**Title of Article:** Neglecting the Rural Settlement and Agricultural Development Plans and Strategies: A Challenge to the Growth and Development of Nigeria

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**Abstract:** The majority of poor people lives in the rural areas and depends on subsistence farming for their livelihood. The role of agricultural growth and development for the rural economy remains central to reducing poverty and enhancing food security. Agricultural problems are mounting, especially when limited resources have been diverted to that sector by government at all levels, including inadequate trained staff for extension services and inadequate priorities and operational procedures needed to help rural farmers. The challenge of strengthening linkages between policy makers, extension workers and farmers, so as to understand their real problems and constraints and how to alleviate them are indeed central in determining feasible choices for improved agricultural development. Over the years the country has experienced some agricultural plans and projects that have been poorly articulated and implemented. This paper therefore evaluates the underinvestment in rural infrastructure, services, agricultural research and living conditions of the rural poor and how they have seriously impaired agricultural growth and productivity gains and the way forward.

**Key Words:** Development Plans, Food Security, Migration Trend, Rural Agricultural Development, Rural Settlement.