

Modern Agriculture and Industrialization Nexus in the Nigerian Context

Authors : Ese Urhie, Olabisi Popoola, Obindah Gershon, Olabanji Ewetan

Abstract : Modern agriculture involves the use of improved tools and equipment (instead of crude and ineffective tools) like tractors, hand operated planters, hand operated fertilizer drills and combined harvesters - which increase agricultural productivity. Farmers in Nigeria still have huge potentials to enhance their productivity. The study argues that the increase in agricultural output due to increased productivity, orchestrated by modern agriculture will promote forward linkages and opportunities in the processing sub-sector; both the manufacturing of machines and the processing of raw materials. Depending on existing incentives, foreign investment could be attracted to augment local investment in the sector. The availability of raw materials in large quantity - which prices are competitive - will attract investment in other industries. In addition, potentials for backward linkages will also be created. In a nutshell, adopting the unbalanced growth theory in favour of the agricultural sector could engender industrialization in a country with untapped potentials. The paper highlights the numerous potentials of modern agriculture that are yet to be tapped in Nigeria and also provides a theoretical analysis of how the realization of such potentials could promote industrialization in the country. The study adopts the Lewis' theory of structural-change model and Hirschman's theory of unbalanced growth in the design of the analytical framework. The framework will be useful in empirical studies that will guide policy formulation.

Keywords : modern agriculture, industrialization, structural change model, unbalanced growth

Conference Title : ICDERD 2017 : International Conference on Development Economics and Recent Developments

Conference Location : Zurich, Switzerland

Conference Dates : September 15-16, 2017