**The Increase of the consumption of the Local Rice, Agricultural Policy and Socio-Economic Impact on local rice farmers**

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**Interest**

Each year, Senegal imports tones of rice from Indonesia and Thailand while the local rice is available. The imported rice is more preferred than the local rice. This situation has created many problems for local rice farmers; (local rice is less used) that’s why I want to do research on the topic to address the situation of imported rice dependence, by examining the factors that brake the consumption of the local rice. Furthermore, I want to measure the socio economic changes that occur on rice farmers. Supposed the local rice sells well and the people consume more rice how it impacts the revenues of the rice farmers.

**Goals**

The first purpose of this paper is to reduce considerably the importation of rice and to increase the consumption of the local rice by applying agricultural policies capable of reversing the situation. The agricultural policies seek to help local farmers to sell more and more and to provide all the country with the local rice. To achieve this goal the policies will focus on the quality of rice .The reasons advanced by most of the population about their preference for the imported rice is its quality.

Therefore, the local rice must fulfill the criteria of quality. Furthermore, policies will focus on subsidies or financial support provided to local farmers and on the availability of the local rice. These policies aim at increasing considerably the quantity of the local rice and in a very competitive price.

The second purpose of the paper is to see on one hand to what extend the policies above can change the social conditions that is to say if their living conditions are better. Do they have access to basic things like housing schooling, health care good food and entertainment?

On the other hand the paper will study the economical impact on the rural area. That means it will assess the impact of the increase on the revenues of the rice farmers. It will give the insight of the improvement of the farmers ‘revenues whenever the local rice consumption is increased.

Every year, the country consumes 800,000 tones of rice. The study determines the part of the imported rice, afterwards, measures it in term of budget and then assess the impact on the revenues of the farmers if the imported rice is reduced to 10%, 15% etc.

**Methodology**

The paper uses the Multiple Linear regression model and the Descriptive Statistics to analyze the data. The Multiple Linear Regression focuses on Dependent and Independent Variables.

In the study the dependent variable is **the Increase of the consumption of the local rice or Y**.

**The financial support provided to rice farmers** or **variable X1.**

**The quality of the local rice or variable X2**

**The availability of the local rice or variable X3**

The three variable –model is presented under this notation

The study uses the descriptive statistics to analyze some data. The descriptive statistical tools comprise frequency count, percentage, and means used to analyze the data coming out from each variable.

The study will assess the decrease of the quantity of annually imported rice in tone, then its correspondence in money and finally its economical incidence on the revenue of local farmers and on the budget of the country. Therefore some percentages and ratio are used to highlight the characteristics of the data.

The study uses the sample size of 100 people selected in different parts of Senegal. In Senegal, rice is cultivated in the North especially in the valley river of Senegal. The biggest quantity of the local rice is grown at that place. The rice cultivation is mostly done under irrigation.

The local rice is cultivated in the South of Senegal precisely in the region of Casamance. This region is very rainy and has a lot of potential. It’ a place where one can find a dense forest. The dominant ethnic groups are the Joola. And the basic staple food is rice. In that place precisely in the villages, people eat the rice they produce. However for two decades, that place has been instable because of war. Some people in that place are fighting for independence. Because of the war the local population flees away.

The sampling will chose people from the centre, the south, the east and the west of Senegal.

Another sampling will focus on local rice farmers. The sample size is fixed at 50 people. 30 farmers from the north in the valley and 20 in the south are selected. The Choice of the two places is justified by the fact that the local rice is produced from the two places.

A questionnaire is submitted to the people selected in the sample. Afterwards, the questionnaire is exploited for the purpose of the study.

**REVIEW**

On the contrary of many studies, this paper does not take into account the social status or the restriction or limitation of the quantity of the imported rice as important factors. Working with these variables is of no interest for addressing the dependence on rice. First, in every country the elite because of prestige likes to distinguish itself to the populace. Second, in Senegal, reality is different. Poor people and rich people can buy the imported rice. The imported rice is available everywhere in the country even in the rural area whereas the local rice is available mainly in the north and the south. That’s why the social status is not a relevant variable in the study. As far as the limitation of imported rice is concern, the paper is reluctant to work on it because it’s an easy solution that does not help the local rice. In regards with WHO agreements a country cannot refuse imported product. That’s why the paper focuses on the above variables that help efficiently the local rice to be more competitive. Many papers and studies emphasize the increase of production of the local rice. But they ignore that the local rice is facing a problem of competitiveness. Therefore, the paper judges necessary to act on the quality to trigger the consumption of the local rice. No matter how big the production is, if people for some reasons reject the local rice, it never sells well.

The global world is in competition and only competitiveness of products and services is the way out.

HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS?

Efforts should focus on the quality of the local rice. Many households deplore the quality of the rice arguing that the local rice is dirty and full of stones. The government policy has to address the processing problems and therefore appropriate equipments are necessary. They should be equipped with hullers and polishers in good quality. Farmers need to be trained about drying techniques. Engineers should help improve the quality of the rice focusing on researches for new variety of rice.

The government should encourage researches on the local rice to improve it. Many people acknowledge that the local rice despite its poor quality is rich of nutrients.

Many households have not access to the local rice. Even if they want to buy it they have problems to find it because the only rice available in shops is the imported rice. The household don’t have the choice. The government has encouraged the consumption of the local rice but the households continue to eat the imported rice.

The government has to emphasize the distribution of the local rice everywhere in the country. The transportation is sometimes problematical. They don’t have lorries to transport the local rice to the different parts of the country.

The farmers need financial support or subsidies. The financial support aims at improving the quality of the rice, its productivity and competitiveness. Because of the economic crisis and the climate change affecting the crops, the price of crops raise considerably. In 2000 the cost of the sack of 50 kgs was 11000fcfa today it costs between 18000and 20000fcfa. The government should profit of this situation to improve the quality of the rice and to lower the cost of production so as to make the local rice competitive. The financial support can be an amount of money or converted to equipment.

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