

Title of Article: Rural-Urban Migration and Agricultural Development in Nigeria

Author(s): Iruonagbe, T.C.

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Abstract: The unavailability of basic economic and social infrastructure such as water, roads, electricity and health facilities due to rural-urban investment imbalance is one of the major causes of low rural employment, low agricultural productivity and low standard of living of rural people. It is mainly in the rural sector that much underspending of planned expenditure occurs, as evidenced in the relatively low level of private and public investments in the rural areas. Unfortunately, rural dwellers bear the brunt of the incidence of fluctuating prices of their agricultural products on the world market. The consequent effect of this is the depreciating levels of income generated by rural dwellers. Thus, driven by the lack of opportunities for remunerative work, despairing of even the most minimal social amenities, and dreading the prospect of a life time of back breaking labour for pitifully meager economic rewards, hundreds of thousands of young men and women abandon the countryside and migrate to the cities. This paper therefore examines this trend of events and the multiplier effects as people move from the countryside to the cities in search of white collar jobs which are hardly ever available and the severe effects this has had on agricultural production in rural Nigeria.

Key Words: agricultural productivity, agricultural products, rural areas, rural dwellers, rural employment, rural-urban migration, socio-economic infrastructure, urban areas, white collar-jobs.