

Sectoral policy and its role in achieving justice and security in light of sustainable development “The Algerian agricultural sector as a model”

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Received:23/05/2024

Accepted:05/08/2024

Published:01/09/2024

Abstract:

The research aims to apply the concepts of sustainable development and their application in agricultural plots to improve and rationalize production, while clarifying the actors involved in sustainable development and benefiting from the Algerian experience to achieve social justice and food security. This is a challenge to desertification and urban sprawl, which has become a threat to agricultural lands. The research includes the following chapters: The first chapter, the conceptual framework, sustainable development, agricultural policy, the second chapter, the goals of sustainable development in the agricultural sector and their principles. As for the third chapter, I will discuss one model of agricultural development in Algeria, which is the national plan for agricultural development and its most important goals in recent years.

Keywords: Social justice, food security, Sustainable development, agricultural policy.

Introduction

Since the nineties of the last century, the phrase sustainable development in Algeria has been used in political discourse as well as in the sectoral field. The term sustainable development has been referred to since it was amended in the preamble of the Algerian constitution as a framework for building a productive and competitive economy. We aim from this intervention to identify sustainable development and strategies for its application in the sector. Agriculture in Algeria in achieving security and justice in light of sustainable development, considering that the issue of sustainable development is one of the vital and important topics in the political and economic aspect, especially about food, or rather the agricultural sector, and this is at the local and international levels to reach the most important outcomes of this study, except Algeria, like other third world countries, is sincerely trying to achieve sustainable development in the agricultural sector, and this we seek the political will translated into laws and financial and administrative support for everyone who wants to invest in the land, especially concerning the production of basic agricultural materials, to reduce the import bill, achieve self-sufficiency and eliminate... From foreign dependency.

Therefore, it can be said that Algeria is striving to implement agricultural strategies to achieve sustainable development, but the structure of the local economy and the limited understanding of the legal texts and legislation stipulated in sustainable development and the attempt to get rid of dependence on fuels, and this is what prompts us to raise the following problem: To what extent does agricultural policy achieve justice and security in light of sustainable development?

Research hypothesis: How can justice and security be at the forefront of sustainable agricultural development?

1- Conceptual Framework

The concept is a necessary and inevitable requirement in all scientific and academic research, as it is considered an essential step in precisely defining the research topic, and clarifying its path and reference, as well as its goals. It is what guides the researcher to the methodological, theoretical and applied path that he will follow to reach objective, realistic, measurable results. Generalization, and if the researcher dispenses with defining the concepts of his study, and ignores them, then what he is doing is considered

mere guesses, opinions and perceptions that are not based on a specific intellectual reference, and his work is unscientific.

1-1- sustainable development

Since the beginning of the eighties of the last century, the world has witnessed an awakening that touched upon the problems that threaten the environment and the extent of their danger to human and animal organisms and now threatening life on the surface of the planet. This was the result of the depletion of the earth's wealth over the past decades, so it was necessary to find a new development philosophy that helped in rationalizing the consumption of resources, and it resulted in international efforts with a pioneering concept known as sustainable development. This concept was first crystallized in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, which bears the title *Our Common Future*, and was first published in 1927 AD.

The term sustainable development consists of two terms, development and sustainability. It is mentioned in the dictionary of meanings. Development is derived from the verb to grow, meaning to grow and move from one form to a larger form. Technically, development means prosperity, increase, and well-being. Development is also defined as the transition from one situation to another satisfactory situation that responds to the ambitions and aspirations of the individual (الطاهر، 2013). As for sustainability, it means the permanence and continuity of something.

There are many definitions of sustainable development and vary depending on the time periods, the inclinations of the book, and the angles through which intellectual and scientific studies were conducted.

The first to use the term sustainable development was the Prime Minister of Norway, Brundtland Groharlem, in 1987 AD in the report “*Our Common Future*,” also known as the Brundtland Report, to express a humanitarian goal through which we achieve social justice, and this is through equality between present generations and future generations (خامرة، 2007), while ensuring the achievement of food security and societal peace.

As for the World Bank, sustainable development is defined as that field that is concerned with achieving equal and connected opportunities that guarantees the same quality of the product for the current generation and the next or next generation with the same quality and ambition for continuous increase over time.

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Also, the Rio de Janeiro report, according to Agenda 21, defined sustainable development as development that must be achieved in a way that satisfies and satisfies societal needs, which are linked on the one hand, to society and on the other hand achieve economic well-being without harming the present and future environment. Sustainable development can also be defined as the strategy or approach that countries take to balance current and future generations (Wackerman, 2008), as well as preserving plant and energy environmental resources to ensure their survival in the distant future. Here we note that to achieve all of this, it is necessary to develop objective, rational challenges and plans that are applicable on the ground. Taking into account security and justice.

1-2- agricultural policy

There are many definitions of agricultural policy, as there are those who define it as a main branch of general economic policy, as it is drawn and prepared in the agricultural sector, and it is integrated with other economic policies to achieve the government's (خزارة, 2013) goals set through programs and plans. Agricultural policy also aims to achieve a number of goals, such as achieving food security, social justice: This is demonstrated by the availability of food and the diversity of agricultural products, in type and quality, and on the other hand, the preservation of the agricultural heritage that each country contains, including seeds and varieties of vegetables and fruits.

Agricultural policy is also defined as the pattern of allocating the most effective materials from the market in the event of the latter's instability. From this definition, it can be understood that agricultural policy is the government's intervention in agricultural production and markets to achieve stability and not fall into scarcity of agricultural products, and achieve food security for the population. This process is the result of the combined efforts of official actors, including administration and government staff, and laws and legislation, that facilitate the process of storing, marketing, and transporting goods inside and outside the country, and unofficial actors, including farmers, farmers, and consumers, by spreading a rational consumer culture, to serve the country and its people. Agricultural policy is embodied in an integrated system of procedures and legislation enacted by the state and its government staff to achieve its previously established goals of food security, achieving sustainable development, and agricultural development plans. These goals often aim to encourage increased

production and exploitation of indigenous seeds to ensure their access to subsequent generations, as well as to limit the gap between local and international demand and production.

Agricultural policy is defined as those actions and measures taken in the agricultural sector to achieve pre-established goals. Agricultural policy is only part of the general economic policy, so it is important to get to know the most important different historical stations of Algerian agricultural policy, to know its problems, and how the problem was addressed. And the feasibility of these policies.

2- Sustainable development goals in the agricultural sector and their principles

Sustainable development in the agricultural sector seeks to achieve a set of goals set by the government within the framework of a program published in the Official Gazette and for which a budget is allocated, and it has a set of principles that must be adhered to.

2-1 agricultural sustainable development goals

There are many goals that the government seeks to achieve, including goals that affect the agricultural sector, and as it is known, it is a sensitive and important sector at the same time, to buy security and social peace. Among the goals of achieving sustainable development in this sector are the following:

- **Achieving a better quality of life for the population:** This is achieved by focusing on an agricultural product that conforms to international standards, that is, of high quality and free of chemicals and biological additives, so that the government can protect the health of its citizens from diseases transmitted through agricultural materials, whether plant or animal, by establishing laws that control Fertilization and pesticide process.

- **Enhancing the population’s awareness of existing agricultural problems:** by developing their sense of responsibility towards rationalizing the demand for widely consumed materials such as wheat, not wasting it, and purchasing what the family needs without exaggeration, as well as urging citizens to join civil society organizations and participate in preparing and evaluating sustainable development programs in indirect ways.

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- **Respecting seasonal products:** This is by encouraging the farmer to produce the largest possible amount of seasonal products and then dividing them into two parts. The first part is directed directly to the consumer, while the second part is directed to factories for either canning, storage, or export, depending on the situation and the product.
- **Achieving exploitation and rational use of agricultural chemical fertilizers:** Here comes the role of institutes in forming technical and competent farmers who bear the responsibility of community health on the one hand, and on the other hand, the production of crops of quality and quantity enough for all segments of society without exception, and this at a price that suits the budget of the simple citizen, and reduces the burden on the state. The burden of importing basic agricultural materials and optimal exploitation of the agricultural lands contained in Algeria, all of this without exaggerating the use of chemical materials and fertilizers, and replacing them with natural animal and organic fertilizers.
- **Linking modern technology to the agricultural sector:** This is to draw the Algerian agricultural map, know and count irrigated lands, the production specific to each state, and facilitate the process of anticipating and controlling production so as not to fall into scarcity, lack of products, or lack of diversity in the Algerian local markets.
- **Making a positive change in the national consumer culture:** by instilling the values of rational consumption and the culture of natural products by including some lessons in the school curricula, as well as awareness campaigns, documentaries, and other activities. All of this and that is directed to the young age group, that is, a project for a conscious, educated, responsible citizen.
- **Achieving economic growth:** This encourages the farmer to engage in natural agriculture while improving the product and multiplying natural seeds, through financial support and administrative facilities, granting him bank loans, encouraging him to enroll in institutes or deal with agricultural engineers.

On the other hand, specialized agricultural institutes must be established that attract young people. Aspiring to work in the agricultural field, providing them with various modern agricultural knowledge and techniques, urging them to reclaim land.

2-2 Principles of sustainable agricultural development

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Agricultural policy is considered part of economic and social policy through which countries aspire to achieve security and social peace. Agricultural policy is based on the following principles:

- **Efficiency:** By which we mean developing the natural resources available in Algeria while working to exploit them optimally while preserving part of them for subsequent generations, We also take into account the economic quality and competitive advantage to benefit from these resources.

- **Sustainability:** Especially when we talk about soil, water and plant food, we seek to protect them and ensure their development to sustain their production in the long term, providing stability and an appropriate investment climate for the private and public sectors by developing and continuously updating the legislation related to this sector.

- **Justice:** By which we mean achieving social and economic balance between the agricultural sector and other sectors, and within the agricultural sector itself, by developing an agricultural map through which production can be monitored and surplus or scarcity of the product can be expected prematurely.

- **Pricing control:** By this we mean the set of procedures, decisions and laws that lead to the structure of prices in various agricultural products, especially when we talk in Algeria about basic materials. Intervention in setting agricultural prices is considered one of the most effective political tools in the short term, to achieve political stability. And community security.

- **Marketing policy:** Agricultural marketing is also known as the system that aims to facilitate the flow of agricultural and food commodities or related services, from their places of production to their place of storage or consumption, at appropriate or acceptable prices and conditions, and from all parties to the agricultural process(2000، عبيدات) .

- **Structural policy:** It is the policy directed at the structural aspect of the agricultural sector, and aims to encourage the development and organization of this sector, and seeks to transform the agricultural sector from a traditional sector into a modern developed sector, through technical changes, and the transfer of ownership from public to private, all of this to encourage Investing in land.

3- Agricultural policy: reality and prospects

The agricultural sector in Algeria is considered the most important strategic sector in sustainable development. Therefore, the Algerian state is always keen on political and economic reforms in the agricultural sector, through its production of several successive agricultural policies aimed at achieving an increase in production while taking into account quality, as well as seeking sustainable development, which is what leads to food security and social justice.

3-1 The national plan for agricultural development

After the gradual return of security and political and financial stability that Algeria witnessed in the early 2000s, the government implemented an agricultural policy that allowed the exploitation of all available capabilities in the sector, and set applicable goals in the medium and long term. This was the result of local economic transformations, namely Algeria's transition from the socialist model to a market economy. And international economic transformations, as the world moved from the Cold War to the root of globalization. Therefore, the State of Algeria signed a partnership agreement with the European Union and negotiations to join the World Trade Organization. Among the goals of the National Agricultural Development Plan is to achieve the following strategies:

- Making better use of and valuing the natural capabilities represented in water and soil, rationalizing their use while recruiting financial, human and technical resources qualified for the rational and rational exploitation of all resources.
- Preserving natural resources for sustainable development, to ensure the availability of agricultural products in the same quantity and quality for subsequent generations.
- Intensifying agricultural production in fertile areas and diversifying it in an effort to achieve food security, by urging farmers and peasants to participate and enroll in free institutes and learn the latest technologies and the latest scientific findings in the field of agriculture, while carrying out awareness campaigns on how to use fertilizers, quantities, duration, etc.
- Intensifying land exploitation systems located in arid and semi-arid areas for planting fruit trees. - Expanding arable areas through land reclamation operations. Here, the Algerian government supports the farmers financially

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by rationing agricultural products and providing a water and electricity network. It now encourages farmers to use solar panels, especially after their production has become local.

3-2 Objectives of the National Agricultural

Development Plan This plan paid particular attention to expanding agricultural lands of all kinds and urged reclamation and exploitation of the high plateaus and internal plains to raise production during the period between 2019 and 2022. The following table shows the goals that the state seeks to achieve.

Table number (1): Development of agricultural lands until 2022 The unit is million/ha

Agricultural branches	current status	goals for 2023
Land for growing grains	3.3 million hectares	7 million hectares
Fruit trees	2.53 million hectares	4 million hectares
Olive trees	780 thousand hectares	one million hectares
Forest trees	10 million hectares	15 million hectares
Palm trees	60 thousand hectares	one million hectares
Vegetable cultivation	1.669 million hectares	2 million hectares

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries
<https://madr.gov.dz/?playlist=4a0503b&video=1570b62>(2024 ،

Table number (2): Development of agricultural production for the year 2022

Production	Average production for the period 2019-2022	goals for 2023
Grains	7682 million tons	10000 million tons
Legumes	3.3 million tons	7 million tons
Potatoes	3.3 million tons	7 million tons
Sugar beets	200 million tons	450 million tons
Dates	11.36 million quintals	20 million quintals
Olives	3,098.5 thousand tons	5 thousand tons
Milk	2 billion liters	15 billion liters
White meat	125 thousand quintals	300 thousand quintals
Red meat	606 thousand quintals	1 million quintals

Source: : Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries
<https://madr.gov.dz/>(بلا تاريخ،/

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From the first and second tables, we notice that the Algerian government is seeking to expand agricultural lands, or so-called irrigated lands, and this is to raise the production of grains, legumes, vegetables, and fruits of various kinds in a large and high-quality manner. This to achieve self-sufficiency on the one hand, and why not export local products and compete. Foreign agricultural products in global markets. He also paid attention to providing and supporting poultry farming by granting mini-loans to young people, administrative facilities, opening the doors to vocational training in the livestock breeding division free of charge to everyone who wishes to develop his skills, granting land for free on the condition that it be exploited for the purpose of livestock breeding, reclaimed for agriculture and everything that serves. The national economy, on the one hand, to eliminate unemployment, and on the other hand, to achieve self-sufficiency and why not export in the near future.

Algerian agricultural policy has achieved a qualitative leap in the technical and technical aspect, and this we seek in the quantity and quality of plant and animal production, and this is the result of the combined efforts of the government and people, due to the availability of natural animals and plant capabilities on the one hand, and on the other hand the availability of technical and qualified human labor, because the era of traditional agriculture is gone and no longer has a place in the Algerian state.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we conclude that the general agricultural policy in Algeria from 2019 to 2022 witnessed a significant improvement and an increase in production. This affected several agricultural commodities, whether animals or vegetable. This led to a reduction in the import bill for foodstuffs, especially basic ones such as milk and grains, and the provision of permanent job positions, especially in remote and rural areas, thanks to the implementation of the National Agricultural Development Plan, which gave a new and strong impetus to the agricultural sector, also thanks to the concerted efforts between the government staff and the Algerian people, represented by those working in the agricultural sector, including farmers, technicians, agricultural engineers, livestock breeders, and even the media had a role; The success of this plan is thanks to awareness and advertising campaigns on the importance of learning and acquiring skills, as well as making people aware of the importance of rationalizing consumption.

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Finally, a number of recommendations can be derived from this intervention, which are as follows

- Intensifying awareness campaigns about the importance of agricultural people in institutes and universities
- Encouraging young people to serve the land and improve the image of the farmer, as today the farmer in Algeria has become part of the noble class
- Referring old farmers to retirement and appointing them as young agricultural engineers who are proficient in smart applications that are used today in the agricultural field in Algeria.
- Establishing bridges of communication between workers in the agricultural sector and research centers in universities, to learn about the latest agricultural techniques.
- Bringing the administration closer to the farmer by creating digital platforms that facilitate access to laws, fertilization methods and other modern agricultural guidelines.

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