

REVIEW OF THE NIGER STATE 2025 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR BUDGET



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

And



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

Published in February 2025

By

Centre for Social Justice (CSJ)

Plot 836 Emmanuel Aguna Crescent, Off Idris Ibrahim Crescent, 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; X: @censoj

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CSJ acknowledges the funding support of the International Budget Partnership (IBP) and the research contributions of Eze Onyekpere and Sundayson Chidi towards the production of this Publication.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgement	3
Table of Contents	4
Acronyms	5
List of Tables	6
Introduction	7
Measure of Value of Allocation	8
Disaggregation of the 2025 Agriculture Allocation	9
Disaggregation of the 2025 Agriculture Capital Projects	9
Summary of Findings	13
Next Steps	14

ACRONYMS

AGRA	Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa
ATASP	Agricultural Transformation Agenda Support Programme
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSJ	Centre for Social Justice
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
GAPs	Good Agricultural Practices
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
MDA	Ministry, Department and Agency
NAMDA	Niger Agricultural Mechanisation Development Authority
NGN	Nigerian Naira
SHWF	Smallholder Women Farmers
SWOFON	Smallholder Women Farmers Organization in Nigeria
USD	United States Dollar
VCDP	Value Chain Development Programme

List of Tables

Table 1: Allocation to Agriculture in comparison to the Malabo Benchmark

Table 2: Trend of Agriculture Allocation in Niger State Budget 2021 – 2025

Table 3: Conversion Agriculture Allocation to USD

Table 4: Disaggregation of the Agriculture Budget

Table 5: Some Major Capital Provisions in the Ministry of Agriculture

Table 6: Some Major Capital Provisions of NAMDA

Table 7: Some Major Capital Provisions of Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development

List of Chart(s)

Figure 1: Agriculture share of state budget (%) 2021-2025

1. Introduction

The Niger State Agricultural sector comprises of two key ministries, namely Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development. While the latter is a stand-alone Ministry, the former (Ministry of Agriculture) has the Ministry of Agriculture, Niger Agricultural Mechanisation Development Authority (NAMDA) and Niger State College of Agriculture as separate institutions. Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development received the total sum of N449,395,245,671.89 and N10,713,222,221.08 representing 28.82% and 0.69% of the entire approved state budget of N1,558,887,565,358.00. Table 1 below gives a summary of the sector's allocation for the 2025 fiscal year. Collectively, the Agricultural sector received 29.52% of the state's 2025 approved budget in the sum of N460,108,467,892.97. It is worthy of note that the 2025 allocation for the very first time meets and surpasses the Malabo 10% benchmark. The benchmark figure for the sector is N155,888,756,535.0. However, it was exceeded by a whopping N304.219 billion.

The Niger State Agricultural sector mirrors the federal budget in its composition. Prior to the current year (2025), the sector had a singular ministry and every other agency/institution was under the ministry. Similar to the federal, the state now has Ministry of Livestock Development as a standalone ministry without any agency under it.

Table 1: Allocation to Agriculture in comparison to the Malabo Benchmark

	Overall State Budget Proposal	Total Agric Sector Proposal	% of State Budget	10% Benchmark of the Malabo Declaration	Balance of Benchmark
Ministry of Agriculture	1,558,887,565,358	449,395,245,671.89	28.82%		
Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries Development-Control		10,713,222,221.08	0.69%		
Total	1,558,887,565,358	460,108,467,892	29.52%	155,888,756,535	+304,219,711,357

Source: *Approved 2025 Budget*

Table 2 compares the sector's allocation in 2025 to other years (2021-2024). The five-year trend compares the allocations with a view to determine the trend over the specified period.

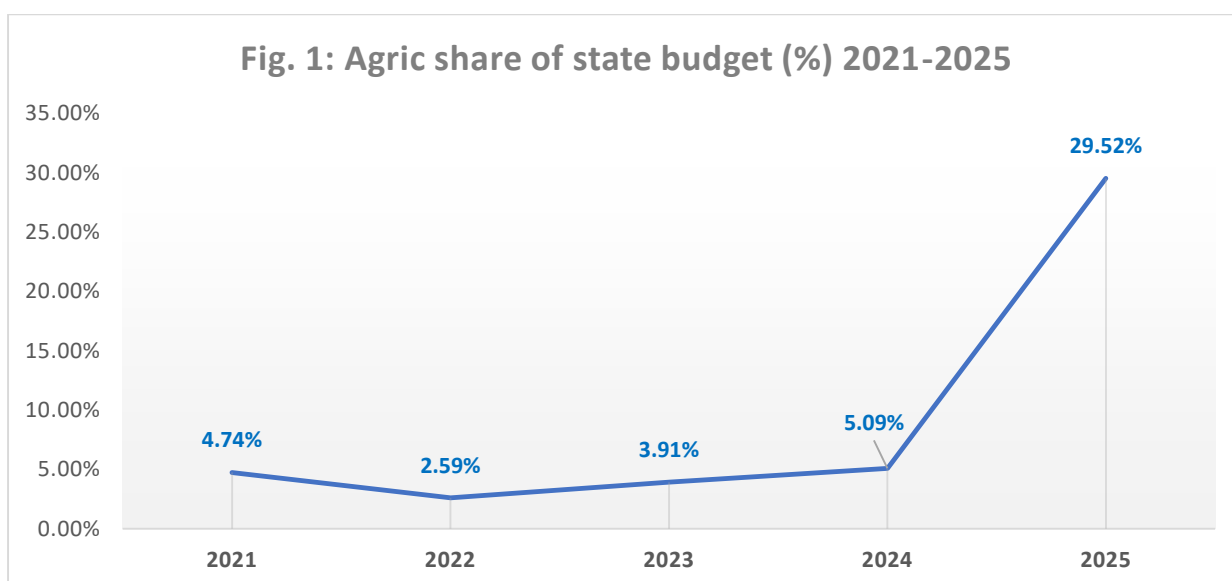
Table 2: Trend of Agriculture Allocation in Niger State Budget 2021 – 2025

Year	Total State Budget (NGN)	Total Allocation to Agriculture (NGN)	Percentage of Agric Allocation (%)	Malabo (10%) Declaration Benchmark (NGN)	Variation Against 10% Benchmark (NGN)
2021	153,412,621,776.37	7,265,939,666.17	4.74%	15,341,262,177.64	8,075,322,511.47
2022	211,020,677,027.39	5,467,933,512.42	2.59%	21,102,067,702.34	16,634,134,190.32
2023	243,647,189,978.88	9,522,369,403.35	3.91%	24,364,718,997.89	14,842,349,594.34
2024	613,994,801,697.00	31,233,733,543.79	5.09%	61,399,480,169.7	30,165,746,625.91

2025	1,558,887,565,358.00	460,108,467,892.97	29.52%	155,888,756,535.8	+304,219,711,357.17
------	----------------------	--------------------	--------	-------------------	---------------------

Source: Approved 2025 Budget

From Table 2, it could be observed that the 2025 allocation significantly stands out from the four prior years prior in terms of its share (29.52%) in the state budget as well as in terms of the actual amount (N460.108bn) allocated. The sector's share of the state's budget for other years were 4.74% in 2021, 2.59% in 2022, 3.91% in 2023, and 5.09% in 2024. Figure 1 shows the trend in graphics. It also presents a picture of the sector's improved prioritization or lack of it in the state's agenda as captured in its budget.



2. Measure of Value of the Allocation

Given the volatility of the Naira over the years; especially with the devaluation of the Naira and the unification of the exchange rate, it becomes necessary to value the allocation with a more stable currency to determine if the trend remains same. Table 3 below shows the allocation in USD.

Table 3: Conversion Agric Allocation to USD

Year	Exchange Rate* (USD to NGN)	Budgetary Allocation (NGN)	Budgetary Allocation (USD)
2021	379	7,265,939,666.17	19,171,344.77
2022	410.15	5,467,933,512.42	13,331,545.81
2023	435.57	9,522,369,403.35	21,861,857.8
2024	750	31,233,733,543.79	41,644,978.06
2025	1,500	460,108,467,892.97	306,738,978.6

- Exchange rate are the official rates by the federal government for each of the years

A close look shows that the trend of increases remained the same in terms of the years that got higher votes. However, the magnitude of increases differed significantly. For example, the 2024 allocation is about three times the 2023 allocation in naira terms which represents 228% increase. On the contrary, it is barely twice 90.49% increase in value in USD terms.

3. Disaggregation of 2025 Agriculture Allocation

This section disaggregates the allocation into recurrent and capital expenditures and thus shows the share of both classes in the sector's allocation. Recurrent expenditure comprises personnel and overhead costs. Capital expenditure can also be broken into administrative and developmental capital. The agricultural sector is disaggregated at 0.62% and 99.38% for recurrent and capital expenditure respectively. Individually, it is disaggregated at 0.49% and 99.51% for the Ministry of Agriculture whereas it is 6.19% and 93.38% respectively for the Ministry of Livestock Development.

Table 4: Disaggregation of the Agriculture Budget

	Recurrent Expenditure	% share of Recurrent Exp	Capital Expenditure	% Share of Capital Exp	Total Allocation to Min/Sect
Min. of Agric	2,179,608,333.88	0.49%	447,215,637,338.01	99.51%	449,395,245,671.89
Min. of Livestock	663,222,221.08	6.19%	10,050,000,000.00	93.81%	10,713,222,221.08
Totals	2,842,830,554.94	0.62%	457,265,637,338.01	99.38%	460,108,467,892.97

While the amount of resources committed to capital expenditure is encouraging, it is also of concern whether the resources committed to overhead expenditure will be adequate to oversee the implementation of the capital projects. Also, given that the implementation of the capital component of the budget had been average over the years, the state requires a new strategy that will lead to the full implementation of the capital vote in the 2025 fiscal year.

4. Disaggregation of 2025 Capital Allocation

The capital budget is the allocation that is of utmost interest to small holder women farmers considering that personnel and overheads votes are to a great extent focused on the administration. Table 5 shows some of the major capital provisions in the Ministry of Agriculture. The word "major" is used in terms of the importance of the provisions and secondly, the amount allocated to the project.

Table 5: Some Major Capital Provisions in the Ministry of Agriculture

Project	Economic Code and Description	Amount (N)
----------------	--------------------------------------	-------------------

Construction of Rural Roads and Markets (World Bank) across the State	23020114 - Construction/ provision of roads	14,200,000,000.00
Purchase and sales of 1,130,000 Metric Tonnes of Grains	23010127 - Purchase of agricultural equipment	135,000,000.00
World Food day celebration	23050104 - anniversaries/ celebrations	100,000,000.00
Fencing and Equipping of Farm Institutes at Tegna	23020113 - construction/ provision of agricultural facilities	150,000,000.00
Establishment of a centre for conservation and sustainable Agriculture at Bida farm institute	23020113 - construction/ provision of agricultural facilities	200,000,000.00
Provision of infrastructure for Niger Foods farm estate roads	23020113 - construction / provision of agricultural facilities	565,000,000.00
Provision of 500 Tube Wells at Ndiga, Yandayi, Tufa, Zhitu and Gbogan.	23020105 - construction / provision of water facilities	915,000,000.00
Rehabilitation of 2no. irrigation schemes at Chanchaga and Ja'agi in Mokwa	23030112 - rehabilitation / repairs - agricultural facilities	1,161,170,000.00
Procurement of 5Nos HR3 7.5 Hp solar powered pumps	23020105 - construction / provision of water facilities	1,000,000,000.00
Purchase and distribution of 150,000 litres Organic fertilizer across the 25 LGA	23010127 - purchase of agricultural equipment	2,000,000,000.00
Purchase and distribution 10,000 bags of fertilizer to IDP camps across the State	23010127 - purchase of agricultural equipment	500,000,000.00
NUT.1.MS.Activity 1: Promote production of nutrition reached varieties (sweet potatoes, provitamin A, maize, cassava and cowpea) in the State.	23050108 - Skills Acquisition	200,000,000.00
Consultancy and Agricultural Programme/Projects	23050101 - research and development	200,000,000.00
Purchase of 200no. Ipads for farmers census and Survey across the state	23050101 - research and development	350,000,000.00
Acquisition and Development of 250,000 Hectre of Land Across the 25 LGAs	23010101 - purchase/ acquisition of land	390,000,000.00

Purchase 500 Units of Rice Threshing Machine, 3000no. Seed Planters, 8HP Power Tiller and 1000 Units of Beans grading and Sorting Machines	23010127 - purchase of agricultural Equipment	600,000,000.00
Purchase and distribution of 50,000kg each of improved seeds for Rice, Maize, Soya beans, cowpea and Sesame	23010127 - purchase of agricultural Equipment	100,000,000.00
Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)	23050101 - research and development	327,586,400.00
Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Support to sheyi grazing reserve on the cultivation of 5,000 hectre of Rapia grass	23050101 - research and development	397,800,000.00
NUT.25. Promotion of Homestead Farming Across the 25 LGAs	23050101 - research and development	1,250,000,000.00
Procurement of 300 Units of MF 375 Power Steering Tractors.	23010127 - purchase of agricultural Equipment	12,000,000,000.00
Establishment of Special Agro-Processing Zone (AFDB)	23020113 - construction / provision of agricultural facilities	40,500,000,000.00
Development/Construction of the Corridor of SAPZ (Chinese Consortium)	23020113 - construction / provision of agricultural facilities	365,000,000,000.0
Pre-season training of farmers across the State	23050101 - research and development	45,000,000.00
Purchase 4no. of DJI Agras T40 agricultural Drone for Training of 75 youth across the state	23010131 - purchase of air navigational Equipment	80,000,000.00
Training of Women and youth on income generating activities	23050108 - Skills Acquisition	20,000,000.00
Training of Women and Youth on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPS) and Provision of Working Tools	23050108 - Skills Acquisition	70,000,000.00

Source: 2025 State Budget

These votes present a mixed bag. The first impression is that it is heavy on foreign support and borrowed money viz, support from the World Bank, Alliance for Green Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization, African Development Bank and Chinese Consortium. The central challenge in these big projects is how to include small scale farmers into the scheme of things and mainstream their participation. However, there are budgetary provisions of interest to agroecological farming and small-scale women farmers. These include the distribution of organic fertiliser, construction of rural access roads, training of women and youth on good agriculture practices, preseason training of farmers across the state, promotion of homestead farming, etc. But there is no link between federal research institutes (or any research institutes) and the votes in the budget.

The major votes of the Niger Agricultural Mechanization Development Authority (NAMDA) is shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Some Major Capital Provisions of NAMDA

Project	Economic Code and Description	Amount (N)
Agricultural Technology Transfer (Agric Extension Services)	23050101 - research and development	45,535,094.02
Agricultural Technology Generation (Research Services)	23050101 - research and development	31,205,708.88
Purchase of knapsack sprayer, rice seeds, maize seeds, insecticides and pesticides	23010127 - purchase of agricultural equipment	18,461,780.20
Conduct of Monitoring and Evaluation on Agricultural extension services in the state	23050103 - monitoring and evaluation	19,257,991.28
Purchase of 3nos parboiling pots, 6nos de-stoners and 10nos winnowers for the Agency	23010127 - purchase of agricultural equipment	5,186,699.65
Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) - Procurement of Rice mills Machine and Cassava Processing Machines for trained women	23010127 - purchase of agricultural equipment	1,548,100,000.00
Agricultural Transformation Agenda Support Program Phase 1 [ATASP-1] (provision of Gari processing and Rice milling machine)	23010127 - purchase of agricultural equipment	2,022,150,938.00
Agriculture Extension Services (JICA)	23050101 - research and development	40,000,000.00

Source: *Approved 2025 Budget*

NAMDA is established to increase agricultural productivity, to empower rural communities, to stimulate economic growth, and to alleviate poverty. Overall, these budgetary provisions are in line with NAMDA's mandate. The votes of NAMDA on extension services as well as rice mills and cassava processing machines will be of interest to small scale farmers in the state.

The votes of the Niger State College of Agriculture were omitted from this tabularization because they were just for the development of the school and training of students. However, conspicuously missing were provisions that linked the agriculture academia to its society and immediate environment for cross fertilization of knowledge and expertise through extension services and practical demonstrations.

The major votes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development is shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Some Major Capital Provisions of Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development

Project	Economic Code and Description	Amount (N)
Construction of Veterinary Clinics and side stalls at Cattle Market Mokwa	23020106 - construction / provision of hospitals/ health centres	180,000,000.00
Renovation of Government owned Veterinary Hospitals and Area offices across the State	23030105 - rehabilitation /repairs - hospital/ health centres	410,000,000.00
Construction of 10no. Poultry production Units across the State	23020113 - construction / provision of agricultural facilities	300,000,000.00
Training and empowerment of 200 selected youth/women on Livestock production across the State	23010127 - purchase of agricultural equipment	100,000,000.0
Purchase of 1,000 Fishing hooks, 1,000 Bundle of Fishing nets and 1,000 Bags of Fish Feeds to support farmers across the state	23010127 - purchase of agricultural equipment	60,000,000.00
Purchase of 150no Fish smoking kiln for Fish processing centres across the State	23010127 - purchase of agricultural equipment	52,500,000.00
Training of 200 selected youths and Retirees on fish farming across the State	23050108 - skills acquisition	65,000,000.00
Enhancement of beef, cattle and sheep range (ELPRES) across the	23030112– rehabilitation/ repairs -agricultural facilities	7,550,000,000.00
Production of 500,000 Fingerlings at Tagwai Fish Hatchery	23020113 - construction / provision of agricultural facilities	20,000,000.00
Rehabilitation of 3no. Earth Dams at Garun Gabas	23030104 - rehabilitation /repairs - water facilities	30,000,000.00

Source: *Approved 2025 Budget*

The provisions in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development appear good on paper and if well implemented, could benefit small scale farmers.

In summary, the provisions of the two ministries and agencies under them are relatively good but there is limited targeting of small scale farmers including small scale women farmers. The central challenge will lie in implementation.

5. Summary of Findings

- The state's 2025 allocation to agriculture met and surpassed the Malabo 10% benchmark. The benchmark figure for the sector is N155,888,756,535.0. However, it was exceeded by a whopping N304.219 billion.

- The five years review of votes to agriculture shows an undulating framework that was less than 4% for the first four years but dramatically increased to over 29% in 2025.
- Capital expenditure got over 96% of the allocations to the sector.
- The votes to the sector could benefit from more strategic targeting of farmers in general and small holder women farmers in particular.
- The first impression is that sectoral votes are heavy on foreign support and borrowed money.
- There are budgetary provisions of interest to agroecological farming and small-scale women farmers. However, there is the need for more votes to this farming methodology.
- Extension services got votes but this was not sufficient to link farmers with research institutes and to give them a voice in setting research agenda.
- The mandate of the agencies in the sector were reflected in their budgetary votes in 2025.
- The experience of previous years implementation which was very low challenges the huge allocation to the sector.

6. Next Steps

- Prepare a capital budget pullout of all projects of interest to small holder women farmers.
- SWOFON should engage in implementation advocacy to guarantee benefits and inclusivity from the extant budget provisions, especially in access to machinery, extension services, farm inputs, insisting on the authorities providing information on unclear expenditure proposals, etc.
- Advocacy should be intensified in mainstreaming agroecological practices in the budget.