

PRINT: ISSN 0971-8923 ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6756

JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Interdisciplinary Reflection of Contemporary Society

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PRINT: ISSN 0971-8923 ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6756

J Soc Sci, 21(1): 49-57 (2009)

DOI: 10.31901/24566756.2009/21.01.07

Geoinformatics in Agricultural Development: Challenges and Prospects in Nigeria

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KEYWORDS Remote Sensing. Geographic Information System. Global Positioning System. Precision Farming

ABSTRACT The paper reviews agricultural development in Nigeria, in the context of the emerging technologies of Geoinformatics, specifically Remote Sensing, Geographic Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS). It expounded on the principles of Geoinformatics and their relevance in agricultural development. A critical analysis of the prevailing situation in Nigeria reveals the shortcomings of the current methods of data collection, analysis and management. This emphasizes the need to adopt Geoinformatic methods to improve agricultural productivity to meet the nutritional need of the teeming Nigeria masses as well as for export income. The challenges in this wise are low level of technological development, inconsistency and inept implementation of government policies, low level of investment, small land holdings, heterogeneity of cropping systems and market imperfection. To surmount these constraints a number of measures are suggested.