

OYO 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

CAADP	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSJ	Centre for Social Justice
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ENABLE	Empowering Novel Agribusiness Led Employment for Youth
FMARD	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
FRL	Fiscal Responsibility Law
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Green House Gas
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
MDA	Ministry, Department and Agency
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
MTSS	Medium Term Sector Strategy
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NDP	National Development Plan
NIMET	Nigerian Meteorological Agency
NPK	Nitrogen-Phosphorous-Potassium
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
STEP	Start Them Early Program
SWEAN	Support to Women Entrepreneurship in the Agri-food sector in Nigeria
SWF	Smallholder Women Farmers
SWOFON	Smallholder Women Farmers Organization in Nigeria
YEASA	Youth Employment in Agri-business and Sustainable Agriculture
YEAP	Youth Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness Project

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Memorandum is divided into 2 parts of 7 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 and partial release of appropriated funds and defines the capital recurrent expenditure mix. Section 4 is on key Agriculture sector achievements in the past decade whilst section 5 is on MDA projects and activities that should be sustained.

Section 6 which is under Part 2 is about activities and interventions proposed for the medium term. The Memorandum Makes the Following Policy Recommendations:

GOVERNANCE

- Ensure the full implementation of the Agriculture component of the Oyo State Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2023 – 2027
- Develop gender indicators in Agriculture through a collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning.
- Establish Business Advisory Services to give meaning to the Agriculture value chain concept.
- Improve 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

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.

- 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 SWF 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 FMARD 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 Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture 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 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 SWF 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

- Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture 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 Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture should embrace the civil society, especially SWOFON 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 Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture 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 or the 2025 Budget Estimates is in the process of preparation by the Oyo State Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning. When finalized, considered and endorsed by the State Executive Council, it will be transmitted to the State House of Assembly for approval.

The Agriculture Medium Term Sector Strategy (MTSS) which should be drawn from the Agriculture component of the MTEF including a focus on smallholder women farmers 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 2024.¹ Headline inflation stood at 33.69% with food inflation at 40.53%.² Food and non-alcoholic beverages at the divisional level contributed 17.45% to the headline inflation index.³ 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 volatilities. In 2023, Nigeria imported agricultural goods worth N2.281 trillion and exported produce worth N1.244 trillion thereby incurring a

¹ National Bureau of Statistics, First quarter 2024, GDP Report.

² National Bureau of Statistics, Consumer Price Index, April 2024.

³ NBS, April 2024, supra.

sectoral trade deficit of N1.037 trillion.⁴ Agriculture is therefore an important sector that deserves the attention of all stakeholders.

The population of Oyo State is estimated at about 9.78million in 2024, disaggregated into 50.25% male and 49.75% female. The state has a land mass of 28,245 square kilometres.⁵ As at 2021, Oyo State recorded a production (in thousand tons) of 89.67 for soya beans; 4.67 for yam and 932.67 for maize. Through agribusiness (between 2019 to 2023), Oyo State attracted local investments worth over N35 billion and foreign investments/donor funds worth \$126 million.⁶ There is therefore need for Smallholder Women Farmers Organization in Nigeria (SWOFON) to engage properly so that smallholder women famers in Oyo can benefit from the huge resources and potentials of the agriculture sector.

Official preparation of the Agriculture Sector MTSS by the Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture provides SWOFON and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working in the Agriculture Sector an opportunity to present memorandum articulating key inputs into the MTSS and 2025 Agriculture budget. The 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 effects of global warming and climate change are all around us; increasing temperature, 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 traceable to the increasing emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere. It is therefore imperative that SWOFON and partners deliberate and consolidate their inputs into a policy paper framework that will be submitted to the Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders.

By this memorandum, CSO stakeholders seek to articulate medium-term (three years) Agriculture goals and objectives for mainstreaming gender and inclusion against the background of the Oyo State Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2023-2027, 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; phase implementation of the identified initiatives over the medium-term; define the expected

⁴ NBS Foreign Trade Reports, *Foreign Trade in Goods Statistics*, 2023

⁵ Oyo State at a Glance, 2020; Oyo State Government <https://old.oyostate.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/OYO-STATE-AT-A-GLANCE-NEW.pdf>

⁶ Oyo State Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2023 – 2027

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 and Annual Budget

Fit and good practices in public finance management recommend that annual budgets are to be derived from the MTEF. It further provides that notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the FRL or any law, the MTEF shall be the basis for the preparation of the estimates of revenue and expenditure required to be prepared and laid before the House of Assembly. The sectoral and compositional distribution of the estimates of expenditure 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 Oyo State Government in the Agriculture Sector considering that this will form the basis for the preparation of the 2025 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 climate-smart agriculture and the right to food in Nigeria. These include but are not limited to the National Development Plan 2021-2025 (NDP), Gender Policy in Agriculture, Oyo State Roadmap to Sustainable Development 2023 – 2027, 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 strategies to grow the agriculture sector as identified by the Oyo State Roadmap to Sustainable Development 2023 – 2027 are as follows:

- *Complete all outstanding agriculture and agribusiness projects.*
- *Continue to create an enabling environment that will attract local and foreign agribusiness investments.*

- *Embark on constructing feeder roads that link major farming communities to markets and targeted agribusiness private sector investment in Oyo State.*
- *Build on existing programmes that support smallholder farmers in crop and livestock production.*
- *Invest more in supporting seed systems that increase crop/livestock yield.*
- *Reinforce institutional, policy and legal framework that support the sustainability of the agribusiness private sector investment in Oyo State.*

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, agribusiness opportunities and business advisory services. Others are collection and use of gender disaggregated information and mainstreaming gender into climate change.

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),⁷ 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.

⁷ Nigeria’s First Nationally Determined Contribution, 2021 Update.

At the regional level, Nigeria endorsed the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), the African Union Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security 2003 and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods⁸. 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.⁹

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 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 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

⁸ 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)).

⁹ 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.

viable production, processing, storage and distribution systems of food and agricultural products.

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, 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 and the Federal Ministry of Water Resources. For small scale women farmers (SSWF), the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs is also a relevant ministry. 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 National Council on Agriculture include the Federal Ministries of Finance, Trade and Industry.

In Oyo State, there are small scale subsistence farmers working along-side a few large-scale commercial farmers. 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

2.1 Challenges of the Oyo Agriculture within the Context of SWF

From the foregoing policy analysis, review of the SWOFON Charter of Demands and public financing in subsequent parts of this Memorandum, the following challenges crystallise:

- Low levels of funding – not meeting the 10% Maputo/Malabo commitment.
- Inadequate mainstreaming of gender and inclusivity - from budget formulation, preparation, approval, implementation, monitoring and evaluation up to audit.
- Inadequate 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 and lack of coordination between formers and the research community.
- Limited activation of the agriculture value chain – inadequate 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 – crop farmers and 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 Oyo State Agriculture Budget that promotes inclusivity and climate smart agriculture. Against the background of the challenges of the sector, the following objectives and targets 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.
- Activation of budgeting and governance framework for mainstreaming climate smart agriculture.
- 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.
- Introduction of innovative farming techniques for example, 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 Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture between 2020 and 2024 will reveal the commitment of the Oyo State government to the sector.. Table 1 shows the state of budgetary allocations to the sector.

Table 1: The Oyo State Agriculture Budget and Variance from 10% Maputo Declaration

OYO STATE					
Year	Total State Budget (NGN)	Total Allocation to Agric (NGN)	Percentage of Agric Allocation	Malabo Declaration (10%) Benchmark (NGN)	Variance Against Malabo (10%) Benchmark (NGN)
2024	438,447,878,548.39	15,898,708,031.80	3.63%	43,844,787,854.84	27,946,079,823.04
2023	310,432,500,000.00	8,343,764,937.00	2.69%	31,043,250,000.00	22,699,485,063.00
2022	294,704,585,356.94	12,687,274,288.00	4.31%	29,470,458,535.69	16,783,184,247.69
2021	268,770,964,860.01	9,724,232,843.98	3.62%	26,877,096,486.00	17,152,863,642.02
2020	₦174bn	₦5.32bn	3.06%	₦17.4bn	₦12.08bn
Total					₦96.66bn

Source: Oyo State Approved Budget and Authors Calculation

From Table 1 above, the highest percentage allocation to agriculture recorded over the 5-year period in nominal terms was 2024. However, in terms of percentage of overall budget, the highest allocation was in 2022 when ₦12,687,274,288.00 representing 4.31% of the total budget was allocated to agriculture. The lowest percentage allocation to agriculture recorded over the 5-year period was in 2023 wherein ₦8,343,764,937.00 representing 2.69% of the total budget was allocated to agriculture. The average annual allocation to the sector was 3.46% of the budget. The total variance from the 10% benchmark over the 5-year period amounted to ₦96.66billion. This huge sum highlights the need for increased funding to the agriculture sector.

Table 2: Converting Agriculture Vote 2020 - 2024 to USD

Year	Agriculture Budget	Total Oyo State Budget	Percentage to Agriculture	Exchange Rate	USD Value of Agriculture Vote
2024	15,898,708,031.80	438,447,878,548.39	3.63%	₦800/\$	19,873,385.04
2023	8,343,764,937.00	310,432,500,000.00	2.69%	₦435/\$	19,181,068.82
2022	12,687,274,288.00	294,704,585,356.94	4.31%	₦410/\$	30,944,571.43
2021	9,724,232,843.98	268,770,964,860.01	3.62%	₦379/\$	25,657,606.45
2020	₦5.32bn	₦174bn	3.06%	₦305/\$	₦17.44mn

Source: Oyo State Approved Budget and Authors Calculation

Table 2 shows the allocation to the agriculture sector in Oyo State for 2020 - 2024 and its real value in Naira and United States Dollars. 2022 recorded the highest percentage allocation to agriculture and the figure stood at 294,704,585,356.94. In terms of its real

value in USD terms which takes cognizance of the inflation rate, cost of living and other macroeconomic variables, the 2022 allocation to Agriculture which stood at \$30,944,571.43 is also the highest. This is closely followed by the 2021 figure which stood at \$25,657,606.45.

3.2 Recurrent Vs Capital Funding of the Agriculture Sector

The recurrent vs capital expenditure ratio for agriculture sector has been undulating over the years. Recurrent expenditure moved from 21:24 in 2020 to 30:27 in 2023 and to 28:71 in 2024. In 2021, capital expenditure was as high as 87%, followed by the 2022 value in which the capital expenditure was 81%. 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. This will make more resources available for projects and interventions that will address the challenges of smallholder women farmers.

Table 3: Recurrent and Capital Votes Expressed in Percentages: 2020 – 2024

YEAR	ALLOCATION TO AGRICULTURE	RECURRENT VOTE	RECURRENT VOTE (%)	CAPITAL VOTE	CAPITAL VOTE (%)
2024	15,898,708,031.80	4,406,208,031.80	27.71	11,492,500,000.00	72.29
2023	8,343,764,937.00	2,525,504,937.00	30.27	5,818,260,000.00	69.73
2022	12,687,274,288.00	2,429,074,288.00	19.15	10,258,200,000.00	80.85
2021	9,724,232,843.98	1,272,002,843.98	13.08	8,452,230,000.00	86.92
2020	₦5.32bn	₦1.13bn	21.24	₦4.19bn	78.76

Source: Oyo State Approved Budget

3.3 Performance of the Agriculture Budget of Oyo State

Table 4: Oyo State Agricultural Sector Capital Budget Performance

Year	Capital Expenditure Allocation (NGN)	Full year performance (Q1 – Q4)	Capital Budget Performance (%)	Balance Against Allocation (NGN)
2024	11,492,500,000.00	214,760,000.00*	1.9%	11,277,740,000.00
2023	5,818,260,000.00	1,208,351,922.38	20.8%	4,609,908,077.62
2022	10,258,200,000.00	426,022,569.67	4.2%	9,832,177,430.33
2021	8,452,230,000.00	1,949,898,009.87	23.1%	6,502,331,990.13
2020	4,186,000,000.00	183,335,835.31	4.38%	4,002,664,164.69
Total				36,224,821,662.77

* 2024 Performance for Quarter 1. **Source:** Oyo State Government Budget Performance Report

The performance of the capital budget of the Ministry of Agriculture has remained low over the years. Out of a total appropriation of N40.207billion, only N3.982billion was spent and the average annual performance was 10.88%. It was as low as 4.2% in 2022 and 4.38% in 2020. The highest capital budget performance of 23.1% recorded in 2021 is still too low. The 1.9% capital budget performance for the first quarter of

2024 is a pointer that the full year capital budget performance for 2024 will likely be very low. The highest deficit in capital budget performance was ₦9,832,177,430.33 recorded in 2022, while the sum total deficit in capital budget performance over the given period was ₦36,224,821,662.77. This huge capital budget performance deficit of ₦36.22billion highlights the huge shortfall in releases and utilization of agriculture capital budget, despite the already existing shortfall in budgetary appropriation to the sector. If the agriculture capital budget performance is low, then it becomes impossible to adequately provide for the interventions that should address the interests and needs of smallholder women farmers in Nigeria.

4. KEY AGRICULTURE SECTOR ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 2019 – 2023

4.1 Attracted Big Businesses: Through agribusiness, the state government attracted local investments worth over N35 billion and foreign investments/donor funds worth \$126 million.¹⁰

4.2 Revived Moribund Agricultural Facilities: Moribund facilities such as the former Oyo State Agricultural Development Programme Headquarters, Saki (now the Oyo State Agribusiness Development Agency Headquarters) and the Rural Community Development Centre, Aawe (now the Oyo State-IITA Youth in Agribusiness Incubation Park Centre) have been rehabilitated, while the Fasola Farm Settlement (now the Fasola Agribusiness Industrial Hub) construction is at the last stage of completion.

4.3 Increased Participation in Agribusiness for Youths and Women: So far 1,500 students in senior secondary schools have been introduced to various enterprises in the agribusiness value chain through the Start Them Early Program (STEP). STEP is facilitated in partnership with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). A further 3,300 youths were trained in technology-driven agri-food systems under the Youth Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness Project (YEAP). Also, working with the French Government, 150 women entrepreneurs were trained under the Support to Women Entrepreneurship in the Agri-food sector in Nigeria (SEFAN/SWEAN). Other project partnerships are the Youth Employment in Agri-business and Sustainable Agriculture (YEASA) and the Empowering Novel Agribusiness Led Employment for Youth (ENABLE-TAAT) project, which trained another 300 youths.

4.4 Created an Oyo State Farmers' Register: The government carried out a biometric capture of 12,000 farmers in the State. This data was used to make important policy decisions and execute various projects in the State. We have also done a biometric capture of an additional 3,300 youths in agriculture.

4.5 Targeted COVID-19 Intervention: The government developed the Oyo State COVID-19 Food System Mitigation Strategy Document with input from 13 leading agribusiness experts. This led to the distribution of cassava seedlings and other inputs to 9,000 biometrically captured farmers. Working with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), it also executed a 10-hectare cassava foundational seeds

¹⁰ See page 11 of the Oyo State Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2023 – 2027

pilot project at Fasola, Oyo West LGA. The cassava project has led to the growing of first generation stems of cassava that will support the failing seed system in the State and increase yield/hectare in farms.

4.6 Supported Smallholder Farmers: Through the OYS-CARES programme Result Area 2, agricultural inputs, such as cassava cuttings, herbicides and NPK fertilisers, were distributed to 770 farmers in nine Local Government Areas in the State. A further distribution of pumping machines for vegetable and fish farmers, spraying tanks and knapsacks for arable farmers, weeders for vegetable and arable farmers and group assets such as maize threshers, rice threshers for rice processors and cassava graters and pressers is lined up for 22,000 farmers

4.7 Strengthened Nutrition in Priority Staples: In collaboration with the Global Alliance on Improved Nutrition, the state government trained 10 farmers on Good Agronomic Practices. The state government also trained 116 farmers on safe and nutritious food packaging, marketing techniques and sustainability, while 25 others were trained on the adoption of post-harvest handling techniques of Vitamin A Cassava and Maize crops from farm-gate to retail markets.

5. MDA AGRICULTURE PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES THAT SHOULD BE SUSTAINED

The below listed provisions are Agriculture projects that facilitate inclusivity and CSA and should be sustained. The listing is not an opinion on whether the projects were implemented or not.

Table 5: Budget Line Items that Should be Sustained

OYO STATE 2023 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROJECTS	
Project Name	Economic Code and Description
AGRICULTURAL DATA INFORMATION SYSTEM	23050101 - RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
STRENGTHENING OF FARMERS' GROUPS/COOPERATIVES.	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
AGRICULTURAL LIASON, POLICY AND FARM PLANNING SERVICES: AGRO-WOMEN BUDGET LINE; STRATEGIC NUTRITION SENSITIVE PROGRAM.	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT 70421 -
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE CORPORATION PREMIUM SUBSIDY.	23050107 - MARGIN FOR INCREASES IN COSTS
REHABILITATION OF EXISTING DEEP-WELL WITH HAND-PUMPS, PURCHASE OF SIXTY-NEW HAND-PUMPS AND SINKING OF SIXTY HAND-DUG DEEP-WELLS FITTED WITH PUMPS.	23010146 - PURCHASE OF OTHER EQUIPMENTS
HIDE AND SKIN, LEADER AND SHOE PROJECT.	23030112 - REHABILITATION / REPAIRS - AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES
CAPACITY BUILDING OF 1000 YOUTHS/WOMEN/PLWDS IN THE 33LGAS IN FISH FARMING AND VALUE CHAINS	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT

FACILITATE ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE MODERN FISH MARKETING CENTERS AND THREE NEIGHBORHOODS MODERN MARKETS ACROSS THE SENATORIAL ZONES OF THE STATE BY PPP.	23020124 - CONSTRUCTION OF MARKETS/PARKS
AGRICULTURAL EMPOWERMENT FOR YOUTHS, WOMEN, PLWDS, RETIREE ETC AT RCDC, AAWE.	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
MAINTENANCE OF RCDC OIL PALM PLANTATION.	23030112 - REHABILITATION / REPAIRS - AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES
ARABLE: (1HA) PLOT RICE CULTIVATION AT RCDC,AAWE.	23050108 - PRODUCTION OF FARM SEEDLINGS
LIVESTOCK: CONSTRUCTION OF RCDC CATTLE FATTENING PEN.	23020113 - CONSTRUCTION / PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES
CONSTRUCTION OF RCDC SWINE PEN.	23020113 - CONSTRUCTION / PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES
CONSTRUCTION OF POULTRY BROODING PEN AT RCDC BY PPP WITH AMO BYNG.	23020113 - CONSTRUCTION / PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES
SHEEP AND GOATS: FEEDING, DRUGS, ADMIN AND MAINTENANCE AT RCDC, AAWE.	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
6MONTHS CATTLE FATTENING TRAINING PROJECT AT RCDC.	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
SWINE REARING FOR TRAINING AT RCDC.	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
SHEA BUSINESS DEVPT; APICULTUR BUSINESS; LOCUST BEANS BUSINESS DEVPT PROMOTION.	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
SOURCING FOR 5000HA FARM LAND FOR INVESTORS AND SETTLEMENT PURPOSES.	23010101 - PURCHASE / ACQUISITION OF LAND
GENERATION OF PRODUCTION RECORDS FOR MAJOR CROPS IN THE STATE.	23050101 - RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
CROP TYPE MUTIPLICATION	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
PROVISION OF MOBILITY FOR FIELD /EXTENSION OFFICERS	23050103 - MONITORING AND EVALUATION
FACILITATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF 3 NEIGHOURHOODS MORDERN FISH MARKET IN 3 LGAS THROUGH PPP	23020124 - CONSTRUCTION OF MARKETS/PARKS
PRODUCTION OF SEEDLINGS OF TREE CROPS FOR FARMERS ACROSS THE STATE	23050108 - PRODUCTION OF FARM SEEDLINGS
PROCUREMENT OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS	23050108 - PRODUCTION OF FARM SEEDLINGS
PLANTING OF TREE CROPS ALONG IBADAN CIRCULAR ROAD	23040101 - TREE PLANTING
DEVELOPMENT OF INCUBATION CENTERS	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTIVITY AND RESILIENCE SUPPORT	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
DEVELOPMENT OF INCUBATION CENTERS	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
FARM ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT ERUWA, AKUFO AND FASHOLA	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
WHOLESALERS MARKET & AGRIBUSINESS PARK DEVELOPMENT	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
FARM DEVELOPMENT - OYO STATE YOUTH IN AGRIBUSINESS (YEAP)	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
OYO STATE AGRIBUSINESS PARK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
INTERVENTION ON AGRICULTURAL EMERGENCY	23050119 - CONTINGENCIES - CAPITAL
PURCHASE OF CARTS FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE	23010146 - PURCHASE OF OTHER EQUIPMENTS
REVOLVING AGRICULTURAL LOANS FOR FARMERS (MICRO CREDIT SCHEME)	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
OYO STATE 2024 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROJECTS	
PROJECT NAME	Economic Code and Description
PURCHASE OF PEST CONTROL EQUIPMENT SUCH AS 10-KNAPSAC	23010127 - PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT
PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS SUCH AS 180MT GRANULES	23010127 - PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT
RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF FARM MECHANIZATION TRAINING CENTER	23020113 - CONSTRUCTION / PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES
CONSTRUCTION OF NINE (9) INDUSTRIAL BORE HOLES WITH SOLAR	23020103 - CONSTRUCTION / PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY
CONSTRUCTION OF DEMONSTRATION INDOOR HATCHERY AND PROCURE	23020113 - CONSTRUCTION / PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES
CONSTRUCTION OF MODEL PIGGERY & RABBIT FARMS AT RCDC AAW	23020113 - CONSTRUCTION / PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES
REHABILITATION OF DILAPIDATE RCDC HOSTEL, AAW.	23030112 - REHABILITATION / REPAIRS - AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES
RENOVATION & UPGRADE OF FISHERY LABORATORIES FOR PROXIMATE	23030112 - REHABILITATION / REPAIRS - AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES
REHABILITATION OF BUILDING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF LIVESTOCK FEEDS	23030112 - REHABILITATION / REPAIRS - AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES
RENOVATION OF FISH POND AT RCDC AAW.	23030112 - REHABILITATION / REPAIRS - AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES
AGRICULTURAL LIAISON, POLICY AND FARM PLANNING SERVICES	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
AGRO-WOMEN BUDGET LINE & EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PWDS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DAWN COMMISSION/LAPDO/USAID	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
STRATEGIC NUTRITION SENSITIVE PROGRAM	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT

SOURCING OF 5000 HECTARES OF FARMLAND FOR INVESTORS & FARM SETTLEMENT PURPOSE	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
RURAL WATER INTERVENTION PROJECT	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
PROVISION MADE IN THE BUDGET FOR PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGRIPRENUERSHIP FROM (I) SHEA BUTTER (II) BEE-KEEPING (APICULTURE); (III) LOCUST BEANS	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
CROP TYPE MULTIPLICATION	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
ESTABLISHMENT OF MODERN FISH FARM ESTATE EQUIPPED WITH MODERN FISH PROCESSING CENTER AND E-FISHERIES ICT DATA HUB ON PPP- APPROACH	23020113 - CONSTRUCTION / PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES
RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF 2000 OIL PALM TREES AND LINING OF ROAD SIDES WITH 1875 CITRUS SEEDLINGS AT AWE	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
TREE PLANTING ALONG THE IBADAN CIRCULAR ROAD	23040101 - TREE PLANTING
PRODUCTION OF SEEDLINGS OF TREE CROPS	23050108 - PRODUCTION OF FARM SEEDLINGS
PRODUCTION OF FARM SEEDLING FOR THE FARMERS	23050108 - PRODUCTION OF FARM SEEDLINGS
PURCHASE OF 10ACRES OF LAND AT IGBOORA	23010101 - PURCHASE / ACQUISITION OF LAND
PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT PLANTER AND HARVESTER	23010127 - PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT
SEED SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR FARMERS IN THE STATE	23050108 - PRODUCTION OF FARM SEEDLINGS
SPECIAL AGRO PROCESSING ZONE IN THE STATE	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
FUND FOR STATE ACTION ON BUSINESS ENABLING REFORM (SABER)	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
TARGETTED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND COMMERCIALISATION IN THE STATE	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
PROVISION FOR START THEM EARLY PROGRAMME (STEP)	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
CONSTRUCTION OF INCUBATION CENTERS (AWE, OYO)	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
CONSTRUCTION OF FARM ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT ERUWA AKUFO AND FASOLA	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
OYO STATE AGRIBUSINESS AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME (INCENTIVES FOR FARMERS)	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT

CONSTRUCTION OF WHOLESALES MARKET	23050109 - SPECIAL AND CROSS CUTTING PROJECT
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Source: Oyo State Approved Budgets

However, it is important to note that not much focus was placed on CSA and organic agriculture. These are areas that need to be supported in the medium term.

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 Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture. However, the provisions should start from the 2025 budget of the Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Full Implementation of the Oyo State Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2023 – 2027 on Agriculture

The Roadmap is a beautiful document and policy position which if faithfully implemented would increase productivity. It is therefore imperative that its implementation is not subverted by the political process or lack of political will. The full value chain approach in the implementation of the Roadmap 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 of the RoadMap on Agriculture.

6.2 Development of Gender Indicators in Agriculture

The Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Budget and Economic 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.

6.3 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 Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria, Institute of Agricultural Research and Training, National Horticultural Research

Institute, etc. The research findings of these institutions should translate to increased yield on the agricultural farms. There is therefore need for the Ministry of Agriculture 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.

6.4 Extension Services

As a follow up to 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 digital, social media, text messages, etc. The establishment of 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. Soilless farming should be considered - 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.¹¹

6.5 Invest in Appropriate Locally Available Mechanization

The link between research and farming will be better enhanced at the level of SSWF 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.

6.6 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 Oyo State Ministry

¹¹ See Wikipedia - the open encyclopedia.

of Agriculture 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.

6.7 Improve Funding and Embrace the Special Windows for Agriculture Financing

At an average of 3.46% over the last five years, budgetary funding for Agriculture is very low. There is a challenge of budget credibility in a situation of 10.8% actual budget utilization. Appropriation 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 utilised. The special windows for funding agriculture should be reviewed and strategically engaged. The Ministry of Agriculture 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 SSWF in the state of the procedures for accessing them. The state should 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.¹²

6.8 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.

6.9 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

¹² See *Financing Options for Climate Change Interventions*, Centre for Social Justice, 2016.

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 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.

6.10 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.

6.11 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.

6.12 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 SWF to take advantage of investment opportunities. When Business Advisory Services is combined with innovative financing mechanism, productivity and value addition will be enhanced.

6.13 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, Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture should embrace and provide practical information to SWF 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 Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture.

6.14 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.

6.15 Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification

The Ministry of Agriculture 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.

6.16 The Continuum: Policy, Plan, Budget Cycle

Previous and current experience in the implementation of national plans reveals a lot of disarticulations. 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. 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.

6.17 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.

6.18 Adopt Best Practices in Public Procurement

Good and fit procurement practices should be adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture; 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.

6.19 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.

7. CONCLUSION

The challenges identified in this Memorandum are opportunities for action, to be seized through a collaboration of stakeholders in the executive, legislature, private sector and civil society. What is needed to drive reforms for the benefit of SSWF and to enhance CSA is the requisite political will as well as the support of stakeholders. There needs to be a deliberate effort to include all segments of the population as beneficiaries of the Agriculture vote in the budget.



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.