



Centre for Social Justice Newsletter, December 2025

In this Newsletter, CSJ focused on four key issues vis, Analysis of Agriculture Sector Budget Proposals; Validation Meeting of the Audit Opportunities Assessment Study; Validation Meeting of the Corruption Risk Assessment Review Report and Engagement of the Senate Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions.

Analysis of Agricultural Sector Budget Proposals

CSJ with the support of the International Budget Partnership conducted an analysis of the Agriculture Budget presented by Governors to the respective State Houses of Assembly in five states: Jigawa, Niger, Nasarawa, Oyo, and Anambra. The analysis applied across all states focused on: allocation to the agriculture sector, six-year trend analysis, assessment of the real value of allocations, disaggregation of total and capital agriculture budgets, and evidence-based recommendations. This uniform approach ensured comparability while allowing state-specific insights to emerge.

Findings across the states revealed consistently low and fluctuating funding for agriculture, with allocations remaining below recommended benchmarks. Although nominal allocations showed marginal increases in some years, trend and value analysis demonstrated that inflation and currency depreciation significantly reduced real investment in the sector.

The analysis strengthened SWOFON's evidence base for targeted advocacy and informed engagements on capital budget prioritization and implementation. The budget analysis briefs were disseminated to Honorable Members of the State Houses of Assembly in the five states, to support informed legislative budget debates, and policy dialogue.

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Review of 2026 Anambra State Agriculture Budget Proposal

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Review of 2026 Niger State Agriculture Budget Proposal

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Review of 2026 Nasarawa State Agriculture Budget Proposal

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CSJ Organizes the Validation Meeting of the Audit Opportunities Assessment Study

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(RoLAC) Programme II, organized the Validation Meeting of the Audit Opportunities Assessment Study. The validation meeting allowed key accountability institutions, civil society, anti-corruption agencies and the media to review the draft study, address gaps, and ensure that the recommendations align with practical reform pathways at federal and subnational levels.

Overall Objectives of the Validation Meeting

- To subject the draft Audit Opportunities Assessment Study to expert and stakeholder validation before publication and public presentation.
- To confirm the accuracy, completeness and contextual relevance of findings on losses, risks, and institutional weaknesses in the federal audit system.
- To refine the Study's recommendations to ensure that they offer actionable pathways for legislative, institutional, and policy reforms.
- To strengthen stakeholder ownership and enhance advocacy effectiveness ahead of the final public presentation

Participants agreed that the inputs gathered at the meeting would be incorporated into the final version of the Audit Opportunities Assessment Study. They also recommended the preparation of a concise policy brief to ensure the findings and recommendations are accessible to policymakers and stakeholders. The collective objective remains clear: to build an audit system in which compliance is rewarded, non-compliance is penalized, and impunity is no longer tolerated .

CSJ Organizes Validation Meeting of the Corruption Risk Assessment Review Report



CSJ in collaboration with Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) (and supported by the European Union funded Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC) Programme II), organized the Validation Meeting on Corruption Risk Assessment Review Reports. The validation meeting brought together representatives from the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), and Universal Basic Education (UBEC), experts and stakeholders to scrutinize the draft, confirm the findings, identify gaps, and provide additional evidence or clarifications where necessary. Invited stakeholders had the opportunity to review the draft report ahead of the meeting and came prepared to validate the findings and/or offer corrections. Their input was crucial and ensured that the final report is credible, balanced, and suitable for public release.

Overall Objectives of the Validation Meeting

- To subject the draft Corruption Risk Assessment Review Report to technical, institutional and stakeholder validation before publication;
- To confirm the accuracy, completeness, and fairness of the identified risks, gaps and compliance levels;
- To incorporate stakeholder feedback and additional evidence into the final report;
- To strengthen stakeholder ownership and improve the usefulness of the Review as a tool for advocacy and institutional reform

The draft report was presented to the three agencies, and each was given the opportunity to submit a detailed written response. They were expected to provide a clause-by-clause reaction to the report, including any additional evidence that may warrant revisions.

Advocacy Meeting Between CSJ And Senate Committee on Agriculture Colleges and Institutions



CSJ in collaboration with Small-Scale Women Farmers Organization in Nigeria (SWOFON) with the support of Heinrich Böll Stiftung Nigeria; paid an advocacy visit to the Senate Committee on Agriculture Colleges and Institutions, represented by its chairman Senator Sharafadeen Abiodun Ali Ph.D to discuss challenges facing Nigeria's agricultural research institutions and extension service delivery, and to explore legislative and budgetary actions required to improve agricultural productivity, particularly for small-scale women farmers.

CSJ presented the findings of studies conducted across federal agricultural research institutes, noting that although these institutions are statutorily mandated to address challenges across the agriculture value chain ranging from mechanization, post-harvest losses, crop and livestock development, and value addition, etc. However, they remain severely underfunded. Most allocations are absorbed by personnel costs, limiting innovation uptake and scaling.

Field engagements revealed that despite the limited funding, research institutes have developed cost-effective and locally appropriate solutions, including affordable tractors, improved seeds, disease-resistant crops, processing equipment, and post-harvest technologies but these innovations remain largely unutilized due to weak government patronage and the collapse of extension services.

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showed that unlike Nigeria, countries such as Kenya and Ghana operate legislated extension services with defined structures, funding sources, and accountability mechanisms. CSJ noted that although a bill on Legislated Extension Services is pending in the House of Representatives, it requires technical refinement, which CSJ is undertaking independently for submission to the National Assembly.

Through facilitated engagements between research institutes and SWOFON members, CSJ demonstrated that direct linkages can immediately improve farmers' access to affordable, quality inputs, particularly seeds. There is also the need to promote sustainable and sound agroecological practices that guarantees livelihoods, improves rural economies and mainstreams and empowers women. CSJ therefore called for stronger legislative support for extension services, better utilization of research outputs through budgetary appropriations, and strategic deployment of constituency project funds under CSJ campaign for **“Constituency Year of Agriculture”**.

The Chairman acknowledged CSJ's contributions and confirmed that legislators were advised to prioritize agriculture-related projects under constituency projects in the main and supplementary budgets. While this has contributed to reduced prices of raw farm produce, he noted that consumer prices remain high due to market inefficiencies and pricing practices beyond the farm gate.

He outlined ongoing constituency-level interventions, including the distribution of farm inputs, financial support for cassava cultivation, and partnerships with international agencies and local NGOs to support women and youth farmers in Oyo South-West senatorial zone. Plans are underway to establish a cassava processing facility in Ibarapa to reduce transportation costs and improve value addition.

The Chairman agreed that agricultural colleges and research institutions are poorly funded and committed to engage National Assembly leadership on improving their funding. He also emphasized the need to address policy discontinuity across federal and state levels. He reiterated the need for strong collaboration with knowledge institutions like CSJ and grassroots groups like SWOFON to ensure that critical matters of interest to improving agricultural productivity are addressed in budgets, legislative oversight and policy frameworks.

Key Issues Identified

- Chronic under-funding of agricultural colleges and research institutes.
- Poor utilization of locally developed agricultural innovations.
- Absence of a legislated and funded extension service system.
- Ineffective use of service votes for post-harvest loss reduction.
- Policy discontinuity affecting long-term agricultural development.

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Agreements and Commitments

- Strengthened collaboration between CSJ and the Senate Committees on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions.
- Support for refining and advancing the Legislated Extension Services Bill.
- Improved legislative advocacy for funding and utilization of research outputs.
- Commitment to structured engagement between researchers and farmers.
- The meeting reaffirmed the central role of legislation, funding, and coordination in revitalizing Nigeria's agricultural institutions. It also established a framework for sustained collaboration between CSJ and the Senate Committee to advance inclusive, productivity-driven, and gender-responsive agricultural reforms.



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