Title of Article: The Role of Agriculture in Poverty Alleviation and National Development in Nigeria

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Abstract: The uniqueness of this research work lies in the decomposition analysis of the concerned problem, though many researchers have been conducted in this area but only few had satisfactorily discussed the role of agriculture in poverty alleviation and national development. The paper explicitly observes the role of agriculture in reducing poverty vis-à-vis accelerating economic development. This paper provides further empirical evidence on the effectiveness of agricultural development opportunities in the rural area and their relative sensitivity to agricultural output expansion in Nigeria for the period 1976-2004. The procedure adopted in this study was based on the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression method and co-integration test, which is an improvement to the former. The results show that, all the agricultural development opportunities identified captured with different variables are all equally significant in enhancing the level of agricultural output in Nigeria within the period of investigation. It is also evident from our empirical findings that agricultural output has more statistical sensitivity on agricultural export and fertilizer distribution for the observed data. Thus for a better stabilization of the economy through increased agricultural production, the government should give proper attention to its implementation along with establishing agricultural fund scheme to serve marginalized rural farmers, enhanced supply of agricultural inputs and fertilizers, provision of rural infrastructure through integrated rural development scheme, domestic agricultural product protection policies and appropriate product pricing policies to enable farmers operate profitably.