

# FEDERAL AGRICULTURE MEDIUM TERM SECTOR STRATEGIES (MTSS) 2025-2027



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

And



**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
BOF	Budget Office of the Federation
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CACS	Commercial Agricultural Credit Scheme
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme
CSJ	Centre for Social Justice
FEC	Federal Executive Council
FMAFS	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
FMBEP	Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning
FMoE	Federal Ministry of Environment
FMoWR	Federal Ministry of Water Resources
FGN	Federal Government of Nigeria
FRA	Fiscal Responsibility Act
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
MTSS	Medium Term Sector Strategy
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NDP	National Development Plan
NDC	Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contribution
NIMET	Nigerian Meteorological Agency
NISRAL	Nigeria Social Investment Programme
PWD	People Living with Disability
SWOFON	Small Scale Women Farmers Organization in Nigeria

## 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 outlining 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 laying out goals, objectives and targets based on the 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 national and international standards including the National Development Plan, Nationally Determined Contributions, Gender Policy in Agriculture, etc.
- Develop gender indicators in Agriculture through a collaboration between the FMAFS, the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning and the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs.
- Establish Business Advisory Services to give meaning to the Agriculture value chain concept.
- Collaborate with states to improve security services 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. Furthermore, collaborate with federal security organisations.

## FUNDING

- Allocate 10% of the total annual national 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.
- Make a case for improved funding of the Agriculture vote up to 95% of allocated funds to improve budget credibility.
- Set up a department/desk to attract resources from Development Banks, Special Agriculture Funds and Climate Finance in Agriculture.
- 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 links between research institutes and farmers to facilitate demand driven research or research driven by the needs of real farmers and processors.
- Invest in appropriate locally available mechanization for automation and 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 production of crops, meat, milk and other related products.
- Reduction of 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.
- Institutionalize monitoring, reporting and verification of inclusivity, mitigation and adaptation measures and data and statistics gathering and management.

## TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- FMAFS should ensure that the budget reflects the plan, policy, law and budget continuum. Budgets should be the instrument for the implementation of plans and policies.
- 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 FMAFS should embrace the civil society, especially the SSWF as a critical partner in achieving greater value for money in a bid to improve national Agriculture outcomes. Future preparation of the MTSS should rely on a full Sector Team including the civil society and other relevant stakeholders. The FMAFS should engage CSOs for budget monitoring and tracking expenditure of borrowed sums in the sector.

# PART ONE: FOR 2025 AND THE MTEF/MTSS

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

The Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for the period 2025 - 2027 is in the process of preparation by the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning (FMBEP)/Budget Office of the Federation (BOF). When finalized, considered and endorsed by the Federal Executive Council (FEC), it will be transmitted to the National Assembly (NA) for approval<sup>1</sup>.

The Agriculture Medium Term Sector Strategy (MTSS) which should be guided by the MTEF consisting inter alia of the macroeconomic framework, fiscal strategy paper, expenditure and revenue framework and the developmental priorities of the Federal Government will include a focus on inclusivity and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). It is expected to:

- Articulate medium-term (three years) Agriculture goals and objectives against the background of the overall goals of high level national and 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 national 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

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) states of the Agriculture sector as follows:<sup>2</sup>

*The sector grew by 0.77% year-on-year in nominal terms in Q1 2024, showing a decrease of 4.47% points from the same quarter of 2023. Looking at the preceding quarter's growth rate of 14.94%, there was a decrease of 14.17% points. Crop production remained the major driver of the sector. This is evident as it accounts for 87.98% of the overall nominal value of the sector in the first quarter of 2024. Quarter-on-quarter growth stood at -37.60% in the first quarter of 2024. Agriculture contributed 17.22% to nominal GDP in the first*

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<sup>1</sup> This is as provided by section 14 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> NBS, First Quarter 2024 GDP Report.

quarter of 2024. This figure was lower than the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2023 and lower than the fourth quarter of 2023 which recorded 19.63% and 24.65% respectively....However, the sector contributed 21.07% to overall GDP in real terms in Q1 2024.

This is evidence of a declining sectoral productivity for a sector that employs 37.99% of the Nigerian working population<sup>3</sup>. Headline inflation stands at 33.69% with food inflation at 40.53%.<sup>4</sup> Food and non-alcoholic beverages at the divisional level contributed 17.45% of the headline inflation index.<sup>5</sup> Agriculture productivity also plays a key role in the determination of the level of the Consumer Price Index as food inflation contributes 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 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.<sup>6</sup> Agriculture is therefore an important sector that deserves the attention of all stakeholders.

The population of Nigeria is estimated at about 228 million in 2024, disaggregated into 50.6% male and 49.4% female.<sup>7</sup> Nigeria is blessed with 84 million hectares of arable land of which 40% has been cultivated; it has about 230 billion cubic metres of water, abundant and reliable rainfall in over two thirds of its territory.<sup>8</sup>

Official preparation of the Agriculture Sector MTSS 2025-2027 by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) 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 Small Scale Women Farmers Organization in Nigeria (SWOFON) has articulated its priority requests to include the following; opportunities for participation at all stages of the budgeting process, provision of gender friendly equipment to reduce drudgery in farming, business advisory services to enhance benefits from the value chain, provision of

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<sup>3</sup> Statista, 2022; <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1288871/agriculture-sector-share-in-employment-in-nigeria/>.

<sup>4</sup> National Bureau of Statistics, Consumer Price Index, April 2024; year on year food inflation.

<sup>5</sup> NBS, April 2024, supra.

<sup>6</sup> NBS Foreign Trade Reports, *Foreign Trade in Goods Statistics*, 2023

<sup>7</sup> <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2024-nigeria>

<sup>8</sup> See section 1.1 of the National Gender Policy in Agriculture.

vaccination to reduce loss of animals in ruminant farming, access to credit through soft loans and grants, quality control on animal feeds, extension services, access to water and irrigation and improved security. Others are access to land, roads for movement of farm products, storage facilities, processing and value addition machines and equipment, climate resilient, adaptive and mitigative capacity building, farming inputs and technical support. However, while the government has taken some steps, there is so much room for improvement of FGN's response to these priorities.

The effects of global warming and climate change are all around us; increasing temperature, desertification, deforestation, devastating erosion, floods, soil degradation, sea level rise, etc. 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 FMAFS, FMBEP/BOF, the NA and other stakeholders.

### **1.3 Outlining Linkages Between MTSS and Annual Budget**

Section 18 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) 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 National Assembly under section 81 (1) of Constitution.*
- 2) The sectoral and compositional distribution of the estimates of the 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.*

SWOFON and CSJ therefore seek to make inputs into the Medium-Term Developmental Priorities of the Federal Government in the Agriculture Sector considering that this will form the basis for the preparation of the 2025 federal 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. The national policies include but are not limited to the National Development Plan 2021-2025 (NDP), Gender Policy in Agriculture, 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. Some of the specific targets and indicators of the NDP are as shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: NDP: Objectives, KPIs, Baseline and Targets**

Objectives	Key Performance Indicators	Baseline	Targets
Reduce post-harvest losses	The total amount of post-harvest losses from key value chains	60 percent for all agricultural output	30 percent of all agricultural output
Build a sustainable food production system	Total arable land under cultivation	34 million hectares	42 million hectares
Increase agricultural export volume	Share of agricultural exports in total exports	4.37 percent	6.12 percent
Increase female participation in agriculture	Share of women in the population of women 15 years and above	19.6 percent	25 percent
Improve national food security ranking	Increase National food security ranking to top 3 in SSA and top 50 in the world ranking	92 out of 104 countries globally 13th of 28 countries in SSA	Top 50 in the global ranking Top 3 in SSA
Increase private sector investment in the agriculture sector	Bank credit allocation to agricultural activities/sector	5.1 percent of total private sector credit	10 percent of total private sector credit
Increase food self-reliance through increased productivity	Share of foods in total imports (%)	20 percent	15 percent

**Source:** National Development Plan, 2021 – 2025

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. Specifically, the National Gender Policy in Agriculture states:<sup>9</sup>

*Women carry out about 80% of agricultural production, 60% of agricultural processing activities and 50% of animal husbandry and related activities, yet women have access to less than 20% of agricultural assets.*

It therefore makes an empirical case for mainstreaming inclusivity in Nigerian Agriculture.

<sup>9</sup> At page 71 of the Policy.

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.

Furthermore, 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),<sup>10</sup> 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 Africa 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 Livelihoods<sup>11</sup>. These standards affirmed a commitment to supply appropriate knowledge, information and skills to agriculture practitioners; inclusive agriculture growth and transformation supporting

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<sup>10</sup> Nigeria's First Nationally Determined Contribution, 2021 Update.

<sup>11</sup> 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 quality<sup>12</sup>.

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

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<sup>12</sup> 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 products<sup>13</sup>. 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, FMAFS 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 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.

There are small scale subsistence farmers working along-side 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. Agriculture used to be the mainstay of the economy in terms of generating government revenue and foreign exchange before the discovery of oil in large quantities. Recently, and with the pervading oil crisis, there have been efforts on the path of government to revive the sector with mechanization, full value chain addition and provision of financial support to farmers.

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

### **2.1 Challenges of the Nigerian Agriculture within the Context of SWOFON**

From the foregoing policy analysis, review of the SWOFON Charter of Demands review of the budget analysis in the next part, the following challenges crystallise:

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<sup>13</sup> 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.



- 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.
- Poor access to water, irrigation and similar services.
- Desertification in the northern parts of the country and erosion in the southern parts.
- 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 between the tiers of government and various MDAs working on related issues, cohesion and accountability.

## 2.2 Sectoral Goals, Objectives, Targets and Strategies

The over goal is to facilitate a 2025-2027 Agriculture MTSS and 2025 Federal 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.
- Tackling desertification, erosion, etc.
- 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.
- 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 security and sovereignty, the introduction of genetically modified crops must be handled with utmost care, based on empirical evidence and in line with Nigeria’s 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 FMAFS between 2020 and 2024 will reveal the commitment of FGN to the sector. It will also reveal the commitment of FGN to implementing policies and plans through the budget. Table 2 shows the state of budgetary allocations.

**Table 2: The FGN Agriculture Budget and Variance from 10% Maputo Declaration**

Year	Total Budget (N’ Trillion) (a)	Agriculture Allocation (N’ Billion) (b)	As % of Total Budget (c) $b/a*100$	As 10% of Total (N’ Billion) (d) (a/10)	Variance from 10% Benchmark (N’ Billion) (d-b)
2024	28,777,404,073,861	996,901,093,569	3.46	2,877,740,407,386.10	1,880,839,313,817.10
2023	21,827,188,747,392	426,989,907,243	1.96	2,182,718,874,739.20	1,755,729,092,757.00
2022	17,126,873,917,692	479,793,153,213	2.80	1,712,687,391,769.20	1,232,894,238,556.20
2021	13,588,027,886,175	280,315,513,553	2.06	1,358,802,788,617.50	1,078,487,275,064.50
2020	10,810,800,872,072	160,458,311,029	1.48	1,081,080,087,207.20	920,621,776,178.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>92,130,295,497,192</b>	<b>2,344,457,978,607</b>	<b>2.35</b>	<b>9,213,029,549,719.20</b>	<b>6,868,571,571,112.20</b>

**Source:** Budget Office of the Federation

From Table 2 above, Agriculture enjoyed a total five-year allocation of N2,344,457,978,607 from an overall budget vote of N92,130,295,497,192. The annual average allocation was N468,981,595,721 constituting an average annual percentage of 2.35%. The highest allocation to Agriculture was recorded in 2024 - N996,901,093,569 representing 3.46% of the total budget. The lowest allocation was recorded in 2020 wherein N160,458,311,029 representing 1.48% of the total budget. The Maputo Declaration figure of 10% of overall budget would have come up to N9,213,029,674,980. The total variance from the 10% benchmark over the 5-year period amounted to N6,868,571,696,373. The Agriculture vote, over the five-year period is 25.44% of the Maputo commitment. This huge differential highlights the need for increased funding to the sector.

Table 3 shows the allocation to the Agriculture sector in federal budgets 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, inflation rate, cost of living and other macroeconomic variables.

**Table 3: Federal Agriculture Votes Converted to USD**

Year	Agriculture Budget	National Budget	Percentage to Agriculture	Exchange Rate	USD Value of Agriculture Vote
2024	996,901,093,569	28,777,404,073,861	3.46	N800/\$	1,246,126,366.96
2023	426,989,907,243	21,827.19 Mn	1.96	N435/\$	981,585,993.66
2022	479,793,153,213	17,126,873,917,692	2.80	N410/\$	1,170,227,202.96
2021	280,315,513,553	13,588,027,886,175	2.06	N379/\$	739,618,769.27
2020	160,458,311,029	10,810,800,872,072	1.48	N305/\$	526,092,823.05

**Source:** Budget Office of the Federation and Authors Calculation

From Table 3, it is clear that the Agriculture vote in 2024 is the highest allocation over the five years. The allocation in 2022 was second, 2023 came third; 2021 fourth while the least was in 2020. The vote increased by 40.59% between 2020 and 2021; 58.22% between 2021 and 2022; reduced by 16.12% between 2022 and 2023 and increased by 26.95% between 2023 and 2024.

### 3.2 Recurrent Versus Capital Funding of the Agriculture Sector

Table 4 tells the story of the recurrent capital expenditure mix.

**Table 4: Capital and Recurrent Votes Expressed in Percentages: 2020 – 2024**

YEAR	OVERALL BUDGET	ALLOCATION TO AGRICULTURE	RECURRENT VOTE	RECURRENT VOTE (%)	CAPITAL VOTE	CAPITAL VOTE (%)
2024	28,777,404,073,861	996,901,093,569	110,248,278,868.00	11.06	886,652,814,701	88.94
2023	21,827.19 Mn	426,989,907,243	85,419,201,354.00	20.00	341,570,705,889	80
2022	17,126,873,917,692	479,793,153,213	75,544,228,649.00	15.75	404,248,924,564	84.25
2021	13,588,027,886,175	280,315,513,553	69,238,055,969.00	24.70	211,077,457,584	75.30
2020	10,810,800,872,072	160,458,311,029	57,964,818,432	36.12	102,493,492,597	63.88

**Source:** Budget office of the Federation

The recurrent and capital expenditure ratio for Agriculture has been undulating over the years. It moved from 36.12% v 63.88% in 2020 to 24.70% v 75.30% in 2021; in 2022, it became 15.75% v 84.25% and in 2023, 20% v 80%. Finally, it moved to 11.06% v 88.94% in 2024. The 2024 value wherein the capital expenditure was as high as 89% is preferred, and should be sustained. This was closely followed by the 2022 value wherein the capital expenditure was 84%. While a high capital expenditure is desirable, there is the need for sufficient personnel and overhead costs to run projects like extension services, demand driven research and dissemination, policy oversight and implementation, etc. will make more resources available for projects and interventions that will address the challenges of smallholder women farmers.

### 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 5 shows the picture for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 where the budget implementation figures are available.

**Table 5: FMAFS Agricultural Sector Capital Budget Performance Review**

Year	Annual Capital Allocation (₦)	Total Amount Released (₦)	Total Utilized (₦)	Utilization As % of Capital Appropriation	Utilization As % of Releases
2022	404,248,924,564.00	236,431,512,754.00	209,069,171,854.00	51.72	88.43
2021	211,077,457,584.00	197,008,408,200.00	167,955,872,793.00	79.57	85.25
2020	102,493,492,597.00	132,328,616,212.00	67,274,448,345.00	65.64	50.84

**Source:** Budget Office of the Federation

Despite the low budgetary provisions for the sector, for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022, the percentage of appropriated Agriculture expenditure utilized has been 65.94%, 79.57% and 51.72% respectively. Evidently, 2021 was the best year in terms of utilization. Cumulatively, over the three years, in which reports are available, the average percentage performance has been 65.64%. This does not show sufficient commitment to funding the capital component of the Agriculture budget.

## 4. KEY AGRICULTURE SECTOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS

At the policy level:

- Design of strategies for improving Agriculture under the National Development Plan.
- Design of an Extension Services Policy
- Mainstreaming of Agriculture in the Nationally Determined Contribution.

At the financing level:

- Establishment and continuation of special funds and windows including Anchor Borrowers Programme; collaboration with Development Partners in 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:

- Partial implementation of the Gender Policy in Agriculture
- Production of crops like cocoa, groundnuts, cashew, cassava, yam, palm tree.

## 5. MDAS AGRICULTURE PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES THAT SHOULD BE SUSTAINED

The below listed provisions are examples of Agriculture projects that facilitate inclusivity and CSA and should be sustained. The reasons for this position are stated immediately after Table 6. The listing is not an opinion on whether the projects were implemented or not. Some of the projects have descriptions which have inherent challenges and these challenges will be discussed hereunder for improvements to the budgeting system.

**Table 6: Inclusivity Friendly, CSA and Projects Worth Sustaining**

Code	Project
ERGP1208767	ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING INCUBATION CENTRES FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN ACROSS THE SIX GEOPOLITICAL ZONES
ERGP30208762	DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD FRAMEWORK FOR EASE OF DOING AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY INCLUDING INCLUSIVENESS FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS
ERGP20243316	AGRIC-PRENUERIAL TRAINING FOR SELECT WOMEN COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN KWARA CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ERGP20243333	PROVISION OF GRANTS, EMPOWERMENT ITEMS AND FARMING IMPLEMENTS TO THE WOMEN, YOUTHS AND ARTISANS OF AYAMELUM LGA, ANAMBRA WEST LGA AND OYI LGA.
ERGP20243364	TRAINING OF RURAL WOMEN AND FARMERS ON THE PRESERVATION AND STORAGE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN ETCHE/OMUMA FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY, RIVERS STATE
ERGP20243366	TRAINING OF WOMEN AND YOUTH ON POST-HARVEST PRACTICES IN ETCHE AND OMUMA IN RIVERS STATE.
ERGP20243373	TRAINING OF YOUTHS AND WOMEN IN HORTICULTURAL PRACTICES IN OBOKUN/ORIADE FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY, OSUN STATE
ERGP8153300	VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOR FOOD SECURITY FOR 50 NOS OF RURAL WOMEN AND FARMERS THROUGH POSTHARVEST HANDLING AND STORAGE TECHNIQUES

ERGP20246612	TRAINING AND EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN ON POST HARVEST HANDLING AND PROCESSING TECHNIQUES IN KANO NORTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ERGP20246689	EMPOWERMENT TRAINING IN FISH PROCESSING AND PRESERVATION FOR YOUTHS AND WOMEN IN KANO CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT.
ERGP30155122	EMPOWERING YOUTH AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL EVOLUTION THROUGH SOILLESS TECHNIQUES, ONLINE MARKETING AND GREENHOUSE PROFICIENCY
ERGP20243387	TRAINING OF WOMEN & YOUTHS ON YAM CASSAVA BYEPRODUCT PROCESSING & PRESERVATION AT AKWA IBOM NORTH EAST SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ERGP5212136	EXTENSION SERVICES TO YOUTH AND WOMEN COOPERATIVES IN S/E NIGERIA ON CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE FOR CASSAVA VIRUS DISEASE MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION OF CLEAN SEEDS
ERGP20241417	CONSTRUCTION/ESTABLISHMENT OF A RICE PROCESSING COTTAGE INDUSTRY FOR FARMERS IN (BFC) FOR VALUE ADDITION AND ENHANCED INCOME FOR RURAL WOMEN AND YOUTHS IN SELECTED COMMUNITIES IN ABIA (BFC)
ERGP20242315	SUPPLY OF GRINDING MACHINES TO WOMEN IN FAKO IJAIYE FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY, LAGOS STATE.
ERGP20242348	EMPOWERMENT FOR YOUTHS AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING IN AKINYELE/LAGELU FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY OYO STATE
ERGP20245268	TRAINING OF YOUTH AND WOMEN ON MODERN GINGER PROCESSING COMMUNITIES IN KADUNA SOUTH
ERGP20245391	EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN INVOLVED IN AGROPROCESSING TO ENSURE SERVICE DELIVERY AND SUSTAINABLE INCOME IN SAKI WEST LGA
ERGP20245611	COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMMES TO RURAL FARMERS AND MARKET WOMEN IN SELECTED COMMUNITIES IN OYO STATE
ERGP20246707	MIND SHIFT FOR STUDENTS IN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY/ ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN IN KOSOFE, EPE AND OMOLU IN LAGOS STATE.
ERGP30150960	EMPOWERMENT OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS AND RURAL WOMEN ON IMPROVED AGRONOMIC PRACTICES FOR SOYABEANS AND BENISEED PRODUCTION IN NORTH CENTRAL ZONE
ERGP20242345	TRAINING AND EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTHS AND WOMEN IN CASSAVA VALUE CHAIN, TAILORING AND TRICYCLE DRIVING IN NDOKWA/UKWUANI FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY DELTA STATE
ERGP20242649	EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN YOUTH IN AGRIC BUSINESS AND SME AJAOKUTA FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY BENUE STATE.
ERGP20242706	SENSITIZATION ON FOOD SECURITY FOR WOMEN AND YOUTHS IN BINJI/SILAME FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY, SOKOTO STATE
ERGP20244187	TRAINING ON CEREAL SEEDLINGS AND DISTRIBUTION OF STARTER PACKS TO RURAL WOMEN FARMER IN THREE COMMUNITIES IN NIGERIA
ERGP12175035	CONSTRUCTION OF FEEDER ROADS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE 6 GEO-POLITICAL ZONES
ERGP30175085	MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN AGRIBUSINESS
ERGP20241480	SUPPLY OF FERTILIZER AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS IN NORTH WEST GEO-POLITICA ZONE
ERGP20241479 6	PROCUREMENT OF FERTILIZERS AND SEEDLINGS TO ENHANCE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES OF SOKOTO, KEBBI, ADAMAWA AND GOMBE STATES
ERGP20241825	SUPPLY OF TRACTORS, IRRIGATION PUMPS, FERTILIZER AND OTHER FARM IMPLEMENTS TOOLS FOR FARMERS IN NIGER STATE

ERGP20175048	LAND AND CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
ERGP30174903	SUPPORT PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION
ERGP30175085	AGRIBUSINESS AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT FOR IMPROVED INCOMES AND JOB CREATION
ERGP8175062	EXTENSION SERVICES SUPPORT TO ALL AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS

**Source:** Budget Office of the Federation

Training, capacity building and sensitization on modern Agriculture trends are all imperative for improved participation of women in Agriculture. Projects on post-harvest handling of produce will increase SCWF income and benefits from their farming. Mainstreaming gender in Agriculture is the thrust of this memorandum and as such the provision speaks to inclusivity. Procurement of farm implements, fertilisers, seeds, stems, etc., are relevant for improved productivity. Supply of tractors mechanizes farming and reduces drudgery. Extension services is relevant for the transfer of knowledge, mentoring of farmers and improvement of yield, adoption of CSA techniques, etc.

However, some of these projects can benefit from modifications including the following:

- Loose and wooly words like empowerment should be discontinued in the description of budgetary projects because they mean nothing outside of provided contexts and increases the chances of abuse of funds.
- Provisions for rural roads addresses rural infrastructure needs. However, these provisions should benefit from specificity in terms of the geographical location of the roads.
- There are lump sum provisions in billions of naira over the years for the development and improvement of value chains across various crops and animals including wheat, soya beans, rubber, groundnut, yam, cassava, shea butter, sorghum, millet, sugar cane, oil palm, coconut, rice, cattle, ruminants, poultry, etc. While this memorandum welcomes provisions for value chain development, lump sum provision without disaggregation of what exactly is to be done with the funds and the geographic location of projects is a great disservice to accountability and transparency in the budgeting system. It opens up the process and increases the likelihood of mismanagement of funds.

## 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 - sufficient resources have not been channeled towards implementing the Extension Services Policy.



- Federal funded Agriculture research is not demand driven as the off-takers are not involved in setting research agenda. There is no link between research, extension services and improvement of crop and animal yield.
- 
- Measures to reduce post-harvest losses are only focused on training without provision of equipment and facilities to implement knowledge garnered from training. The equipment can be locally fabricated and maintained.
- Agriculture credit schemes including facilitating access to federal interventions such as ANCHOR Borrower and NISRAL. They do not seem to have been properly cascaded down to small scale farmers.
- Affordable and appropriate mechanization to reduce drudgery like hand held tillers, sprayers, ploughs, planters, etc. There are inadequate provisions for the equipment.
- The federal budget hardly makes provisions for support and promotion of organic farming.
- Related projects from ministries such as Environment and Water Resources of irrigation, tree planting and afforestation have not delivered good results. Desertification is proceeding at a fast rate despite the greening/tree planting campaigns while water is hardly available for all season farming.
- Inputs procurement and distribution
- Improving crop 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, 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 FMAFS. However, the provisions should start from the 2025 budget of the FMAFS. Considering that farming is done in states and local governments and the federal government hardly owns farm lands, these recommendations should be executed in conjunction with states and local governments and coordination provided through the National Council on Agriculture.

### **7.1 Full Implementation of the NDP, NDC, Gender Policy in Agriculture, etc**

There is the need for meticulous and rigorous implementation of the Agriculture provisions of the NDP, National Gender Policy and the Gender Policy in Agriculture. The provisions of the NDC in Agriculture should be fully costed and implemented. There is a state duty to respect already existing access to Agriculture and food resources without interference as well as prevention of third parties from interfering with these resources. The SDG 2 target of doubling the productivity and incomes of small-scale farmers, in particular, women, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers should be implemented to the letter. The full implementation of the foregoing and other national and international standards 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 these standards 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. Full financial, institutional and political support should be extended to the implementation of the commitments on Agriculture.

### **7.2 Improve Funding and Embrace the Special Windows for Agriculture Financing**

At an average of 2.35% over the last five years, budgetary funding for Agriculture is very low. This needs to be increased starting from a minimum of 50% of the Maputo 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 and utilized by the FMAFS. A little more funding attention should be focused on gender specific projects, extension services, organic farming, CSA and other areas performing poorly. The special windows for funding agriculture should be reviewed and strategically engaged. The FMAFS should collaborate more with Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Development Banks and Special Agriculture Funds and sensitise and empower SCWF on procedures for accessing them. The special windows will include the special climate change financing mechanisms.<sup>14</sup>

### **7.3 Development of Gender Indicators in Agriculture**

The FMAFS and the FMBEP/BOF should collaborate with Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and 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.

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<sup>14</sup> See *Financing Options for Climate Change Interventions*, Centre for Social Justice, 2016.

#### **7.4 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 research findings of these institutions should translate to increased yield from farms, fisheries and forests. There is therefore need for policy and implementation frameworks to link research institutes to farmers who are the off-takers. This is 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.

#### **7.5 Extension Services**

As a follow up to the linking of research to real life farming, FMAFS should enhance extension services and collaborate with states and local governments in 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 digital and social media, text messages, etc., supporting states to establish local government and community level demonstration farms is imperative. Extension services and demonstration farms provide opportunities for imparting knowledge and disseminating fit and good practices. In states with high population density and relatively small landmass, the FMAFS should build capacity on soilless farming; 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.<sup>15</sup>

#### **7.6 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. Furthermore, the automation and mechanisation research outputs of federal agriculture research institutes should be commercialized and mass produced. This could be done in partnership with the private sector.

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<sup>15</sup> See Wikipedia - the open encyclopedia.

## 7.7 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 nation is unacceptable. Fortunately, the FMAFS has done a soil map for Nigeria. The information contained in this soil map is very essential to the reduction of GHG emission. However, Nigerian farmers are not aware of the fact that there is a soil map and its contents. The FMAFS should liaise with federal, state and local government agencies and disseminate the information in the soil map to farmers in the states who are supposed to be the ultimate beneficiaries of the information. Also, fertilizer procurement and distribution by the federal and state governments should begin to take note of the content of the soil map for a particular area. Furthermore, the FMAFS should increase fertilizer use per hectare through the promotion of organic fertilizers. The need for sustainability in farming practices indicates that the FMAFS 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.

## 7.8 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 at the state level, in view of the provisions of the Land Use Act, 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. The challenge of financing these facilities and infrastructure is massive. Public Private Partnerships and Public 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. Collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Power and the Rural Electrification Agency is imperative for mainstreaming renewable energy in Agriculture. 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 FMAFS may consider liaison with the Federal Ministry of Finance for the purpose of 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 FMAFS 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, fish and crops value chains and thereby make it possible for SSWF to take advantage of investment opportunities. When Business Advisory Services is combined with innovative financing mechanisms, 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 farmers sensitive

information through the mass media including radio and mobile phones on weather and climate issues that affect Agriculture. Furthermore, FMAFS should embrace and provide practical information to SSWF 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 the Extension Department of the FMAFS.

#### **7.14 Invest in Agroforestry and Afforestation**

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. To tackle desertification in the northern parts of Nigeria, FMAFS should collaborate with the Federal Ministry of Environment using tree planting as an entry point.

#### **7.15 Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification**

The FMAFS 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 FMAFS 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. High level national and international standards need 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, 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. 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.

Loose and wooly words like empowerment should be discontinued in the description of budgetary projects because they mean nothing outside of provided contexts and increases the chances of abuse of funds. Provisions for rural roads which addresses rural infrastructure needs should benefit from specificity in terms of the geographical location of the roads. Lump sum provisions in billions of naira for the development and improvement of value chains across various crops and animals should be disaggregated with description of what exactly is to be done with the funds and the geographic location of projects. This will increase transparency and accountability in the management of appropriated funds. Furthermore, the FMAFS should ensure that it publishes quarterly, half yearly and yearly budget implementation reports to inform stakeholders of its budgetary performance.

### **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, private sector, 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 FMAFS 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 practices should be encouraged through legislative oversight.

### **7.19 Improve Security**

Improving security services across the Federation through the police and other security agencies as well as local efforts and establishment and proper funding of the State Police when the 1999 Constitution is eventually amended is imperative for enhancing Agricultural productivity. This will involve a collaboration between the FMAFS and relevant security agencies.

## **8. CONCLUSIONS**

The memorandum reviewed the budget of the FMAFS 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 Federal Government. It reviewed the budgetary commitments in the last four years, releases and expenditure. The Agriculture budget has a credibility challenge. It identified the issues raised in the SWOFON Charter of Demand 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.