



The Changing Nature of Groundnut Production in Babura and Garki Districts, Kano Emirate, C. 1903-1960

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Abstract	Original Research Article
This paper examines groundnut production in Babura and Garki districts and the role it played in the socio-economic development of the two districts. Groundnut had been grown in the districts for domestic consumption for centuries before it was produced for commercial purposes particularly during British rule (1903-1960). Groundnut, known in Hausa as gyada. It was cultivated both within and environs of Babura and Garki in commercial quantity and sold in order to pay the British taxes. It was brought for sale to Babura and Garki towns from surrounding villages and towns. However, the nuts were brought to Babura town for sale from Niger Republic vice-versa. This had contributed to the establishment and development of buying centers in both towns leading to the coming of Europeans firms to the areas. Consequently, these developments brought significant socio-economic changes to the districts. The methodology adopted for this research relies on both primary and secondary sources. This includes the examination of available published and unpublished materials such as books, journal articles, reports, policy documents, conference and seminar papers, as well as a critical analysis of relevant literature. In addition, oral interviews were conducted to obtain firsthand information relevant to the study. Keywords: Groundnut, Production, Export and Impact.	
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Introduction

Babura and Garki were among the oldest districts of Kano Emirate and occupied a strategic position in the economic life of the region.¹ Before colonial rule, agriculture was the basis of the local economy, with farmers producing crops such as millet, guinea corn, beans, and groundnuts mainly for household use and

local exchange.² With the introduction of Colonial Rule (1903-1960), groundnut production significantly accelerated across the Northern Protectorate. During this period, groundnut production in Babura and Garki increased substantially as it has emerged as among the major commercial crops to meet the growing demand of the

¹ For more information on the political development of Babura and Garki districts see K. Musa, (2021). "The Evolution of Babura and Garki Districts, Kano Emirate, 1928-1991", *Liwuran Journal of the Humanities*, Vol. 22, No. 2. Pp. 359-369

² KSHCB/MLG/3249/ Fagolawa District Assessment Report, 1924; K. Musa, (2015), "An Economic History of Garki District, Kano Emirate, 1903-1991". Unpublished M. A. Dissertation, Bayero University Kano. Pp. 35-39



market. Therefore, the British interest also shifted from geographical discovery and exploration to commercial expansion. Meanwhile, this transition from discovery and exploration to exploitation became evident after the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885, during which European powers formalized their territorial claims in Africa. After the Conference, British commercial interests became increasingly prominent in Northern Protectorate of Nigerian areas. To consolidate this influence, the British established their presence in the region through the Royal Niger Company (R.N.C), which played a significant role in extending British political and economic control over northern Nigeria.³

After the conquest of Kano emirate and the establishment of British colonial rule in 1903, the economic atmosphere of Babura and Garki had changed significantly. Colonial taxation payable in cash compelled many farmers to expand groundnut cultivation in order to obtain money for tax payments. This made groundnut production an essential source of income and pushed many households deeper into the cash economy. In this way, the crop helped integrate the districts into the British colonial system of production, marketing, and exchange.⁴

Economically, groundnut production brought significant changes to household livelihoods and the wider district economy. It enabled farmers to earn cash for food, cloth, shelter, and tax payment, while also encouraging market development and urban growth in Babura and Garki. The crop became central to the local economy because it linked peasant agriculture to export trade and created opportunities for wealth accumulation among producers and traders.⁵ For these reasons, the history of groundnut production in Babura and Garki is best understood as part of the broader transformation of the colonial economy in Northern Protectorate of Nigerian areas. This study therefore examines the changing nature of groundnut production in Babura

and Garki Districts from 1903 to 1960, with particular attention to its economic significance. It focuses on production, marketing, transport, export and highlighting their contribution to the socio-economic development of the districts during the colonial period.

Groundnuts Production in Babura and Garki Districts

In pre-colonial Babura and Garki, agriculture was the mainstay of the economy. Farmers produced agricultural produce like millet, guinea corn, beans, groundnuts and so on for local consumption and surplus for export or exchange with other commodities they did not produce such as salt, potash and farm implement etc. Although British colonial rule involved the establishment of political control, its economic objectives were equally significant. The introduction of taxation payable only in colonial currency encouraged the commercialization of agriculture and integrated local producers into the colonial economy. In Babura and Garki Districts, groundnut cultivation emerged as a major source of income, enabling farmers to obtain the cash necessary to satisfy colonial tax demands.

Groundnut as an export crop played a significant role in the economic development of Babura and Garki districts, particularly during the twentieth century. Its cultivation brought about major changes in the economic structure of the districts in particular and the emirate as a whole and marked the dominance of agriculture over local industries as the principal source of economic growth and payment of British colonial taxation. However, groundnut had been cultivated and consumed locally for many years prior to the British conquest and subsequent colonial administration of Babura and Garki. The crop, scientifically known as *Arachis hypogaea*, is commonly referred to as “peanut” in America, “*arachides*” in France, “*erdnüsse*” in Germany, and

³ Z. A. Alpha (2005). “The Emirates under British Overrule”. In Lokatai: Journal of Student’s Historical Society of Nigeria, Vol. 1. No. 1, Bayero University, Kano Chapter. P. 73

⁴ KSHCB/MLG/3249/1924/ “Fagolawa District Assessment Report”; read K. Musa, (2015). “An Economic History of Garki District, Kano Emirate, 1903-1991” Unpublished M.A

Dissertation, Bayero University Kano.

⁵ K. Musa, (2015). “An Economic History of Garki District, Kano Emirate, 1903-1991” Unpublished M.A Dissertation, Bayero University Kano; A. D. Babura, (1995), “History of Babura Town, 1800-1994”, Unpublished B. A. History Dissertation; Informants Interviews

“*gyada*” among the Hausa-speaking people.⁶ The crop is believed to have been introduced into present-day Northern Nigeria by Portuguese slave traders during the sixteenth century, after which it gradually became established as an important agricultural product in the region.⁷ Before 1900, groundnut was a widely consumed food crop throughout present-day Northern Nigeria and, in some parts of Hausaland, it occupied a place in local diets comparable to that of potatoes in Europe. It was cultivated in large quantities and constituted a significant part of the daily diet of the local population. The nuts were commonly consumed either boiled or roasted, while they were also processed to extract oil used for cooking and as fuel for lamps. In addition, its by-product, like groundnut cake, locally known as *Kuli-kuli*, formed an important component of local meals and was widely traded in local markets.⁸

Throughout the British rule (1903-1960), agriculture remained the most important features of the economy that is cash crops production in Babura and Garki districts. Groundnuts and cotton were the major cash crops produced in large quantity by the people of the two districts. Cotton was produced in relatively small quantities, as indicated in the 1924 Fagolawa District assessment report, which compared the acreage cultivated for different cash crops. The report shows that while groundnut cultivation covered 4,984 acres, cotton cultivation accounted for only 1,606 acres, reflecting the greater emphasis placed on groundnut production in the district during the period.⁹ Furthermore, the soil of Babura and Garki districts is

predominantly sandy, a type of soil that is particularly suitable for groundnut cultivation. This favorable environmental condition contributed to high yields and large-scale production of the crop. Consequently, the study area emerged as one of the major groundnut-producing regions, where substantial quantities of the commodity were both cultivated and purchased during the period under study.¹⁰

One of the major factors responsible for the expansion of groundnut production during the early years of British colonial rule was the provision and improvement of transportation infrastructure. Prior to the introduction of colonial taxation and the development of modern transport networks, groundnut production remained limited due to poor transportation facilities and restricted market opportunities. However, the extension of the railway to Kano between 1911 and 1912, together with the connection of major groundnut-producing areas such as Zakirai, Ringim, and Taura to the railway network, greatly facilitated the transportation and marketing of agricultural produce. As a result, the acreage devoted to groundnut cultivation increased significantly. Available records indicate that approximately 2,500 tons of groundnuts were traded in 1912, a figure that rose sharply to 19,000 tons in 1913.

The expansion of market opportunities encouraged farmers to increase groundnut cultivation, while wealthy individuals invested heavily in its production and trade. Consequently, groundnut farming became one of the most important

⁶ For detail on groundnuts production in Northern Nigeria read C. N. Ubah (1973) “Administration of Kano Emirate under the British, 1900-1930”. Unpublished Ph.D History, University of Ibadan. P. 429; J. S. Hogendorn (1978) *Nigerian Groundnut Exports: Origins and early Development*, Zaria & Ibadan: Ahmadu Bello University Press, and Oxford University Press. P. 36; Y. U. Madugu, & U. A. Suleiman, (2018), “The Impact of Railway on the Expansion of Production and Export of Groundnuts in Kano 1903-1930”, *Journal of Nigeria Transport History*, Maiden Edition, Vol. 1. No. 1. Pp. 24-37.

⁷ A. A. Adesimi, (1973). “The Prospects and Potentials of Groundnut Cultivation as a Means of Enhancing Economic Opportunities in the Rural Economy of Northern Nigeria”. Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, Economics, University of Winconsin, Madison. P. 96

⁸ J. S. Hogendorn, (1966), “The Origins of the Groundnut Trade

in Northern Nigeria”. Unpublished Ph.D Thesis, University of London. P. 19 and Y. U. Madugu, and U. A. Suleiman, “The Impact of Railway on the Expansion of Production and Export of Groundnuts in Kano 1903-1930”. In *Journal of Nigeria Transport History*, Maiden Edition, Vol. 1. No. 1, 2018. Pp. 24-37.

⁹ KSHCB/MLG/3249/1924/ “Fagolawa District Assessment Report” and read K. Musa, (2015). “An Economic History of Garki District, Kano Emirate, 1903-1991” Unpublished M.A Dissertation, Bayero University Kano. Pp. 35-39

¹⁰ K. M. Buchanan & J. C. Pugh (1955), *Land and People in Nigeria: The Human Geography of Nigeria and its Environment Background*, London: London University Press, P. 138; KSHCB/MLG/3249/1924/ “Fagolawa District Assessment Report”

commercial agricultural activities in the region. As part of the wider Kano Emirate, Babura and Garki Districts also benefited from this development and emerged as important centres of commercial groundnut production during the colonial period. Indeed, the Kano region is often regarded as one of the earliest areas in Nigeria where groundnut was cultivated on a large commercial scale.¹¹

The demand for groundnuts in Britain and other European nations including France, Germany and Netherlands raised the local price to an unprecedented amount of £10 per ton in 1913. The price rose to £11 per ton and later dropped to £6.10/s. per ton. The rise in the price of groundnuts to £11 per ton reflected the growing demand for the commodity in Britain and other European markets. However, the subsequent decline to £6.10s. per ton was likely the result of increased production, fluctuations in international demand, declining demand because of the availability of alternative raw materials and changing in colonial marketing policies. As more farmers expanded cultivation in response to earlier high prices, the resulting increase in supply contributed to a reduction in market prices. Additionally, variations in European industrial demand and broader economic conditions influenced the value of groundnuts in the export market. Meanwhile, 1913 coupled with drought, famine and war. The peasants having sold their nuts were forced to buy them again from the firms at high prices. The trade in groundnuts was also affected severely by the World War I (1914-1918), this is because German firms terminated their activities in Nigeria. However, there was improvement in 1916 when the price also rose to £11 per ton. Notwithstanding, Nigeria exported over 50,000 tons, this was followed by relapse in the buying seasons of 1919-1923 when export volume remained stagnant. In 1929 the export rose again and reached 147,000 tons. The Nigerian groundnuts export continued even during World-

Wide economic depression of the 1930's. It reached 245,000 tons in 1934 and in 1937 it rose to 326,000 tons.¹² Therefore, the groundnut production of the 1940s exceeded that of the 1930s, this can be linked to the increased demand particularly during the Second World War (1939–1945) because Britain and its allies required large quantities of vegetable oils and other raw materials for both military and civilian purposes. Other reasons are colonial agricultural policies like the promotion of the cultivation of export crops especially groundnuts, expansion of cultivated land and improved transportation facilities like railways as well as recovery from the economic depression of the 1930's. Unlike the early 1930s, which were affected by the economic depression and fluctuating commodity prices, the wartime economy created a strong and stable demand for groundnuts, thereby encouraging farmers to expand cultivation.¹³

During the early years of the groundnut trade in Kano, two major firms were actively involved in the purchase and marketing of the commodity. Some accounts suggest that the Royal Niger Company was the first firm to purchase groundnuts in Kano, while the Lagos Stores emerged as the second major participant in the trade. Regardless of which company entered the market first, both firms played a pioneering role in establishing the commercial groundnut trade and creating opportunities for other trading companies to participate. As the profitability of the trade became evident, additional European firms entered the market and expanded their activities in groundnuts and other agricultural commodities. By the end of 1913, approximately eighteen expatriate trading companies, together with numerous smaller firms and individual traders, particularly from the West African coast, had become involved in the trade. The growing number of participants increased competition and contributed to the expansion of commercial agriculture in the region. Furthermore, the London and Kano Trading

¹¹ A. A Adesimi, (1973). "The Prospects and Potentials of Groundnut Cultivation as a Means of Enhancing Economic Opportunities in the Rural Economy of Northern Nigeria". Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, Economics, University of Wisconsin, Madison. Pp. 100-101.

¹² C. N. Ubah, (1973). "Administration of Kano Emirate under the British, 1900-1930". Unpublished Ph.D History, University

of Ibadan. P. 430 and M. A Ringim, (1993). "A Socio-economic History of Ringim Town, 1903-1991". Unpublished M. A History dissertation, Bayero University Kano. P. 102

¹³ S. Wycliff, (2022), "Groundnut Production in the Colonial Economy and Society of Kilba District of Adamawa Province in Northern Nigeria, 1904–1960," *African Journal of Management and Business Research* 4, no. 1. Pp. 65-83.

Company, which had been established in 1905, entered the groundnut trade in 1912,¹⁴ further

intensifying competition among the major trading firms

Impact of transport i.e. railway and motor lorry on groundnuts production in Nigeria

Nigeria groundnut exports in tons from 1927-1938

Years	Tons
1927-1928	86,000
1928-1929	135,000
1929-1930	147,000
1930-1931	154,000
1931-1932	165,000
1932-1933	197,000
1933-1934	235,000
1934-1935	199,000
1935-1936	177,000
1936-1937	350,000
1937-1938	207,000

Source: J. S. Hogendorn, (1966), “The Origins of the Groundnut Trade in Northern Nigeria” Unpublished Ph.D Thesis, University of London. P.239

Meanwhile, groundnuts sold in Kano passed through the hands of middlemen, and farmers were generally unable to sell their produce directly to the trading firms. As a result, they often did not receive the full market value of their products. Consequently, many groundnut farmers travelled to Kano city themselves, transporting their produce on their heads or by using donkeys. These middlemen included Hausa, Yoruba, and Arab traders, although the Hausa were initially the most prominent among them. In subsequent years, however, produce-buying stations were established in many districts of Kano Emirate to facilitate the marketing of agricultural produce and reduce the dependence of farmers on

intermediaries.¹⁵

Groundnut prices fluctuated considerably from year to year, particularly during the global economic depression of the 1930s, which adversely affected the prices of raw materials throughout the world. The economic downturn created instability in the produce market and intensified competition among purchasing firms. As a result, attempts by British-owned trading companies to establish a cartel or “pool” for the purpose of regulating prices were largely unsuccessful. Instead, peasant producers benefited from the rivalry among competing firms and were often able to secure more favourable prices

¹⁴ J. S. Hogendorn (1978). *Nigerian Groundnut Exports: Origins and early Development*, Ahmadu Bello University Press, Zaria and Oxford University Press, Ibadan. P. 59 & 79 and C. N. Ubah, (1973)P. 433

¹⁵ C. N. Ubah, (1973), “Administration of Kano Emirate under the British, 1900-1930”. Unpublished Ph.D History, University of Ibadan. Pp. 432-3

for their produce.

The British colonial administration generally refrained from direct intervention in the regulation of groundnut prices. Furthermore, the presence of numerous trading firms in Babura and Garki districts made it difficult for buyers to agree on a uniform purchasing price. When groundnut prices were low, commercial activity often declined because farmers

had limited surplus income with which to purchase imported European goods. Conversely, periods of high prices increased farmers' purchasing power, resulting in greater demand for imported commodities and higher profits for trading firms. Thus, fluctuations in groundnut prices had a direct impact on both the local economy and the commercial activities of European firms operating in Kano and its environs.¹⁶

Kano's groundnuts production in relation to total Nigeria exports, 1926-1938

Year	Total exports (tons)	Quantity Railed from Kano (tons)	Average Kano prices (per ton)
1926-27	90,000	39,936	£11,190
1927-28	86,000	not available	£12,180
1928-29	135,000	88,422	£11,00
1929-30	147,000	112,032	£8,180
1930-31	154,000	not available	£4,170
1931-32	165,000	158,818	£6,160
1932-33	197,000	150,000	£5,140
1933-34	235,000	not available	£2,130
1934-35	199,000	135,000 (approx.)	£6,190
1935-36	177,000	110,000 (approx.)	£7,160
1936-37	350,000	300,000	£7,176
1937-38	107,000	170,000	£2,126

Source: A. M. Fika, (1978), *The Kano Civil War and British Over-rule, 1882-1940*. Ibadan: Oxford University Press. P. 255

The above table illustrates the central role of Kano in Nigeria's groundnut export economy between 1926 and 1938, showing both the growth in total national exports and the significant quantity transported from Kano. It indicates a general increase in groundnut

exports from 90,000 tons in 1926-27 to a peak of 350,000 tons in 1936-37, with Kano consistently serving as the main producing and marketing centre. The data also reveals sharp fluctuations in prices, with relatively high values in the late 1920s followed

¹⁶ A. M. Fika, (1978), *The Kano Civil War and British Over-*

rule, 1882-1940. Ibadan: Oxford University Press. Pp. 225-6

by a drastic decline during the Great Depression of the 1930s, before a partial recovery in the mid-1930⁵. Despite falling prices, production continued to rise in many years, largely due to farmers' reliance on groundnut cultivation for cash income, taxation needs, and access to imported goods. Generally, the table demonstrates the increasing commercialization of agriculture, the dominance of Kano in groundnut exports, and the strong influence of global economic conditions on colonial agricultural production.

Groundnuts production in Babura and Garki districts was done throughout the districts. It was massively grown and sold in order to pay the British colonial taxes. Groundnuts were brought for sale in Babura and Garki towns from surrounding villages and towns and also from Niger Republic. Buying centers were established in the districts by the European firms. In Babura town, the buying centers were located at *Kantin Dawa* present *bakin Kasuwa* and butchers site. In Garki town, the buying centers were initially located at *Gandun* Dirani, present location of Binta Abubakar *Islamiyya* School and *Jama'atul Izalatul Bid'a Wa'iqamatus-Sunnah* Friday mosque. In the subsequent years, it was relocated to near late Malam Mai Zabura House and then after two years of its existence it was also relocated to a place near *Rafin Goje* and behind *Karar Dabbobi* in the western part of Garki town. However, groundnuts from Babura District were taken direct to Kano, while those from Garki District were taken to Ringim, Taura and Kano respectively. The nuts were evacuated by European firms owned lorries to the railway stations and then to coast for shipment.¹⁷

The early and leading license buying agents in groundnut trade particularly in Babura and Garki Districts were Alhaji Alhassan Dantata (Hausa), Hassan Halawai (Arab), Alhaji Uba Ringim (Hausa), Salim Makarum (Arab) among others. They had their own agents and independent entrepreneurs in Babura

and Garki Districts. In Babura District there were Alhaji Yusuf Dogon (Arab), Alhaji Musa Wagadugu, Alhaji Musa Alher, Audun Garki Daura (Arab) and Alhaji Muhammadu Lofiyu. In Garki District, the agents and self-appointed entrepreneurs in groundnut buying were: Alhaji Adamu Shimali, Alhaji Musa Maigoro, Alhaji Garba Mai Turare, Alhaji Bawan Allah and Alhaji Sabo Ringim: Others were Malam Tukur from Soron Dinki, Kano, Malam Namadi Ringim, Malam Ya'u from Kano and Sale Tankari.¹⁸

There was rapid increase in groundnut production in Babura and Garki Districts, for instance, in Fagolawa District assessment report of 1924, Mr. Noad, an Assistant District Officer of Fagolawa District stated that there was an increase in the number of acres of groundnut production from 1,872 acres in 1922 and to 4,984 acres in 1924. In addition, during the 1924 groundnut farming season, farmers received varying prices for their produce, ranging from £7 to £9 per ton. The variation in prices reflected differences in market conditions, quality of produce, location, and the level of competition among produce-buying firms operating in the region.¹⁹ Secondly, between 1911 and 1922, colonial tax assessments increased substantially, rising from 4 shillings to 8 shillings and 5 pence. This period was characterized by a heavier tax burden on rural households, compelling many farmers to seek additional sources of cash income. At the same time, intense competition among produce-buying agents created favourable market conditions for groundnut producers. Consequently, many farmers expanded the acreage devoted to groundnut cultivation, often at the expense of food crop production, in order to generate sufficient income to meet their tax obligations and other economic needs.²⁰ Another factor that contributed to the expansion of groundnut production in Babura and Garki Districts was the distribution of improved seed varieties to farmers. In

¹⁷ Interviews with Alhaji Ado Babba, aged 75, at Garki on 27/01/2014, Alhaji Habu 'Ja', aged 80 at Babura on 01/03/2014, Alhaji Haruna Bawan Allah, aged 75 at Garki on 28/01/2014, Baba Koli, aged 80 at Garki on 27/01/2014, Alhaji Habu Sadi, aged 75 at Babura on 8/03/2014 and Alhaji Amadu Na Faranshi, aged 80, at Babura on 9/03/2014; read M. B., Babura, (2006), *Babura Ta Bawa Birni a Dawa (1804-2006 A.D)*. Kano: Savannah Printing Press. Pp. 108-121

¹⁸ Interviews with informants in both Babura and Garki towns see list of informants in bibliography

¹⁹ KSHCB/MLG/3249/1924/Fagolawa District Assessment Report

²⁰ M. J. Watts, (1979), *A Silent Revolution: The Nature of Famine and the Changing Structure of Food Production in Nigerian Hausa land*, Vol. I, Ph.D Thesis, University of Michigan, P. 296

addition, the cultivation of groundnuts was strongly encouraged and, in some cases, effectively made compulsory for farmers. Traditional rulers played a significant role in promoting groundnut production among their subjects. For example, between 1942 and 1945, the District Head of Babura toured various parts of the district to encourage and direct farmers to cultivate groundnuts. Archival records further indicate that, in 1943, a groundnut production campaign was conducted in Garki District, covering several towns and villages, including Garki, Doko, Kargo, Kita, Kanya, and Gwarzo. These efforts contributed significantly to the expansion of groundnut cultivation and reinforced the importance of the crop within the colonial economy.²¹ For example, in Babura District alone, groundnut production reached approximately 3,000 tons during less productive farming seasons. However, during favourable seasons, production increased significantly, with 7,224 tons recorded in the 1953/1954 farming season. This figure was remarkably high and exceeded Nigeria's total groundnut export volume of about 2,000 tons recorded in 1912. The comparison illustrates the substantial growth of groundnut production in Babura District and highlights the increasing importance of the crop within the colonial agricultural economy.²²

Moreover, because of the boom in groundnut production especially in Babura and Garki districts, several European companies established their branches in Babura town because of its proximity with Niger Republic. From 1929 to 1934, there were about seven branches of European trading companies in the town. They included G. B. Ollivant, Ambrosini Trading Company, A. P. Gaydou, United African Company (U.A.C), France Company (C.F.A.O), and

E. F. Weibel. These trading companies exported to Magarya (in present Niger Republic). This is because during the world-wide economic depressions of the 1930's, the price of groundnut fell drastically particularly in Nigerian area. As a result, farmers and independent merchants changed the direction of their trade to Magarya in present Niger Republic because of the difference in price. However, no single European trading company established their branch in Garki District. Decorticating machines and scales for measuring the quantity of groundnut were introduced to the districts, but there were no records to show how many decorticating machines and scales as well as the year that they were introduced to these areas.²³

Babura and Garki Districts were and still are not linked with railway lines with other towns but as a result of the various trade routes which subsequently became tarred and feeder roads were constructed, this improved the transportation of the nuts. The agents and sometimes the farmers themselves specifically from Garki district took it either to Kano, Taura or Ringim. The production of groundnuts in Babura and Garki districts had helped in facilitating the local groundnut oil producing industries (*H. matsan gyada*) made by women. Groundnuts production helped the farmers to purchase they needs such as foods, cloths and payment of British colonial taxes.²⁴ In 1942, the West African Produced Control Board (W.A.P.C.B) was established to control and monopolize all the trading activities in West African colonies. In 1949, the Marketing Boards was also established and in 1954 the Regional Marketing Boards under Regional Development Corporation replaced the Nigerian Marketing Boards. Trading activities were monopolized, buying license agents were introduced without which trading was illegal.²⁵

²¹ A. D. Babura, (1995). "History of Babura Town 1800-1994". Unpublished B. A. History Dissertation, Bayero University, Kano. P. 61; KSHCB/Garki Inspection Notes/Vol. 1

²² G. K., Helleiner, (1966), *Peasant Agriculture, Government and Economic Growth in Nigeria*, U. S. A.: Richard D. Irwin, Inc., P.109

²³ NAK/Kanoprof/4402/3/Babura Gazette, Vol. I, No. IV/Babura Trading Layout Inspection Notes; Interviews with Baba Idi Na Gujungu, aged 80 at Babura on 01/03/2014, Alhaji Amadu Na Faranshi and Baba Koli, aged 80 at Garki on 27/01/2014 (died, Nov. 2021).

²⁴ A. D. Babura, (1995). "History of Babura Town 1800-1994". Unpublished B.A History dissertation, Bayero University, Kano. P. 62, S. T. Yusuf, (2007). "The Impact of the Railway on Madobi and Kwankwaso Towns" Unpublished M. A History, dissertation, Bayero University, Kano, see chapter six, item number 1 and interview with Alhaji Haruna Bawan Allah, aged 75 at Garki on 28/01/2014

²⁵ G. K., Helleiner, (1966), *Peasant Agriculture, Government and Economic Growth in Nigeria*, U. S. A.: Richard D. Irwin, Inc., P.152

Conclusion

This paper has examined groundnuts production in Babura and Garki districts particularly from 1903-1960. Groundnuts known to Hausa as *gyada* had been grown for domestic use long before it became export crop. It was introduced to Nigeria areas in the 16th century. The nuts were eating boiled or roasted, while cooking oil was extracted from it and groundnut cake (*kuli-kuli*) was its byproduct. Groundnuts began to be produced in commercial quantities and exported particularly after the railway

reached Kano in 1911/1912. Because of it high demand in Europe, many expatriate companies established their presence in Babura and Garki districts. Groundnuts from these districts were taken to Taura, Ringim and Kano. It was also evacuated by lorries to the railway stations. However, buying centres were opened in Babura and Garki towns, many farmers, License Buying Agents and their agents became wealthy. It provided many people with food, cloths, shelter and sometimes they performed pilgrimage to Mecca, payment of British colonial taxes and the towns became urban centres.

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List of Informants

S/No.	Names of Informants	Age	Occupation	Place of Interview	Date of Interview
1.	Alhaji Haruna Bawan Allah	75	Farmer/Retired Civil Servant & Politician	Garki Town, Jigawa State	28 th January, 2014.
2.	Baba Idi na Gujungu	80	Farmer/Business	Babura Town, Jigawa State	1 st March, 2014
3.	Alhaji Amadu na Faranshi	80	Farmer/Business	Babura Town, Jigawa State	9 th March, 2014
4.	Baba Koli	80	Farmer	Garki Town, Jigawa State	27 th January, 2014 (died, Nov. 2021)
5.	Alhaji Ado Babba	75	Farmer/Business	Garki Town, Jigawa State	27 th January, 2014 (died, 2025)
6.	Alhaji Habu 'Ja'	80	Farmer/Business	Babura Town, Jigawa State	1 st March, 2014
7.	Alhaji Habu Sadi	75	Farmer/Business	Babura Town, Jigawa State	8 th March, 2014

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