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The role of local commodity exchanges in managing commodities price volatility in Nigeria: The case of the Nigerian Commodities Exchange (NCX)

By

Kingsley Obi Omeihe, Senior Lecturer in Economics, School of Business and Creative Industries, University of the West of Scotland (UK)

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.

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PREFACE

.... A thorough understanding of local commodity exchanges is increasingly crucial, and even more so is a concentrated emphasis on African local commodity exchanges for effectively managing price volatility.... (Omeihe, 2023)



Commodity Exchange Explained

Serve as highly effective platforms where buyers and sellers converge

Primarily to enhance their price risk management capabilities

Optimise the marketing of

tangible goods.

Strengthening the connection between agriculture and finance,

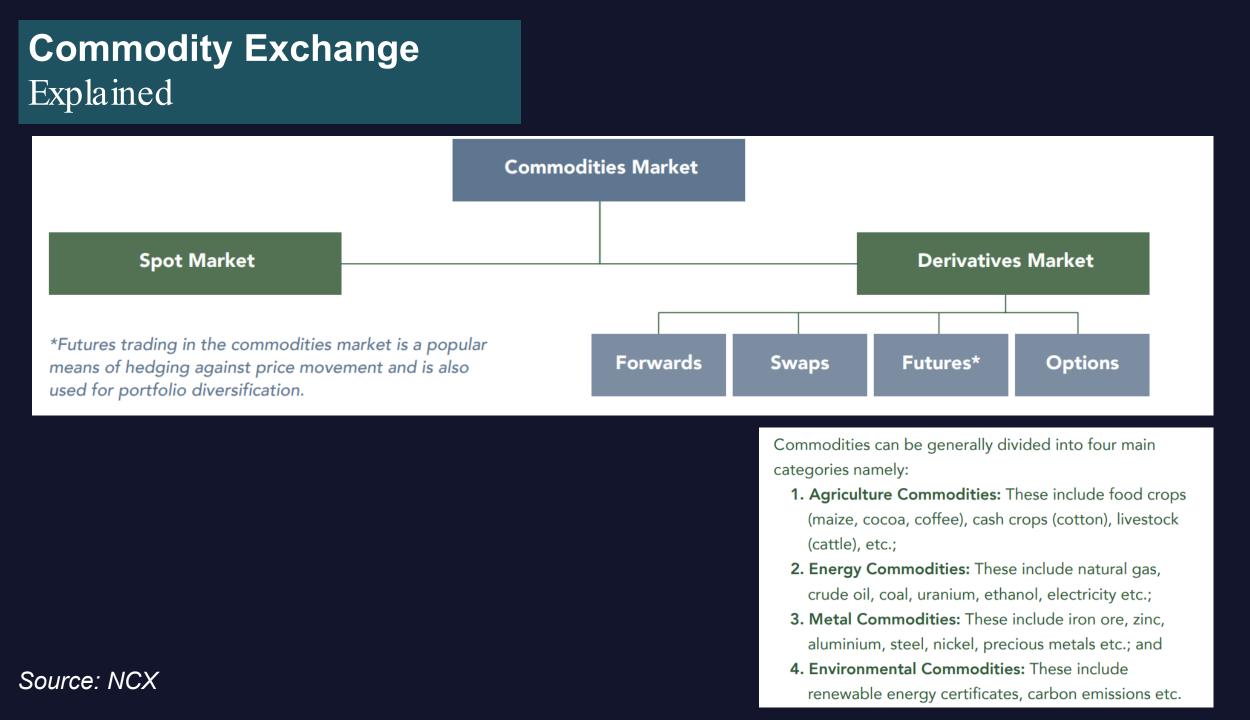
Enhancing the efficiency and

competitiveness

of the commodity

sector.

Offer welldocumented development advantages, promoting economic inclusivity



Four lessons that capture the problem statement



1. A notable aspect of recent inquiries into the shortcomings of LCXs is their limited success in unlocking their potential to stimulate agricultural production



 An inefficient local commodity exchange not only escalates transaction costs but also falls short of assisting buyers and sellers in establishing suitable commodity prices



3. One of the significant risk factors for commodity-dependent developing nations is price risk, which impacts all stakeholders within commodity-producing countries' markets



4. The effectiveness of a commodity exchange relies on the number of participants, their educational background, and their understanding of the exchange.

CONTEXT- NIGERIAN COMMODITIES EXCHANGE (NCX)

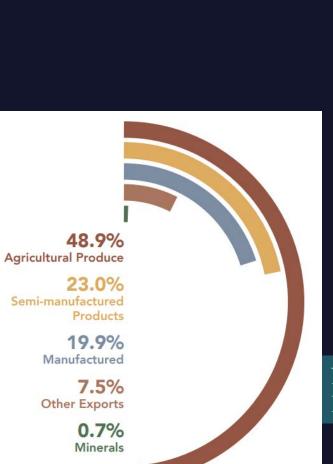
- Underdeveloped segments of the commodity ecosystem and a lack of enabling legislation including existing laws & and regulations
- Shortcomings in establishing a robust corporate governance framework within the NCX and the imperative need for the implementation of efficient risk management procedures
- A deficient overarching strategy at the NCX that restricts collaboration with prosperous commodity exchanges in Africa and beyond
- Absence of financial inclusion initiatives, demanding a need to make financial services affordable to farmers;
- Need for benchmarking, plus a review of the commodity trading structure, practices and ecosystems in India, Brazil, Ethiopia (others i.e Malawi, Rwanda and South Africa)
- These concerns demand swift attention to facilitate agricultural production at the farm level and alleviate the substantial revenue losses endured by farmers
- The government has devised strategies to revamp the Nigeria Commodity Exchange (NCX), with the objective of enhancing agricultural productivity, enhancing price determination and transparency, and stabilising food prices

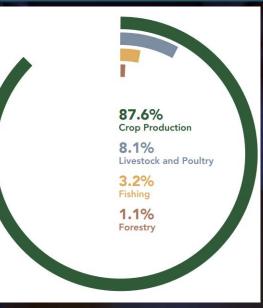


Contribution to Agriculture Sector in 2020

Top 10 Agricultural Exports from Nigeria in 2020

S/N	Products	FOB Value (USD)
1	Cocoa Beans	570,808,878
2	Sesame Seeds	254,037,697
3	Cashew Nuts	47,364,449
4	Rubber	42,245,939
5	Beef/Crustaceans	41,768,864
6	Coffee	15,323,789
7	Cotton	14,832,989
8	Ginger	11,986,858
9	Hibiscus Flower	4,595,462
10	Groundnuts	1,246,790





Non-Oil Export by Product in Percentage (2020)

Source NCX Report

Top Ten Crop Producing States vis-à-vis Available Storage Facilities

S/N	State	2-Year Average (2017- 2018) Crop Output (MT)	Available Silo Capacity (MT)	Available Warehouses* (MT)
1	Kaduna	1,935,914	25,000	8,000
2	Kano	1,843,019	25,000	2,000
3	Niger	1,799,270	25,000	0
4	Kebbi	1,331,454	100,000	2,000
5	Kogi	1,328,934	25,000	0
6	Nasarawa	1,273,849	25,000	0
7	Katsina	1,282,920	25,000	2,000
8	Taraba	1,297,825	25,000	0
9	Plateau	1,227,142	25,000	0
10	Benue	1,160,838	25,000	0
Total		14,481,165	325,000	14,000

Source NCX Report

Commodity Price Volatility

(1) Volatility is an indicator of variation over a specific time frame.

Frequency

(2) Volatility can emerge due to factors such as transportation costs, trade tariffs and fragmentation of the market (E.g.) In the natural gas market, where a substantial portion of traded volumes is distributed via pipelines)

> (4) Other volatility faces by consumers may include, incomplete passthrough of commodity price changes, differences in exchange rate dynamics, different tax regimes

(5) Key Drivers Demand, Geopolitical Events Trade Policy, Climate Change Market Transparency, Technological Change, Exchange Rates Supply (3) For one thing, the question becomes one of establishing how price volatility can be managed?

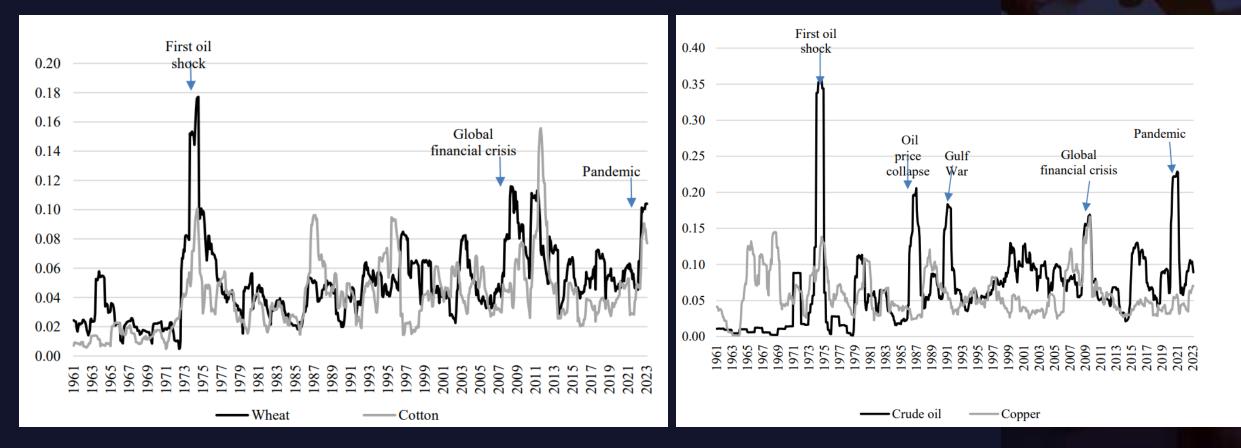
Assumption of PV

The Interplay of Factors Influencing Price Volatility

	Meso-Level Supply Factors (MSF) Located in the Individual Commodity Markets	Macro-Level Demand Factors (MDF)-Located at the Global Activities
Cyclical Shocks	Meso-Level Shocks: On the meso-level supply side, commodity price volatility can be driven by cyclical or periodical factors, such as seasonality in agricultural markets and unexpected production shortfalls	The global pandemic had a substantial influence on fluctuations in global commodity prices. travel restrictions resulted in decreased prices for commodities, including oil, metals, and agricultural products
Intermittent Shocks	Intermittent: Weather occurrences are challenging to forecast and can frequently lead to supply disruptions in commodity markets, especially within the agricultural sector. E.g., adverse weather conditions in Thailand/Australia led to a decrease in rice production and subsequent price hikes	An expansive monetary policy marked by low interest rates can lead to overall demand and bolster economic growth, potentially resulting in heightened demand for commodities.
Restrictive Shocks	Targeted: Disease and pest outbreaks can lead to meso-level shocks (40% and 250billion USD Lost)	Targeted: Imposing constraints on trade, such as restrictions on the export of food or outright bans, led to instability during periods of crisis
Backstop Shocks	Backstop bottlenecks: Labor Disputes and Work-Related Disagreements can result in delays and interruptions in production, consequently causing meso-level supply disruptions.	Speculators (investors) also have an impact on fluctuations in commodity prices, regarding commodity prices using futures, options, and various financial tools.

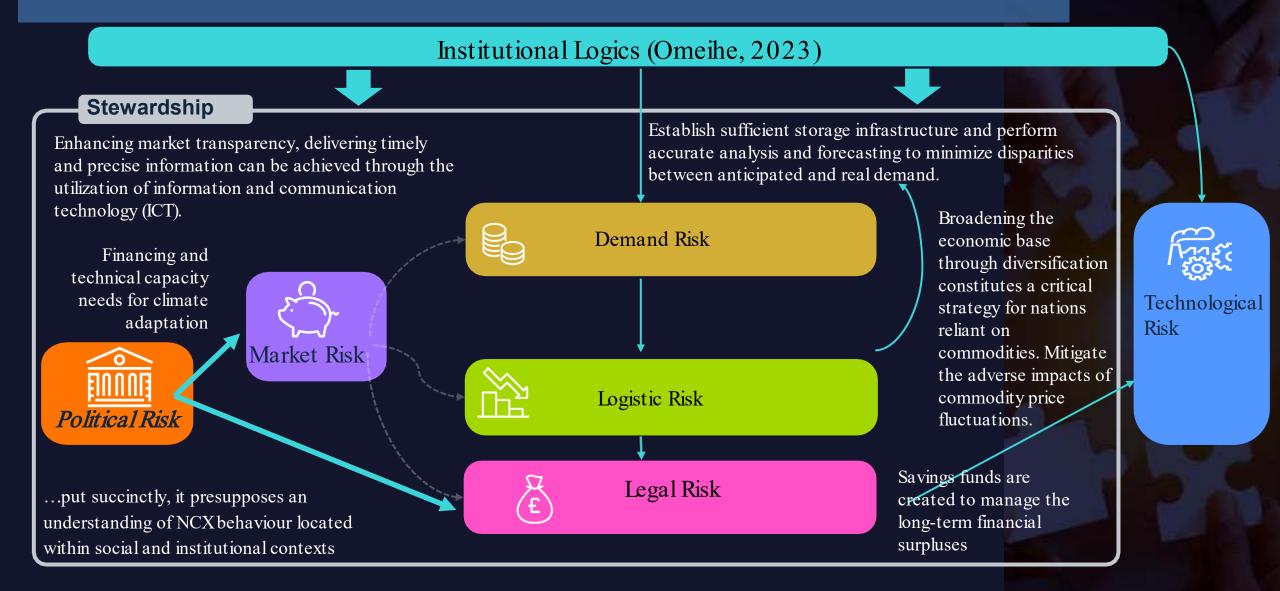
Volatility of wheat and cotton prices

Volatility of crude oil and copper prices



Source: UNCTAD (2023)

Managing Price Volatility Risks by the NCX caused by MSF and MDF(Systemic shocks)



SUMMARY AND DIRECTION

Transparency. Trading platforms, warehouse receipts

Improve storage, grading standards

Improve efficiency of trading platform eg single platform NSE Strengthen financial institutions and mechanisms

Fiscal buffers can act as an insurance against fiscal distress in the event of commodity price drops.

Synergies across MDA and relevant ministries

Encourage Traceability

and Global GAP

Certification.

New Regulations to attract private sector investments

Encourage trust with smallholder farmers' associations and encourage them to trade on exchange Overall Institutional Reforms and establishing a new NCX blueprint

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