

The top of the page features a decorative sky with several light blue clouds of varying sizes and a bright yellow sun partially obscured by a cloud in the upper right corner.

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THE AGRICULTURE PROMOTION POLICY
(2016 – 2020)
For Smallholder Women Farmers



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APP	Agriculture Promotion Policy
ABP	Anchor Borrowers Programme
ATA	Agricultural Transformation Agenda
AISS	Association of Indigenous Seaford Stakeholders
BOA	Bank of Agriculture
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme
CACS	Commercial Agriculture Credit Scheme
CARGS	Competitive Agricultural Research Grant Scheme
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
ERGP	Economic Recovery and Growth Plan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FMARD	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GESS	Growth Enhancement Support Scheme
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IPCC	Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change
KM	Knowledge Management
LGA	Local Government Area
MSMED	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development
NAIS	National Agriculture Information System
NARF	Nigeria Agriculture Resilience Framework
NCA	National Council on Agriculture
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NIFI	Non Interest Financial Institutions
NIRSAL	Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending
RIS	Rural Infrastructure Survey



INTRODUCTION

As Nigeria's population grows at an uneven rate with the food production capacity, the likelihood of a looming food crisis remains unavoidable except agricultural productivity is enhanced to match population growth. To address the urgent need to improve agriculture productivity in order to guarantee food security and economic prosperity for a population projected to hit about 190 million people by 2020, several government policies have been deliberately tailored to provide a comprehensive guide towards an improved agricultural practice in Nigeria. For instance, the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) of 2011-2016 set out precise goals and guidelines to refocus Nigeria's Agricultural sector which at the time was fraught with years of neglect. The policy was determined to ensure that Agriculture becomes a profitable business with the capacity to add competitive foreign exchange to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

As it turned out, the policy like many previous strategic National Agricultural policies failed to achieve the set objective as it wound down in 2016. But at the beginning of President Muhammadu Buhari's administration, the President was clear of his vision to anchor Nigeria's economic growth on Agriculture by reducing focus on oil dependence and making significant investment in Agriculture-led economy.

The Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) currently active from 2016 to 2020 was deliberately designed to end decades of failed policies and create a sustainable plan for the advancement of the agriculture sector. APP incorporates the contents of the previous (ATA) policy, examined why it failed and fine-tuned for better delivery.

In this new plan, the two key identified gaps in the agricultural sector are the inability to meet domestic food demand and the failure to deliver quality yield for export market. These gaps formed the priority component of the plan to put Nigeria's agricultural sector on the path of sustainable growth. Aside crude oil, Agriculture is one of Nigeria's major exports, making a significant input to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and smallholder farmers play a dominant role in this contribution, which makes prioritizing investment to enhancing their capacity for greater productivity a smart choice.

The policy captured most of the challenges experienced by the smallholder segment of food growers especially smallholder women farmers and offered solutions to those challenges in form of commitment to resolve the setback within a specified time frame.

This simplified version of the Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) document is an important tool in the hand of the Smallholder Women Farmers. It is designed to help the women to understand the aspects of the policy that communicates their concerns and also empower them to engage the government and stakeholders in pushing for the implementation of those relevant sections of the policy that addresses their challenges.

Therefore, the broad purpose of this simplified version of the (APP) is aimed at highlighting the specific bearing of the policy to smallholder women farmers, serving also as an advocacy document for engaging the government and relevant institutions to live up to their various commitments as documented in the policy.

For each of the sections of the policy, this simplified version presents:



- The Summary of the Policy



- The Objectives of the Policy



- Suggestions to Smallholder Women Farmers



- References to relevant components of both Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) and the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) Framework



- Timeline for achieving set objectives



ENHANCING PRODUCTIVITY

SUMMARY OF POLICY



The Agriculture Promotion (APP) main focus is eliminating various constraints which affect agricultural productivity in Nigeria.

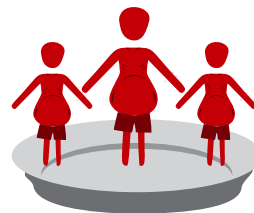
The policy aims at moving Nigeria more rapidly towards unlocking her full agricultural potentials. Contained in the agenda are set targets aimed at increasing agricultural production, expanding and improving quality export and ensuring that essential infrastructure and farm inputs are available for farmers at all levels.

Increasing agricultural productivity is central to the implementation of the (CAADP) framework which ambitious goal is to eliminate hunger in Africa through enhanced agricultural production. In Nigeria, the urgency to hit self-sufficiency in food production is no longer a matter of a policy anthem; it is a matter of life.

11 MILLION
More than 11million children at risk of malnutrition



2.5 MILLION
2.5 million already suffering acute malnutrition



(UNICEF 2017)

The exigency of ensuring household and national food security is more imperative now than ever.

Therefore, the policy focus is to systematically address those intrinsic challenges so as to enhance agricultural productivity in the following areas:



ACCESS TO LAND



SOIL FERTILITY



ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE



ACCESS TO INPUTS



PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT



STORAGE



PROCESSING



MARKETING AND TRADE



ACCESS TO LAND

Background

The Policy recognizes access to land as a vital input for agricultural production. In Nigeria, about 95% of the agricultural lands are not officially registered, making it impossible for such land to be used as collateral in banks.

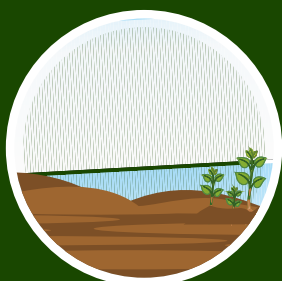
Land is the first and most important factor in the production process, yet most smallholder farmers who generate the bulk of agricultural produce in the country do not have the financial capacity to own farmlands. This has been worsened by the Land Use Act which although cedes land ownership to the State government, communities where the lands are situated still exercise control over access.

Apart from the inconveniences of acquiring lands and perfecting titles, the policy recognizes that implementation of strategies are not enough to ensure inclusion of women in agriculture, it therefore prioritized eradication of gender biases, such as socio-cultural issues of land inheritance which give men easy access to land than women.



OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

Facilitate the Amendment of Current Land Use Act



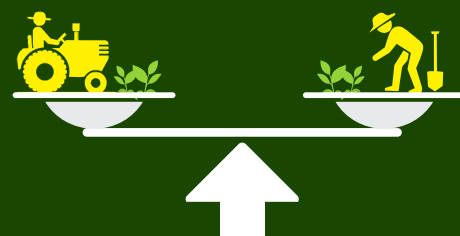
The policy shall facilitate the amendment of current Land use Act in order to aid recognition and entitlement of land ownership by formal or customary means and assist in the use of the land as collateral.

Reduce implicit & explicit gender biases



The plan is to pursue such policies that will reduce implicit or explicit gender biases in land allocation and titling process.

Ensure balance in the Economic Growth



The policy shall initiate programmes that will ensure balance between the economic growth of large agribusinesses with economic cost of displacing small farmers.

SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS



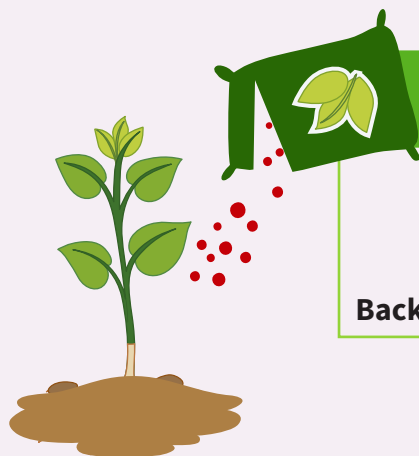
This policy presents a window of opportunity for groups or associations of smallholder women farmers to change the age-long socio-cultural practices that put women at a disadvantage in terms of land ownership; especially inherited family lands. As stipulated in this policy, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) shall engage State governments and relevant regulatory authorities to address the issues of gender discrimination in land ownership.



TIMELINE GIVEN FOR ACTIVATION OF FULL COMPLIANCE

2018 1ST QUARTER

2019 1ST QUARTER



SOIL FERTILITY

Background

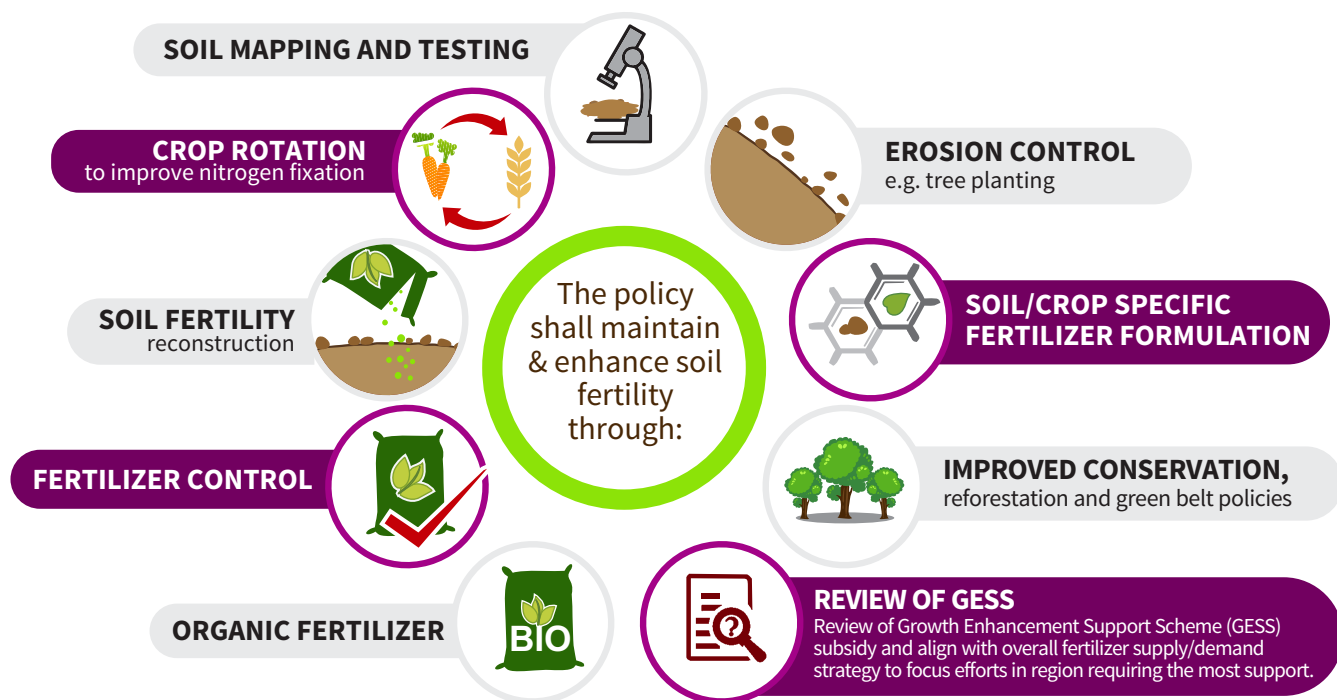
The quality of yields depends on the quality of soil nutrients. Soil erosion in Eastern Nigeria and Desertification in Northern Nigeria and other human activities to a large extent has distorted the level of micro and macro soil nutrient required to guarantee quality farm production.

Like the APP, the CAADP plan also broadened the strategy on improving soil and managing the environment against the impact of climate change. Such human activities which may affect the quality of soil, resulting in poor yield have been identified as requiring urgency in tackling.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The APP plans to enhance soil nutrients by addressing key constraints in the distribution and easy accessibility of farm inputs such as fertilizers through better delivery to communities where the use is profitable, while also enhancing cost effective delivery through the use of technology.

The focus of the policy is to make fertilizer accessible by ensuring simplistic supply of cost effective fertilizers to small or large scale farmers. It also identified the need to educate smallholder farmers on basic knowledge of soil enhancing mechanism and management as well as other climate adaptive farming methods.



SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

In the policy, soil fertility is viewed as complimentary to enhanced access to information on fertilizer use; thus smallholder women farmers can access support in areas of improving and enhancing access to farm inputs. With support of Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the farmers can develop programmes that will enlighten farmer groups on erosion control, reforestation, tree planting and use of organic fertilizer.



ACCESS TO INFORMATION & KNOWLEDGE

BACKGROUND

Information is a key component of the plan to enhance the productivity of farmers. Accessing the right information especially for smallholder women farmers will help to ensure right decision in areas of farm inputs, market or weather.

For smallholder women farmers, who grow more than 70 percent of domestic food requirement in Nigeria, making an uninformed farming decision can be consequential to household and national food security. The policy recognizes this significant role and has provided instruments that can make access to information easy.

The plan is to enhance availability of information to all categories of farmers through the implementation of an Information and Communication Technology/Knowledge Management (ICT/KM) Framework. The programme shall revive regional farm radio broadcasts designed to provide farming communities with timely advice on planting, weeding, harvesting and key pricing.



OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY



DISSEMINATING INFORMATION

To focus on disseminating information designed to help farmers make best choices with regards to input costs, equipment leasing, crop pricing and weather.

AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

To develop functional agricultural information systems for content generation, policy support and stakeholder dialogue.

SPECIALIZED AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION

Promotion of specialized agricultural information and knowledge from targeted research to address farmers' priorities.



SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

Although the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) acknowledge limitation of funding in 2016 and 2017 to execute the plan, it has a provision for the full disbursement of funds and support for Seminars and Training to boost the knowledge capacity of smallholder farmers. Based on this stipulated provision in the policy, smallholder groups can leverage on this provision to enhance the knowledge and capacity of the group.

FULL DISBURSEMENT for such capacity development programmes



MODERATE SUPPORT for such programmes



ACCESS TO INPUTS



BACKGROUND

Enhanced farm yield is determined by the availability, affordability and accessibility of good quality farm inputs. Agro-chemicals, Fertilizers, Seeds, Seedlings, and Livestock/Fish feeds are essential inputs for achieving enhanced agricultural production.

Access to inputs is still a challenge especially for women smallholder farmers who are either too poor to purchase inputs or the inputs are not available at their location. Often, when inputs are available, they may not be affordable and where they are affordable, they may not be accessible.

Several policies have sought to address the issues of making good seedling available at any given time. The Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GESS) was part of governments' programme to increase access to farm inputs. The scheme even had a subsidy component, yet it failed to deliver desired results.

Despite several governments' direct interventions, the problem of inputs still persists and is still burdened by hoarding and corruption scandals.

Obtaining farm input is one major challenge to women smallholder farmers, especially when the (GESS) programme introduced the subsidy component which was originally prioritized for the small scale farming community but it ended in hoarding and profiteering by private and commercial interests. Although the scheme has been fine-tuned in the APP, greater monitoring is required for the inputs to reach the intended end users at a pocket friendly price.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

Since the APP is anchored upon improving the productive capacity of farmers, the plan is to stimulate domestic production of good quality inputs, especially seeds and fertilizers by paying attention to early generation of seeds and speeding up the certification process.

The policy shall also review and facilitate passage of the pending Fertilizer and Seed Bill in the National Assembly.

The subsidy programme shall be re-introduced and refocused to ensure that it gets to the target end users by ensuring accountability, monitoring and evaluation.

The policy shall also encourage:



IMMEDIATE AMENDMENT OF THE CURRENT LAND USE ACT



ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON MARKETS AND INNOVATIONS



DEVELOPMENT OF PROCESSING AND STORAGE FACILITIES

SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

In order to reduce the dependency on importation of inputs which is about 40 percent to 60 percent of current domestic demand, the government plans to invest and support research and innovation for the production of domestic inputs especially organic inputs.

The policy specifically mentioned financing of small seed companies and also aims at reducing the risk of smallholder farmers. In addition, agencies such as Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL) are part of the implementing arm of this policy. NIRSAL has a rice seed financing programme, which can be beneficial to smallholder women.

The smallholder women farmers can organize to demand for subsidy for input as guaranteed in the policy through the revitalization of the GESS.

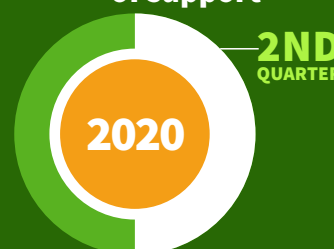
50% PROPOSED BUDGET



FULL DISBURSEMENT of support

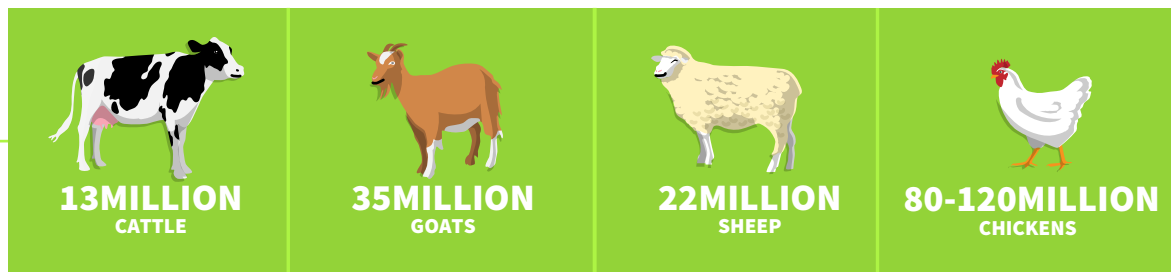


MODERATE DISBURSEMENT of support



ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Only reliable
Data on Livestock
in Nigeria



BASELINE CONDUCTED IN THE EARLY 1990S

Today, although there are no recent data, the number of livestock in Nigeria must have increased. While the country is said to be one of the largest poultry industry in Africa, the lack of updated census data has left this branch of agriculture largely uncoordinated and burdened with conflicts.

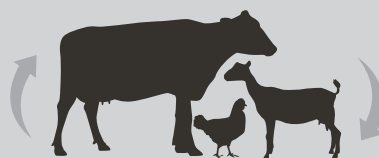
The inefficient management of the cattle value chain has also constituted a security challenge, causing conflict between owners of herds and farmers. As a sustainable means of ending conflicts and developing the livestock sector, the policy recommends creation of more formal ranching system that will use better process and inputs to extract higher value in the form of dairy, meat and leather.

The policy specifically mentioned making available certain incentives for private investments in setting up of modern ranching, abattoir and processing system.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY



BUILD A RELIABLE DATA
SYSTEM



REPOSITION THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY
into a modern business with the capacity for maximum
utilization of the entire livestock value chain is the core
objective of the policy.



FACILITATE A NATIONWIDE
LIVESTOCK CENSUS

STRATEGY



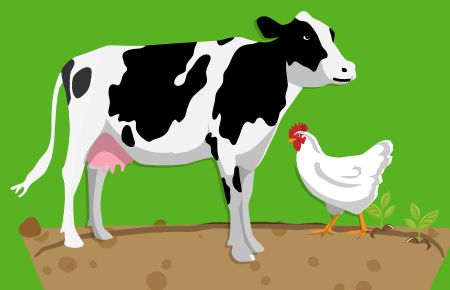
TO ELIMINATE THE CONSTANT
FRICTION BETWEEN FARMERS AND HERDERS

Through providing support for investors seeking to establish modern ranches to raise livestock rather than infringe on the property rights of land owners and users. The Policy gives priority to improving of breeds, opening up access to funding and also stimulating interest in beekeeping by raising awareness of the benefit of beekeeping.

SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

The smallholder women group can leverage on the plan to encourage beekeeping and provision of financing and incentives for ventures that will increase production of breed and establishment of ranching, abattoir and processing systems.

SUPPORT COMPONENT AVAILABLE FROM



FISH AND AQUACULTURE SYSTEM

BACKGROUND



Nigeria's annual import bill
for Fish is estimated at about
\$700million

current Nigeria Minister of Agriculture,
Audu Ogbe affirmed in a quote.



Annual Domestic Demand of
3.2million

tons of fish keep rising.



Deficit of
1.9million

tons to meet domestic demand.

In a statement released in 2017, the Association of Indigenous Seafood Stakeholders claim Nigeria loses about 9billion Naira each year to illegal fish importation and smuggling. The group called for a stiff control on the importation of fish products into Nigeria market, in order to allow a level playing field for homegrown produce.

The Aquaculture sector which includes large scale marine and fresh water fishing has significant drawbacks, despite huge opportunities for small scale farmers. The main constraints are the low production of fish breed; this is due to lack of inputs (e.g. feed, fingerlings etc.) and low water quality due to pollution.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY



The plan is to ensure self-sufficiency in domestic fish consumption which still has a huge shortfall. The policy hints at re-enforcing the regulatory framework for fishing activities to discourage such illegal activities as smuggling or illicit importation.

SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

The economic potential in fisheries and aquaculture is not yet fully utilized, as Nigeria is still import dependent to meet domestic demands. In this policy, the government has made commitment to develop a framework for better coordination of the sector in order to cut illegal importation and encourage local competitiveness

Thus, the smallholder women groups can leverage on the plan to engage in production of fish and fish feeds which still requires 1.9million tons to meet local requirement.

TIMELINE FOR SUPPORT OF THIS PARTICULAR POLICY



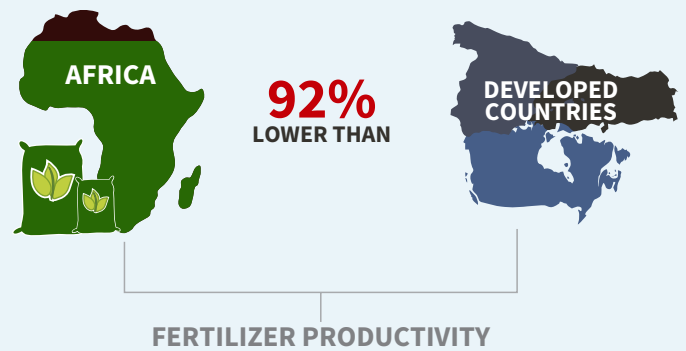
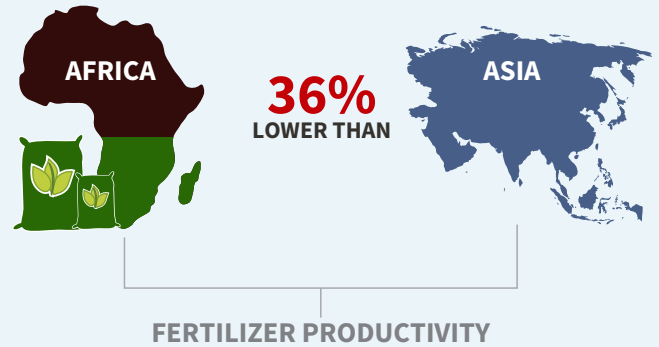
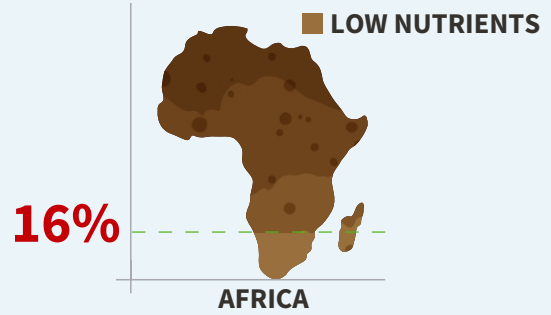
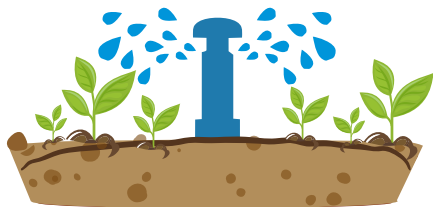
PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

The management of Water and Irrigation system is a key component of agricultural production which requires appropriate attention. Increased crop productivity is linked to how well the soil moisture. Climate Change and its attendant consequences of desertification have caused a significant reduction of quality and quantity of water both for human consumption and agricultural production. This much was acknowledged by the CAADP framework, which set up guidelines to revamp land fertility and improve management of water resources while expanding irrigation both on small and large scale.

The framework maintains on the need to shift attention on the reliance of rainfall for agricultural production to creation of sustainable irrigation system which will improve soil quality and end draught in regions experiencing regular draught.

In Nigeria, one of the major constraints to agricultural productivity is the poor investment and management of water infrastructure such as dams and irrigation facilities. Substandard water quality has also been observed as a constraint which is due to the overuse of agrochemical products and dumping of wastes.



As Contained in the (CAADP) Framework

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY



REVITALIZE EXISTING DAMS



INVEST IN BUILDING
MORE WATER SOURCES
FOR IRRIGATION



CREATE FACILITIES
that will harvest run-off
water and reduce desertification
by encouraging tree planting.

SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

The policy encourages private sector investment in irrigation system and shall support service providers with fee.

FULL BUDGET-LINE
SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE
AND EXECUTED BY THE FMARD



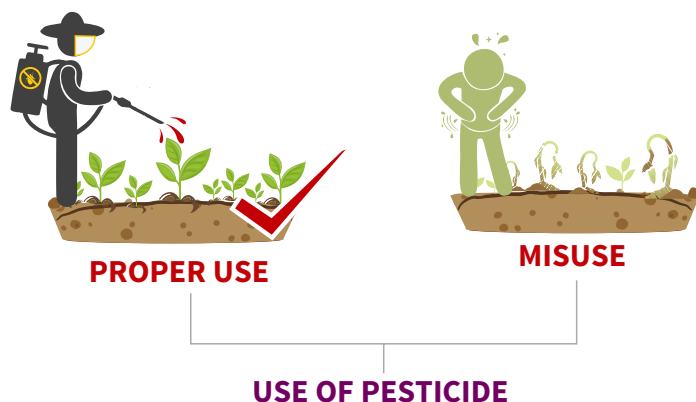
PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

BACKGROUND

The appropriate use of crop enhancing inputs such as fertilizer, pesticides is critical for both the crops and human.

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) in recognition of the danger of poor use of pesticide to agricultural yields and human health have indicated need for programmes that will address the poor knowledge of pesticide use among farmers.

In the plan there shall be an enhanced government regulation and enforcement of the safe use of agrochemicals. FMARD emphasized the need to enhance access to information about the correct use of agrochemicals.



OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY



The APP has clear emphasis on promotion of **SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES** and other crop protecting chemicals.



EMBARK ON SPECIAL PEST MANAGEMENT and control programmes and also promote the use of organic control mechanism.



The core emphasis of this policy is to open up opportunities in the development of **ORGANIC PEST CONTROL.**

SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

The policy emphasis is on right application of farm inputs including agrochemicals especially for smallholder farmers. The policy supports activities and programmes that will train more farmers on the use of farm inputs including pesticides.

**THIS SUPPORT CAN BE
ACCESSED**





STORAGE AND PRESERVATION

Background

Food security is one of the challenges that confront Africa today; this is evidenced by food shortage and draught in some parts of the continent, such that occurred in:



**EAST
AFRICA**

between
2011 & 2012
worst in
60 years

The draught caused severe food crisis in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti.

threatening the
livelihood of



9.5million
people.

Post-harvest loss is of great concern to farmers; it is even more concern for women smallholder farmers, who want to minimize loss and maximize their meager investment in yielding profit or at least preserve produce for consumption. According to the APP document, Nigeria's current post-harvest loss rate is about 60 percent for perishable crops.

Therefore, establishing safe storage facilities is very important for food security, it also helps to stabilize food price. While there is need to increase agricultural production, preservation of unused produce or unsold items are equally as important to cutting waste. For instance, it is reported that about 70% of fruits and veggie produced in Benue State, North Central Nigeria perish or gets rotten because of the lack of storage facilities.

The major constraint to development of preservation facilities is funding. Smallholder farmers do not have the resources to store perishable produce, thus; they are forced to sell at poor prices to avoid loss.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY



ELIMINATING WASTE

by creating
NATIONAL SILOS
at different locations that
can accommodate atleast



5%
of national food output.

The goal is to store food that can be preserved and delivered in period of national disaster as well as food aid to regional market. Considering the inadequate financial capacity of smallholder farmers to invest in storage facilities, the policy has commitment to the following:



Provide platforms that can engage the private sector to create crowd funding for the establishment of shared storage facilities for smallholder farmers in communities.

Provide information and make finance available for proper storage method e.g. local storage solutions.



Improve access to funding and information to expand use of safe and effective small and medium scale storage facilities.

Provide information for enhanced and innovative storage methods at community level.



SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

Nigeria recently invested

N66billion

to establish

33 silo complexes

25 Grain Aggregation Centres

9 Units of Blumberg Warehouses.

There are plans contained in the APP guideline to make additional investment in small silos which can serve communities and smallholder farmers.

Timeline for
SUPPORT & EXECUTION
of this proposal



MODERATE SUPPORT

MARKETING AND TRADE

African countries imported an estimated **\$28billion** DAIRY PRODUCTS



2003 and 2013 according to (FAO) is about **\$35billion** an amount that is more than a quarter of the requirement to bridge the infrastructure gap of the continent.

BACKGROUND

As at 2017, Nigerian economy experienced a marginal rise in export, with agricultural export gaining by 4.35percent coupled with a decline in imports of agricultural products. Increasing the export of agricultural produce remains the critical focus of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), Nigeria's ambitious economic policy designed to stimulate economic growth through a shift from oil dependency to diversification into agriculture and non oil sector.

Some of the constraints of marketing of agricultural produce for a smallholder farmer can be the moving of farm produce from farm to the market place. Considering the state of poor infrastructure especially in rural areas, making the journey from farm to market can be risky.

Many women have been reportedly raped and robbed on their way to or from the farms. There is apparent lack of basic infrastructure such as road, power and also farmer's data. The lack of these essential infrastructure stand in the way of achieving national food security and reaching the goal of expanding the export potential. Also, lack of market information both for domestic and export market is another limitation on the way to achieving global competitiveness and quality export.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The policy aims at establishing a National Agriculture Information System which shall provide access to market information, regulation, pricing etc.

The FMARD shall work with the Ministry of Trade and Investment to facilitate support for expanding export market by organizing seminars and workshops targeted at equipping Nigerian exporters with the knowledge and workings of International export markets like China, US, EU and UK.

SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

The policy mentioned the need to develop strategies to improve rural infrastructure especially near farming regions. Based on the abovementioned guarantee in the policy, smallholder women groups or associations can organize to press demand for the implementation.

TIMELINE FOR PROVISION OF SUPPORT & IMPLEMENTATION



MODERATE SUPPORT



MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE OF ESTABLISHED INFRASTRUCTURE



INVESTING AND FUNDING AGRICULTURE



SUMMARY OF THE POLICY

Lack of capital investment has been a huge drawback in agricultural development especially among smallholder women farmers who are perceived as high risk to lending institutions because they do not possess the basic requirement or collateral.

Several national and regional agricultural policies consider access to finance as a major constraint to the advancement of the sector. In fact, no policy can be implemented without funding commitment. The ERGP plans at moving agriculture from mere subsistence farming to an all-inclusive profitable commercial agribusiness that can add millions of jobs to the economy. This transition requires substantial capital investment from a cohort of sources outside the traditional lenders.

While there are multiple institutional funding opportunities for farmers, like the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Anchor Borrowers Programme drawn from the 220billion Naira Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Fund and another 200billion Naira CBN special intervention Commercial Agriculture Credit Scheme (CACS) funds disbursed through Non Interest Financial Institutions (NIFI) to support agricultural development. Some of these funds can only be accessed through organized smallholder cooperatives.

The current agricultural policy acknowledge that most of the intervention funding especially those targeted at smallholder groups are lost to the commercial banks who usually serve as disbursement agents of the CBN. As hinted in the policy, the failure for smallholder groups to draw down on government intervention fund for agriculture has to do with the inability to organize as cooperatives. Other reasons the smallholder women farmers are not considered prequalified for funding is because of constraints such as collateral instruments and lack of financial information.

The APP comes with a window of opportunity for women smallholder farmers to access funding from sources other than established financial institutions. The plan is to stimulate cooperative banking with fresh funds for agricultural productivity among smallholder groups.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The policy recognize the inability for smallholders to access non collateral or low interest credit; it is therefore pushing for crowd sourcing funding alternatives from the private sector which funds can be drawn for agricultural activities.

The policy also recommend an increase of public sector funding of agriculture to the tune of 10percent of the national budget, while improving the use of existing collateral system onto a smallholder friendly system.

The policy shall work with finance institutions to broaden its funding on agriculture by opening up opportunities for smallholders farmers through the following:



IMPROVED FINANCE FOR AGRO DEALERS TO OFFER TRADE CREDIT



PROVIDE ACCESS TO MULTI-YEAR FINANCE AS WELL AS SEASONAL SHORTER TERM CAPITAL



WORK WITH THE LEGISLATURE TO REVISIT HIGH RATES OF INTERESTS FOR FARMERS

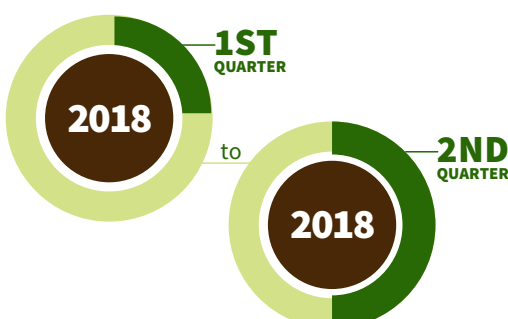
SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

Organizing into cooperatives are one of the easy routes to accessing government intervention funds for agriculture. This policy shall fund and disburse multi-year finance as well as seasonal shorter – term capital including single digit interest loans to farmers through Bank of Agriculture, (NIFI's) and other related agriculture financial institutions.

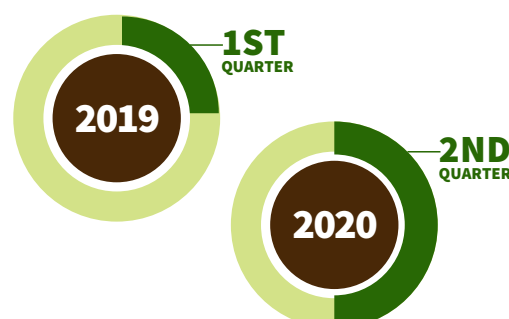
TIMELINE FOR DISBURSEMENT OF SUCH FUNDS AS STIPULATED IN THE POLICY



MODERATE SUPPORT can be accessed



PERIOD OF EVALUATION



AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



BACKGROUND

The Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), the bold economic policy of government to return Nigeria's economy on the growth path, factored agriculture as a potential major source of foreign exchange income for Nigeria. The plan also recognizes needed investment required to begin to yield in foreign exchange for Nigeria.

While the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) policy helped to refocus agriculture as a business, the Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) sketched the strategies to attain an agriculture export power house at least in Africa.

The private sector is to drive the growth of the agricultural sector while the government fixes institutional bottlenecks that have hampered the development of the sector and has discouraged private sector investment. Some of the hindrances to the advancement of the sector are such institutional challenges as lack of government coordination, the inconsistencies and non-coherence of government policies, regulations, laws, taxes, lack of human capital; especially the young population.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

This policy seeks to achieve physical infrastructure and structural standardization that can attract private investment into the agriculture value chain through:



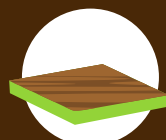
PROVISION OF RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE
by construction of rural roads water and electricity.



PARTNERSHIP WITH STATE GOVERNMENTS
to provide incentives to agribusiness.



PRIORITIZING AGRIC INVESTMENTS
for smallholder farmers.



FACILITATION OF PROGRAMMES
to ensure the use of land as collateral.



ADVANCING POLICIES
to eliminate socio-cultural barrier against women.

SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

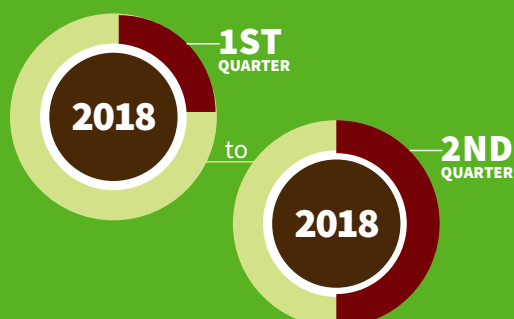
The associations or groups of smallholder women farmers can engage the (FMARD) to demand compliance to this section of the policy, which categorically affirmed proposition for rural infrastructure that will ease movement of agricultural produce from farm to market.

According to the timeline in the policy, funds shall be released for:

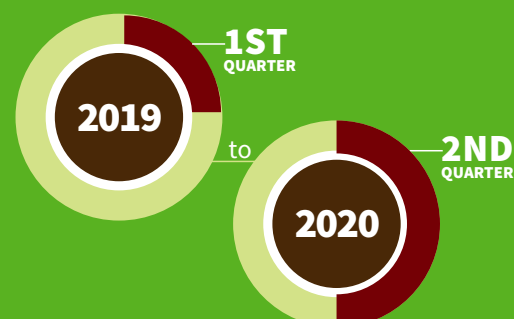
FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE



MODERATE FUNDING AND INVESTMENT



ALLOTTED FOR EVALUATION AND MAINTENANCE



BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

SUMMARY OF THE POLICY

Strengthening of institutional cooperation and capacity is key to achieving the objective to increase agricultural productivity, guarantee prosperity for farmers and economic growth for country. The performance of this policy lies within the effective cooperation and coordination of institutional partners. Where institutions fail to align on the same objectives while performing specific role, the policy may fail to achieve set goals.

As agreed at a meeting of National Council on Agriculture (NCA) the Federal and the State government have clearly defined role for the execution of the APP. Both Federal and State governments as joint parties to the implementation of the policy are to focus on ensuring full compliance to the details of the policy and engage in supporting and monitoring its full implementation.

These government and private sector institutions need to act on selected fronts in order to make quick progress in the full compliance to several national and regional agriculture policies especially the (CAADP) framework, the (APP) and the agricultural component of the (ERGP).



OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The policy recognizes the disconnect within government institutions especially the relegation of Local Governments' Areas (LGAs) participation, therefore; the plan is to create an explicit partnership and strategic synergy to enable partners to work on role apportioned within the time allotted, while (FMARD) as coordinating institution shall provide needed support to actualize set objectives.



**TO CREATE AN EXPLICIT
PARTNERSHIP AND
STRATEGIC SYNERGY**



SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

An organized smallholder group can inspire relevant institutions to walk- the - talk in delivering their part in the plan through engaging the several levels of governments in regular dialogue and advocacy visits.



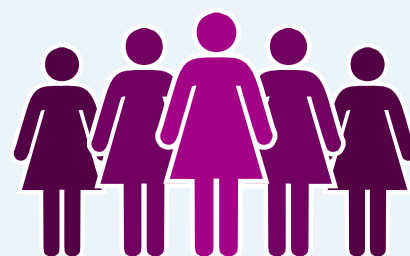
WOMEN AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION

BACKGROUND

Agriculture is one of the main drivers of the economy of Nigeria, generating one fourth of the GDP. Women are key asset to the entire agricultural value chain, producing the highest volume of food consumed locally and making up more than 70percent of the workforce. But due to social-cultural barriers women rarely have the opportunities to develop essential skills; as a result the potential to increase agricultural production is not fully realized. Overall, women smallholder farmers are characterized by socio-cultural discrimination and marginalization in terms of access to resources, finance, assets, training, technology and information.

The (APP) clearly highlighted the important role of women in ensuring national food security and spelt out the plan to purge the system of all socio-cultural, financial or legislative encumbrances hindering women from fair participation in the agriculture value chain.

According to the (ERGP) more than 500,000 young people have been engaged in the social investment programme of the Federal government, some of those engaged are to work as agricultural extension workers. The programme shall be expanded in the first quarter of 2019 to employ more young people. As the agriculture value chain is being expanded especially through making the business attractive to young people, it is considered as having the capacity to employ millions of Nigerians who are unemployed.



WOMEN
MAKE MORE THAN
70%
OF THE **WORKFORCE**

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The key goal of the policy is to shift behaviour that result in negative outcomes for women and youths and to reinforce such switch in attitude by expanding wealth creation opportunities for women and youths.

The policy shall develop and launch special entrepreneurial platforms that create pathway for women and youth to participate in the agribusiness economy. The policy shall review subsisting gender policy documents with the view of improving compliance level.

However, the major constraint is the poor enforcement of previous gender based policies and the inability to ensure that all institutions be it of public, private or cultural take a cue on enforcing policies that promotes gender equity.



SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

The policy specifically hinted of cooperation with CBN to expand the intervention funds targeted at women. This is indicative of a possible expansion of existing CBN funding for MSME, which has component for agribusiness. As earlier indicated, prequalifying for such funds is easier through established cooperatives.

MODERATE RELEASE
OF BUDGETED INVESTMENTS



FULL SCALE INVESTMENT BUDGET
SHALL BE AVAILABLE





INFRASTRUCTURE

BACKGROUND

Most of the farming activities take place in the rural areas. The majority of the rural areas lack basic essential infrastructure to support the growth of agribusiness. The policy recognized the need to urgently prioritize investment in providing critical infrastructure lacking in rural areas such as roads, irrigation facilities etc.

Improving rural infrastructure is one way of solving the problem of urbanization and ensuring sustainable agriculture development. Realizing the need for more actions to be taken to bridge the infrastructure gap especially those supporting agricultural development in rural areas, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), plan to embark on aggressive infrastructure make-over to address the long decay and neglect of the rural areas.

As already approved by the NCA, government shall resuscitate and review the Rural Infrastructure Survey (RIS) project with the view of reviving and improving the old database for rural infrastructure planning.



OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY



Reverse the high level of urban migration by **BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE** that will attract investment in rural areas.



REVITALIZATION & IMPROVING OF OLD DATABASE for rural infrastructure planning.



AGGRESSIVE PROMOTION of rural infrastructure shall be undertaken.

SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

Realizing that efficient rural infrastructure will change the agricultural practice by reducing the risk and improving profit and productivity, smallholder women groups and associations based on the plan to improve on rural infrastructure can mobilize and engage in advocacy activities to ensure that government implement the policy as documented.



TIMELINE GIVEN FOR THE ACTUALIZATION OF THIS PROPOSAL



CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

BACKGROUND

Climate Change and food security are two critical challenge facing Africa today. Improving and supporting the agricultural practice of smallholder women farmers is an appropriate response to the challenge. This will enhance productivity and build resilience against climate variation.



Agricultural adaptation is essential to ensuring food security and fighting hunger in Africa.

According to the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) the number of hungry and malnourished people in the world will increase by 10% as a result of the impact of Climate Change, the reports tip Africa as the region that will be worst hit by the impact.

Adopting climate smart agricultural practices will assist in significant reduction of the impact of climate change on agriculture.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

- 1** Promotion of Climate Smart Agriculture.
- 2** Adoption of global agriculture best practices on Climate Change including aspects of adaptation, mitigation and carbon credit.
- 3** Supporting structures that will quickly transit farmers onto Climate Smart Agricultural practices.

SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

Adapting to Climate Smart Agriculture can be expensive for smallholder groups. It is imperative for government to review and implement the Nigeria Agriculture Resilience Framework (NARF).

This call can be championed by smallholder women farmers who are tipped to be badly impacted by the effect of Climate Change.

TIMEFRAME PROVIDED IN THE POLICY FOR BUDGETED SUPPORT ON CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE PROMOTION



RESEARCH & INNOVATION

BACKGROUND

Research and Innovation are important component in improving agricultural productivity. There is a major technological shift in the practice of agriculture to ensure household and national food security. Smallholder women farmers are often excluded in the technological transition of agricultural practice, largely because of poor access to funds, discriminatory practices that exclude smallholder women farmers, inadequate institutional support and investment in agribusiness etc.

To grow the sector, it is important to promote research and innovation and make outcomes accessible to farmers at all levels.

Nigeria currently has 15 organizations that make up the National Agriculture Research System but poor funding and improper regulatory and monitoring system has hampered the efficiency of the research organizations. The policy recognizes the challenges in the research institutions and has modeled guideline to enhance the capacity of the institutions to function as it should.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY



The policy aims at
REVITALIZING RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
through regular and adequate funding.



CREATE SYSTEM FOR DEMAND DRIVEN RESEARCH
to meet the need of agricultural production and market.



REFOCUS THE CORE OBJECTIVES OF THE UNIVERSITIES OF AGRICULTURE,
which is to develop talents and develop a globally competitive manpower in agricultural technology, food and crop production.



RESUSCITATE THE COMPETITIVE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH GRANT SCHEME.

SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

Since the policy emphasized the plan to share research outcomes to all categories of farmers, the smallholder groups can work out a system that creates a central link to government designated research institutions for access to relevant research outcomes.





FOOD, CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION SECURITY

BACKGROUND

Already, the effect of malnutrition have ravaged communities across Nigeria, the epidemic is most felt in the Northeast where agricultural productivity has reduced due to the insurgency in that region. Borno State, which is currently the epic centre of the Boko Haram uprising, was once tipped for agrarian revolution because of its high production of cowpea, wheat, soybean and animal hides and skin. That potential is dashed and the region currently has more than 2.5 million malnourished children. Malnourishment in children has a life-long effect on physical and mental development.

Meeting domestic food demand is a critical necessity today. The smallholder women farmers who constitute the major producer of domestic food consumption shoulder that burden of ensuring national food security. If the production of food crop is improved to the point of surplus, it will reflect in reduction of market price and allow people with low purchasing power to buy food at reduced prices.

More than
2.5 million
malnourished
children



BORNO STATE

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY



ENSURE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY

by expanding food reserves and make available in periods of unexpected scarcity and for price stabilization.



MAKE NUTRITIOUS FOOD AVAILABLE

through the school feeding programme and fortification of food scheme.



CREATE STANDARD SYSTEMS FOR FOOD SAFETY INSPECTIONS, origin tracking and nutrition labeling.

SUGGESTIONS TO SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS

The policy thrust suggests a focus on improving household food solutions so as to reduce post-harvest losses. It also hints of plan to enhance market access for producers.

The smallholder women can leverage on this specific area that addresses their interest to access budgeted investment support which takes effect from:

MODERATE BUDGETED SUPPORT



CONCLUSION

The Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) has the vision to reform Nigeria's agricultural sector to enable it address two key challenge of inability to meet domestic food requirement and the inability to export high quantity of quality agricultural produce. To achieve these key challenges, the policy incorporated inputs from past agricultural policies to enable it deliver a comprehensive solution.

The policy specifically mentioned the role of women smallholder farmers in realizing the core objective of the plan, noting specially that more than 80percent of food consumed in Nigeria are produced by smallholder farmers which women constitute about 95percent. In view of the level of participation of women in agricultural production, it will be impossible for Nigeria to achieve domestic food security if women are excluded.

Therefore this brief is a summary of the policy with specific emphasis on the sections that directly impacts women in smallholding farming activities; it also has an extract on suggestions or actions that smallholder farmer's cooperative or associations can take to push for the full implementation of the several part of each of the theme that directly impacts their activities.

Special linkages with the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) and the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) framework were made to draw on policy similarities and peculiarities in the documents which collective objective is to promote national and regional agricultural development.

Most of the references contained in the CAADP framework are perennial issues that are thrown up in the APP, thus; the need to set realistic timelines and defined budgets to commit to real outcomes. For instance, the policy mentioned timeline for improving infrastructure; such as road, electricity, water, irrigation in rural areas without proving the costs based on actual survey and feasibility studies. In instances requiring political will like the proposed review of the Land Use Act, it should be attended to in practice.

The policy appears to be explicit about what needs to be done to develop the agricultural sector of the economy in terms of repositioning to lead the non-oil sector and ultimately lead in foreign exchange earnings, as ambitiously envisioned by the ERGP and encapsulated in the CAADP policies but the difference it will make from other ambitious agricultural policies is its ability to turn the vision to real national food security and economic prosperity.





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