THE IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE ON AFRICAN CIVILIZATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this investigation is to define the impact of agriculture on African Civilization in the 21st century. The methodology is based on an interdisciplinary big-picture view of the African Civilizations developments and interdependency. Among the findings are: Sub-Saharan Africa’s only every second individual has an access to clean and enough water and electricity therefore agriculture is not productive and cannot reduce poverty and provide living sustainable environment. Practical implication: To develop agriculture as an economic engine for 65 plus nationally employed in this activity, first one must develop Integrated Infrastructure of Agriculture (IIA) at the level of smallholders of farms. At the level of the African continent to coordinate the renewal of African agriculture should be created African Institute for Agricultural Development (AIAD) and African Food and Agriculture Organization (AFAO). Social implication: Addressing the productive environment for small farmers is the prerequisite to plan and implement the modernizing policies for Africa. Originality: This investigation defined the African Civilization’s state of agriculture first at the small and later at big-picture in the 21st century.

INTRODUCTION

In the 21st century agriculture continues for 6,000 years to be fundamental activities for sustainable development of mankind and poverty reduction in developing nations. Three of every four people in developing nations live in rural areas – 2.1 billion out of 7.4 billion (2014) living on less than $2 a day and 880 million on less than $1 a day – and most depend on agriculture for their source of revenue. Agriculture alone will not be enough to massively reduce poverty, but it is an indispensable element of effective development strategies for most developing countries. It is particularly important instrument since poverty is the largest in Africa, whose main economic activities are of agricultural nature almost for 2/3 of the labor force.

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In Africa agriculture accounts for 65 percent of the national labor force, over 34 percent of GDP, and over 20 percent of business activities in most of 54 African countries, it continues to be given low priority (UNEP-UNCTAD 2008).

African agriculture is currently at crossings, at which constant food deficiencies are a combination of shortage of water and electricity and threats from climate change. Africa, particularly its Sub-Saharan (SSA) region (48 countries out of 54) does not have other effective options to develop, like manufacturing and/or tourism. This region is naturally molded for agriculture. Agriculture in the 21st century can transform SSA into a force for economic growth through the knowledgeable application of advances in science and technology; creation of regional markets; and the emergence of a new generation of entrepreneurial leaders dedicated to Africa’s economic improvements (Juma 2011).