



**THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF MALNUTRITION AND THE
UNLIBERATABLE CAPITALIST TRANSFORMATION OF THE NIGERIAN
FOOD CULTURE**

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SUMMARY OF PRESENTER'S BIODATA

Abdullahi Sule-Kano, simply known as Sule-Kano in the Academic Staff Union of University, (ASUU) circle and amongst Nigerian university scholars is a Political Economist and a trade union activist.

Born in 1956 to the family of Suleiman Dan Abba popularly known as Captain Sule Kano, from Waddau, Dungurawa, Dawakin Tofa Local Government, Kano State. His father started his career as a soldier under the colonial state, which was later transformed into the Nigerian Army and rose through the ranks to retire as a Lieutenant Colonel. He died at the age 82.

Abdullahi attended Dawakin Tofa Primary School and Government Secondary School Rano, School of Basic Studies, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, where he graduated with a B.Sc. International Studies, M.Sc. Political Science and PhD in Political Science with specialisation in Political Economy.

Abdullahi joined the services of University of Sokoto, which was later renamed Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS), in 1983. He rose through the ranks and served as Examinations Officer, Coordinator Postgraduate Programme, later Head of Political Science Department in UDUS and later transferred his services to Bayero University, Kano, in 2014.

He served as ASUU Branch Chairperson UDUS, 1992 – 1995. Vice President ASUU 2001 – 2004. ASUU President 2004 – 2008. President, Nigerian Political Science Association, (NPSA), 2011 – 2015. He is a Trustee of ASUU since 2015 to date.

Professor Abdullahi Sule-Kano was Director of the Directorate of Research, Innovation and Partnership (DRIP), Bayero University, Kano, 2015 – 2018. He was also Chairperson, Board of Directors of the Nigerian University Pension Management Company, NUPEMCO, 2021 – 2024. Professor Abdullahi served two terms as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Bayero University, Kano, from 2021 to 2025.

He attended the Leadership in Higher Education – Senior Executive Programme of the Oxford Academy for Education and Development, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom in June 2015. He also attended the Leadership in University Financial Affairs Programme of the Oxford Academy for Education and Development in Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom in September 2015.

He has supervised and graduated four PhD students at both BUK and UDUS and numerous MSc. Political Science graduates.

Professor Abdullahi Sule-Kano contributed to the Palgrave MacMillan's *Handbook of African Political Economy*. He edited and contributed to the *Book on Governance, Economy and Development in Africa* (a publication of the Brain Gain Books for African Renaissance). He has written and published several articles in both local and international journals.

Professor Abdullahi Sule-Kano was awarded the Council for Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) Grant for Thesis Writing, and McArthur Foundation Fund for Leadership Development Grant.

Professor Abdullahi Sule-Kano is a member of THE Nigerian Political Science Association (NPSA), African Political Science Association (APSA), and Oxonian University Network, Oxford, United Kingdom.



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INTRODUCTION

Part of the greatest contributions of political economy as a field of study in political science and social sciences in general is the advancement of deep knowledge of capitalist mode of production. At the level of epistemology, this advancement has made possible for further in-depth exploration of micro impact of capitalism in interrupted and underdeveloped economies penetrated by capitalist mode of production at its most advanced stage of development, which is imperialism. The topic of this lecture takes the study of political economy to the micro level of dietetics and human malnutrition under the gamut of food politics and precisely imperialist-instigated food transformation of the newly captured enclaves transiting into capitalist development that requires special attention of multi-disciplinary scholars whose disciplines were related to the study of politics of food, and the strategic path for patriotic national development.

The salient phenomenon that compels the attention of scholars interested in indigenous food culture and nutrition is the impact of capitalist food culture on the dietetics of the Nigerian people. Coupled with the decline of indigenous knowledge in food and nutrition, due to the pressure of the neo-liberal capitalist transformation and local food production crisis. One of the most important but neglected areas of study for food and nutrition in Nigeria presently is in the country's indigenous dietetics, which is under siege, most especially, if one takes into cognizance the dominant trend of bastardisation in the indigenous food culture and knowledge areas. This is an area that was under the influence of neo-liberal perspective, which cannot be unconnected with the dominant direction of movement instigated by imperialist interests in capitalist innovations in Nigeria's food culture. Here lies the significance of the entry point of political economy into this aspect of food politics.

POLITICAL ECONOMY

Transcending on the neo-liberal distortions, political economy is not simply politics plus economics. In the most basic sense, political economy is a science that studies social relations amongst humans as they connect to the production, distribution, exchange, and consumption of the necessities of human life, Sule-Kano, A. (2020). The epistemological foundation for political economy lies in the principles of

historical, dialectical, and materialist perspective in the creation of knowledge, Ilitskeya, L. (1978). The examination of political economy of malnutrition in a class society that is in the transient stage of capitalist development, from a pre-capitalist mode to capitalism, like Nigeria, the point of departure is understanding what political economy is, in relation to the nature of the *economic base* of the *social formation*, Sule-Kano, A. (1990).

The basic concern of political economy is with material production. This has to do with the production of food, clothing, shelter, and other vital necessities, which is the basis of human existence. The process of the production of these vital necessities for human existence involves:

- a) the interaction between human and nature;
- b) labour;
- c) object of labour; and
- d) means of labour.

Labour refers to a purposeful human activity aimed at adapting natural objects to satisfying human needs. It involves knowledge and skills. Objects of labour are things found in the natural environment to which humans apply their labour, for example, topsoil as a universal object of labour for agricultural production. Means of labour refers to the things humans use to act on upon objects of labour, which is instrument of labour.

When the *means of labour* and *object of labour* are put together, they become *means of production*. Note that the two elements cannot produce anything unless labour acts on them. The means of production plus people with their skills and experience constitute the *productive forces* of the *social formation*. The productive forces and relations of production comprise the *mode of production*. Mode of production defines the interplay of the forces of production and the type of relations of production existing in the social formation. In class societies, classes are part of the conglomeration of the forces that shape the social formation.

MALNUTRITION

Malnutrition is the ultimate manifestation of food crisis in human societies, Sule-Kano, A (1990). Until recently, it was the domain of medical and para-medical scholars who document and analysed most of the evidence known in human history. Their concern has been with empirical evidence of inadequate dietary intake and related diseases, which could be the immediate causes of malnutrition. Moving a little further to understanding the underlying causes of malnutrition, attention must

be focused on livelihood security, as against the traditional area of insufficient household food security, inadequate maternal and childcare, insufficient health services and an unhealthy environment (Jonsson, U. and Daniel, T., 1991). Malnutrition simply means bad or faulty nutrition. Protein-calorie malnutrition therefore means bad or faulty nutrition involving protein and calorie. Such nutrition may be bad or faulty either because it is insufficient or more than what the human body requires. In this case therefore, protein calorie malnutrition could be said to be a worldwide problem affecting both developing and developed countries. In the context of this presentation the concern is that faulty calorie and protein intake of the Nigerian people, insufficient or otherwise, is under siege, under the gamut of capitalist transformation of production and food culture (Okello, O., 1987).

The distribution of protein-calorie malnutrition shows that during peace time and absence of natural catastrophes, it constitutes a major problem only in those parts of the world known as the Third World. About 85% of the world population reside in that part of the world, which translates to around 6.7 to 6.9 billion people out of the total 8 billion, (worldometer.info). Malnutrition is geographically confined to tropical and sub-tropical regions in Africa, Asia, and Latin-America. Despite this geographical proximity, there seems to be consensus in all medical literature that protein-calorie malnutrition is not a tropical disease like malaria, schistosomiasis, and filariases. Protein-calorie malnutrition is not transmissible to every person living in the Third World, simply because of his/her residence in these countries. Furthermore, it is not a universal disease like measles which can occur and affect any susceptible individual in any part of the world under any climatic conditions. But then what is it?

Protein-calorie under-nutrition is the disease of the poor, disadvantaged, and exploited class. Wherever and whenever it occurs as a problem, it is usually preceded by common etiological denominators namely – a condition of economic challenge, or poor economic status at the national and/or individual level. Although some schools of thought have attributed ignorance and traditional eating habits to be the main factors in the development of the problems of malnutrition, Collis, W. R. F. *et al.* (1962), Umoh J. B. (1977), Njoku, J. E. (1980). It could be observed that these schools of thought have not considered the disruptive history of colonialism in the process of global capitalist development in the affected areas, Sule-Kano, A. (2002). At the beginning, they did not recognise the historical fact that nature provided all social formations with an eco-system with the capacity to provide its own balanced food culture and dietary set up for satisfactory humane existence. Furthermore, they failed to recognise the socio-economic and political base of ignorance. This is

because in Nigeria as in other Third World countries, ignorance mostly arises from illiteracy which in turn stems from the failure of governments to provide adequate resources for education of most of the population. Therefore, it can be argued that ignorance is an economic handicap on the side of the disadvantaged and exploited class, and in fact as much an economic disease as protein–calorie malnutrition.

Furthermore, it should be noted that ignorance is not synonymous with illiteracy, and formal education must be differentiated from health education. This is important because even in the advanced countries, situation exist where mothers despite their formal education, were quite ignorant about infant feeding and some aspects of childcare in general. But in these countries, if a mother wants to wean her child, she does not go for maize pap alone, because dairy products and other protein rich products were available and affordable. The child therefore does develop kwashiorkor even though the mother had no deliberate intention to prevent the disease. If, however, the mother happens to be poor and live in a Third World country, even though she was not so ignorant, her child will fail to get the essential food required for healthy growth and may likely suffer from chronic under-nutrition leading to stunted development.

THE BASIC CAUSES OF FOOD CRISIS, AND MALNUTRITION

The above discussions were about the manifestations of malnutrition amongst the populace of indigenous Africans residing in the Nigeria area and beyond. The basic causes have to do with the characteristic features of agricultural production crisis, particularly the agrarian food production sector that was plunged into the capitalist agricultural production system. This had its roots in the agricultural production process for capitalist production interest that was set in motion during the colonial period. This was the moment of the incorporation of peasant economies into the global capitalist system, which had to do with the introduction of the new international division of labour; the creation of the new normal, which prevails into the post-colonial period as a grand design of global imperialism, Sule-Kano, A. (2012). Here lies the root cause of malnutrition amongst the population of the Third World. It is for this reason that a proper understanding of food production crisis and malnutrition must be grounded in the history of colonial capitalism.

African peasant societies were not only conquered and dominated, but also had their productive economic activities redirected to the dominant interests of international capitalism. Historically, most African social formations were engaged in agricultural production. The pre-capitalist mode of production was rooted in the communality of the peasant household production and cooperative ties at the village level. These

relations of production were what constituted a standard of its own and *Modus Vivendi* – a mode of living. All these happened through the means of traditional technology and the productive capacity of the peasant producers, which maintained relative harmony with the food culture, dietetics, and nutritional base of the overall peasant economic activities. Although some researchers have documented the existence of substantial trading activities within Africa before the beginning of colonial era, the degree of commercialisation in agriculture was not significant to cause destabilisation in the mode of production, Shanton, R. W. (1985).

The turning point of agrarian food crisis, going by the experience of the Sokoto Caliphate, was that moment after which effective colonial administrative control was established over political and economic destiny of the peasant communities. The colonial war machine was first to set into motion the destabilisation of the peasant food production process. This was done not only forcing the peasant producers to flee from the war ravage areas, but also by deliberate act of some intermittent terroristic attacks to subdue the peasant settlements through humiliation for some time after conquest. In the Sokoto area, the period between 1903 and 1910 marked the moment of initiation into vicious circles of poverty. The first stage was that of destabilisation of the peasant organisational process to limit their resistance efforts. This condition had led to the collapse of some peasant families. For those families that survived the atrocities of the colonial authorities, they had to confront the severe problem of the household food demand for their general upkeep, most especially with the case of relations whose male adults were forced into exile.

The second stage was that of getting the full grip over the peasantry. This was achieved with the collaboration of the traditional ruling class through the instrumentality of Indirect Rule, and the colonial taxation policies, in which taxes were paid in cash with the British colonial currency. The objective was to force the peasants to produce agricultural products required by the British industries, or be forced to sell their labour to mines, colonial construction industry, or any capitalist venture. The third stage was the completion of the institutionalisation of the colonial state and its effective takeover of the control of state.

COLONIALISM, AGRARIAN FOOD CRISIS, AND MALNUTRITION

The incorporation of the Nigeria area into a single colonial state was followed by the establishment of the organs of state's administration, component of the colonial economic system, a security force, regional administrative structures, and colonial bureaucracy. The composition of the framework for exchange relations as an instrument for the overall dynamics of the capitalist network to service the colonial

capitalist economic system had to be accomplished and got appropriate recognition. Up to the first decade of the colonial occupation there were no big traders in Sokoto Province. The volume of trade passing through was small. Jega, was a principal trade centre in the period, but was more in nature of exchange or as a transit depot, and the local trade was considered small by the colonial authorities. The local trade passing through Jega in 1906 was valued at £15,131:8:3 for export and £38,706:8:6 for imports. The articles for trade were livestock, foodstuffs and locally made goods according to Goldsmith, the Acting Resident of the province. He further restated the firm position of the colonial authorities on revenue collection from the markets, that “should the traders refuse to pay a reasonable tribute, the executive of the native administration is employed to enforce payment.” (Goldsmith, 1907).

The traditional rulership, who were seen by peasantry as collaborators of the colonial authorities, who did operationalise the imperial policies under the grand strategy of indirect rule, used such opportunities as licence to brutalise and expropriate the peasantry. Although the central leadership of the colonially-designated sultanate was able to maintain its spiritual respect, as apostles of the religion and custodians of divine leadership, the greater portion of the ruling hierarchy, more especially, from the district head downwards, those that were directly linked with the brutal colonial laws, were increasingly becoming distrusted by the peasantry. Resident Webstar noted in 1922:

As reported in 1920/21, the village administration which should be the backbone of the whole Native Administration appeared to be weak, and the village heads to be of no repute; indeed, they were spoken of most contemptuously by the Sultan, district heads, and the peasantry. Careful probing confirms my first impression that this was principally due to the disintegration of the old village system.

- Webstar, G. W. (1922).

The miserable condition of the peasantry increasingly deteriorated with the ascending pressure of colonial taxation. The constant harassment from dubious traditional chiefs whose direct participation in the process of colonial extraction of the peasant surplus not only alienated themselves from the poor peasants but also intensified the expropriation of whatever was possible from the peasantry. The condition of the peasantry of the Sokoto area was made worse by the nature of their agricultural economy, which was primarily suitable for grazing, production of rice, millets and sorghum that were not in demand as cash crops or export crops, Sule-Kano, A. (1995). What made the situation worse as regard the expropriation of

colonial taxation was the increase, almost in geometrical fashion, of what was extorted from the peasantry, which had overstretched the capacity of the peasant farmer's food production, the main source of money for taxation and the fundamental basis for the household food consumption and as well as other household financial obligations.

Considering the unfavourable pricing for foodstuffs in the new capitalist-oriented colonial market, at the slightest increase in rate of taxation and crop failure, the peasant food producers were plunged into the condition of famine, hunger and malnutrition. Under such conditions, the only options left for the vulnerable members of the peasantry was to migrate from what was described by Webstar, as the "very fertile valleys of Gulbin Sokoto" and "excellent grazing district" of the very heart of the most fertile closed settle zone of the former Caliphate. Substantial number of the members of the peasant households had to leave for Cirani, to search for menial jobs, to get money to pay tax and deal with family needs. Resident Webstar noted the development in his 1922 Annual Report where he said: "...very large number had left the western districts on account of famine, going to the east of the province (i.e. Zamfara, and Kaura Namoda areas where the production of export crops, dominantly cotton and groundnuts were prominent) or even to Zaria, Kano, and Bauchi in search of work and food." Sule-Kano, A (1995).

The extent of the predicament of the peasants in this area could be seen with the subsequent discovery of cash crops that could do well in the agricultural zone. The introduction of Virginian tobacco in 1951, which proved capable of selling well in the colonial markets, was received with tremendous response. It was observed by the colonial agricultural officer during the period: "the high value of the tobacco crop had impressed the peasantry – in Gwandu for example when seven pioneers were sought, more than one hundred applicants presented themselves." Webstar, G. W. (1925). It was in this manner the colonial state introduced tactfully, and systematically to the Nigerian peasantry agricultural policies and crops that were geared to facilitate the primary economic interest of colonial capitalism. Along with the principal intent of the colonial tax system, which was to serve headway in actual shaping the logic of peasant production, the creation of a new political economy was the policy objective.

Colonial taxation had not only made it possible for the colonial state to extract surpluses from peasant producers though the appropriation of their produce needed in the British capitalist industries. Furthermore, it also facilitated the monetisation of the peasant economies through the introduction of the British currency Tukur, M. M.

(1979), which provided the basis of their commoditisation of the peasant economies through an intensified effort for commercialisation of the peasant production. Furthermore, just as in the case of the French colonial territories, where forced labour was used in the construction and maintenance of roads, culverts and administrative posts, Jean, S. C. (1971), British colonial authorities also coerced the local peoples through the traditional ruling collaborators to build roads, railways, carry loads, clear streams, and build irrigation facilities, Webstar, G. W. (1925).

No sooner were all the colonial state policies implemented that the impact of colonial capitalist transformation started manifesting themselves on the agricultural economies of the various societies affected in the Nigerian colony. In the emirates of northern Nigeria as a whole, colonial Residents reported decline in the local economy and linked the decline with the imposition of British colonialism, Tukur, M. M. (1979). The damage became manifested as the agricultural base of the peasantry was distorted, the local industrial base destroyed, and indigenous commercial transactions transcended by colonial capitalist transactions. Young and able men were forced to leave their localities to seek work in the mines or join the colonial service as soldiers, police, labourers, and domestic servants. With the influx of British firms backed by the colonial state the peasantry was pounced upon with all sorts of exploitative transactions that ripped off all surpluses generated by the peasant agricultural producers. Peasants' produce was bought at ridiculous prices, sometime even less than half of the normal market price. Cotton for instance, was bought for one penny per pound weight by the imperialist firms, while the actual market price was one and half pence per pound weight, Tukur, M. M. (1979).

The results of these colonial machinations were famines, hunger, malnutrition, poverty and diseases amongst the poor peasant families, as labour was diverted from food production to the production of export commodities and other services for the colonial state. The implications of all these were that the shock-absorbing mechanisms of the peasantry that guarded against disasters and prevented famine and mass hunger were undermined by the colonial state. By 1925 the colonial state report on famine had it that:

By 1926, the harvest of foodstuffs in northern provinces and particularly the more northern areas were not up to the average and consequently in many parts reserves became depleted. In 1926 rains in most provinces ceased earlier than usual and the result was a partial failure of the harvest and subsequent failure of prices of foodstuffs to come down to the normal post-harvest levels.

- (Carrow, J. H., 1928).

Consequently, famine engulfed parts of northern provinces with Kano, Zaria, and Sokoto being the worse hit by the disaster. For Kano and Zaria, it was clear that the production of export crops increasingly threatened that of the food crops. While in Sokoto the movement of labour away from the Sokoto Closed Zone undermined food production, which was not Profitable and could not sustain the peasant food producer, considering the increase of the pressure of taxation that kept mounting. By 1930 famine had also engulfed the southern part of the Sokoto Province, an area that formed part of the highest rainfall zone of the province. Between 1931 and 1932, with traumatic impact of capitalist crisis penetrating the veins of the agrarian peasant production, some form of intervention became inevitable. In Dabai Emirate, the situation was precarious to the extent that other emirates surrounding Dabai had to come together to assist to avoid an impending catastrophe. This was the condition that led the colonial authorities to overspend on the corn vote in Sokoto to help alleviate the condition of Dabai Emirate. The crisis was so prominent for the suspicion it raised in the official circles of the local authority's account and management, which had the colonial authorities to intervene and introduce a new account system whereby "... the United African Company (UAC) was to buy corn for Sokoto Emirate. This was to relieve the native authority from keeping the account and storage, Carrow, J. H. (1935a).

By late 1930s the individual and combined effects of capitalist transformation of pre-capitalist societies of Northern Nigeria had reached an advanced stage. It not only redirected the logic of the agrarian peasant production, to the tune of the dominant capitalist system, which had taken over the overall political economy. But also set in motion the reshaping of what was dominantly the pre-capitalist feudal social structure into a burgeoning capitalist social structure. The metamorphosis of the capitalist system of social classes was ensued around this period. In Sokoto Emirate alone, by 1939 during the outbreak of the World War II, the colonial records had it that:

The estimated floating casual labour in the emirate amounting to 5,000 men who were ex-tin and gold miners or agricultural labourers but not settled farmers. They are employed at present to certain extent, by district and village heads and other capitalist farmers.

- Carrow, J. H. (1935b).

Although the character of the burgeoning capitalist social class may appear insignificant, more especially with the prevailing dominance of the peasant house production, the most prominent issue to recognise was the notable feature of the peasant economy under the dominant capitalist system. This was a position whereby

all economic activities of the peasantry were articulated under the interest of capitalist production. Moreover, the peasant economy had been successfully transformed by capitalism under the condition that made the intensification of commodity relations and production for domestic and international markets consistent with the dominant forms of peasant production schema. This is because it is possible that capital exerts control over peasant production process without fully expropriating the direct producers (David, G., and Micheal, R. (1981)). The capitalist transformation of the central logic of the peasant production, which has diverted the energy of the peasant producer into production of export crops, was in diametrical opposite direction of well-fed and healthy peasant farmers who constituted most of the labour force in the colony. But for the ambivalent nature of imperialism, colonial capitalism was sustained at a level that pretended not to be aware or responsible of the backwardness and changelessness condition of the peasantry.

The 'nouveau logic' of peasant production under the dominance of the capitalist system was never considered as a threat to the existence of peasant economies until when the strategic interest of the colonial state was directly affected. Only after the outbreak of the war in 1939 the colonial state found it necessary to re-address the issue of peasant production, more especially in the case of an emergency. For the first time the state had tried, under the so-called colonial agricultural policy, to see that each part of the country was, as far as possible, self-supporting in staple foodstuffs and if it was impossible, to see that a shortage in one area can quickly and efficiently be made good from surplus supplies from other areas:

... Highly paid Native Authority Officials and other capitalist farmers growing more food than they require using employed labour that it considered that a considerable increase in production of grains by such farmers could be brought by propaganda and promise of guaranteed price. The peasant farmer could not increase his production of food crops even as the present time, he does not always have sufficient for his own needs. Manpower and tax appear to be limiting factors.

- Carrow J. H. (1935c).

Furthermore, with the evidence that:

By 1948 the living condition of the Sokoto peasantry had reached an alarming stage of deterioration that prompted intervention by the colonial authorities to halt the possible decline in peasant production in export crops that could affect the colonial empire. The worse affected areas were within central Sokoto, covering those districts

surrounding Sokoto, in which the production of export crops were never prominent, primarily covering the closed settled zone of the Sokoto Emirate. The condition of the peasant population in these areas was so bad as observed by Sherwood Smith, the Resident of the province during the period, he argued that:

... until the dietary of central Sokoto was drastically revised, in terms of quality and as well quantity, there can be no general improvement in standard of living, still less will the province be able to increase its contribution to enhance the well-being of more distance(sic) areas. The population is increasing, the soil except in the Fadamas, is steadily deteriorating. Unless bold measures are adopted, starvation not salvation may be around the corner...

- Sherwood, S. (1948).

Meanwhile, amid this peasant poverty, within the same period of the colonial-inspired malnutrition, the same peasant economies were exporting over 2,000 tons of dried fish, 1,113 tons of beans, 646 tons millet, 273 tons of onions out of the province (Sherwood, S., 1950). The miserable condition of the Nigerian peasantry goes beyond the geopolitical territory of Sokoto Province, more especially in the 1940s and 1950s. In fact, it can be argued that given the general trend that was set in motion by the capitalist transformation, the peasantry was increasingly becoming alienated from the fruits of its labour by colonial capitalism. Peasants were forced into exile due to excessive levies and taxes or cornered and squeezed out by excessive expropriation of cash crops. The sporadic attempts by the colonial state to sponsor studies of the nutritional status of the peasant farmers across the geopolitical territories of the colonial state was due to the gravity of the nutritional crisis amongst the peasantry at large at that period.

The nutrition survey carried out by Nicol, B. M. in 1954, covering the areas of Bunga-Ningi in Bauchi Province, Langai in Plateau Province, Tangaza in Sokoto Province, Borgu in Ilorin Province, Bero-Okuta in Western Province, Mbanegbe in the Eastern Province, was essentially prompted by the seriousness of the nutrition poverty in the peasantry. And of course, the danger it posed in terms of decline in the productive capacity of the peasantry. The initial survey on the state of nutrition in the colonies, was the work of a committee under the leadership of Lord Delaware, in his report titled: (*Nutrition in Tropics – 2. Appointment and Movement of Nutrition Officers 1939 – 1957*), which was reported in 1939. It was this work that came to serve as a prelude for taking early measures to contain the impending danger in the colonies taking into cognizance the appalling condition of the peasantry. Delaware's

report did advise on matters affecting nutrition in the colonies and provided grounds for further studies into the nutritional condition of the peasantry as it could affect the economic interest of the British Empire. Thus, he reported that there is no doubt: "Improved nutrition could bring very great benefit to the British Empire, not so much by eradication of disease, though this is important, as by a general improvement in the standard of health and well-being." (Delaware, L. (1957)). The report pointed out that although it was not easy to distinguish the effects of food deficiency and those of infections such as hookworm and malaria:

Nevertheless, there can be no doubt that the effects of malnutrition are serious. In the first place, there are many diseases which are known to be caused by the deficiency of dietary intake. Secondly, there are others, which if not directly caused by them are at least aggravated by them. Thirdly, an insufficient diet weakens resistance of all kinds and leads to inefficiency and lack of well-being (ibid).

The report considered that there are two main causes of malnutrition in the colonies apart from the prevalence of diseases. First and most important was low standard of living, and secondly ignorance coupled with prejudice. The report added that:

Low standard of living does not necessarily mean in the colonial empire, as it would mean in this country (Britain), deficiency of money resources... what it does mean is that the foodstuffs which they produced, supplemented by money obtained from the sale of produce, wages or some other sources, are often insufficient to provide for adequate nutrition in addition to all their needs (ibid).

The problem then was considered largely one of economic development, and primarily in the colonial empire this was sought to be improved upon through the improvement of agricultural production. Thus, the committee regarded family production of food to meet the family needs as the most important. And that:

It is a great safeguard against social and economic effects of fluctuations of income from money crops, and it has much other merit. Accordingly colonial government must make their policy that as many people as possible should grow at least part of the foodstuff they themselves consume. That where the labourer is permanently employed on an estate, the estate owner should be encouraged to provide him with land for a garden or maintenance of animals. And

where there is a landless class, they should be provided with at any rate some land, even if not enough for complete livelihood (ibid).

The Committee further observed that:

There is unfortunately abundant evidence that in some occupations where it is not customary to provide employee and his family with food the wages earned are not sufficient to provide adequate nutrition for the worker and his family. Apart, all-together, from consideration of humanity and social justice, it will be that increased wages may be justifiable as a purely economic proposition. For various weighty reasons however an increase in wages may not always be the most immediate practicable way of improving nutrition. Employer who would rebound could take various other measures to their own advantage as well as that of their labourers (ibid).

What Nicol and his colleagues did in the colonial nutrition study group between the 1940s and 1950s, in the case of Nigeria, was to ascertain the nature of the damage in the nutritional status of the Nigerian peasantry and provide suggestions and measures to be taken by the colonial government in Nigeria. In his subsequent academic publication on the nutrition of the Nigerian peasant farmers, Nicol (1959) attempted to play down the nutrition crisis in the Nigerian peasantry. He did not only limit his analysis to the technical content of the peasant foods but also refused to place his analysis within the logic of capitalist transformation that was taking place. But the archival record of his earlier nutrition studies of the Nigerian peasantry have however, shown that socio-economic problems were the basis of the nutritional poverty of the Nigerian peasant farmers during colonial period. In a prelude to one of the nutrition survey reports on the peasantry of Niger Province, Northern Nigeria, 1948, with interest of the colonial empire at the back of his mind, Nicol asserted the position that:

In view of the economic importance of the peasant farmer in the life of the country it was considered essential to ascertain the details of what he eats... For it has become increasingly evident in the past few years to some government officials, and to the Native Authorities themselves, that decline in initiative and stamina of the peasant farmer is likely to reach a serious proportions until the variety of farm produce, which has been sacrificed for the needs of cash crops, is replaced, and balanced diet attained (Nicol, B. M., 1948a).

The issue at stake then was not just what the peasant farmer ate in as much as it were what he could afford to eat but what was likely to affect the decline in ‘initiative and stamina’ of the peasant farmer. Therefore, for Nicol to embark on nutrition survey of the Nigerian peasantry and just stop at the level of consumption to determine the general adequacy or otherwise of the Nigerian peasants’ diets was ahistorical. This cannot bring out the history and socio-economic basis of malnutrition in the Nigerian peasant societies. It could only do as it did, successfully provide the colonial state with the technical knowledge for manoeuvre to keep up with the exploitation of the peasantry within the framework of subsistence agricultural production.

For centuries of existence on the continent, the African peasantry within its own ecological setting found a *modus vivendi* and a balance in all respects (CERES, FAO, 1980). He had established equilibrium in his dietetics in terms of his basic needs for healthy living in whatever part of the African continent he lives, and his agricultural base and other means of sustenance that he had practised for a living. These relationships between African peasant societies, their physical environment and socio-economic and political forces, have been a dynamic one. Out of centuries of experiences of these interactions, the peasantry’s *modus operandi* had developed a logic for its healthy survival within the context of its dominant mode of social relations to production that had been in practice. These were irrespective of the natural internal turbulence of the physical environment, socio-economic and political relations. Never in its histories had most of the African peasantry experience such a great destabilising effect as it did with its contact with capitalism in the 19th, 20th, and the 21st centuries. It was a condition, which had set a turning point not only on its agricultural base and industries, its dietetics and nutrition, but also the whole rubrics of its mode of existence. Although colonial nutrition officers like Nicol and Rodger did accuse the African peasant of being conservative in his taste and ignorant of what he eats. This is irrespective of the treachery of colonial rule, colonial capitalism, and subsequently neo-colonial capitalism which have not only commoditised, monetised peasant production and transformed the logic of the peasant mode of production to the interests of capitalist development. It is at least on record that the African peasant had a history of balanced nutrition and did struggle for nutritional upkeep of his family. That under whatever condition he was placed:

If he can raise cash, there is nothing he likes more than meat, dried fish, and milk... if money is available and he can go to the nearest market to buy meat and milk, he will do so. And he may even seat down and eat many of his own hen or guinea fowl’s eggs. However,

the sense of financial security required to justify such rashness occurs so seldom that effect his mean daily intake of protein and vitamins (Nicol, B. M., 1948b).

This condition of African peasantry, as it were in the case of the Nigerian peasant farmer, was the creation of capitalist transformation set in motion by colonialism. This was the condition that upset the balance in the nutritional status of the peasantry and transformed the whole of the dietetics into a state of malnutrition, hunger, and diseases that became the prominent feature of the life of the peasantry. Colonial records show that:

Peasant malnutrition does not result from dislike of any of the foodstuffs which he is physiologically in need of, as peasant farmers in all areas are very definite that they eat as much meat, milk, fish, and palm oil as they can afford. But because the peasant farmer has in addition to determine, how much of his crops he sells for cash in order to provide for the money to buy these foods, his clothes, pay his tax and so forth (Ibid).

What was established out of this was the fact that it has been impossible for the peasant farmer to feed himself adequately ever since the entrenchment of colonial capitalism. His entire attempt to provide food for himself has become subject to his being capable of producing 'enough.' This was to be over and above what the colonial state demanded from him in terms of levies and taxes, and as well as what his family obligation demanded of him besides his routine responsibility to provide for food. Or he must sell his labour to generate money to cater for the family obligations and what the colonial state demanded from him. Neither of the above separately, nor even all combined could provide the basis of providing enough of what was required for the poor peasant family. This is because of the excessive exploitation by colonial capitalism which sapped all possible surpluses generated by the poor peasant farmer through the ridiculously low price for his produce and labour, and the burden of colonial taxation. The overall consequences of these conditions are obvious after an extended period of colonial subjugation and entrenchment of the dominance of capitalism on the peasant economies. They are the vicious circles of peasant poverty, malnutrition, and diseases, which besieged the peasantry and further incapacitated the peasants' ability to fight and develop immunity against capitalist exploitation.

As the peasant economy became increasingly under the grip of capitalist transformation, mass hunger, malnutrition, and diseases became more than anything the reflection of social inequality and therefore a class issue. With the sporadic spread of poverty-stricken diseases, and rampant outbreak of infections amongst the peasant societies, the danger that the poor nutritional status of the peasantry posed on the general health conditions of the peasant communities became obvious to the colonial state. The penetration of the capitalist monetary system and the increasing commoditisation of the peasant economic activities have transformed the poor peasant food crops into cash crops. This is in the sense that a condition was created in which peasant production of certain food items became primarily for sale rather than for domestic consumption as it were in the case of those cash crops that were produced purely for the colonial market, for cash. Examining the adverse effects of the so-called cash crops on the development of food crops in northern region, the Regional Nutrition Advisory Committee in 1956, had to re-define its concept of cash crops. This was defined to mean export crops, to be able to make distinctions between the peasants' food crops and export crops. This was because of the degree of commercialisation of the peasant produce at that time. Furthermore, the development of colonial capitalist infrastructure (particularly, roads and railway), the nutrition status of the poor peasant farmers was made worse. Nicol observed that:

... in Southwest Borgu, there was sufficient harvest of yams to meet local needs. But since the road from Shaki on the French border to Nikki within Dahomey had been open, the local people had taken to selling yams. It was in such quantity that it had reduced their calorie intake to 1,500 – 1,600 per adult male per day in the month of May, far from the adequate diet.

- SSHB – 3/22 (1956 – 1957).

At the International Nutrition Conference of 1956 where Nigeria was represented, attention of member governments was drawn to:

On the basis of data ascertained in the past by Medical Officers, that is, those working in Africa doing biological and experimental research on animals and men in laboratories throughout the world and pilot experiments already conducted in Africa among populations suffering from various intense and parasitic infestations, it can be concluded that there is a relationship between parasitic infestation and malnutrition. Malnutrition aggravates the effects of parasitic

infestation, and conversely, the latter aggravates the effects of the former.

- SSHB 3/22 MH209/S. 1. (1956).

Earlier on since 1934, as had been observed in medical reports, diseases of all sorts have permeated the peasant population, compounding the miserable condition of the poor nutrition of the peasant farmer and the attendant decline in his efficiency. The Medical Officer in charge of Sokoto Province observed in 1934 that, “the population of Sokoto North is static. The prevalent diseases are environmental,” he alleged, “consequently larger masses of people became similarly – certain diseases favouring one district over another.” Medical Officer, (1934).

On “the prevalent diseases are environmental” alleged by the Sokoto provincial medical officer, of course they were, but that environment was created by colonialism and colonial capitalist transformation. The environment was created with the dislocation of the peasant economic and nutrition base, in which the peasantry was plunged into the condition of a vicious poverty, hunger, malnutrition and diseases. As indicated in another colonial record, these diseases that permeated the Nigerian peasant population were never inherently a rampant feature of the natural environment. Not that diseases did not exist prior to the coming of colonialism, but they had never been so rampant and prevalent as they were during the period after capitalist transformation was set in motion under colonialism. That is up to the situation in which these diseases pervaded even the superior modern medical and public health measures, to threaten not only the health condition of the peasantry but also its productive output and efficiency, and without the poor peasant farmer being able to overcome it. This is contrary to the historical experience of the peasantry with natural disasters, in the struggle for survival of a peasant life.

Within the first half of the first decade of colonial subjugation of Sokoto, colonial medical record had it that “there have been few sporadic cases of smallpox but no epidemic amongst the native population. Cerebrospinal Meningitis too has been practically nonexistent.” Burdon, J. A. (1907). Within its second decade of battering the peasantry of Sokoto Province, colonial capitalism, through the imposition of colonial taxation and cash crop economy, hunger, malnutrition, and starvation gave birth to mass and rampant epidemics in the peasant communities. Helminthic disasters, dysentery, and smallpox, which the peasantry had experienced only in the form of mild attacks became rampant epidemics, resulting to the death of hundreds and thousands of people, most of them children. Corresponding to the period of mass hunger, malnutrition, and famine of the late 1920, for instance, there were outbreaks

of smallpox in Sokoto, Argungu, and Gwaronyo. Within Sokoto division alone, which included Takatuku and other districts 3,546 cases were reported, with 1,389 deaths. In Gwaronyo district, there were 1936 cases, with eight hundred deaths. In Argungu, there were forty cases of which thirteen persons died. All these happened in 1928 alone. In 1930 there were reports of an outbreak of schistomiasis and relapsing fever, with the latter being alleged to have come from the French territory in the Northern Provinces of Nigeria, with Katsina, Kaita, and Mashi being worst hit by the diseases (Carro J. H., 1935).

By 1932, there was another outbreak of smallpox epidemic in Sokoto, this time expanding to northern and eastern districts of Isa, Moriki, Zurmi, Shinkafi, Galadi, Kaura-Namoda, and Kinkinwaja in Bungudu, which were not affected in the previous attack. There was also outbreak of measles in 1931, *yenbuki* and another disease that the local population was not familiar with at Bakura in 1934, which was said to usually begin with headache and diarrhoea and within three days the victim either recovered or died. Rampant diseases became terrible disasters that engulfed the entire peasantry of Northern Nigeria in this period. In 1938, the colonial government had to embark on propaganda and campaigns against health problems of the peasantry, centering on infectious diseases, in the northern provinces (Nicol, B. M., 1944). But there were no solutions, as Nicol had to point out subsequently to the colonial authorities that:

Application of public health measure to combat infective diseases, without attention being paid to the means of feeding, resulting in rapidly expanding population, has resulted in semi-starvation, with its attendant misery and inefficiency... In areas where cash crops have been encouraged at the expense of subsistence crops... The fact shows that good feeding by itself will prevent much of the bacterial and parasitic disease which exists at present, and improved nutrition will result in a diminished infant mortality and increasing population. But such a population would be well fed and itself capable of production, whereas a rapid increasing population the result of efficient public health measures alone would be under-nourished and would fail to be self-supporting, let alone the producers of surpluses for export to the over-populated areas (Nicol, B. M., 1948c).

The reign of epidemics continued to ravage poor peasant families. The colonial government was never ready to tackle the problem from its roots, which is from the angle of hunger and nutritional poverty of the poor peasants. It only remained at a

superficial level of the so-called 'curative' medicine. In Sokoto, on March 27, 1945, the Acting Resident reported an outbreak of Cerebrospinal Meningitis (CSM) in villages situated about eleven miles east of Sokoto town. The medical officer then confirmed that there were several deaths involved. In 1946 there was an outbreak of measles and in 1947, there were outbreaks in Hamma Ali, Acida, Wurno and Gwaronyo, with the Gwaronyo's case being compounded by an outbreak of guinea worm. In 1948, there was another outbreak of CSM, which extended up to 1949 covering all parts of the Sokoto Province. All schools in Gusau had to be closed as an emergency measure against the disease by February 13, 1949. By June 1949, Katsina Province was engulfed by CSM also.

Altogether, between Sokoto and Katsina Provinces 38,863 cases were reported, with over 7,433 deaths involved. Most cases reported and deaths which occurred came from Sokoto Province. Katsina Province had 8,864 cases reported with 799 deaths. In Sokoto Province, the Sokoto Medical area had 8,128 cases with 22.2% mortality; Gusau medical area had 11,326 with 16.1% mortality; in Kebbi medical area there were 10,545 cases with 28.7% mortality. Children were worst victims of the outbreak. Children from the age of 0-5 years constituted 25.4% of the cases reported, those between 6-10 years constituted 30.4%, and those between 11-15 years had 14.5% of the CSM attack (Nicol, B. M., 1949). It is important to note that all areas with higher percentage of mortality were those areas that were primarily best known for peasant food production, not export crops. The condition was very bad because these areas had experienced a mass exodus of its youths to other areas producing export crops or colonial mine-centres.

UNLIBERATABLE NIGERIA'S FOOD AND NUTRITION CRISIS

The British imperialism instigated food production and nutrition crisis which happened through the instruments of colonialism-generated multifaceted dimensions of food, nutrition and dietetics catastrophes in both the colonial and post-colonial era (Sule-Kano, A., 2010). Ever since the incorporation of the Nigerian political economy into the international capitalist system, a dialectical relationship emerged between what happens locally and developments at the international level. A trend was established in which international capitalist economic crises at different epochs impacted different sectors of the domestic economy. Between 1960 when Nigeria had its 'flag-independence' to the present, 2025, food production and consumption crisis has impacted on most of Nigerian citizens in a very devastating manner. There was the first major post-independence food crisis of the 1970s which happened as a result of the collapse of the 'oil boom.' In the 1980s, the IMF Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), precisely in 1986, led to currency devaluation, increase in food

prices, and agricultural production crisis. The global financial crisis of 2008 impacted on food imports which led to soaring prices of food. The economic recession of between 2014 and 2016 as result of the collapse of crude oil price led to severe food insecurity. COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 exacerbated food and nutrition crisis (Sule-Kano, A., 1999). The period 2022 – 2025 IMF's Policy Support Instrument (PSI) pressure, and the fuel subsidy removal episode by President Tinubu, led to high food prices with about 33.1 million Nigerians (estimated), plunged into acute food and nutrition crisis (Nigeria's Food System, www.gainhealth.org).

The degeneration of the capacity of most Nigerian people to produce enough food for themselves and for the populace, and the ruination of healthy nutritional status for the working people which was aggravated by the ruthless manoeuvre to transform peasant agricultural production into 'modern' capitalist agriculture, is gradually drifting the country into a condition of major catastrophes. What we have established so far is that:

First, food and nutrition crisis amongst the peasantry in Nigeria is an integral part of the general crisis that has engulfed the Nigerian political economy, which is also part of the global capitalist crisis. This has been attributed to the incorporation of the peasant economy in this part of Africa, into the world capitalist system at the beginning of the 20th century.

Secondly, because the dominant trend in Nigeria's modern agricultural development policy was one which gave emphasis on strong ties with international capitalist interests, the logic of agricultural production serves the interest of transnational capitalist corporations in agribusiness and related areas. The implication of this dependent agricultural policy is that it serves the interests of dominant economies involved in the transactions Okello, O. (1986). While on the other hand, the peasant agricultural producers and the local capitalist agricultural producers were left with extraordinarily little surplus that could be re-invested back into meaningful agricultural production that can support a good national food and nutrition status for the Nigerian people.

Thirdly, the combined and uneven impact of the general capitalist crisis, which affects various sectors of the economies in an unequal manner, would depress the weakest link of the dominant capitalist mode. The agrarian sector would remain the worst hit and the peasant agricultural producers would continue to suffer from the devastating consequences of the crisis. The World Bank and IMF etc., would be attracted and vicious circles of debt trap continuous in a dependent Third World

country, Nigeria. The bourgeois macro-economic policy framework of the Nigerian state would continue to flourish in which policies on resource allocation and re-allocation without explicit consideration of the process of reproduction and maintenance of indigenous human resources and knowledge (Sule-Kano, A. and Okello, O. 2023). The cost can only be revealed in statistics of health and nutritional status of women and children.

Indigenous Dietetics Under Siege

The structure of the post-colonial era economy which reshaped the features of a new consumption habit of the populace compounded the basic causes of food and nutrition crisis, Nnoli, O. (1993) and functioned as a break in the advancement of indigenous dietetics was rooted in the following conditions:

First, a condition was created under the new form of capitalist economy that was evolving in which there was no organic link between indigenous dietetics, the thrust of agricultural production, and the new manufacturing industry that was promoted by the state. The outcome of this disconnection led to the absence of a modern manufacturing industry that can utilise effectively the local nutritional resources, indigenous knowledge of science, and technology which could have facilitated the development of a massive production of highly nutritious, balanced diet and cheap indigenous food for the needy populace. A condition was created among the peasant producers in which high quality nutritious foods were taken to the market while family members that produced them were left with less qualitative ones for domestic consumption.

Secondly, the new capitalist economic structure ensured little or complete absence of linkages between the local food sources and raw materials used by capitalist food manufacturing industries in Nigeria. This has not only undermined the development of indigenous food sources and dietetics but also continued the under-development of the local foods and dietetics in terms of their nutritional value. For example, historic sources of traditional soup seasonings and condiments like *Daddawa* and other indigenous nutritious spices that served as sources of micronutrients came under siege by capitalist bouillon cubes industry like the *Maggi* cube created by Julious Maggi in 1886 and others that were made subsequently from some dangerous chemicals like monosodium glutamate that has no nutritional value. In fact, even where the imperialist food industry claims to be producing such local seasonings like “Daddawa,” “Crayfish”, and “Chicken” in the form of bouillon cubes, there were no links at all with the indigenous food sector which produced the actual natural products.

Thirdly, the new Nigerian economic structure has also ensured that indigenous food industry was increasingly dependent on external sources of raw materials, technology, and management skills (Sule-Kano, A. *et al.*, 1990). These trends continue at a rate in which the multiplier effects that was expected in the economy were absent, and the nutritional essence of the new products were doubtful. Take for example, the transformation that was in highly nutritious indigenous snacks and drinks like *Alkaki* (Brown wheat cookie), *Dakuwa - Aya* (Tiger nut and groundnut cakes), *Kunun-zaki*, (from millet or sorghum) and *Zobo* (hibiscus flower) beverages. These were highly nutritious snacks and beverages, which were extraordinarily rich in vitamin C, minerals, and other micro-nutrients, good for healthy life of the populace. But presently, due to the capitalist transformation of the composition of these indigenous products they were altered negatively. Examples are: the replacement of honey with white sugar in *Alkaki*, the change in the use of sweetener in *Kunun-zaki* from *Dangarfa*, a natural herb, and sweet potato, to white sugar has turned out to be injurious to the health of the populace.

The situation is more grievous if one examines the case of the regular meal consumption of most households. Nigerians were known for eating sumptuous meals based on their indigenous dietetics. But the situation has changed in terms of composition of the meals. The soups consumed have transformed drastically in quality from what they were in terms indigenous dietetics to a condition of under-development and loss of their originality in the context of the heritage of African food culture. First, the decline in indigenous knowledge and skills in food process have led to the loss of original taste and flavour of the local food consumed in the household. Secondly, the disappearance of essential indigenous soup condiments has drastically reduced the quality of the food. And thirdly, the introduction of alien additives in the form of bouillon cubes and other manufactured spices have led to a decline in the quality of soups. Furthermore, the commercialisation of indigenous foods has led to not only severe distortions of the dietetics and nutritional value, but it has also instigated some conditions of ill-health due to the injection of some dangerous foreign chemical substances not known to the African food culture.

CONCLUSION

The situation as it is presently in Nigeria, the trajectory of the objective of developing a well-nourish population for national development would continue to be challenged by the following:

One, the form of the economy, and the socio-economic relations, appears not capable of addressing the prevailing food and nutrition crisis in the country. The question is

whether governments in Nigeria can leverage on scientific and as well on indigenous knowledge to address the poverty of food and nutrition intake for the advancement of a healthy national population. Two, from our understanding of the form of politics and government in Nigeria, the question is: ‘whether both the governing and ruling class would be capable to implement the objective of the federal constitution to create an egalitarian society’ And thirdly, whether the populace which is constituted of most of the working people in Nigeria can rise and put to a halt the present rapid decline in livelihood security, good food and dietetics, which is the result of the type of capitalist path to national economic development, i.e. crony – capitalism.

Thank you for listening.

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APPENDIX

LIST OF INAUGURAL LECTURES TO DATE

| S/N | NAME | DEPT | DATE | TOPIC |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 st | Emmanuel Ajayi Olofin | Geography | 4 th March, 1992 | The Gains and Pains of Putting a Water Lock on the Face of the Drylands of Nigeria |
| 2 nd | Garba Dahuwa Azare | Education | 24 th June, 2000 | BASIC CONCERNS: Revitalizing Nigeria's Primary Education in the New Millennium |
| 3 rd | Dajuma Abubakar Maiwada | Education | 29 th July, 2000 | Improving Teaching and Learning in University Education with Particular Reference to Bayero University, Kano |
| 4 th | Majekodunmi Oladeji Fatope | Chemistry | 7 th July, 2001 | NATURAL PRODUCTS SCIENCE: Looking Back and Looking Forward |
| 5 th | Muazu Alhaji Zaria Sani | Nigerian Languages | 13 th October, 2001 | A focus on Some Segmental and Suprasegmental Features in Hausa Phonology |
| 6 th | Isa Hashim | Political Sciences | 20 th March, 2004 | Planning and Budget Implementation in the Health Sector |
| 7 th | Abdulla Uba Adamu | Education | 24 th April, 2004 | SUNSET AT DAWN, DARKNESS AT NOON: Reconstructing the Mechanisms of Literacy in indigenous Communities |

| S/N | NAME | DEPT | DATE | TOPIC |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 8 th | Auwalu Hamisu Yadudu | Private and Commercial Law | 5 th June, 2004 | LAW AS INTERPRETATION: An Exploratory inquiry from Islamic Law Jurisprudence |
| 9 th | Mohammed Sanni Abdulkadir | History | 31 st July, 2004 | STRUCTURING, STRUGGLING AND SURVIVING ECONOMIC DEPRESSION IN NORTHERN NIGERIA: The 1930s As Preview of the present |
| 10 th | Muhammad Sani Sule | Bio-chemistry | 23 rd March, 2013 | Enzymology and Radiation Biology in the Understanding of Biochemistry |
| 11 th | Essiet Unanaowo Essiet | Agriculture | 22 nd May, 2013 | AGRICULTURE SUSTAINABILITY IN THE DRYLAND OF NIGERIA: Realities and Prospects |
| 12 th | Aliyu Kamal | English Studies | 5 th March, 2014 | The Islamic Novel Style and Structure |
| 13 th | Abdu Ahmed Manga | Agriculture | 9 th April, 2014 | Horticulture as a Panacea for Food Insecurity and Unemployment |
| 14 th | Sa'idu Muhammad Gusau | Nigerian Languages | 26 th May, 2014 | Wakar Baka Bahaushiya (The Hausa Oral Songs) |
| 15 th | Abdallah Uba Adamu | Mass Communication | 9 th July, 2014 | IMPERIALISM FROM BELOW: Media Contra-Flows and Emergence of Metro-Sexual Hausa Visual |

| S/N | NAME | DEPT | DATE | TOPIC |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | | | | Culture |
| 16 th | Ghaji Abubakar Badawi | Library and Information Sciences | 29 th July, 2015 | THE ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES AS CENTERS OF INFORMATION TO DISADVANTAGED GROUPS: A 2004 - 2014 Study of the Information Needs of Gada Prostitutes in Dawakin Kudu Local Government Area of Kano State, Nigeria. |
| 17 th | Mohammed Kabir | Community Medicine | 16 th September 2015 | Public Health Concern for Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases Surpasses Anxiety Over Most Infections |
| 18 th | T.I. Oyeyi | Biological Sciences | 30th March 2017 | Linking Schistosomiasis and Water Resources Development in Kano State Nigeria: Public Health Impact and Mitigation |
| 19 th | Abdulrazaq G. Habib | Medicine | 27th April, 2017 | Medicine, Science and Society – The Global Health Imperative |
| 20 th | S. Y. Mudi | Chemistry | 6th July, 2017 | Natural Products: Plants as Potential Sources of Drugs |
| 21 st | Sani Ibrahim | Biological Sciences | 27th July, 2017 | BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH: Water Quality and Resource Evaluation - The Place of Hydrobiologists |

| S/N | NAME | DEPT | DATE | TOPIC |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 22 nd | J. Afolabi Falola | Geography | 26th October, 2017 | The Poor We Have With Us Always |
| 23 rd | Umar G. Danbatta | Electrical Engineering | 2 nd November, 2017 | GETTING OUT OF THE WOODS: Diversifying Nigeria's Economy Through the Telecommunications Sector |
| 24 th | Adelani W. Tijani | Nursing | 23rd November, 2017 | Wholesome Alimentation: Path to Radiant Health |
| 25 th | Juwayriya Badamasiuy | Private and Commercial Law | 21st December, 2017 | Uncovering Patriarchy in the Law: Feminist Movement for Re-Interpretation of Islamic Law in Focus. |
| 26 th | Isa Mukhtar | Nigerian Language | 25 th January, 2018 | STYLISTIC THEORIES AND THE LINGUISTICS OF HAUSA PROSE TEXTS: the (SFL) approach. |
| 27 th | Ganiyu Sokunbi | Physiotherapy | 29 th March, 2018 | TODAY IT HURTS, TOMORROW IT WORKS: Complimentary and Alternative Therapy for Failed Back Syndrome |
| 28 th | Aminu K. Kurfi | Business Admin. and Entrepreneurship | 19 th April, 2018 | Micro-finance as an Elixir for Poverty Alleviation and Wealth Creation in Nigeria |
| 29 th | Muhammad S. Khamisu | Arabic | 17 th May, 2018 | Substitution in Arabic Languages Rules and Types |
| 30 th | Habu Nuhu Aliyu | Pure and Industrial Chemistry | 21 st June, 2018 | SCHIFF BASES AND THEIR TRANSITION METAL COMPLEXES: The |

| S/N | NAME | DEPT | DATE | TOPIC |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| | | | | Drug for the Next Generation |
| 31 st | Hashim M. Alhassan | Civil Engineering | 19 th July, 2018 | EASING THE BURDEN OF TRAVEL: Can Roadway Capacity Modeling Help? |
| 32 nd | Habu Mohammed | Political Science | 13 th September, 2018 | TUG OF WAR OR ECHO IN THE DARK? Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Fight Against Corruption in the Era of Change Mantra in Nigeria |
| 33 rd | Bello Idrith Tijjani | Physics | 20 th September, 2018 | NAVIGATING THE DATA LABYRINTH: Application of Some Advanced Statistical Analysis in Atmospheric Physics |
| 34 th | Mohammed Ajiya | Electrical Engineering | 18 th October, 2018 | SEAMLESS GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT: Converting Intrinsic Phenomena in Optical Fibers to Capacity Increase. |
| 35 th | Abdulrahman Abdul Audu | Pure and Industrial Chemistry | 25 th October, 2018 | MY ACADEMIC VOYAGE IN WATER INTO THE WORLD OF HEAVY METALS |
| 36 th | Ibrahim Rakson Muhammad | Animal Science | 21 st February, 2019 | FORAGE AND FODDER PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA: Its Sensitivity in Sustainable Ranching. |

| S/N | NAME | DEPT | DATE | TOPIC |
|------------------|-------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| 37 th | Muhammad Bashir Ibrahim | Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry | 14 th March, 2019 | WATER POLLUTION AND THE QUEST FOR ITS REMEDIATION: The Natural Resource Option |
| 38 th | Oyerinde O. Oyeseun | Department of Physical and Health Education, | 4 th April, 2019 | MAN DOES NOT DIE BUT KILLS HIMSELF: The Dilemma of the Health Educator and the Moderating Influence of Health Education |
| 39 th | Danladi Ibrahim Musa | Department of Physical and Health Education | 25 th April, 2019 | WAGING WAR ON THE DEADLY QUARTET AND ITS CO-MORBIDITIES: A Physical Activity Panacea |
| 40 th | Kabiru Isa Dandago | Department of Accounting | 2 nd May, 2019 | THE ACCOUNTING IN HUMANITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS |
| 41 st | Mustapha Hassan Bichi | Department of Civil Engineering | 20 th June, 2019 | MAN, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER - The <i>Moringa oleifera</i> (Zogale) Intervention |
| 42 nd | Mustapha Muktar | <i>Department of Economics</i> | 27 th June, 2019 | PEOPLE, PLANET AND ProfessorIT: Peaceful Bed Fellows at the Best of Times But Strange Roommates at Present - The Economist's Approach to a Peaceful and Sustainable Co-Existence |
| 43 rd | Mohammed Atiku Kano | <i>Department of Biochemistry</i> | 25 th July, 2019 | Serum Lipids and Lipoproteins - A Curse or a Blessing? |

| S/N | NAME | DEPT | DATE | TOPIC |
|------------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| 44 th | Rabi'u Mohammed | <i>Department of Physical and Health Education</i> | 8 th July, 2019 | EXERCISE AND SPORTS FOR THE ATYPICAL PERSONS: A Multidimensional Analysis |
| 45 th | Yahaya, D.B. | Department of Mechanical Engineering | 12 th December 2019 | GETTING OUT OF THE DARKNESS: The Solar Energy Solution |
| 46 th | Shehu Alhaji Musa | <i>Department of Agricultural Economics & Extension</i> | 22 nd April 2021 | CROSSING THE CHASMS OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: Consumer Preference Studies: Market Integration Syntheses and Value Chain Diagnoses to the Rescue |
| 47 th | Shehu U.R. Aliyu | <i>Department of Economics</i> | 24 th June, 2021 | What Have We Learnt From Modelling Stock Returns In Nigeria: Higgledy-Piggledy? |
| 48 th | Kamilu Sani Fage | <i>Department of Political Science</i> | 8 th July, 2021 | FROM DIVIDEND'S OPTIMISM TO DASHED HOPES: The Imperatives of Leadership Re-Engineering in Nigeria |
| 49 th | Babatunde Olamide Bamgbose | <i>Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences</i> | 9 th Sept., 2021 | MATRIX OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF LIGHT AND KNIFE: The Journey of a Maxillofacial Surgeon into Imaging |
| 50 th | Umar Ibrahim Gaya | <i>Department of Pure and Industrial</i> | 4 th Nov., 2021 | In Search of Catalysts... |

| S/N | NAME | DEPT | DATE | TOPIC |
|------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|
| | | <i>Chemistry</i> | | |
| 51 st | Ahmad Muhammad Tsauni | Department of Economics | 19 th December, 2024 | Economic Progress on a Tightrope |
| 52 nd | Bashir Muhammad Fagge | Department of Animal Science | 30 th January 2025 | An Odyssey into Foods of Animal Origin: Fortification and Modifications for Health and Sustainable National Development |
| 53 rd | Mu utassim Ibrahim | Department of Pediatrics, | 27 th February, 2025 | Pathways to Progress: Pediatrics Care, Child Health and Medical Education in Nigeria. |
| 54 th | Lawal Yazid Ibrahim | Department of Physical & Health Education | 27 th March 2025 | SPORT IS WAR; WAR IS SPORT: Ethical and Integrity Concerns |
| 55 th | Mahmoud Ibrahim Daneji | Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension | 7 th August, 2025 | DIVERSIFYING THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY: Analysis of Extension Advisory Services as Critical Component of Sustainable Agricultural Development |
| 56 th | Abdulwahab Lawan | Department of Information Technology Faculty of | 6 th November 2025 | BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: Using A Modified Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology to Predict the |

| S/N | NAME | DEPT | DATE | TOPIC |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | Computing | | Determinants of Telecentre Adoption |