

The Built Environment: Innovation Policy and Sustainable Development



Edited by: I. A. Okewole, S. A. Daramola, C. A. Ajayi, O. A. Ogunba, K.T. Odusami

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT: INNOVATION, POLICY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Edited by

AFOLABI OKEWOLE ADEDEJI DARAMOLA AYO AJAYI KOLE ODUSAMI OLUSEGUN OGUNBA

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TABLE OF CONTENT

Freiace		1.4
Forward		v
Acknowledger	nent	vi
Keynote Addr	ess: Professor Chimay J. Anumba Information and Communication Technology Support For Globalisation in The Built Environment	xi
Section A:	Architecture, Building & Fine Arts	
	Professor Stephen O. Ogunlana (Lead Paper Building) Sustainable Buildings: Where should we be Heading?	xxiv
	Professor Yomi Oruwari (Lead Paper Architecture) Lest we forget: the poor people need Housing in the Urban areas in Nigeria too – A Reflection of low income housing provision	
•	A. U. Okpara Design and aesthetics in Built Environment: The Phenomenonof Street Graphics	10
-	Kuye, O.O and Baiyewu, O.B.A Building Collapse in Nigeria: A Legislative Remedy	18
	Mosaku, Tim. O., Kehinde, J. O. and Kuroshi, P. A. Control of Building Practice for Sustainable Development in Nigeria: Matters Arising	20
	Adejumo, I. A. and Taiwo, A. A. Innovative and Sustainable Development in Design and Aesthetics in Nigerian Urban Centres: Focus on Commercial Buildings in Jos	34
•	Adejumo, Isaac Adesola, Dassah, Elizabeth and Umaru, Auwalu Establishing Principles for Building Maintenance Policy in Public Buildings in Nigeria	38
-	O. G. Okoli and M. O. Ohiomah Sustainable Management of Timber and Forest Poles for Temporary Works in Building Projects	45
	Olufemi Daniel Durodola Towards Sustainable Timber Housing Development in Nigeria	51
•	Areo, Margaret Olugbemisola Mural decoration: The Aesthetic Challenges and Prospects of the Nigerian 'public' Built Environment	61
-	Makinde, David Olajide and Ijisakin Yemi Olaolu 'House' of the 'living dead' and the Built Environment : The example of tomb sculpture at residential houses in Ile-Ife	66
•	Akin Adejimi Minimizing maintenance problems through Design Process: A necessity for sustainable housing delivery in Nigeria.	
-	Emmanuel Achuenu, Mr. Gabriel S. Olaoye and Mr, Anthony Ujene Characteristics of periwinkle shell concrete made by partially replacing cement content with rice husk ash.	82
	Adedeji Daramola, Eghaese, E. and Oluwatayo, Dapo The stabilised and compressed earth bricks - an innovative option towards a sustainable home ownership in Nigeria.	91

-	G. I. Idoro Comparative evaluation of design-bid-build (dbb)97 and design-build (db) procurment systems in the Nigerian construction industry
-	Otu Umoren, Adedeji Daramola and Azubuike Nwoke Sustainable Development in the Built Environment107 : New Challenges for Architects
-	Kayode, Femi & Ojo, Bankole The Role of Colour in Environmental Beautification
Section B:	Estate Management and Planning
	Professor C.A Ajayi (Lead Paper Estate Management) Towards New Directions for Property Valuation Paradigm 125
-	Abegunde A. A. and Olayiwola, L.M. Sustainable Regional Economy through Indigenous
-	Aina, O.C. Land Use Conversion: A Clog in the Wheel of Effective
-	I. Mbamali and A. Adebayo Potentials of Facilities Management as an Instrument
-	Babajide Ojo and O. T. Ogunmakin Globalization, Information Technology and Nigerian
-	Alaba Simpson Sustainable Strategies for Combating the Problem of
-	Agoha Basil O. The native layout concept; A tool for arresting
-	Aribigbola, A. and Ebehikhalu, O. N. Planning and Sustainable Development: Innovations
	Olusegun A. Ogunba and Emeka Iroham Globalization and Professional Institutions: Challenges
	Esther Foluke Akinsola Psycho – Social Challenges of Nigerian Urban Built
*	Hassan Eunice Modupe and Adejumo Gbadebo Olubunmi Land mis-use: Behavioural Effects of Environmental
-	Afolabi F.I. Sustainability of nature recreation within the Built
-	A.D Ibrahim and A.D Price Public Private Partnership and Sustainable Primary

H

-	Joseph Obe Environmental Journalism and the Challenges of Sustainable Developmeny
-	Egunjobi, Layi and Alabi Moruf Income Generation Imperatives and the Built Environment
-	Julius. A.Olujimi and Dorcas .A. Ayeni Green City project experience: Lessons for Nigeria
•	Alagbe, O.A. Combating the Challenges of rise in Urban slums
•	A. E. Okosun and N. H. Ezeadiche Towards Sustainable Urban Environment: a case study
	Emmanuel O. Omisore and Christopher G. Akande Effects of Globalization on Tourism and the Implications for the Built Environment266
•	A.O. Obabori, Arc. M.O. Ogunrayewa and Barr. R.E. Oni Flooding in our environment (Nigerian experience)
-	Ogbiye .S. Adebanji, Legal aspects of Environmental Control and
	Adewunmi Yewande and Ogunba Olusegun Shaping a Sustainable role for Estate Surveyors and
	G.K. Babawale H.A. Koleoso Real Estate Valuation practice in Nigeria: Implications in a Globalizing World
-	I. D. Obot and Ekan Etim Enhancing Residential outdoor Environments for Sustainable Development
	Adegoke O.J. Appropriate land policy- a vehicle for sustainable development in Nigeria
	Ajibade Ogunjumo, Olufemi Omisore and Adewale amusan Implications of the location of public healthcare facilities
	Omoogun C.B The Centripetal effects of location on rental Values of
	Ogunleye M. Bamidele Enhancing Sustainable Real Estate Investment in Nigeria
Section C:	Housing
-	Dr Graham Tipple (Lead Paper Housing) Ways forward for Housing Supply in Developing Countries: An oblique view
	M. O. Bello and V. A. Bello Sustainable Investment in the Nigerian Housing Sector: What went wrong?
	Jaiyeoba E.B. and Bayo Amole A Conceptual and Theoretical Framework for the Study of Low

Income Housing in Nigeria

-	Ayeni, D. A. and Taiwo, A. A. Innovative Urban Housing Provision and its Sustainability
	Adedeji Daramola and Damola Daramola Cultural values in Nomadic Housing Scheme
-	Adedipe Bamikole Ola and Lasisi A. L The Challenges of Sustainable Provision of Urban
-	Lasisi A. and Adedipe B.O. Government Policy as a disincentive to Housing Innovation in Ogun State, Nigeria
-	Emmanuel Achuenu and Stella A. Achuenu Provision of mass low-cost housing for the rural poor integrating
-	Okunola Segun and Amole Dolapo Key factors in crime and sustainable housing developments406
-	Okewole, I. A. and Aribigbola Afolabi. Housing affordability as key factor to a sustainable housing policy in Nigeria414
-	Odeyale, Timothy Oluseyi Towards a Conceptual Framework of Cluster arrangement for
Section D:	Policy Issues & Technology
-	Professor Akintola Akintoye (Lead Paper Policy Issues) Information and Communication Technology Support
-	Ayo C. K. and J. A. Gbadeyan The Role of Technology in the Built Environment446
-	Surveyor Ojo Aderemi Samuel Globalization and Sustainable Development; Challenges to
-	Ajibade Ogunjumo, Olufemi Omisore and Adewale Amusan Implications of the location of Public Healthcare facilities for458 Sustainability of the Built Environment in Osun State, Nigeria
-	Adedeji Daramola Innovative Policy towards the Housing Scheme for the Nomadic peoples466
-	Jaroslav Machacek Assessment of Urban Environment as a professional challenge
-	Otu Umoren Strategy for ecologically sustainable development in the Built
- 1	Babalola Daniel Olatunde Globanization and the Built Environment
-	Emeka Efe Osaji, John Hudson, Paul Chynoweth and Angela Lee The Spheroidal form in Architectural Morphology; Focus on the greater London

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The Built Environment: Innovation, Policy & Sustainable Development

LAND MIS-USE: BEHAVIOURAL EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Mis-use of land is now a threat to human survival because of its impact on environment and other social implications. This paper sought to identify various forms of land mis-use and to highlights som of its attendant implications. This article uses a cross-national data available on land mis-use to substantiate its claims. The result indicated that most public and private landowners tamper with land resources without considering its impact on the well being of the eco-system as a whole. The concernis limited to the financial costs and technical feasibility of projects intended to meet immediate narrow defined objectives. Behavioural implication of environmental pollution and implementating of sustainable development plan as means of evolving solutions to problems that may arise from land mis-use were highlighted.

Key words: Land Mis-Use; Behavioural Effects; Environmental Pollution, Sustainable Developm

Introduction

It is difficult to define the term 'land misuse' because the notion of the misuse of land is a subjective judgment what some people may consider wasteful or destructive may be acceptable or even desirable to others. A dam across a river in the desert may be praised for providing flood control. generating hydroelectric power, and creating a reserviour that supplies irrigation water or offers recreational opportunities. The same dam may be condemned for drowning an area of spectacular beauty, destroying habitat for plant and animal species, and encouraging urbanization and agriculture in a region that is ill suited to either. Nevertheless, many forms of land use, including construction, opencast mining, agriculture and forestry, involve disturbing or removing vegetation cover. When this disturbance generates further environmental and economic problems, the land may reseasonably be considered misused. At this juncture, it is pertinent to state that it is land misuse of this nature that this paper focuses upon. Neubeck and Neubeck (1997) asserted that when public or private landowners tamper with land resources without regarding the well being of the eco-system as a whole, the cumulative effects of such land misuse pose a serious threat to the future of mankind.

Lloyd (1962) author of *Africa in crisis* points out that Africa has "taken too much from its land. It has overdrawn its environmental accounts," and the result for much of the

"environm continent has been bankruptcy" Darkoh (1997) opined that "environmental bankruptcy" has come about a a result of an intricate process of land degradation whereby the biological potentia of the continent and its ability to support populations is severely diminished. Accord to Darkoh, Desertification is the term that has recently been given to this process. Its man causes are drought, desiccation and human activities. He defined desiccation as a process of aridification resulting from dry a dry period lasting in order of decades. He emphasize the human activities include overcultive overgrazing, deforestation, poor irrigat practices and other inappropriate land use and human management of eco-systems. Scarpi and Andersen (1992) observed that the United States now uses 1.1 billion pound of agricultural pesticides on land crops each year The extensive use of these pesticide has already threatened many species of wildli and the effects on humans may be seriou Between 1985 and 1995 according to in IBRD (World Bank) the development of day for hydroelectric power and water conservation projects, the conduction of forestry and mining, the establishment of parks, the construction of transport corridors, and the growth of urban centres collectively resulted in the involuntary resettlement of as many as 10 million people. Not all of the develop displace people but many deny the right a local people to participate in decision affecting land-use.

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The global population is growing ever larger and so the demand for food also grows. This demand has led an increasing amount of land being converted for farming, even when the land is unsuitable or of marginal value, and even when the consequences of farming may be disastrous. In central and south Africa for instance the introduction of cattle rearing to novide beef for export markets in the United States, Japan, and Europe has resulted in widespread deforestation to create grazing land. Since the pasture is often of poor quality, large areas may be needed to support relatively few animals. Furthermore, as it is expensive to maintain grazing land of even this low quality, the easy option is to clear more forest rather than investing in fertilizer or reducing herd. Size sustainable levels.

Currently, there is a growing recognition of the need for perceived environmental quality indices as a major component of the comprehensive assessment of environmental fuality for policy formulation and decisionmaking. Such indices can assist in producing data on both favorable and unfavorable human mactions to characteristics of land, as well as to more complex features of the environment. The need to have continuous quality invironment has partly given rise to the idea or concept of sustainable development. Sustainable development demands ways of living, working and being that enable all people of the world to lead healthy, fulfilling, and economically secure lives without destroying the environment and without indangering the future welfare of people and the planet. Since the amount of land is effectively finite, the rapidly growing global population ensures that competition for land must increase; attitude, which takes into account the long-term consequences of different land uses, will optimize benefits for the greatest number of the planet's inhabitants, including human race.

Key issues in understanding the factors involved in land Mis-use.

1. Urban development and suburban sprawl. It is not uncommon to find the linking of major cities by strips of densely populated, developed land; airport and highway construction; and the creation of reservoirs and large-scale flood control of projects. Good as these are to urban development, the negative implication cannot be winked at. Part of the effects of these developments is the fact that each year, approximately a million across of rural land are gobbled up. Farmlands are turned over to other uses. Irreplaceable marches and wet-lands-the environmental niches in which many species of organisms breed and survive – disappear permanently. Such land misuse spreads pollution of all types and eliminates areas that previously had recreational value.

2.Strip mining. Strip mining involves ripping the natural covering off the land (including hills and mountain sides) in orders to get at the mineral seams. This is followed by blasting and gonging so that the seams can be fully exposed for removal. The consequence is often complete destruction of natural contours. Vegetation and wildlife are uprooted, their niches in the ecosystem destroyed. Drainage from such mining areas, containing acids and sediments, contaminates inland waters to the detriment of aquatic life.

3. Dumping of waste materials on land anyhow. The littering of the landscape with all kinds of trash from bottles to automobiles, make land pollution the most visible – and aesthetically disgusting – environmental menace solid waste is typically disposed of by burying it in landfills, burning it, and sometimes recycling it. In some cases it is dumped into the ocean. Except for recycling, all of the traditional disposal methods create problems of land. They spoil the beauty of the land and seascape.

4. Construction of dams, canals and waterways Dredging, draining, filling, and changing the natural routes of streams and rivers have all been done were without concern for the environmental consequences. As a result, the habitants of fish and animals have been destroyed, land has been taken away from other uses, and water pollution has occurred.

6. Highways and roads; Roads are viewed as having precipitated loss of tropical forests by opening forest areas to logging. The loss of tropical forests is a global concern because of its impact on biodiversity and climate. (Chomits and Gray 1996)

7. Exploitation of the nation's public and private forest lands. Commercial operations in timber reserves have increasingly taken the farm of 'clear cutting', in which large areas are stripped of all the trees, leaving behind only short stumps. Clear cutting negatively alters soil conditions, since removal of forest covering exposes soil to the weather, weakening its nutrient properties. Land erosion increases, and streams becomes choked with debris and sediments. Again, vegetation and wildlife habitants are despoiled (Devil 1995). **8.** Overgrazing of land; Greene (1991) noted that overgrazing is an example of damage and unsustainable exploitation of environment.

9. The use of pesticides on farm products ;The accumulation pesticides in the soil may have negative impact on human's health. The extensive use of pesticides has already threatened many species of wildlife, such as the bald eagle and brown pelican, with extinction. Their effects on human may be just as serious

10. Population growth rate The staggering, population growth rate in developing countries, has placed unbearable pressure on the environment in these countries. The present momentum in population growth in these countries is greater than what the resources can cope with. Thus man produces resources for survival under ecological destruction conditions.

11. Chemical fertilizers The use of chemical fertilizers on crops no doubt help in increasing crop yields. Nevertheless, the negative side effects on land cannot be overemphasized. Chemical fertilizers diminish the land's natural capacity to support growth, the result of which will force mankind to depend moiré heavily on synthetic chemicals to grow food. Even now, it has been found that nitrates from chemical fertilizers can cause an often fatal disease in infants, called methemoglobinemia (Lukens 1987).

12. Soil Erosion The problem of rapidly increasing population pressures on the fragile and vulnerable soils of Africa's dry land regions translates into over exploitation of water, land, forest and pasture resources through over cultivation, overgrazing, deforestation and poor irrigation practices. The resulting erosion and degradation of productive lands has led to food scarcity. The key problem is soil erosion. Soil, the thin layer of top-soil on which our survival depends, is a non-renewable resource. For nature to form a layer of top-soil thick enough to support plant life takes thousands of years. Through human misuse, the layer can be destroyed in a few decades, once eroded its loss is permanent. This is desertification.

Obstacles In The Way Of Eliminating Land Mis-Use

Environmental abuse occurs as humans violate basic principles of ecology. Polluting the air and water, spreading radioactivity into the atmosphere, increasing levels of noise, creating numerous waste, and consuming irreplaceable resources – all affect the global ecosystem of which land is inclusive since human beings are part of the ecosystem, we too are affected by these activities. Many obstacles stand in the way of eliminating land misuse. Ignorance is a serious problem. Cultural drives, apath economic considerations and political hurdle seem to work against the elimination.

Land Mis-Use And Sustainabi Development In Nigeria

Towards sustainable development of land and land misuse from counseling perspective

Sustainable development is defined by the Brundland Commission's Report, (1987) as a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development and institutional change are in harmony. It is developments that meet the need of the present without hindering the meeting of future need of coming generations.

Kobiowu, Ojerinde and Alao (2005) points out that the principle of sustainab development demands that in human quest for improved quality of life, and the exercise of human right, there is strong need to adopt a careful planned approach to the environmend in a way that the capacity, of these resources to cater for the needs of other generations will not live only for the now, but also hold the futurd earnestly in view.

Sustainable development focuses on improvi the quality of life for all of the earth's citizen without increasing the use of natural resourced beyond the capacity of the environment to supply them indefinitely. It requires an understanding that inaction has consequent and that we must find innovative ways to change institutional structures and influend individual behaviour.

The Nigerian government has place considerable emphasis on sustainat development. An understanding of the variou ways by which development efforts in the selected sectors can proceed in a manner that is environment friendly will be helpful in achieving the goals of sustainability. In so far as any given resource is not renewable, and to the extent that any sectoral project is based on such a resource it would not be sustainab The key to sustainable environmental resource utilization therefore is sound environment policy and management, which is lacking in this country.

Development can be understood in terms of economic growth, modernization, social economic transformation, and distributi justice [Mabogunje, 1981]. Whichever way development is a dynamic process of

upward movement of the entire social system..." (Myrdal, 1968), or the attainment of a number of ideals of modernization such as "... rise in productivity ... and a rationally coordinated system of policy measures that can remove a host of undesirable conditions that (perpetuate) a state of underdevelopment" Black, [1966] paraphrased in Meier, [1976:] is of specific relevance in the present context, the notion of economic development as the process whereby the real per capita income of an area increases over a long period of time in such a way that the number of people below an absolute poverty line does not increase, and the distribution of income does not become more unequal.

Land ownership for the poor provides mechanisms to ensure sustainable and efficient use, because of the need to care for it for their survival. Diverting productive land for nonproductive uses (tobacco, growing flowers for export markets, etc); And because food is a *pommodity*, then it is those who can afford to pay, that will get food.

Millions of acres of potentially productive farmland is used to pasture cattle, an extremely inefficient use of land, water and energy, but one for which there is a market in wealthy countries. More than half the grain grown in the United States (requiring half the water used in the U.S.) is fed to livestock, grain that would feed far more people than would the livestock to which it is fed. ... The problem, of course, is that people who don't have enough money to buy food (and more than one billion people earn less than \$1.00 a day), simply don't count in the food equation.

In other words, if one doesn't have the money to buy food, no one is going to grow it for such a person. What this means is that ending hunger requires doing away with poverty, or, at the very least, ensuring that people have enough money or the means to acquire it, to buy, and hence create a market demand for food. more marginal land has to be used for food and subsistence farming, which may require clearing more rainforest, or other forms of encroachment on other ecosystems..

Behavioural Impacts

Counselling psychologists are interested in 'behaviour – environment' relations. They focus on human interaction with specific aspects of the "physical environment" (Wohlwill; 1970), including both the built and the natural environment. It is on this premise that this paper seeks to find means of changing policy and practice at all levels, from the individual to the international with the focus of implementing sustainable development plans on land and land use from counselling perspective.

Rehabilitating people who have just experienced natural or man-made disaster or empowering the poor through counseling service has been described as a process where the counselor works collaboratively with the clients to understand existing problems, barriers, and potentials in order to facilitate the clients' effective use of personal and environmental resources for career, personal, social, and community adjustment. (Jacques,, 1959). In carrying out this multifaceted process, rehabilitation counselors must be prepared to assist individuals in adapting to the environment, to assist environments, including employer settings, in accommodating the needs of the individual, and to work toward the full participation of individuals in all aspects of society, with a particular focus on career aspirations (Szymanski, 1985). Most rehabilitation counselors assess client needs, work with the client to develop goals and individualized plans to meet identified needs, and provide or arrange for the services and interventions (e.g., psychological, medical, social, behavioral) needed by the client, including job placement and follow-up services (Jenkins, Patterson, & Szymanski, Throughout the individualized 1992). vocational rehabilitation and settlement process, counseling skills are an essential component of all activities. Specialized knowledge of disabilities or devastation, environmental factors that interact with these, resources for assisting persons in such needs, as well as vocational knowledge and assessment skills required, all serve to differentiate the rehabilitation counselor from social workers, other types of counselors, and other rehabilitation practitioners in today's service delivery environments (Jenkins et al., 1992; Leahy & Szymanski, 1995). Developing countries like Nigeria should take precautionary measures because of lack of facilities to face the consequences of disasters that land misuse may cause.

Unfortunately, however, several human activities, such as bush fallow, inappropriate technologies, overpopulation, transhumance, overgrazing, deforestation without adequate reforestation and profligate exploitation of mineral resources that are common in Nigeria, are often not in tune with proper environmental management practices. The obvious result of these activities is the increasing inability of the environment to provide the necessary sustenance to agricultural and T1205 development programmes because of erosion,

desertification and pollution which may lead to disability in case of flood and increase poverty in the land. To obviate the adverse effects of the land misuse and possible mismanagement of the environment and reduce the cases of rehabilitation of persons efforts must be made to follow the suggestions in this study

Politicians, policy-makers, academics, and committed citizens have long recognized the dangers of land misuse. The reality is that in Nigeria, in the last century, many acres of land have disappeared, in large part, as a consequence of land-misuse—that includes oil, gas, and timber extraction; industrial, commercial, agricultural, and residential development.

These economic activities required erosioncausing modifications to the landscape such as canals, levees, and drainage. Many wetlands dredged provided invaluable flood protection by acting as a sponge to soak-up the menace of storm surge. In fact, before these new 'protections' were built, healthy periodic floods depositing nutrient-rich sediments were actually increasing out coastal areas. Where land once stood is now open water, especially in Lagos, providing fuel to the furry of floods

What then are the causes and effects [long and short term] of land *mis-use* in Nigeria? The effects of improper land-clearing methods, bush burning for example, are observed even 8-10 years after the land has been cleared, and especially when the overall soil fertility has drastically declined. Adopting a land-use system that may produce, say, 60-80 per cent of maximum returns and that avoids causing environmental degradation is a better choice than land-use systems that bring high shortterm returns but severely degrade the resource base as the practice in this country.

The increase in population density implies increased land use intensity which may lead to increased incidence of conflicts over control of available stock of resources and thus, disruption of economic activities, increased soil erosion and diminished soil fertility and productivity. The direct soil productivity effect of increased population density is to lower per capita agricultural output and income. Similarly, increased population density leads to higher net forest resource extraction rates and subsequent deforestation and associated bio-diversity losses, higher net mineral resources extraction rates and associated land degradation. The cumulative effect of all these is steady decline in the quality and quality of the environmental resource base and hence, lower degree of (agricultural and industrial sectors) development sustainability in the country.

How land is used to produce food etc. can have enormous impacts on the environment and its sustainability.. Junk-food chains, including KFC and Pizza Hut, are under attack from major environmental groups in the United States and other developed countries because of their environmental impact. Intensive breeding of livestock and poultry as the case in the country without regulations leads to deforestation. land degradation. and contamination of water sources and other natural resources. For every pound of red meat, poultry, eggs, and milk produced, farm fields lose about five pounds of irreplaceable top soil. The water necessary for meat breeding comes to about 190 gallons per animal per day, or ten times what a normal family is supposed to use in one day, if it gets water at all. Overall, animal farms use nearly 40 percent of the world's total grain production. In the United States, nearly 70 percent of grain production is fed to livestock.[Vandana Serah, 20001

The consumption patterns in the country increase demands for various foods, flowers textiles, coffee, etc. Combined with commercial interests in things like tobacco and with input-intensive agricultural practice (including using herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers, even if their use is becoming more technically efficient) the diversion, and misuse of land and the associated environment damage in unsustainable methods adds up to cause poverty.

Conclusion And Recommendation

The formulation of economic plans and policies, which take into cognizance the peculiarities of Nigeria farmers and environment so that all participants can make appropriate and commensurate contributions in maintaining environmental quality, promoted development. Agriculture should be highly focused because it is an activity of general public interest, not only because it supplied food and raw materials but because it helps to conserve natural resources and the employmen environment, provides opportunities, recycle wasted and serves to maintain and enhance the quality and attractiveness of rural areas.

Therefore, at the planning stage of any construction. an environmental impac assessment of development plans must be in to prevent harmful made order environmental effects in such areas as irrigation of farmland, dam construction and large-scale agricultural developmet programmes.

Burveys of activities susceptible to ivironmental hazards should be periodically indertaken. Such surveys should include the collection and review of available surveys and inventories in order to identify specific sources hazards. The review should also include loss of soil productivity, depletion of grazing lands, and rate of deforestation. Also of importance in the review are the inter-relationships between ecological conditions, types and intensities of land use and management ractices. Since local diversities exist in soil and climate, the availability of land use papabilities maps should serve as a basis for zoning and land use legislation.

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