

Exploring the Historical Archaeology of Spatial Organization in the Market as a Strategy for Economic Development in Maikatako Market, Bokkos, Nigeria

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Abstract: This study examines the historical archaeology of market spacial organization in Bokkos, Nigeria, focusing on past market layouts settings and trade practices which reflect and inform contemporary economic development strategies. Through the analysis of archaeological data findings, this work aims to underscore the evolution of market spaces and their role in shaping economic activities and challenges they pose to economic systems trading networks and impact on Nigerian market in Bokkos. It seeks to identify lessons from past researchers and policymakers with a view to employ current situations to determine sustainable economic development strategies for the future including the revitalization of traditional markets, the development of new infrastructures and the promotion of independent economic growth. Thus, the article using the cultural ecology theory is an exploration of the historical archaeology of spacial organization in Nigerian market, Bokkos as a strategy for economic development that inform contemporary economic activities and challenges. The structure of the subject includes, introduction, its location, and adopt a qualitative methodology in discussing the topic which is centered on the significance of spatial organization within markets needing attention particularly in rural areas.

Problem Statement : Despite the extensive discussions and research on various economic issues that have captured the attention of policymakers and researchers, there remains a notable gap regarding the importance of spatial organization within markets, particularly in rural areas. While urban markets often benefit from well-planned layouts and essential amenities, rural markets have been relatively neglected in terms of development and organization. This lack of attention to rural market organization poses significant challenges, including disparities in access to services and resources, inefficiencies in the supply chain. These issues not only hinder economic growth opportunities for rural communities but also underscore the urgent need to address the organization and infrastructure deficiencies within rural markets to ensure sustainable development and equitable access to markets for both urban and rural populations

1. INTRODUCTION

Numerous economic issues have been discussed and captured the focus of policymakers and researchers. Yet, the significance of spatial organization within markets deserves particular attention. In rural areas, the development and organization of markets have often been overlooked. These rural markets play a pivotal role in the distribution of the majority of farm produce consumed by populations in both urban and rural regions and forms part of their cultural activities (Randell, 2012). Effective organization within markets not only fosters economic development but also creates job opportunities and encourages investment. Urban markets typically exhibit well-planned layouts with the presence of essential social amenities, a contrast to the situation observed in rural markets. The lack of organization in rural markets contributes to disparities in access to essential services and resources and also, the neglect of market development in rural areas has far-reaching implications and the inadequate organization and infrastructure within rural markets can lead to inefficiencies in the supply chain, hindering the timely and efficient distribution of agricultural goods. The distribution of agricultural goods if not done in a timely manner often can result in increased spoilage of perishable produce, which has the tendency to limit economic growth opportunities for rural communities.

Urban markets often benefit from better planning and investment, leading to improved facilities, sanitation, and security measures. In contrast, rural markets suffer from insufficient infrastructure, inadequate storage facilities, and limited access to basic amenities, impacting the overall productivity and competitiveness of local farmers

and traders. Applying the cultural ecology theory in addressing the spatial organization of rural markets is crucial for promoting inclusive economic growth, enhancing food security, and fostering sustainable development in rural areas. By investing in market infrastructure, improving transportation networks, and implementing effective market management strategies, policymakers can stimulate economic activities, create employment opportunities, and attract investments to rural communities.

The Economic Commission of Africa underscores the significance of authentic development that transcends economic facets, encapsulating a comprehensive integration of social, political, cultural, technological, and economic dimensions. Within this framework, history emerges as a pivotal agent in addressing the developmental needs of communities (Uji, 2007). Development, at its essence, endeavors towards the holistic advancement of societal well-being, symbolizing a society's adeptness in navigating and harmonizing with its surroundings, while progressing through various developmental stages (Akindele & Ate, 1998). The economy of Nigeria specifically, Bokkos is marked by various structural changes and growth such as rural-urban migration, occupational changes, recession, and environmental degradation which have impacted the people both positively and negatively. These changes stimulate the quest for matching solutions which can be seen in numerous government policies/interventions such as the recent Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA 2012), Agricultural Promotion Policy (APP 2016), research outcomes, and scholastic debates. This approach has drudged on a short-term solution after which there is always a need to rethink the progress made. In determining the Indices for evaluating processes and progress in economic development, the antiquity of economic activities in relation to change and continuity is paramount and archaeologists have used their craft to challenge the status quo (Little & Zimmerman 2010). Archaeology, as a practice, plays a pivotal role in shaping a more compassionate and humane world where economic development can thrive. The economic growth of mankind is intricately linked to his cultural activities, underscoring the profound influence of societal customs and traditions on economic progress. Societies, serving as reflections of their historical narratives, have evolved their economic, social, religious, and political systems in tandem with their environmental contexts. To foster sustainable economic growth, a shift towards localized, community-focused studies rooted in cultural values is imperative, steering away from detached, centralized approaches. Using the case of Bokkos for this study, the findings are of enormous value to Nigeria. Bokkos is located in central Plateau state of Nigeria. The area is renowned for economic activities especially its agricultural produce such as the production of the famous Irish potatoes. Bokkos houses one of the largest markets in central Plateau state second to the Mangu Market. Bokkos presently boasts three significant markets: the Monday market at Maikatako, the Tuesday market in Daffo, and the Thursday market in Bokkos town. Renowned for their trade in Irish potatoes, these markets serve as pivotal hubs where local farmers bring their produce to exchange for monetary value. The potatoes sourced from these markets are distributed to various states within Nigeria and even to regions in West Africa, including Niger

Despite being renowned for its economic viability and housing one of the largest open markets in central Plateau State, Bokkos faces persistent challenges in achieving sustained economic growth. The economy experiences a lack of meaningful progression, with the market remaining an open weekly market rather than transitioning to departmental stores, and agricultural produce lacking a well-established value chain. Previous efforts by the Nigerian government and scholars from various disciplines have not yielded significant results, potentially due to a lack of consideration for the local cultural values in the proposed solutions. The Economic Commission of Africa emphasizes that authentic development transcends all aspects of society, encompassing social, political, cultural, technological, and economic dimensions. In this context, history plays a crucial role in addressing the developmental needs of any community (Uji, 2007). Development, at its core, strives for the holistic enhancement of the quality of life within a society, it signifies a society's capacity to effectively navigate and regulate its surroundings, as well as its ability to progress from one stage to another (Akindele, & Ate, 1998).

This article concentrates on the spatial organization of the Maikatako market in Bokkos Local Government Area (LGA) utilizing a historical archaeological approach for data collection to assess how organizational elements impact overall development within the market environment. It includes a detailed map of the market, reports the findings, and suggest methods for improving market organization and provides recommendations regarding investment opportunities and job creation.

Maikatako market is situated in the Bokkos Local Government Area of Plateau State, Nigeria spans an area of 51667.6975 square meters, positioned at a latitude of 9°24'24.762N and a longitude of 8°56'59.316E. I used qualitative study with ethnographic data, historical data and archaeological survey to obtain data on Maikatako market.

2. OVERVIEW OF HISTORICAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN BOKKOS

The historical archaeological investigation of the economic development in Bokkos has been an underexplored area in existing literature, despite a significant body of research on various communities within the Jos Plateau and Nigeria. Previous studies by Meek (1926), Temple (1942), and Ames (1934) discussed ethnic groups including those in Bokkos, although it is mainly focused on socio-political and cultural practices, the work provides foundational knowledge for understanding Bokkos's economy. Additionally, works by Gonyok (1973), Agi (1975), Iseiche (1983), Mwangvwat (1984), Fwatshak (2011), Klas & William (1961), Daron & James (2013), Hanson (1977), and Mai-Lafiya (2010) updated the colonial records and analyzed economic growth aspects pertinent to the Bokkos people, it discussed the economy in general but paid no attention to the organizational structure of the market.

Recent studies conducted in Bokkos Local Government have examined various aspects including economic viability, potato parasites, and the marketing of agricultural produce. Noteworthy examples include Zaknayibu & Mamman (2016), Pam et al. (2018), Dele et al. (2023), Selzing et al. (2023), and the research by Ojumu and Komolafe (2024), which specifically delves into the marketing efficiency of small-scale potato marketers in Plateau State, Nigeria, focusing on financial aspects and profitability within the Maikako market.

Dele, J. O., Babajide, S. A., & Abdullahi, U. M. (2023) explored the dynamics of market traders and inter-group interactions at Jos Terminus Market, emphasizing the trade's role in Jos' economic landscape and its impact on social cohesion. Pam et al. (2018) and Zaknayiba & Mamman (2016) investigated the profitability of Irish potato production in Bokkos Local Government Area, offering insights into potato farming economics while not directly addressing the Maikatako market.

Dele et al. (2023) detailed the complexities of market traders and inter-group dynamics at Jos Terminus Market, spanning from 1975 to 2023, highlighting the significance of trade and markets in Jos' economic fabric. Their research explores how economic exchanges within Jos Main Market have fostered cooperation and interactions among diverse ethnic groups, shedding light on how market activities influence social cohesion and development.

Ojumu and Komolafe's (2024) study on the marketing efficiency of small-scale potato marketers in Plateau State primarily focuses on the financial aspects of potato marketing efficiency, revealing valuable insights into the financial performance of marketers and demonstrating the profitability of potato marketing in the region, thereby confirming the viability of the Maikako market.

Zaknayiba, D. B., & Mamman, B. D. (2016) concentrated on the profitability of Irish potato production in Bokkos Local Government Area, providing valuable economic insights into potato farming in the region. While the research highlights the financial performance of Irish potato cultivation and challenges faced by farmers, it does not specifically address the Maikatako market. This study contributes by bridging historical and spatial market arrangements, enhancing the understanding of the economic development of the Bokkos community.

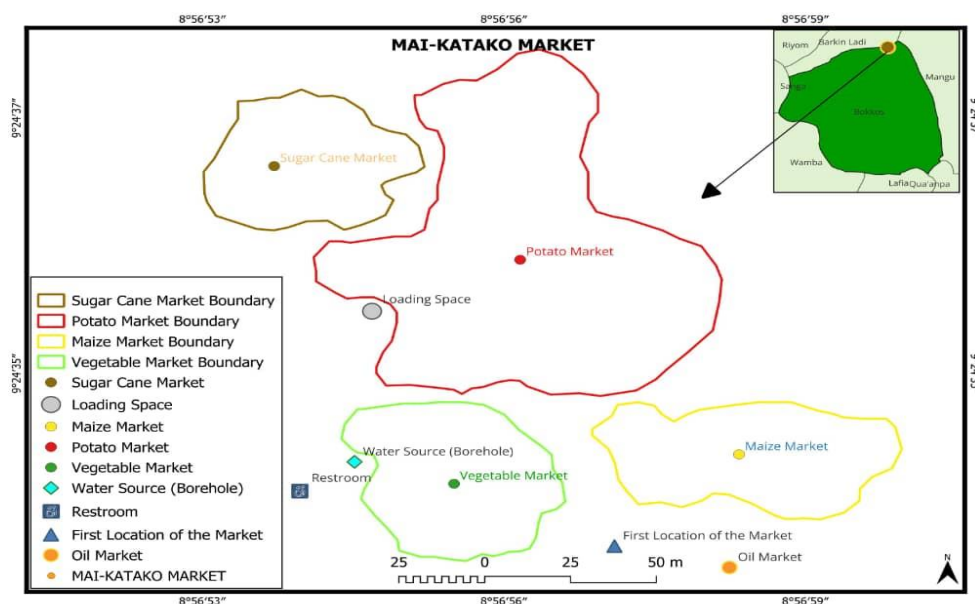
3. CONTRIBUTION OF MAIKATO MARKET ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Maikatako market, situated in the Bokkos Local Government Area of Plateau State, spans an area of 51667.6975 square meters, positioned at a latitude of 9°24'24.762N and a longitude of 8°56'59.316E. Its inception dates back to the colonial era, originating near the mining pond. Initially, women commenced vending food to the laborers at the mining site, gradually attracting individuals from various locales who brought goods for trade in return for monetary compensation. According to oral information, Maikato market generates more income than the Bokkos and Daffo markets.

As time progressed, the market burgeoned in size and scope. Farmers began transporting their grains to the market to engage in transactions involving money and assorted commodities. Initially serving as a local open-air market, the market's activity dwindled with the decline in mining operations, prompting a shift to the Bokkos market. However, due to logistical constraints and other factors, the market was

reinstated in 1983, with the Butura community generously providing land for its revival. Subsequently, the market experienced significant growth and expansion. The community played a pivotal role in the market's resurgence, fostering its development into a prominent trading hub within the region the community, as the original architects of the market, established the operational framework and structure before governmental involvement. Despite the government's entry into the market, their impact has predominantly been limited to revenue collection. While the government has made efforts such as constructing a shelter within the market, this initiative has not been effectively utilized due to its inadequate size for accommodating potato vendors. Given that the community initiated and managed the market effectively, their expertise in market operations is evident. The market operates under the governance of a market committee comprising 11 executive members led by a chairman elected for a four-year term, with the possibility of reelection for one additional term. This committee oversees the market's affairs, including the management of various commodities such as potatoes, maize, cooked food, and vegetables. Additionally, there are distinct roles within the market, including lifters who load trucks and individuals responsible for bagging items for long-distance transport by sewing bags. This organized structure highlights a clear division of labor based on individual choices. The market committee holds vital responsibilities, including organizing market activities, maintaining peace and order, resolving disputes, allocating operational space to vendors, and formulating developmental strategies for the market. Their pivotal role underscores their significance in upholding the market's functionality and sustainability. The market's potential is primarily rooted in the substantial revenue it can generate. During peak harvest periods, approximately 50 trucks laden with potatoes depart from the market on a weekly basis. These trucks come in three variants: 12-tyre, 10-tyre, and 8-tyre trucks, capable of carrying between 300 to 350 large bags of potatoes and up to 600 bags of smaller size. Each small bag typically contains around 300 kilograms of potatoes. Transported potatoes find markets in various West African regions such as Niger, Chad, and Benin, alongside destinations across Nigeria. Despite the presence of other grains, potatoes emerge as the primary commodity traded within this bustling marketplace. This trade network not only bolsters local economies but also fosters regional economic interconnectedness through the exchange of agricultural produce.

4. SPATIAL ORGANIZATION OF MAIKATAKO MARKET



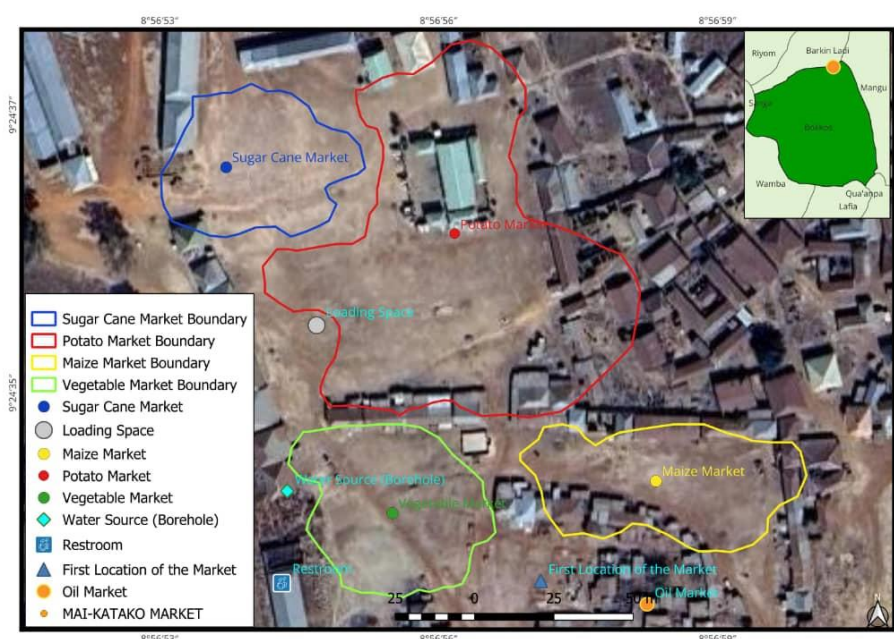
The map of the Mai-katako Market provides a detailed representation of the market's spatial organization and infrastructure. It delineates the boundaries of various selling points within the market area, such as the Sugar Cane space, Potato space, Maize space, Vegetable space and Oil space, each uniquely color-coded for easy identification. The inclusion of toilet facilities demonstrates a consideration for sanitation and hygiene, essential for both vendors and consumers. Furthermore, the map highlights the initial locations of each market type with triangle symbols, offering insights into the layout and distribution of market activities. The presence of a loading space and a water source

(borehole) indicates provisions for essential market operations and services. The Mai-katako Market itself is prominently marked in green, with its boundaries outlined in red, emphasizing its central role within the market complex.

The legend accompanying the map clarifies the symbols and colors used, enhancing the map's readability and understanding of the different elements represented. Overall, the map provides a valuable visual depiction of the market's organization, amenities, and infrastructure, facilitating a better understanding of the market's layout and potential areas for improvement and development.

5. FINDINGS ON MAIKATAKO MARKET ORGANIZATION

Market organization plays a pivotal role in shaping economic activities within a market. A well-organized market can facilitate smoother transactions, enhance market efficiency, and foster economic growth. Moreover, the organization of a market can often reflect and influence local cultural norms, practices, and traditions. For example, the Maikatako market layouts is deeply rooted in cultural values and societal customs, impacting how goods and services are exchanged.



6. ENHANCEMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

Enhancing the organization of a Maikatako market requires a multifaceted approach that considers various factors such as physical layout, infrastructure, regulations, and governance structures. Implementing clear signage, designated zones for different types of goods, efficient transportation and logistics systems, and proper waste management can all contribute to a more organized and functional market environment. Ineffective market organization not only streamlines economic transactions but also plays a crucial role in driving overall development. A well-organized market can attract more vendors and customers, stimulate competition, and promote innovation. Based on the spatial layout depicted in the map of the Mai-katako Market in Bokkos LGA, several strategies can be suggested for enhancing market organization:

One prevalent issue identified in the marketplace pertains to congestion problems, whereby the undefined aisles become crowded, posing challenges for both vendors and customers. The impediments faced by customers and vendors in freely navigating the market lead to difficulties in accessing goods efficiently, resulting in a stressful and time-consuming experience. Vendors encounter hindrances in reaching their merchandise promptly, consequently affecting their capacity to serve customers effectively. To mitigate these challenges, the implementation of clear walkways for vendors to transport goods is crucial. These pathways should be spacious enough to accommodate vehicles and other equipment without disrupting the flow of customers. Designating specific areas for loading and unloading can optimize vendor operations, reducing the time spent in high-traffic zones. An essential

step towards enhancing the efficiency and organization of the trading environment involves evaluating and enhancing the current spatial arrangements of distinct market segments. The configuration and layout of market regions play a pivotal role in facilitating vendor mobility, enhancing customer satisfaction, and optimizing overall market functionality. Expanding Market Areas through Spatial Enlargement warrants consideration by identifying prospects to extend the physical boundaries of the market. This expansion can be achieved through repurposing adjacent areas or developing new vendor spaces or temporary extensions to accommodate the growing demand from vendors and customers. Temporary structures or pop-up stalls can be utilized during peak seasons to meet the increased participation of vendors and the heightened demand from customers.

The customer experience is another aspect that is overlooked in the rural market, which is the reason why essential amenities are not readily available, there are no signage to aid movement within the market. The experience of customers can be increased and improved by Increasing the availability of essential amenities such as restrooms, water sources, and sanitation facilities within the market area , installing clear signage and navigation aid to guide customers through the market and indicate the locations of different segments and incorporate seating areas for customers to rest and socialize, which can encourage longer stay in the market and increase spending, attract more customers, ultimately boosting economic activities and promoting a more conducive market environment. Collaboration with local authorities and stakeholders is essential to address existing infrastructure challenges and plan for future developments that enhance the functionality and organization of the market. Also, in order to maintain, law and smoothly, run operations in the market, it is important to establish clear guidelines and regulations for market operations and safety measures.

In conclusion, the Mai-katako Market in Nigeria exemplifies the spatial organization and infrastructure of a rural market, showcasing its potential for economic growth. Improving the organization of rural markets like Mai-katako necessitates a comprehensive strategy considering factors such as physical layout, infrastructure, regulations, and governance. By implementing clear signage, designated product zones, efficient transportation systems, and effective waste management, a more structured and functional market environment can be achieved. Ineffective market organization not only facilitates economic transactions but also plays a pivotal role in advancing overall development. Through the lens of cultural ecology theory, which delves into the intricate relationship between humans and their environment, we better understand the specific cultural patterns that shape distinct regions. Additionally, by analyzing subsistence patterns, we gain insights into land use practices and agricultural evolution. A well-organized market has the potential to attract a larger number of vendors and customers, foster healthy competition, and drive innovation in rural areas.

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