

REVIEW OF NASARAWA STATE AGRICULTURE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2026

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



And



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

**A Memorandum for Improving Agriculture Sector
Budgeting: December 2025**

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ACRONYMS

Acronym	Meaning
ADP	Agricultural Development Programme
B	Billion
CSJ	Centre for Social Justice
FG	Federal Government
LGAs	Local Government Areas
M	Million
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDA	Ministry, Department and Agency
N	Naira
NADP	Nasarawa Agriculture Development Programme
NGN	Nigerian Naira
PRS	Planning, Research and Statistics
USD	United States Dollar

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REVIEW OF NASARAWA STATE 2026 AGRICULTURE BUDGET PROPOSAL

1. Introduction

The Nasarawa State Agricultural Sector comprises the Ministry of Agriculture; College of Agriculture, Science and Technology; Nasarawa Agriculture Development Programme (NADP); Nasarawa State Fadama Coordinating Office; and Nasarawa Agriculture Value Chain Development Programme. Votes to these agencies collectively make up the sector's budget.

2. The 2026 Allocation to Agriculture

The total vote to the sector in the 2026 budget proposal is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Allocation to Agriculture in the 2026 Budget Proposal

MDA	Amount
Ministry of Agriculture	7,561,755,430.76
College of Agriculture, Science and Technology	6,033,618,350.71
Nasarawa Agricultural Development Programme	990,874,444.16
Nasarawa State Fadama Coordinating Office	5,259,900,012.87
Nasarawa Agriculture Value Chain Development Programme	398,496,791.00
Total	20,244,645,029.50

Source: Nasarawa State 2026 Budget Proposal

Table 2 shows the allocation to Agriculture as a percentage of the overall budget in the context of the commitment in the Malabo 10% benchmark.

Table 2: Allocation to Agriculture in Comparison to the Malabo Benchmark

Overall State Budget Proposal	Total Agric Sector Proposal	Percentage of Agric Allocation of State Budget	10% Benchmark of the Malabo Declaration	Funding Gap using the Benchmark
N517,539,050,910.77	N20,244,645,029.50	3.9%	N51,735,905,091.07	N31,491,260,061.57

Source: Nasarawa State 2026 Budget Proposal

The sum of N20,244,645,029.50 amounting to 3.9% of the Nasarawa State proposed budget of N517,539,050,910.77 was allocated to Agriculture for the 2026 fiscal year. The sum is less than 40% of the 10% Malabo benchmark for Agriculture budgeting. This vote is inadequate considering that Agriculture is the mainstay of the Nasarawa State economy. Even if there is paucity of funds, the State should project at a minimum, not less than 70% of the Malabo benchmark to the Sector.

3. The Six Year Trend: 2021-2026

Reviewing the trend of Agriculture budgeting over the past 6 years in Table 3 reveals that Agriculture's share of the budget has been undulating. It started from 5.9% and 5.4% in 2021, 2022 to a peak of 7.5% in 2023. Thereafter, it declined to 4.81% in 2024, rose to 6.39% in 2025. And the 2026 projection is a decline to 3.9%.

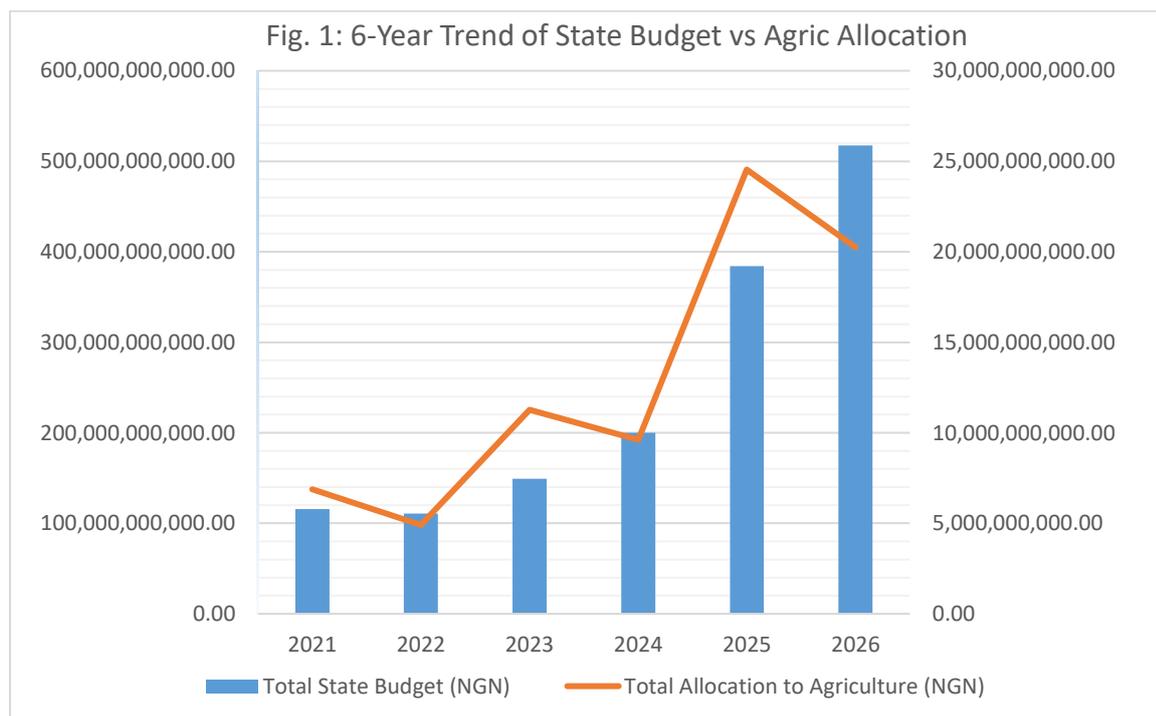
Table 3: Trend of Agriculture Allocation in Nasarawa State Budget 2021 – 2026

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	115,722,814,543.00	6,880,587,716.23	5.95%	11,572,281,454	4,691,693,738.07
2022	110,849,954,879.49	4,908,190,631.27	5.44%	11,084,995,487.95	6,176,804,856.68
2023	149,315,944,207.62	11,262,522,399.76	7.54%	14,931,594,420.76	3,669,072,021.02
2024	199,879,370,709.43	9,607,214,703.21	4.81%	19,987,937,070.94	10,380,722,367.73
2025	384,317,843,592.03	24,541,959,958.62	6.39%	38,431,784,359.20	13,889,824,400.58
2026	517,539,050,910.77	20,244,645,029.50	3.91%	51,753,905,091.08	31,509,260,061.58

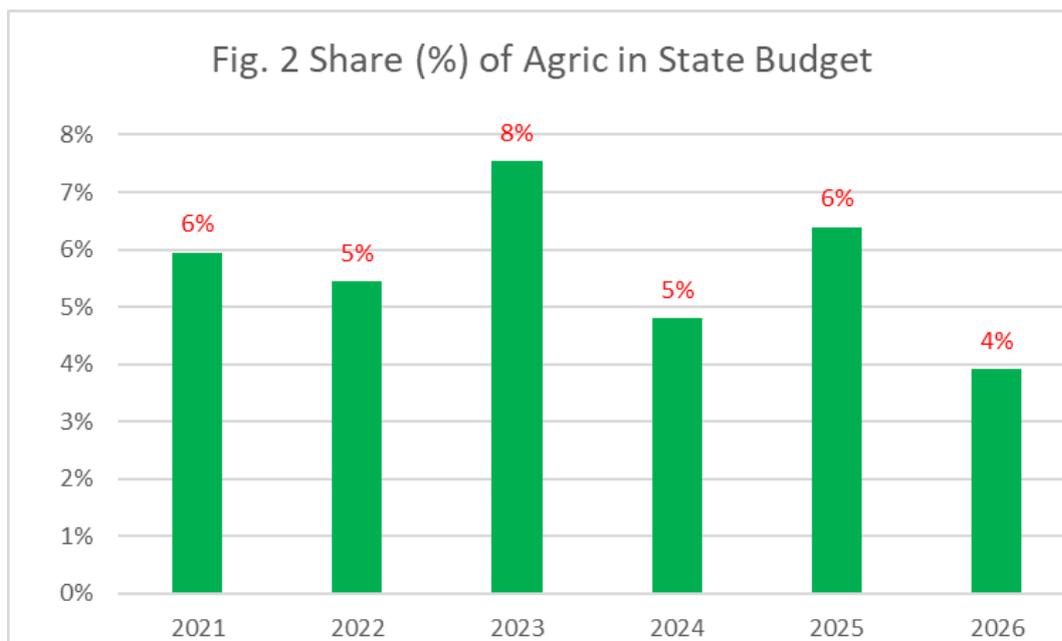
Source: Nasarawa State Approved Budgets

Beyond reduction in the proportion (percentage) of the budget dedicated over the period to Agriculture, the overall budget increased by 33.9% in 2024 while Agriculture decreased by 14.7%. In 2025, there was a 115% increase in the sum allocated to Agriculture whereas the state budget increased by 92%. In 2026, the overall budget increased by 34% compared to the 2025 budget while the Agriculture vote shrunk by 19%. Evidently, there is no consistent pattern of prioritising Agriculture.

The trend is further shown in Figures 1 and 2.



Source: Nasarawa State Budgets and Author's Articulation



Source: Nasarawa State Budgets and Author's Articulation

The state legislature should consider increasing the allocation to Agriculture given the high cost of food in markets over the past 2 years. Although food inflation seems to be reducing, food is generally not affordable for persons who earn the fairly low wages paid in the civil service and other sectors. Increased funding of Agriculture is imperative; it is a domain where women are majorly engaged. Increased investment in agriculture will also facilitate employment creation and value addition.

4. 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 4 below shows the allocation in USD.

Table 4: Conversion Agriculture Allocation to USD

Year	Exchange Rate* (USD to NGN)	Budgetary Allocation (NGN)	Budgetary Allocation (USD)
2021	379	6,880,587,716.23	18,154,585.00
2022	410.15	4,908,190,631.27	11,966,818.56
2023	435.57	11,262,522,399.76	25,856,974.54
2024	750	9,607,214,703.21	12,809,619.60
2025	1,500	24,541,959,958.62	16,361,306.64
2026	1449.84	20,244,645,029.50	13,963,364.94

- Exchange rate are the official rates by the Federal Government for each of the years

Table 4 reveals an interesting result from converting the sector's allocation into a more stable USD. First, the 2022 allocation which is the sector's least share of the state budget in Naira terms over the six-year period is still the least in USD terms. From the bottom, the vote in 2024 comes next, 2026, 2025, 2021 and 2023 being the highest allocation. The decrease in Naira and USD between 2025 and 2026 cannot be explained by macroeconomic indicators or any rational political economy consideration.

5. Disaggregation of Sector's Vote

Table 5 shows the disaggregation of the allocation to Agriculture in the 2026 state budget.

Table 5: Disaggregation of the Allocation to Agriculture in the 2026 Budget Proposal

Agriculture Sector	Recurrent (NGN)	Capital (NGN)	Total (NGN)	Percentage
Ministry of Agriculture	2,873,635,855.76	4,688,119,575.00	7,561,755,430.76	37.35
College of Agriculture, Science & Technology, Lafia	3,291,144,354.04	2,742,473,996.67	6,033,618,350.71	29.80
Nasarawa Agricultural Development Programme	867,547,944.16	123,326,500.00	990,874,444.16	4.89
Nasarawa State Fadama Coordinating Office	180,180,001,287.00	3,458,100,000.00	183,638,101,287.00	25.98
Nasarawa Agriculture Value Chain Development Programme	398,496,791.00	-	398,496,791.00	1.97
Total	9,232,624,957.83	11,012,020,071.67	20,244,645,029.50	100

Source: Nasarawa State 2026 Budget Proposal

Table 5 shows that recurrent expenditure got 44.61% of the sector's vote while capital expenditure got 54.39%. The mother ministry gets the highest allocation of 37.35%; College of Agriculture, Science & Technology, Lafia gets the second largest vote of 29.8%; the Fadama Coordinating Office is third with 25.98% whilst Agriculture Development Programme got 4.89%. Nasarawa Agriculture Value Chain Development Programme got 1.97% but it has no capital vote. It is only about personnel and overheads. A value chain development programme in an Agriculture infrastructure deficient setting cannot be effectively managed without capital investments.

6. Capital and Other Critical Expenditure Analysis

The overall capital expenditure proposal of the state is **N304,749,720,661.70** while the proposal for Agriculture is **N11,012,020,071.67** which is 3.61% of the overall capital proposal. Considering that Agriculture is the mainstay of the Nasarawa economy, this is grossly insufficient and needs to be increased.

Table 6 outlines some capital and other critical expenditure amounting to **N14,211,026,678.79** which exceeds the capital projection of **N11,012,020,071.67**.

Table 6: Nasarawa State Government 2026 Executive Budget Proposal – Agriculture Total Expenditure by Programme (Sector, Objective and Programme)

Code	Location	2026 Executive Budget Proposal
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01	Agriculture	14,211,026,678.79
0101	Effective governance of the Agriculture Sector	1,371,940,275.00
010101	Legal, policy, regulations and standards, guidelines and protocols development	61,500,000.00
010102	Agriculture sector coordination mechanisms	1,310,440,275.00
0102	Development of the Livestock Value Chain	1,234,000,000.00
010201	Ruminant (cattle, sheep & goats) production and marketing	50,000,000.00
010202	Meat processing and marketing	265,000,000.00
010203	Poultry, pig and micro livestock production	85,000,000.00
010204	Dairy development	60,000,000.00
010205	Animal health and livestock diseases management	749,000,000.00
010206	Livestock feeds development	25,000,000.00
0103	Enhancement of Food Production and Productivity	3,197,950,000.00
010301	Crop value chains and food systems promotion (food and cash crops of states)	213,950,000.00
010302	Intensive crop and vegetable production (irrigation, crop diversification etc.)	520,500,000.00
010303	Farm inputs supply and service delivery system (improved seeds, fertilizer)	2,463,500,000.00
0104	Reduction of Post-Harvest Losses	1,382,800,000.00
010401	Modern technology for post-harvest storage and value addition	82,800,000.00
010403	Market linkage	1,300,000,000.00
0105	Enhancement of Fisheries Resources Development (Aquaculture, Marine)	100,000,000.00
010501	Commercial aquaculture development (fish production, feed mills development)	100,000,000.00
0106	Promotion of Forest Resource Conservation and Preservation of Biodiversity	41,000,000.00
010602	Eco-tourism development	25,000,000.00
010603	Non-farm forestry livelihood economics empowerment promotion (apiculture)	16,000,000.00
0107	Promotion of Enabling Environment for Increased Agricultural Development	6,735,669,700.98
010701	Integrated rural development (agricultural land development, farm mechanization)	3,245,384,000.00
010702	Youth and women in agriculture empowerment & smallholder agricultural credit	50,000,000.00
010703	Agricultural data and statistic management and institutionalization of information	138,560,000.00
010704	Adaptive research, unified and all-inclusive extension services delivery	150,000,000.00
010705	Public Private Partnerships (corporate private sector, NGOs, donors)	540,000,000.00
010706	Capacity building for stakeholders and professional human resources development	2,611,725,700.98

0110	Agriculture Sector Expenditures Not Elsewhere Classified	147,666,702.81
011001	Agriculture Programme Not Elsewhere Classified	147,666,702.81

Source: Nasarawa State 2026 Budget Proposal

From Table 6, the votes in the capital and critical expenditure proposals did not cover the field; it did not fully or holistically cover the four components of agriculture vis, crop production, animal husbandry, fishery and forestry. Furthermore, there are several challenges and gaps in the provisions. These challenges and gaps include the following.

- The promotion of enabling environment for increased agriculture development got a fairly good vote of N6.735b. Under this vote, integrated rural development, land development and farm mechanisation got N3.245b. However, for sustainability, this needs to be tied to local technology and the products of Nigerian Agriculture Research Institutions.
- Youth and women in agriculture empowerment and small holder agricultural credit got N50m. The first point is that this a paltry and perfunctory provision. The second is that women and youth are not the same and should not be tied together under one vote. There should be separate and distinct provisions for these two categories. Beyond this, there is nothing in the votes specifically dedicated to women farmers, especially small-scale women. The votes are not gender sensitive and this will not increase productivity considering that the majority of farmers are small-scale women farmers.
- Adaptive research, unified and all-inclusive extension services got N150m which is too small for challenges in extension services. This barely scratches the surface on the need for massive extension services to improve farming at the grassroots with knowledge and innovations that will improve agriculture across several value chains. It is also silent on the link between research and practical agriculture.
- Capacity building for stakeholders and professional human resource development got a large share (of N2.611b) of resources dedicated to promotion of enabling environment for increased agriculture development. These stakeholder and professionals are not defined and need further clarification and reconsideration.
- Development of livestock value chains in the sum of N1.234billion is clearly insufficient in view of the potentials of the subsector for value addition, job creation, increased treasury revenue and growth of the state economy.
- Reduction of post-harvest losses in the sum of N1.382b needs to be specific and deploy available local technology and expertise for the realisation of its objectives.

- The vote of N100m for enhancement of fisheries resources development - commercial aquaculture development is paltry and cannot meet the needs of the subsector. If the 2025 performance experience is the guide and nothing was released for this vote, the legislature needs to reconsider this vote and increase same.
- To project a vote of N41m for forest resource conservation and preservation of biodiversity does not show a strong commitment to the subsector. Only N6.7m out of the 2025 vote of N41m was released from January to October. Again, the legislature needs to reconsider this vote and increase same.
- Access to farm inputs and supplies such as organic fertilisers and herbicides, seeds, seedlings, stems, quality poultry feeds, etc was no considered in the proposal.
- Soil and nutrient management is not provided for and there is no vote for the dissemination of the information in the national soil map to farmers.
- There is nothing on Business Advisory Services.
- Support to farming cooperatives is also missing in the proposals.
- Sound agroecological practices is missing in the overarching provisions of Agriculture.

7. Recommendations

The following recommendations are imperative for the improvement of Agricultural productivity across the value chains. They flow from this Review.

- Increase the vote of Agriculture to 70% of the Malabo commitment vis to N36,215,133,563.7. This is imperative to meet the demands of the sector which is the greatest contributor to the growth, economic welfare, livelihoods and job creation in Nasarawa State. The bulk of the allocation should be used to increase capital expenditure and the requisite overheads. Nasarawa Agriculture Value Chain Development Programme should get some capital votes.
- Gender friendly agriculture machineries for reduction of drudgery and increased productivity e.g. cost effective mini-tractors, tillers, mound makers, planters, weeders, multi crop threshers, ploughs, harvesters and the complete cassava processing machine from harvesting, peeling to frying, hatchery machine for poultry farming, etc., should be provided. Mechanisation needs to be tied to local technology and the products of Nigerian Agriculture Research Institutions especially the innovations of National Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation (NCAM), which develops and standardises local farm technology.
- There should be separate and distinct provisions for women and youths in Agriculture. Specifically target small scale women farmers with some of the votes to improve gender responsiveness.

- Adaptive research, unified and all-inclusive extension services should get not less than fifty percent of the funds voted for capacity building - not less than N1.3b.
- The vote for capacity building for stakeholders and professional human resource development should be disaggregated and the beneficiaries properly defined.
- Development of livestock value chains in the sum of N1.234billion should be increased by not less than 150%.
- Sound agroecological practices should be mainstreamed in the budget especially in supplies, access to farm inputs and supplies such as organic fertilisers and herbicides, seeds, seedlings, stems, quality poultry feeds, etc.
- Reduction of post-harvest losses should be tied to available local technology and expertise especially, the innovations of the Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute (NSPRI), a key Nigerian federal body focused on reducing post-harvest losses through research, developing storage technologies (like specialised silos/structures), training farmers, and creating solutions for handling crops like grains, legumes, and spices to ensure food security and better farmer income. Headquartered in Ilorin, Nigeria, NSPRI has outstations and conducts research on improving post-harvest handling, processing, and storage for various.
- The vote of N100m for enhancement of fisheries resources development should be increased to a minimum of N1b. the State should seek technical collaboration with the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR) - a multidisciplinary marine research institute and Nigeria's prime institute for Marine Sciences with extensive capacity in aquaculture and fisheries.
- Increase the vote for forest resource conservation and preservation of biodiversity by not less than 500% and seek collaboration with the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria which has strong technical competence in this field.
- Provide Business Advisory Services which unties and disseminates the business opportunities along the different animal and crops value chains and thereby make it possible for farmers to take advantage of investment opportunities.
- Revolving credit facilities for increased productivity allocated to cooperatives and other similar women farmer groups.
- Capacity building in agroecological practices that increase productivity and improve soil and nutrients management.
- Provision of support to cooperatives of small-scale processors, storage providers and other operatives on the value chains is needed for improved

productivity, ease of access to financial and technical support for inclusivity and agroecology.

- Access to Water for irrigation farming and construction of boreholes for poultry and animal husbandry.
- Deploy the votes in *Effective Governance of the Agriculture Sector* to ensure that there is empirical up to date policies in Agriculture and sub specifics of a legislated Extension Services Policy.

There is therefore need to increase the allocation to capital expenditure to meet the demands of the Sector.