



# ANALYSIS OF THE 2024 PROPOSED AGRICULTURE BUDGET

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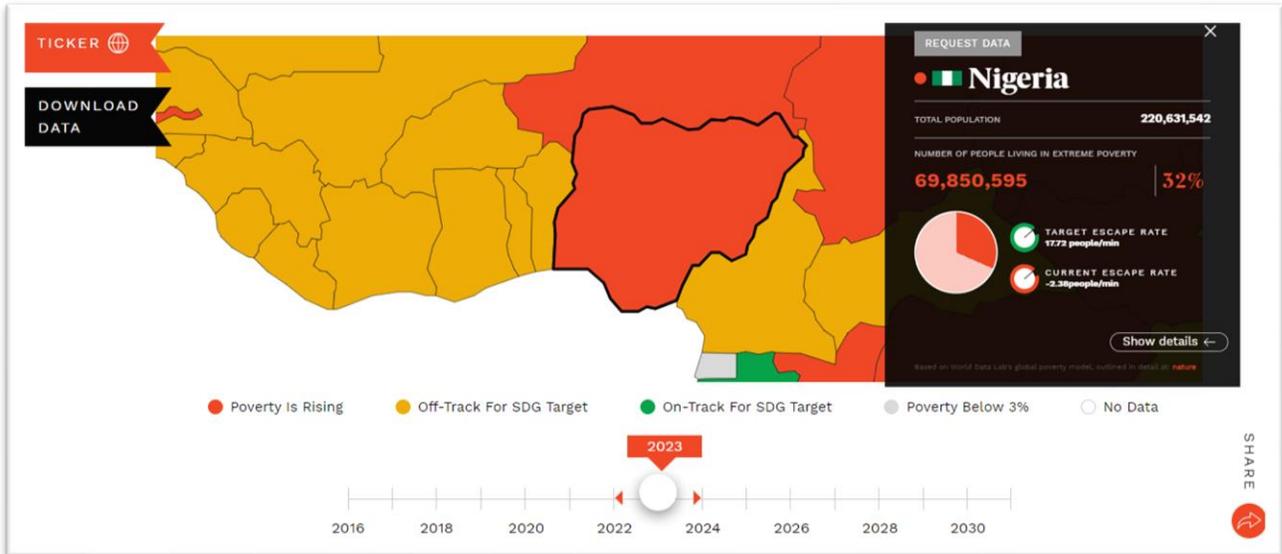
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# INTRODUCTION

## Background: Rising Poverty, Inflation and Budget as a Potential Remedy

As of December 2023, approximately **70 million Nigerians live in extreme poverty**. 89 per cent of these citizens are in rural areas, while 11 per cent are in urban areas. Extreme poverty is characterised by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, clean water, shelter, education, and healthcare.



**70 million Nigerians across the county live below \$1.9 = ₦1,700.00 a day.**

**89% in Rural Area | 11% in Urban Area.**

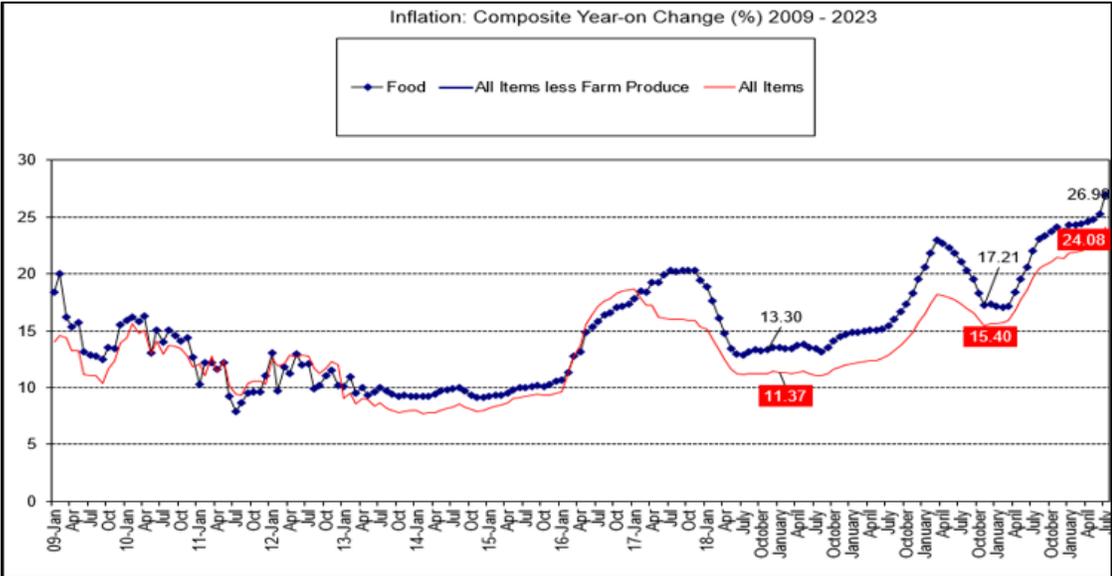
- More than 28million Nigerian lack access to decent and affordable housing. 2.37million IDPs**
- 26.5 million Nigerians projected to be food insecure in 2024. 18.6million Nigerians food insecure in 2023. 12.7% of Nigerians undernourished. An estimated 2 million children in Nigeria suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM).**
- 70 million Nigerians lack potable water. 3 in 10 people in Nigeria do not have clean water close to home, putting them under constant threat from waterborne diseases like cholera.**
- Over 80% of PHCs not functional. 90% of Nigerians pay Out-Of-Pocket for Healthcare Healthcare Access in Nigeria is only 43.3%.**
- 20 million out-of-school children. Over 7.5million girls not enrolled in School in Nigeria. 53.4 % of Youth Unemployment. Nigeria ranks 6th in the world, with a crime index.**

Nigerians living in extreme poverty face significant challenges in meeting their fundamental requirements for a decent standard of living. The concept is often quantified using an

international poverty line, which is a specific income threshold set by the World Bank. The international poverty line is set at \$1.90 (or N1,700) per day, indicating that individuals living on this amount or less are considered to be in extreme poverty; for Nigeria this is over 70 million people who earn nothing above one thousand seven hundred naira (NGN1, 700.00) a day. Highlights from the Nigerian 2022 Multidimensional Poverty Index survey show that 133 million people, or 63% of the country's population, live in multidimensional poverty. The National MPI of 0.257 shows that the poor in Nigeria experience slightly more than 25% of all potential deprivations. Three quarters of the impoverished, roughly 47 million Nigerians live in the South, while 65% (or 86 million Nigerians) live in the North. States differ greatly in their levels of poverty; in Ondo, the incidence of multidimensional poverty is as low as 27%, while in Sokoto, it is as high as 91%. Instead of using cleaner energy to cook, almost half of Nigeria's population cooks with charcoal, wood, or dung because they are multi-dimensionally impoverished. Nationally, there is also a noticeable high level of deprivation in food security, housing, healthcare access, and sanitation.

With the continuous rising inflation in the country following the fuel subsidy removal in May 2023, and low productivity in the country, more Nigerians are sure to slide below the poverty line; pushing more youth into unemployment; agitation, social aggression, and violent crime. In October 2023, the headline inflation rate increased to 27.33% relative to the September 2023 headline inflation rate, which was 26.72%. Looking at the movement, the October 2023 headline inflation rate showed an increase of 0.61% points when compared to the September 2023 headline inflation rate. Furthermore, on a year-on-year basis, the headline inflation rate was 6.24% points higher compared to the rate recorded in October 2022, which was (21.09%). This shows that the headline inflation rate (year-on-year basis) increased in October 2023 when compared to the same month in the preceding year (i.e., October 2022).

Figure 1: Inflation: Composition Year-on-Year 2009 - 2023



Source: NBS 2023

In September 2023, the annual rate of food inflation was 30.64 percent, 7.30 percentage points greater than the rate reported in September 2022 (23.34 percent). Nigeria has seen an increase in food prices in recent years. The effects of government initiatives, such the elimination of gasoline subsidies, among others, caused the situation to worsen. During his inauguration on May 29, President Bola Tinubu declared that the gasoline subsidy will be eliminated. Many Nigerians have experienced hardship because of this trend and the resulting rise in the cost of goods and services.

Since the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) declared in June 2023 that it has collapsed all forex windows into the Investors and Exporters (I&E) window, the naira has lost almost 50% of its value in the last four months in both the authorized and unauthorized market segments. The action is a component of the Nigerian government's attempts to increase market stability and liquidity as well as draw in foreign investment to the country's economy, according to the apex bank. Despite widespread acknowledgement for the policy's necessity, it has increased pressure on local producers and the value of the local currency, which has had an impact on domestic prices.

Reducing poverty and food inflation requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach involving various stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, NGOs, and local communities. Literatures present several strategies that can be employed to address these issues such as the poverty reduction strategies and food inflation reduction strategies.

Poverty Reduction Strategies	Food Inflation Reduction Strategies
<p><b><u>Education and Skills Training:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Invest in education and vocational training to enhance the skills of the workforce.</li> <li>✓ Promote lifelong learning and skill development to adapt to changing job markets.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Employment Opportunities:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Encourage job creation through small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).</li> <li>✓ Support entrepreneurship and provide financial assistance to start-ups.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Social Safety Nets:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Establish and strengthen social safety net programs to provide financial assistance to the poor and vulnerable.</li> <li>✓ Implement conditional cash transfer programs to incentivize behaviours such as education and healthcare.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Access to Financial Services:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Promote financial inclusion by providing access to credit, savings, and insurance services.</li> <li>✓ Support microfinance initiatives to empower individuals and small businesses.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Infrastructure Development:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Invest in infrastructure projects, including transportation, energy, and sanitation, to create jobs and stimulate economic growth.</li> <li>✓ Invest in lighting and other security infrastructure in and around farming communities.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Agricultural Development:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Invest in modern agricultural practices, technology, and research to increase productivity.</li> <li>✓ Support smallholder farmers with access to seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Storage and Distribution Infrastructure:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Improve storage facilities to reduce post-harvest losses.</li> <li>✓ Develop efficient transportation systems to facilitate the movement of food from farms to markets.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Trade Policies:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Implement trade policies that ensure fair pricing and minimize market distortions.</li> <li>✓ Facilitate international trade to address local shortages through imports.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Diversification of Agriculture:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Encourage diversification of crops to enhance food security and reduce reliance on a single commodity.</li> <li>✓ Promote sustainable agricultural practices i.e. multi-cropping, agroecology, etc to safeguard the environment.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Research and Innovation:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Invest in agricultural research and innovation to develop resilient crops and sustainable farming practices.</li> <li>✓ Support the adoption of technology, such as precision farming and ag-tech solutions.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Climate Change Mitigation:</u></b></p>

<p><u>Healthcare Access:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ensure affordable and accessible healthcare services to prevent health-related poverty.</li> <li>✓ Promote awareness of preventive healthcare measures.</li> </ul> <p><u>Land Reforms:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Implement land reforms to ensure equitable distribution of land resources.</li> <li>✓ Support landless farmers and provide secure land tenure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Develop strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change on agriculture.</li> <li>✓ Promote climate-resilient farming techniques i.e. agroecology and assist communities affected by climate-related disasters.</li> </ul> <p><u>Community Empowerment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Involve local communities in decision-making processes related to agriculture and food security, especially women and youth.</li> <li>✓ Foster community-led initiatives for sustainable agriculture and food production.</li> </ul>
<b>Attend to Rural Security:</b>	
<p>Support the formation of community policing and vigilante groups to monitor and safeguard local areas.</p> <p>Collaborate with law enforcement agencies to provide training and support for these community-based security initiatives.</p> <p>Deploying security personnel to vulnerable areas.</p> <p>Ensure effective communication and coordination between local communities and government security agencies.</p> <p>Implement technology solutions such as CCTV cameras, drones, and satellite imagery for monitoring and surveillance of farming areas.</p> <p>Use mobile applications or community alert systems to report and respond to security threats promptly.</p> <p>Improve information-sharing mechanisms between security agencies and local communities.</p> <p>Establish communication channels to disseminate security updates and alerts to farmers.</p> <p>Support engagement with local community leaders to promote a sense of responsibility and ownership for security within the community.</p> <p>Establish and support mechanisms for resolving conflicts peacefully to prevent escalation into violence.</p> <p>Support sustained train community leaders in conflict resolution and mediation skills.</p> <p>Provide alternative livelihood options for individuals at risk of engaging in criminal activities.</p>	

Extreme poverty in Nigeria is a complex and multifaceted issue influenced by factors such as economic conditions, poor political leadership, political and institutional corruption, poor market structures, insecurity, social inequalities, poor access to education, shortage in technical skills, very limited access to financing, and lack of inclusive planning. Efforts to alleviate extreme poverty often involve a combination of economic development policies (fiscal and monetary policies), social programs, infrastructure investments and international cooperation; most of which are captured in the national budget. The budget of a country is a financial plan that outlines the government's revenues and expenditures for a specific period, typically one fiscal year. It serves as a comprehensive roadmap for how the government intends to allocate resources to various programs, services, and projects.

According to the International Budget Partnership (IBP), the importance of a country's budget lies in several factors:

Resource Allocation: The budget helps the government allocate resources efficiently to meet its policy objectives. It reflects the priorities of the government and its commitment to different sectors.

Policy Implementation: The budget serves as a tool for implementing government policies. It outlines the financial resources available for various programs, enabling the government to execute its plans effectively.

Fiscal Discipline: A well-managed budget promotes fiscal discipline by ensuring that government spending does not exceed available resources. It helps prevent excessive borrowing and contributes to economic stability.

Accountability and Transparency: The budget process promotes accountability and transparency in government operations. Citizens can assess how public funds are being used and hold the government accountable for its financial decisions.

Macroeconomic Stability: A balanced budget contributes to macroeconomic stability by avoiding excessive inflation or deflation. It helps maintain a sustainable fiscal policy that supports overall economic health.

Debt Management: The budget plays a crucial role in managing a country's debt. Governments must consider their borrowing needs and ensure that debt levels are sustainable in the long term.

Investor Confidence: A transparent and well-managed budget enhances investor confidence. It provides insight into the government's economic policies and its ability to meet financial obligations.

A country's budget is a fundamental tool for managing its finances, implementing policies, and promoting economic stability. It reflects the government's priorities, ensures accountability, and influences the overall well-being of the nation.

President Bola Tinubu unveiled the N27.5 trillion budget estimates for the 2024 fiscal year. The budget was presented to a joint session of the National Assembly on Wednesday 29 November 2023, where it is undergoing scrutiny and deliberation for final approval. In his presentation, he declared, the 2024 Appropriation has been themed the **Budget of Renewed Hope**. The proposed budget seeks to achieve job-rich economic growth, macro-economic stability, a better investment environment, enhanced human capital development, as well as poverty reduction and greater access to social security.



According to President Bola Tinubu, some of the major targets of the 2024 Budget of Renewed Hope are poverty reduction, human capital development, macroeconomic stability, local job creation, macroeconomic defence and internal security, and social security<sup>1</sup>.

### Agriculture Performance in Nigeria

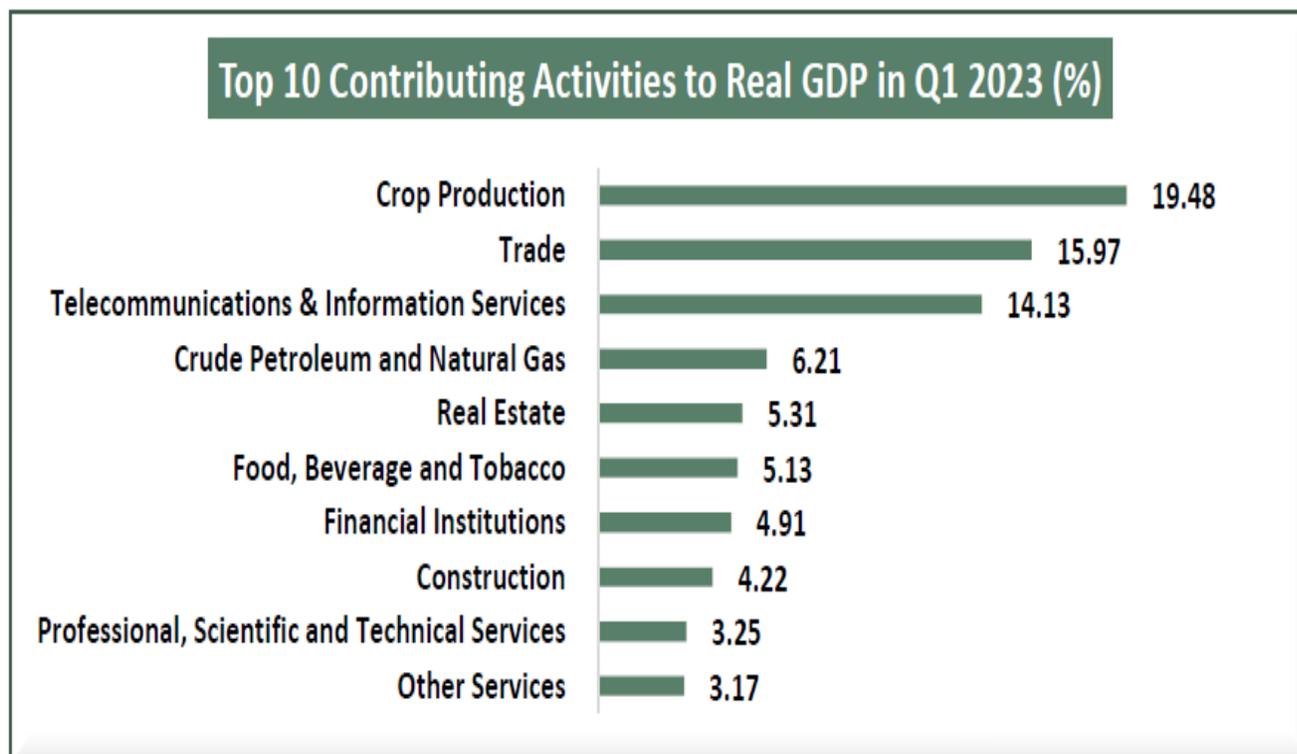
Nigeria is well known for its oil wealth, but the agricultural sector is the backbone of the country's economy. Agriculture has long been a cornerstone of Nigeria's economy, providing livelihoods for millions of people and contributing significantly to the nation's GDP. For

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<sup>1</sup> The Office of the Presidency (November 29, 2023): President Tinubu: Security, Job Creation, Poverty Reduction Top Priorities for 2024 Budget. <https://statehouse.gov.ng/news/president-tinubu-security-job-creation-poverty-reduction-top-priorities-for-2024-budget/#:~:text=Giving%20a%20breakdown%20of%20the,8.25%20trillion%20naira%20and%20capital>

instance, in Q1 of 2023, Agriculture accounts for about 19.5% of GDP, compared to trade (15.97%), telecommunication and information service (14.13%), oil and gas (6.21%), food, beverage and tobacco (5.31%), and trade (15.97%).

Figure 2: Sector Contribution to Real GDP in Q1 2023



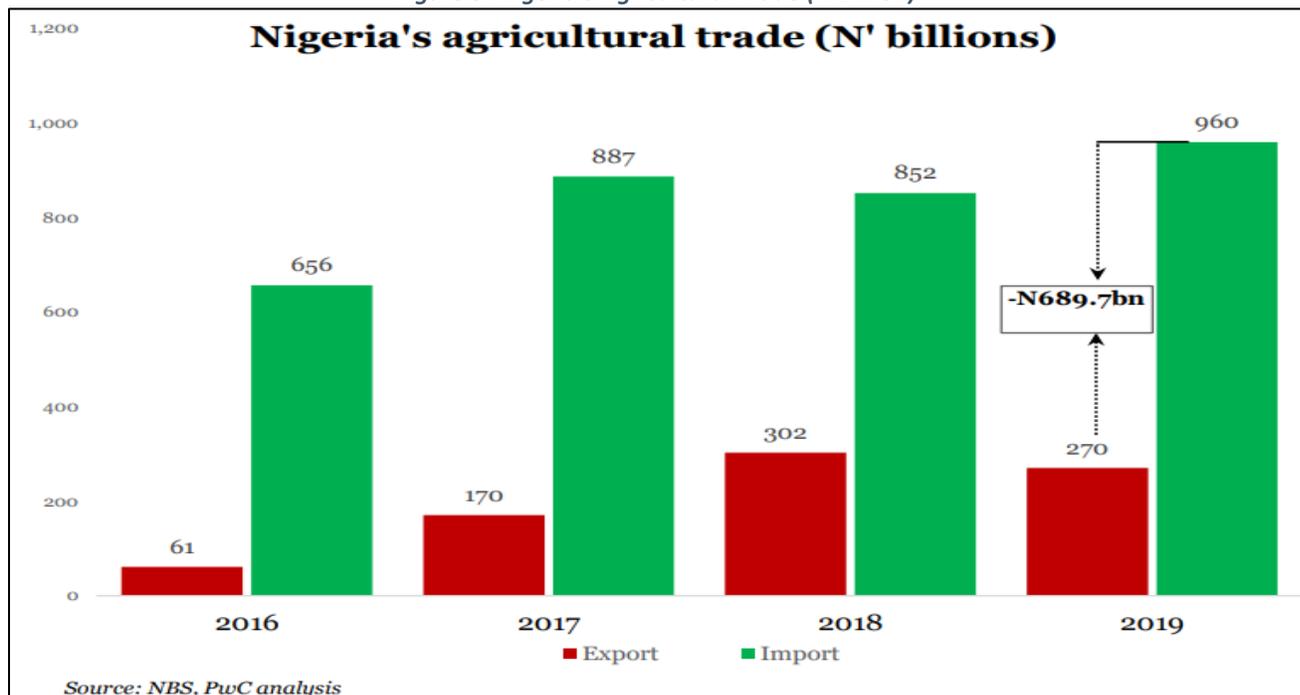
Source: NBS Nigeria Gross Domestic Product Report Q1 2023

**Sector Challenges:** Despite the contribution to the economy, Nigeria’s agricultural sector faces many challenges. It needs to feed a rapidly expanding population in a warming climate characterised by increasingly frequent floods and droughts that reduce soil fertility, while parts of the country remain in conflict, ranging from the Boko Haram crisis in the northeast to farmer–herder clashes in the Middle Belt. The Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions exacerbated the situation through supply-chain disruptions that have led to spiralling food-price inflation. Other challenges include poor land tenure system, low level of irrigation farming, land degradation from conventional monoculture and tillage. Others are low technology application, high production cost and poor distribution of inputs, limited financing and corruption, high post-harvest losses (40% food waste) and poor access to markets.

These challenges have stifled agricultural productivity affecting the sector’s contribution to the country’s GDP as well as **increased food imports** due population rise hence declining levels of food sufficiency. For instance, between 2016 and 2019, Nigeria’s cumulative agricultural imports stood at N3.35 trillion, four times higher than the agricultural export of N803 billion

within the same period<sup>2</sup>. According to the [International Trade Administration \(2023\)](#), Nigeria relies on \$10 billion of imports to meet its food and agricultural production shortfalls (mostly wheat, rice, poultry, fish, food services, and consumer-oriented foods). Europe, Asia, the United States, South America, and South Africa are major sources for Nigeria’s agricultural imports.

Figure 3: Nigeria's Agricultural Trade (N' Billion)



Nigeria’s major agricultural imports include wheat, sugar, fish, and milk, while the main agricultural exports include sesame seeds, cashew nuts, cocoa beans, ginger, frozen shrimp, and cotton. Sesame, cashew nuts and cocoa account for more than half of the nation’s agricultural exports. These exports are facing major threats of export rejection due to safety standards i.e. presence of toxic pesticides and aflatoxins in Nigeria’s food export. For instance, Nigeria is already losing over \$367million annually from the export ban on Nigerian Bean by the Europe. EU and Asia reject over 76% of Nigeria’s food export crops due to safety standards.

According to the Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS), Nigeria loses about \$362.5m yearly in foreign exchange due to the ban on the exportation of beans in the last eight years. The banned beans were found to contain between 0.03mg kilograms to 4.6mg/kg of Dichlorvos<sup>3</sup>; a Highly Hazardous Pesticide (HHP) activity ingredient banned in the EU since 2006 and many other countries



<sup>2</sup> PWC (September 2020): Current State of Nigeria Agriculture and Agribusiness Sector: State of Agriculture in Nigeria.  
<sup>3</sup> Voice of Nigeria (Sept 3, 2022): [Nigerian Government Strategize to Life EU Ban on Agricultural Export](#)

(like Japan, China, India, Canada, and Australia, etc) due to its health and environmental effect.

According to the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), over 76 per cent of the country's commodities are often rejected by the EU for not meeting required safety standards<sup>4</sup>. Agricultural products like beans, sesame seeds, melon seeds, dried fish, dried meat, peanut ships, groundnut, palm oil and yam, exported from Nigeria have in the past 10 years been banned by the EU partly due to the presence of dangerous pesticide residues. The export of crops grown with such pesticides to Europe or other target markets with similar regulations most often attracts automatic rejection. In 2013, 24 agro products originating from Nigeria but exported to the United Kingdom were rejected, the figure increased to 42 in 2014. In 2016, 24 exported food products were also rejected<sup>5</sup>. Recent data on similar rejections are yet to be reported as the ban persists on our food export markets. Recently, the Japanese government has given Nigeria a warning signal of a possible rejection of Nigeria's Sesame seed due to the presence of pesticide residue. With Nigeria accounting for 30 per cent of Japanese sesame imports, this will spell a huge loss for the country.

The rejection of Nigeria's agricultural food export is a major setback for a country desperate to expand its export basket, increase FOREX earnings and create jobs. Aside from the money lost by exporters and the Nigerian government, the continuous rejection of Nigeria's food exports is a dent in the country's image.

Aside the rising food import receipt, Nigeria is already experiencing a huge malnutrition burden. At least 17 million Nigerian children are undernourished; stunted and/or wasted, giving Nigeria the highest burden of malnutrition in Africa and the second highest in the world. The national prevalence of stunting of children under the age of five is 43.6%, significantly higher than the developing-country average of 25%. Nigeria's under-five wasting prevalence of 10.8% is also higher than the developing-country average of 8.9%. Almost half (49.8%) of women of reproductive age suffer from anaemia, and 6.3% of adult men and 6% of women have diabetes<sup>6</sup>

During the electioneering, President Bola Tinubu promised Nigerians to increase agricultural production to ensure sufficient food in the country and guarantee food security. One of the priority agendas for achieving food sufficiency and affordability is to cultivate 500,000 hectares of farmland across the country to produce maize, rice, wheat, and other Crops. To demonstrate the administration's seriousness about local production of agricultural produce, President Tinubu



<sup>4</sup> Premium Times (Aug 10 2021): [Over 76% of Nigeria's Agricultural commodities Rejected by EU - NAFDAC](#)

<sup>5</sup> European Commission Rapid Alert System (Punch Newspaper January 13, 2017): [EU Rejects 67 Nigerian Foods in Two Years](#)

<sup>6</sup> Global Nutrition Report, 2020. <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/africa/western-africa/nigeria/>

declared a state of emergency on food security in July. Acting on the mandate to cultivate 500,000 hectares of land and promote year-round farming, the federal ministry of agriculture and food security has imported 6,750 metric tonnes of hybrid wheat seeds for dry-season farming. President Bola Tinubu has promised to establish a National Agricultural Commodity Directorate, if elected in 2023<sup>7</sup>.

The Government has implemented several initiatives and programmes to address the situation including the Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP), Nigeria–Africa Trade and Investment Promotion Programme, Presidential Economic Diversification Initiative, Economic and Export Promotion Incentives and the Zero Reject Initiative, Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+); Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP); Action Against Desertification (AAD) Programme, among others.

The government of Nigeria has also initiated agricultural programs such as the Anchor Borrowers Program (ABP) to diversify its economy away from oil. In October 2021, the government at the Council on Agriculture and Rural Development Regular meeting, approved the implementation of new agricultural policy named “National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Plan” (NATIP) in 2022. The four-year blueprint designed to help Nigeria’s COVID-19 economic recovery. This policy will replace the Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) that was launched in 2016 but terminated in December 2020.

In December 2021, the government of Nigeria launched the National Development Plan (2021-2025). The plan was formulated specifically to tackle existing development challenges confronting the country – especially addressing farmers’ needs. The plan sets targets and identifies priority areas, addressing gaps in infrastructure, macroeconomic stability, social investment, and adaptation to climate change. The plan recognizes lessons learned and builds on the foundation developed in previous plans (e.g., Vision 20:2020, the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, and the Economic Sustainability Plan).

The plan also outlines the central role that food security plays in the country’s growth and development. The government and various stakeholders have identified food insecurity as a major challenge – especially the fragile state of cereal production. Food security is a prerequisite for development, but the global experience confirms that sufficient food supply alone is not enough. Dietary diversity, food quality, prenatal and paediatric dietary education, access to health services, water, sanitation, and other public health measures are indispensable development needs.

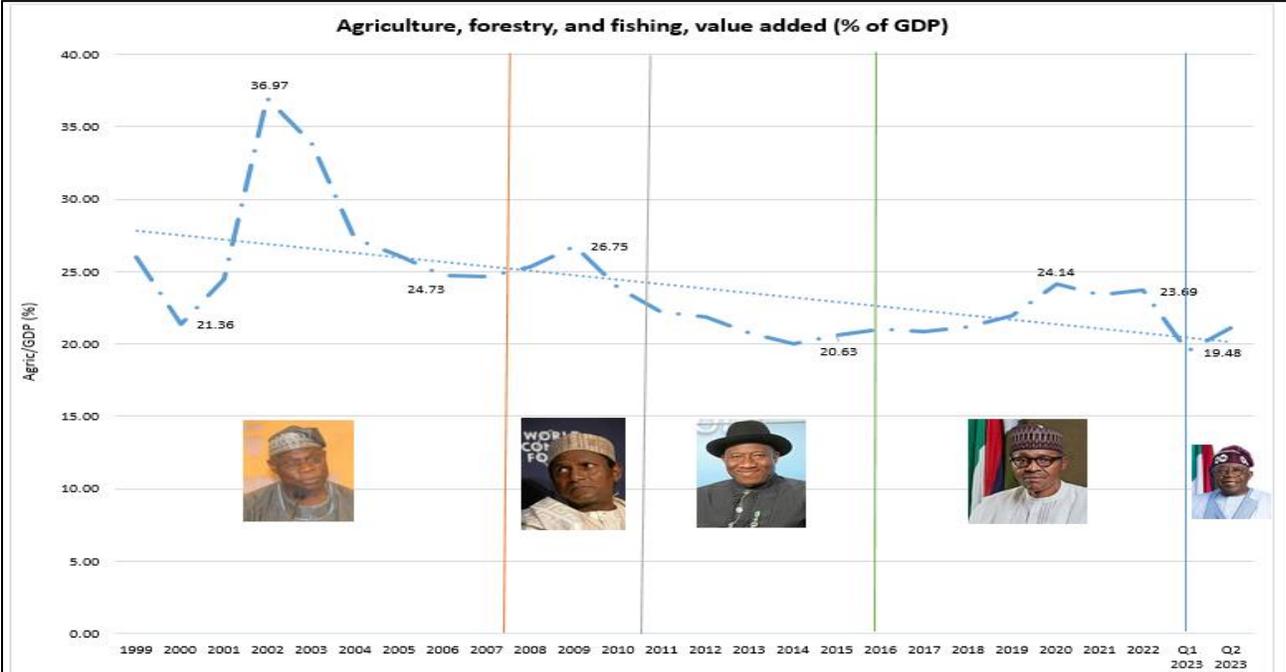
All these efforts aim to increase agricultural productivity in order to provide sufficient quantities of food to meet domestic demand as well as an abundance of commodity crops for export in

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<sup>7</sup> 2023: Tinubu promises to establish national agricultural commodity directorate <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/564040-2023-tinubu-promises-to-establish-national-agricultural-commodity-directorate.html>

the international market. Besides, they aim at reversing forest loss and degradation; promoting sustainable management of natural resources; rehabilitation of degraded lands and reducing erosion and climate vulnerability. Sadly, even when Nigeria's government or development partners create and execute climate change adaptation and mitigation plans in the sector, these solutions, particularly those for women; are most often not sustainable, economically feasible, or ecologically or socially sustainable.

Figure 4: Agriculture to GDP (%) from 1999 - 2023



Source: Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)

As a critical sector, the performance of the agricultural sector is closely linked to government budgetary allocations, policies, and interventions, especially as the sector is highly susceptible to climate change effects. Effective climate budgeting requires meaningful participation and systematic public engagement. Without these it is difficult for governments to provide climate financing that aligns with household priorities, and households will continue to spend large amounts of money responding and adapting to climate change without, and sometimes against the flow of, public financing.

**Budgeting for Agriculture:**

This section examines the projected 2024 agricultural sector budget in order to shed light on how the Nigerian agricultural sector is financed and set up for expansion, employs the vast majority of the country's farmers, satisfies domestic food needs, and brings in foreign exchange through the export of high-quality processed agricultural commodities.

The following other aspects will be emphasized:

- i. Budget adequacy and alignment with the CAADP framework.

- ii. How the budget addresses the challenges raised by women, youth, and smallholder farmers.
- iii. Funding for agricultural components such automation, irrigation, help for reducing post-harvest losses, climate resilience and sustainable agriculture, access to financing, extension services, etc.

The Malabo Declaration's objectives for decreasing post-harvest losses, resource adequacy, and using the agricultural sector to account for a 50% reduction in poverty will be used to assess the budget.

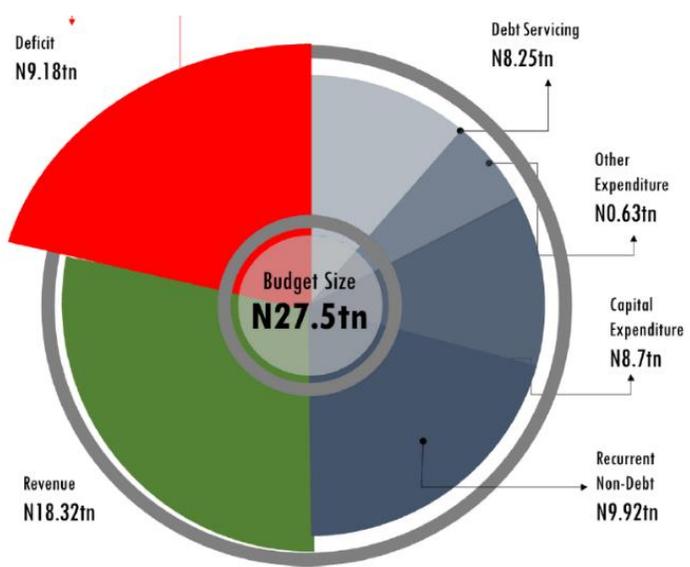
**Parameters and Fiscal Assumptions for the 2024 Budget**

Figure 5: Fiscal assumptions underpinning the 2024 budget compared to 2022 and 2023's.

<u>BUDGET PARAMETERS</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
 Crude oil price (US\$/b)	57	73	70	<b>78</b>
 Oil production (mbpd)	1.88	1.30	1.69	<b>1.78</b>
 Exchange rate (N/\$)	410	410.15	435.57	<b>750</b>
 GDP growth (%)	4.2	4.2	3.75	<b>3.76</b>
 Inflation (%)	13.0	13.0	17.16	<b>21.4</b>

Source: Budget Office of the Federation (2024 Proposed Budget)

Figure 6: FG'S 2024 BUDGET BREAKDOWN



The budget expenditure for the year as proposed stood at **N27.5 trillion**, the highest in the history of Nigeria and 10.79% higher than the 2023 revised budget (N24.83 trillion – addition of signed + supplementary budgets).

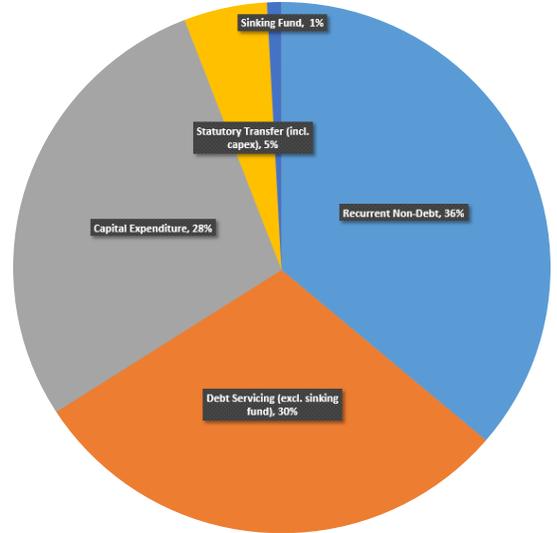
The Budget relies on the key assumptions outlined in Nigeria's Federal Government's 2024-2026 Medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF). Revenue projection surged by 65.8% to **N18.32 trillion**, surpassing the 2023 revised budget of **N11.05 trillion**.

Figure 7: Revenue Projection in the 2024 budget vis-a-vis 2023

	2024 ₦'trn	2023 ₦'trn	% Changes
<b>Aggregate Revenue</b>	<b>18.32</b>	<b>11.05</b>	<b>65.90%</b>
Oil	7.94	2.29	247.12%
Non-oil	3.52	2.43	44.72%
Independent & other Sources	6.86	6.33	8.38%

Source: Budget Office of the Federation

Expenditure projection rose by 10.3% to ₦27.5 trillion from the 2023-revised budget. The total expenditure breaks down as Capital expenditure at ₦7.72trn (28%), recurrent expenditure at ₦9.92trn (36.1%), and debt servicing at ₦8.25trn (30.0%). Debt service projection improves to 45.0% of revenue in 2024 from 73.5% in the 2023 budget proposal. The projection for capital expenditure improved by 34.7%, while non-debt recurrent expenditure increased by 19.1%. The total deficit hit ₦9.18 trillion, about 3.88% of the GDP, marking a shift toward better fiscal management.



The Nigerian Government intends to spend 30 percent of its 2024 budget on debt servicing, allocating less to critical sectors of the economy. The government budgeted ₦8.25 trillion (30 percent) for debt servicing in 2024 while critical sectors of the economy such as education was allocated ₦2.18 trillion, and the health sector ₦1.33 trillion, Infrastructure, defence, social development & poverty reduction were allocated ₦1.32 trillion, ₦3.25 trillion and ₦534 billion respectively in the budget.

The economy is expected to grow by 3.76%, while “inflation is expected to moderate to 21.4 percent in 2024.

Figure 8: Composition of the Total FGN Budget 2024, 2023 and % Changes

	2024 ₦'trn	2023 ₦'trn	% Changes
<b>Aggregate Expenditure</b>	<b>27.50</b>	<b>24.82</b>	<b>10.79%</b>
Recurrent Non-Debt	9.92	9.32	30.62%
Debt Servicing (excl. sinking fund)	8.25	6.31	30.62%
Capital Expenditure	7.72	7.96	-3.2%
Statutory Transfer (incl. capex)	1.38	0.99	39.63%
Sinking Fund	0.24	0.25	-1.64%
<b>Budget Deficit</b>	<b>9.18</b>	<b>13.78</b>	<b>-33.38%</b>

Source: Budget Office of the Federation.

## Highlights of the Proposed 2024 Budget

Figure 9: Highlights of the agriculture budget proposal for 2023

Item	Amount (₦)/percentage
<b>Total Budget for 2024</b>	<b>27,503,404,073,861</b>
Total Capital allocation	7,720,450,988,366
Total Recurrent allocation	9,915,640,118,974
<b>Total Allocation to the Agricultural Sector</b>	<b>362,940,656,160</b>
<b>Capital budget for the Agricultural sector</b>	<b>252,692,377,292</b>
Overhead budget for Agricultural Sector	8,152,441,260
Personnel budget for the Agricultural Sector	102,095,837,608
<b>Total recurrent budgets for the Agricultural sector</b>	<b>110,248,278,868</b>
<i>Percentage of agriculture capital allocation to the total capital expenditure</i>	3.27%
<i>Percentage of agriculture recurrent allocation to the total recurrent expenditure</i>	1.11%
<i>Percentage Allocation to the Agricultural sector</i>	1.32 %
<i>Percentage of capital expenditure in the agricultural sector</i>	69.6%
<i>Percentage of recurrent expenditure in the agricultural sector</i>	30.4%

Source: Budget Office of the Federation.

The table above shows that the government proposed to spend ₦27.5trillion in 2024 comprising; ₦7.72trn (28%) for capital projects and ₦9.92trillion (36.1%) for recurrent expenditure. Other components that make up the budget are the statutory transfer of ₦1.38trn (5%) and debt service (plus sinking fund) for ₦8.49trn (30%). With an estimated population of 226,155,630<sup>8</sup>, it can be said that the budget amount is low in terms of per-capital income<sup>9</sup>, which translates to ₦121,612.73 (USD162.15) for every Nigerian a year, and ₦333.19 a day. This is far less than 1 dollar per day.

### Percentage of Agriculture Sector Allocation from the Total Federal Government Budget (2017-2023)

The agriculture sector's share of the N27.5 trillion budget is N362.9 billion (1.32%), which is rather small when compared to the total amount allotted. The budget allocated to the agriculture sector has not exceeded two percent of the overall budget for the past seven years or more. Nonetheless, actual data has demonstrated that a sector's production in terms of social benefit to society increases with the amount of resources allocated to it. Enough support for the agriculture sector needs to be prioritized in the national budget since it is thought to have the most potential to change the economy and employ the hordes of young people.

President Bola Tinubu says Nigeria's national defence and internal security, local job creation, macro-economic stability, investment environment optimization, human capital development,

<sup>8</sup> WorldoMeter/World Population/Nigeria Accessed on 9.12.2023. <https://www.worldometers.info/>

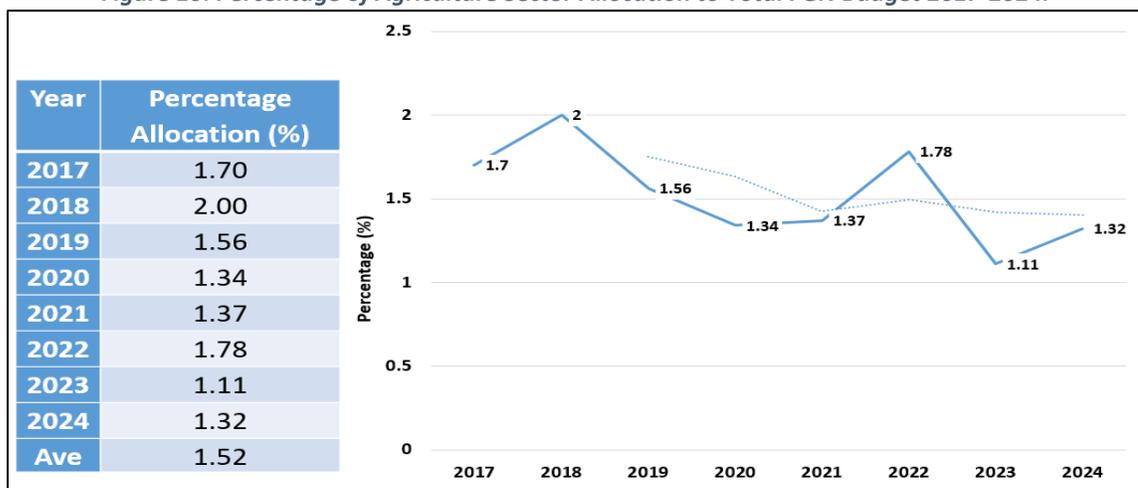
<sup>9</sup> Per capita income is a measure of the amount of money earned per person in a nation or geographic region. ... Per capita income for a nation is calculated by dividing the country's national income by its population.

poverty reduction, and social security are some of the top priorities of the 2024 Budget of Renewed Hope. Addressing a joint session of the National Assembly on Wednesday in Abuja during the presentation of the 2024 Federal budget proposal, President Tinubu said the nation’s internal security architecture will be overhauled to enhance law enforcement capabilities with a view to safeguarding lives, property, and investments across the country. He said the proposed budget prioritizes human capital development, with particular attention given to children, because human capital remains the most critical resource for national development<sup>10</sup>.

This is realistic as the level of insecurity has largely affect agricultural sector performance – as more farms, especially those in rural communities continue to being unsafe. However, if attention must be given to children and improving human capital, access to safe sustainable nutritious food and yields as raw materials for industries, must be guaranteed through increased agriculture sector promotion, and supports. This is more necessary now as the country’s agricultural vulnerability to climate change is reducing, and international commitments to addressing climate change financing is not forthcoming and accessing to countries in the global south, more commitments need to be seen from the government to address increased agriculture performance. Aggressive budget increase in agriculture sector is also necessary to widely address the food inflation and improving production standards to help the country generate more foreign revenue.

The proportion of agriculture to the overall FGN budget have been rather stagnant at an average of 1.52% of the total FGN budget. It increased from 1.70% in 2017 to 2.00% in 2018, then decreased to 1.56% in 2019, dropped even lower to 1.34% in 2020, increased to 1.37% in 2021; increased further to 1.78% in 2022, dropped to 1.11% in 2023, and now picking up to 1.32% in the 2024 proposals.

*Figure 10: Percentage of Agriculture Sector Allocation to Total FGN Budget 2017-2024.*



<sup>10</sup> Presidential Speech during the Presentation of the 2024 Budget in the Joint Session of the National Assembly.

### Budget Compliance to CAADP Framework (Malabo Declaration)

The allocation of ₦362.9billion to the agriculture sector in 2024 from ₦228.4billion allocated to the sector in 2023; is a significant growth rate of 55.9%. However, the increase in the sector is far from matching the volume of challenges faced by the sector to cause a significant improvement in the sector. For instance, climate change is increasing hunger, disease burden, food wastage, migration, conflict, and insecurity in Nigeria. It is damaging agricultural processes and potential, damaging infrastructure, changing the country's coastlines, fueling desertification and erosion, and resulting to loss of revenue for states and the national government. The total economic cost of climate change to Nigeria is estimated to be about USD 100billion<sup>11</sup> cumulatively – with a large fraction of this economic cost coming from the agricultural sector.

With rising inflation globally and the effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict that have driven up food prices, especially for basic staples such as wheat and maize, the Tinubu government must be more ambitious to change the status quo – and show more commitment to the Agricultural sector fiscal prioritization and improved budgeting.

The need for more increase in the budget allocation for Agriculture is evidence in the credit to Private sector players, which is rising, but not very accessible to farmers and investors in the Agricultural sector. For instance, the total credit allocated to the private sector in Q1 2021 stood at ₦62.28trn. The top three credit allocations went into the oil & gas industrial sector, manufacturing sector, and the general service sector with ₦11.97trn (19.22%), ₦9.82trn (15.77%), and ₦5.55trn (8.92%) respectively. Similarly, in Q2 2021, total credit allocation increased by 5.64% to ₦65.79trn, with the top three allocations to the oil & gas industrial sector, manufacturing sector, and general service sector recorded at ₦12.34trn (18.75%), ₦10.83trn (16.46%) and ₦6.24trn (9.48%) respectively.

The Q3 2021 credit allocations to the private sector further increased by 2.33% from the amount recorded in Q2 2021, showing a total of ₦67.33trn. Of this amount, allocation to the oil & gas industrial sector stood top at ₦12.32trn (18.29%), followed by the manufacturing sector with ₦11.14trn (16.55%) and the general service sector with ₦6.49trn (9.64%). In addition, ₦71.71trn was reported as a credit to the private sector in Q4 2021, indicating a growth rate of 6.52% from Q3 2021.

In addition, the level of Nigeria's agricultural mechanization is among the lowest globally. This is according to the National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Policy 2022-2027. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS – otherwise; the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security) indicates that Nigeria's mechanization is at 0.027 hp/hectare which is far from the FAO's recommendation of 1.5 hp/hectare. This also explains the large

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<sup>11</sup> Agora Policy (): Climate Change and Social Economic Development in Nigeria. The Agora Policy Report No.5 November 2023.

volume of food loss and wastage along the entire crop/food value chain, especially for smallholder farmers.

The Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) standard of 10 percent is not met by the Agriculture sector's 2024 allocation of 1.32% of the total FGN budget. Recall that African Heads of State reiterated their commitment to allocating at least 10 percent of their national budget to the agricultural sector in 2014 at Malabo. Regretfully, Nigeria has lagged in keeping its end of the bargain. In light of this, stakeholders contend that public spending in the agriculture sector needs to grow due to its low level. Agriculture has also been subject to demands as part of the government's attempt to diversify the economy away from the oil industry.

In accordance with the CAADP benchmark, the estimated amount should be ₦2,750,340,407,386.10 if the government were to allot 10% of the ₦27,503,404,073,861.00 budget for 2024. As a result, there is a massive deficit and shortage of ₦2,387,399,751,226.10 given the existing amount. The National Assembly might address the shortfall and either mandate a decrease in funding for non-social sectors or adopt more effective methods for allocating and managing the budget, directing all associated savings towards the crucial agriculture industry.

Some of the reasons why the government has been trailing with this commitment are:

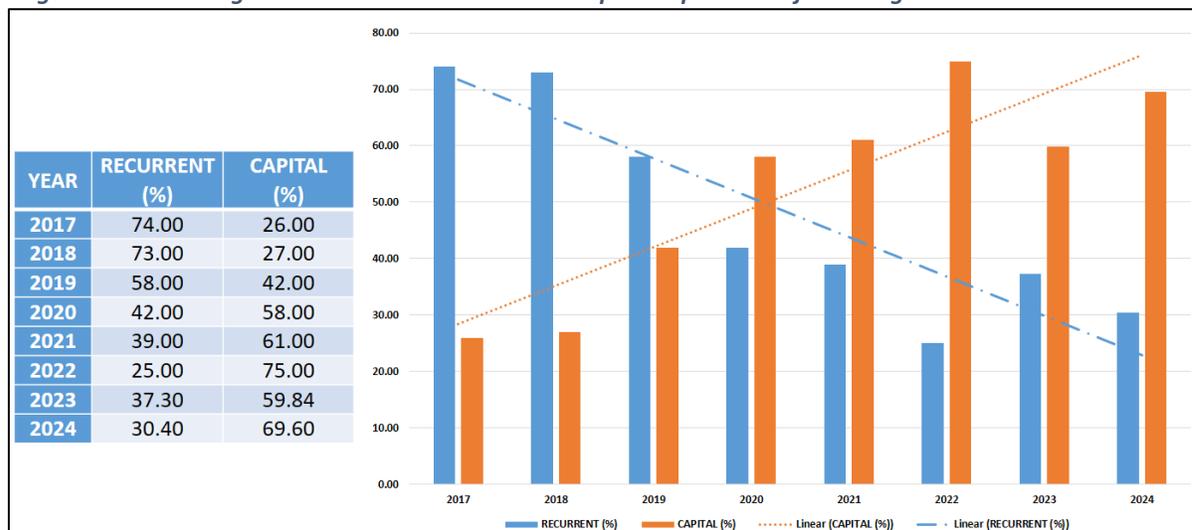
1. Lack of political will
2. Poor prioritization of the agricultural sector
3. Inefficient and corrupt management of budgetary resources

#### Percentage of Recurrent to Capital Expenditure in the Proposed Agriculture Budget

The graph and table below show that between 2017 and 2024, the capital allocation increased, and the recurrent allocation declined. Although admirable, this trend did not

continue after 2022 as recurrent expenses increased and the capital allocation decreased in 2023.

**Figure 11: Percentage Allocation to Recurrent and Capital Expenditure for the Agriculture Sector 2017-2024**



However, the concern for stakeholders is what makes up the line items or projects in the capital budget. In the proposed 2024 Agriculture budget, the capital expenditure of N252.69 billion equals about 69.6% of the budget while the recurrent expenditure of N110.25 billion is about 30.4%. In as much as this looks like a plus as capital is higher than recurrent, and based on the assumption that more capital spending translates to a higher contribution to the economy in terms of jobs and social benefits, most of the capital line items are fraught with wrong budgeting approaches such as ambiguous line items, repetitions of line items stated in previous budgets without target numbers and locations. It is also not clear if some line items should be executed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture or other MDAs or even private sector i.e. Electricity Distribution Companies, etc or the State or local governments.

It would be good to indicate the locations where some of these interventions/infrastructures are targeted to engender tracking and private sector support for such projects. Based on the assumed mandate of FMAFS, stakeholders may need to be further convinced that such projects are situated in the right ministry. Also, some of the line items in the capital budget will need further explanation for citizens to understand (see sections on questionable line items)

### **Inflation and the Real Value of the 2024 Proposed Agriculture Budget**

One macro-economic problem facing Nigeria and one of the most disturbing is the problem of inflation which is defined as a significant and sustained rise in the general price level or a declining value of the monetary units.<sup>12</sup> Based on the macro-economic projection of the

<sup>12</sup> C. E Onwukwe, and G. O. Nwafor, "A Multivariate Time Series Modelling of Major Economic Indicators in Nigeria." American Journal of Applied Mathematics and Statistics, vol. 2, no. 6 (2014): 376-385. doi: 10.12691/ajams-2-6-4.

government, the 2024 inflation rate was set at 21.4% although it is higher in real terms given the rate at which prices of goods and services are increasing in the markets.

*Figure 12: Real and Nominal Value of the Agricultural Sector Budget 2022-2024*

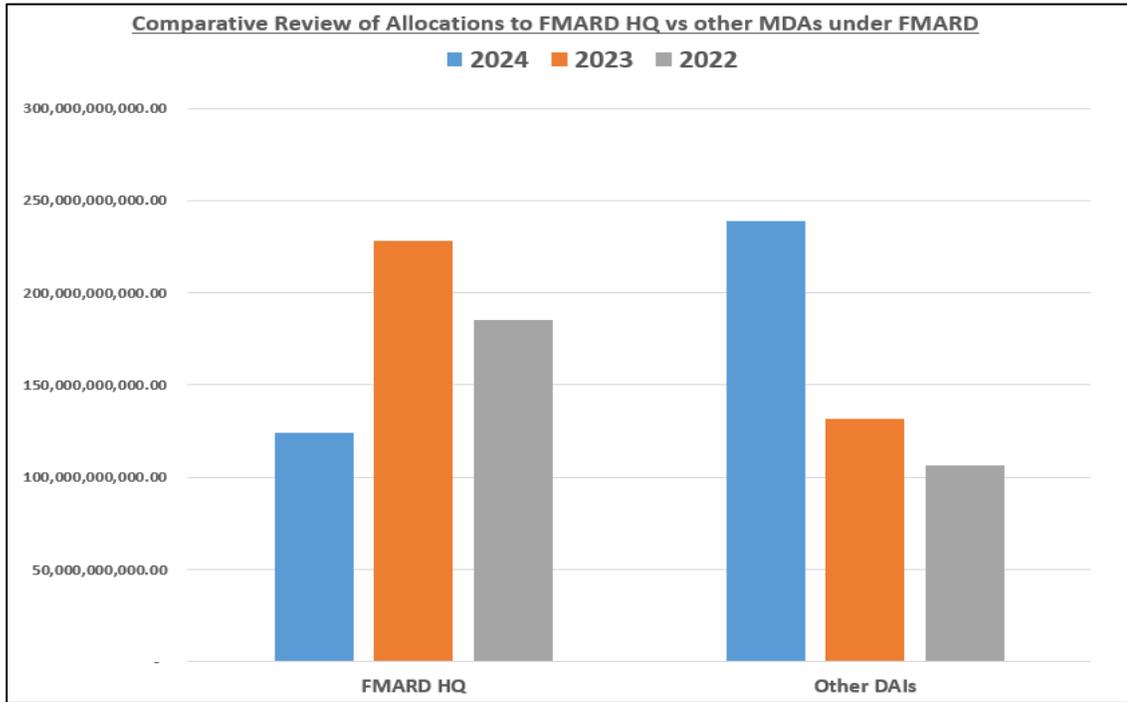
YEAR	NOMINAL VALUE (NV)	DEFLATOR (inflation Rate)	REAL VALUE (RV)
2022	291,416,466,723.00	37,884,140,673.00 (13%)	253,532,326,049.00
2023	228,428,688,402.00	39,198,362,930.00 (17.16%)	189,230,325,472.00
2024	362,940,656,160.00	77,669,300,418.24 (21.4%)	285,271,355,741.76

The real value or the purchasing power of the agricultural sector's budget in 2024 is ₦285,271,355,741.76 with the set inflation rate of 21.4%. Although ₦362,940,565,160 was nominally budgeted for the sector, all things being equal, the budget amount will depreciate by at least ₦77,669,300,418.24. To achieve the desired investment impact in monetary terms, the gap of ₦77,669,300,418.24 needs to be filled either by providing additional budgetary resources or reducing inflation to the barest minimum.

### **Comparative Review of Allocations to FMAFS HQ and Other DAs**

Another important thing to note is the disproportionate allocation of the sector's budget between the parent ministry and her Departments and Agencies (DAs). In the year 2022, FMAFS got an allocation of ₦185.1billion while her DAs got ₦106.3billion. For the year 2023 out of the ₦228.4billion, about ₦131.7 billion (57.7%) is allocated for the main Ministry headquarters in Abuja while the over 45 agencies under her, including the Universities of Agriculture, share 96.7 billion (42.3%). For the year 2024 of the total ₦362,940,656,160 allocated to the sector, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security - HQTRS got ₦124,158,278,469; that is 34.21%, while the other DAIs got ₦238,782,377,691 or 65.79% of the total budget. This is an impressive shift away from the norm where the HQ gets most of the allocations, leaving the other Departments, Agencies, and Institutions (DAIs) under FMAFS redundant and excluded in project management, program, and planning.

Figure 13: Comparative Review of Allocations to FMAFS HQ vs other MDAs under FMAFS



### Capital Budget and Development of Major Agricultural Value Chain by FMAFS and Her Department and Agencies (DAs)

This session will emphasize a few capital budget line items that are important to the growth of certain agricultural value chains because many implementing agencies have a lot of responsibility for these items. Although the scale of the capital allocation by the government is commendable, it was found that the capital budget for the agriculture sector comprises different levels of allocations for the development and promotion of different commodities value chains. The term "value chain" refers to the entire set of value-adding operations needed to move a good or service through the various stages of production, such as procuring raw materials and other inputs. The budget must specify exactly where the intervention will take place in the value chain.

Figure 14: FMAFS budget for the development of some value chains in 2024 Proposed Budget

CODE	PROJECT NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT
ERGP1208771	FOOD SECURITY CROPS VALUE CHAINS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS	NEW	800,034,000
ERGP1208772	FOOD SECURITY CROPS VALUE CHAINS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ON CASH CROPS	NEW	949,500,745
ERGP30174688	PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE VALUE CHAIN	ONGOING	1,600,666,000
ERGP30174871	DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL RUMINANTS' ANIMALS PRODUCTION VALUE CHAIN	ONGOING	150,690,000
ERGP30174971	DEVELOPMENT OF BEEF PRODUCTION VALUE CHAIN	ONGOING	756,009,900
ERGP30208774	FOOD SECURITY CROPS VALUE CHAINS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ON EXPORT CROPS	NEW	500,666,000

ERGP30208777	PASTURE AND FODDER VALUE CHAINS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS	NEW	350,888,000
ERGP30208778	DEVELOPMENT OF POULTRY PRODUCTION VALUE CHAINS PROGRAMS	NEW	600,554,900
ERGP30208799	DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY VALUE CHAINS DEVELOPMENT AND KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION FOR ENHANCED FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY	NEW	500,000,000
ERGP5211699	VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (VCDP) (MULTILATERAL/BILATERAL PROJECT TIED LOAN)	ONGOING	22,500,000,000
ERGP8153300	VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOR FOOD SECURITY FOR 50 NOS OF RURAL WOMEN AND FARMERS THROUGH POST-HARVEST HANDLING AND STORAGE TECHNIQUES	ONGOING	48,000,000
ERGP30183609	HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN	ONGOING	10,000,000
ERGP30110978	DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF CITRUS AND MANGO VALUE CHAINS THROUGH IMPROVED SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES	ONGOING	2,700,000
ERGP30111036	HORTICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FARMERS IN THE 6 GEOPOLITICAL ZONES OF NIGERIA	ONGOING	7,000,000
ERGP30205496	NATIONAL SURVEY OF HORTICULTURAL CROP VALUE CHAIN IN DIFFERENT AGROECOLOGIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF INSTITUTE STATISTICS UNIT	NEW	9,000,000
ERGP30211240	HORTICULTURAL EMPOWERMENT FOR THE UNEMPLOYED IN SOUTHWEST NIGERIA IN AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS	NEW	8,000,000
ERGP30211246	HORTICULTURAL EMPOWERMENT FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN IN NORTHWEST NIGERIA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOMATO VALUE CHAIN	NEW	5,643,423
ERGP30112410	PRODUCTION OF PLANTING MATERIAL FOR COCOA VALUE CHAIN	ONGOING	7,000,000
ERGP30207458	CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS, YOUTH AND WOMEN ON GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP) FOR RUBBER AND GUM ARABIC VALUE CHAINS	NEW	7,000,000
ERGP30207477	RESEARCH INTO VALUE ADDITION OF RUBBER AND GUM ARABIC VALUE CHAINS FOR OPTIMUM INCOME GENERATION MAXIMISATION AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE	NEW	19,750,000
ERGP30207484	RESEARCH INTO GENETIC IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH YIELDING CLONES AND PRODUCTION OF PLANTING MATERIALS FOR RUBBER VALUE CHAIN	NEW	15,622,685
ERGP30207490	RESEARCH INTO GENETIC IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH YIELDING CLONES AND PRODUCTION OF PLANTING MATERIALS FOR GUM ARABIC VALUE CHAIN	NEW	8,000,000
ERGP30207546	BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH PROGRAMME FOR RUBBER AND GUM ARABIC VALUE CHAIN	NEW	19,750,000

ERGP30154672	DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD FISH QUALITY ASSURANCE LABORATORY FOR QUALITY FISH & FISHERIES VALUE CHAIN PRODUCTS FOR CERTIFICATION	ONGOING	31,418,428
ERGP30107030	DEVELOPMENT AND PROVISION OF AGRIC EXTENSION SERVICES TO AGRIC MANAGERS, AGRIC FIELD OFFICERS ON AGRIC VALUE CHAIN	ONGOING	17,027,000
ERGP30151505	EMPOWERMENT OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS AND WOMEN ON FISH VALUE CHAIN	ONGOING	38,000,000
ERGP30138548	CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN COOPERATIVES VALUE CHAIN	ONGOING	20,000,000
ERGP8202238	AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN TRAINING FOR SOME SELECTED YOUTH AND WOMEN	NEW	19,000,000
ERGP30210708	HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT ON AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN OF POTATO	NEW	8,400,000
ERGP30108879	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INTO LIVESTOCK VALUE CHAIN	ONGOING	14,950,440
ERGP30154289	EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTHS IN SPECIFIC LIVESTOCK VALUE CHAIN IN RURAL AND PERI-URBAN COMMUNITIES ALONG THE CATCHMENT OF THE 3 UNIVERSITIES OF AGRICULTURE	ONGOING	10,105,000
ERGP30154301	DEVELOPMENT OF BUILDING FOR STAKEHOLDERS IN SELECTED LIVESTOCK VALUE CHAIN IN IDENTIFIED LIVESTOCK AGROECOLOGIES	ONGOING	13,207,910
ERGP30154320	EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUP (YOUTH AND WOMEN) IN SELECTED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION VALUE CHAIN IN PASTORALIST COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTHEAST, NORTHWEST AND NORTH CENTRAL ZONES LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT, FOOD NUTRITION AND SECURITY	ONGOING	11,275,500
ERGP30172171	DEVELOPMENT OF RISK-BASED INSPECTION PROTOCOLS IN VARIOUS LIVESTOCK VALUE CHAINS	ONGOING	20,377,832
ERGP30172215	DEVELOPMENT OF ASSESSORS AND EXTERNAL VERIFIERS FOR THE ANIMAL HUSBANDRY SECTOR FOR THE NATIONAL SKILLS QUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK IN THE LIVESTOCK VALUE CHAINS	ONGOING	58,805,198
ERGP5212025	PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE ALL IN ONE SOLAR PANEL/STREET LIGHTS IN OZUBULU TO ENHANCE AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN	NEW	318,138,520
ERGP30192945	EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTHS, ARTISANS AND WOMEN IN FISH AND AQUACULTURE VALUE CHAIN AND PURCHASE OF VEHICLE FOR TRAINING	NEW	85,458,765
ERGP5212207	TRAINING AND SUPPORT OF ARTISANS AND OFF-TAKERS IN FISHERIES VALUE CHAIN OPERATIONS, LAGOS	NEW	200,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>29,742,640,246</b>

Source: 2024 Appropriation Bill

Approximately ₦29.7 billion has been allocated in the planned 2024 agriculture budget for the development and promotion of several value chains involving different crops, fisheries, livestock, etc. The growth of certain commodity value chains can support local food production, foreign exchange earnings, import substitution, etc. However, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security's (FMAFS) sector offices would be responsible for carrying

out the majority of this allotment (N28.7billion). This is abnormal since value chain development for fisheries, agriculture, and animals should not be carried out by the ministry's administrative headquarters; rather, it should be responsible for regulation, monitoring, assessment, and coordination. The initiative is intended to be led by other DAs in the sector. Giving DAs with technical expertise in those sub-sector areas additional authority will be more efficient and productive.

### Research and Development (R&D)

Public investment in agricultural research and development (R&D) is important for global food security and environmental sustainability.<sup>13</sup> Agricultural R&D is a crucial determinant of improvement in agricultural productivity. The agricultural sector has a strong repository of research and academic institutions, however, due to poor prioritization, these institutions are not adequately funded.

*Figure 15: Budget for some research institutions and R&D line items for FMAFS in 2024 Proposed Budget*

CODE	PROJECT NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (FMAFS HQ)		52,380,532,491
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (FEDERAL COLLEGE OF PRODUCE INSPECTION AND STORED PRODUCTS TECHNOLOGY, KANO)		112,000,000
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (ARMTI) - ILORIN)		132,046,625
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (NATIONAL CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL MECHANISATION- ILORIN)		413,307,778
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (NATIONAL CEREALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE- BADEGGI)		436,815,743
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (NATIONAL VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE- VOM)		421,546,904
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (NATIONAL ROOT CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE- UMUDIKE)		315,998,146
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OIL PALM RESEARCH (NIFOR) - BENIN		17,000,000
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH- ZARIA		192,139,598
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT- NATIONAL ANIMAL PRODUCT RESEARCH INSTITUTE- ZARIA		175,000,000
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE- IBADAN		204,173,423
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA		49,784,181
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - COCOA RESEARCH INSTITUTE- IBADAN		251,000,000
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING- IBADAN		109,251,446

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/agricultural-research-and-development>

23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - RUBBER RESEARCH INSTITUTE- BENIN		145,122,685
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FRESHWATER FISH- NEW BUSSA		214,232,091
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - NATIONAL AGRIC. EXTENSION RESEARCH LIAISON SERVICES- ZARIA		163,483,730
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - FEDERAL COLLEGE OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY - IBADAN		78,829,524
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - FEDERAL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE - AKURE		82,500,000
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - FEDERAL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, MOORE PLANTATION- IBADAN		77,216,695
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - FEDERAL COLLEGE OF FRESH WATER FISHERIES TECHNOLOGY - NEW BUSSA		95,000,000
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - FEDERAL COLLEGE OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY - VOM		200,000,000
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - COLLEGE OF VETERINARY AND MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY - VOM		23,000,450
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - FEDERAL COLLEGE OF FRESH WATER FISHERIES - BAGA		104,568,023
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - FEDERAL COLLEGE OF FISHERIES AND MARINE TECHNOLOGY - LAGOS		205,725,089
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - FEDERAL CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE- IBADAN		20,000,000
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - FEDERAL CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE- KADUNA		79,000,000
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - FEDERAL CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE- OJI RIVER		1,009,904,322
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - FEDERAL COLLEGE OF LAND RESOURCES TECHNOLOGY - OWERRI		23,000,000
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - FEDERAL COLLEGE OF LAND RESOURCES TECHNOLOGY, KURU - JOS		14,624,618
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT -FEDERAL COLLEGE OF HORTICULTURE, DADIN-KOWA, GOMBE		166,295,020
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL SCIENCE		764,328,558
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - NIGERIA STORED PRODUCTS RESEARCH, ILORIN		259,744,080
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - NATIONAL AGRICULTURE SEEDS COUNCIL		889,155,005
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - NIGERIA AGRICULTURAL QUARANTINE SERVICE		1,840,366,720
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF NIGERIA		100,000,000
23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT- LAKE CHAD RESEARCH INSTITUTE MAIDUGURI		332,439,630

23050101	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - NIGERIA INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE RESEARCH		1,621,912,244
ERGP30100764	PROVISION OF MATERIALS FOR THE FABRICATION OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION TECHNOLOGIES EMANATING FROM RELEVANT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES	ONGOING	93,000,000
ERGP30156355	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON MODERN MACHINERIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR FARMERS.	ONGOING	91,907,778
ERGP30193041	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FISH SPECIES FOR AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION	ONGOING	5,230,000
ERGP30206196	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FISH SPECIES FOR AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION AND RESERVOIR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT	NEW	15,150,000
ERGP30107021	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN AND COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE IN MODEL AND ADOPTED VILLAGES IN NIGERIA	ONGOING	11,095,900
ERGP30174403	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATION	ONGOING	14,901,266
ERGP30171419	RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES ON EXTENSION AND ECONOMICS	ONGOING	3,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>63,955,329,763</b>

Source: 2024 Appropriation Bill

*Figure 16: Capital Budget for some Research Institutions in the Proposed 2024 Budget*

CODE	PROJECT NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT
ERGP30100764	PROVISION OF MATERIALS FOR THE FABRICATION OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION TECHNOLOGIES EMANATING FROM RELEVANT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES - NATIONAL CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL MECHANISATION- ILORIN	ONGOING	93,000,000
ERGP30156355	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON MODERN MACHINERIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR FARMERS. - NATIONAL CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL MECHANISATION- ILORIN	ONGOING	91,907,778
ERGP30193041	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FISH SPECIES FOR AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FRESHWATER FISH- NEW BUSSA	ONGOING	5,230,000
ERGP30206196	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FISH SPECIES FOR AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION AND RESERVOIR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FRESHWATER FISH- NEW BUSSA	NEW	15,150,000
ERGP30107021	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN AND COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE IN MODEL AND ADOPTED VILLAGES IN NIGERIA - NATIONAL AGRIC. EXTENSION RESEARCH LIAISON SERVICES- ZARIA	ONGOING	11,095,900
ERGP30174403	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATION - LAKE CHAD RESEARCH INSTITUTE MAIDUGURI	ONGOING	14,901,266
ERGP30171419	RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES ON EXTENSION AND ECONOMICS - NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OIL PALM RESEARCH (NIFOR) - BENIN	ONGOING	3,000,000

**TOTAL****234,284,944**

Source: 2024 Appropriation Bill

As the accompanying table illustrates, some significant research institutions have received capital allocations totalling almost ₦234million. For instance, The National Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation- Ilorin received ₦93million and another ₦91.9million, the National Institute of Freshwater Fish- New Bussa received ₦20.3 million, and the National Agric. Extension Research Liaison Services- Zaria received ₦11 million. It should be remembered that research institutions are the agencies that carry out the implementation; hence, funding should be transferred to them while the primary Ministry focuses on regulatory, supervisory, and coordinating duties.

### Extension Support Services

Extension services are necessary for smallholder farmers to learn about the market, become knowledgeable about contemporary technologies, and receive guidance on how to increase their output. Unfortunately, in recent years, there has been a decline in the amount of attention given to this agricultural productivity booster. The proposed budget for FMAFS and other DAs to provide extension support services in 2024 is a mere N1.9billion. A capital budget of ₦252,807,497 has been allotted to the National Agricultural Extension Research Liaison Services-Zaria for extension service research and delivery. These distributions are far from sufficient. With this sum, the industry will inevitably suffer from the results of ongoing subpar extension services. The FMAFS and her DAs have the following primary line items in the budget under evaluation to support agricultural extension services.

*Figure 17: Budget for Agricultural Extension Services in the Proposed 2024 Budget*

CODE	PROJECT NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT
ERGP30208769	DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL MOBILE-BASED EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SYSTEM TO SUPPORT FARMERS PRODUCTIVITY	NEW	350,000,675
ERGP5212136	EXTENSION SERVICES TO YOUTH AND WOMEN COOPERATIVES IN S/E NIGERIA ON CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE FOR CASSAVA VIRUS DISEASE MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION OF CLEAN SEEDS	NEW	977,655,153
ERGP8175062	TRANSLATION OF EXTENSION MATERIALS INTO LOCAL LANGUAGES FOR FARMERS, TO ENHANCE GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES AND PRODUCTIVITY	ONGOING	250,000,000
ERGP30174478	EXTENSION SERVICES TO YOUTH AND WOMEN COOPERATIVES IN S/E NIGERIA	ONGOING	13,655,153
ERGP30104977	REQUIREMENT FOR DISSEMINATION OF IAR RESEARCH RESULTS TO FARMERS, ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNOLOGY ADOPTED VILLAGES AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE (EXTENSION ATA):	ONGOING	9,826,745
ERGP30171127	STRENGTHENING OF EXTENSION INFRASTRUCTURES AND DISSEMINATION OF HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH TECHNOLOGIES AT MBATO, IBADAN AND BAGAUDA	ONGOING	53,000,000

ERGP30112120	EXTENSION OF CRIN TECHNOLOGIES	ONGOING	5,000,000
ERGP29207529	INSTALLATION AND EXTENSION OF INTERNET FACILITIES FOR RESEARCH	NEW	5,000,000
ERGP30206175	FISHERIES EXTENSION SUPPORT ACTIVITIES AND RESEARCH EXTENSION FARMERS INPUT LINKAGE SYSTEM (REFILS)	NEW	15,000,721
ERGP30106973	AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION RESEARCH - NATION WIDE	ONGOING	6,000,000
ERGP30106988	NATIONAL ANNUAL PLANNING, COORDINATION AND MONITORING OF RESEARCH EXTENSION-FARMER-INPUTS-LINKAGE-SYSTEMS (REFILS) ACTIVITIES	ONGOING	11,360,830
ERGP30107030	DEVELOPMENT AND PROVISION OF AGRIC EXTENSION SERVICES TO AGRIC MANAGERS, AGRIC FIELD OFFICERS ON AGRIC VALUE CHAIN	ONGOING	17,027,000
ERGP5107033	PRINTING AND PRODUCTION OF CURRENT AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION BULLETINS, GUIDES, POSTERS AND LEAFLETS	ONGOING	13,000,000
ERGP30211681	DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN CAPACITY IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES	NEW	43,617,203
ERGP30211679	DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN CAPACITY IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES	NEW	50,216,695
ERGP8138072	PROCUREMENT OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND AIDS FOR STUDENTS' RURAL EXTENSION OUTREACH PROJECTS (SREP)	ONGOING	30,000,000
ERGP30211678	HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSIONS TRAINING AND INNOVATION	NEW	20,000,000
ERGP23184024	CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF E-EXTENSION SERVICES CENTRE	ONGOING	30,190,500
ERGP30206907	EXTENSION OF THE IMPROVED TECHNOLOGIES TO THE CLIENTHAN FOR IMPACTS AND DEVELOPMENT	NEW	7,691,637
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,908,242,312</b>

Source: 2024 Appropriation Bill

Budgetary increases that are also directed toward the more specialized MDA in charge of the service are required to revive the declining services. In the meantime, the Agricultural Development Program continues to serve farmers through extension services in all of the federation's states with meagre annual funds while collaborating with development partners.

### **Agricultural Mechanization**

Decree No. 35 of 1990, which is currently an Act of the National Assembly, established the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization (NCAM) with the primary goal of quickening the rate of automation in the agricultural industry. A capital budget of ₦909,923,778 was proposed in the 2024 budget for the advancement of mechanization in the nation via NCAM. Nevertheless, an additional ₦683,253,683 was allotted for extension efforts to the FMAFS and other sister DAs. Thus, it may be said that ₦776,253,683 was given to agricultural mechanization. This is low if agriculture needs to be developed to draw in young people and

lessen drudgery. Some of the FMAFS budget line items related to agricultural mechanization are listed below:

*Figure 18: Budget for Agricultural Mechanization in the Proposed 2024 Budget*

CODE	PROJECT NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT
ERGP30100764	PROVISION OF MATERIALS FOR THE FABRICATION OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION TECHNOLOGIES EMANATING FROM RELEVANT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES - NCAM	ONGOING	93,000,000
ERGP30104958	RESEARCH INTO AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION (FABRICATION OF LABOUR-SAVING TOOLS): DEVELOPMENT OF CORNSTALK CRUSHER, FORCED CONVERSION SOLAR ENERGY DRYER, ELECTRIC DRIVEN GROUNDNUT OIL EXTRACTOR, GINGER SLICING MACHINE, E.T.C AND RESEARCH INTO FARMING SYSTEMS IN NORTHWEST AGROECOLOGICAL ZONE (COST OF DIAGNOSTIC SURVEYS, IMPROVED TILLAGE/MECHANIZATION). REFILL PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT	ONGOING	11,326,917
ERGP5212128	CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT OF FARM MECHANIZATION SKILLS AND EFFICIENCY IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN SOUTHEAST	NEW	99,218,232
ERGP30145421	RESEARCH INTO FARMING SYSTEMS IN NORTHWEST ZONE (COST OF DIAGNOSTIC SURVEYS, IMPROVED TILLAGE/MECHANIZATION)	ONGOING	13,389,297
ERGP30208793	DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MECHANISATION ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR YOUTH AGRIpreneurs TOWARDS INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY OF FARMS OPERATIONS IN NIGERIA	NEW	559,319,237
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>776,253,683</b>

Source: 2024 Appropriation Bill

## Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture

It is imperative to prioritize increased investments in climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture, along with the adoption of agroecological practices. This emphasis is crucial due to the escalating impact of climate change on traditional farming systems, affecting timings and overall production. While there has been a positive step forward with a budget allocation of approximately N1.18 billion for climate-resilient, sustainable agriculture in 2024, it is noteworthy that this amount exceeds the N655.2 million planned for the agriculture budget in 2023. However, considering the extensive consequences of adverse climate change on the agricultural sector and the nation at large, the allocated sum remains relatively modest.

Looking ahead, it is recommended that the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) collaborate extensively with relevant stakeholders, including the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Water Resources, and other

pertinent agencies. Collaboration should focus on topics related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, particularly within the agricultural sector. Engaging with research institutions is essential to developing crop varieties that are resistant to drought and flooding, aligning with the urgent realities of climate change.

*Figure 19: FMAFS budget for Climate Change Interventions in the 2024 Budget*

CODE	PROJECT NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT
ERGP30208795	DEVELOPMENT OF ICT TOOLS FOR AGRICULTURE PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH YOUTH HACKATHON FOR CLIMATE SMART TECHNOLOGY	NEW	100,567,890
ERGP5212133	TRAINING OF MGBAJA RURAL WOMEN ON CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE FOR CASSAVA VIRUS DISEASE MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION OF CLEAN SEEDS	NEW	99,718,232
ERGP5212136	EXTENSION SERVICES TO YOUTH AND WOMEN COOPERATIVES IN S/E NIGERIA ON CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE FOR CASSAVA VIRUS DISEASE MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION OF CLEAN SEEDS	NEW	977,655,153
ERGP30153791	CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE IN COCOA PRODUCTION	ONGOING	5,000,000
ERGP5205643	ENTREPRENEURSHIP/VOCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL FARMERS IN PRECISION AND SMART AGRICULTURE FOR INCREASED RURAL INCOME AND CREATION OF EMPLOYMENT IN ISHIAGU	NEW	1,000,000
			1,183,941,275

Source: 2024 Appropriation Bill

Furthermore, there is a need to accentuate the advantages of agroecology, or organic farming, which can significantly enhance soil productivity, seed quality, crop vigour, and livestock health. Unfortunately, due to limited budgets and challenges in obtaining organic inputs, the majority of farmers struggle to sustain climate-resilient agriculture and often rely on assistance from relevant government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

Additionally, it is crucial to note that the outcomes of afforestation and other climate-smart projects, such as those outlined in the Green Bond, have not been made public. Transparency in reporting the results of these initiatives is essential for assessing their effectiveness and informing future strategies. Therefore, there is a need for increased transparency and dissemination of information regarding the impact and success of such climate interventions.

### Access to Credit

None of the budget line items under the ministry reflect provisions to increase or offer agricultural credits in the proposed 2024 budget. This is similar to the 2023 budget of the ministry.

In the current fiscal dispensation, the FMAFS does not provide credit support to farmers, in contrast to its practice in the 2022 budget when it allocated ₦190,725,974 for the Provision of Credit Incentives in the Rural Communities (in Collaboration with BOA) to increase investment Portfolios of Communities Based Associations. This is not only peculiar, but it also has many limitations because smallholder farmers might not be able to produce as much as they could. However, in order for the Bank of Agriculture to function financially and give smallholder farmers simple access to credit, recapitalization of Bank of Agriculture (BOA) should be accelerated.

FMAFS should create a yearly Strengthening Access to Credit budget line: This funding should focus on:

This funding should focus on getting consultants or consultancy firms to support women, youths and farmers living with disability cooperatives to be able to navigate the too cumbersome access to credit in Nigeria. The team or consultancy firm will handhold the cooperatives to access existing CBN agricultural credit facilities through preparing their business proposals, interfacing, and negotiating with BOA, Bank of Industry, NIRSAL, commercial and microfinance banks. The team or consultancy firm will ensure that the cooperatives access such facilities and other services like extension, insurance, etc. and even market access and they are able to pay back at the end of each cycle, etc.

### **Analysis of the National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF)**

Former President Muhammadu Buhari signed into law, the National Agricultural Development Fund bill (NADF) in December 2022. The NADF is said to be funded from the derivation from 0.5% of natural development resources fund and five per cent of the duty levied on import of rice, wheat, sugar, milk, poultry, and fish. Governments across all levels of the federation would give take-off grants, and special intervention funds, as such money would be appropriated to meet the requirements of the Act establishing NADF by the National Assembly in the budget. The Fund is supposed to elicited hope of increased funding for agriculture investors and farmers across the country. In part IV of the Act establishing the NADF, its account shall be funded through a take-off grant provided by the Federal Government; 0.5% of the Natural Resource Development Fund; 5% of profit after tax of each commercial bank in Nigeria; 5% of petroleum profit tax; 50% of the duty levied on imported rice, wheat, sugar, and milk; monies appropriated by the National Assembly.

The Fund will in turn provide financing for the implementation of agricultural policies and to strengthen agriculture institutions within the framework of National priorities and strategies. It will provide funds for on-lending to farmers and corporate bodies through appropriate financial institutions on appropriate soft terms; and provide finance for the establishment of special

agricultural zones in the six geo-political zones to boost the food production system in Nigeria, among other financial interventions for agricultural development, the Fund is also mandated to assist donor institutions on efforts to increase food production in the country.

The 2024 proposed budget, allocated to the NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (NADF) a total budget sum of N102,500,000,000 out of the total Agriculture sector budget of N362.9billion. This is 28% of the overall sector budget for agricultural financing.

Of the total N102.5billion of NADF, N150,000,000 (or 0.1%) is for Personnel Salary, N350,000,000 overhead (0.3%), and N102,000,000,000 capital expenditure (99.5%).

	Personnel	Overhead	Capital Exp	Total
Budget Composition for NADF	150,000,000	350,000,000	102,000,000,000	102,500,000,000
Percentage (%)	0.1%	0.3%	99.5%	

Salaries for the staff under the Fund will take up all N150million allocated for personnel; without NHIS – health cover, pension contribution or other allowances.

For overheads - travel and transport of N73,277,000, Utilities - N73,277,000 (electricity, water, telephone, sewage -N555,000), Office general supplies of N31,270,000 (office consumables and computers - N14.5m, printing security and non-security N12.9m), maintenance (of office building, vehicles, equipment, etc) takes up N27.3million. See the breakdown –

NADF	Personnel	Overhead	Percentage of Overhead
SALARY	150,000,000		
<b>TRAVEL&amp; TRANSPORT - GENERAL</b>		<b>73,277,000</b>	
LOCAL TRAVEL & TRANSPORT: TRAINING		24,277,000	7%
<b>22020102 LOCAL TRAVEL &amp; TRANSPORT: OTHERS ***</b>		<b>49,000,000</b>	<b>14%</b>
UTILITIES - GENERAL		4,750,000	1%
<b>MATERIALS &amp; SUPPLIES - GENERAL</b>		<b>31,270,000</b>	<b>9%</b>
OFFICE STATIONERIES / COMPUTER CONSUMABLES		14,500,000	4%
PRINTING OF NON-SECURITY DOCUMENTS		5,400,000	2%
PRINTING OF SECURITY DOCUMENTS		5,400,000	2%
DRUGS & MEDICAL SUPPLIES		570,000	0%
<b>MAINTENANCE SERVICES - GENERAL</b>		<b>27,258,000</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>MAINTENANCE OF OFFICE BUILDING / RESIDENTIAL QTRS</b>		<b>10,000,000</b>	3%
<b>MAINTENANCE OF OFFICE / IT EQUIPMENTS</b>		<b>5,558,000</b>	2%
MAINTENANCE OF PLANTS/GENERATORS		6,500,000	2%
TRAINING - GENERAL (Only Local)***		20,000,000	6%
<b>OTHER SERVICES - GENERAL</b>		<b>32,300,000</b>	<b>9%</b>
SECURITY CHARGES		4,800,000	1%

OFFICE RENT		27,500,000	8%
<b>CONSULTING &amp; PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - GENERAL</b>		<b>68,490,000</b>	<b>20%</b>
FINANCIAL CONSULTING		32,500,000	9%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTING		25,540,000	7%
LEGAL SERVICES		10,450,000	3%
FUEL & LUBRICANTS - GENERAL		24,180,000	7%
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		<b>67,320,000</b>	<b>19%</b>
REFRESHMENT & MEALS		3,200,000	1%
HONORARIUM AND SITTING ALLOWANCE		33,120,000	9%
PUBLICITY & ADVERTISEMENTS		17,500,000	5%
POSTAGES & COURIER SERVICES		1,500,000	0%
WELFARE PACKAGES		10,500,000	3%
SUBSCRIPTION TO PROFESSIONAL BODIES		1,500,000	0%

Of the overhead cost, consulting, miscellaneous (honorarium and seating allowance) and unspecified transports and travels will be taking up over 50% of the overhead cost. The sum of N10.5 million is logged under miscellaneous, so it is unclear if this sum is for personnel of the NADF.

Of the N102billion for Capital expenditure under the NADF, 98.04% is the Agricultural Development fund. This is 98% of the overall budget for the NADF in the budget and 28% of the total agriculture sector budget.

<b>NADF</b>	<b>Capital Allocation</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>102,000,000,000.00</b>	
FIXED ASSETS PURCHASED	1,760,000,000	1.73%
PURCHASE OF FIXED ASSETS - GENERAL	1,760,000,000	1.73%
PURCHASE OF OFFICE BUILDINGS	1,200,000,000	1.18%
PURCHASE OF MOTOR VEHICLES	450,000,000	0.44%
PURCHASE OF OFFICE FURNITURE AND FITTINGS	70,000,000	0.07%
PURCHASE OF POWER GENERATING SET	40,000,000	0.04%
OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS	100,240,000,000	
RESEARCH IN WORLD BEST PRACTICES TO IMPROVE VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS NATION WIDE	240,000,000	0.24%
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND	100,000,000,000	98.04%

0215061001 NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (NADFund)			
CODE	PROJECT NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT
ERGP10206786	PURCHASE OF 200KVA GENERATOR FOR NADFUND HEAD QUARTERS	NEW	40,000,000
ERGP27206765	PURCHASE OF OFFICE FURNITURE AND PARTITIONING	NEW	70,000,000
ERGP27206771	PURCHASE OF OFFICE BUILDINGS FOR NADFUND OPERATIONS	NEW	1,200,000,000
ERGP30206779	RESEARCH IN WORLD BEST PRACTICES TO IMPROVE VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS NATION WIDE	NEW	240,000,000
ERGP5206757	PURCHASE OF OPERATIONAL VEHICLES	NEW	450,000,000
ERGP5213256	AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND	NEW	100,000,000,000

#### Areas of Concern in the NADF:

1. Purchase of Building, Maintenance of Office Building: Where is the NADF currently operating location? The Purchase of Office Building for NADF operation at N1.2billion, and purchase of office furniture, partitioning and fitting of over N70million in the capital budget, after provision of office rent of N27.5million, maintenance of office building and residential quarters of N10million has been allocated in recurrent expenditure is worrisome. Should a new building and furniture be provided in year one, maintenance should not be required as these are fixed assets requiring no maintenance in the 1-3 years.
2. Purchase of operational vehicles at N450million: what type of vehicles are these and how many is required for the NADF? For a national office, this is not necessary. A brand-new operational staff bus cost about N30-50million, the NADF cannot use more than three of such buses aside very few executive cars for the CEO.
3. Prodigal Research: N240million for research in world best practices to improve various agricultural output nationwide. This line item should be expunged 100% - it should be removed – not approved. The NADF should depend on the other agencies under the Ministry, as well as other partners to get all world best research and practices.
4. Breakdown on Agricultural Development Fund: the Fund is also designed to support special interventions. No specific intervention or project have been highlighted in the budget. Where such clarity is not provided, abuse and misappropriations are likely to occur. Such ambiguity should not be allowed. A breakdown of this fund is needed.
5. Unclear Travels: the sum of N49million for unspecific travels aside for trainings (which is already provided for) should also be trimmed down. With improvements in ICT and

online meetings and workshops, efforts should be made to reduce cost on travels, especially miscellaneous travels.

With the declaration of a state of emergency in the agricultural sector, given all its challenges, these identified concerns need to be addressed critically. Addressing these challenges will contribute to a more transparent, accountable, and effective utilization of resources within the National Agricultural Development Fund.

### Women and Youth in Agriculture, and Mainstreaming Gender Policy

The total amount allocated for youth and women's empowerment in the agricultural sector budget plans for 2024 is N5,786,849,065. The budgetary allocation table that follows details the scheduled activities and suggested amounts from the Ministry and associated DAs:

Considering the capital budget allocation, the FMAFS budget's stipend for women-related activities is rather meagre. Since that females make up more than 70% of Nigerian farmers, it is vital that more funding be directed toward programs that support women and youth in agriculture. The agriculture industry provides a low-cost means of youth and women's empowerment. First and foremost, government and development partners need to make a deliberate effort to target women specifically with initiatives, rather than expecting that resources will trickle down to them, in order to increase youth and women's economic empowerment. We suggest that smallholder female farmers have their own budget lines in the annual national budget, separate from the youth budget, since they are not a monolithic group.

The FMAFS budget for 2024 includes the following activities:

*Figure 20: Budget for Women and Youths in the Proposed 2024 Budget.*

CODE	PROJECT NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT
ERGP1208767	ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING INCUBATION CENTRES FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN ACROSS THE SIX GEO-POLITICAL ZONES	NEW	1,501,555,600
ERGP23184034	MENTORING OF YOUTHS AND WOMEN ON HORTICULTURAL BEST PRACTICES	ONGOING	35,212,000
ERGP30150960	EMPOWERMENT OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS AND RURAL WOMEN ON IMPROVED AGRONOMIC PRACTICES FOR SOYABEANS AND BENISEED PRODUCTION IN NORTH CENTRAL ZONE	NEW	15,000,000
ERGP30151501	EMPOWERMENT OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTH AND WOMEN IN INTEGRATED POULTRY/FISH PRODUCTION	ONGOING	15,000,000
ERGP30151505	EMPOWERMENT OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS AND WOMEN ON FISH VALUE CHAIN	ONGOING	38,000,000

ERGP30154320	EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUP (YOUTH AND WOMEN) IN SELECTED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION VALUE CHAIN IN PASTOROLIST COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTHEAST, NORTHWEST AND NORTH CENTRAL ZONES LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT, FOOD NUTRITION AND SECURITY	ONGOING	11,275,500
ERGP30155122	EMPOWERING YOUTH AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL EVOLUTION THROUGH SOILLESS TECHNIQUES, ONLINE MARKETING AND GREENHOUSE PROFICIENCY	ONGOING	12,000,000
ERGP30174478	EXTENSION SERVICES TO YOUTH AND WOMEN COOPERATIVES IN S/E NIGERIA	ONGOING	13,655,153
ERGP30174495	SUPPLY OF PLANTING MATERIALS TO YOUTHS AND WOMEN FARMERS IN NRCRI HOST COMMUNITIES NATION WIDE	ONGOING	17,901,331
<b>ERGP30175085</b>	<b>MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN AGRIBUSINESS</b>	<b>ONGOING</b>	<b>600,600,000</b>
ERGP30192945	EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTHS, ARTISANS AND WOMEN IN FISH AND AQUACULTURE VALUE CHAIN AND PURCHASE OF VEHICLE FOR TRAINING	NEW	85,458,765
ERGP30207458	CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS, YOUTH AND WOMEN ON GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP) FOR RUBBER AND GUM ARABIC VALUE CHAINS	NEW	7,000,000
ERGP30208762	DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD FRAMEWORK FOR EASE OF DOING AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY INCLUDING INCLUSIVENESS FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS	NEW	100,666,453
ERGP30211246	HORTICULTURAL EMPOWERMENT FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN IN NORTHWEST NIGERIA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOMATO VALUE CHAIN	NEW	5,643,423
ERGP30212479	VOCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT FOR YOUTHS AND WOMEN IN GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN ADOPTED VILLAGES AND OUTREACH CENTRES	NEW	25,000,000
ERGP5205674	SKILL ACQUISITION EMPOWERMENT OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS, RURAL WOMEN AND FARMERS IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE FOR INCREASED FOOD SECURITY	NEW	1,000,000
ERGP5205883	EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN ON AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT IN UDI COMMUNITY ENUGU	NEW	1,000,000
ERGP5211980	SUPPLY OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS (FERTILIZERS, HERBICIDES AND MACHINERIES) TO SUPPORT VARIOUS WOMEN OF OZUBULU IN RURAL FARMING IN CASSAVA	NEW	270,000,000
ERGP5211985	SUPPLY OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS TO YOUTH AND WOMEN IN ARONDIZUOGU COMMUNITIES IN IMO STATE	NEW	200,000,000
ERGP5212132	TRAINING OF RURAL WOMEN & YOUTH IN LOCAL PROCESSORS ON STANDARDIZED VALUE ADDITION AND PROCESSING METHODS OF ROOT AND TUBER CROPS IN ABIA STATES.	NEW	99,818,232
ERGP5212133	TRAINING OF MGBAJA RURAL WOMEN ON CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE FOR CASSAVA VIRUS DISEASE MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION OF CLEAN SEEDS	NEW	99,718,232

ERGP5212136	EXTENSION SERVICES TO YOUTH AND WOMEN COOPERATIVES IN S/E NIGERIA ON CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE FOR CASSAVA VIRUS DISEASE MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION OF CLEAN SEEDS	NEW	977,655,153
ERGP5212209	TRAINING AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN FISH FARMING AND TRADING IN LAGOS STATE	NEW	200,000,000
ERGP5212212	PROVISION OF MEDICAL OUTREACH TO WOMEN AND ELDERLY PEOPLE IN SELECTED AREAS OF LAGOS	NEW	220,000,000
ERGP5212233	TRAINING AND EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTHS IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND EMPOWERMENT OF HOUSEHOLD WOMEN IN ANIMAL PROCESSING AND PRODUCTION IN OWAN FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY.	NEW	100,000,000
ERGP5212764	HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN AND YOUTHS IN RURAL FARM AREAS IN OBIZI – NOU	NEW	150,000,000
ERGP5212770	HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN AGRI-BUSINESS AND STRATEGIC EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN AND YOUTHS IN RURAL FARM AREAS IN ODOLU AND OGUGU, KOGI STATE	NEW	500,000,000
ERGP5213201	SKILL ACQUISITION FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN IN ABAK, ETIM EKPO AND IKA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF AKWA IBOM	NEW	250,000,000
ERGP8138109	ENTREPRENEURSHIP/VOCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT FOR UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS, FARMERS AND WOMEN ON FISH, CASSAVA, RICE, AND HONEY PRODUCTION	NEW	50,200,000
ERGP8153300	VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOR FOOD SECURITY FOR 50 NOS OF RURAL WOMEN AND FARMERS THROUGH POST-HARVEST HANDLING AND STORAGE TECHNIQUES	ONGOING	48,000,000
ERGP8184038	MENTORING OF YOUTHS AND WOMEN ON POST HARVEST LOSSES AND MANAGEMENT	ONGOING	35,121,200
ERGP8202238	AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN TRAINING FOR SOME SELECTED YOUTH AND WOMEN	NEW	19,000,000
ERGP8202261	STRATEGIC EMPOWERMENT OF MARKET WOMEN COOPERATIVE GROUP IN NORTHWEST GEOPOLITICAL ZONE	NEW	50,000,000
	EMPOWERMENT OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS AND WOMEN ON AQUACULTURE	ONGOING	31,368,023
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>5,786,849,065</b>

Source: 2024 Appropriation Bill

The government (FMAFS) has designated the 2024 budget line "ERGP30175085 MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN AGRIBUSINESS (ONGOING) N600,600,000" as their effort and support for putting the National Gender Policy in Agriculture into action. While this is very good, the funding is not enough to support the implementation for a full year. To close the gender gap in the industry, we suggest increasing this budget line to a reasonable amount and guaranteeing gender mainstreaming in the execution of all FMAFS budget lines. It is

important to remember that Nigeria can advance further if women, young people, and people with disabilities are freed from socioeconomic constraints.

### Allocation to Agricultural Inputs

Access to contemporary agricultural inputs, such as machinery and farm equipment, irrigation, knowledge, and better seeds, inorganic and organic fertilizers, and crop protection agents, is one of the main worries of farmers. The allocation of funds for the provision of variable inputs, such as fertilizer and agrochemicals, was not as large as it formerly was. Merely ₦6.2billion was allocated in the 2024 budget plan that is currently being reviewed for enhancing access to inputs including agrochemicals, fertilizer, and seeds.

Although it may be claimed that certain government initiatives have given some smallholder farmers better access to reasonably priced inputs, the majority of farmers still lack these resources. For smallholder farmers to have more affordable access to inputs, the government must boost this allocation and reinstate the Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GESS).

Some of the budgetary allocations for agricultural inputs in 2024 are listed below:

*Figure 21: Proposed Line items for Farm Inputs in the 2024 Budget*

CODE	PROJECT NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT
ERGP5212022	CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MAIZE FARM CLUSTER, FARM INPUTS AND PROVISION OF SOLARISED BOREHOLES FOR SELECTED COMMUNITIES IN OYO, OSUN, KWARA, NIGER AND OGUN STATE	NEW	2,900,000,000
ERGP5212023	PROVISION OF FARM IMPLEMENTS, TRACTORS AND OTHER INPUTS FOR FARM CLUSTERS AND SETTLEMENTS ACROSS SOUTHWEST STATES (LOT 1- LOT 6)	NEW	1,755,500,000
ERGP5171936	PURCHASE OF INPUTS FOR SEED AND SEEDLING PRODUCTION	ONGOING	15,000,000
ERGP5213200	PROCISION OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS TO FARMERS IN SELECTED COMMUNITIES IN OSUN STATE	NEW	600,000,000
ERGP30151632	AGRICULTURAL INPUT TRANSFORMATION FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES	ONGOING	20,212,973
ERGP30206175	FISHERIES EXTENSION SUPPORT ACTIVITIES AND RESEARCH EXTENSION FARMERS INPUT LINKAGE SYSTEM (REFILS)	NEW	15,000,721
ERGP30106988	NATIONAL ANNUAL PLANNING, COORDINATION AND MONITORING OF RESEARCH EXTENSION-FARMER-INPUTS-LINKAGE-SYSTEMS (REFILS) ACTIVITIES	ONGOING	11,360,830
ERGP5138063	PROCUREMENT OF INPUTS FOR THE RAISING & MAINTENANCE OF 1500 BROILERS AND LAYER BIRDS	ONGOING	34,000,000
ERGP5138067	PROCUREMENT OF AGRIC. INPUTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT & MAINTENANCE OF 5 HA RICE FARM	ONGOING	36,073,129

ERGP5138069	PROCUREMENT OF AGRIC. INPUTS FOR RAISING OF FISH AND MAINTENANCE OF 60/75M RESERVOIR FISHPOND WITH MONK EMBARKMENT	ONGOING	36,000,000
ERGP5211980	SUPPLY OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS (FERTILIZERS, HERIBICIDES AND MACHINERIES) TO SUPPORT VARIOUS WOMEN OF OZUBULU IN RURAL FARMING IN CASSAVA	NEW	270,000,000
ERGP5159575	PROVISION OF FISHPONDS AND FARMING INPUTS AT ENUGU OUTSTATION	ONGOING	5,000,000
ERGP5201490	SUPPLY OF FARM INPUTS TO SOME COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN UMUEZE DELTA STATE	ONGOING	50,000,000
ERGP5211985	SUPPLY OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS TO YOUTH AND WOMEN IN ARONDIZUOGU COMMUNITIES IN IMO STATE	NEW	200,000,000
ERGP5211753	SUPPLY OF SEEDLINGS AND OTHER FARM INPUTS TO FARMERS IN EBONYI NORTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT	NEW	250,000,000
ERGP30203633	PROCUREMENT OF ASSORTED FERTILIZERS, AGRO-CHEMICALS, FARM INPUTS AND ACCESSORIES	NEW	15,221,241
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>6,213,368,894</b>

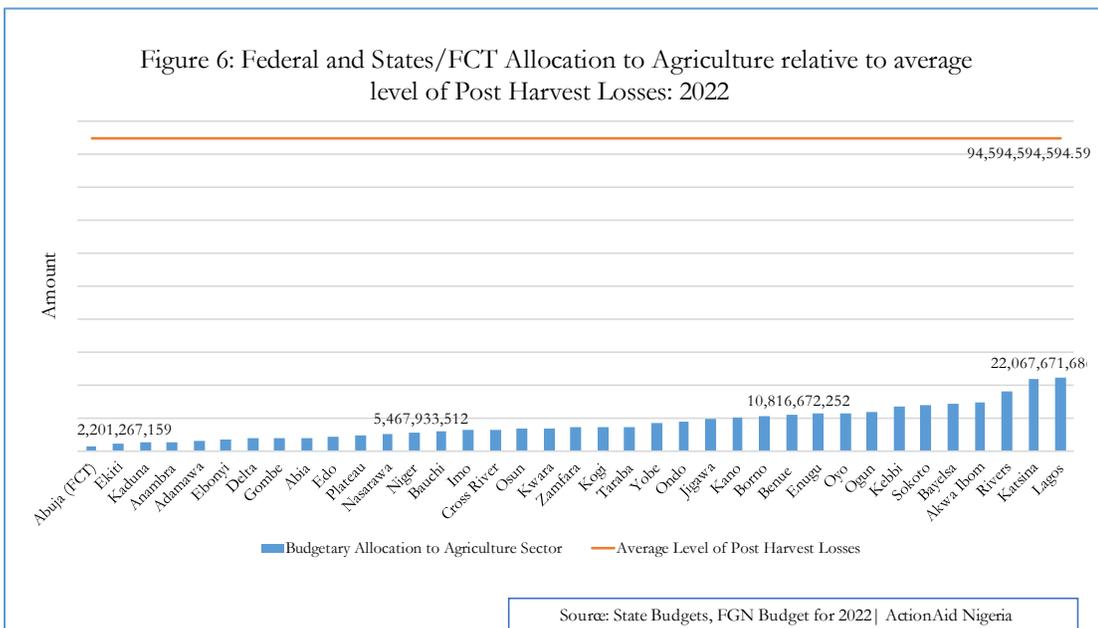
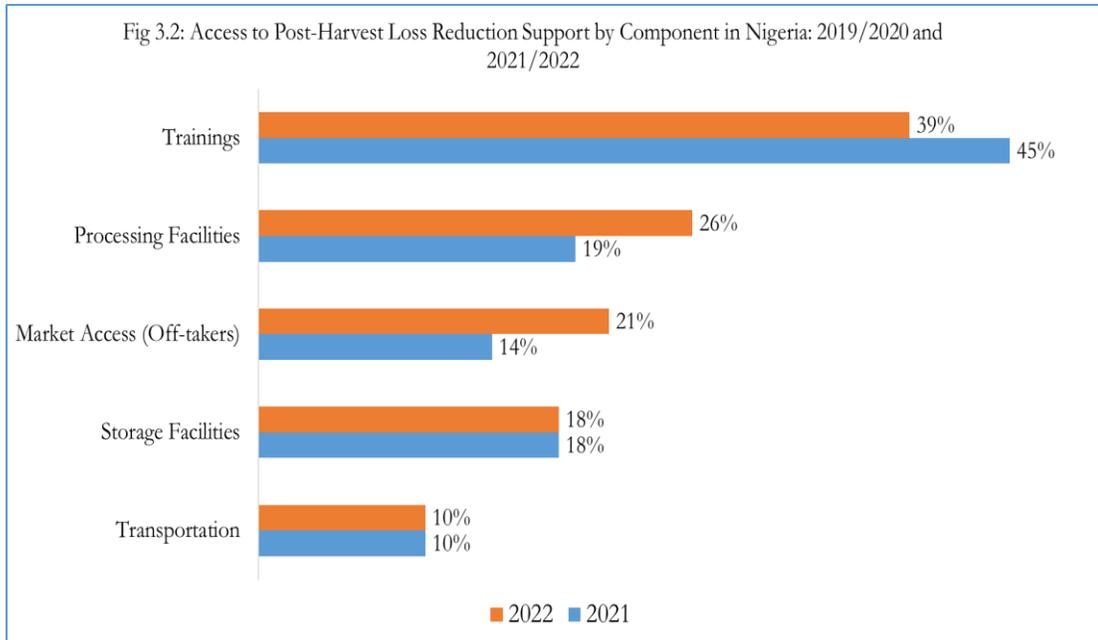
Source: 2024 Appropriation Bill

**Budget for Postharvest Losses Reduction Support (Processing Facilities, Storage Facilities, Trainings, Etc.) and Access to Markets**

Postharvest losses is one of the foremost challenges faced by smallholder farmers especially women in communities in Nigeria. It devastates our efforts and incomes, leaving us poorer and continues to hinder Nigeria’s food and nutrition security. Nigeria’s postharvest losses, which is estimated to be N3.5 trillion annually means about N94.5bn annual losses per 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) if shared equally, no State’s annual agriculture budget equals these massive losses. This is far more than each State and FCT’s annual agriculture budgetary allocation and spending. This also means that about 50% of production is lost to post-harvest losses in Nigeria, which is 50% income losses for smallholder farming families despite other challenges they are faced with across Nigeria, especially for smallholder women farmers.

If nothing is done urgently, Nigeria cannot achieve food and nutrition security as smallholder women farmers’ access to processing facilities is only 26%, storage facilities only 18%, transportation only 10%, market access only 21% and trainings to reduce post-harvest losses only 39%. All these alarming level of access across the 36 States and the FCT<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Non-State Actors Value Addition Biennial Review Toolkit (NSAs VABKIT) Report by ActionAid Nigeria for the 4th Biennial Review Report 2023.



Additionally, out of the 133million Nigerians living in poverty, 106million live in rural areas and agriculture is rural and we need rethink our public investments in agriculture, we need to rethink our targeting of smallholder farmers especially women to ensure we target appropriately the real smallholder women farmers especially. Nigeria is part of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which should bring about economic growth and Nigeria's economic growth has not been inclusive resulting to widespread and alarming poverty and inequality across the country. Economic growth can only be inclusive if it reduces both poverty and inequality; therefore, if smallholder women farmers are to benefit from the

implementation of the AfCFTA, trade barriers facing women must be dismantled through adequate public investments in agriculture especially in Post-Harvest Losses Reduction Supports (processing facilities, storage facilities, trainings, market access, etc.).

While it is commendable to see FMAFS making specific allocations to address postharvest losses, it is strongly recommended that the entire amount of N1,226,407,609 be released to ensure the reduction of postharvest losses. The main budget line items that will support post-harvest losses reduction are shown in the table below. As a result, in order to support post-harvest losses reduction throughout Nigeria, FMAFS must efficiently collaborate with the pertinent agencies and the Federal Ministries of Industry, Trade, and Investment, Science and Technology and Power.

*Figure 22: Budget for Post-harvest Losses Reduction Support (processing facilities, storage facilities, trainings, etc.) and Access to Markets in the 2024 Proposed Budget*

CODE	PROJECT NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT
ERGP30172468	DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR POWERED TECHNOLOGIES FOR PREVENTION OF POSTHARVEST LOSSES	ONGOING	21,659,194
ERGP30172521	APPLICATION OF NANO TECHNOLOGIES FOR MITIGATION OF POSTHARVEST LOSSES IN GRAIN AND FRUITS AND VEGETABLE	ONGOING	9,366,184
ERGP5105275	POLICY COORDINATION, PROJECTS/PROGRAMMES MONITORING AND EVALUATION	ONGOING	850,011,000
ERGP30150915	RESEARCH INTO RICE CULTIVATION AND POST HARVEST LOSS PREVENTION	NEW	20,000,000
ERGP30171114	MINIMIZING POST-HARVEST LOSSES THROUGH VALUE ADDITION TO SELECTED HORTICULTURAL CROPS OF SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AND MEDICINAL POTENTIALS	ONGOING	4,200,000
ERGP8184038	MENTORING OF YOUTHS AND WOMEN ON POST HARVEST LOSSES AND MANAGEMENT	ONGOING	35,121,200
ERGP5153865	EMPOWERMENT OF 50 NOS OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS ON AGRICULTURAL SKILL ACQUISITION ON POST-HARVEST STORAGE TECHNIQUES	ONGOING	29,000,000
ERGP8153300	VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOR FOOD SECURITY FOR 50 NOS OF RURAL WOMEN AND FARMERS THROUGH POST-HARVEST HANDLING AND STORAGE TECHNIQUES	ONGOING	48,000,000
ERGP30112415	IMPROVEMENT OF KOLA VARIETIES AND ASSOCIATED PRODUCTION AND HARVESTING/ POST HARVEST TECHNOLOGIES	ONGOING	10,000,000
ERGP30137259	DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN CONTROLS ON POSTHARVEST MANAGEMENT	ONGOING	42,578,190
ERGP30201722	REHABILITATION OF EXISTING GRAINS STORAGE FACILITY IN NCAM	ONGOING	8,600,000
ERGP5138144	PROCUREMENT OF STORAGE MATERIALS, PRESERVATIVES, AGROCHEMICALS, HERBICIDES, AGO AND REAGENTS	ONGOING	63,020,000

ERGP5110977	DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH YIELDING HEAT TOLERANT AND GOOD QUALITY VARIETIES OF WHEAT AND BARLEY AND DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY MATURING AND HIGH YIELDING MILLET VARIETIES WITH GOOD PROCESSING QUALITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CAPACITY OF SCIENTISTS, FARMERS AND EXTENSIONISTS IN WHEAT AND MILLET PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND STORAGE.	ONGOING	32,065,043
ERGP30107311	DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY STANDARDS FOR LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY REGULATION FOR MARKET ACCESS	ONGOING	52,536,798
ERGP5208804	PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY COOPERATIVES FOR ACCESS TO CAPITAL GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TRAINING FOR INCREASE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND MARKETING	NEW	250,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,226,407,609</b>

Source: 2024 Appropriation Bill

Many options and initiatives have been created globally to incorporate clean energy alternatives in agro-processing and household energy access in order to reduce waste from agro-processing, reduce post-harvest loss, and empower communities, particularly women. FMAFS should also take advantage of these developments now emerging in Nigeria.

### Monitoring & Evaluation, and Coordination

The agriculture sector budget for 2024 suggests allocating a total of N3,419,045,376 for oversight. Basically, the primary ministry's job is to keep an eye on and oversee the other DAs in the industry. We therefore call attention to the issue of results and their impact on sectoral development, meaning that those in charge of implementing all MDA budgets should make sure that projects are tracked, with findings utilized to enhance the execution of the budget and projects, and that accurate data is provided for Nigeria's CAADP Biennial Report to the African Union.

*Figure 23: Budget for Monitoring and Evaluation in the 2024 Budget*

CODE	PROJECT NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT
ERGP30208786	CAPACITY BUILDING ON PROJECTS MONITORING EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING FOR EFFICIENCY AND HIGH PERFORMANCE FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY	NEW	500,080,680
ERGP5105275	POLICY COORDINATION, PROJECTS/PROGRAMMES MONITORING AND EVALUATION	ONGOING	850,011,000
ERGP30138052	MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF NCAM RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, CONSTITUENCY AND CAPITAL PROJECTS	ONGOING	20,100,000
ERGP5150992	PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF RESEARCH AND CAPITAL PROJECTS	NEW	15,500,000

ERGP30172114	MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF RESEARCH PROJECTS AND SERVICES	ONGOING	5,000,000
ERGP30104977	REQUIREMENT FOR DISSEMINATION OF IAR RESEARCH RESULTS TO FARMERS, ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNOLOGY ADOPTED VILLAGES AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE (EXTENSION ATA):	NEW	9,826,745
ERGP30205560	MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF ALL RESEARCH PROJETS IN IBADAN, MBATO, BAGAUDA DADINKOWA & OTUKPA	NEW	19,000,000
ERGP30112411	MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS	ONGOING	7,000,000
ERGP23111345	MONITORING AND EVALUATION	ONGOING	19,000,000
ERGP30106988	NATIONAL ANNUAL PLANNING, COORDINATION AND MONITORING OF RESEARCH EXTENSION-FARMER-INPUTS-LINKAGE-SYSTEMS (REFILS) ACTIVITIES	ONGOING	11,360,830
ERGP30206182	MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROJECTS	NEW	3,287,810
ERGP1140409	REGULATORY MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT OF APPROVED SEED VARIETIES IN NIGERIA FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE AND CONTROL	ONGOING	140,000,000
ERGP30142761	INSPECTION, MONITORING AND CERTIFICATION OF FISH FARMS, FACILITIES, WATER BODIES ETC	ONGOING	14,000,000
ERGP30210590	COORDINATION, MONITORING OF NAQS ACTIVITIES ON AGRICULTURAL BEST PRACTICES	NEW	5,000,000
ERGP5126742	NATIONWIDE MONITORING & EVALUATION OF EXECUTED PROJECTS	ONGOING	7,500,000
ERGP30206450	COORDINATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, TRAINING AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES IN NARIS AND FCAS	NEW	60,000,000
ERGP30172833	MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PROJECTS	ONGOING	14,817,311
23050103	MONITORING AND EVALUATION (FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY - HQTRS)		1,450,011,000
23050103	MONITORING AND EVALUATION (NATIONAL CEREALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE- BADEGGI)		15,500,000
22021029	MONITORING ACTIVITIES & FOLLOW UP (NATIONAL ROOT CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE- UMUDIKE)		10,050,000
23050103	MONITORING AND EVALUATION (NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OIL PALM RESEARCH (NIFOR) - BENIN)		5,000,000
22021029	MONITORING ACTIVITIES & FOLLOW UP (NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE- IBADAN)		6,500,000
23050103	MONITORING AND EVALUATION (NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE- IBADAN)		19,000,000
23050103	MONITORING AND EVALUATION (COCOA RESEARCH INSTITUTE- IBADAN)		7,000,000
22021029	MONITORING ACTIVITIES & FOLLOW UP (RUBBER RESEARCH INSTITUTE- BENIN)		2,000,000

23050103	MONITORING AND EVALUATION (NATIONAL AGRICULTURE SEEDS COUNCIL)		140,000,000
23050103	MONITORING AND EVALUATION (NIGERIA AGRICULTURAL QUARANTINE SERVICE)		62,500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>3,419,045,376</b>

Source: 2024 Appropriation Bill

## Questionable Budget Line Items in the 2024 FMAFS Proposed Budget

Below are examples of FMAFS budget line items that we think could be questionable and would require further explanation by the FMAFS budget office for clarity.

<b>0215001001 FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY - HQTRS</b>	
ERGP1208759	REFORM OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY INSTITUTIONS FOR RENEWED HOPE AGENDA (NEW) = <b>N300,126,000</b> . <i>{What exactly is this line item? What sort of reform and which institutions is being referred to – what is the project or program? Which institutions are food security institutions? Are they creating new institutions on renewed hope? This should be properly explained or removed from the budget}</i>
ERGP30105248	CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (ONGOING) = <b>N350,760,466</b> . <i>{Contribution for what projects and which international organizations? Is this a loan or contribution to program? This should also be clear not ambiguous}</i>
ERGP30175085	MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN AGRIBUSINESS (ONGOING) = <b>N600,600,000</b> <i>{what exactly is this sum for? Is it different from other gender related programs, projects and training already captured in the budget? This is an ambiguous line item and should be more explicit}</i>
ERGP30208758	AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY STAKEHOLDERS' ANALYSIS AND MAPPING STUDY (NEW) = <b>N100,550,000</b> . <i>{With wider online presence by stakeholders, use of ICT and mass media, this can be done relatively cheaper}</i>
ERGP30208762	DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD FRAMEWORK FOR EASE OF DOING AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY INCLUDING INCLUSIVENESS FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS (NEW) = <b>N100,666,453</b> . <i>{How exactly is this line item going to be executed; what will the output and outcome look like? This is an ambiguous line item and should be more explicit – further explanation is needed}</i>
ERGP5211999	REHABILITATION OF SELECTED ROADS AND INSTALLATION OF NEW TRANSFORMERS AND CABLES IN DIFFERENT TOWNS IN IKONO & ABAK LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF NORTHWEST SENATORIAL DISTRICT OF AKWA IBOM (NEW) = <b>N1,000,000,000</b> . <i>{Should the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security be rehabilitating and constructing roads. Worst installing Transformers. With electricity distribution companies now owing and responsible for investing, providing, and installing transformers in their network cover, either government or individuals should not be providing electricity distribution assets on their behalf, except a written guarantee of reimbursement from the DISCOS is established. Best Rural Electrification Agency (REA) under the Ministry of Power should be doing this}.</i>

ERGP5212000 | REHABILITATION OF SELECTED ROADS AND INSTALLATION OF NEW TRANSFORMERS AND CABLES IN DIFFERENT TOWNS IN ESSIEN & ETIM EKPO LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF NORTHWEST SENATORIAL DISTRICT OF AKWA IBOM (NEW) = **N1,000,000,000**. *{Same comment as above}*.

ERGP5212001 | REHABILITATION OF SELECTED ROADS AND INSTALLATION OF NEW TRANSFORMERS AND CABLES IN DIFFERENT TOWNS IN IKA & IKOT EPENE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF NORTHWEST SENATORIAL DISTRICT OF AKWA IBOM (NEW) = **N1,000,000,000**. *{Same comment as above}*.

ERGP5212002 | REHABILITATION OF SELECTED ROADS AND INSTALLATION OF NEW TRANSFORMERS AND CABLES IN DIFFERENT TOWNS IN INI & OBOT LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF NORTHWEST SENATORIAL DISTRICT OF AKWA IBOM (NEW) = **N1,000,000,000**. *{Same comment as above}*.

ERGP5212003 | REHABILITATION OF SELECTED ROADS AND INSTALLATION OF NEW TRANSFORMERS AND CABLES IN DIFFERENT TOWNS IN ORUN ANAM & UKANAFUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF NORTHWEST SENATORIAL DISTRICT OF AKWA IBOM (NEW) = **N1,000,000,000**. *{Same comment as above}*.

**0215002001 FEDERAL COLLEGE OF PRODUCE INSPECTION AND STORED PRODUCTS TECHNOLOGY, KANO**

ERGP23123962 | ACCREDITATION OF COLLEGE COURSES; CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES INSPECTION (ONGOING) = **N35,000,000**. *Is the College paying for the accreditation? What exactly is this sum meant for and why is accreditation an Ongoing exercise?*

**0215004001 NATIONAL CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL MECHANISATION- ILORIN**

ERGP30100748 | IMPROVEMENT OF THE EFFICIENCY OF NCAM DEVELOPED TECHNOLOGIES THROUGH SPECIFIC PROBLEM SOLVING AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF RESEARCHERS (ONGOING) = **N90,000,000** *{How exactly is this line item going to be executed; what will the output and outcome look like? This is an ambiguous line item and should be more explicit – further explanation is needed}*

**0215005001 NATIONAL CEREALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE- BADEGGI**

ERGP30151021 | DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS TO END USERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY (NEW) = **N15,500,000**. *{With wider online presence by stakeholders, use of ICT and mass media, this can be done relatively cheaper with online copies}*

**0215012006 FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MUBI, ADAMAWA STATE**

ERGP12211908 | CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROAD ON MUBI MAIN CAMPUS (NEW) = **N10,000,000**

ERGP27211929 | RENOVATION OF MAIN CAMPUS GATE (NEW) = **N10,000,000** *{the cost of RENOVATING the main gate of the university, is the same as cost of constructing a new road. This cost for renovating a school gate is too much}*

**0215015001 I NSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING- IBADAN**

ERGP30151628   AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (ONGOING) = <b>N33,238,844.</b> <i>{How exactly is this line item going to be executed; what will the output and outcome look like? This is an ambiguous line item and should be more explicit – further explanation is needed}</i>
ERGP30151632   AGRICULTURAL INPUT TRANSFORMATION FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES (ONGOING) = <b>N20,212,973.</b> <i>{How exactly is this line item going to be executed; what will the output and outcome look like? This is an ambiguous line item and should be more explicit – further explanation is needed}</i>
ERGP30151704   COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE EXPANSION SUPPORT FOR POWER INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RESEARCH AND LABORATORIES (ONGOING) = <b>N3,801,315.</b> <i>{How exactly is this line item going to be executed; what will the output and outcome look like? This is an ambiguous line item and should be more explicit – further explanation is needed}</i>
<b>0215029001 FEDERAL CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE- IBADAN</b>
ERGP12213205   CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESS ROAD AND BRIDGE TO LINK FCCIBADAN INTERLAND. (NEW) = <b>N400,000,000.</b> <i>{Should this be the responsibility of this institute or the federal or state government – are they arrangements for reimbursement should the responsibility of fixing the road be on the State government?}</i>
<b>0215053001 NIGERIA AGRICULTURAL QUARANTINE SERVICE</b>
ERGP30126694   PRODUCTION OF JINGLES ON NAQS ACTIVITIES (ONGOING) = <b>N10,000,000.</b> <i>{this sum look rather much, considering possible target audience and other more cost-effective methods to spread the needed information – with use of social media, this can be done with very little}</i>
ERGP30142762   DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL DISEASE FREE FARMS (ONGOING) = <b>N22,500,000</b> <i>{why Is NAQS developing a farm? Where are the farm locations? Are they selling the yields or using the knowledge to improve their quarantine work, which is at the borders? Since it is ongoing; practical evidence on the benefits need to be public}. This should be investigated.</i>
ERGP30142765   DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL DISEASE FREE AREAS (ONGOING) = <b>N22,500,000</b> <i>{why Is NAQS developing a farm? Where are the farm locations? Are they selling the yields or using the knowledge to improve their quarantine work, which is at the boarders? Since it is ongoing; practical evidence on the benefits need to be public}. This should be investigated.</i>
ERGP30155167   MYCOTOXIN AND HEAVY METAL CONTAMINANTS IN ANIMAL PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT (ONGOING) = <b>N 65,000,000</b> <i>{similar questions as the above applies here}</i>

## SWOT Analysis of the Agricultural Budget

The Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of the Agricultural Sector’s budget are presented as follows:

<b>STRENGTH OF THE AGRICULTURE BUDGET</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES OF THE AGRICULTURE BUDGET</b>
✓ The budget line items align with the objectives of the ERGP and the	✓ The budget amount is too low to achieve the NATIP ambitious targets.

<p>National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Policy (NATIP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Some of the capital project activities are on-going, which implies that there is continuity.</li> <li>✓ The quality of the budget has improved compared to what it used to be (less repetitions, minimal frivolous items)</li> <li>✓ The MDA is paying good attention to climate change, gender, and youths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ It is unclear how the budget really supports smallholder agriculture.</li> <li>✓ It appears that there is a template that MDAs must complete which is not based on current realities and plans. They seem to just fill it with figures.</li> <li>✓ MDAs are over-stretched and are executing project outside their expertise.</li> <li>✓ Not so much emphasis and clarity were provided on food safety and expanding agroecology.</li> <li>✓ Ambiguity still exists in some capital project line items.</li> </ul>
<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b></p>	<p><b>THREATS</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The government's commitments to diversification through the agriculture sector builds confidence.</li> <li>✓ There are possibilities for additional investment through private sector, development partners and bilateral agreements.</li> <li>✓ The National Assembly can increase the budget.</li> <li>✓ Aside the proposed budget, there are extra-budgetary investments that are available, for example, the Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) and NIRSAL, etc.</li> <li>✓ If properly implemented, agroecological programs and project can generate a lot of foreign revenue for Nigeria.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Insecurity in rural agrarians' communities if not addressed will affect implementation.</li> <li>✓ The late releases of the budget will affect implementation.</li> <li>✓ Budget performance (release of funds) over the years has been poor.</li> <li>✓ Budget and sector activities are still highly dominated by the main ministry-FMAFS rather than the implementing agencies.</li> <li>✓ Though agriculture is central to poverty alleviation and delivering social equity, it seems not to be pronounced by the government in the budget speech.</li> <li>✓ Poor implementation capacity especially in the implementation of agroecology as a nature-based solution to agricultural productivity.</li> <li>✓ Corruption, lack of accountability and transparency is a threat to the budget.</li> </ul>

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Following a comprehensive analysis of the proposed 2024 budget for the agriculture sector, several observations have been identified:

1. The allocation dedicated to the agricultural sector within the overall budget has consistently oscillated between 1 and 2 percent over the past seven years. This persistent pattern deviates from the expected trajectory of a progressive increase aimed at bolstering the sector, with the figure for 2024 standing at 1.32%.
2. Notably, there exists an erratic trend in the percentage distribution between capital and recurrent budgets within the primary ministry, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS).
3. It is crucial to acknowledge the potential impact of inflation on diminishing the real value of the budget, thereby compromising the efficacy of the capital budget to facilitate substantive sectoral development. This consideration assumes paramount importance and warrants due attention.
4. Certain components within both the capital and overhead budgets pose challenges in terms of monitoring, as the budgetary documentation lacks comprehensive information regarding essential details such as specifications of what, where, when, who, and how pertaining to specific line items. This opacity hampers effective oversight.

In light of these findings, it is recommended that a more transparent and detailed budgetary framework be pursued to foster accountability and effective monitoring, thereby ensuring optimal utilization of resources for the advancement of the agriculture sector.

## Recommendations

1. The allocations to postharvest losses should urgently focus on supporting small cottage processing and storage facilities in communities based on different commodities to be owned, operated, sustained, and expanded by smallholder women farmers cooperatives. This will help address the challenges of postharvest losses experienced by smallholder women farmers across Nigeria.
2. Solar dryers should also be provided to smallholder women farmers cooperatives in communities based on agriculture produce that can be dried to save losses.
3. Trainings on post-harvest loss reduction for women farmers should be increased.

4. The Federal and State Governments should invest massively in rural roads to support transportation of agriculture produce and trade.
5. A budget line should be created from this budget as a yearly Strengthening Access to Credit budget line. This funding should focus on getting consultants or consultancy firms to support women, youths and farmers living with disability cooperatives to be able to navigate the too cumbersome access to credit in Nigeria. The team or consultancy firm will handhold the cooperatives to access existing CBN agricultural credit facilities through preparing their business proposals, interfacing, and negotiating with BOA, Bank of Industry, NIRSAL, commercial and microfinance banks. The team or consultancy firm will ensure that the cooperatives access such facilities and other services like extension, insurance, etc. and even market access and they are able to pay back at the end of each circle, etc.
6. Insurance should be made available and easily accessible for all women farmers across communities. Insurance products for smallholder women farmers should also be targeted at risk factors such as rainfall, drought, pests, and high temperatures.
7. Gender sensitiveness and responsiveness of the agriculture budget should be enhanced by increasing line items for the implementation of the National Gender Policy in Agriculture that address specific challenges that affect women farmers different from men as well as avoid lumping up budget for women farmers and other groups such as youths.
8. Evidence exists that irrigation has the potential to boost agricultural productivities by at least 50%. The average milk yield is as low as between 1-2 litres per day in the rainy season to only 500 ml per day in dry season. The production of fresh milk is very seasonally influenced in Nigeria, with 2/3 of the production to be achieved in the rainy season, and 1/3 in the dry season. Investments in irrigation is needed and can be done through the provision of solar powered boreholes across rural communities to provide water for lives and livelihoods to support households use and water for crops irrigation, water for cattle and the growing fodder which can reduce farmers and herders' clashes across Nigeria while bringing out increased livestock and milk production.
9. The federal government should commit 10% of her annual budget to the agriculture sector to meet the 10% Maputo/Malabo Declaration required to support at least 6% growth rate for the sector as postulated in the CAADP framework and ensure timely and total releases of the agriculture budgets towards food security, unemployment reduction and poverty eradication.

10. Budgetary allocations should be increased and should go to strategic areas of investments which include Extension Services, Access to Credit, Women in Agriculture, Youth in Agriculture, Appropriate Labour-Saving Technologies, Inputs, Post-Harvest Losses Reduction Supports (processing facilities, storage facilities, trainings, market access, etc.), Irrigation, Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA)/Agroecology, Research and Development, Monitoring and Evaluation, as well as Coordination.
11. Enhance Fund Disbursement for Implementation: In retrospect, the historical performance of the budget reveals a significant deficiency, particularly in the release of funds for effective implementation. Currently, only approximately 20% of the capital budget is being disbursed, contrasting sharply with nearly 100% utilization of recurrent expenditure. This discrepancy underscores the necessity for the government to guarantee robust funding for capital appropriations, ensuring a more equitable alignment with output and fostering productivity among staff.
12. Reintroduction of GES for Input Gaps: The reintroduction of the Growth Enhancement Scheme (GES) is recommended, accompanied by an increased budget to address input gaps experienced by smallholder farmers, particularly women.
13. Gradual Reduction of FMAFS Headquarters Allocation: To optimize resource allocation, a gradual reduction in the substantial allocation to FMAFS Headquarters is proposed. Devolving more powers and activities to implementing agencies would enhance efficiency and focus on the ministry level.
14. Stakeholders Increased Involvement in Budgeting Process: FMAFS is urged to actively increase the involvement of stakeholders, including farmer organizations and civil society organizations, during the annual budget preparation process. This inclusive approach enhances clarity, transparency, and the overall usefulness of the budget for the final beneficiaries.
15. Detailed Project Information in the Budget: The budget should provide detailed information on project locations for infrastructure, mechanization, and construction. Clear indications of quantity requirements for all physical capital budget line items would expedite follow-up and monitoring.
16. Effective Sector Coordination: FMAFS should coordinate effectively with State ministries, devolve budgetary implementation to FMAFS agencies and State-level offices, and collaborate with other relevant ministries and departments. This coordinated effort is essential for addressing cross-cutting issues, including climate change.

## **For the National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF)**

17. The N100bn allocation for capital expenditure for NADF should target to achieving the commitments in the President's declared state of emergency on the food security situation in the country, therefore should focus on Extension Services, Access to Credit, Women in Agriculture, Youth in Agriculture, Appropriate Labour-Saving Technologies, Inputs, Post-Harvest Losses Reduction Supports (processing facilities, storage facilities, trainings, market access, etc.), Irrigation, Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA)/Agroecology.
18. Optimize Expenditure on Infrastructure: Before committing substantial funds to the acquisition and maintenance of office facilities, the NADF should conduct a rigorous evaluation of its current operating location. Questions regarding the necessity of a new office building, budgeted at N1.2 billion, and the procurement of office furniture and fittings totalling over N70 million should be critically examined. Additionally, considering the allocation of N27.5 million for office rent and N10 million for the maintenance of office buildings and residential quarters in the recurrent expenditure, there arises a significant concern. In the strategic allocation of funds, particular attention should be given to judiciously balancing the need for new infrastructure against the potential for corruption and the long-term cost implications. If new buildings and furniture are procured in the initial year, provisions should be made to eliminate or significantly reduce maintenance costs, as these are fixed assets requiring minimal upkeep in the initial years (1-3 years).
19. Optimized Vehicle Procurement: The allocation of N450 million for the purchase of operational vehicles warrants a detailed review of the type and quantity required for efficient operations. The NADF should conduct a comprehensive analysis of its transportation needs and consider cost-effective options, such as leasing, to minimize expenses. A transparent breakdown of the vehicle types and quantities needed, aligned with the organization's functions, should be presented.
20. Rationalization of Research Expenditure: Given the tight budgetary constraints, the allocation of N240 million for research should be reevaluated. The NADF could explore collaborative research initiatives with existing agencies under the Ministry and other reputable partners. This would not only optimize resources but also ensure that research efforts are streamlined and aligned with national priorities. The proposed allocation for research may be significantly reduced or redirected to more critical areas.
21. Detailed Project and Intervention Plans: To enhance accountability and prevent misappropriation, the NADF should provide a detailed breakdown of the Agricultural Development Fund, specifying the intended special interventions or projects. A transparent plan highlighting the objectives, target beneficiaries, and expected outcomes for each allocation should be presented. This ensures that the fund is utilized strategically and mitigates the risk of misuse.

22. **Clarity in Travel Expenditure:** The allocation of N49 million for unspecified travels raises concerns about transparency and accountability. The NADF should provide a clear breakdown of the purpose, destinations, and expected outcomes of these travels. In light of technological advancements facilitating remote interactions, efforts should be made to minimize travel expenses, especially for miscellaneous purposes. Transparent reporting on travel expenditures will contribute to a more efficient use of resources.
23. **Public Consultation on Budget Allocation:** In promoting transparency and inclusivity, the NADF should consider engaging the public, relevant stakeholders, and agricultural experts in a consultation process regarding its budget allocations. This participatory approach ensures that diverse perspectives are considered, and potential concerns or oversights are addressed collectively. This can lead to more informed and well-rounded decisions.
24. **Regular Review of Budget Performance:** In response to the declared state of emergency in the agricultural sector, the NADF should commit to regular and transparent reviews of its budget performance. Quarterly or bi-annual assessments, with detailed reports accessible to the public, can provide insights into fund utilization, successes, and areas requiring adjustment. This ongoing evaluation contributes to adaptive management and strengthens accountability.