricultural areas that have economic impact on unemployment rate in Nigeria.

Also, Total Expenditure in Nigeria was found to be positively related to Unemployment Rate in Nigeria and it is statistically significant at 5 percent level of significance. This implies that Total Expenditure in Nigeria is part of the cause of high unemployment in Nigeria this may be due to the fact that less money from the Total Expenditure in Nigeria is given to agricultural sector and while large sum are given to unproductivity thereby reducing the production of agriculture in Nigeria.

5.2 Recommendations
The recommends the following policy recommendations which are:
i.   Government should increase the agricultural expenditure through increase in the budget allocation of agricultural sector in Nigeria because this will help to increase the impact of agricultural on unemployment reduction and increase the level of job creation.
ii.   Government should adopt a mechanism for monitoring and for the evaluation of agricultural expenditure implementation in Nigeria because this will help to prevent mismanagement of agricultural fund and ensure that money release is used for what is meant for and this will also help to increase the impact of agricultural on unemployment reduction and increase the level of job creation.
iii.   Government should revisit the activities of Agricultural Exportation in Nigeria in order to increase the performance of this sub-sector for job creation and unemployment reduction.

iv.   Government should design a framework for the spending Agricultural Recurrent Expenditure in Nigeria to ensure that money are used in the areas that have impact on unemployment reduction in Nigeria.

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