

REPORT

OF THE ASSESSMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL GROWTH
SCHEME AGRO-POCKET (NAGS-AP)**

WHEAT INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

FOR 2023/24 & 2024/25 DRY SEASON FARMING IN NIGERIA




ENHANCING
PRODUCTIVITY


IMPROVING
LIVELIHOODS


BUILDING RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES


INFORMING
POLICY


DRIVING SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURAL GROWTH

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P.M.B. 1890, Garki, Abuja, Nigeria
Info.nigeria@actionaid.org
www.nigeria.actionaid.org
Phone: +234(0)812888825-7

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ABBREVIATIONS

AfDB	African Development Bank
ADP	Agricultural Development Programme
ATASP	Agricultural Transformation Agenda Support Programme
BOA	Bank of Agriculture
BVN	Bank Verification Number
BIR	Budget Implementation Report
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
GSADP	Gombe State Agricultural Development Programme
ICT	Information Communication Technology
KADA	Kaduna Agricultural Development Agency
KADP	Kaduna Agricultural Development Project
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
LGAs	Local Government Areas
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MT	Metric Tons
NAGS-AP	National Agricultural Growth Scheme–Agro-Pocket
NASC	National Agriculture Seed Council
NAT	National-level Institution
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NPK	Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), and Potassium (K)
OPD	Organisation of Persons with Disabilities
PWD	Persons With Disabilities
PEAs	Programme Extension Agents
R&D	Research and Development
SMS	Short Message Service
TOT	Train the Trainers
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report reviews the implementation of the wheat component of the Agro-Pocket under the National Agricultural Growth Scheme for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 dry season farming programme. The National Agricultural Growth Scheme–Agro-Pocket (NAGS-AP) was introduced to improve smallholder farmers’ access to subsidised inputs through digital platform,¹ promote dry-season farming, and enhance staple crop production in Nigeria. The intervention is funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) through a 134 million US dollar sector budget support facility and is implemented by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) via the NAGS-AP National Project Secretariat.

The NAGS-AP initiative was designed by the Federal Government of Nigeria to address persistent agricultural productivity gaps through subsidised input distribution, extension services, agricultural insurance, and improved access to credit. The wheat component specifically aims to reduce Nigeria’s heavy reliance on wheat imports by strengthening domestic production and improving self-sufficiency. This objective is particularly important in the context of rising global demand, increasing domestic consumption, and the country’s vulnerability to international supply disruptions, all of which place sustained pressure on scarce foreign exchange. The intervention primarily targets wheat farmers in established wheat-producing cluster states in northern Nigeria.

Implementation, involving multiple stakeholders, reportedly benefitted a total of 107,429 wheat farmers through the provision of subsidised inputs during the rollout phase in 2023/2024². However, despite official reports indicating positive outcomes, several challenges have been identified. These include weak monitoring systems, input diversion, and limited data transparency, raising concerns about the overall effectiveness, inclusiveness, and accountability of the programme. In addition, findings from civil society organisations and media investigations point to issues such as delays in input distribution, limited reach of subsidies, inadequate communication with beneficiary communities, and the possible exclusion of vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities. These concerns underscore the need for evidence-based assessment to distinguish verified outcomes from competing claims.

Accordingly, this ActionAid Nigeria Community Scorecard report assesses the provision of subsidised support to wheat farmers under the FMAFS/ NAGS-AP dry season farming programme. The participatory approach adopted ensures that the perspectives of wheat farmers directly inform the evaluation of programme performance. The assessment employed a purposive sampling method and utilised a combination of research tools, including focus group discussions, key informant interviews, on-site visits to some redemption centres and wheat farms, as well as stakeholders’ validation workshop and post validation technical review meeting with the NAGS-AP’s team.

The study also incorporated an initial desk review of relevant literature, including reports from the AfDB, the National Bureau of Statistics, and the Central Bank of Nigeria; alongside a review of available programme data from the NAGS-AP National Project Secretariat. Primary data collection relied on semi-structured instruments and direct stakeholder engagement through field-based research conducted between January and February 2026.

¹ An electronic system reportedly designed to enable farmers receive and redeem input subsidies transparently via e-vouchers, thereby reducing corruption, improving efficiency, and ensuring that targeted beneficiaries particularly women, youth, and vulnerable groups participate fully in agricultural value chains.

² This figure was extracted from an internal spreadsheet handout shared with the consultant following post validation technical review meeting held at the NAGS-AP National Project Secretariat on Tuesday April 28, 2026.

The study covered six selected wheat-producing states: Jigawa, Kaduna, and Kano in the North-West; Niger in the North-Central; Gombe in the North-East; and Cross River in the South-South. These locations reflect diverse agro-ecological zones and varying implementation contexts, enabling comparative analysis across both established production clusters and newly introduced wheat areas. The overall design is implementation-focused, examining programme delivery processes, governance structures, beneficiary experiences, and institutional coordination under the NAGS-AP wheat intervention during the period under review.

Summary of core findings:

- 1. Beneficiary selection process.** According to the NAGS-AP Standard Operating Procedure/ Implementation Strategy, the registration and enumeration of farmers at the ward level involve “clustering and biometric capturing of farmers along the commodity value chains as well as taking their farm’s GPS”. However, information gathered from the fieldwork suggests that there are allegations of “ghost” or politically selected farmers, referring to individuals reportedly included in beneficiary lists due to political connections rather than genuine farming activity.
- 2. Delays in input distribution.** The timeliness of inputs distribution is very key. Field data shows that the inputs are often received late, which negatively affects production as wheat farming is highly seasonal and time-sensitive. The delays in inputs distribution was consistently identified as a major challenge by the farmers and other relevant stakeholders, who raised concerns about late delivery of inputs.
- 3. Quality and adequacy of inputs.** Views on the quality and adequacy of inputs varied across states. Farmers in Kaduna, Kano, and Gombe reported that input supplies were more adequate in the 2023/24 season compared to 2024/25, which experienced delays and reduction in quantities. In contrast, respondents in Jigawa and Niger considered the 2024/25 season to be better in terms of input delivery and adequacy. The NAGS-AP Secretariat however attributes the variation in the quality and adequacy of inputs to reduction in hectare allocated for wheat production from 1 – 0.5 hectare and the fact that some farmers also received additional support from their state governments.

Also, views on seed quality were mixed: farmers in Gombe reported that imported wheat seeds performed well and were of higher quality than local varieties, while farmers in Jigawa noted that NAGS-AP seeds germinated faster than those obtained from some private aggregators. However, other stakeholders, including ADP officials and farmers, maintained that poor-quality seeds and agrochemicals were supplied in some cases. These mixed findings indicate inconsistencies and weaknesses in input quality monitoring and accountability systems across locations.

- 4. Low visibility of extension agents in programme delivery.** A recurring concern raised was the limited involvement of extension agents which might undermine the post input follow-up supports to farmers. The focus group participants claimed the extension staff were not adequately empowered to provide post distribution support yet they are expected to guide the farmers from planting to harvesting. For example, many States’ ADP offices claimed that poor synergy between federal implementers, ICT service providers, and state extension services undermined overall programme effectiveness. However, while acknowledging the inadequate number of Agricultural Extension Agents across all the tiers, the NAGS-AP Secretariat insists that the extension agents are much needed for the post distribution follow-up actions to guide the farmers properly during the farming process than at the inputs redemption centers.
- 5. Access to agricultural financing or credit remains low, which is consistent with existing literature.** Being an agricultural inputs delivery initiative, the small-scale farmers interviewed at the grassroots

level however view as concerning the “Presidential Directive that all agricultural intervention funds including NAGS-AP funded projects, be transferred and put in the custody and management of Bank of Agriculture (BOA)”. Many of these farmers express a clear preference for sustained and increased inputs subsidies threshold from the current 50 per cent coverage to 75% to mitigate financial barriers, high production costs, low price of wheat in the market, and other inflationary pressures as against a general reluctance towards bank loans.

- 6. Access to agricultural insurance is also very limited.** Awareness and uptake of insurance products were found to be very low due to several factors, including poor sensitisation, low acceptance of insurance schemes, and reluctance to participate driven by perceived high premiums and sociocultural or religious beliefs, with some farmers attributing losses to divine will. Key barriers identified include low awareness, lack of trust in insurance systems, high premiums, unclear claims processes, and weak reporting mechanisms.
- 7. Gender inclusion is formally integrated into the programme design, as reflected in the participation of women and youth beneficiaries.** However, a consistent barrier across all states visited is the 50 per cent counterpart funding requirement, which disproportionately affects more women farmers. This limits equitable access, as many women lack the financial capacity to meet the requirement for input redemption. In some cases, this has reportedly led to female beneficiaries selling their input packages to agro-dealers at reduced prices. This indicates a gap between policy intent and practical outcomes in achieving gender equity. In addition, the involvement of civil society organisations and women-based farmer associations, including the Small-Scale Women Farmers Organisation in Nigeria (SWOFON), as well as persons with disabilities (PWDs), remains limited.
- 8. The NAGS-AP wheat intervention is perceived to have limited transparency.** Key programme documents, including M&E/ progress reports, project budget and procurement records, beneficiary’s database, inputs redemption dashboard, etc. are not publicly accessible. This raises concerns about the level of accountability in the NAGS-AP project implementation.
- 9. Poor sensitisation and publicity leading to low level of awareness of the NAGS-AP programme.** For example, many farmers kept confusing the current wheat intervention with similar past efforts which validate the limited awareness creation of the ongoing wheat intervention outside the project communication loops. Besides, some farmers allegedly deleted text messages sent for inputs redemption as a possible scam, others turn up at wrong redemption centres, expressed difficulties in locating their centres, buttressing the need to improve programme communications strategy.
- 10. Allegations of sharp practices or corruption raised across the states.** For example, some respondents alleged collaboration between helpline staff and agro-dealers to divert inputs, manipulation of beneficiary lists, and the inclusion of individuals who are not farmers. However, both the NAGS-AP management and agro-dealers denied these claims. These allegations are unfounded or misunderstanding of operational challenges rather than deliberate wrongdoings. According to NAGS-AP officials, in many cases, the issue is not manipulation but a combination of logistical limitations, time constraints, and beneficiary non-compliance with redemption timelines. These constraints, combined with limited understanding of the database and redemption process, may contribute to perceptions of exclusion, favouritism, or malpractice.

- 11. Institutional ownership at Subnational Level:** There is limited institutional ownership of the NAGS-AP programme by relevant subnational agricultural governance structures³, particularly the State Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) offices. The NASG-AP SOP/IP strategy conceived the State Working Committee chairs by the Governor, with the Commissioner and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture as members as the institutional mechanism for project coordination at the state level. However, in practice, the implementation arm of the subnational agricultural governance structure, the State ADP Offices⁴ felt inefficiently engaged. This is a significant concern, as the post-input redemption support activities for farmers are expected to be delivered through ADPs and their extension agents.
- 12.** With estimated outputs of 474,628 metric tons for 2023/2024 and 1,117,188/Mt for 2024/2025 allegedly contributed via the NAGS-AP dry season farming activities,⁵ Nigeria's domestic wheat production still remains significantly below market demand. Currently, the *National Strategy for Wheat Self-Sufficiency in Nigeria* has been reportedly approved but not publicly accessible. However, achieving self-sufficiency in wheat production still remains a challenge with estimated total domestic production hardly surpasses one-fifth of total market demand in spite of all the past efforts and the ongoing initiative under NAGP-AP thereby raising serious questions on their overall effectiveness.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

The NAGS-AP Wheat Intervention demonstrated a federal commitment toward reducing wheat import dependency. However, field findings reveal that structural bottlenecks, particularly limited productivity gains, delayed input delivery, financial barriers for smallholders, and coordination weaknesses. Sustainable wheat expansion requires institutional strengthening, improved seed systems, irrigation infrastructure investment, and deeper integration of extension services.

Policy-Level Recommendations:

- ✓ Establish a National Wheat Seed Multiplication Strategy.
- ✓ Develop a zonal wheat suitability targeting framework.
- ✓ Introduce gender-sensitive agricultural financing mechanisms

Operational-Level Recommendations:

- ✓ Enforce strict seed delivery timelines before October ending annually.
- ✓ Support ADP extension agents to provide the farmers with post-input collection guide.
- ✓ Ensure all redemption centers are easily accessible.
- ✓ Publish verified beneficiary lists at the ward level for transparency.

Institutional-Level Recommendations:

³ With the exception of Cross River State, which demonstrates relatively strong ownership – likely due to piloting wheat production in the southern part of the country (a non-traditional production zone) – the remaining five state governments within the core northern wheat-producing cluster show weak or limited ownership of the programme

⁴ A state's ADP office complained bitterly that the ADPs were sidestepped in the planning, coordination and implementation of the intervention by both the FMAFS and their subnational counterparts.

⁵ These figures were extracted from an internal spreadsheet handout shared with the consultant following post validation technical review meeting held at the NAGS-AP National Project Secretariat on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

- ✓ Strengthen federal–state ownership and reporting systems.
- ✓ Deploy real-time publicly accessible open dashboards programme tracking.
- ✓ Improve ICT infrastructure and reliability during redemption exercises.
- ✓ Investigate allegations of corrupt practices, including inputs diversions, supply of adulterated agro-chemicals, fertilisers, uncertified seeds, etc.,
- ✓ Apply punitive sanction on unscrupulous agro dealers found culpable.
- ✓ Ensure adequate awareness creation and sensitisation using farmers-based platforms, community leaders, religion groups, social media and traditional groups.

For State Governments:

- ✓ Recruit and train more extension staff, including female extension agents.
- ✓ Empower the State ADP offices to achieve full optimisations.

For Farmers and Farmers-based Organisations

- ✓ Maximise inputs received to optimise wheat productivity.
- ✓ Build and expose grassroots based farmers to basic ICT literacy and skills.

For Non-State Actors:

- ✓ Invoke Freedom of Information Act to demand accountability for results
- ✓ Sustain independent programme monitoring, impact assessments, and stakeholders' engagements.

For Lenders: African Development Bank and other multilateral financial institutions

- ✓ Embed proactive publicly accessible information disclosure indicator in financing instruments to enhance transparency, accountability
- ✓ Support strong anti-corruption postures in the bank/partners-funded project implementation.
- ✓ Cultivate non state actors' engagements, including civil society third party monitoring, in programme delivery and results documentation ecosystems.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The National Agricultural Growth Scheme–Agro-Pocket (NAGS-AP) initiative was introduced to improve smallholder farmers’ access to subsidised inputs through digital platforms, encourage dry-season farming and staple crops production in Nigeria. The NAGS-AP intervention, rolled out during the 2023/24 dry season farming programme, was funded by African Development Bank (AfDB) through a \$134 million sector budget support operation⁶ implemented by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) through the NAGS-AP National Project Secretariat. The intervention was designed to address persistent productivity gaps through subsidised input distribution, extension services, agricultural insurance, and access to credit aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity by delivering subsidised inputs to farmers through an ICT-based platform.

The wheat component of the NAGS-AP was introduced to reduce Nigeria’s heavy reliance on wheat imports and encourage local self-sufficiency. The wheat intervention is particularly significant given the rising global demand for wheat, domestic consumption pressures, and Nigeria’s vulnerability to international supply shocks. The component’s primary objective is to address persistent challenges in domestic wheat production and reduce Nigeria’s perennial dependence on imported wheat, which continues to exert pressure on scarce foreign exchange. The wheat intervention was also influenced by global developments, particularly the Russia-Ukraine war, which disrupted wheat supply chains and forced several African countries, including Nigeria, to rely on humanitarian corridors for wheat importation. The situation stimulated Nigeria to harness its local wheat production potential, especially in states identified as suitable for wheat cultivation.

Expectedly, the intervention targets wheat farmers in the traditional wheat-producing states in the northern part of the country. The initial phase of the project was implemented during the 2023/24 and 2024/25 dry season cycles with phase two expected to commence from the 2025/26 dry season farming onward. The implementation, which involved multi stakeholders, including the participating state governments, farmer associations, and private sector actors, reportedly saw 107,429 wheat farmers benefit from subsidised inputs during the 2023/24 dry season rollout⁷.

1.2. Framing the Issue

Despite official narratives from the FMAFS pointing to positive achievements, challenges such as weak monitoring systems, input diversion, and data transparency have been highlighted. These have raised concerns around the effectiveness, inclusiveness, and transparency of implementation. Similarly, civil society and media investigative reports⁸ have also highlighted allegations of transparency and accountability issues, limited reach of subsidies, delayed delivery of inputs, and poor communication with beneficiary communities. More critically, anecdotal evidence suggests that women, youth, and vulnerable groups who are often at the margins of large-scale agricultural interventions may not have been adequately included.⁹

⁶ See, Appraisal Report and Recommendations of the Management to the Board of Directors of the African Development Bank on a proposed ADB Loan to the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Finance the National Agriculture Growth Scheme – Agro Pocket (NAGS); July 2022

⁷ Op. Cit. notes 2 and 5 above.

⁸https://www.researchgate.net/publication/393090266_Effect_of_Public_Budget_Transparency_on_Citizens_Trust_in_Government_Institutions_in_Nigeria

⁹ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/agriculture/agric-features/768618-analysis-seven-key-issues-that-shaped-nigerias-agriculture>

It is therefore necessary to distinguish facts from assumptions through participatory research focused on the implementation of the wheat component. Key stakeholders include the NAGS-AP National Project Secretariat, input distributors (Agro-Dealers), ICT-service providers, States' Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) offices, extension agents, helpline staff, and wheat farmers. Others relevant institutions include the Federal Ministry of Finance (International Economic Relations Department/ African Financial Institutions Unit), the Bank of Agriculture (BOA), and the National Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC), etc.

Accordingly, this report adopts a participatory approach to assess the implementation of NAGS-AP dry-season support for wheat farmers across six participating states: Jigawa, Kaduna, and Kano in the North-West; Niger in the North-Central; Gombe in the North-East; and Cross River in the South-South. The report also presents a farmers' scorecard of project implementation performance across five states, contributing to a community-driven assessment of agricultural input distribution. This ensures that the perspectives of wheat farmers across diverse locations are reflected in the evaluation of the NAGS-AP programme.

1.3. Objectives/ Terms of Reference

In line with ActionAid Nigeria's terms of reference, the objectives include:

- i. Desk review of the 2023/24 and 2024/25 Dry Season Wheat Farming Programme under the National Agricultural Growth Scheme and Agro Pocket (NAGS-AP) Project documents; AfDB funding agreements, beneficiary selection guidelines, and input subsidy distribution records.
- ii. Assess the level of inclusivity of the intervention, focusing on the number and percentage of men, women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWD) reached.
- iii. Very actual expenditure of the programme.
- iv. Examine the processes used for disbursing the subsidised inputs and providing complementary services such as extension support, agricultural insurance, and access to financing, assessing their efficiency, transparency, and accessibility to intended beneficiaries.
- v. Assess the extent, timeliness, and adequacy of farmers' access to the subsidised inputs, and evaluate how effectively these inputs were utilised to improve productivity.
- vi. Evaluate the extent to which the programme effectively addressed the key productivity challenges faced by farmers.
- vii. Develop Community Scorecard tools and facilitate the development of the Scorecard on the Dry Season Wheat Programme (2023-2025).
- viii. Present the data at a Validation workshop and capture stakeholders' inputs and feedback in the final report
- ix. Present a PowerPoint presentation, summarising the final report, showing key findings using industry-approved infographics.

OBJECTIVES:

i. Desk review

Desk review of the 2023/24 and 2024/25 Dry Season Wheat Farming Programme under the National Agricultural Growth Scheme and Agro Pocket (NAGS-AP) Project documents; AfDB funding agreements, beneficiary selection guidelines, and input subsidy distribution records.



ii. Inclusivity Assessment

Assess the level of inclusivity of the intervention, focusing on the number and percentage of men, women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWD) reached.



iii. Expenditure Verification

Verify actual expenditure of the programme.

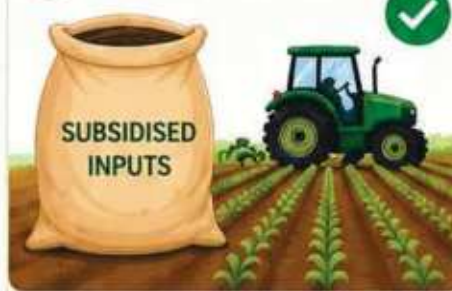


iv. Process Evaluation



Examine the **processes** used for disbursing the subsidised inputs and providing complementary services such as extension support, agricultural insurance, and access to financing, assessing their efficiency, transparency, and accessibility to intended beneficiaries.

v. Access to Inputs



Assess the **extent, timeliness, and adequacy** of farmers' access to the subsidised inputs, and evaluate how effectively these inputs were **utilised** to improve productivity.

vi. Productivity Challenges



Evaluate the extent to which the programme effectively addressed the **key productivity challenges** faced by farmers.

vii. Community Scorecard Development



Develop **Community Scorecard tools** and facilitate the development of the Scorecard on the Dry Season Wheat Programme (2023–2025).

viii. Validation Workshop



Present the data at a **Validation workshop** and capture stakeholders' inputs and feedback in the final report.

ix. Final Presentation



Present a **PowerPoint presentation**, summarising the final report, showing key findings using industry-approved infographics.



OVERALL PURPOSE:

To generate credible evidence and stakeholder feedback on the design, implementation, inclusivity, expenditure, and outcomes of the 2023/24 and 2024/25 Dry Season Wheat Farming Programme under NAGS-AP, and provide actionable recommendations for improved impact and accountability.



METHODOLOGY

The assessment adopted qualitative method of data collection. By so doing, the study employed a purposive sampling method and utilised a combination of research tools, including focus group discussions, key informant interviews, document review, on-site visits to some redemption centres, wheat farms, as well as stakeholders' validation workshop and post validation technical review meeting with the NAGS-AP's team. This participatory approach adopted ensures that the perspectives of wheat farmers directly inform the evaluation of programme performance.

The initial desk-based research involved review of relevant literature, including reports from the African Development Bank, the National Bureau of Statistics and the Central Bank of Nigeria as well as a review of available programme data from the NAGS-AP National Project Secretariat.

Primary data collection relied on semi-structured instruments; which prioritised direct stakeholders' engagements through field-based research conducted between January and February 2026 in six states namely: Kano, Kaduna, Jigawa, Niger, Gombe, and Cross River States respectively. The rationale for the selected states was to reflect different agro-ecological zones and implementation contexts, which allowed for comparative analysis across established production clusters and newly introduced wheat zones.

The discussions explored the following themes: Beneficiary selection processes; Timeliness of Inputs and Quality of supplies, engagement of extension agents, access to Credit/Finance, Insurance and cost-sharing, as well as Inclusion of women, youth and vulnerable groups, etc. The analytical approach was implementation-focused, aimed at examining programme delivery processes, governance structures, beneficiary experiences, and institutional coordination under the NAGS-AP wheat intervention for the period under review. Thus, this approach captures implementation realities rather than generating statistically representative estimates.



Table 2.1: Study's Locations and Instruments Used

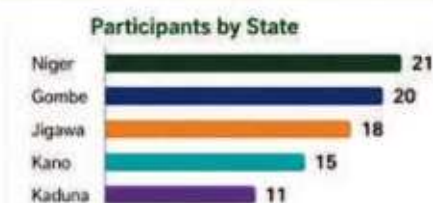
📍	State	📍 Study's Location	🌐 Region	🗣️ KIs	🗣️ FGD	📍 On site visits
1	Cross River	Calabar	South-south	10	-	-
2	Gombe	Gombe	Northeast	10	1	1
3	Jigawa	Dutse	Northwest	10	1	-
4	Kaduna	Kaduna	Northwest	10	1	1
5	Kano	Kano	Northwest	10	1	-
6	Niger	Minna	North-central	10	1	-
7	FCT	Abuja	North-central	5	-	2
TOTAL				65	6	4



- 1 Cross River (Calabar)
- 2 Gombe (Gombe)
- 3 Jigawa (Dutse)
- 4 Kaduna (Kaduna)
- 5 Kano (Kano)
- 6 Niger (Minna)
- 7 FCT (Abuja)

Table 2.2: Size of FGD Participants, and their Gender Distribution

📍 State	👥 No of Participants	Gender distribution		📍 Location	📅 Date
		♂ Male	♀ Female		
Gombe	20	12	8	Gombe	February 11, 2026
Jigawa	18	10	8	Dutse	February 5, 2026
Kaduna	11	8	3	Kaduna	January 29, 2026
Kano	15	10	5	Kano	February 2, 2026
Niger	21	10	11	Minna	January 29, 2026
👥 Total	85	50	35		



📄 Source: as compiled from FGD sessions report, January/February 2026

Table 2.3: Data Collection Methods

 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)	 Focus Group Discussion Sessions	 Field Observation	 Document Review
<p>A total of 65 KIIs were conducted with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  State Ministry of Agriculture Officials  Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) Officers  Extension Agents and Helpline Staff  Agro-dealers and input Redemption Operators  Farmer Association Leaders  FMAFS Programme Coordinators,  ICT-SERVICE PROVIDERS <hr/> <p>Each state contributed 10 KIIs to ensure uniform institutional coverage.</p>	 <p>A total of 85 farmers participated in the FGD sessions</p> <hr/> <p>Farmer participants were engaged through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus Group Discussions (FGDs); and • Cluster-level consultations 	 <p>The research team conducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ On-site observation of irrigation facilities; ✓ Visits to wheat farms; ✓ Physical inspection of input redemption centers (where accessible); and ✓ Informal validation discussions with helpline staff and extension personnel 	 <p>Where accessible, the study reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Redemption dashboard  ICT messaging processes  State-level beneficiary lists  Relevant federal and state policy documents



Ethical Considerations

Participation was voluntary. Respondents were informed about the purpose of the assessment and assured that their contributions would be used strictly for analytical and reporting purposes. Sensitive institutional feedback was anonymised where necessary to protect participants.



Limitations

While the assessment provides in-depth field-based insights, several limitations were encountered:



Language Barrier:

In some communities, language differences required translation support, which may have influenced the precision of certain responses.



Accessibility and Security Constraints:

Transportation to input redemption centers was often difficult due to their remote locations. In some cases, long travel distances combined with prevailing security concerns limited the research team's ability to visit certain sites physically.



Data Analysis

All interviews and discussions were documented and transcribed. Data were analysed using thematic clustering across key domains, including:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Beneficiary targeting and transparency ✓ Gender and social inclusion ✓ Input quality and timing ✓ Agro-dealer operations ✓ ICT platform performance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Extension services engagement ✓ Institutional coordination ✓ Political interference ✓ Security constraints |
|---|---|



Cross-state comparison matrices were developed to identify recurring structural patterns and implementation bottlenecks. Findings were triangulated across farmer testimonies, institutional interviews, and administrative records to strengthen reliability.

At a Glance



65
KIIs
Conducted



85
Farmers in
FGD Sessions



Multiple
Field
Observations
Conducted



Key
Documents
Reviewed



The combination of these methods ensured a comprehensive, credible, and context-sensitive assessment of the programme.

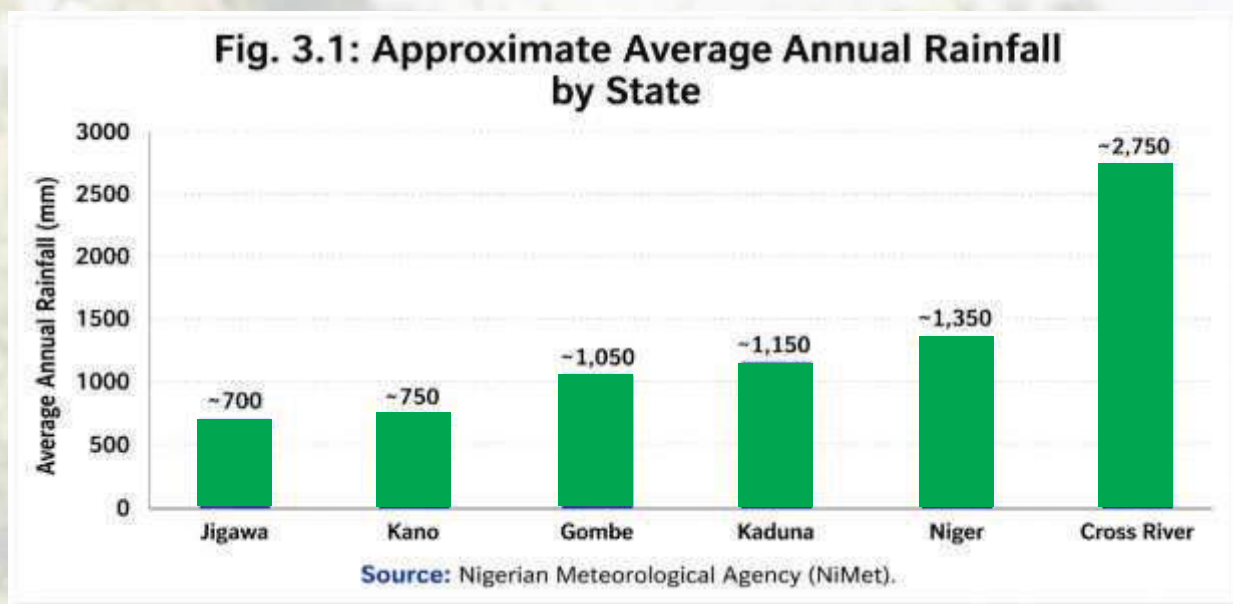
LITERATURE REVIEW

Wheat is an essential grain for industrial and domestic consumption. It ranks second among the most important cereal crops in the world, after rice. In Nigeria, wheat is a crop of both household and industrial importance. It is consumed in one form or the other in virtually every home, restaurants and hotels throughout the country. Besides, the crop is the main raw material in the flour mills used for making bread, confectionaries, biscuits and other snacks. The residue is used in the feed-mills in compounding livestock feeds. In other words, wheat is a cereal widely consumed in Nigeria and typically milled into flour which is then used to make a wide range of foods such as bread, pasta, cakes, noodles, pastries, among others.

3.1 Agroecological Conditions Favourable for Wheat Cultivation in Nigeria

Nigeria has favourable ecological and soil conditions for wheat production. Wheat grows best under cool to moderately warm temperatures, low humidity, and a clearly defined dry season. These conditions are mainly found in the Sudan Savannah and Guinea Savannah zones of northern Nigeria. States such as Kaduna, Kano, Jigawa, Niger, and Gombe fall within these zones. They are characterised by unimodal rainfall patterns, moderate annual rainfall, and long dry seasons that support dry-season wheat cultivation under irrigation. These climatic features explain why federal wheat production programmes and large-scale dry-season farming initiatives are concentrated in these northern states. In contrast, Cross River State, located in the humid tropical rainforest zone, has climatic conditions that are generally unsuitable for wheat production. The state records very high annual rainfall (see Figure 3.1), a bimodal rainfall pattern, and high humidity levels. These conditions increase disease pressure and reduce grain quality during wheat growth and harvesting.

The Chart below depicts the approximate average annual rainfall by the States.





As Map 1 shows, the spatial distribution of wheat production clusters in Nigeria reveals a strong northern concentration, reflecting agro-ecological suitability and irrigation potential. The climatic map reveals a clear north–south divide in wheat suitability, reinforcing the role of climate as a key determinant in agricultural planning and justifying the government’s strategic focus on northern savannah states for wheat production and expansion initiatives.

As Map 2 shows, the Northwest cluster, comprising states such as Kano, Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Jigawa, and Katsina, accounts for the largest share of national wheat output, producing approximately 76,600 tonnes in

2021 according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). This dominance is attributable to favourable dry-season conditions, established irrigation schemes (notably along the Hadejia – Jama’are and Sokoto – Rima river basins), and relatively higher farmer participation in federal wheat expansion programmes.

Map 2: Wheat Production Clusters



The Northeast cluster, including Yobe and Borno, contributed about 21,100 tonnes, reflecting moderate output despite security and infrastructural challenges. The northern fringe and extended cluster (Niger, Kaduna, Katsina, Taraba) recorded comparatively lower production levels, estimated at 9,900 tonnes, indicating emerging but less consolidated wheat activity in these areas. While wheat can be cultivated across 16 States of the Federation in the dry season, 3 States have the capability for highland rain-fed wheat cultivation, which include: Plateau State (Jos); Taraba State (Gembu Mambilla Plateau); and Cross River State (Obudu Plateau).¹⁰

The clustering pattern underscores Nigeria’s heavy reliance on northern ecological zones for domestic wheat production, with minimal contribution from southern regions due to climatic limitations. However, recent federal initiatives have introduced a southern extension cluster, including Cross River State (Box 1), as part of efforts to diversify wheat cultivation across ecological belts and reduce import dependency.

¹⁰ <https://www.cbn.gov.ng/dfd/agriculture/cdi/wheat.html>

Box 1: Wheat Farming in Cross Rivers State



Wheat farming in Cross River State is relatively new. Historically, wheat has not been a popular crop in Cross River State. However, due to the need for agricultural diversification and declining yields from traditional crops, wheat is now being considered. For example, once widespread yam farming has significantly reduced. According to the State Ministry of Agriculture, Cross Rivers State recognised the need to utilise the wheat farming intervention to support food security objectives. Incidentally, the market already exists within the state. There is a flour mill located here that relies on wheat for flour production. This means the State already has an end-to-end market system, from the farm gate

to the flour mill. Based on this fact, the State Ministry of Agriculture developed a concept note to pilot wheat production in collaboration with our partners, including the flour mill and the project objective. Since the market is already available, the present administration in the State rightly explored wheat production and subsequently established the Wheat Farmers' Association.

With a proof of concept, the State Ministry of Agriculture collaborated with the Lake Chad Research Institute which further supported the wheat initiative as opportunity emerged to scale up production in the state. This opened the door for large-scale dry-season wheat farming in 2024 across the state. "When we deployed to the site, even within the proof-of-concept framework, we observed several challenges. While the ranch provided a platform, it is not without limitations. The area is underserved in terms of infrastructure, particularly water availability, which remains a major challenge. Additionally, the area lacks a strong crop-farming community; most farmers there are livestock farmers. These factors posed significant constraints. Despite this, we understand the value of land. With as little as 100 hectares, meaningful production is possible." The NAGS-AP stated that the Cross State government demonstrated a strong interest in wheat production. To ensure effective monitoring, particularly due to irrigation requirements, the government selected a contiguous area, namely Obudu Cattle Ranch, for the program. Farmers were engaged, land was prepared and developed, and inputs were allocated. The assessment report recommended that wheat production should not be limited to Obudu Ranch alone. Other LGAs within the Northern Senatorial District, such as Ogoja, Yala, and Bekwara, were identified as suitable.

While the proof of concept began at the ranch, we believe that during the dry season, wheat production can be expanded to other parts of the Northern and Guinea Savanna zones of Cross River State, including Ugep, Bekwarra, and surrounding areas. According to the State Commissioner, we have now resumed activities and plan to conduct additional proof-of-concept trials before the next dry season. There are two main wheat varieties: rain-fed and irrigated. We are currently working with the Lake Chad Research Institute and expect feedback within the month. Farmers have already been profiled, and we plan to redistribute improved seeds to them for another round of trials. This time, distribution will not be limited to the ranch but extended across the Northern Senatorial District. Continuous monitoring and learning will guide our approach. Our goal is to eventually commercialise wheat production, using an empirical and evidence-based approach. We are deliberately avoiding politically driven interventions. Instead, we prefer to learn from mistakes, document outcomes, and improve the system incrementally.

KII Calabar Report, February 2026



KEY STRENGTHS – WHEAT FARMING IN CROSS RIVER STATE



Building a sustainable wheat value chain from farm to flour.

1

Strategic Shift Toward Agricultural Diversification



- Wheat is being introduced as a response to declining yields in traditional crops (e.g., yam).
- Demonstrates adaptive policy thinking and willingness to innovate.

→ Strong signal of forward-looking agricultural planning.

2

Existing End-to-End Market System (Major Advantage)



- Presence of a functional flour mill within the state.
- Ready value chain from production → processing → market.

→ Critical success factor: Many interventions fail due to lack of market—Cross River already has one.

3

Strong Government Ownership and Initiative



- State Ministry of Agriculture developed a concept note.
- Initiated pilot (proof-of-concept).
- Coordinated with partners.

→ Indicates policy commitment and institutional leadership.

4

Strategic Partnerships Supporting Scale-Up



- Collaboration with:
- Lake Chad Research Institute
 - Private sector (flour mill)

→ Provides technical expertise, research backing and a pathway to scaling.

5

Proof-of-Concept Successfully Established



- Pilot implemented at Obudu Cattle Ranch.
- Demonstrated that wheat can grow in the state.
- Production is feasible even at early stage.

→ Moves the programme from theory to evidence.

6

Clear Expansion Potential Identified



- Suitable areas already mapped:
- Ogoja
 - Yala
 - Bekwara
 - Northern & Guinea Savanna zones

→ Shows scalability beyond pilot site.

7

Structured, Evidence-Based Approach



- Emphasis on learning from pilot phases.
- Continuous monitoring.
- Iterative improvement.

→ Avoids politically driven rollout and premature large-scale failure.

8

Institutional Structures Emerging



- Establishment of Wheat Farmers' Association.

→ Strengthens coordination, farmer engagement and sustainability.

9

Farmer Profiling and Input Planning in Place



- Farmers already identified and profiled.
- Plan to distribute improved seed varieties.

→ Shows operational readiness for scale-up.

10

Dual Production Strategy (Smart Agronomy Planning)



- Exploring:
- Rain-fed wheat
 - Irrigated wheat

→ Increases climate adaptability and production resilience.



BALANCED NOTE

Challenges exist (infrastructure, water, farmer type), but the strength lies in recognizing them early and designing solutions around them.



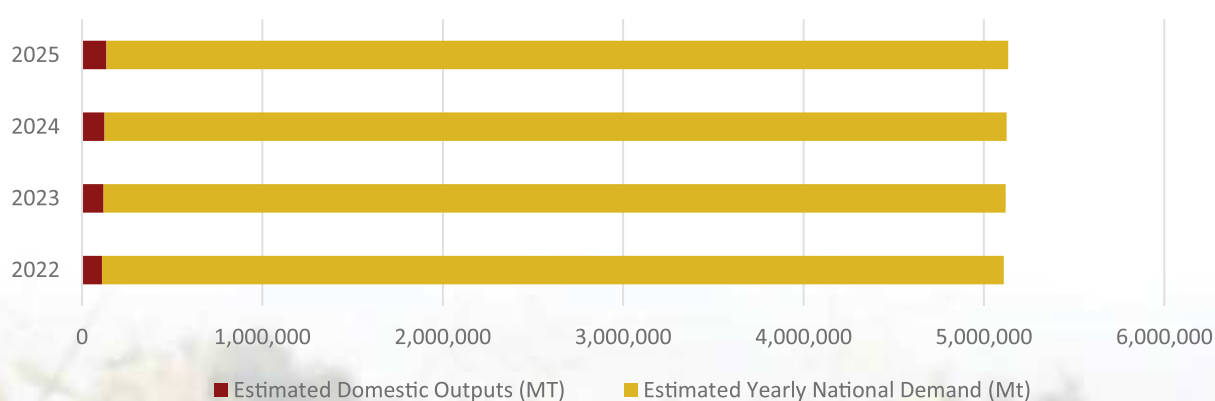
ONE-LINE STRATEGIC INSIGHT

Cross River's wheat initiative is strong because it combines existing market demand, institutional commitment, research backing, and a phased, evidence-driven scale-up strategy.

3.2 Limited Wheat Production

As the literature established, Nigeria has good ecological and soil conditions that favour wheat production. However, despite these favourable conditions, Nigeria still relies on massive wheat importation. While there is no consistent data on the exact quantity of wheat produced in the country as different sources published conflicting figures, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)' 2021 Survey report indicated that "Wheat is cultivated in an area of about 11,820 hectares with a production of 36,943.80 tons of grain across 13 states."¹¹ Previously, a report claims, "the average production of wheat in Nigeria was about 81,904 metric tons while the average importation of wheat in the country was 2,193,566 metric tonnes within the same period".¹² Similarly, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) estimated domestic production at 110,000 tons in 2022, 120,000 metric tonnes in 2023/2024, 125,000 metric tonnes in 2024/2025 and projected to reach approximately 135,000 tons in the 2025/2026 (see: Fig. 3.2).¹³ At the same time, the NAGS-AP estimated outputs of 474,628 metric tonnes (Mt) for the 2023/2024 and 1,117,188/Mt [?] for the 2024/2025 respectively from its dry seasons farming supports to farmers (see, Table 3.1).¹⁴

Figure 3.2 Wheat Production Gap (Mt)



Hence, what is not in conflict is the fact that Nigeria's wheat production has always remained significantly below national demand (see, figure 3.2) despite ongoing government interventions under NAGS-AP project and past efforts to make the country self-sufficient in wheat production.¹⁵ As such, Nigeria continues to depend on massive wheat importation that exposes the country to food insecurity in the context of disruption of international wheat supply chains as experienced at the onset of the Russia-Ukraine war.

¹¹ NBS, 2021. Report of Wheat Production Survey in Nigeria, 2021

¹² See, Falola, A. et al (2017). "Determinants of Commercial Production of Wheat in Nigeria: A Case Study of Bakura Local Government Area, Zamfara State", *Trakia Journal of Sciences*, No 4, pp 39 7-404, 2017

¹³ <https://www.cbn.gov.ng/dfd/agriculture/cdi/wheat.html>

¹⁴ These figures were extracted from an internal spreadsheet handout shared with the consultant following post validation on technical review meeting held at the NAGS-AP National Project Secretariat on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

¹⁵ <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/nigeria-grain-and-feed-annual>

Table 3.1: NAGS-AP’s Wheat Production Estimated Outputs (2023 – 2025)

Year	Total Acreage/ Hectares Allocation for Wheat Cultivation	Actual Number of Farmers that Redeemed their Inputs for Wheat Production	Expected Output (Mt) @4mt/HA	Actual Output (Mt)/HA
2023/2024	123,000	107,429	474,628	NA
2024/2025	280,000	279,297	1,117,188	NA
Total	403,000	386,726	1,591,816	

Note: these figures were extracted from an internal excel handout shared with the consultant following post validation technical review meeting held at the NAGS-AP National Project Secretariat on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

According to the CBN, wheat production in Nigeria during the 2023/2024 season was estimated at 120,000 metric tonnes, with output heavily concentrated in the dry season, which accounted for roughly 85–90% of total production. This dominance reflects the crop’s reliance on controlled irrigation systems, particularly in northern states such as Kebbi, Jigawa, Kano, Sokoto, and Zamfara. Government interventions under programmes like the NAGS-AP played a critical role by providing subsidised inputs and extension support, while rain-fed (wet season) wheat production remained marginal due to erratic rainfall, disease pressure, and generally low yields.

In the 2024/2025 season, total wheat production increased slightly to an estimated 125,000 metric tonnes, driven mainly by expanded dry-season cultivation and higher farmer participation in federal support programmes. Dry-season output accounted for approximately 90% of total production, reinforcing the structural pattern observed in the previous year. Despite this modest growth, domestic production still falls far short of national consumption needs, underscoring Nigeria’s continued dependence on wheat imports and revealing the importance of sustained investment in irrigation infrastructure, improved seed varieties, and climate-resilient farming practices.

The persistent production–demand imbalance reflects deeper challenges, including climatic limitations (wheat thrives better in northern dry-season irrigation zones), inadequate mechanisation, limited access to improved seed varieties, insecurity in major producing states, and weak value-chain coordination. While the cluster expansion demonstrates policy commitment toward increasing local output, production volumes remain significantly below the national demand of over 5 million tonnes annually. This wide supply gap explains Nigeria’s heavy dependence on wheat imports, which exposes the economy to foreign exchange pressures, global price volatility, and food security risks. The literature establishes the fact that while regional clustering enhances coordinated input distribution, irrigation support, and extension services, achieving substantial national self-sufficiency will require scaling mechanisation, improving seed technology, strengthening security in producing zones, and expanding irrigation infrastructure within and beyond the established northern clusters.¹⁶ The data suggests that while policy efforts such as farmer mobilisation under the NAGS-AP indicate progress in participation and value targeting, structural constraints continue to limit productivity.

¹⁶ <https://www.cbn.gov.ng/dfd/agriculture/cdi/wheat.html>

Box 2: CBN's Wheat Intervention under Anchor Borrower Programme¹⁷, and other past efforts¹⁸

Nigeria's current wheat demand stands between 5-6 million Metric Tonnes (MT) out of which only 1 per cent or 63,000 MT is produced locally. As a result, the nation imports over 5 million MT of wheat annually, amounting to \$ 2Billion to meet local demand. This has made wheat the second highest contributor to the country's food import bill. As part of efforts to resuscitate key commodity Value Chains where the country has competitive advantage, the CBN included wheat as one of the commodities to be financed under the Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP). This decision was matched with a clear mandate to intervene in the wheat value chain by growing Nigeria's domestic wheat production and eliminating dependence on imported wheat. The CBN's main objectives were facilitate import substitution; eliminate dependence on imported wheat; promote self-sufficiency in the wheat value chain in Nigeria, by funding the local production of wheat and encouraging backward integration by wheat millers.

The CBN strategies for the wheat value chain intervention are as follows: Eliminate importation of wheat by financing local wheat production and facilitating off take; Ensure availability of high-yielding seeds by financing seed multiplication and the establishment of seed ripple centres; Expand land under cultivation for wheat to a capacity that can meet the nation's total demand, through collaboration with State Governments and relevant federal agencies; and Pursue strategic collaboration with key stakeholders in the wheat value chain for the sustainability of local production. Although government targets such as the ₦160 billion production drive signal political commitment to agricultural diversification and import substitution, achieving meaningful self-sufficiency will require sustained investment in irrigation infrastructure, research and development, input subsidies, and extension services. Without addressing these systemic bottlenecks, increases in farmer enrolment alone may not translate into substantial production growth capable of narrowing the national wheat deficit.

In an attempt to make Nigeria self-sufficient in wheat production, several measures were put in place by the government of Nigeria. These measures include launching of several agricultural programmes and establishing several institutes aimed at stimulating interest in local production of wheat. Some of these were the National Cereal Research Institute (NCRI) in 1974, National Seed Service (NSS) in 1975, Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) in 1976, Basin Development Authority (RDBA), Agricultural Development Projects (ADP) (1975), National Grain Production Programmes (NGPP) and Accelerated Wheat Production Programme (AWPP), just to mention but a few. Also, the government of Nigeria, at different times, raised the tariff on wheat importation in order to protect local producers against massive imports of wheat. Despite the various interventions, however, there is still a wide gap between domestic demand and supply of wheat in the country. This is partly because wheat production in many parts of the country has remained at subsistence-oriented level despite its comparative advantage of producing in large quantity for commercialisation.

Currently, the National Strategy for Wheat Self-Sufficiency in Nigeria has been reportedly approved but not publicly accessible. The strategy aimed at intensification of wheat production via increased acreage cultivation targeting 100,000 hectares under the NAGS-AP and expected to boost productivity from 1.5Mt-2Mt/hectare to 3.5Mt - 4Mt/hectares. According to the farmers engaged, the NAGS-AP project has increased their wheat yield and income. When asked about average yield before the intervention, some farmers said average of 13 bags compared with 20bags and above post beneficiation from the project. Nevertheless, achieving self-sufficiency

¹⁷ [Wheat | Central Bank of Nigeria](#)

¹⁸ See, Falola, A. et al (2017). "Determinants of Commercial Production of Wheat in Nigeria: A Case Study of Bakura Local Government Area, Zamfara State", *Trakia Journal of Sciences*, No 4, pp 397 -404, 2017

in wheat production still remains a challenge with estimated total domestic production hardly surpassed one-fifth of market demand (see, figure 3.2 and table 3.1 above) in spite of all the past efforts and the ongoing initiatives under NAGP-AP and CBN interventions thereby raising serious questions on their overall effectiveness. As such, Nigeria continues to depend on importation to meet domestic demands.

Support to Wheat Production under AfDB funded NAGS-AP Phase I

The National Agricultural Growth Scheme and Agro Pocket (NAGS-AP) Project was developed as an Agricultural Input Delivery Platform for the supply of subsidised agricultural inputs to the registered farmers across the 36 States of the Federation and FCT using an ICT system (platform) for easy assessment of performance or impacts. The NAGS-AP Project focuses on six (6) staple food crops namely wheat, rice, maize, sorghum, soyabean and cassava. It was developed to implement the Food Security Emergency Support programme geared towards bridging the food supply demand gaps with a view to guaranteeing national food and nutrition security for the nation.

With regard to support for wheat production (Component 3 under the African Development Bank Sector Budget Support operation financing the Nigeria Agro Growth Scheme), the objective was to catalyse government efforts to improve national self-sufficiency in wheat production. This was to be achieved through land development, the organisation of farmers into clusters, provision of seeds and fertiliser on credit, and extension services. The overall aim was to reduce wheat import dependence while creating opportunities for wealth and job creation along the wheat value chain.

Specifically, the African Development Bank targeted the cultivation of 250,000 hectares of irrigated lowland wheat production by between 150,000 and 200,000 farmers enrolled under the Full Package Scaling-up Plot (FPSP) model, as part of the overall Sector Budget Support operation outcomes. Credit was provided to farmers through an input voucher system under the existing Agro-Pocket platform within the FPSP cluster arrangement. To support large-scale wheat cultivation, the programme also aimed to cultivate approximately 100,000 hectares of wheat farmland during Phase 1.

According to the AfDB document, the component 3 “assisted a total of 107,429 wheat farmers during the 2023/24 dry season”. The farmers were reportedly reached through the Agro-Pocket platform,¹⁹ which allegedly facilitated the transparent delivery of subsidised inputs and extension services. The outcome targets a 25% reduction in the price of wheat due to enhanced local production,²⁰ while the output 3.3 indicator speaks of increased in no of farmers producing wheat (35% of whom are expected to be women).

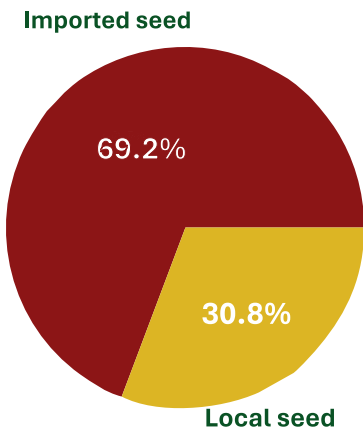
Overall, the African Development Bank’s Sector Budget Support operation supports the Federal Government of Nigeria’s policy of improving access to quality and affordable agricultural inputs for the five million farmers targeted under the National Agricultural Growth Scheme. Specifically, the intervention targets about one million smallholder farmers with climate-adapted agricultural production technologies, including certified heat-tolerant wheat seeds, fertilisers, agrochemicals, and extension services. The aim is to increase average wheat yields from 1.1 metric tonnes per hectare to 3.5 metric tonnes per hectare.

¹⁹ The Agro-Pocket Scheme is a technology enabled digitalised platform designs to provide real time information on support provider to farmers that bring inclusivity, transparency and accountability to the private sector led input distribution syst em.

²⁰ This indicator was not met due to inflation

These inputs are delivered through approximately 2,000 accredited agro-dealers under the Agro-Pocket scheme. The scheme is built on the use of ICT platforms to promote inclusivity, transparency, efficiency, and accountability, while reducing the risk of elite capture in subsidy distribution programmes.

Figure 3.4: Wheat Intervention Indicators



The AfDB internal progress reports detail that to support this target, about 6,750 metric tons of wheat seed, including certified seeds of heat tolerant wheat, were imported from Mexico. The imported seed supply complemented an estimated 3,000 metric tons of locally produced wheat seed to ensure adequate availability of high-quality planting material for farmers. As such, NAGS-AP Phase 1 wheat seed supply was dominated by imported seed (about 6,750 metric tons, roughly 69%), while locally produced seed accounted for about 3,000 metric tons (approximately 31%).

According to the African Development Bank’s project appraisal documents, this distribution reflects the limited capacity of domestic seed multiplication systems to meet the ambitious Phase 1 target of cultivating approximately 100,000 hectares of wheat within a single dry-season cycle. As a result, the importation of certified wheat seed, largely from Mexico, was adopted as a short-term measure to ensure the timely availability of quality seed and avoid delays in programme implementation.

At the same time, the inclusion of locally produced wheat seed indicates that Phase 1 was not entirely dependent on imports, but incorporated domestic supply where available as part of a transitional approach. This balance suggests a transitional approach: imported seed was used to rapidly scale production in the short term, while local seed participation aligned with the programme’s broader objective of strengthening Nigeria’s domestic agricultural and seed systems for sustainability beyond Phase 1.²¹

Box 3: Perspective on Wheat Seedling from

A KII Participant shared insights from exposure to wheat farming systems outside Nigeria, highlighting practices that demonstrate strong institutional coordination and long-term investment in research and development (R&D). A defining feature of these systems is the organisation of farmers into cooperative-like structures that collectively allocate a portion of wheat sale proceeds to fund research activities. These pooled resources support modern research facilities staffed by skilled professionals dedicated to wheat improvement. The observed systems prioritise comprehensive wheat breeding programmes, including varietal selection, inbreeding, greenhouse trials, multi-season field testing, and farmer led validation before large-scale release.

Rather than relying on imported seedlings, these organisations develop proprietary seed varieties specifically adapted to their climatic and environmental conditions. Significant financial investments, running into millions of dollars, underscore a deliberate, data-driven, and long-term approach to enhancing productivity, resilience, and profitability in wheat farming. In contrast, participants identified a critical weakness in Nigeria’s wheat production system: heavy dependence on imported seeds with limited local validation.

Wheat varieties are often introduced based on external recommendations without rigorous assessment of their suitability to Nigeria’s diverse agro-ecological conditions, including climate variability, rainfall patterns, soil

²¹ <https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/projects-and-operations/nigeria>

types, and pest pressures. This has resulted in inconsistent performance across farms, with some varieties succeeding and others failing. The absence of sustained, locally driven research forces farmers into trial-and-error planting, increasing production risks and undermining confidence in wheat cultivation as a viable enterprise.

Regarding the recent NAGS wheat interventions implemented by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture over the past two years, participants acknowledged some progress. The imported wheat varieties, sourced from Mexico, were reportedly subjected to preliminary evaluation by the Lake Chad Research Institute before distribution. Early trial results and farmer feedback indicate that these varieties show promise under Nigerian conditions. However, while these efforts represent an important step forward, participants emphasised that short-term testing alone is insufficient to ensure long-term sustainability. Durable success in Nigeria's wheat sector will require institutionalised investment in research and development, stronger public-private collaboration, and the development of wheat varieties specifically adapted to Nigeria's agro-ecological zones. Building such a locally anchored research and seed development system is essential for improving productivity, reducing risk, and strengthening national wheat self-sufficiency.

- KII Jigawa Report February 2026



BOX 3: PERSPECTIVE ON WHEAT SEEDLING

Insights from a KII Participant (Jigawa Report, February 2026)



1 STRONG INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEMS OBSERVED OUTSIDE NIGERIA



Farmers are organised into **cooperative-like structures** that collectively allocate a portion of wheat sale proceeds to fund research activities.



Pooled resources support **modern research facilities** staffed by skilled professionals dedicated to wheat improvement.



Comprehensive **wheat breeding programmes** are prioritised: varietal selection, inbreeding, greenhouse trials, multi-season field testing, and farmer led validation before large-scale release.



Rather than relying on imported seedlings, these organisations develop **proprietary seed varieties** specifically adapted to their climatic and environmental conditions.



Significant financial investments, running into millions of dollars, underscore a deliberate, data-driven, and long-term approach to enhancing productivity, resilience, and profitability in wheat farming.

2 CRITICAL WEAKNESS IN NIGERIA'S WHEAT PRODUCTION SYSTEM



Heavy dependence on **imported seeds** with limited local validation.



Wheat varieties are introduced based on **external recommendations** without rigorous assessment of their suitability to Nigeria's diverse agro-ecological conditions (climate variability, rainfall patterns, soil types, and pest pressures).



This has resulted in **inconsistent performance** across farms, with some varieties succeeding and others failing.



The absence of sustained, locally driven research forces farmers into **trial-and-error planting**, increasing production risks and undermining confidence in wheat cultivation as a viable enterprise.

3 PERSPECTIVE ON RECENT NAGS WHEAT INTERVENTIONS



Participants **acknowledged progress** under the NAGS interventions implemented by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture over the past two years.



Imported wheat varieties from Mexico were reportedly **evaluated** by the Lake Chad Research Institute before distribution.



Early trial results and farmer feedback indicate that these varieties **show promise** under Nigerian conditions.



However, while these efforts represent an important step forward, participants emphasised that **short-term testing alone is insufficient** to ensure long-term sustainability.

4 WAY FORWARD: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE WHEAT FUTURE FOR NIGERIA



Institutionalise investment in research and development (R&D).



Strengthen public-private collaboration across the wheat value chain.



Develop wheat varieties specifically adapted to Nigeria's agro-ecological zones.



Build a locally anchored research and seed development system.



This will improve productivity, reduce risk, and strengthen national wheat self-sufficiency.

“

Sustainable wheat production in Nigeria requires a shift from dependence on imported seeds to a research-driven, locally adapted seed system backed by strong institutions, farmer organisations, and long-term investment.



FINDINGS

4.1. Beneficiary Selection Process: Registration of beneficiaries is not completely devoid or free of alleged elite capture and or interference

According to the Standard Operating Procedure/ Implementation Strategy, the registration and enumeration of farmers at the ward level involve “clustering and biometric capturing of farmers along the commodity value chains as well as taking their farm’s GPS”. Three ICT service providers (Verdent, AFEX and CropIT) were contracted to facilitate and manage Agro-Packet portal for the registration, verification and authentication of programme beneficiaries. However, information gathered from the fieldwork suggests *propensity for elite capture* emerged as an issue as the selection of intended beneficiary was not insulated from manipulation tagged “ghost or political framers”.²² Instances were cited where “non-farmers, including school children, were listed as beneficiaries” (See, Box 4). As such, the registration of beneficiaries is not completely devoid or free of alleged elite capture and or interference; as some beneficiaries might neither *be wheat farmers nor farmers at all*, thereby casting aspersion on the integrity of the database of wheat farmers used for the subsidised inputs distribution. The key lesson here stresses the point that the registration, verification and authentication of farmers must ensure proper targeting of beneficiaries via processes that guarantee the credibility and improvements of the database.

Box 4: Excerpts from KIIs and FGD sessions:

While NAGS Secretariat and FMAFS State Coordinators’ interviewees insisted that the programme worked in synergies with the implementing state ministries of agriculture for the design of farmers’ registration template which strictly emphasised Bank Verification Number (BVN) for verification, some FGD participants however countered that: “Verification was conducted without strict requirements such as BVN in some instances. “Slots were given to political stakeholders to populate for the beneficiaries’ registration. “Some people receive SMS invitations for input distribution but do not register for the programme. Notwithstanding the concerns regarding the integrity of the beneficiary list, the KII stakeholders insisted the system may not entirely eliminate such irregularities. According to them, while many of the farmers who redeemed their inputs appear to be legitimate smallholder wheat producers, the possibility of “ghost farmers” or politically influenced beneficiaries cannot be completely ruled out. As a key concern that could undermine the credibility and overall impact of the intervention, the agro-dealers, for instance, agreed that such challenges not only affect transparency but may also distort the intended objective of supporting actual smallholder farmers. “When ineligible individuals benefit from subsidised inputs, it reduces access for genuine farmers and weakens programme outcomes. They therefore suggested that stricter monitoring, improved field verification mechanisms, and stronger collaboration between agro-dealers, helpline officials, and community-level stakeholders would enhance accountability and ensure that support reaches the intended beneficiaries.

²² The phenomenon of “political farmers” — describes individuals included in beneficiary lists due to political influence rather than genuine farming activity.

4.2. Quality, Adequacy, and Relevance of Inputs Supplied

The timeliness of inputs distribution is very key. However, field data shows that the inputs are often received late, which negatively affects production as wheat farming is highly seasonal and time-sensitive activities. The delays in inputs distribution was consistently identified as a major challenge by the farmers and other relevant stakeholders, who raised concerns about late delivery of inputs. The farmers and other relevant stakeholders' interviewed noted that *time is paramount: the earlier, the better*. "Agricultural interventions must align with seasonal calendars to be effective. "Late preparation often resulted in wheat—being excluded from the production cycle entirely by some farmers.

Views on the adequacy of inputs varied across states. Farmers in Kaduna, Kano, and Gombe reported that input supplies were more adequate in the 2023/24 season compared to 2024/25, which experienced delays and reduction in quantities. In contrast, respondents in Jigawa and Niger considered the 2024/25 season to be better. More so, preferences for specific types of fertiliser and quality of seeds emerged as major issue. In some cases, farmers reported being discouraged by distributors from collecting fertiliser considered to be of poor quality, with cash offered instead. The NAGS-AP Secretariat however attributes the variation in the quality and quantities of inputs to reduction in hectare allocated for wheat production from 1 – 0.5 hectare and the fact that some farmers also received additional support from their state governments.

The range of inputs provided and the level of subsidy were generally considered insufficient. The subsidised package includes wheat seeds (largely imported from Mexico in 2023), fertilisers (NPK and urea), insecticides, and pesticides. Despite the 50 per cent subsidy, many stakeholders indicated that input costs remain high. Farmers recommended expanding the package to include additional essential items such as solar water pumps. They also called for increased funding to support irrigation equipment and simple machinery that is suitable for women, including power tillers, threshers, and small tractors.

Also, views on seed quality were mixed: farmers in Gombe reported that imported wheat seeds performed well and were of higher quality than local varieties, while farmers in Jigawa noted that NAGS-AP seeds germinated faster than those obtained from some private aggregators. However, other stakeholders, including ADP officials and farmers, maintained that poor-quality seeds and agrochemicals were supplied in some cases. These mixed findings indicate inconsistencies and weaknesses in input quality monitoring and accountability systems across locations.

4.3. Extension Support Services

Low visibility of extension agents in programme delivery. A recurring concern raised was the limited involvement of extension agents which might undermine the post input follow-up supports to farmers. Many interviewees and focus group participants claimed the extension staff were not adequately empowered to provide post distribution support yet they are responsible for guiding farmers from planting to harvesting. Many States' ADP offices²³ claimed that poor synergy between federal implementers, ICT service providers, and state extension services undermined overall programme effectiveness. However, while acknowledging the inadequate number of Agricultural Extension Agents across all the tiers, the NAGS-AP Secretariat insists that the extension agents are much needed for the post distribution follow-up actions to guide the farmers properly during the farming process than at the inputs redemption centers.

²³ Particularly, Kano State Agriculture Development Agency. Kaduna State said NAGS -AP Secretariat can enhance collaboration with State ADP Offices

Extension services are meant to bridge the gap between research institutions and farmers by providing training, technical guidance, and updated agricultural information. However, evidence of consistent extension worker engagement for the programme was very limited. The extension agents sometimes visit communities to provide training and information, including collaboration with research institutes to adapt improved practices and inputs to local climatic conditions. However, there was uncertainty about how widespread or systematic these visits were, especially for the specific NAGS-AP under review.

The quality of services provided by extension workers is considered poor. Extension workers are very few, particularly the female extension agents which limited the extension services. “The extension agent ratio-to-farmer in many states remains far below the FAO recommended 1:800; the average EA-Farm families’ ratio in 2024 was 1:6446 making the ADP situation precarious: weak human resources, funding constraint, inadequate logistics, although supplemented by NGOs and the media.”²⁴ Hence, there is an urgent need to recruit more extension workers as the number and ratio of extension agents to support the extension service across the entire wheat production processes remain low. The State ADPs offices should be empowered to support the post input distribution follow-up action by the stakeholders.

4.4. Access to Credit/ Finance

Access to agricultural financing or credit remains low, which is consistent with existing literature. Being an agricultural inputs delivery initiative, many small-scale farmers interviewed however view as concerning the “Presidential Directive that all agricultural intervention funds including NAGS-AP funded projects, be transferred and put in the custody and management of Bank of Agriculture (BOA)”. The farmers suspect political interference and want the window provided to open an account with the BOA for their participation in the agricultural input subsidies programme be extended to reduce cutting off the grassroots farmers. They suggested a phased transition or extended migration period to enable more rural-based farmers to register with the BOA.

Many of these farmers express a clear preference for sustained and increased inputs subsidies threshold from the current 50 per cent coverage to 75% to mitigate financial barriers, high production costs, low price of wheat in the market, and other inflationary pressures as against a general reluctance towards bank loans. For example, “The average prices of farm inputs increased between 2024 and 2025 with prices of NPK fertiliser in the northwest increased from N41,500 in 2024 to N51,000 in 2025 and those of Urea from N40,000 to N43,500 for the corresponding period in the zone. “The cost of tillage operations (ploughing FADAMA/UPLAND, Harrowing and Ridging) averaged N50,182.25 for the northwest.

4.5 Access to Insurance

Access to agricultural insurance is also very limited. Awareness and uptake of insurance products were found to be very low due to several factors, including poor sensitisation, low acceptance of insurance schemes, and reluctance to participate driven by perceived high premiums and sociocultural or religious beliefs, with some farmers attributing losses to divine will. Key barriers identified include low awareness, lack of trust in insurance systems, high premiums, unclear claims processes, and weak reporting mechanisms.

²⁴ NAERLS 2025 Wet Season Agriculture Performance

4.6. Inclusion and Participation of Women, Youth and PWDs

Gender inclusion is formally mainstreamed into the programme design, as reflected in the number of women and youth beneficiaries. However, a consistent barrier across the states visited is the 50 per cent counterpart funding requirement, which disproportionately affected women farmers. This limits the programme's equity objective as many women lacked the liquidity financial capacity to meet the requirement for input redemption. In some cases, this has reportedly led to female beneficiaries selling their input packages to agro-dealers at reduced prices. This indicates a gap between policy intent and practical outcomes in achieving gender equity.

Other barriers related to inability of many potential beneficiaries to successfully register and enrol for the programme. The FGD participants noted that several farmers did not have access to registration forms or adequate information regarding the procedures required for participation. Some respondents also noted that not all interested farmers were able to complete the registration process, raising concerns about the communication strategy and its effectiveness. Thus, the limited dissemination of information beyond official channels might have contributed to restricted access for some potential beneficiaries.

Another issue raised with implication for inclusion was the apparent exclusion or limited participation of women in extension activities. A KII stated that extension visits and trainings appeared to target men more frequently, while women were not directly engaged or consulted. Cultural factors, poor communication outreach, and the mode of engagement were highlighted as possible barriers affecting women's access to extension support. The adequacy, number, and accessibility of extension workers were therefore questioned, particularly in relation to gender inclusiveness and cultural acceptability.

In addition, the involvement of civil society organisations and women-based farmer associations, including the Small-Scale Women Farmers Organisation in Nigeria (SWOFON), as well as persons with disabilities (PWDs), remains limited. Thus, while an inclusion policy exists, critical barriers such as financial, poor communication, low ICT literacy skills and bad network, paucity of female extension agents, etc. undermine equitable access and effective gender participation.

4.7. Transparency, Accountability and Communication

The NAGS-AP programme delivery is perceived to have limited transparency. Key programme documents, including M&E/ progress reports, beneficiary's database, inputs redemption dashboard, etc. are not publicly accessible. Many respondents described the programme as "somewhat transparent" when asked to assess its openness. This raises concerns about the level of transparency and accountability in programme implementation.

Similarly, key public sector stakeholders, including the Bank of Agriculture and the Federal Ministry of Finance (through its International Economic Relations Department/African Financial Institutions Unit), did not grant access to the research team despite repeated follow-up requests. Only the National Agricultural Insurance Corporation provided engagement.

In terms of publicity and sensitisation, the programme communication was rated averagely with room for improvement in information sharing, clarity of roles, and stakeholder engagement. For example, many farmers kept confusing the current wheat intervention with similar past efforts which validate the limited awareness creation of the ongoing wheat intervention outside the project communication loops. Besides, some farmers allegedly deleted text messages sent for inputs redemption as a possible scam, others turn up at wrong redemption centres, expressed difficulties in locating their centres, buttressing the need to improve programme communications strategy.

4.8. Allegations of Malpractices and Corruption

Allegations of malpractice and corruption were reported across the states. For example, some respondents alleged collaboration between helpline staff and agro-dealers to divert inputs, manipulation of beneficiary lists, and the inclusion of individuals who are not farmers. However, both the NAGS-AP management and agro-dealers denied these claims. These allegations are unfounded or misunderstanding of operational challenges rather than deliberate wrongdoings. In many cases, the issue is not manipulation but a combination of logistical limitations, time constraints, and beneficiary non-compliance with redemption timelines (See, Box 5). According to NAGS-AP officials, limited resources and the high number of registered farmers mean that not all eligible individuals can be served in each cycle. In addition, input redemption is time-bound, and beneficiaries who fail to collect their inputs within the stipulated period may lose their allocation, which is then reassigned to avoid waste. These constraints, combined with limited understanding of the database and redemption process, may contribute to perceptions of exclusion, favouritism, or malpractice.

4.8.1. Summary of Key Challenges



Box 5: Operational challenges highlighted

Several operational challenges were highlighted. One of the recurring issues is the problem of deleted or missing text messages. Some farmers reportedly delete their confirmation messages accidentally, which creates delays and complications during verification. Network-related issues were also mentioned as a common challenge affecting smooth operations at redemption centres. For example, some farmers allegedly denied receiving SMS (token numbers sent via text messages) due to poor network challenges across the states visited.

Another significant concern raised was the mixed up in redemption centres. In some cases, farmers are enrolled under one redemption centre but appear at a different centre for collection. This mixed up disrupts the distribution process and further delays input disbursement. These discrepancies were linked to ICT-related errors or database management challenges. Furthermore, instances were observed where database information appeared inconsistent, including cases where beneficiary names did not correspond accurately

with the individual presenting the token for redemption. This raised concerns about database integrity and the need for proper data cleaning and regular updates.

Network challenge and delays: The registration system was reported to be time-consuming and heavily affected by poor network. As an ICT enabled process, the farmers capturing for the registration depends on internet, which were frequently unstable. As a result, the process could take longer before successfully completed for one farmer. Additionally, some respondents described the registration interface as not user-friendly, particularly for farmers with limited digital literacy. Other challenges highlighted include: sending SMS late to the farmers by ICT service providers, distance and limited redemption centers. For example, some beneficiaries who were sent to far-off locations for their redemption centres failed to appear as they were discouraged due to the long distance. Also, a delay in providing input in the redemption centres, sometimes making those who received their inputs late to either defer planting till the next planting season or sell them at cheaper rates. Hence, Time is considered a panacea to discourage or prevent outright reselling of the inputs by some of the beneficiaries.

The Role of ICT and Service Providers: three ICT service providers²⁵ manage the registration and verification process for inputs redemption. The process involves sending out SMS (text messages) to the phone numbers of registered farmers with individual token numbers for the purpose of authentication for inputs redemption. Once the verification process is completed, the ICT service providers transmit the beneficiary list or data directly to the Agro-dealers. At the designated Agro-Input Centers (selling points) subsidised agricultural inputs such as fertilisers, seeds, agro-chemicals, etc. are redeemed by the registered farmers.²⁶ Thereafter, the ICT service providers are also expected to confirm redemption figure based on the transaction that hit their platforms and issue advisory notes for payment to the agro-dealers/ their authorised beneficiaries through electronic (e) payment by FMAFS/NAGS-AP.

²⁵ Namely, AFEX, CropIT and Verdent

²⁶ The Agro-dealers receive information only through the approved ICT service providers' systems, thereby limiting opportunities for manipulation. The beneficiary lists are not publicly accessible or handled by unauthorised individuals.

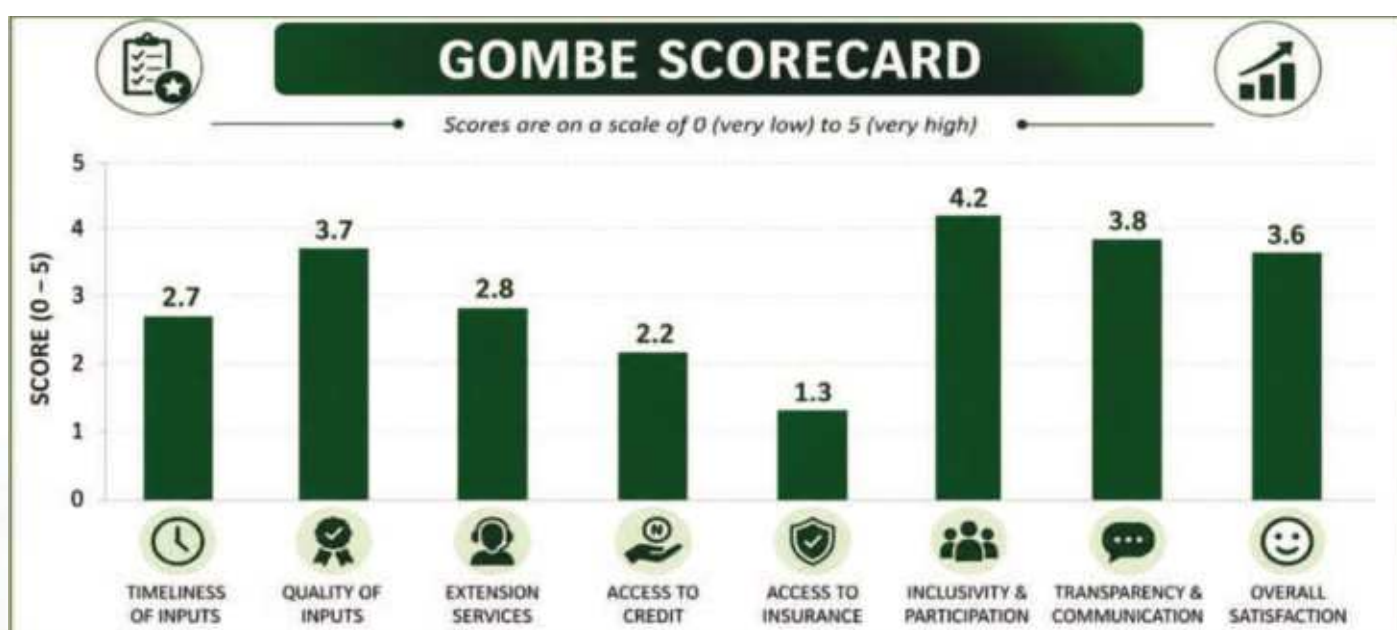


FARMERS' SCORECARD REPORTS ON THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY NATIONAL AGRICULTURE GROWTH SCHEME-AGRO-POCKET INTERVENTION ON WHEAT FARMING

Gombe Farmers' Scorecard Result

The Gombe state revealed mixed results in terms of the implementation of NAGS-AP support for wheat production in the state. For example, the wheat farmers rated access to extension services, credit, insurance and the timeliness of inputs low (that is, poor), while the quality of subsidised inputs received as fair as present in the farmers' scorecard result (figure 4.2). The wheat farmers engaged however viewed positively the project's level of inclusivity/participation, transparency and communication as well as the overall satisfaction (fig. 4.2).

Fig. 4.2: Farmers' Scorecard²⁷ of NAGS-AP Dry Season Wheat Support in Gombe



Kaduna Farmers' Scorecard Result

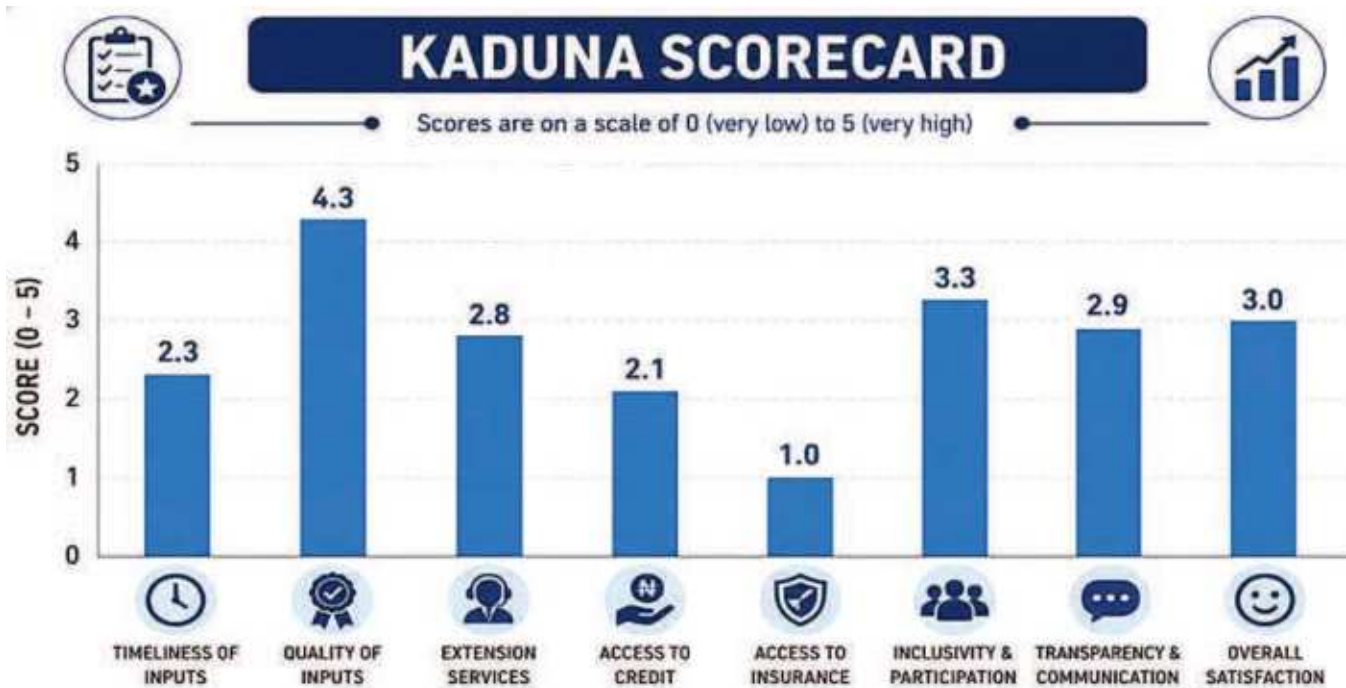
Figure 4.3 presents the farmers' scorecard on the implementation of NAGS-AP support for wheat farming in Kaduna state. Across the eight (8) performance indicators assessed, farmers rated the inclusivity/participation and overall satisfaction were averagely rated as fair. The quality of input supplies as good, but considered the timing of their distribution as poor.

In contrast, the project's communication and transparency, as well as access to extension services, and credit were rated poor (fig. 4.3). The worst rated was access to insurance, confirming the low uptake and or knowledge of insurance services.

²⁷ The Scorecard conducted via FGD sessions held with wheat farmers, agro-dealers, and visit to farm sites from February 12 – 13, 2026 in Gombe State

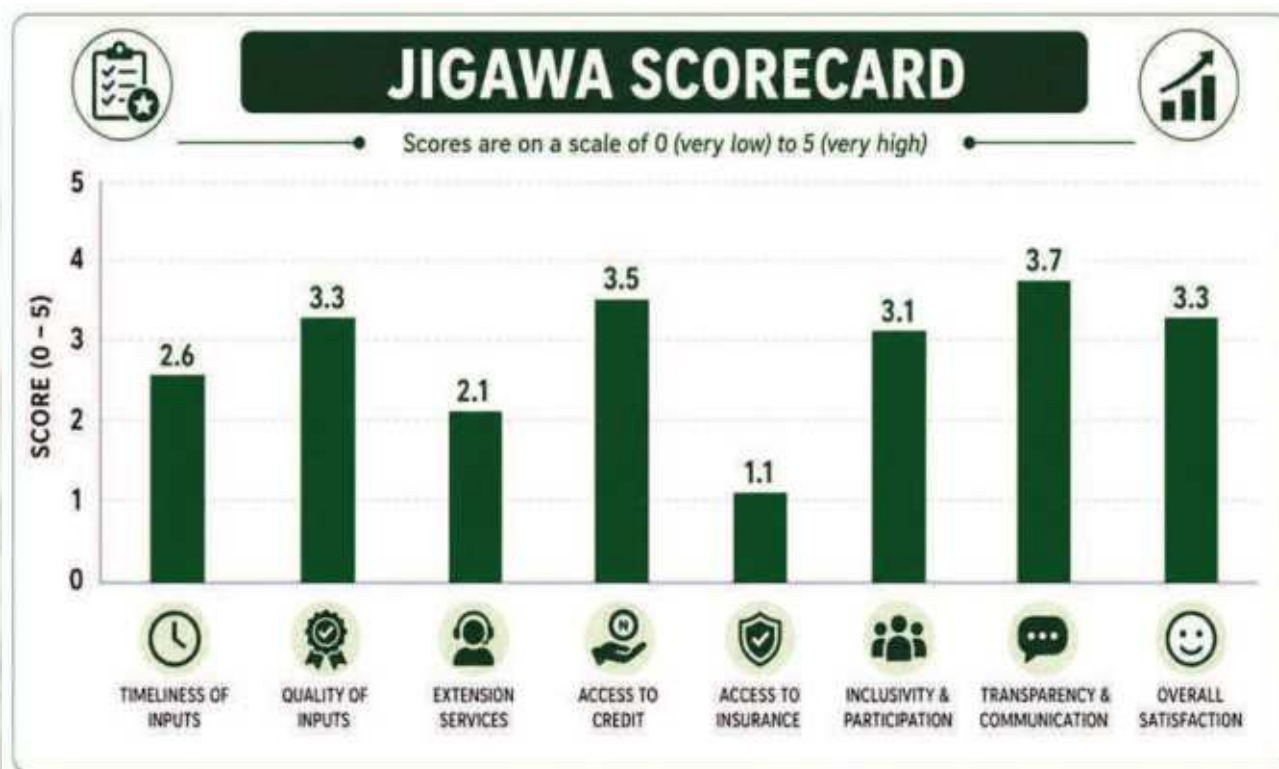
²⁸ The Scorecard conducted via the FGD sessions held with wheat farmers, agro-dealers, and visit to farm sites from January 29 - 30, 2026 in Kaduna State

Fig. 4.3: Farmers' Scorecard of NAGS-AP Dry Season Wheat Support²⁸ in Kaduna



Jigawa State Farmers' Scorecard Result

Fig. 4.4: Farmers' Scorecard of NAGS-AP Dry Season Wheat Support in Jigawa State²⁹



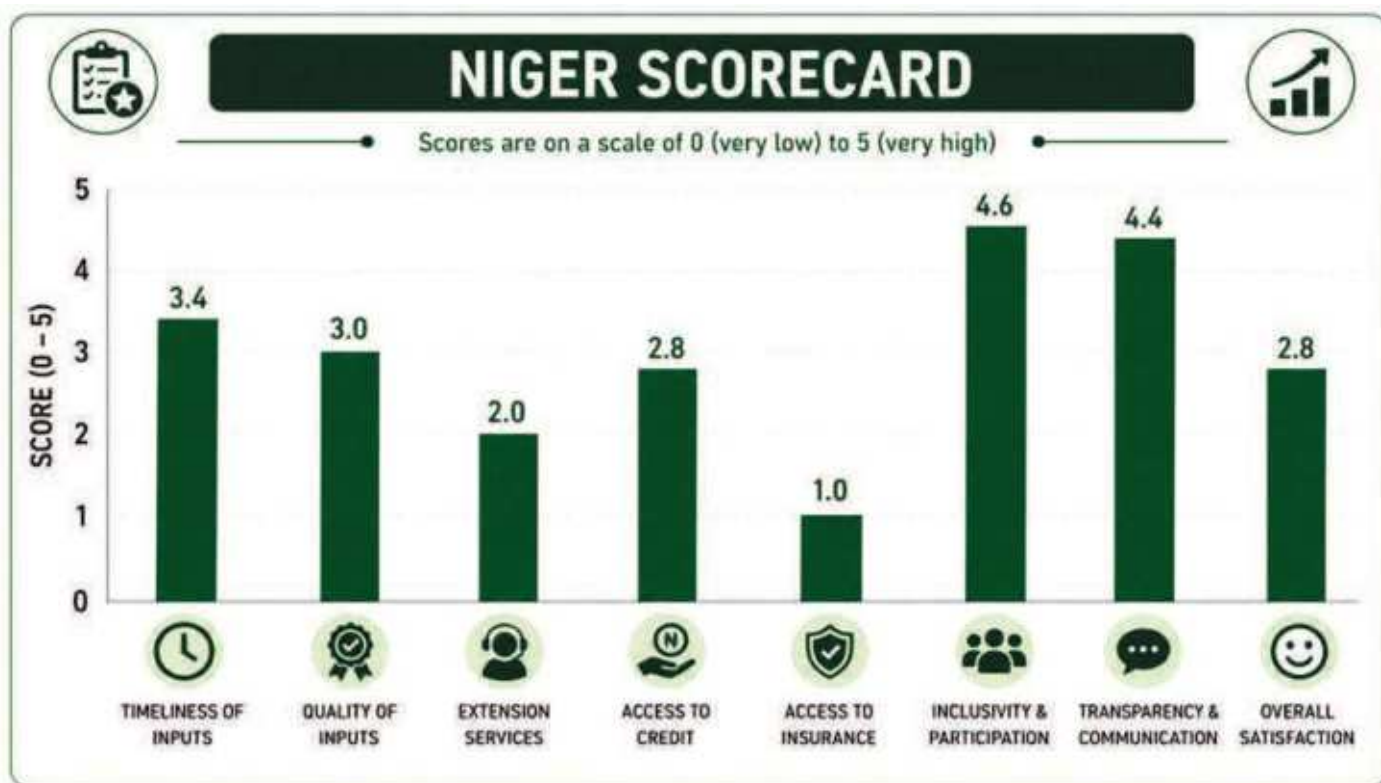
As presented in figure 4.4 above, the implementation of NAGS-AP wheat intervention scorecard in Jigawa state was rated fairly across many of the eight (8) dimensions of performance indicators assessed. The farmers rated the quality of input supplies as fair, but the timeliness of inputs distribution as poor. Transparency,

²⁹ The Scorecard conducted via the FGD sessions held with wheat farmers, agro-dealers, and visit to farm sites from February 5 - 6, 2026 in Jigawa State

communication, inclusivity and participation, as well as overall satisfaction with project' implementation in the state, were rated fairly. Both access to the extension and insurance services were however, rated poor and very poor respectively (figure 4.4). Curiously, access to finance was rated positively.³⁰

Niger State Farmers' Scorecard Result

Fig. 4.5: Farmers' Scorecard³¹ of NAGS-AP Dry Season Wheat Support in Niger State



As figure 4.5 shows, Niger state performed fairly well across many performance indicators, including in input timeliness and maintained acceptable input quality, indicating that materials were largely delivered on time and met required standards. That is, farmers rated inputs distribution timeliness and quality as fair.

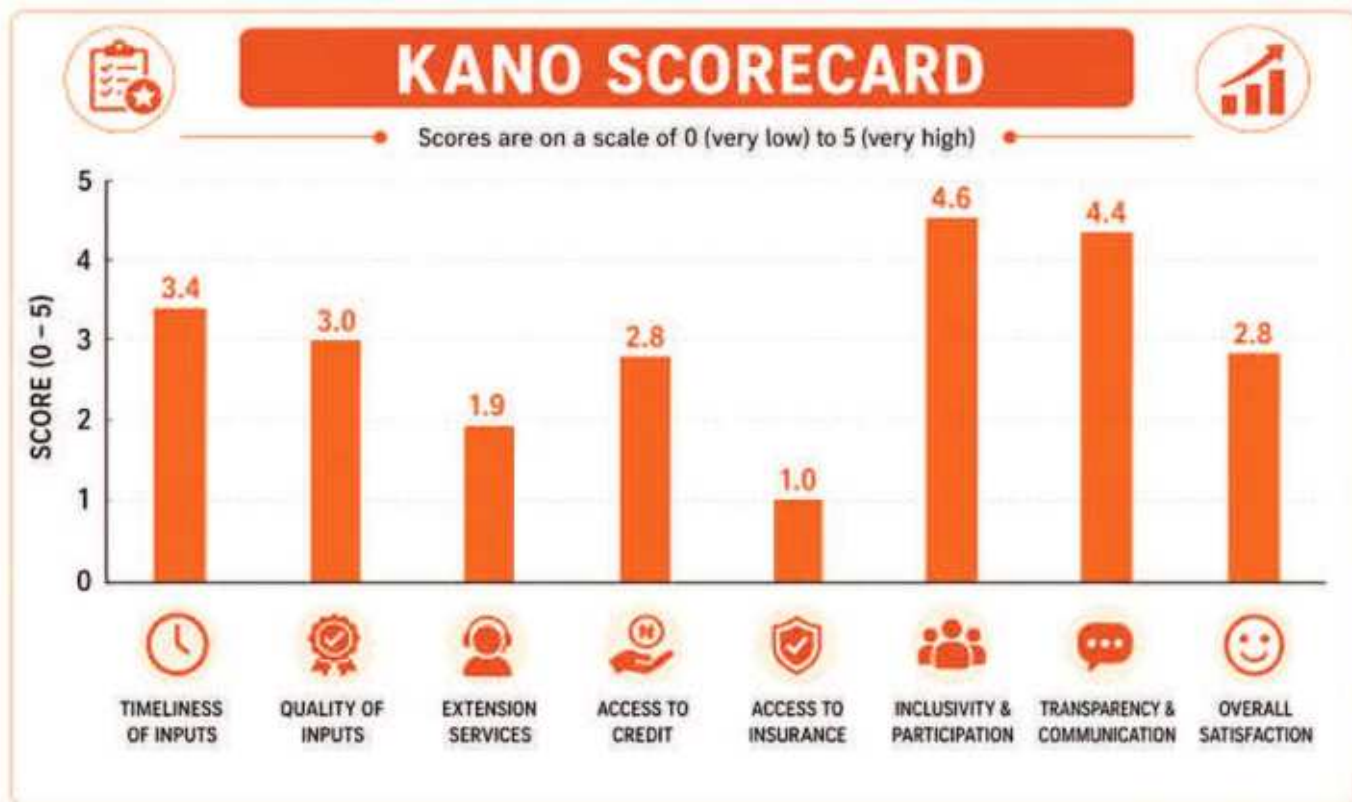
The scorecard rated the implementation of NAGS-AP support for wheat productivity in Nige State comparatively good in such areas as inclusivity/participation, as well as in terms of transparency and communication. They however considered access to credit facilities, extension agents, insurance services as well as project's overall satisfaction as poor (figure 4.5).

³⁰ Jigawa State reportedly offers additional support to farmers in the stat

³¹ The Scorecard conducted via the FGD sessions held with wheat farmers, agro-dealers, and visit to farm sites from January 29 - 30, 2026 in Niger State

Kano State Farmers' Scorecard Result

Fig. 4.6: Farmers' Scorecard of NAGS-AP Dry Season Wheat Support³² in Kano State



As present in figure 4.6, Kano did well in the areas of inclusivity, participation, transparency, and communication, and tried in the aspect of timeliness of input, but performed poorly in the areas of access to credit facilities, insurance and extension services. All these are in contrast with the finding from the FGD report which reported delays linked to documentation and federal approval processes.

4.9. Comparative Synthesis of Scorecard Results Across the Five States³³

A comparative review of the five states reveals a consistent performance pattern. Across all states, the quality of inputs emerged as a more fairly satisfactory indicator despite varied opinions. Beneficiaries generally expressed satisfaction with the usefulness of distributed inputs. This consistency suggests that the project's SOP/IS is utilised. The uniformity of this strength across states indicates institutional consistency in tangible intervention delivery.

While input delivery is rated as moderately fair, the analysis shows consistent weaknesses across states in key areas: access to extension services, access to credit, access to insurance, and timeliness. These indicators recorded lower ratings compared to others across all five states, suggesting th at the challenges are structural rather than project-specific.

³² The Scorecard conducted via the FGD sessions sessions held with wheat farmers, agro-dealers, and visit to farm sites from February 2 - 3, 2026 in Kano State

³³ See, the Scorecard results snapshot

Limited financial inclusion and weak insurance coverage restrict beneficiaries' ability to expand their operations and manage risks effectively. Timeliness is also a recurring issue, although the level of severity varies slightly between states. Delays in input distribution reduce the effectiveness of the intervention, particularly for a time-sensitive crop such as wheat. Where inputs are not delivered within the appropriate production cycle, the overall impact of the programme is reduced. Although some states performed slightly better, the general trend highlights the need for improved coordination and stronger monitoring systems.

Inclusivity and participation recorded moderate ratings across states. This indicates that while some level of stakeholder engagement exists, communication frameworks need to be strengthened. Beneficiaries' moderate satisfaction reflects this situation; although they recognise the benefits of the programme, concerns about financial access, implementation efficiency, and technical support affect overall confidence.

Extension services also show weak performance across the states. Technical support and regular field visits are essential to maximise the benefits of distributed inputs. Without effective extension engagement, the sustainability and long-term productivity gains of the programme remain limited.

4.10 Lessons Learned, Success Stories, and Way Forward

Across all states, transparency challenges are largely driven by uneven access to information and unclear programme processes. Although general awareness of the programme is relatively high, communication channels vary widely, with many communities relying on informal sources such as farmer groups and local leaders. This creates information gaps, where some beneficiaries receive timely and accurate information while others remain uninformed or misinformed.








There is also limited public clarity on eligibility criteria, registration procedures, and beneficiary selection processes. This makes it difficult for participants to assess whether the programme is fair and consistently applied. Concerns about political influence, selection bias, and weak accountability mechanisms were also raised. Some stakeholders indicated that access to the programme may be influenced by personal connections rather than transparent criteria.

The wheat farmers at the FGD sessions in all the states suggested future data capturing should be routed via 'bottom-up' farmers' structures and other credible organic associational platforms and not necessarily through governments' 'top-down' structures that are susceptible to manipulation or political interference.

In addition, the absence of accessible grievance redress mechanisms and feedback channels limits the ability of beneficiaries to report concerns or seek clarification, thereby weakening trust in the programme. The lack of publicly available beneficiary lists and clear validation processes further contributes to the project's limited transparency and weak accountability.

Improving transparency will require clearer communication, well-defined and verifiable selection criteria, reliable registration systems, and stronger accountability mechanisms to ensure fair and equitable access for all eligible participants.

Table 4.1: Consolidated Scorecard Results Table

State	 Inputs Delivery Timeliness	 Quality of Inputs	 Extension Services	 Access to Credit	 Access to Insurance	 Inclusivity & Participation	 Transparency & Communication	 Overall Satisfaction	 Overall Performance
Gombe	3	4	3	2	1	4	4	4	3
Jigawa	3	3	2	4	1	3	4	3	3
Kaduna	2	4	3	2	1	3	3	3	3
Kano	3	3	2	3	1	5	4	3	3
Niger	3	3	2	3	1	5	4	3	3
Domain Average Performance	2.8	3.4	2.4	2.8	1	4	3.8	3.2	3

Keys for the Scoring

Scoring	Interpretation
1 =	Very Poor
2 =	Poor
3 =	Fair
4 =	Good
5 =	Excellent

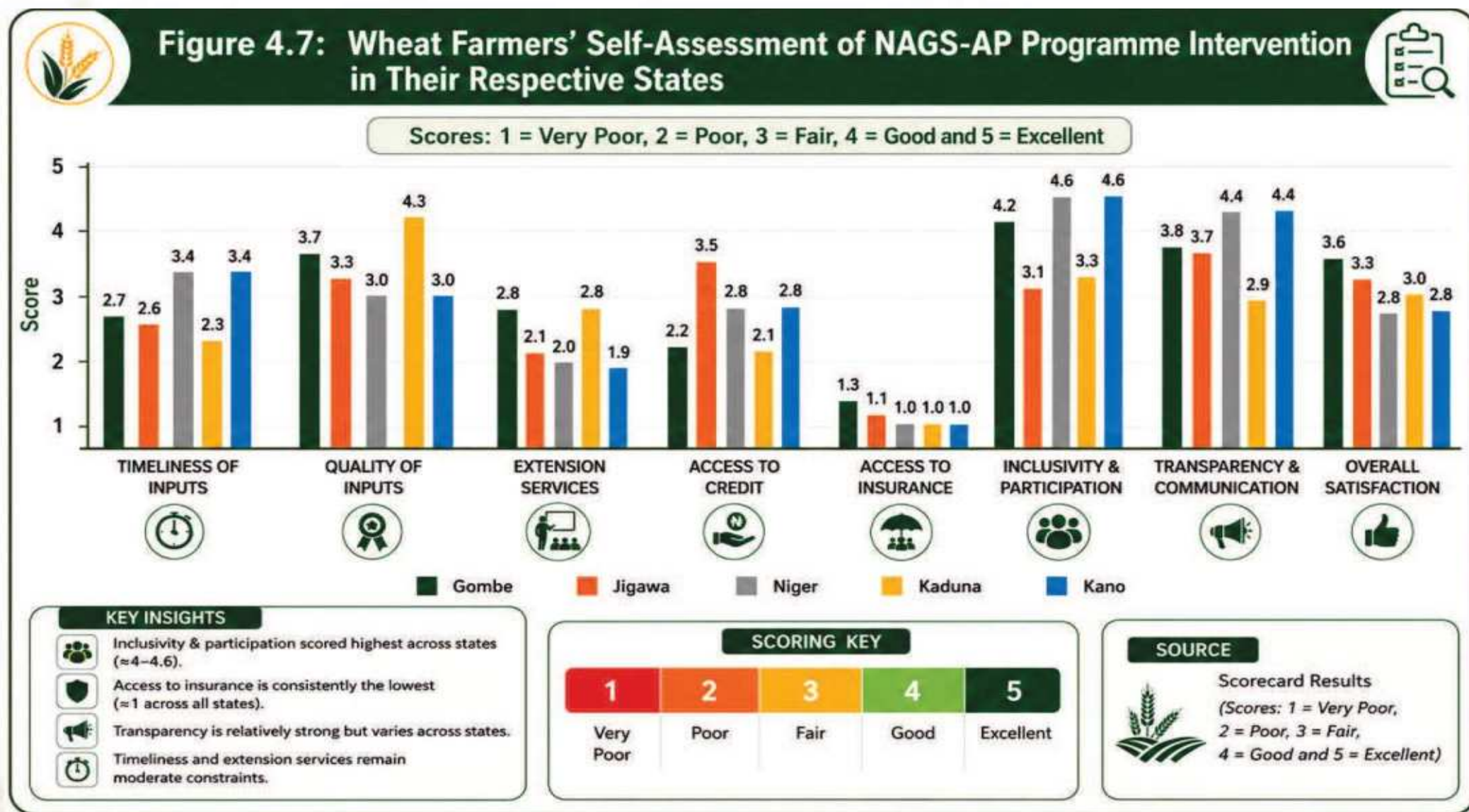




Table 4.2:

THE CROSS-STATE COMPARATIVE MATRIX



THEMATIC AREA	KANO	KADUNA	JIGAWA	NIGER	GOMBE	CROSS RIVER
Timeliness of Input Delivery	Delays reported	Moderate delays	Improved in the 2nd phase	Severe delays (Jan delivery)	Moderate	Late start, pilot constraints
Beneficiary Targeting Transparency	Quota-driven, concerns	Partially transparent	Database-based, structured	Manual selection issues	ADP-based verification	State-led profiling, & they release the list of Beneficiaries to the Interviewer
Political Interference	Moderate	High (political farmers)	Minimal reported	Limited evidence	Minimal	Low
Women Inclusion	Present but unclear %	25% quota policy	Inclusive but not quantified	Limited data	Moderate	Active inclusion
Extension Engagement	Present but weak integration	Weak at the redemption stage	Strong ADP involvement	Limited early involvement	Strong extension-led verification	State-driven training model
ICT Platform Performance	Functional but quota-limited	Data controlled centrally	Network failures reported	Limited digital structure	Institutional dissemination	Less ICT reliance
Input Allocation Efficiency	Reduced due to quotas	Cases of resale	Improved in the 2nd phase	60% shortfall	2024 functional	20% actual participation
Security Constraints	High impact	Moderate impact	Relatively stable	Moderate	Low	Low
Infrastructure Readiness	Underutilized irrigation	Existing structure	Irrigation-ready	Uneven distribution	Irrigation-dependent	Major irrigation gap
Overall Implementation Strength	Moderate	Governance-challenged	Relatively strong	Logistically weak	Structurally stable	Pilot-phase, learning stage

EMERGING PATTERNS ACROSS STATES – KEY INSIGHTS


1 PROGRAMME DELIVERY



- Input quality acceptable
- Late distribution reduces productivity

2 TRANSPARENCY GAPS




- No public beneficiary lists
 - Unclear selection criteria
 - Weak grievance systems
-  Leads to low trust & exclusion

3 ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUES



- Input discrepancies (up to **60%** unaccounted)
- Weak monitoring systems
- Fragmented federal-state oversight


4 POLITICAL INTERFERENCE



- “Political farmers” distort targeting
-  Reduces efficiency & fairness


5 INCLUSIVENESS BARRIERS



- Financial & digital constraints
 - Women most affected
-  Policy not aligned with rural realities

6 EXTENSION SERVICES



- Limited farmer support
 - Weak technical guidance
-  Affects productivity

7 ICT & DATA CHALLENGES



- System improves access BUT:
- Network failures
 - Data errors
 - “Ghost beneficiaries”



THE BIG PICTURE

Weak transparency, accountability, and delivery systems are the biggest constraints to programme effectiveness.



1. Programme Delivery and Efficiency

Programme performance varied across states. While input quality was generally acceptable, late distribution significantly affected productivity. Agricultural timelines were not consistently respected, reducing overall effectiveness.

2. Transparency Challenges

Transparency remains one of the most critical weaknesses in programme implementation. Major issues identified include:

- Lack of publicly available beneficiary lists
- Inconsistent communication of selection criteria
- Limited access to programme information outside official channels
- Weak grievance redresses mechanisms

These gaps create information asymmetry, allowing some participants to benefit disproportionately while others remain excluded. In several states, farmers reported uncertainty about how beneficiaries were selected, which undermines trust in the programme.

3. Accountability Gaps

Accountability mechanisms are weak across the implementation chain. Evidence shows discrepancies between allocated and delivered inputs in some states, with up to 60% of allocations unaccounted for. These gaps point to deficiencies in supply chain monitoring and reporting systems.

Additionally, the absence of a unified monitoring framework between federal and state actors has resulted in fragmented oversight. Where state governments intervened financially, accountability structures became blurred, raising questions about responsibility for outcomes.

4. Political Interference

The presence of politically influenced beneficiaries ('political farmers') was reported in several locations. Such practices distort targeting, reduce programme efficiency, and divert resources away from genuine farmers.

5. Inclusiveness

While the programme aims to support women, youth, and vulnerable groups, structural barriers persist. Financial requirements, limited access to banking services, and digital constraints significantly restrict participation, particularly among women. This indicates that policy design has not fully accounted for rural realities.

6. Extension Services

Extension support was generally inadequate. In many cases, extension agents were excluded from key stages of programme implementation, limiting technical guidance to farmers. This gap negatively affects productivity and adoption of best practices.

7. ICT and Data Integrity

The ICT platform improved registration and communication but faces operational challenges such as network failures, data inconsistencies, and verification errors. Concerns about 'ghost beneficiaries' further highlight the need for stronger data validation systems.



Strengthening Transparency and Accountability

Transparency and accountability are central to the success of large-scale agricultural interventions. The assessment reveals that current mechanisms are insufficient and require systematic strengthening.

First, transparency must go beyond information dissemination to include public disclosure of key programme data. Beneficiary lists, selection criteria, and allocation records should be openly accessible to enable independent verification.

Second, accountability requires clearly defined roles across federal, state, and private actors. A unified monitoring framework with real-time reporting would improve oversight and reduce discrepancies.

Third, grievance redress mechanisms must be strengthened to allow farmers to report irregularities without fear of reprisal. Community-based monitoring tools, such as scorecards, should be institutionalised.

Finally, technology systems should be complemented with physical verification processes to ensure that only genuine farmers benefit from the programme.



STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY




Transparency and accountability are central to the success of large-scale agricultural interventions. The assessment reveals that current mechanisms are insufficient and require systematic strengthening.

1 TRANSPARENCY

Transparency must go beyond information dissemination to include public disclosure of key programme data.

Beneficiary lists, selection criteria, and allocation records should be openly accessible to enable independent verification.




 Open data builds trust and promotes inclusion.

2 ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability requires clearly defined roles across federal, state, and private actors.

A unified monitoring framework with real-time reporting would improve oversight and reduce discrepancies.



 Clear roles. Real-time data. Stronger oversight.

3 GRIEVANCE REDRESS

Grievance redress mechanisms must be strengthened to allow farmers to report irregularities without fear of reprisal.

Community-based monitoring tools, such as scorecards, should be institutionalised.



 Empowered farmers. Responsive systems.



Strengthening transparency and accountability ensures resources reach genuine farmers, improves programme performance, and builds lasting trust.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion:

The NAGS-AP project demonstrated a federal commitment toward reducing wheat import dependency. However, field findings reveal that structural bottlenecks, particularly limited productivity gains, delayed input delivery, financial barriers for smallholders, and coordination weaknesses. Sustainable wheat expansion requires institutional strengthening, improved seed systems, irrigation infrastructure investment, and deeper integration of extension services.

5.2 Recommendations:

Policy-Level Recommendations:

- ✓ Establish a National Wheat Seed Multiplication Strategy.
- ✓ Develop a zonal wheat suitability targeting framework.
- ✓ Introduce gender-sensitive agricultural financing mechanisms

Operational-Level Recommendations:

- ✓ Enforce strict seed delivery timelines before October ending annually.
- ✓ Support ADP's extension agents to provide the farmers with post-input collection guide.
- ✓ Ensure all redemption centers are easily accessible
- ✓ Publish verified beneficiary lists at the ward level for transparency.

Institutional-Level Recommendations:

- ✓ Strengthen federal–state ownership and reporting systems.
- ✓ Deploy real-time publicly accessible open dashboards for programme tracking.
- ✓ Improve ICT infrastructure reliability during redemption exercises.
- ✓ Investigate allegations of sharp practices, including inputs diversions, supply of adulterated agro-chemicals, fertilisers, uncertified seeds, etc.,
- ✓ Apply punitive sanction on unscrupulous agro dealers found culpable.
- ✓ Ensure adequate awareness creation and sensitisation using farmers-based platforms, community leaders, religion groups, social media and traditional groups.

For State Governments:

- ✓ Recruit and train more extension agents, including female extension agents.
- ✓ Empower the State ADP offices to achieve full optimisations.

For Farmers and Farmers-based Organisation

- ✓ Maximise inputs received to optimise wheat productivity.
- ✓ Build and expose grassroots based farmers to basic ICT literacy.

For Non-State Actors:

- ✓ Invoke Freedom of Information Act to demand accountability for results .
- ✓ Sustain independent programme monitoring, impact assessments, and stakeholders' engagements.

For Lenders: African Development Bank and other multilateral financial institutions

- ✓ Embed proactive publicly accessible information disclosure indicator in financing instruments to enhance transparency, accountability.
- ✓ Support strong anti-corruption postures in the bank/partners-funded project implementation.
- ✓ Cultivate non state actors' engagements, including civil society third party monitoring, in programme delivery and results documentation ecosystems.



SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Actionable recommendations to strengthen the Nigeria Agribusiness Growth Systems – Wheat Value Chain (NAGS-AP/WHEAT) Programme



1. POLICY-LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Establish a National Wheat Seed Multiplication Strategy.
- ✓ Develop a zonal wheat suitability targeting framework.
- ✓ Introduce gender-sensitive agricultural financing mechanisms.



2. OPERATIONAL-LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Enforce strict seed delivery timelines before October ending annually.
- ✓ Integrate ADP and extension agents at redemption centres and for post-input collection support to the farmers.
- ✓ Ensure all redemption centers are easily accessible.
- ✓ Publish verified beneficiary lists at the ward level for transparency.



3. INSTITUTIONAL-LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Strengthen federal–state ownership and reporting systems.
- ✓ Deploy real-time publicly accessible open dashboards for programme tracking.
- ✓ Improve ICT infrastructure reliability during redemption exercises.
- ✓ Investigate allegations of sharp practices, including inputs diversions, supply of adulterated agro-chemicals, fertilisers, uncertified seeds, etc.
- ✓ Apply punitive sanction on unscrupulous agro dealers found culpable.
- ✓ Ensure adequate awareness creation and sensitisation using farmers-based platforms, community leaders, religion groups, social media and traditional groups.



4. FOR STATE GOVERNMENTS

- ✓ Recruit and train more extension agents and empower ADP offices to achieve full optimisations.



5. FOR FARMERS AND FARMERS-BASED ORGANISATIONS

- ✓ Maximize inputs received to optimize wheat productivity.
- ✓ Build and expose grassroots based farmers to basic ICT knowledge and documentation.



6. FOR NON-STATE ACTORS

- ✓ Invoke Freedom of Information Act to demand accountability for results.
- ✓ Sustain independent programme monitoring, impact assessments, and media engagements.



7. FOR LENDERS: AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND OTHER MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- ✓ Embed proactive publicly accessible information disclosure indicator in financing instruments to enhance transparency, accountability and support strong anti-corruption postures.
- ✓ Cultivate non state actors' engagements, including civil society third party monitoring, in programme delivery and results documentation.



OUR SHARED GOAL

A transparent, inclusive and accountable wheat value chain that drives productivity, food security and prosperity for all.



CONSOLIDATED RESEARCH TOOLS

A Study

on

Community Participatory Assessment of Government Expenditure and Development of Community Scorecards on the National Agriculture Growth Scheme - Agro-Products Wheat Intervention (2023/24 & 2024/25 Dry Season Programmes).

Based on the available information, a detailed background and methodology, the following is a comprehensive Field Questionnaire for the Community Participatory Assessment of Government Expenditure and the Development of Community Scorecards on the NAGS-AP Wheat Intervention (2023/24 & 2024/25 Dry Season Programmes).

It is designed for **field researchers** conducting **surveys, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)** with farmers, community leaders, extension agents, women/youth groups, and local implementing officials.

FIELD QUESTIONNAIRE

Section A: General Information

Enumerator Information

- Enumerator Name: _____
- Date of Interview: _____
- State: _____
- LGA: _____
- Community/Ward: _____
- GPS Coordinates: _____
- Respondent Code/ID: _____

Respondent Information

- Name (optional): _____
- Gender: Male Female Other
- Age: _____
- Category: Farmer Extension Agent Community Leader Women Group Rep Youth Group Rep Person with Disability Cooperative Chairperson Local Government Agric Officer
- Farm Size (Hectares): _____
- Years in Wheat Farming: _____

Section B: Awareness and Participation in NAGS-AP Wheat Intervention

1. Are you aware of the NAGS-AP Wheat Intervention programme?
 Yes No
2. How did you first hear about it?
 Extension agent Radio/TV Community meeting Farmer group Social media Local Government Others (specify) _____
3. Did you or your group register for the NAGS-AP Wheat programme?
 Yes No
4. If yes, through which platform or channel did you register?
 e-Wallet / Agro-Pocket App Farmer Association State Ministry of Agriculture Private aggregator Others (specify) _____
5. Were you provided with a registration or verification code?
 Yes No
6. Were you selected as a beneficiary under the 2023/24 or 2024/25 dry season programme?
 Yes, 2023/24 Yes, 2024/25 Both No
7. If No, what reasons were given for non-selection (if any)?



Section C: Inputs and Subsidies Received

1. What type of inputs did you receive? (tick all that apply)
 Wheat seed Fertiliser Herbicide/Pesticide Irrigation equipment Other (specify)

2. How were the inputs delivered?
 Through redemption center Extension agent Cooperative Private supplier Others

3. Were the inputs delivered on time for the planting season?
 Yes No Partly
4. Rate the quality of inputs received (1 = very poor, 2 = Poor, 3 = Fair, 4 = Good, 5 = excellent):
 1 2 3 4 5
5. Did you receive any subsidy on inputs?
 Yes No
6. What was the total cost of the inputs you received? _____
7. How much did you pay for the input? _____
8. Did you pay any unofficial or extra charges to access the inputs?
 Yes No
If yes, specify amount or nature: _____

Section D: Access to Extension, Credit, and Insurance

1. Did you receive any extension support related to the programme?
 Yes No
2. If yes, how often did extension agents visit or provide training?
 Weekly Monthly Occasionally Never
3. How would you rate the usefulness of extension advice? (1 = very poor, 2 = Poor, 3 = Fair, 4 = Good, 5 = excellent):
 1 2 3 4 5
4. Were you offered any credit or loan facility under the scheme?
 Yes No
If yes, from which source? _____
5. Did you suffer any lose in the course of the farming process?
 Yes No
6. Were you informed or covered by any agricultural insurance?
 Yes No
7. If insured, did you receive any compensation for losses?
 Yes No Not applicable

Section E: Inclusivity and Participation

1. Were women farmers in your community adequately included in the programme?
 Yes No Not sure

2. Were youth farmers (aged 18–35) adequately included?
 Yes No Not sure
 3. Were persons with disabilities (PWDs) given opportunities to benefit?
 Yes No Not sure
 4. What barriers (if any) prevented the participation of women, youth, or PWDs?
 Lack of information Registration bias Cultural restrictions Lack of access to mobile phones
 Political influence Others _____
-

Section G: Outcome and Perceived Impact

1. What was your average wheat yield before NAGS-AP (tonnes/ha)? _____
 2. What was your yield after participating in NAGS-AP? _____
 3. Did the programme improve your access to quality inputs?
 Yes No
 4. Did it increase your income?
 Yes No
 5. Did it improve your farming knowledge or practices?
 Yes No
 6. Did it strengthen your link to markets or off-takers?
 Yes No
 7. Overall, how satisfied are you with the NAGS-AP Wheat Intervention?
 Very satisfied Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied Very dissatisfied
-

Enumerator's Notes

- Observations on respondent's understanding and tone: _____
 - Any challenges encountered during the interview: _____
-

ADDITIONAL TOOLS

Key Informant Interview (KII) Guide

Here are the **Two Complementary Tools** that go alongside the **main Field Questionnaire**:

1. **Key Informant Interview (KII) Guide**: for government officials, extension agents, farmer associations, and input suppliers.
2. **Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Guide & Community Scorecard Facilitation Tool**: for community-based discussions with farmers, women, youth, and PWD groups.

They are structured to align with the project's **Participatory Public Expenditure Tracking (PPET)** and **Community Scorecard (CSC)** framework under the **NAGS-AP Wheat Intervention (2023/24 & 2024/25)**.

1. Key Informant Interview (KII) Guide

Community Participatory Assessment of Government Expenditure and Development of Community Scorecards on NAGS-AP Wheat Intervention

Section A: General Information

- State: _____
 - LGA: _____
 - Respondent Name (optional): _____
 - Gender: Male Female
 - Position/Designation: _____
 - Institution/Organisation: FMAFS State Agric Dev. Programme (ADP) AfDB Project Office Input Supplier Farmer Association Extension Service Local Government Agric Dept. Others _____
 - Interview Date: _____
 - Interviewer Name: _____
-

Section B: Programme Planning and Coordination

1. What is your organisation's role in the NAGS-AP Wheat Intervention? _____

 2. How were target beneficiaries identified and verified at the community level? _____

 3. What criteria were used to select beneficiaries (e.g., gender, farm size, prior participation, cooperative membership)? _____

-

4. How was coordination between federal, state, and local agencies managed? _____

5. What were the main challenges faced during programme planning and rollout? _____

Section C: Budget and Expenditure Tracking

1. What was the allocated budget for NAGS-AP Wheat for your state/zone? _____

2. Were funds released fully and on time? _____
3. What were the main expenditure components (inputs, logistics, training, insurance, monitoring, etc.)? _____
4. Were there any deviations between budgeted and actual expenditures? _____

5. How is financial accountability ensured (e.g., audits, reporting systems)? _____

6. What role did civil society or community structures play in expenditure tracking or oversight? _____

Section D: Input Procurement and Distribution

1. How were suppliers or aggregators selected? _____

2. Were inputs (seeds, fertiliser, agrochemicals) delivered on schedule? _____

3. How was quality control managed (certified seeds, packaging, etc.)? _____

4. Were there challenges in input redemption via the Agro-Pocket platform? _____

5. Were there any reports of diversion, leakages, or ghost beneficiaries investigated? _____

Section E: Extension, Credit, and Insurance

1. How many extension agents were deployed per LGA/community? _____
2. What training or capacity building was provided to farmers? _____

3. Was agricultural insurance integrated effectively into the programme? _____

4. What level of credit access or financing support was extended to farmers? _____

5. What innovations (digital tools, mechanisation, irrigation) were introduced? _____

-

Section F: Inclusivity and Gender Responsiveness

1. Were there deliberate targets for women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs)? _____

 2. What percentage of total beneficiaries were women or youth? _____

 3. Were gender or inclusion-sensitive outreach strategies implemented? _____

 4. What barriers limited equitable participation, and how were they addressed? _____

-

Section G: Monitoring, Reporting, and Feedback

1. How was programme performance monitored and reported? _____

 2. Were any participatory monitoring tools (scorecards, farmer feedback meetings) used? _____

 3. How were complaints or grievances handled? _____

 4. What lessons emerged regarding transparency and accountability? _____

 5. What improvements would you recommend for future agricultural subsidy programme? _____

-

Section H: Transparency, Accountability, and Communication

1. How transparent was the process of beneficiary selection?
 Very transparent Somewhat transparent Not transparent
 2. Were lists of beneficiaries publicly displayed or shared?
 Yes No
 3. Were you informed about the total budget or the number of beneficiaries in your community?
 Yes No
 4. Did you observe or hear about any irregularities (e.g., diversion, favoritism, ghost beneficiaries)?
 Yes No
If yes, please describe: _____
 5. How would you rate government communication about the programme?
 Very good Fair Poor Very poor
-

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Guide & Community Scorecard Tool

Community Participatory Assessment of Government Expenditure and Development of Community Scorecards on NAGS-AP Wheat Intervention

Section A: FGD Overview

- Date: _____
 - State: _____
 - LGA/Community: _____
 - Number of Participants: _____ (Men: ___ / Women: ___ / Youth: ___ / PWDs: ___)
 - Facilitator(s): _____
 - Note Taker: _____
-

Section B: Warm-Up Discussion

- i. How many participants are wheat farmers? _____
 - ii. Who has heard about the NAGS-AP Wheat Intervention? _____

 - iii. How did you first learn about it? _____

 - iv. Who among you benefited from the programme in 2023/24 or 2024/25? _____

-

Section C: Group Discussion Themes

1. Awareness and Registration

- i. How was information about the programme shared in your community? _____

- ii. Was the registration process fair and inclusive? _____
- iii. Were there people who were left out despite meeting the requirements? Why? _____

2. Input Delivery and Timeliness

- i. When did you receive inputs relative to planting time? _____

 - ii. Were the inputs (seed, fertiliser, agrochemicals) adequate and of good quality? _____

 - iii. How did delayed delivery (if any) affect your planting or yield? _____

-

3. Extension, Credit, and Insurance

- i. Did extension agents visit or train you during the programme? _____
- ii. Were women, youth, or small farmers equally reached by extension services? _____

- iii. Did anyone access credit or insurance through NAGS-AP? How effective was it? _____

4. Inclusivity and Equity

- i. Were women, youth, or PWDs involved in programme design or meetings? _____
- ii. Were female farmers treated equally during distribution or registration? _____
- iii. What can be done to improve fairness and inclusion? _____

5. Transparency and Accountability

- i. How transparent was the process of selecting beneficiaries? _____

- ii. Were there any signs of favoritism, diversion, or corruption? _____

- iii. Were lists of beneficiaries displayed publicly? _____

6. Outcomes and Perceptions

- i. Did the programme increase your wheat yield or income? _____

- ii. Did it improve your farming skills or access to markets? _____

- iii. What are the main benefits of NAGS-AP in your community? _____

- iv. What are the main drawbacks of NAGS-AP in your community? _____

Section D: Community Scorecard

(Facilitator displays matrix and collects scores through consensus)

Scoring Key: 1 = Very Poor, 2 = Poor, 3 = Fair, 4 = Good, 5 = Excellent.

Performance Indicator	Description	Community Rating (1–5)	Remarks / Examples
Timeliness of input delivery	Inputs arrived before planting		
Quality of inputs	Seeds, fertiliser, agrochemicals		
Access to extension services	Frequency, relevance, responsiveness		

Performance Indicator	Description	Community Rating (1–5)	Remarks / Examples
Access to credit	Affordability, responsiveness		
Access to agricultural insurance	Affordability, responsiveness		
Inclusivity	Participation of women, youth, PWDs		
Transparency and Communication	Clarity of selection, information access		
Overall satisfaction	General perception of NAGS-AP impact		

Section I: Recommendations and Way Forward

1. What improvements would you like to see in future agricultural subsidies or wheat programmes?

2. How can the government and partners ensure fairer beneficiary selection?

3. What additional support do farmers in your area need (e.g., irrigation, markets, mechanisation, etc)?

4. Any other comments or observations? _____

Strengthening agricultural systems through **evidence-based policy** and **inclusive interventions**.



This report provides a comprehensive assessment of the Nigeria Agribusiness Growth Systems - Wheat Value Chain (NAGS-AP/WHEAT) Programme in five states, highlighting key findings, lessons learned, and actionable recommendations to enhance productivity, inclusivity, and sustainability across the wheat value chain.



act:onaid



EMAIL
info.nigeria@actionaid.org



TELEPHONE
+234 (0) 812 8888 825-7



ADDRESS
ActionAid Nigeria
Plot 477, 41 Crescent,
off Sa'adu Zungur Avenue,
Gwarinpa Abuja.