

*Full Length Research Paper*

# **Corruption and Sharp Practices: Impediments to Agriculture and Rural Development in Nigeria**

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**Many unresolved problems abound in Nigeria, but the upsurge issues of corruption and sharp practices are alarming. The damages they have done to the improvement of agriculture and rural development in Nigeria is astronomical. The menace of corruption leads to the slow development of agriculture and rural areas. Corruption and sharp practices are pandemic. They have eaten deep into the fabrics of the Nigerian society. Corruption is an endemic social factor that encompasses unilateral abuses by government officials such as embezzlement, favoritism and nepotism as well as abuses linking public and private actors such as bribery, extortion, peddling and fraud. This paper examines the issues of corruption and sharp practices and their attendant consequences to agriculture and rural development in Nigeria. It takes a cursory look at agriculture and rural development dimensions, forms of corruption and sharp practices in Nigeria, areas of corrupt practices in agriculture and rural development, effects of corruption and sharp practices on agriculture and rural development as well as anti-corruption measures to control corruption. Central to the discussion on these is that corruption and sharp practices pose serious impediments to agricultural practices and rural development in Nigeria. The paper contended that to effectively control corruption and sharp practices and to facilitate agricultural practices and rural development in Nigeria, adherence to ethical standards in decision making must be the foundation of the nation's policies. It finally suggested among others that any efforts aimed at improving agriculture and rural development would require an articulated and functional policy on agriculture.**

**Keywords:** Corruption practices; consequences of corruption, Agriculture and rural development

## **INTRODUCTION**

Among the greatest threats to economic, agricultural, rural and political developments of any nation are corruption and sharp practices. Therefore the impediments of these twin concepts remain major issues facing the sustainable development of the country, Nigeria. In the past, the concepts of corruption and sharp practices have been tropical issues of discourse in several quarters transversing social, agricultural,

economics, political, rural and of course religious arena. Corruption according to Olusaga, (1981) in Ladele et al., (2013) is conceived as the giving of something of value e.g. Money, sex, gift etc. whether demanded or not to influence the receiver's action favourably towards the giver. He therefore defines corruption as the gain of money, material resources, contracts, employments, fame, power or philosophical satisfaction through

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illegal or immoral practices such as bribery, fraud, and abuse of office.

**Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**, defines corruption as active or passive misuse of the powers of public, official (appointed or elected) for private, financial or other benefits. Transparency international (TI) defines corruption as the abuse of entrusted power for private gains. (TI, 2010). The Oxford Dictionary defines it as “dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power, typically involving bribery” (Oxford Dictionary, 2010).

Corruption is a phenomenon which includes achieving several advance through personal networking; paying gratitude money or giving gifts for used services. It encompasses unilateral abuses by government officials such as embezzlement, nepotism, as well as abuses by private sectors such as bribery, extortion, peddling and others. (Bawa, 2010). Corruption is regarded as constituting bottleneck to development interventions, not much attention is given to sharp practices. Though an age long phenomenon, sharp practices is now advancing so much as to constitute a serious impediment to development programmes in Nigeria. Business Dictionary (2013) defines sharp practices as cunningness, deceit, misinterpretation, trickery and other unscrupulous behaviours just short of legal procedures. Many individuals and public organizations have perfected several ways of cutting corners: including forgery of documents and by – passing legal modes of conduct, for several reasons. Corruption and sharp practices are social ills which pose serious impediment to the development of agriculture and rural areas. They are scourges that hinder the sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas. They are present in every country of the world but with varying degrees and magnitudes. Corruption and sharp practices pose serious impediments to agriculture and rural development. They pervade many aspects of human endeavours and by this implication, limit to a large extent the agricultural production potentials in Nigeria. The divergent dimensions of problems of agricultural and rural development in Nigeria are enormous, many of which could be attributed to corrupt tendencies of agricultural and rural development practitioners. This is because corruption and sharp practices undermine good governance and democracy by subverting formal processes. In this case, some stakeholders in agriculture are denied involvement in taking vital decisions as they concern

agricultural practices and rural development. To minimize corruption in agricultural and rural development, the rural people who are concerned should participate in determining the programmes of development themselves.

According to transparency international (TI), (2013) “every day, all over the world, ordinary people bear the cost of corruption”. It goes on to assert that not only do people pay the cost of corruption directly, but their quality of life is also affected by less visible forms of corruption. Corruption can and often does infringe on fundamental right. Whether majority of these people reside in the rural areas or are being forced to migrate to urban location to scavenge for non – existing livelihoods, it is the professional obligation to tackle the challenge of corruption by the application of scientific method. Corruption is seen as constituting a bottleneck to development efforts from the rural and agricultural platforms.

On the flip side of corruption are several emergent development concepts such as good governance, leadership quality, transparency, rule of law and accountability which theoretically are inversely related. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) (1996), declares that promoting good governance in all its aspects including ensuring the rule of law, improving the efficiency and accountability in agricultural and rural development sector are essential elements of a national framework within which economies can prosper. Hwang (2011), interpreted this to imply that corruption in agricultural and rural development is caused by the ineffective governance of either too much regulation or too little regulation.

World Bank, (2000), observed that despite the emphasis on rural and national development in most developing countries towards agriculture and rural areas, sustainable development are still hindered by institutional and administrative problems, characterized by schemes and policies imposed on the rural poor, rather than clientele participation. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) (2003), affirmed that the main thrust of sustainable rural development rests on agricultural development. In recognition of this fact, various approaches and techniques had been experimented by researchers with little or no success. This according to Bawa, (2010) could stem from the fact that little or no room is given to farmers to contribute their own ideas in agricultural decision making practices as well as corrupt practices meted out to farmers by

government officials, such as diversion of agricultural imputes meant for the rural farmers to their own selfish gains.

It is against this backdrop that this paper poses a pertinent question; what are the impediments created by corruption and sharp practices to the sustainable agricultural and rural development in Nigeria? To address this problem, the paper specifically addressed the following issues;

- Sustainable development,
- Agricultural and rural development dimensions,
- Forms of corruption and sharp practices in Nigeria,
- Areas of corrupt practices in agriculture and rural development,
- Impediments of corruption and sharp practices to the sustainable agriculture and rural development in Nigeria,
- Anti – corruption measures put in place to check corrupt practices in Nigeria.

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

This paper was basically selected from past literature, internet materials, journals, magazines, newspapers as well as articles.

### **Sustainable Development:**

According to the diplomat of sustainable development online (2014) sustainable development is defined as the type of economic growth pattern where the use of resources meets the needs of the people while conserving the environment at the same time. It also means that resources are used a way that both current and future human needs can be met.

The sustainable development guide online (2012) equally describes the term as the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Alebayo (2010) also maintains that the concept of sustainable development is the efforts at improving the environment or natural resources for the purpose of improving the quality of human life in such a way that the heeds of the future generations are not jeopardized. To this end sustainable development is the ability to preserve the existing agricultural and rural resources for the collective use of the people while conscious

efforts are made to conserve the resources for the use of future generations.

### **Agriculture and rural development: conceptual issues:**

Contemporary events around the world have shown increasing concerns for about the 75% or more of the people inhabiting the rural areas. This is justified by the high correlation that exists between rural living and poverty with the situation particularly exacerbated in developing countries, Nigeria being inclusive (World Bank, 1994). Poverty can be said to be determined by a number of factors including the level of economic growth, the way growth affects the poor, the pattern of government spending and the initial distribution of income. Agriculture employs nearly one-half of the labour force in our country today. Indeed, a high share of rural communities and especially the rural poor are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture through farming, food processing, fishing, forestry and trade. (Mohammed, 2007).

Agriculture is faced with fundamental changes. Human population growth, improved incomes and shifting dietary patterns are increasing the demand for food and other agricultural products. At the same time, the natural resource base underpinning agricultural production is under threat, with growing threats to genetic diversity, and the degradation of land and water resources.

The definition of agriculture keeps changing over time initially, agriculture was defined as the cultivation of plants and animals, that is, the management living thing and ecosystem to produce goods and services for the people. The sustainability of agriculture cannot be isolated from the sustainability of the rural areas. The American society of agronomy defines sustainable agriculture as; “one that, over the long term, enhances environmental quality and the resources base on which agriculture depends, provides for basic human food and fiber needs, is economically viable and enhances the quality of life of farmers and society as a whole” (Uptal, 2001).

Another definition by MacRae et al. (1990) posits that: Sustainable agriculture is both a philosophy and a system of farming. It is rooted in a set of values that reflects an awareness of both ecological and social realities and a commitment

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to respond appropriately to that awareness. It emphasizes design and management procedures that work with natural processes to conserve all resources and minimize waste and environmental damage, while maintaining and improving farm profitability.

Agricultural development, a subset of economic development, implies a sustained increase in the level of production and productivity over a reasonable length of time and the subsequent improved well being of farmers as reflected in their higher per capital income and standard of living. Agricultural development relates not only to a sustained increase in the level of production and productivity over a reasonable length of time and the subsequent improved wellbeing of farmers as reflected in their higher per capital income and standard of living. Agricultural development relates not only to a sustained increase in the level of production and productivity of all rural dwellers and a sustained improvement in their well being as manifested by increasing per capital income and standard of living, but also lead to a sustained physical, social and economic improvement of rural communities.

Another concept relevant to this paper is rural development.

The meaning of rural development has been the subject of much debate and little agreement, Nchuchuwe and Adejuwon, (2012). They went further to say that, the definition of rural development varies from one point of view to another. The definition of rural development has evolved through time as a result of changes in the perceived mechanisms and/or goals of development, but, a reasonable definition of rural development would be, development that benefits rural populations, where development is understood as the sustained improvement of the population's standards of living or welfare. Rural development can also be seen as not an outside intervention, but the aspirations of local people living in rural areas for taking the challenges themselves and improving their lives circumstances and their immediate environment.

Rural development ensures the modernization of the rural society and the transition from its traditional isolation to integration with the national economy. According to World Bank (2006) rural development must be clearly designed to increase production. It recognizes the fact that improved food supplies and nutrition, together with basic services, such as health and education, not only directly improve the physical

well being and quality of life of the rural poor, but can also indirectly enhance their productivity and their ability to contribute to the national economy.

Rural development can be distinguished from agricultural development which it entails and transcends. There is this erroneous misconception by successive governments that rural development is synonymous with agriculture only and in such instances efforts by such government to pump money into agricultural development did not yield the meaningful change desired, hence efforts are now being geared towards provision of modern infrastructure, primary health care, food and housing schemes, employment opportunities, recreational facilities, affordable and compulsory primary and secondary education, rural electrification and other incentives to be part of rural development for the benefits of rural dwellers (Ogidate, 2010). In other words, rural development may imply a broad based re-organization and mobilization of the rural masses in order to enhance their capacity to cope effectively with the daily task of their lives and with changes consequent upon this (Olayiwola and Adeleye, 2005). From the ongoing definitions, it makes it obvious that rural development is not a one-off activity or an immediate and snappy phenomenon, rather it is gradual and progressive towards perfection having a set standard in mind.

### **Forms of corruption and sharp practices in Nigeria:**

Corruption and sharp practices are age long phenomena that have been known to pose serious impediments to sustainable developmental efforts in many developing and developed countries of the world. These could be in the areas of agriculture, education, economy, politics as well as in social spheres of human existence.

Examining corruption from historical perspective, it could be considered as old as mankind because ancient civilization has trace of wide spread illegalities and corrupt practices. Corruption has been ubiquitous in complex societies from ancient Egypt, Israel, Rome, Greece and down to the present. Corruption and sharp practices are present in all nations of the world but with varying degrees and magnitudes. Study by Adebayo (2010), Omonijo (2005) and Amujiri (2002), have shown that corruption and sharp practices take different forms. Some of

these include; bribery and extortion, fraud and embezzlement, illegal use of public assets for private gains, over and under invoicing, payment of salaries and other benefits to non-existing (ghost) workers, payments for foods not supplied or services not rendered (air supply), professional misconduct and adulteration of products, falsification of records, god-fatherism. One of the major damaging forms of corruption Nigeria, is the emergence of god-fatherism. Godfatherism is an ideology which is constructed on the belief that certain individuals possess some considerable means to unilaterally determine who gets party ticket to run for an election and who wins in an electoral contest. It is very distressing to the nation's democratic stability (Ogundiya, 2010). Other forms of corruption include diversion of agricultural imputes for private gains, deprivation of people's rights, perversion of justice, smuggling, examination malpractices sexual harassment, over inflation of contracts. The list can go on and on and well never finish. In the power sector, Omonijo, (2008), reveals that collection of bribe from customers who connected electricity from the pole illegally, hoarding of meters in order to extort money from consumers, extortion of money from consumers to buy materials to be used to install or repair electricity which government had already provided, and many more abound. The rate at which corruption and sharp practices are being perpetuation in the public sectors is alarming and endemic. The sector is perceived as no man's business and treated as such. The general attitude of people to work in the sector is marked by ineffectiveness, indolence and inefficient. In Nigeria today, forms of corruption keeps emerging everyday and keeps gaining momentum.

### **Areas of corrupt practices in agriculture and rural development**

One of the areas of corrupt practices in the agricultural sector is the misappropriation of agricultural subsidies. Agricultural subsidies are diversified to some individuals or groups associated with members of the government.

Officials responsible for managing the disbursement of these funds may knowingly approve agricultural subsidies for family members or associates who were not eligible. It is likely that complex company ownership structures may be involved to shield the real recipients from being

identified. It is also possible that some of the receiving the subsidies. The elements of corruption are present if government official misused their positions in an official capacity to illegally aid or support family members, individuals or groups in their application to agricultural subsidy programs, (Stanimir, 2010).

Oil and gas sector as a rural development sector is undermined by corrupt subsidy, for instance, fraud and corruption thrive in organizations with enormous financial resources and where budgetary information is scarce. Many national and state ministries provide only highly aggregated data on subsidy programs with little detailed information. When these are combined with poor control procedures, the systems are abused by government officials, external contractors and individuals or companies. Awarding upstream licenses to foreign companies for oil and gas exploration is another way of corruptible influences on the national and rural development strategy. This is because the procedures for assigning these licenses are not properly regulated or transparent, they provide significant entries points for the bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions.

Other areas of corrupt practices in agriculture and rural development are: the input delivery services, such inputs like fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, insecticides and others rarely get to the target audience at the right time and in the right quantity. Part of the reason could be that most of these farm inputs are hijacked by people who have political power and therefore, either divert or sell them at very high exorbitant prices beyond the reach of the poor rural farmers.

Land title, use, ownership, tenure, registration and sales are impediments to agricultural development. Women farmers are not given the right of ownership of lands and this means that a woman farmer has to go through difficulties to acquire a piece of land for cultivate.

In some cases, she has to bribe the owner of the land before the land could be released to her. To develop an active land market for buying, selling, leasing, mortgaging or even inheriting could help in this regard but bribery and pay offs abound in the system.

Credit must be available for the agricultural sector to flourish. Yet corruption occurs in the allocation of government subsidized credit. Most times unnecessary fees and percentage

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payments are ways that government officials garner funds when granting credits.

Product standards and certification constitute another source of corruption as individual producers attempt to bribe produce inspectors to get the desired certification. The development of quality improvement centers in rural communities has helped to support objective grading of products by poling produce for inspection and eliminating the opportunity for individual producers to offer bribes. These and more are some of the areas of corrupt practices in agriculture and rural development. Producers even bribe the official of the standard organization so that their products would be certified.

### **Impediments of Corruption and Sharp Practices to the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development.**

Corruption has been ubiquitous in complex societies from the ancient time. It is equally believed that the monster is also endemic in modern governments causing impediments to sustainable agricultural and rural development. Nigeria is rich in human resources majority of who are professionally corrupt and exhibiting same in their respective institutions at all levels of government corruption and sharp practices are social viri in Nigeria and pose embarrassment to anybody who is transparent in nature. The popularity of Nigeria at international area as a medalist in the field of corruption, no doubt brings on the nation home and abroad, a negative conferment of status. Ever since Nigeria was fingered by the Transparency International as the second most corrupt nation in the world, investors have become weary of transacting business with Nigerians and this has spelt doom for the nation's economic development (Dike, 2014).

Money meant for viable projects such as health, education, industrial development are often diverted by corrupt officials thereby impoverishing the people, (Lotterman, 2002). According to him, "Nigeria as a country has enough money to tackle its poverty challenges, if government can win this battle against corruption and mismanagement of money, it will start to turn into functioning of schools, health services, water supply, agricultural inputs thus laying the foundation to eradicate poverty.

Corruption has very negative effect and consequences on rural and agricultural

development. It widens inequality, aggravates mass poverty, militates against efficient resource planning and allocation, undermines economic growth by discouraging investment; compromises economic efficiency, resulting in high governmental expenditures as a result of inflation of contracts and diversion of agricultural inputs and services. There is no doubt that corruption and sharp practices are poisonous, (Alemika, 2012). The greatest threat to Nigeria today is corruption and its impunity. Corruption undermines the proper adoption of agricultural mechanization strategies leading to low crop yields for farmers.

### **Anti Corruption Measures Put in Place to Fight Corruption in Nigeria**

Some human ailments could require doses of medicine to be treated. Similarly, the menace of corruption and sharp practices which has eaten deep into the fabric of Nigeria would required all necessary medicines to effectively control them. This means that no single and simple remedies will do it, and the problems cannot be solved overnight, because corruption has been ingrained into the fabric of the society. Nigeria has in theory the solutions in the book to tackle corruption but like other issues bedeviling the nation, implementation of the laws are its realness. One of the authors of our time (Olufayo, 2006) noted that one the reasons why the measures against corruption have not been fruitful in Nigeria is that they have operated at a level of more symbolism. Corruption has defiled all measures adopted to combat it in Nigeria, apparently because those wagging the wars against corruption are corrupt themselves. In the name of turning Nigeria into a corrupt free society, the nation has been experimented with many policies. It has tired the Judicial Commission of enquiry, the Code of Conduct Bureau. It has wrestled with the public complaints commission to no avail. Also, it fiddled with the mass mobilization for social justice and economic recovery (MAMSER), and the National Open Apprenticeship (NOA), but corruption still blossomed. Then there came general Buhari's branded war against indiscipline council (WAIC), also former president Olusegun Obasanjo's independent corrupt practices commission (ICPC) which seemed to have power only over the corrupt poor and economic and financial crime commission (EFCC) Yaradua and Jonathan administration added the public procurement act

**Table 1:** TI ratings of selected African countries (2007-2012)

<b>Countries</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Botswana	5.4	5.8	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.2
Cape Verde	4.9	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.5	5.7
Mauritius	4.7	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.8
Rwanda	2.8	3.0	3.3	4.0	5.0	5.2
Namibia	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.6
South Africa	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.1	4.0
Ghana	3.7	3.9	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.7
Gambia	2.3	1.9	2.9	3.2	3.5	3.7
Liberia	2.1	2.4	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.2
Zambia	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.3
Swaziland	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.2	3.1	3.2
Burkina Faso	2.9	3.5	3.6	3.1	3.0	2.1
Gabon	3.3	3.1	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.1
Madagascar	3.2	3.4	3.0	2.6	3.0	3.1
Malawi	2.7	2.8	3.3	3.4	3.0	3.2
Sao Tome	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.3
Tanzania	3.2	3.0	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.2
Senegal	3.6	3.4	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.7
Mali	2.7	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.7
Ethiopia	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Mozambique	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.7
Cameroun	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.5	2.6
Sierra Leone	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.6
Mauritania	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.3
Nigeria	2.2	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.2
Uganda	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5
Central African Republic	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2
Guinea Bissau	2.2	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.2
Kenya	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.3
Zimbabwe	2.1	1.8	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.3
Guinea	1.9	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.2
Angola	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.1	2.0	2.1
Chad	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.7	2.0	2.1
DR Congo	1.9	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1
Libya	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.2
Equatorial Guinea	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0
Sudan	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.9
Somalia	1.4	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.3
Egypt	2.9	2.8	2.8	3.1	2.9	2.1
Niger	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.7
Togo	2.3	2.7	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.2
Cot Devoir	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.2	-	2.1

**Source:** Ladele, A.A and Fadairo, O.S. 2013

and due process office that its, the E-payment and e-procurement to improve transparency in the sector.

However, corruption has continue to grow unabated. Recently the present government under president Buharri has sworn to eradicate corruption in Nigeria, through Nigeria's are still watching.

The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) (2008) and (CPI) (2011) released by the Transparency

International (TI) (2012) revealed on the scale 0- (highly corrupt) to 10-(very clean) out of the 48 Africa countries that were rated , Nigeria made an appreciable progress on her CPI ratings between 2007 and 2008 from 2.2 to 2.7, but her performance dropped considerably from 2009 to 2012 from 2.5 to 2.2, an indication of increased rate of corruption in the last four years (table 1).

Despite the successes attained by these Measures, the situation remains unacceptable as

corruption continues to permeate and pervade every facet of national life in Nigeria (Mohammeh, 2013). One of the reason being that all the agencies are not independent of the government who funds and appoints their leaders who had the power to hire and fire. This means that all the anti corruption agencies have been unable to perform their duties effectively.

## CONCLUSION

To win the war against corruption and sharp practices in Nigeria, adherence to ethical standards in decision – making must be the foundation of the nations policies. Without ethics in the conduct of the affairs of the nation both public and private, the apparent war on corruption in Nigeria will not be successful. Sadly, according to Dike (2001), corruption and sharp practices are now high profiles in Nigeria, and those in political power are the main culprits. One can imagine what is happening recently in the Nigerian house of assembly. It is an eye sore to watch over the television how those political warlords have been struggling over political posts. One could not imagine that those were the same people who swore heaven and earth to maintain good governance if they were given the chance to rule Nigeria. Their acts of irresponsibilityies show the level of corrupt tendencies in their lives. Little wonder the saying goes that power intoxicates and absolute power intoxicate absolutely. Corruption in its entirety is not good for any government or any private sector because it undermines economic development by generating considerable distortions and inefficiencies. In the political realm, it undermines democracy and good governance by subverting formal process. Corruption in elections and in the legislative body reduces accountability and representations in policy making. Corruption in the judiciary suspends the rule of law. In the administration, corruption results in unequal provision of services, and in agricultural practices it brings about unequal and limited access to productive resources and out puts. In general, corruption erodes the institutional capacity of government as producer are disregarded, resources are siphoned off and officials are hired or promoted without regards to performance. All these are impediments to the sustainable agricultural and rural development in Nigeria.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Many laws are already on the book to fight corruption and sharp practices in mg including those crafted by the international organizations. But what is important is the will and zeal of the government to back up these measures with ethics and values. However, the following are some recommendation to help and fight corruption and sharp practice in Nigeria. These include;

- **Paying civil servants:** Whether civil servants are appropriately compensated or grossly underpaid will naturally affect motivation and incentives. If the wage of public servants are too low, employers may find themselves under pressure to supplement their incomes in “unofficial” ways.

- **Creating transparency and openness in government spending:** Subsidies, tax exemptions, public procurement of goods and services, soft credits, extra – budgetary funds under the control of politicians – are all elements of the various ways in which governments manage public resources. These resources are meant to be managed and be used in the public interest. The more open and transparent these processes are, the less opportunity it will provide for corruption and sharp practices.

- **Establishing international conventions:** Corruption has a cross border dimensions in a global economy, the international legal frame work for corruption control is therefore a key element among the options open to government. This frame work has improved significantly over the past decade in 2005, the UN convention against corruption (UNCAC) entered into force, and by the late 2013 had been ratified by the majority of its 140 signatories (Johnson et al., 2014). The author further maintained that, the UNCAC is a promising instrument to fight corruption since it creates a global frame work involving developed and developing nations and covers a broad range of subjects such as domestic and foreign corruption, extortion, preventive measures, anti – money laundering provisions, conflict of interest laws, means to recover illicit funds deposited by officials in off shore banks among others.

- **Deploying smart technology:** Just as government induced distortions provide many opportunities for corruption, it is also the case that frequent, direct contact between government officials and citizen can open the way for illicit transactions. To address this problem is to use

readily available technologies such as E-transactions and internet to encourage more of an arms-length relationship between officials and civil society. For instance, Chile is one country that has used the latest technologies to create one of the world's most transparent public procurement systems in the world, that is; **Chile Compra** which was launched in 2003. Now Chile is one of the most transparent country in the world (Johnson et al; 2014).

Finally, increased pressure to enforce transparency through more action research on corruption in the agricultural sector by social scientists, re-orientation of citizens on moral standards including our traditional values and ethics would help improve the state of transparency in the agricultural and rural development in our country.

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