

ANAMBRA STATE AGRICULTURE MEDIUM TERM SECTOR STRATEGIES (MTSS) 2025-2027



**Small Scale Women Farmers Organization in Nigeria
(SWOFON)**

And



Centre for Social Justice

Centre for Social Justice (CSJ)
(Mainstreaming Social Justice in Public Life)

**A Memorandum for Improvements in Agriculture
Sector Budgeting**

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By

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ACRONYMS

AADS	Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme
ASDP	Anambra State Development Plan
ASMB&P	Anambra State Ministry of Budget and Planning
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme
CACS	Commercial Agricultural Credit Scheme
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
FMARD	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
FMoE	Federal Ministry of Environment
FMoWR	Federal Ministry of Water Resources
FRL	Fiscal Responsibility Law
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEESI	Gender Equality, Empowerment and Social Inclusion
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
MAMPE	Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation, Process and Export
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
MTSS	Medium Term Sector Strategies
NCA	National Council on Agriculture
NDC	Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contribution
NDP	National Development Plan
NIMET	Nigerian Meteorological Agency
PWDs	People Living with Disability
RAAMP	Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project
SCWF	Small Scale Women Farmers
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEC	State Executive Council
SHA	State House of Assembly
SWOFON	Small Scale Women Farmers Organization in Nigeria
USD	United States Dollars

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This memorandum is divided into two parts of seven sections. The first section is the introduction which deals with the background, the rationale for the exercise and outlines linkages between the Medium-Term Sector Strategies (MTSS), Medium Term Expenditure Framework and the annual budget. It identified high level national and international policies and standards on Agriculture and concluded with the delineation of the structure of the sector in Nigeria.

Section 2 is on the key challenges of the sector and laid out goals, objectives and targets based on high level national and international policies and standards. Section 3 reviews existing budget commitments 2020-2024 and identifies low budgetary allocation to the sector, partial release of appropriated funds leading to budget credibility challenges and defines the capital recurrent expenditure mix. Section 4 is on key Agriculture sector achievements in the last four years whilst section 5 is on MDA projects and activities that should be sustained. Section 6 is on the sector projects that are performing poorly. Part 2 consists of sections 7 and 8. Section 7 is on recommended actions in the medium term. Section 8 is on the conclusions.

The summary of the policy recommendations made by the Memorandum in section 7 is as follows:

GOVERNANCE

- Ensure the full implementation of the ASDP in Agriculture
- Develop gender indicators in Agriculture through a collaboration between the MAMPE and the Ministry of Budget and Planning.
- Establish Business Advisory Services to give meaning to the Agriculture value chain concept.
- Improve security service in the state through local vigilante and community mobilization efforts. Also, the establishment and proper funding of the State Police when the 1999 Constitution is eventually amended is imperative for enhancing Agricultural productivity.

FUNDING

- Allocate 10% of the total annual state budget to the Agriculture sector in compliance with the Maputo Declaration. Where not possible, start with a minimum of 5% (being 50% of the Maputo Declaration) allocation in 2025 and progressively increase by 1% until the 10% is attained by 2030.

- Establish a Revolving Agriculture Credit Facility in the State.
- Set up a department/desk to attract resources from Development Banks, Special Agriculture Funds and Climate Finance in Agriculture as well as sensitise and empower SCWF in the state on the procedures for accessing them.
- Consider the feasibility of floating Green Bonds for Agriculture.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- Embark on soil and nutrient management, especially through the dissemination of information on the concluded soil map by the FMAFS including the proper use and application of fertilisers.
- Increase fertilizer use per hectare through the promotion of organic fertilizers. Also, promote organic agriculture. The need for sustainability in our farming practices dictates that we invest more in producing organic fertilisers and farm inputs. Beyond making the soils less acidic over the medium to long term, the process of making these fertilizers will create jobs, reduce the waste that has become a challenge to city managers as well as convert same to wealth in a win-win scenario for all.
- Dedicated extension services should be used to disseminate research knowledge, meteorological information, agro forestry practices, etc. to farmers and other value chain operators. This will involve collaboration between federal, state and local governments and inter agency collaboration.
- There is the need for the Anambra State MAMPE to establish links with research institutes to facilitate demand driven research or research driven by the needs of real farmers and processors.
- Invest in appropriate locally available mechanization for the reduction of drudgery in farming. Incentivize the local fabrication and production of processing plants and storage facilities.
- Use resistant and genetically improved animals and crops to increase yield and improve production of crops, meat, milk and other related products.
- Reduce post-harvest losses through public funding and local technology, public private partnerships and public public partnerships; develop cold hubs for fruits, vegetables and tubers and provide small scale processing plants.

- Organize new SSWF cooperatives and strengthen existing ones. Encourage the formation of cooperatives to group and organize small holders and operators as this will improve their chances of accessing credit, farm inputs and become part of the functional formal economy.
- Begin a phased transition over the medium term (defined as three to seven years) to renewable energy and energy-efficient lighting and other equipment for Agriculture, especially for small scale Agriculture in the rural areas.
- Popularize the use of resistant and genetically improved animals and crops.
- Institutionalize monitoring, reporting and verification of inclusivity, mitigation and adaptation measures; and data and statistics gathering and management.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- MAMPE should ensure that the budget is part of the plan, policy, law and budget continuum.
- Increase the efficiency of Agriculture sector spending through greater value for money strategies. Ensure strict and efficient utilisation of the resources allocated to the sector by implementing open contracting standards as part of an open government strategy.
- The MAMPE should embrace the civil society, especially the SSWF as a critical partner in achieving greater value for money in a bid to improve state Agriculture outcomes. Future preparation of the MTSS should rely on a full Sector Team including the civil society and other relevant stakeholders. The MAMPE should engage CSOs for budget monitoring and tracking expenditure of borrowed sums in the sector.

PART ONE: FOR 2025 AND THE MTSS/MTEF

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for the period 2025 - 2027 is in the process of preparation by the Anambra State Ministry of Budget and Planning (ASMB&P). When finalized, considered and endorsed by the State Executive Council (SEC), it will be transmitted to the State House of Assembly (SHA) for approval¹.

The Agriculture Medium Term Sector Strategy (MTSS) which should be drawn from the Agriculture component of the MTEF, including a focus on inclusivity and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) is expected to:

- Articulate medium-term (three years) Agriculture goals and objectives against the background of the overall goals of high level national and state Agriculture policies, international Agriculture standards and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Identify and document the key programmes and projects the government plans to embark upon to achieve the State Agriculture goals and objectives;
- Cost the identified key initiatives in a clear and transparent manner;
- Phase implementation of the identified initiatives over the medium-term;
- Define the expected outcomes of the identified initiatives in clear measurable terms; and
- Link expected outcomes to the objectives and goals.

1.2 Rationale for the Exercise

Agriculture contributed 21.07% to Nigeria's real GDP in the first quarter of 2024.² Headline inflation stood at 33.69% with food inflation at 40.53%.³ Food and non-alcoholic beverages at the divisional level contributed 17.45% to the headline inflation index.⁴ Agriculture productivity also plays a key role in the determination of the level of the Consumer Price Index as food inflation is the biggest contributor to overall headline inflation. It is therefore a very important sector to food security, employment generation and economic growth and diversification of the economy. Again, importation of major food items contributes to the determination of the value of the Naira as it imports currency

¹ This is as provided by section 16 (2) of the Fiscal Responsibility Law, 2011.

² National Bureau of Statistics, First quarter 2024, GDP Report.

³ National Bureau of Statistics, Consumer Price Index, April 2024.

⁴ NBS, April 2024, supra.

volatilities. In 2023, Nigeria imported agricultural goods worth N2.281 trillion and exported produce worth N1.244 trillion thereby incurring a sectoral trade deficit of N1.037 trillion.⁵ Agriculture is therefore an important sector that deserves the attention of all stakeholders.

The population of Anambra State is estimated at about 6.95million in 2024, disaggregated into 50.70% male and 49.30% female and a population density of 1,270 persons per square kilometer on a land mass of 4,844 square kilometres. Agriculture contributes 22% of Anambra State's estimated GDP of N4.21trillion. The adverse effects of climate change and ecological degradation in the State have been identified as critical challenges.⁶

Official preparation of the Agriculture Sector MTSS 2025-2027 by the Anambra State Ministry of Agriculture provides Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in the Agriculture Sector an opportunity to present memorandum articulating key inputs into the MTSS and 2025 Agriculture budget. This memorandum is focused on mainstreaming inclusivity, especially the needs of small-scale women farmers, a low carbon framework for budgeting, fit and good practices, value for money, accountability for results and evidence led budgeting in the Agriculture sector whilst responding to the food and Agriculture challenges and indicators affecting the majority of the population.

The Anambra State Chapter of the Small Holder Women Farmers has articulated its priority requests to include the following; provision of gender friendly equipment to reduce drudgery in farming, provision of vaccination to reduce loss of animals in ruminant farming, access to credit through soft loans and grants, quality control on animal feeds, extension services and access to water and irrigation. Others are access roads for movement of farm products, storage facilities, processing and value addition machines and equipment, climate resilient capacity building, farming inputs and technical support. However, while the government has taken some steps, there is so much room for improvement of government's response to these priorities.

The effects of global warming and climate change are all around us; increasing temperature, devastating erosion, floods, soil degradation, sea level rise, etc. These are all manifestations of climate change. They have impacted negatively on Agriculture and the right to food. All these are inter alia traceable to the increasing emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere. It is therefore imperative that CSO stakeholders deliberate and consolidate their inputs into a policy paper framework that will be submitted to the State Ministry of Agriculture; ASMB&P, the SHA and other stakeholders.

⁵ NBS Foreign Trade Reports, *Foreign Trade in Goods Statistics*, 2023

⁶ See the Anambra State Development Plan 2021-2070 for data cited in this paragraph. In 2020, the State population was projected at 6.2 million people and the growth rate is 2.8%.

By this memorandum, CSO stakeholders seek to articulate medium-term (three years) Agriculture goals and objectives for mainstreaming inclusivity and CSA against the background of the Anambra State Development Plan 2021-2070 (ASDP), overall goals of high level national Agriculture and Right to Food policies, international standards on the subject and the attainment of the SDGs; identify and document the key initiatives that will be embarked upon to achieve these goals and objectives. It also provides the opportunity to provide insights on how to cost the identified key initiatives in a clear and transparent manner; phase implementation of the identified initiatives over the medium-term; define the expected outcomes of the identified initiatives in clear measurable terms; and link expected outcomes to the overall sectoral goals and objectives.

1.3 Outlining Linkages Between MTSS, MTEF and Annual Budget

Section 19 of the Anambra State Fiscal Responsibility Law (FRL) stipulates that annual budgets are to be derived from the MTEF. It further provides that notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the FRA or any law, the MTEF shall:

- 1) *Be the basis for the preparation of the estimates of revenue and expenditure required to be prepared and laid before the House under section 121 (1) of Constitution.*
- 2) *The sectoral and compositional distribution of the estimates of expenditure referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall be consistent with the medium-term developmental priorities set out in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.*

CSOs therefore seek to make inputs into the Medium-Term Developmental Priorities of the State Government in the Agriculture Sector considering that this will form the basis for the preparation of the 2025 State Agriculture budget.

1.4 Identifying High Level National and International Policies and Standards

There are so many national and international standards, laws and policies guiding Agriculture including CSA, the Right to Food and inclusivity of all members of society. These include but are not limited to the National Development Plan 2021-2025 (NDP), Gender Policy in Agriculture, ASDP, National Gender Policy, etc. These policies stated the goals of the sector within the context of overall national goals.

The NDP states its agriculture objectives to include reduction of post-harvest losses, building a sustainable food production system, increasing female participation, increasing food self-reliance through increased productivity. Some of its strategic recommendations include improving security, improving value addition across the agriculture value chain, reactivation of grain aggregation centres, off grid energy solutions, improved extension services linking research institutions with actual farmers, capacity building for women and youth in agriculture, increased livestock and aquaculture productivity, etc.

The ASDP identifies the following threats to Agriculture in the State:⁷

Agriculture sector in the state faces four big challenges: limited access to financing and inputs for farmers; threat of climate change on yield; limited access of agricultural outputs to the national and international markets; and security threats to agricultural investment including cattle rustling, kidnapping, and destruction of farmlands by herdsmen. In addition, most farmers struggle to obtain financing to modernise or expand their farms, invest in productive assets, or buy inputs.

The ASDP proposes inter alia:

- *Strengthen the linkage between the agricultural sector and the industry/manufacturing sector. For example, using the integration aggregation model, which supports farmers integration to manufacturing companies' value chain. Implement and support State and national initiatives and develop policies to see that challenges in the agriculture value chain are addressed.*
- *For example, ensure adequate provision of input, infrastructure, minimising post-harvest losses, mechanisation, investment in research and development, training for farmers and extension workers, and more. Encourage cooperative schemes for marketing, input sourcing, and farming machinery sharing to foster synergy, increase agricultural produce, and collaborations within and outside the State.*
- *Develop farming estates that can add to food production and create jobs. Support farmers to reduce post-harvest losses, increase productivity and farm produce available for the agro-based industry. Encourage the development and adoption of local technology solutions by farmers.*

However, in all the foregoing analysis, the ASDP seems to be gender neutral as there are no specific provisions for women farmers, especially small-scale women farmers.

The Gender Policy in Agriculture envisions a Nigerian Agriculture driven by gender equity, equality and inclusiveness for women, people with special needs across the value chain with a goal of ensuring equal access to services, resources and programmes irrespective of gender to ensure food security and economic growth. It targets inter alia improvements in increasing resource allocation and targeting of women farmers, labour saving devices, extension services, access to markets, capacity building, strengthening women's agricultural cooperatives, access to farming inputs and supplies, access to credit, business opportunities and business advisory services. Others are collection and use of gender disaggregated information and mainstreaming gender into climate change.

⁷ ASDP at page 31.

The National Gender Policy envisages an inclusive agriculture that is at the intersection of rural development and value chain enhancement for increased earning and dignity of farmers across gender, geography, generations, and disability. Its objectives are inter alia: targeted actions for gender specific and inclusive agriculture sector, including 'green' agriculture and climate smart agriculture i.e. expanding opportunities for women, youths (boys and girls), and PWDs (females and males) in modern agriculture; implement digital and financial gender specific and inclusion strategies for women, youths and PWDs and ensure GEESI disaggregated data as a matter of policy and performance indicators.

Again, Nigeria is a member of the United Nations and signatory to the Paris Climate Change Agreement and a plethora of international standards that mandate States Parties to be more responsive to the reduction of GHG in all fields of human endeavor. According to Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC),⁸ Agriculture, Forestry and other land use is the second largest contributor to total GHG emission, approximately 25% of national GHG emissions. The NDC states as follows:

For agriculture, Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) is a key mitigation measure. Its aims are to sustainably increase agricultural productivity and support equitable increases in farm incomes enhancing food security and development. The sector exhibits high growth and is deemed essential for the creation of youth employment. Farmers take agro-ecological measures that increase the resilience of the farming systems, as opposed to measures that promote high external input farming, industrial meat production and large-scale industrial agriculture, which contribute to climate change. The benefits of improved practices go beyond improved yields. With improved yields come improved diets, growing productivity and reinvestment in rural communities. One example is agroforestry, where trees are mixed with crops and animals on the same land, can be another option for carbon fixing and for providing mulch material. Estimates of the benefits from agroforestry range from total (lifetime) emissions reductions of 158 million tonnes to 712 million tonnes. Another example is a reduction of methane emissions from livestock, through improved feeding and breeding.

At the regional level, Nigeria endorsed the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), the African Union Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security 2003 securing a commitment to the allocation of at least 10 percent of national budgetary resources to agriculture and rural development policy implementation within five years; and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods⁹. These standards affirmed a commitment to supply appropriate knowledge, information and skills to agriculture practitioners; inclusive agriculture growth and transformation supporting

⁸ Nigeria's First Nationally Determined Contribution, 2021 Update.

⁹ At the Second Ordinary Assembly of the African Union in July 2003 in Maputo, African Heads of State and Government endorsed the "Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa" (Assembly/AU/Decl. 7(II)). The Malabo Declaration 2014 reaffirmed the Heads of State commitments.

preferential entry and participation for women and youth in gainful agri-business; suitable, affordable and reliable mechanisation and energy access; and to deploy deliberate and targeted public support to ensure that all segments of society particularly women, the youth and disadvantaged sectors participate and benefit directly from opportunities to improve lives and livelihoods.

Also, the SDGs No.2 supports CSA and targets inter alia: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that helps maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improves land and soil quality¹⁰.

Agriculture is the foundation of the right to food and freedom from hunger. Nigeria is a State Party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The ICESCR in article 11 states inter alia:

(2) The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, shall take individually and through international co-operation, the measures including specific programmes, which are needed to:

(a) To improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge...and by developing and reforming agrarian systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources.

Satisfying the right to food will not be possible without inclusivity and CSA which is a reform of agrarian policies to achieve efficiency and sustainable use of natural resources. The state's duties are specifically to respect, protect and fulfill the right to food and this can only be possible if the impediments for the provision of food through farming are

¹⁰ Other targets include: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round; By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons: By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment. Others are: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed: Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, etc.

removed; and fit and good practices which satisfy the needs of generations adopted. As part of the minimum core obligation of the state, there is a duty to provide information, disseminate knowledge of standards and practices that will guarantee viable production, processing, storage and distribution systems of food and agricultural products¹¹. All these are to be undertaken on a non-discriminatory basis and affirmative action applied in appropriate and deserving cases.

1.5 Structure of the Sector

In terms of practical Agriculture, the sector is mainly a private sector driven initiative. The sector is divided into four sub-activities: Crop Production, Livestock, Forestry, and Fishing. Federal and State Governments provide policies, regulation, research, extension services, facilities and knowledge to support the sector. The local governments are the domain of the actual farming activities. At the federal level, FMARD is the lead agency with support from Ministries like the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMoE) and the Federal Ministry of Water Resources (FMoWR). The State Ministry of Agriculture leads state level interventions. The National Council on Agriculture (NCA) coordinates policy activities and the Council includes membership from State Commissioners of Agriculture and the aforelisted ministries. Other relevant ministries that attend the NCA include the Federal Ministries of Finance, Trade and Industry. For small scale women farmers, the Ministry of Women Affairs is also involved in facilitating their full participation in public funded interventions.

Anambra's Agriculture sector accounted for about 23% of the State's GDP in 2020. This is estimated to be N947,405billion. The sector is divided into four sub-sectors: crop production (89% of agricultural GDP), livestock (8% of agricultural GDP), fishing (2% of agricultural GDP), and forestry (1% of agricultural GDP). While crop production remains the major driver of the sector, value addition from the other three sub-sectors continues to rise.¹² In Anambra State, there are small scale subsistence farmers working along-side a few large-scale commercial agriculture. Most of the small-scale agriculture is rain-fed. The land is mainly owned by men but to a great extent cultivated by women. The Land Use Act is the major legislation which centralizes the ownership of the land in the state governor as a trustee for all residents of the state - who are now given or be deemed to have been given a right of occupancy for a plethora of uses.

2. KEY CHALLENGES OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND LAYING OUT GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS BASED ON HIGH LEVEL NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICIES AND STANDARDS

¹¹ See Agriculture Promotion Policy - Food as a Human Right at page 14. See further General Comment No. 12 on the Right to Adequate Food by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, (Twentieth Session), 1999.

¹² See ASDP, 2021-2070 at page 31.

2.1 Challenges of the Anambra Agriculture within the Context of SCWF

From the foregoing policy analysis and review of the SWOFON Charter of Demands, the following challenges crystallise:

- Low levels of funding – not meeting the 10% Maputo/Malabo.
- Absence of a budgeting framework that mainstreams gender and inclusivity- from budget formulation, preparation, approval, implementation, monitoring and evaluation up to audit.
- Absence of gender indicators in Agriculture
- Budgeting and governance framework for mainstreaming CSA has not been activated.
- Inefficient and unsustainable management of agricultural and natural resources including land, water, soil nutrients and genetic resources.
- Drudgery in farming and lack of appropriate and affordable level mechanization.
- Poor access to farm inputs and supplies such as fertilisers, seeds, seedlings, stems, etc.
- Link between research and practice is weak occasioned by poor extension services.
- Limited activation of the agriculture value chain – links between agricultural produce with value addition in manufacturing and packaging of finished goods and services.
- Absence of supportive rural (where the bulk of farming takes place) infrastructure including energy, roads, etc., to support agriculture's value chain.
- Post-harvest and storage losses.
- Near absence of business advisory services.
- Poor access to credit.
- Poor risk management systems and interventions
- Security challenges - farmers herder clashes, etc.

Other challenges undergirding the poor performance of the sector include weak supply chain management for inputs, limited human resource capacities and insufficient coordination, cohesion and accountability.

2.2 Sectoral Goals, Objectives, Targets and Strategies

The over goal is to facilitate a 2025-2027 Agriculture MTSS and 2025 Anambra State Agriculture Budget that promotes inclusivity and CSA. Against the background of the challenges listed above, the following objectives, targets and strategies have emerged:

- Improve levels of funding to meet the 10% Maputo/Malabo commitment.
- Design of Agriculture budgeting and indicators framework that mainstreams gender and inclusivity. Need for targeting mechanisms to ensure gender sensitivity and inclusion.
- Activation of budgeting and governance framework for mainstreaming CSA.
- Efficient and sustainable management of agricultural and natural resources including land, water, soil nutrients and genetic resources.
- Reduction of drudgery in farming and through locally made appropriate and affordable level mechanization.
- Improvement in access to farm inputs and supplies such as fertilisers, seeds, seedlings, stems, etc.
- Enhanced linkage between research and practice through improved extension services including irrigation and dry season farming, water harvesting, soil fertility management and erosion control; improved seeds, seedlings, stems and plant varieties, planting, harvesting and storage systems, etc.
- Considering the state's high population density and relatively small landmass, soilless farming - growing of crops without soil should be prioritised including hydroponics, aeroponics, aquaponics.
- Knowledge creation and management for the activation of the agriculture value chain – links between agricultural produce with value addition in manufacturing and packaging of finished goods and services.
- Budgeting for improvement of business advisory services.
- Provision of supportive rural infrastructure including especially renewable energy, roads, etc., to support agriculture's value chain.
- Minimize post-harvest losses through provision of storage facilities and enabling environment for farmers to store their products.
- Creating a revolving agriculture credit facility; knowledge management, organization for access to credit from Development Banks and other national funds and resources.

- Knowledge access, evaluation and introduction of risk transfer and risk management strategies (e.g., improved seasonal and real time weather forecasts, insurance-based risk mitigation options etc.) into the agricultural sector and widespread deployment of same through communication technologies, including mobile phones.
- Improving security through the police, local security and vigilante services and community mobilization, etc.

In view of the foregoing, the overall purpose of this exercise is to mainstream gender and inclusivity, a low carbon framework for budgeting; fit and good practices, value for money, accountability for results and evidence led budgeting framework in the agriculture sector whilst responding to the food and agriculture challenges/indicators affecting the majority of the population. Furthermore, to support Nigeria’s food sovereignty, the introduction of genetically modified crops must be handled with utmost care, based on empirical evidence and in line with our national aspirations.

3. REVIEW OF EXISTING BUDGET COMMITMENTS (2020-2024): KEY ISSUES

3.1: Low Budgetary Allocation

A review of the budgetary allocation to the Anambra State Ministry of Agriculture between 2020 and 2024 will reveal the commitment of the State to the sector.

Year	Total State Budget (NGN)	Total Allocation to Agric (NGN)	Percent age of Agric Allocati on	Malabo Declaration (10%) Benchmark (NGN)	Variance Against Malabo (10%) Benchmark (NGN)
2020 (Revised)	114,971,261,220.00	1,887,463,879.00	1.64%	11,497,126,122.00	9,609,662,243.00
2021	143,651,879,651	2,958,254,973	2.06%	14,365,187,965.10	11,406,932,992.10
2022	141,969,369,784.00	2,698,260,491.00	1.90%	14,196,936,978.40	11,498,676,487.4
2023	259,938,121,905.00	2,523,309,863.27	0.971%	25,993,812,190.50	23,470,502,327.23
2024	410,132,225,272.11	3,245,887,255.80	0.79%	41,013,222,527.21	37,767,335,271.41
TOTAL	1,070,662,857,832.11	13,313,176,462.07	1.47% ¹³	107,066,285,783.21	93,753,109,321.14

Source: Anambra State Budgets

From Table 1 above, Agriculture enjoyed a total five-year allocation of N13,313,176,462 from an overall budget vote of N1,070,662,857,832. The annual average allocation was N2,662,635,292.4 constituting an annual average percentage of 1.47% of the total approved state budgets. The highest nominal vote was in 2024. The Maputo Declaration

¹³ This is not a total of the percentages but the average over the five-year period.

figure over the five years would have come up to N107,066,285,783 and the variance between Maputo Declaration and the actual allocations is the sum of N93,753,109,321. Juxtaposing this against the Maputo and CAADP commitments shows a huge gap between sector benchmarks and actual appropriation. The Agriculture vote is just 14.7% of the Maputo commitment. From the foregoing, it is safe to conclude that Anambra State did not prioritize Agriculture and did not meet the Maputo Declaration benchmark over the five years.

Table 2 shows the allocation to the Agriculture sector in Anambra State between 2020 - 2024 and its real value in Naira and United States Dollars. The conversion is done against the background of the fluctuating value of the naira.

Table 2: Anambra Agriculture Votes Converted to USD

Year	Agriculture Budget (NGN)	Agric Allocation (USD)
2020	1,887,463,879.00	6,188,406.16
2021	2,914,276,608.00	7,689,384.19
2022	2,698,260,491.00	6,581,123.15
2023	2,523,309,863.27	5,800,712.33
2024	3,245,887,255.80	4,057,359.07

Source: Anambra State Budgets and Federal Budgets

From Table 2, it is clear that the Agriculture vote of 2021 has been the highest over the five years. The Table shows an increase between 2020 and 2021. It declined in 2022 and further declined in 2023 and 2024. In the nominal value in naira terms, the 2024 allocation to Agriculture appears to be the highest.

3.2 Capital versus Recurrent Funding of the Health Sector

The allocation of recurrent and capital funding in the Agriculture Sector over the years has consistently been in favour of capital expenditure. Table 3 tells the story.

Table 3: Anambra State Agriculture Budget: Recurrent Versus Capital Votes						
Year	Agriculture Budget (NGN)	Agric Allocation (USD)	Recurrent Expenditure (NGN)	Percentage Share of Recurrent Allocation	Capital Expenditure (NGN)	Percentage Share of Capital Allocation
2020	1,887,463,879.00	6,188,406.16	560,758,973.00	29.71	1,326,704,906.00	70.29
2021	2,914,276,608.00	7,689,384.19	371,669,479.00	12.75	2,542,607,129.00	87.25
2022	2,698,260,491.00	6,581,123.15	419,553,362.00	15.55	2,278,707,129.00	84.45
2023	2,523,309,863.27	5,800,712.33	457,952,733.97	18.15	2,065,357,129.30	81.85
2024	3,245,887,255.80	4,057,359.07	520,837,255.80	16.05	2,725,050,000.00	83.95

Source: Anambra State Budgets

The highest allocation was 87.25% in 2021, followed by allocations of 84.45% in 2022 the 2024 allocation of 83.95% and 81.85% in 2023. The lowest capital vote was 70.29% in 2020. While massive investments are required for inclusivity and CSA including mechanization and infrastructure upgrades, a balance must be struck for expenditure in such areas as extension and meteorological services, business advisory services,

knowledge management, etc., which may not be strictly categorised as capital expenditure.

3.3 Performance of Appropriated Funds

Allocation of funds in the budget is usually different from the release and utilization of the funds. The revenue projection may be overly optimistic or due to some reasons, the revenues may not be realized and the managers of the economy decide on priorities different from appropriation. Table 4 shows the picture.

Table 4: Anambra State Agricultural Sector Capital Budget Performance Review

Year	Capital Expenditure Allocation (NGN)	Full year performance (Q1 – Q4)	Capital Budget Performance (%)	Balance Against Allocation (NGN)
2023	2,045,357,129.30	797,100,000.00	39.0%	1,248,257,129.30
2022	1,608,500,000.00	497,997,000.00	31%	1,110,503,000
2021	1,451,614,298.00	520,870,298.32	35.9%	930,743,990.68
2020	No Performance Report			

Source: Anambra State Budgets

Despite the low budgetary provisions for the sector, for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023, the percentage of appropriated Agriculture expenditure utilized has been 35.9%, 31% and 39% respectively. In no year did the budget achieve 40% utilisation. Cumulatively, over the three years, in which reports are available, the average percentage performance has been 35.3%. This does not show sufficient commitment to funding the capital component of the Agriculture budget.

4. KEY AGRICULTURE SECTOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FOUR YEARS

At the policy level:

- Design of strategies for improving Agriculture under the Anambra State Development Plan.

At the financing level:

- Collaboration with Development Partners vis Central Bank of Nigeria, FADAMA and IFAD, RAAMP and empowerment of the youth and women under the Commercial Agricultural Credit Scheme (CACs) and Accelerated Agricultural Development Scheme (AADS) programmes supported by the Central Bank of Nigeria.
- Budgetary provisions across MDAs for Agriculture.

At the implementation level:

- Production of crops like cassava, yam, palm tree.

- Promotion (though very limited) of organic farming

5. MDAS AGRICULTURE PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES THAT SHOULD BE SUSTAINED

The below listed provisions are Agriculture projects that facilitate inclusivity and CSA and should be sustained. The reasons for this position are stated immediately after Table 5. The listing is not an opinion on whether the projects were implemented or not.

Table 5: Budget Line Items that Should be Sustained

Project Name	Full Programme Code and Programme Level Description
Field Crop Protection	01030322000200 - Farm inputs supply and service delivery system
Produce Storage and Fumigation Scheme	23020113 - Construction/Provision of Agricultural Facilities
Agricultural Extension Information Services	23040102 – Erosion, Flood Control, etc
Livestock Productivity and Resilient Support Project	01070522001300- Public Private Partnerships (corporate private
Soil Erosion Preservation and Control - Biological (Sustainable Land Management)	23040102 - Erosion and Flood Control
Establishment. of Demonstration Farm Centres in the 3 Senatorial Zones	23020113- Construction/Provision of Agricultural Facilities
Fertilizer Procurement and Distribution	23010127 - Purchase of Agricultural Inputs
Fish Seed Improvement and Multiplication	23020113 - Construction/Provision of Agricultural Facilities
Artisanal Fisheries Development	23020113 - Construction/Provision of Agricultural Facilities
Construction of Fish Feed Mill	23020113 - Construction/Provision of Agricultural
Fishery Development Programme/Youth Empowerment	23050108 - Capacity Building
Coconut, Palm and other Seedlings Program	01030322000300 - Farm inputs supply and service delivery system
Seed Multiplication and Horticultural Development Project	01030222000200 - Intensive crop and vegetable production (irriga0t
Development of Agricultural Extension Information Management System	01010222000200 - Agriculture sector coordination mechanisms
Testing Laboratory Services	01070422000100 - Adaptive research, unified and all-inclusive
Standard Agricultural Engineering Workshop	01010222000300 - Agriculture sector coordination mechanisms
Fertilizer Procurement and Distribution	01030322000400 - Farm inputs supply and service delivery system

Procurement of Agricultural Inputs Program (Seedlings, Pesticides, Fertilizer)	01030322000500 - Farm inputs supply and service delivery system
Veterinary Field Services	01020522000200 - Animal health and livestock diseases management
Veten.Pre.Ctrl & Surveillance of Animal Disease e.g. Rabbits, TB&PPR	01020522000200 - Animal health and livestock diseases management
Veterinary EPIZOOTIC/Surveillance	01020522000300 - Animal health and livestock diseases management
Agricultural Shows and Fairs	01040322000100 - Market linkage
Procurement of 4nos Combined Harvesters and 10nos Oil-palm Harvester	01040122000300 - Modern technology for harvesting and post-harvest storage
Repairs of 5nos Tractors (60HP, 4 Wheel Drive, 45 litre fuel tank & 2,100kg	0107t)0122000400 - Integrated rural development and mechanisation of agriculture
Capacity Building of Ministry's Staff and Extension officers	01070622000200 - Capacity building for stakeholders and professionals
School Horticultural Development Programme	01070422000200 - Adaptive research, unified and all-inclusive
Livestock Productivity and Resilient Support Project	01070522001300- Public Private Partnerships (corporate private
Cluster Farming Development	23050101 - Research and Development
ANCHOR Borrower & NISRAL Programme	23050101 - Research and Development
IFAD/ISDB/FGN Support for National Programme for Food Sector (NPFS) in Anambra	23020113 - Construction/Provision of Agricultural Facilities
IDA support to NATIONAL FADAMA Development Project (NFDP – III)	23020113 - Construction/Provision of Agricultural Facilities
IFAD Assisted Rural Finance Institution Building Programme (RUF)	23020113 - Construction/Provision of Agricultural Facilities

Source: Anambra State Budgets

Erosion control is necessary for the prevention of massive land degradation which leads to loss of rural and urban livelihoods and waste of natural resources. Drainage channels help to channel water to areas where it constitutes the least nuisance to properties, plant and animal life. Provisions of agricultural inputs including fertilisers, seeds, pesticides facilitate farming and improves the productivity of farmers. Produce storage and fumigation reduces post-harvest losses and improves the income of farmers. Furthermore, provisions for mechanisation of Agriculture will reduce drudgery and improve productivity.

Extension services are needed to disseminate new information, knowledge and fit and good practices to farmers. The products of research institutes need to be moved to the institutions and persons that need them most for improved productivity, mitigation and adaptation. Demonstration farms also show best practices for farmers to emulate and put into practice. Cluster farming development which merges small holder farms to a nucleus model farm facilitates the dissemination of knowledge and sharing of risks. Furthermore, taking advantage of various federal and international development partners credit facilities and grants provides necessary capital and knowledge support for small holder women farmers.

Support for the fish farming sub sector is imperative to boost productivity in the subsector. Provision for construction of fish feed mill, artisanal fisheries development, empowerment of youth in fishery, etc., will enhance the contribution of fisheries to agriculture. Veterinary field services, surveillance and livestock productivity and resilience support facilitates the productivity of the livestock sub sector of Agriculture.

6. MDAS PROJECTS/PROGRAMMES PERFORMING POORLY

From Budget Implementation Reports 2020 - 2023, the activities under the following project heads have been performing poorly.

- Extension Services
- Measures to reduce post-harvest losses
- Agriculture credit schemes including facilitating access to federal interventions such as ANCHOR Borrower and NISRAL
- Affordable and appropriate mechanisation
- Inputs procurement and distribution
- Industrial support like the NEEM Fertilizer Factory Amawbia received no releases after appropriation.
- Improving crop and animal yield
- Livestock production
- Fishing and aquaculture value chain

PART TWO: FOR ACTION IN THE MEDIUM TERM

Part Two is dedicated to action needed to improve budgeting for inclusivity and CSA and the right to food before and after the passage of the 2025 budget vis - in the medium term, before the end of the tenure of the current Executive and State House of Assembly. Action (in terms of bills, motions and oversight activities) is expected from the legislature and a multiplicity of action from the executive and other stakeholders. Other key actions are expected from the MAMPE. However, the provisions should start from the 2025 budget of the MAMPE.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Full Implementation of the ASDP on Agriculture

The ASDP is a beautiful document and policy position which if faithfully implemented would increase productivity and inclusivity, protect the environment and intensify CSA. It is therefore imperative that its implementation is not subverted by the political process or lack of political will. The full value chain approach adopted in the ASDP is a minimum requirement for jobs, economic growth and human development. Increased crop and animal yield should be processed, preserved and stored with large local value addition and some parts of it exported to earn foreign exchange. The full financial, institutional and political support should be extended to the implementation of the commitments on Agriculture.

7.2 Development of Gender Indicators in Agriculture

The MAMPE and the Anambra State Ministry of Budget and Planning should collaborate with experts to develop gender and inclusivity specific indicators in Agriculture which should guide budgeting and planning in the sector. The indicators will show the action points for budgeting, monitoring and reporting.

7.3 Link between Research and Practical Agriculture

Nigeria has 15 Commodity-based Agricultural Research Institutes, 11 Federal Colleges of Agriculture, a Specialized National Agricultural Extension Institute, over 50 Faculties of Agriculture in regular Federal Universities and 3 Specialised Universities of Agriculture. The state has a College of Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, the outreach centre of the National Roots Crops Research Institute in Igbariam, etc. The research findings of these institutions should translate to increased yield on the agricultural farms. There is therefore need for the Anambra State MAMPE to establish links with research institutes to facilitate demand driven research or research driven by the needs of real farmers and processors. Research findings should get across to farmers through extension services.

7.4 Extension Services

As a follow up to the linking research to real life farming, the state should enhance extension services and consider reaching out to farmers through a multiplicity of approaches. These will include physical meetings and deployment of electronic media especially radio and television, as well as through the social media, text messages, etc. The establishment of local government and community level demonstration farms is imperative. Considering the state's high population density and relatively small landmass, the MAMPE should build capacity for soilless farming. Extension services and demonstration farms provide opportunities for imparting knowledge on hydroponics vis, growing plants, usually crops or medicinal plants, without soil, by using water-based

mineral nutrient solutions in an artificial environment; aeroponics vis, the practice of growing plants in an air or mist environment without the use of any substrate where plant roots are suspended in the air and are misted or sprayed periodically with a nutrient solution or aerosol of nutrient solution; and aquaponics which is a food production system that couples aquaculture with hydroponics whereby the nutrient-rich aquaculture water is fed to hydroponically grown plants.¹⁴

7.5 Invest in Appropriate Locally Available Mechanization

The link between research and farming will be better enhanced at the level of SCWF through investments in mechanization that reduce drudgery and provide new implements for farming. These will include tillers, sprayers, harvester, etc., which can be fabricated locally especially at the Innoson Motor Company in Nnewi. Instead of looking for large resources for huge tractors and harvesters, cheaper and hand driven locally fabricated and maintained equipment can fill the void. It will not only improve agriculture productivity but create jobs in their servicing and repair.

7.6 Soil and Nutrient Management

Nitrogen is a very essential nutrient for the growth of crops but too much nitrogen in the soil has side effects. When nitrogen in the soil is too much, some of it will be unabsorbed by plants and will react with air and water to produce nitrous oxide which is a GHG. Fertilizer application is supposed to take note of the amount of nitrogen and other nutrients already present in the soil. The idea of applying the same NPK fertilizer all over the state is unacceptable. Fortunately, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has done a soil map for Nigeria. The information contained in this soil map is very essential to the reduction of GHG emission. However, Nigerians are not aware of the fact that there is a soil map and its contents. The MAMPE should liaise with federal agencies and disseminate the information in the soil map to farmers in the state who are supposed to be the ultimate beneficiaries of the information. Also, fertilizer distribution by the state government should begin to take note of the content of the soil map for a particular area. Furthermore, the state should increase fertilizer use per hectare through the promotion of organic fertilizers. The need for sustainability in farming practices indicates that the state should invest more in producing organic fertilisers and farm inputs. Beyond making the soils less acidic over the medium to long term, the process of making these fertilizers will create jobs, reduce the waste that has become a challenge to city managers as well as convert same to wealth in a win-win scenario for all.

7.7 Improve Funding and Embrace the Special Windows for Agriculture Financing

At an average of 1.47% over the last four years, budgetary funding for Agriculture is very low. This needs to be increased starting from a minimum of 50% of the Maputo

¹⁴ See Wikipedia - the open encyclopedia.

Declaration, vis 5% of the overall budget and graduating in the medium term to 10% of the budget. Furthermore, there is the need for greater budget credibility to ensure that not less than 95% of appropriated funds are released to the MAMPE. A little more funding attention should be focused on fisheries and agro-forestry considering their very low contribution to Agriculture GDP (2% and 1% respectively). The special windows for funding agriculture should be reviewed and strategically engaged. The MAMPE should consider the establishment of a Revolving Agriculture Credit Facility. It should set up a desk to attract resources from Development Banks and Special Agriculture Funds and sensitise and empower SCWF in the state of the procedures for accessing them. In accordance with the ASDP, the state should increase allocation to the “Economic Empowerment through Agriculture Fund” as well as support innovative financing options for farmers and other players across the agriculture value chain such as collaborating with financial partners to make available low interest loans to small and medium-scale farmers. The special windows will include the special climate change financing mechanisms.¹⁵.

7.8 The Need for Cooperatives

Considering the need for collaterals and formalization of processes in access to credit, beyond SWOFON, rural small-scale farmers need to be organized into cooperatives and registered with the appropriate legal authorities. This will facilitate their processing of loans, access to inputs and as a fulcrum for getting CSA extension services. Cooperatives of small-scale processors, storage providers and other operatives on the value chain can also be formed for ease of access to financial and technical support for inclusivity and CSA. Land reform is also imperative for rural lands to become credit worthy as collaterals for accessing loans.

7.9 Reduction of Post-Harvest Losses

Inadequate storage and processing facilities means that huge amounts of the agricultural produce harvested will be lost. Investing in storage facilities means that there will be an increase in productivity and sustainability in supply. Losing harvested crops due to poor storage facilities means that no utility was provided by the crops despite all the GHGs emitted in the process of production. If the lost utility will have to be replaced, more GHGs will have to be emitted through another agricultural production cycle. Consequently, improving agricultural storage facilities will not just make more produce available but will also reduce the GHGs that would have been emitted. However, the major challenge here will be the huge capital cost of storage facilities that will be located in the farm as well as the cost of transportation infrastructure that will be needed. The challenge of financing these facilities and infrastructure is massive. Public Private Partnerships and Public

¹⁵ See *Financing Options for Climate Change Interventions*, Centre for Social Justice, 2016.

Public Partnerships should be used for reduction of post-harvest losses. This will include developing cold hubs for fruits, vegetables and tubers and small scale processing plants.

7.10 Renewable Energy and Agriculture Establishment Energy Access

The availability of energy in rural farm settlements is usually one of the key challenges militating against storage and preservation of farm products. It is imperative for agriculture to begin the transition to renewable energy and energy efficiency. It is admitted that the initial sunk in cost of renewables is high. But a phased transition over the medium term (defined as three to seven years) to renewable energy and energy efficient lighting and other equipment is imperative. In the long term, this will reduce the cost of providing electricity and make same accessible at a sustainable cost. The financing windows can work on this theme for groups of farmers organized in cooperatives. The state may consider issuing Green Bonds for renewable energy mainstreaming in Agriculture. The reporting of the project implementation and use must show energy savings, GHG reductions, renewable energy production, etc.

7.11 Using Resistant and Genetically Improved Animals and Crops

Heat and extreme weather conditions have a very negative impact on crop and animal yield. Pest and diseases also greatly reduce agricultural yield. The effect of this is the reduced crops, meat, milk, etc. which will be provided despite the GHGs that have been emitted during the agricultural production process. Consequently, improved crops and animal varieties should be used for agricultural production. These improved varieties can withstand extreme temperatures and other harsh environmental conditions. Consequently, their yield will be more when compared to the less resistant crops and animal varieties. This means that the associated emission of GHGs needed to produce them will be reduced. This is not a licence for the introduction of genetically modified crops and animals.

7.12 Business Advisory Services

The State should establish Business Advisory Services to give meaning to the Agriculture value chain concept. Business Advisory Services will untie and disseminate the business opportunities along the different animal and crops chains and thereby make it possible for SSWF to take advantage of investment opportunities. When Business Advisory Services is combined with innovative financing mechanism, productivity and value addition will be enhanced.

7.13 Risk Management

Collaboration between MDAs will also be imperative. For instance, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) and weather stations will need to give state level farmers sensitive information through the mass media including radio and mobile phones on

weather and climate issues that affect agriculture. Furthermore, MAMPE should embrace and provide practical information to SCWF on the services of the Nigeria Agricultural Insurance Corporation which provides insurance cover for crops, livestock and related agriculture transactions at fairly cheap premiums. These can be part of knowledge and risk management functions of extension department of the MAMPE.

7.14 Invest in Agroforestry

Practicing agroforestry means that trees will be included in agricultural and farming systems. Trees provide carbon sinks that go a long way to reduce the carbon in the atmosphere. Tree planting is a very potent strategy to actualize low-carbon development. Tree planting improves productivity as it helps to improve water retention in the soil. Including tree planting in agricultural systems provides an opportunity for crop diversification which will improve the income of the farmer. The trees can also be perennial trees which have economic value. Furthermore, the trees which have been included in agricultural systems will provide shade for farm animals during hot weather. However, the issue of capital-intensive nature of agroforestry must be addressed. Socio-cultural change on farming techniques as well as knowledge transfer issues must also be taken seriously.

7.15 Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification

The MAMPE should provide resources for monitoring, reporting and verification of the challenges, achievements and investments in the sector including mainstreaming of inclusivity, climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. This will close data gaps which frustrates evidence led planning for inclusivity and CSA. Poor measurement, reporting, and verification will deny the state the opportunity of course correction on the path of inclusivity and CSA.

7.16 The Continuum: Policy, Plan, Budget Cycle

Previous and current experience in the implementation of national plans reveals a lot of disarticulations. The ANSDP needs to be mainstreamed in the budget. It is recommended that Agriculture budgets should be backed by a clear MTSS which is linked to high level national and international standards especially the ANSDP; fully costed and progressively allocates more resources to Agriculture based on increased availability of resources. There should be an inseparable link between policy, planning, budgeting, performance, monitoring and evaluation continuum. This continuum should be reflected in the Agriculture sector specific budget template to be devised by collaboration between the executive and legislature. The legislature should insist on the establishment of the link between policies and appropriation during the consideration of the budget. Clarity of the budget template will dictate that projects are clearly and properly described in the budget and repetition of budget heads and items should be avoided.

7.17 Formation of Sector Teams for Future Budget Planning

The executive is enjoined to collaborate with the stakeholders in civil society, farmers, cooperatives, professional associations, organized labour, the academia, etc. to ensure that the preparation of Agriculture MTSS is done by a team that represents all stakeholders including the MDA and its parastatals. This will guarantee comprehensiveness of future budgets and the fact the budget votes will target programme results and goals of the sector.

7.18 Adopt Best Practices in Public Procurement

Good and fit procurement practices should be adopted by MAMPE; with a standard price database to remove price differentials for the same projects, programmes and activities and to enhance value for money in Agriculture operations. Adoption of open procurement and contracting should be encouraged through legislative oversight.

7.19 Improve Security

Improving security service in the state through local efforts and establishment and proper funding of the State Police when the 1999 Constitution is eventually amended is imperative for enhancing Agricultural productivity.

8. CONCLUSIONS

The memorandum reviewed the Anambra State budget and its outputs in Agriculture from the prism of SSWF. It notes the provisions of national and international standards on Agriculture and welcomes the commitments made by the Anambra State Government in the ASDP. It reviewed the budgetary commitments in the last four years, releases and expenditure. The agriculture budget has a serious credibility challenge. It identified the issues raised in the SWOFON Charter of Demand as it relates to Anambra State and proposed a goal, strategies and objectives for action.

The challenges of the sector were reviewed and recommendations for action were made. The summary of the recommendations is the need for reform at the governance, financial and operating levels of Agriculture. Furthermore, there are several opportunities to engage the system to achieve the reform agenda.



ABOUT SWOFON

Small Scale Women Farmers Organization in Nigeria (SWOFON) is a coalition of Women Farmers Associations and Groups across Nigeria. This coalition exists with the goal of advocating for and supporting women farmers especially those in rural areas to spur rural village economic development, increase food production through capacity building of smallholder women farmers to demand for their rights and privileges from the duty bearers while serving as a vocal and visible pressure group on behalf small holder women farmers in Nigeria.

SWOFON organizes and empowers women farmers' association and groups to track and engage duty bearers around agricultural expenditure and investments. We are poised to build a collective voice for all smallholder women farmers associations to express their needs to policymakers and other development stakeholders. SWOFON also engages the government directly to further improve existing agricultural policies to support women smallholder farmers.

ABOUT CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



Centre for Social Justice Limited by Guarantee (CSJ) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-partisan organization established to introduce professionalism in civil society work and to deepen economic, social and political change.

Vision: A Nigeria where social justice informs public decision making and guarantees respect of human right fundamental freedoms for all.

Mission: To be a principal catalyst in mainstreaming social justice in public life through policy engagement and interventions that bring about economic, political and social reforms, rights enhancement and sustainable livelihoods.