













**Figure3. Plot of the ratio of Agricultural sector output to GDP growth (Ratio growth) in Nigeria**

The result of Figure3 above indicates how proactive different regimes agricultural policies have contributed to RGDP growth in Nigeria. However, when there is a consistent yearly rise in the ratio of agricultural sector output to RGDP, this implies a consistent increase in the contribution of agricultural sector to economic growth. So the regime where such growth is identified have a practical (commitment to making agriculture count in our GDP growth) policy that can enhance economic growth in Nigeria. Below are summary remarks on different government agricultural policies relative to output and economic growth. Note that the rise in the ratio of agricultural sector output to RGDP is hereafter known as “**ratio growth**” in this paper.

- |   |                                |  |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | President Shehu Shagari        | (1979-1983) had an active agricultural policy that consistently engenders economic growth for the period captured under review   |
| 2 | Major-General Muhammadu Buhari | (1983-1985) did not sustain the ratio growth in 1984 but the ratio growth improved the year he government was overthrown. His regime policy on agriculture for the short period in office was not active.                    |
| 3 | General Ibrahim Babangida      | (1985-1993) the ratio growth in this regime was not consistent and there are notable periods of stagnancy as it regards ratio growth. His regime policy on agriculture has little or no positive effect on the ratio growth. |
| 4 | President Ernest Shonekan      | (1993) interim government for 3 months   |
| 5 | General Sani Abacha            | (1993-1998) the ratio growth in this regime is no significant, as there are no significant spikes in the successive ratio growth. Agricultural policy of this  |

- regime was not proactive to propel economic growth.
- 6 General Abdulsalami Abubakar (1998-1999) this one year regime government was an interim military government that handed over to democratically elected civilian government. Building on the agricultural policy met on ground, the government stepped-up ratio growth.
- 7 President Olusegun Obasanjo (1999-2007) this regime has the most proactive agricultural policies that raised the ratio growth to its highest peak for the period under review. The sharp ratio growth observable in 2002 accounted for the highest contribution of agricultural policy to GDP growth in Nigeria for the period under investigation.
- 8 President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua (2007-2010) the agricultural policy of this regime was not practical enough to sustain the ratio growth index it met in 2007, as it is observable from Figure 1 that ratio growth slowly and consistently dropped.
- 9 President Goodluck Jonathan (2010-2015) the ratio growth index continued to degenerate which indicates that the regime agricultural policy as it relates to ratio growth was not active. Unstable ratio growth index is evidence that the regime agricultural policy has not fared well in comparison with that of the predecessor.
- 10 President Muhammadu Buhari (2015-till date) the agricultural policy of this regime is active as observable from the consistent rise in ratio growth for the period capture under review.

#### 4.2 Discussion of Results

The results via graphical exploration using Figure 3 explicates that agricultural policies of different governments in Nigeria have contributed in one way or the other to economic growth. Though some of these policies based on the analytical techniques are more proactive than others. The findings reveals that a comparison of different regimes policies on agriculture as a means to improve agricultural production which at the long-run impact positively to economic growth, the regime of (1999-2007) President Olusegun Obasanjo has proven to be better than any other regime for the period under review.

The dimension of this paper is unique hence; it becomes somewhat difficult to relate the findings with any other one in the volume of literatures. And comparing regimes' agricultural policies relative to Nigeria's economic growth; it can be pointed out that the **National, Special Programme on Food Security (NSPFS)** that was launched in January 2002 in all the thirty six states of the federation and the **Root and Tuber Expansion Programme (RTEP)** that was launched on 16th April 2003 to address the problem of food production and rural poverty by Olusegun Obasanjo's administration were more practical than any other regime's policy on agricul-

ture in Nigeria.

## 5. Conclusion

The appraisal of regimes' agricultural policies relative to Nigeria's economic growth using a graphical exploration reveals that the regime of (1999-2007) President Olusegun Obasanjo has proven to be better than any other regime with about 26% ratio growth value for the period under review. The regime period records the highest agricultural sector output contribution to real GDP growth and the regimes agricultural policy is said to be more proactive than any other for the period under study.

Therefore, the **National, Special Programme on Food Security (NSPFS)** that was launched in January 2002 in all the thirty six states of the federation and the **Root and Tuber Expansion Programme (RTEP)** that was launched on 16th April 2003 to address the problem of food production and rural poverty by Olusegun Obasanjo's administration can be recommended to be more productive and adequate to sustain agricultural sector output growth and to improve economic growth in Nigeria. Moreover, boosting agricultural sector through practical policy will successfully stimulate economic growth in Nigeria.

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