

REVIEW OF THE 2025 AGRICULTURE BUDGET ESTIMATES



**Small Scale Women Farmers Association of Nigeria
(SWOFON)**

And



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

First Published in January 2025

Centre for Social Justice (CSJ)

Plot 836, Emmanuel Aguna Crescent, Off Idris Ibrahim, Off Obafemi Awolowo, Jabi.

P.O.Box 11418, Garki, Abuja

Tel: 08055070909, 08127235995

Website: www.csj-ng.org; Email: censoj@gmail.com; Blog: csj-blog.org

Facebook: Centre for Social Justice Nigeria; Twitter: @censoj

By

Centre for Social Justice (CSJ)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Tables	iv
List of Charts	iv
Abbreviations and Acronyms	v
Acknowledgement	vi
Part One: The 2025 Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	
Budget Estimates	1
1.1 Trajectory of Allocations 2020-2025	1
1.2 Disaggregation of the Vote	3
1.3 Headquarters Vote as a Percentage of Overall Vote	3
1.4 Matters Arising from the Allocations	3
Part Two: The Gender Sensitivity of the Votes	9
Part Three: Frivolous, Inappropriate, Unclear and Wasteful, Expenditure in the Agriculture Votes	13
Part Four: Recommendations	16

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Allocations to Agriculture: 2020-2025

Table 2: Conversion of Budget Figures to USD

Table 3: Vote to the Headquarters as a Component of the Ministry's Vote

Table 4: Lump Sum Provisions in the Estimates of the FMAFS

Table 5: Estimates that are Better Handled by other MDAs

Table 6: Proposals for Research from the National Cereal Research Institute, Badeggi

Table 7: Budget Line Items Targeting Women Farmers in the 2025 FMAFS Estimates

Table 8: Frivolous, Inappropriate, Unclear, Wasteful, etc. Expenditure in the Agriculture Votes

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Allocations to Agriculture Converted to USD2020-2025

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSJ	Centre for Social Justice
FGN	Federal Government of Nigeria
FMAFS	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
LGAs	Local Government Areas
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
SAPZ	Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSWF	Small Scale Women Farmers
SWOFON	Small Scale Women Farmers Association of Nigeria
USD	United State Dollars
VCDP	Value Chain Development Project

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CSJ acknowledges the support of the International Budget Partnership (IBP) towards the production of this Review.

Part One

THE 2025 FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY BUDGET ESTIMATES

1.1 TRAJECTORY OF ALLOCATIONS 2020-2025

Table 1 below shows the trajectory of the Agriculture vote for the period 2020-2025.

Table 1: Allocations to Agriculture: 2020-2025

Years	Total Recurrent	% Increase or Decrease	Total Capital	% Increase or Decrease	Total Allocation	% Increase or Decrease	Agric Allocation as % of Total Budget
2020	57,964,818,432	-	102,493,492,597	-	160,458,311,029	-	1.48
2021	69,238,055,969	19.45	211,077,457,584	105.96	280,315,513,553	74.71	2.06
2022	75,072,746,522	8.43	404,248,924,564	91.49	479,793,153,213	71.16	2.91
2023	85,419,201,354	13.78	341,570,705,889	-15.5	426,989,907,243	-11.00	1.95
2024	110,248,278,868	29.07	886,652,814,701	159.5	996,901,093,569	133.45	3.46
2025*	157,155,615,430	42.55	490,720,406,691	44.65	647,876,022,121	-35	1.30

Source: Budget Office of the Federation

* Implies that figures are projected and inclusive of the vote of the Ministries of Agriculture and Food Security and Livestock Development

The amount allocated to Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in the 2025 estimates is a 35% reduction from the 2024 budget figure of ₦996.9bn. The 5-year trajectory shows that the allocation to the sector has been oscillating. Whereas it recorded an increase in 2021 and 2022 by 74.71% and 71.16% respectively from the preceding years, in 2023 it decreased by 11%. The 2024 allocation increased by 133.45%, while it decreased by 35% in the 2025 estimates.

The sector's allocation as a percentage of the overall federal budget shows that it was 1.48% in 2020. It increased to 2.06% in 2021 and further to 2.91% in 2022. Its share dipped in 2023 having received 1.95% and further rose to 3.46% in 2024. However, the 2025 proposal dipped significantly to 1.30%, the lowest over the last 5 years. This is very paltry when juxtaposed with very high food inflation of 39.84 % in December 2024, over 33m Nigerians who are exposed to food insecurity and the Maputo/Malabo commitments which requires 10% allocation from the overall budget.

Table 2 shows the conversion of the Ministry's vote into United States Dollar (USD) to determine the real value of the allocations considering the continued depreciation of the Naira over the years.

Table 2: Conversion of Budget Figures to USD

Years	Total Allocation (N)	Exchange Rate	USD (\$)
2020	160,458,311,029	360-	445,717,530.64
2021	280,315,513,553	379	739,618,769.27
2022	479,793,153,213	410.15	1,169,799,227.63
2023	426,989,907,243	410.15	1,104,057,923.30
2024	996,901,093,569	750	1,329,201,458.09
*2025	647,876,022,121	1500	431,917,348.08

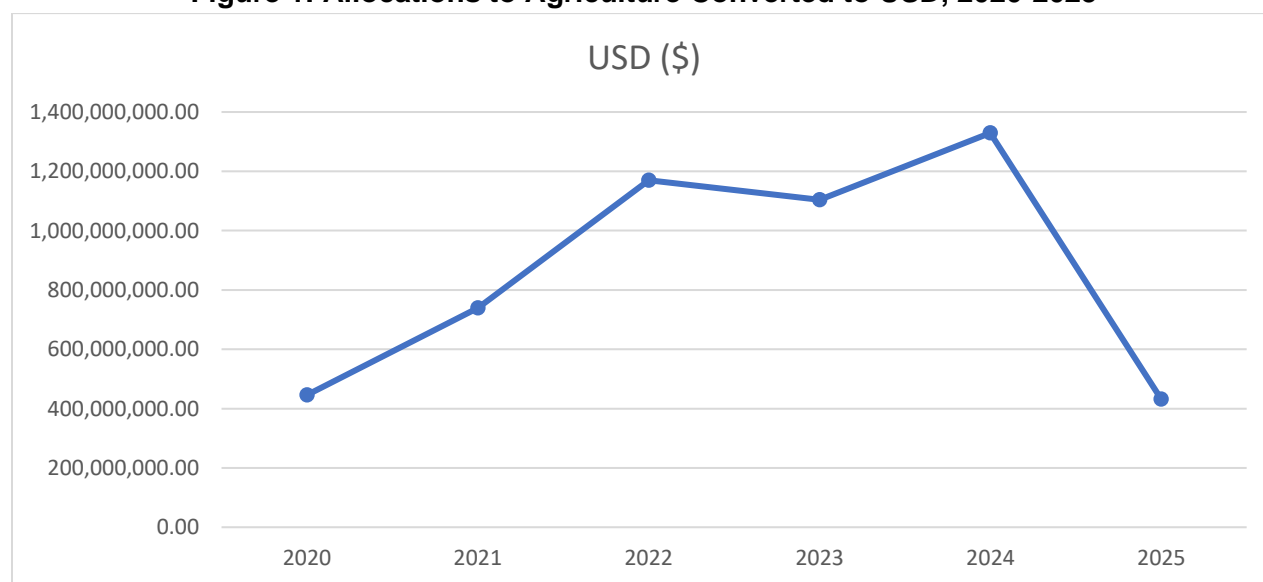
Source: Budget Office of the Federation

** Implies that figures are projected*

Table 2 shows that the Agriculture vote has been on the increase from 2020 up till 2024, with the exception of the year 2023 when it slightly reduced. It dipped again in the 2025 proposal when the allocation was reduced to USD431.92m. Table 2 used the exchange rate for the preparation of the budget for the 6 years period (2020-2025).

Figure 1 also shows the trajectory of allocations between 2020 and 2025

Figure 1: Allocations to Agriculture Converted to USD, 2020-2025



1.2 DISAGGREGATION OF THE VOTE

In terms of composition of the sector's allocation, N141.62bn and N13.737bn is allocated to personnel and overheads respectively, aggregating to 157.155bn, which indicates that recurrent expenditure got 24.26% of the FMAFS vote while N490.720bn, being 75.74% is for capital expenditure inclusive of the vote to the newly created Ministry of Livestock Development.

1.3 HEADQUARTERS VOTE AS A PERCENTAGE OF OVERALL VOTE

A further disaggregation of the Ministry's estimates shows the allocation to the headquarters as a component of the overall vote to the Ministry. Table 3 tells the story

Table 3: Vote to the Headquarters as a Component of the Ministry's Vote

Department	Vote	Overall Ministry Vote	Percentage
Headquarters	315,480,692,201	647,876,022,121	48.69
Headquarters Capital Expenditure	298,609,752,424	490,720,406,691	60.85
Headquarters Personnel	15,388,141,451	141,618,260,036	10.87
Headquarters Overhead	1,482,798,326	13,737,355,394	10.79

Source: 2025 Budget Estimates: BOF

From Table 3, a huge chunk of the sector's budget was allotted to the Ministry's headquarters – N315.48 billion out of N647.876 billion. In percentage terms, this represents 48.69% of the entire sector's allocation while the remaining 45 out of the 46 MDAs including the newly created Ministry of Livestock Development got the remaining 51.31% of the sectoral allocation. In addition, the headquarters' capital expenditure of N298.61 billion is 60.85% of the total sectoral capital expenditure vote. This is high when compared with the headquarters' overhead (10.79%) and personnel (10.87%). This may result in sub-optimal performance for the sector. The Ministry has 17 Departments, 6 Regional Offices, 37 State Offices, 11 Agencies, 15 Research Institutes and 14 Colleges of Agriculture and a number of Universities of Agriculture.

1.4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ALLOCATIONS

Beyond the foregoing, a number of other issues arise from the estimates. The first issue is that ***the Ministry's budget proposals do not give explicit expression to the prescriptions of key indicators in national and international standards governing agriculture***. Neither the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Convention on the

Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), National Gender Policy on Agriculture (NGPA), Maputo and Malabo commitments and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Policy (CAADP) were respected. Policies and plans find expression and are the anchor of fiscal allocations. The critical issues covered by these standards include votes that will guarantee freedom from hunger, food security, development of local capacity, empowerment of women and marginalized groups, etc.

Otherwise, the allocations would simply be based on the fancy of the authorities without being tied to specific outcomes and desired impact.

The second issue is that the estimates are filled with ***big sums of money without specifics***, clear deliverables and sufficient details for monitoring. If no clarity is provided, Nigerians would be in the dark as to what the votes to those line items are for. Such lump sum provisions create a background for easy mismanagement of allocated funds. It would be difficult for citizens to carry out any project monitoring without knowing the activities and deliverables of the projects. This is clearly not the ideal way to craft a budget because transparency which leads to accountability is imperative for budget monitoring. For instance, just stating a lump sum as done in these estimates for a particular crop value chain does not reveal what the expenditure is for. According to the FMAFS:¹

Agricultural value chain has to do with the people and activities that bring a basic agricultural product like maize or vegetables or cotton from obtaining inputs and production in the field to the consumer, through stages such as processing, packaging, and distribution.

This definition of value chain raises the poser; which aspect of the value chain is the vote dedicated to or is it for the entire value chain? What are the specific activities and where are they going to be located? Table 4 shows instances of the lump sums.

Table 4: Lump Sum Provisions in the Estimates of the FMAFS

Code	Project Name	Amount (N)
ERGP1208771	FOOD SECURITY CROPS VALUE CHAINS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS	2,135,558,761
ERGP1208772	FOOD SECURITY CROPS VALUE CHAINS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ON CASH CROPS	2,580,449,385
ERGP1208802	PROVISION FOR ENHANCED STRATEGIC FOOD RESEVERE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND	2,660,000,000

¹

	MARKET STABILIZATION	
ERGP12175035	CONSTRUCTION OF FEEDER ROADS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE 6 GEO-POLITICAL ZONES	3,592,705,138
ERGP16193867	IMPLEMENTATION OF MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY	301,000,000
ERGP16231491	IMPLEMENTATION OF FCSSIP POLICY TO ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY	532,000,000
ERGP27105258	INFRASTRUCTURES AND PROJECTS SUPPORT COORDINATION	960,300,000
ERGP27174747	UPGRADE OF FACILITIES IN THE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING (OLD) AND STATE OFFICES	750,000,000
ERGP28175039	PROVISION OF PORTABLE WATER IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE 6 GEO-POLITICAL ZONES	1,500,000,000
ERGP30105248	CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	168,269,703
ERGP30126578	RESEARCH ON HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE	550,000,000
ERGP30174685	IMPLEMENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS	500,000,000
ERGP30174912	NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	185,428,526
ERGP30175085	MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN AGRIBUSINESS	867,882,551
ERGP30193870	INFRASTRUCUTURES DEVELOPMENT IN THE 37 FIELD AND 6 ZONAL COORDINATING OFFICES	1,000,000,000
ERGP30208768	INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NIGERIAN FOOD SYSTEM DASHBOARD ON THE STATE OF FOOD AND NUTRITION IN THE COUNTRY	2,500,000,000
ERGP30208785	DEVELOPMENT OF FRAMEWORK AND CONDUCT OF TECHNOLOGY / ICT ENABLED FARMS AND FARMERS ENUMERATION AND MAPPING	1,200,000,000
ERGP30231444	EXTENSION SERVICES SUPPORT TO ALL THE AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS	1,345,150,093
ERGP30231454	IMPLEMENTATION OF ECOWAS AGRO-ECOLOGY PROGRAMMES IN NIGERIA	500,000,000
ERGP30231488	PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN COOPERATIVES TO SCALE UP FOOD PRODUCTION AND ENSURE FOOD SECURITY FOR NIGERIA	1,094,000,000
ERGP30231516	UPGRADE OF MARKETS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN SELECTED STATES	500,000,000
ERGP30231570	RURAL NON-FARM EMPOWERMENT SUPPORT (PROMOTION OF MICRO SMALL MEDIUM ENTERPRISE- MSMEs IN THE 6 GEO-POLITICAL ZONES.	1,011,925,337
ERGP5105275	POLICY COORDINATION, PROJECTS/ PROGRAMMES MONITORING AND EVALUATION	1,802,461,643

ERGP5208804	PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY COOPERATIVES FOR ACCESS TO CAPITAL GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TRAINING FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND MARKETING	1,406,000,000
ERGP5234138	MULTILATERAL/BILATERAL TIED LOAN - SPECIAL AGRO INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING ZONES (SAPZ)	127,511,977,845
ERGP5234139	MULTILATERAL/BILATERAL TIED LOAN - VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (VCDP)	67,500,000,000
ERGP8174962	YOUTHS EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS	153,485,785
ERGP8175006	WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS	294,477,320
ERGP5231427	DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF FMAFS ASSETS NATIONWIDE	750,000,000

Source: 2025 Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security: BOF

Budgets should be written in clear language and amenable to understanding by all literate Nigerians. The following provision is pure jargon and appears meaningless - PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY COOPERATIVES FOR ACCESS TO CAPITAL GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TRAINING FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND MARKETING). These provisions need to be disaggregated and clarified for stakeholders to follow through. Even in counterpart funding arrangements (Multilateral/ Bilateral tied loan – Special Agro Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ); Multilateral/ Bilateral Tied Loan Value Chain Development Project (VCDP), there needs to be clarifications.

The **third issue** is that **most of the projects in the Ministry's estimates have no locations** for example, CONSTRUCTION OF FEEDER ROADS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE 6 GEO-POLITICAL ZONES, RURAL NON-FARM EMPOWERMENT SUPPORT (PROMOTION OF MICRO SMALL MEDIUM ENTERPRISE- MSMEs IN THE 6 GEO-POLITICAL ZONES, etc. There is nothing on the state, local government or exact site of the projects to enable a follow through by the public. This is evident in several projects, some of which are captured in Table 4 above.

The **fourth issue** is that even though the mandate of the Ministry is wide, projects like upgrade of market **do not seem to be an area of strength and comparative advantage for the Ministry**. Such projects are better left to agencies that are better suited for it. Some of the projected expenditures are as shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Estimates that are Better Handled by other MDAs

Code	Project Name	Amount (N)
ERGP10175045	PROVISION AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR POWERED STREETLIGHT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE 6 GEO-POLITICAL ZONES	2,000,000,000
ERGP27174760	CONSTRUCTION OF FMARD HEADQUARTERS OFFICE COMPLEX	8,100,000,000
ERGP28175039	PROVISION OF PORTABLE WATER IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE 6 GEO-POLITICAL ZONES	1,500,000,000
ERGP30231516	UPGRADE OF MARKETS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN SELECTED STATES.	500,000,000
ERGP30231565	ELECTRIFICATION OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES IN 2 GEO-POLITICAL ZONES	1,000,000,000

The ***fifth issue*** is that the Ministry has 11 Agencies, 15 Research Institutes and 14 Colleges of Agriculture and a number of Universities of Agriculture. Even though there is a provision of N2.015bn for extension services, ***extension service is weak and has not been successful in taking research findings to farmers, a situation that will promote constant interactions between agricultural research and actual practice.*** There is no clear linkage between federal extension services, State Ministries of Agriculture and Local Government Agriculture Departments. Actual farming takes place in the localities of states and LGAs. Federal extension services need to be linked up with local authorities for sustainability. Table 6 shows proposals for research from the National Cereal Research Institute, Badeggi.

Table 6: Proposals for Research from the National Cereal Research Institute, Badeggi

Code	Project	Status	Amount (N)
ERGP30150915	RESEARCH INTO RICE CULTIVATION AND POST HARVEST LOSS PREVENTION	NEW	15,000,000
ERGP30151019	RESEARCH INTO FARMING SYSTEM OF THE NORTH CENTRAL ZONE OF NIGERIA	NEW	13,000,000
ERGP30151021	DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS TO END USERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY	NEW	12,000,000
ERGP30151022	RESEARCH INTO VALUE ADDITION OF RICE, ACHA, SOYABEAN, BENISEED, CASTOR AND SUGARCANE	NEW	14,500,000
ERGP30151024	BIOTECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH INTO ALL MANDATE CROPS	NEW	15,000,000

ERGP30151025	RESEARCH INTO GENETIC AND VARIETAL IMPROVEMENT OF ACHA CROP	NEW	13,000,000
ERGP30151027	RESEARCH INTO GENETIC AND VARIETAL IMPROVEMENT OF CASTOR	NEW	15,000,000
ERGP30151028	RESEARCH INTO GENETIC AND VARIETAL IMPROVEMENT OF BENISEED CROP	NEW	15,000,000
ERGP30151029	RESEARCH INTO GENETIC AND VARIETAL IMPROVEMENT OF SUGARCANE CROP	NEW	15,000,000
ERGP30151033	RESEARCH INTO GENETIC AND VARIETAL IMPROVEMENT OF RICE CROP	NEW	20,000,000
ERGP30171113	RESEARCH INTO GENETIC AND VARIETAL IMPROVEMENT OF STEVIA CROP	NEW	15,000,000
ERGP30205776	RESEARCH INTO GENETIC AND VARIETAL IMPROVEMENT OF SOYABEAN CROP	NEW	15,000,000
ERGP30224093	RESEARCH INTO GENDER MAINSTREAMING	NEW	10,000,000

Source: 2025 Budget Estimates; Budget Office of the Federation

From the scenario, in Table 6, it is expected that there will be results for the improvement of the stated crops which will be disseminated to farmers through extension services. However, the repeated sums the agriculture agencies and research institutes get year after year has not improved our poor farming indicators including yield per hectare, level of mechanization or the fabrication of modern local farm equipment, reduced post-harvest losses or improved beneficiation of raw agriculture produce.

These institutes have developed capacity in some fields of agriculture. But the resources available to them is very limited. It may be imperative for the Ministry to mandate the institutes to concentrate in not more than two research ventures and develop them to full market and user stage – their full value chain. Research institutes should liaise and consult with private sector operatives, public sector agencies in their area of research and farmers so that research is evidence based and informed by the needs of actual end users. Targets should be set for the institutes so that Nigeria may not be engaged in perpetual research without evidence of research findings or their use. However, it is imperative to note that the institute budgeted for dissemination of its research output to end-users. But the sum is paltry. Allocation of public resources to these agencies after some years, should no longer be automatic but based on output/outcome which is seen to be serving a sectoral public or private need. It is time to rationalize and demand value for money from these research institutes.

Part Two

THE GENDER SENSITIVITY OF THE VOTES

The National Gender Policy on Agriculture has 11 objectives and a monitoring and evaluation framework with outputs and indicators. Key objectives relevant to budgeting include capacity building to train women farmers/cooperatives on value chain development and financial literacy; provision of labour saving devices, training and linkage of women cooperatives to farm input companies, financial institutions, agro-processing, packaging, standards, quality assurance for domestic and export markets. Others are to promote use of gender sensitive data collection and gender statistics for evidence-based planning, policy and programme design, implementation and evaluation. Outputs and monitoring and evaluation indicators include women access to farming inputs and accessories; gender mainstreaming in extension delivery; engendering climate change action and establishment of gender sensitive data collection machinery.

CSJ's interaction with Small-Scale Women Farmers documents the following priorities and summary of demands:

1. Provision of gender friendly equipment for increased productivity.
Examples include hand sprayers, planters, ploughs, tillers, etc.
2. Easy access to subsidized farming inputs. Examples include fertilizers, seeds, seedlings, chemicals, pesticides, etc.
3. Conscious steps towards addressing the challenges of insecurity to enable access to farmlands and outputs.
4. Access to soft loans and grants from the government and other institutions.
5. Create opportunities for consultation and engagement between government officials and smallholder women farmers.
6. Building of central storage facilities for smallholder women farmers in the local communities.
7. Capacity building training on global best practices in agriculture.
8. Construction and maintenance of rural road networks for easy movement of agricultural goods and services.
9. Timely release of funds for projects targeted at Smallholder Women Farmers.
10. Allocation of large expanses of community lands for cluster farming across different value chains.
11. Construction of boreholes and dams for irrigation farming.
12. Establishment of quality control regulatory body for animal feeds and other inputs.
13. Provision of vaccines to reduce loss of ruminants and other farm animals.
14. Provision of extension services for Smallholder Women Farmers within their local communities.

15. Provision of hatchery machines and quality feeds for smallholder women poultry farmers.
16. Construction of central farmers market for easy access to market and purchase of goods by the public.
17. Construction of processing machines and equipment for cassava, palm oil, maize, etc.
18. Capacity building training on value addition across the different agricultural value chains.
19. Improvement of local soil texture and quality.
20. Construction of labour saving smoking kiln for fish farmers and training on how to produce local feeds for ruminants.

Against the background of these priorities, Table 7 shows the specific provisions in the vote of the FMAFS that targets women farmers.

Table 7: Budget Line Items Targeting Women Farmers in the 2025 FMAFS Estimates

Code	Project	Type	Amount (N)
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT HQTRS			
ERGP1208767	ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING INCUBATION CENTRES FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN ACROSS THE SIX GEO-POLITICAL ZONES	ONGOING	650,000,000
ERGP30231515	AGRIBUSINESS TRAINING FOR MSMES WOMEN AND YOUTHS TO BE CARRIED OUT ACROSS THE 3 GEO-POLITICAL ZONES	NEW	180,000,000
ERGP8175006	WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS	ONGOING	294,477,320
FEDERAL COLLEGE OF PRODUCE INSPECTION AND STORED PRODUCTS TECHNOLOGY, KANO			
ERGP8153300	VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOR FOOD SECURITY FOR 50 NOS OF RURAL WOMEN AND FARMERS THROUGH POST-HARVEST HANDLING AND STORAGE TECHNIQUES	ONGOING	30,000,000
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (ARMTI) – ILORIN			
ERGP30132317	AGRIPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN IN THE SIX GEOPOLITICAL ZONES	ONGOING	30,000,000
ERGP30155122	EMPOWERING YOUTH AND WOMEN IN CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE FOR EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	ONGOING	15,000,000
NATIONAL CEREALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE- BADEGGI			
ERGP30224093	RESEARCH INTO GENDER MAINSTREAMING	NEW	10,000,000
NATIONAL ROOT CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE- UMUDIKE			

ERGP30174495	SUPPLY OF PLANTING MATERIALS TO YOUTHS AND WOMEN FARMERS IN NRCRI HOST COMMUNITIES NATION WIDE	ONGOING	40,000,000
FEDERAL COLLEGE OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY – VOM			
ERGP23224090	FURNISHING OF 250 BED CAPACITY FEMALE STUDENTS HOSTEL	ONGOING	70,450,000
FEDERAL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE – ISHIAGU			
ERGP5229337	TRAINING ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN SMALLSCALE BUSINESSES IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE 6 GEO-POLITICAL ZONES	NEW	5,000,000
ERGP8138109	ENTREPRENEURSHIP/VOCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT FOR UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS FARMERS AND WOMEN ON FISH, CASSAVA, RICE AND HONEY PRODUCTION	ONGOING	40,000,000
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY AND MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY – VOM			
ERGP27229182	CONSTRUCTION OF MALE AND FEMALE HOSTELS FOR FCVMT VOM'S NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS	NEW	26,000,000
ERGP30121815	EMPOWERMENT OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTH AND WOMEN IN INTEGRATED POULTRY/FISH PRODUCTION	ONGOING	15,674,879
FEDERAL COLLEGE OF FRESH WATER FISHERIES – BAGA			
ERGP30151501	EMPOWERMENT OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS AND WOMEN ON AQUACULTURE	ONGOING	45,600,000
ERGP30151505	EMPOWERMENT OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS AND WOMEN ON FISH VALUE CHAIN	ONGOING	47,300,000
FEDERAL CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE- KADUNA			
ERGP18228775	ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILL TRAINING OF YOUTH AND EMPOWERMENT ON COSTUMELOGY, PHOTOGRAPHY, HAIRDRESSING AND TAILORING IN SOME SELECTED AREA IN KADUNA NORTH/SOUTH	NEW	43,000,000
FEDERAL CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE- OJI RIVER			
ERGP30224068	TRAINING / EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTHS AND WOMEN IN ANAMBRA STATE	NEW	84,000,000
FEDERAL COLLEGE OF HORTICULTURE, DADIN-KOWA, GOMBE			
ERGP8184038	MENTORING OF YOUTHS AND WOMEN ON POST HARVEST LOSSES AND MANAGEMENT	ONGOING	
NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL SCIENCE			

ERGP30154320	EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUPS (YOUTH AND WOMEN) IN SELECTED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION VALUE CHAIN IN PASTOROLIST COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTH EAST, NORTH WEST AND NORTH CENTRAL ZONES LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT, FOOD NUTRITION AND SECURITY	ONGOING	53,650,250
NIGERIA INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE RESEARCH			
ERGP30224005	EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTHS, ARTISANS AND WOMEN IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE VALUE CHAIN AND PURCHASE OF VEHICLE FOR TRAINING	NEW	120,958,765
Total			1,801,111,214

Most of the priorities identified by Small Scale Women Farmers above are missing in the budget estimates. The total sum targeting women farmers is N1.801billion, which is just 0.37% of the overall capital vote of the entire sector. This is paltry and needs to be increased considering that women constitute half of the population and have numerical superiority in agricultural production, processing, forestry, aquaculture and animal husbandry. In recognition of the socially and culturally constructed roles for women and men which limits women's access to resource support, budgets must specifically target women and consider affirmative action votes in deserving cases to move women towards equality and equity. The votes in the estimates appear to be an after-thought, not the product of conscious targeted gender responsive estimates which recognize the fundamental obligation to mainstream the concerns of all members of the Nigerian family – women, men, boys and girls into the budgeting process.

Most of the provisions have no specific location to facilitate budget monitoring. For instance, "provision of improved storage facilities and tools for vulnerable women and youths in rural communities in some selected states in Nigeria" is too vague for women to follow - unidentified rural communities in unidentified states.

Part Three

3. FRIVOLOUS, INAPPROPRIATE, UNCLEAR AND WASTEFUL, EXPENDITURE IN THE AGRICULTURE VOTES

Nigeria's N49.7tn 2025 budget proposal comes with a deficit of N13.08tn. In the light of the fiscal challenges facing Nigeria, the dearth of infrastructure and Nigeria's reputation as the poverty capital of the world, coupled with food insecurity and high food inflation, it is imperative that available resources are channeled to areas of the greatest need for the benefit of majority of citizens. However, some of the expenditure items in the agriculture budget are frivolous, inappropriate, wasteful and some come with doubtful legality. Frivolous estimates have no serious purpose or value; inappropriate expenditures are not suitable or proper in our circumstances; wasteful to the extent that scarce resources are being deployed carelessly and extravagantly while many citizens cannot afford the basic needs. These expenditure heads are tabulated in Table 8 with recommendations on how to re-programme the money.

Table 8: Frivolous, Inappropriate, Unclear, Wasteful, etc. Expenditure in the Agriculture Votes

Code	Project	Amount	Recommendation
<i>FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY HDQTS</i>			
ERGP30126578	RESEARCH ON HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE	550,000,000	This project is misplaced. Agricultural research is best carried out by relevant agricultural research institutes. There is no clear deliverable or purpose for the research.
ERGP30175085	MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN AGRIBUSINESS	867,882,551	Just a jargon without a deliverable.
ERGP30208768	INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NIGERIAN FOOD SYSTEM DASHBOARD ON THE STATE OF FOOD AND NUTRITION IN THE COUNTRY	2,500,000,000	This has no meaning, just a play on words; does not have any clear deliverable.
ERGP30208781	EDUCATION PROMOTION OF HOME GARDEN, HOME ECONOMICS AND NUTRITION LEVELS FOR THE RENEWED HOPE INITIATIVE FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY	681,060,548	This is just playing with words without any specific action nor target. It should not be approved.
ERGP30231516	UPGRADE OF MARKETS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN SELECTED STATES.	500,000,000	Pray, what does this mean or entail? For what purpose? It should be dropped and the money put to better use where it is needed
ERGP30231520	COLLABORATION WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN CAPACITY BUILDING FOR	105,151,984	This is another unclear expenditure.

	STANDARD OF EXPORTABLE CROP FOR ZERO REJECTION		
ERGP5231427	DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF FMAFS ASSETS NATIONWIDE	750,000,000	This does not speak to anything specific, besides there are other budget lines that speak to maintenance and upgrade of facilities. It should be rejected
ERGP5231449	AGRICULTURAL LAND RESTORATION AND WATER HARVESTING PROGRAMMES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE	600,000,000	This is very vague. At what location?
<i>AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (ARMTI) – ILORIN</i>			
ERGP30132357	COLLABORATIVE AGRICULTURAL FINANCING : A CONSORTIUM FOR STAKE HOLDERS	10,000,000	This does not have any specific meaning
<i>NATIONAL CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL MECHANISATION – ILORIN</i>			
ERGP30194575	NATIONAL SURVEY OF TRACTOR IMPLEMENT AND AGRO PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT	36,000,000	This project lacks clarity both in meaning and purpose. It should give way for projects that have clear potentials for impact
<i>NATIONAL CEREALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE- BADEGGI</i>			
ERGP30224077	PURCHASE OF LAPTOP AND TABLETS FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES	50,000,000	This is just on the very high side.
ERGP30224093	RESEARCH INTO GENDER MAINSTREAMING	10,000,000	If the personnel lack the requisite capacity for gender mainstreaming, capacity building would have been ideal. What is research into gender mainstreaming meant to achieve?
ERGP30224096	PURCHASE OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENTS	81,500,000	This is ambiguous and could mean anything. For this huge sum, it will be of interest to specify, at least to provide a clue of what to expect.
ERGP5150987	PURCHASE OF TRACTORS AND FULL IMPLEMENTS	100,000,000	A good budgeting system requires some level of transparency in the numbers and type
<i>NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OIL PALM RESEARCH (NIFOR) - BENIN</i>			
ERGP30171419	EXTENSION & AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ACTIVITIES	10,000,000	This project as captured is ambiguous and can have a variety of meanings and thus gives room for manipulation. It should be expunged.

ERGP30225691	DEVELOPMENT OF MEDIUM SCALE OIL MILL	40,000,000	Where is the location of this project?
ERGP5171955	PROCUREMENT OF RESEARCH PROJECT VEHICLES	85,000,000	Clarity is required here in terms of the type and number
<i>FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE BASSAM-BIRI, BAYELSA STATE</i>			
ERGP30231415	LIBRARY RESOURCES	15,000,000	What are Library Resources?
ERGP30231683	PURCHASE OF OPERATIONAL VEHICLES FOR STAFF AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS	385,000,000	There is no specification of number or type. This creates room for diversion of funds.
<i>INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING- IBADAN</i>			
ERGP30192377	VALUE ADDITION RESEARCH SUPPORT	74,178,228	What exactly does this mean? It speaks to nothing specific; it should be expunged
<i>FEDERAL COLLEGE OF FRESH WATER FISHERIES TECHNOLOGY - NEW BUSSA</i>			
ERGP30223045	PROCUREMENT OF RESEARCH PROJECT VEHICLES	45,038,134	This is an ambiguous project, lacking clarity.
<i>FEDERAL COLLEGE OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY - VOM</i>			
<i>FEDERAL COLLEGE OF FISHERIES AND MARINE TECHNOLOGY - LAGOS</i>			
ERGP5107680	CONSTRUCTION /PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES/ RURAL ROAD	457,762,281	A sum allocated to a project that cannot be determined or traced.
<i>FEDERAL CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE- IBADAN</i>			
ERGP30124017	PURCHASE OF UTILITY VEHICLES	200,000,000	The number of vehicles will help determine the adequacy/inadequacy of the sum budgeted
<i>NATIONAL ANIMAL PRODUCT RESEARCH INSTITUTE- ZARIA</i>			
ERGP30156697	PROCUREMENT OF 2NO. TRACTORS	50,000,000	What is the purpose of tractors and fertilizers in an Animal Research Institute?
ERGP30225373	PROCUREMENT OF FERTILIZERS, AGRO-CHEMICALS, MACRO FEED INGREDIENTS, LABORATORY REAGENT AND EQUIPMENT AT NAPRI HEADQUARTERS	32,000,000	
Total sum saved			N8,235,573,726

Part Four

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations flow from this analysis.

(1) The allocation to Agriculture as a key growth driver of the Nigerian economy should be increased to not less than 50% of the Malabo/Maputo commitment of 10% of overall budget. This means 5% of the overall budget which comes up to N2.36tn.

(2) Rework the budget in accordance with the policy, plan budget continuum to reflect the full implementation of the Nigerian Gender Policy and the National Gender Policy in Agriculture and other applicable national and international standards.

(3) It is important that legislators consider dedicating significant proportions of constituency project allocation to issues thrown up by small holder women farmers and such allocation should reflect the fine letters of the National Gender Policy on Agriculture.

(4) The budget should take cognizance of the need for affirmative action and target not less than 30% of the FMAFS's vote to women especially SSWF. This would come up to N194.362billion.

(5) Total savings in the sum of N8.235bn from frivolous, inappropriate, wasteful expenditure identified in the Review and some part of the savings from CSJ's publication on frivolities in the 2025 Appropriation Budget should be channeled to the needs of SSWF.

(6) In accordance with Recommendations 2, 3 and 4, the Budget should provide:

- Gender friendly machinery and equipment such as hand sprayers, power tillers, ploughs, planters etc., especially low cost and locally fabricated equipment which can be easily maintained by local artisans.
- Improved seeds/seedlings, fertilisers, pesticides, feeds, animal stock, storage facilities, rural road networks, irrigation facilities, etc.
- Extension services including meteorological information through various platforms including print and electronic media especially radio and television as well as digital media and training of trainers. Adequate votes should be appropriated for the operationalization of the National Agriculture Extension Service Policy.
- Promotion of climate smart agriculture through the mainstreaming of organic farming, organic fertilizers, resilience building and adaptation.
- Steps to organize smallholder women farmers into groups of registered business names, companies and cooperatives to give them formal visibility to participate in formal business

activities as well as benefitting from government programmes such as access to cheap credit. This should be done across all the states of the Federation.

- Small scale processing equipment for products preservation and value addition as well as capacity building to minimise post-harvest losses.
- Promote the concentric circle of local content in provisioning of goods, services and construction considering that procurement options are most of the time crafted into the budget

(7) Proposed activities from agencies should be reconciled with the mandate of the agencies. Activities should be delivered by agencies with the greatest strength and competence in the area of the proposed activities.

(8) Considering the number of agencies under the Ministry and their mandates, programme the bulk of the capital vote of the Ministry to the respective agencies.

(9) To facilitate monitoring and evaluation:

- All votes should have specifications, enough details and clarity on the activities and deliverables to be paid for at the public expense and all physical projects should have locations.
- All capacity building projects should have details of the nature of capacity building and the class of beneficiaries.

(10) Collaboration between the Federal, State and Local Governments is key for improved extension service provision because farming is a local job done in specific states and localities in far flung places beyond the Federal Capital Territory base of the FMAFS.

(11) Research Institutes should be limited to specific assignments within their mandates to justify their continued receipt of public funds. Research topics and issues should be chosen based on the demands of off-takers in farming communities, the private sector and relevant public agencies.