

Towards using space technology (satellite information) for the attainment of sustainable economic development- Nigerian experience

L.E. Akeh and J.N. Okpara

Directorate of Applied Meteorological Services, Nigerian Meteorological Agency, 32, Pope John Paul Street, Maitama, P.M.B.615, Garki, Abuja, Nigeria

e-mail: Juddy_Okpara@yahoo.co.uk

Abstract

This paper attempts to x-ray the important role NigeriaSat1 and Meteorological satellites in constellation with other satellites have played in the recent time in attaining sustainable economic development in Nigeria. Instead of the usual discrete observations scattered all over the surface of the earth, especially the more populated areas and major trading routes, or inferring to the shape and movement of weather systems from few widely scattered observations, scientists in Nigeria can now enjoy a bird's eye view of the planet, and see the movement and evolution of the storm system in animated sequences on computer screen, as well as the continuous surveillance of the entire planet. With satellite data, Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) is able to determine the location and intensity of storms, diagnose weather producing system, heavy rainfall and tracking of meso-scale convective systems. This have been very helpful in improving the quality of short and medium range weather forecast, specialized forecasts, also have greatly increased public confidence in the usage of our products. Also, with launching of NigeriaSat 1 by the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), there has been improved Famine Early Warning System (FEWS) and appropriate decision- making in the country, coupled with thorough environmental monitoring.