

The Federal Republic of Nigeria

Geography

Nigeria is located in western Africa on the Gulf of Guinea and has a total area of 923,768 km² (356,669 mi²),^[27] making it the world's 32nd-largest country. It is comparable in size to Venezuela, and is about twice the size of California. It shares a 4047 km (2515-mile) border with Benin (773 km), Niger (1497 km), Chad (87 km), and Cameroon (1690 km), and has a coastline of at least 853 km.^[28]

Nigeria has a varied landscape. From the Obudu Hills in the southeast through the beaches in the south, the rainforest, the Lagos estuary and savannah in the middle and southwest of the country and the Sahel to the encroaching Sahara in the extreme north.

Nigeria's main rivers are the Niger and the Benue which converge and empty into the Niger Delta, the world's largest river deltas.



Figure 1: Map of Nigeria: showing the administrative divisions

Government and Administrative divisions

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides for the operation of three tiers of government, at the Federal, State and Local levels. There are 36 States in Nigeria, which form the second tier of the administrative structure in Nigeria. The local government is the third tier of the administrative structure in Nigeria. There are 774 local government areas (LGAs) in the country. Oyo is one of the States in Nigeria. It is an inland state in south-western Nigeria, with its capital at Ibadan. It is bounded in the south by Ogun State and in the north by Kwara State, in the west is bounded partly by Ogun State and partly by the Republic of Benin while in the east it is bounded

by Osun State. It covers a total of 27,249 square kilometers of land mass with a population of about 6,617,720 (2005 est.).

Visit www.ngex.com/nigeria/places/states/oyo for more information

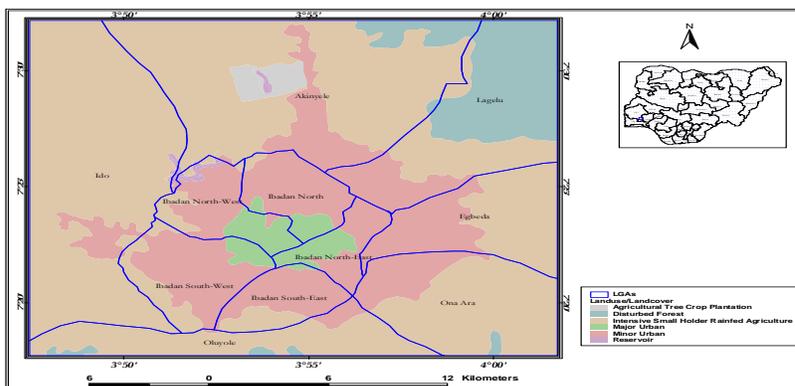
Ibadan City Profile

Population Data and expected growth by 2015 horizon

Ibadan is the largest indigenous city in West Africa and is located in the South Western part of Oyo State of Nigeria. It is the capital city of Oyo State and is located about 145 km north-east of Lagos, the federal capital of Nigeria. Its population is 2,550,593 according to 2006 census results, including 11 local government areas. The population of central Ibadan, including five LGAs, is 1 338 659 according to census results for 2006, covering an area of 128 km².

Ecosystem and Climate

Majority of the soils ranged between typic and typic tropaquent. However, they are scattered all over the landscape of the Ibadan city and majority are not used at all for either agriculture or for any form of land use.



Source: Taiwo (2007)

Main Characteristics of the City

The site is dominated by a range of hills in all directions. As the dominant urban centre in Oyo State, its administrative and commercial functions transcend beyond the city boundaries. Ibadan metropolitan area covers a total land area of 3,123km² of which the main city covers 463.33km².

These include the banks of streams as well as isolated wetland areas that dot the city, which is enclosed by valleys and swamps.

Eleven Local Government Areas are grouped together to what is called the Ibadan metropolitan area, Ibadan region or Ibadan land (Fig 1). The overall population density of Ibadan metropolitan area is 586 persons per km². The administrative and commercial importance of Ibadan has resulted in land being a key investment asset and a status symbol for the population.

Economic Activities

Economic activities undertaken by people in Ibadan include trading, public service employment, and agriculture in decreasing order of importance. The volume and diversity of demand for food products stimulated the need for agricultural production within the vicinity of the city.

Many people in the city engage in agriculture. The inability of rural farmers to cope with the food demand triggered the practices of UPA in Ibadan city. Moreover, economic needs and knowledge of residents have transformed the land left over by urbanization into gardens notable for their ecological richness and variety.

The predominant crop production in Ibadan is staple food- cassava, maize and vegetables such as Chinese spinach, okra, aubergine, cucumber, tomatoes, pepper. Family land and leasehold accounts for the dominant part of land tenure systems of urban vegetable production. Farm sizes, which average below one hectare, as well as, the number of farm holdings by individual farmers are a factor of land tenure.



Constraints to Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture

In terms of the availability and distribution of farm inputs, technology transfer, and types of vegetables cultivated, Ibadan has yet to meet the standards operating in Lagos. In Ibadan, urban farmers have difficulty in offering their products for sale due to resistance from organized

market's union in the large public markets within greater Ibadan. Competition for land for non-agricultural use is regarded as the main threat to urban agriculture.

This is to be expected as the value of land for development is always higher than is for farming. Other constraints to UPA in Ibadan are inadequate finance, climatic factors, poor pricing, pests and diseases, prohibitive cost of farm input and lack of extension visits, disposal of farm waste, and misuse of agrochemicals. Information, training and service needs of the farmers vary from one type of agriculture to the other. Production information on livestock/aquaculture, veterinary attention to animals/fish, feeding and housing were the most prominent information, training and service needs respectively.



Development perspective of UPA

The following constitute the recommendations made following the Ibadan exploratory study on urban agriculture:

Farmers' structures and organizations need to be strengthened. There has to be safe water for UPA activities through bore holes, wells, and surface irrigation. Organic waste is also to be Recycled for production purposes and clean environment. This can be done through capacity building on composting. Coordinated intervention in the area of safe use of pesticide especially in the area of vegetable production is important. Information on improved practices to be disseminated through the allocation of extension services to urban areas. Design micro-credit programmes for UPA farmers. Local and State governments as well as other stakeholders should make budgetary provision to support institutionalization of UPA in Ibadan. Promote safe practice of UPA through enforcement of current legislation on public health, environmental sanitation, and waste management among others and legalize UPA practice as an urban land use category.

For more information read: [Ibadan Exploratory Study on Urban Agriculture](#)