



THE NATIONAL GENDER POLICY IN AGRICULTURE

Simplified Version for Smallholder Women Farmers

(2021)



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APP - Agriculture Promotion Policy

ATA - Agricultural Transformation Agenda

APRRW - Africa Protocol on People's Right of Women

BPfA - Beijing Platform for Action

CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

CSO - Civil Society Organization

CBO - Community Based Organization

ICPD PoA - International Conference on People's Development Plan of Action

ICT - Information and Communication Technology

FMARD - Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

FHH - Female Headed Households

FME - Federal Ministry of Education

GPA - Gender Policy in Agriculture

GSC - Gender Steering Committee

NGO - Non Governmental Organization

M&E - Monitoring and Evaluation

MFIs - Micro Finance Institutions

MHH - Male Headed Households

NEPAD - New Partnership for Africa's Development

NAP - National Agriculture Policy

LGA - Local Government Area

LIFE - Life Intensive Family Enterprise





- **Gender**
Socially and culturally constructed differences between men, women, boys and girls which give them UNEQUAL value, opportunities and life chances.
- **Gender Analysis**
Qualitative and quantitative assessments conducted to determine the differential impacts of development activities on women and men.
- **Gender Awareness**
The recognition of the difference in the interest, needs and role of men and women in the society.
- **Gender Budget**
A balanced budgeting methodology which analyzes and incorporates the equal interest of women, men, boys and girls.
- **Gender Biases**
Discrimination on the bases of sex.
- **Gender Discrimination**
The unequal treatment of individual on the bases of sex.
- **Gender Equality**
The absence of discrimination on the basis on one's sex in allocation of resources, benefits or access to service.
- **Gender Gap**
A difference ascribed by society on the basis of socio economic status of men and women.
- **Gender Mainstreaming**
The entire process and actions engaged in inculcating gender issues into planning, budgeting and all other activities aimed at the attainment of gender equality.
- **Gender Justice**
A system of redistribution of power, opportunity and equal access to all gender.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nigeria has enormous agricultural potentials. Yet to be fully utilised is the size of its 84million hectares arable land of which 60% is under utilised or not in use. The population size of about 200million (est.2020) makes it the biggest market for agricultural products in Africa. In Nigeria, the abundance of almost predictable rainfall and the wealth of natural resources makes the country friendly for agricultural practices.

Notwithstanding the huge potentials and the natural resource assets, Nigeria has struggled to attain food security. As at 2016, more than \$22billion was reported to be spent annually on food importation. The consequence of the high importation of food is an indication of the low level engagement of local farmers in meeting domestic needs and ensuring food sufficiency.

There are wide-range of challenges, such as wastages due to lack of capacity to store and process perishable supplies, uncoordinated agricultural systems, inconsistent agricultural programmes, plans and policies, poor farming methodologies, lack of access to finance, unreliable power supply, poor transport infrastructure, access to land and the absence of inclusion of gender based issues in agriculture.

Gender based issues in Agriculture are the most ignored, yet the issues of gender especially relating to smallholder women farmers is of vital importance to attainment of food security. Smallholder Women Farmers contribute the largest manpower to the food production chain, yet they have minimal access to agricultural assets and are faced with the challenges of limited access to land, fund, fertilizer, seed, market, information, extension services, relevant technology, participation in decision making and chain of other challenges.

Despite the fact that women outnumber men who work in the agriculture sector, the men absolutely dominate the sector in terms of access to funds, access to land, access to agricultural inputs- seeds and fertilizers, earning and supportive services. The implication of this disparity is that the agricultural sector is not functioning in its full capacity because of the lack of equal access to the segment that is responsible for contributing the major chunk of agricultural production.

In a bid to comprehensively address the gender gap in Agriculture and ensure equity and equality in access and distribution of agricultural assets, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in 2019 launched the National Gender Policy in Agriculture.

The National Gender Policy in Agriculture is a consummation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of eradicating poverty (SDG-1), ending hunger, achieving food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture (SDG-2), and achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (SDG-5). It also succinctly captured the gaps in gender integration and responsiveness in the 2011-2015 Agricultural Transformation Agenda. The National Gender Policy in Agriculture is a sectorial gender mainstreaming strategy document which aims at strategic implementation of existing gender based frameworks, plans and programming.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Gender Policy is an assertive document, which recognizes the limitation of growth and development of the agricultural sector because of the exclusion of smallholder women farmers in strategic participation and in key decisions making and access to agricultural assets. The document provides a clear direction and lead for implementation of guidelines and actions that will ensure fair and equal participation of smallholder women farmers in the entire agricultural process and food systems.

The document seek to promote and ensure the adoption of gender sensitive and responsive approaches towards full implementation and execution of agricultural plans and programmes in a way that men and women will have equal access and control to agricultural resource and funding. It seeks to completely eliminate gender biases and engender stronger participation of smallholder women farmers in utilizing agricultural assets and in decision making processes.

It is important to stress that gender inequalities limit agricultural productivity and efficiency. The inability to recognize the roles and contribution of smallholder women farmers in agricultural production will have massive impact on output, income and food security. Hence, it is of great importance to highlight the roles of smallholder women farmers and integrate to the entire agricultural production process and system.

It is expected that the Gender Policy in Agriculture will drastically reduce the vulnerability of smallholder women farmers to various gender based biases in Agriculture, address the issues of unequal power relation and bridge gender gaps and consequently improve and reward the contributions of smallholder farmers who are predominantly women.

The policy is tagged a 'coherent' National Policy in Agriculture in Nigeria because of the thoroughness in the process of finalizing the document and the engagement of all relevant stakeholders in gender desks and departments in the ministry and agencies of agriculture and the effort of development partners, Non Governmental Organizations, NGOs and Community Based Organizations, CBOs in providing thought-through inputs.



PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES



To ensure the promotion and adoption of gender sensitive and gender responsive approaches to the agriculture sector planning and programming in a way that smallholder women farmers have equal access and control of productive resources and opportunities in order to achieve their potential, ensure sustainable livelihood, earn decent income and contribute to national food security.

Specific objectives of this policy :

1

Developing gender competencies of staff and partners

in addressing gender gaps and gender awareness, programming, leadership skill development, mainstream gender in extension delivery/nutrition sensitive approach among agricultural extension agents and farmers to mainstream gender into Climate Change.

Institutionalizing gender responsive budgeting,
(programming, planning and budgeting), implementation, monitoring and reporting systems.

2



Specific objectives of this policy :

3

The promotion of the use of gender sensitive data collection and gender statistics

for evidence-based planning, policy and programme design, implementation and evaluation.

Widening and managing partnerships & shared mechanisms

amongst government institutions, development partners, CSOs, and the private sector and to incorporate relevant actions to respond to practical and strategic gender needs and priorities of women in the agricultural sector.

4

5

Improving cultural practices that hinder women

from access to land, finance, fertilizer and other agricultural assets through advocacy, sensitization workshops and shared responsibilities with smallholder women farmers and, ensuring gender justice.

Training of smallholder women farmers' cooperatives

in financial literacy and group dynamism as well as in value chain development.

6

7

Train and provide smallholder women farmers with linkages

to farm inputs companies, financial institutions; training institutions and agro-processing groups and on group dynamics, packaging/standards quality and assurance on import and export market.



Specific objectives of this policy :

8

Training smallholder women farmers cooperatives

on nutrition sensitive techniques and messages, ICT, conflict prevention and resolution, social protection models and adult education in collaboration with Federal Ministry of Education.

Monitoring and Evaluation.

It is aimed at utilizing the legal framework of the Gender Policy to align with relevant regional and international protocols and conventions such as – New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), AU Solemn Declaration for Gender Equality, African Protocol on People's Rights of Women (APRRW), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), International Conference on Population Development Plan of Action (ICPD PoA), NEEDS/SEEDS and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These legal instruments aimed at achieving gender equity and equality, women development and empowerment and poverty reduction/elimination, having all being signed by Nigeria.

The Gender Policy in Agriculture is focused on providing sufficiently detailed guidelines on sectoral and institutional direction for achieving gender equity in agriculture, where smallholder women farmers are guaranteed equal opportunities to contribute to and benefit from national development.

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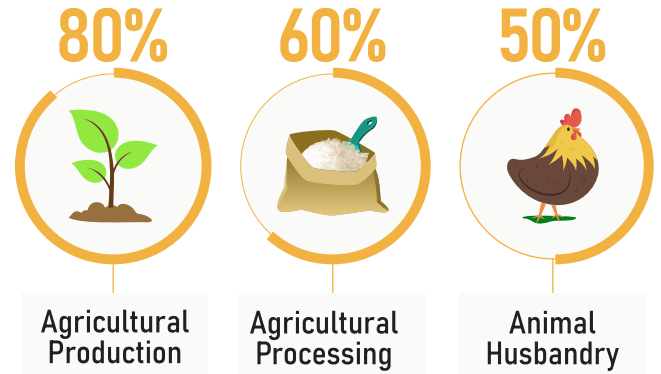
INTRODUCTION



It is a popular parlance in the agriculture sector to say that

more than 70% of women contribute to Agricultural production.

WOMEN CARRY OUT:



yet women have **less than 20% agricultural assets**

SOURCE: National Bureau of Statistics

To simply state the obvious, more women are involved in farming and other agricultural production activities, especially in rural areas. While men are involved in the commercial business of Agriculture.

Cooperatives are usually formed to create an organized cluster in order to contribute funds to purchase seedlings and fertilizers. The cooperatives also form union so as to sensitize and advocate for issues of equity and equality regarding access to funds, access to lands, access to agricultural inputs and other challenges bothering on gender biases.

In order to provide a more comprehensive pragmatic gender responsive approach to mainstreaming gender issues into agricultural process,

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development developed;



The National Gender Policy in Agriculture.

The policy was derived from various gender based components of regional and international protocols and conventions which promotes issues of gender justice.



Some Regional and International protocols that reflect the content of the National Gender Policy in Agriculture:



CAPACITY BUILDING

Background

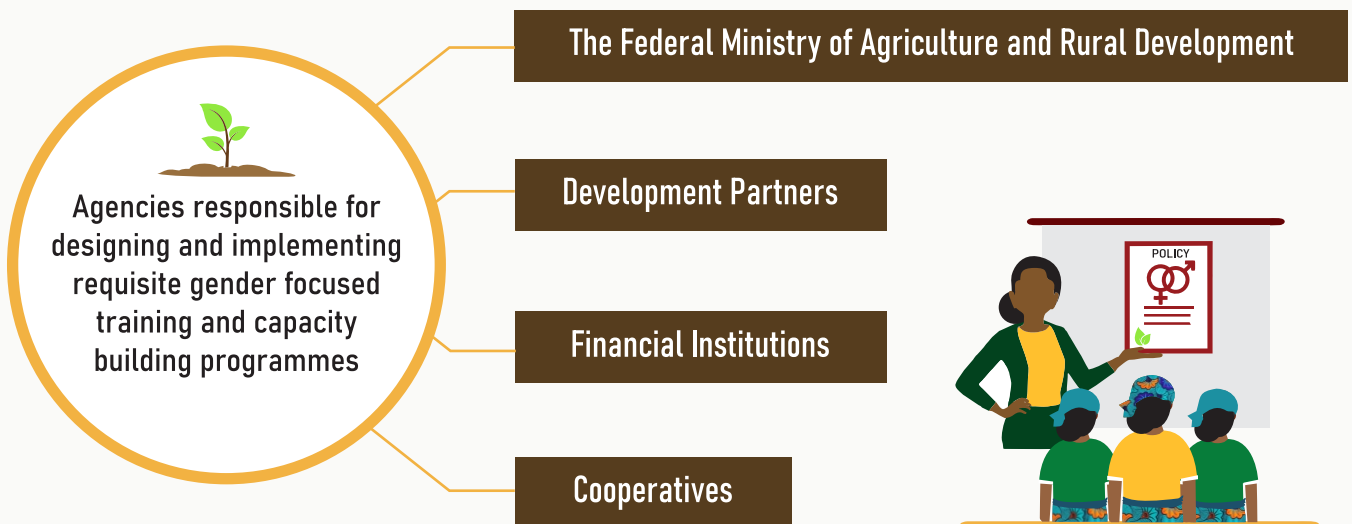
The lack of requisite skills and competencies especially in the areas of policy, planning and budgeting is one of the drawbacks in implementing gender mainstreaming in agriculture. It requires gender specific knowledge and competencies in translating the regional and international gender focused conventions and protocols into simple, practical, workable, and implementable tools for local content.

Thus, capacity building of staff and all persons involved in policy, planning and budgeting are vital elements in pushing for gender mainstreaming in agriculture.



Objectives of the Policy

To achieve a quarterly monitoring schedule of training for the staff and other stakeholders in gender issues in agriculture to ensure they have the capacity and technical know-how to contribute to planning, implement the policy at national, state and local government level as well as sector programmes and activities.



Targets for Smallholder Women Farmers



The policy provides opportunity for **Smallholder Women Farmers to strategically engage** in implementing gender focused training and capacity building with;

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Relevant Development Partners

Financial Institutions

Cooperatives

Smallholder women farmers can advocate for inclusion into the annual training schedule of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture as captured in the policy.

Smallholder Women Farmers are also to engage in sensitization and awareness creation among cluster members and partners so as to highlight areas of need, requiring capacity building in order to support the implementation of the policy at all levels.



MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO EXTENSION SERVICES

Background



More male are involved in agricultural extension services and other agricultural activities like;



Agronomy



Fisheries



Animal Husbandry

Female extension workers understands and better appreciates gender based challenges in agriculture and food systems and may be well suited to equally participate. One of the ways to ensure equality in agricultural production and processes is to fill the existing gender gap in agricultural extension services and other allied services.

Objectives of the Policy

Agronomy



Fisheries & Aquaculture



Veterinary Engineering



The policy will provide special incentives to motivate more smallholder women farmers to undertake agricultural training in;



Soil Science



Horticulture & Rural Development



Quality Assurance/Standardization

The policy aims at establishing gender inclusive professional development programmes in agricultural colleges/universities and also ensure the mainstreaming of gender in extension delivery services and improve gender responsiveness in the delivery of agricultural services.



Targets for Smallholder Women Farmers

Smallholder women farmers are expected to stimulate stakeholders in the agricultural sectors including local and international NGOs, CBOs, farmers' organizations and agricultural cooperatives on gender training and analysis before embarking on any form of intervention in the agricultural value chain. FMARD is also tasked to ensure fairness and equal opportunities to smallholder women farmers in the entirety of budgeting, planning, programming and policy thrust.



The plan for regular training of extension agents on mainstreaming of gender in extension delivery services and the demand of the policy for an increase in the number of female extension agents.



INTEGRATING GENDER PERSPECTIVE INTO CLIMATE CHANGE

Background

Climate Change is one of the biggest challenges to agricultural activities and food security in the 21st century.

The unpredictability of



Weather



Shortage of water



Drought

and others will in no small measure impact on smallholder women farmers.



Women farmers also depend largely on local natural resources for their livelihood; this justifies the need to train more smallholder women farmers on strategies for mitigation and adaptation against Climate Change

Objectives of the Policy

The integration of gender based perspectives into Climate Change and to build capacity of smallholder women farmers on mitigation and adaptation strategies against Climate Change.

Targets for Smallholder Women Farmers



Capacity building for smallholder women farmers in six geo-political zones of Nigeria.

Gender units in collaboration with relevant agencies will **train Smallholder Women Farmers on mitigation and adaptation strategies.**

Capacity development programmes specially designed to improve the capacity of Smallholder Women Farmers on the adaptation strategies against Climate Change.

Quarterly report of the number of Smallholder Women Farmers trained in the states and local governments is to be reported to the FMARD.

INSTITUTIONALIZING GENDER RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING SYSTEM IN THE SECTOR

Background

Building enduring institution is one way of solidifying policies and ensuring its sustainability in governance systems and structures. In political and governance circles, policy or programming tend to change with the change in government or leadership of a ministry or agency of government, which usually create bureaucracies in implementing existing programming and projects.

This can be addressed if such policies are enshrined into the institutional culture of the governance system of the ministries, departments or agencies in order to ensure sustainability.



Objectives of the Policy

Radical reforms and realignments

within the ministry, agencies and departments, it shall review the existing human resource department guidelines to ensure mainstreaming of gender into its systems for operations, accountability, procedures and programming.

FMARD shall also develop comprehensive guidelines for operationalization of gender sensitivity in planning, programming, budgeting and project implementation.

The developed guidelines shall also have clear procedures for the execution of policy directives of **not less than 35% Affirmative Action on women representation** so as to ensure equal participation in development activities and decision making.

To integrate;

Budget Tracking,

Analysis and

Monitoring of Progress Reviews

The policy shall develop gender responsive –budget guidelines or toolkits on how to integrate gender into agricultural sector planning, programming and budgeting.



Targets for Smallholder Women Farmers

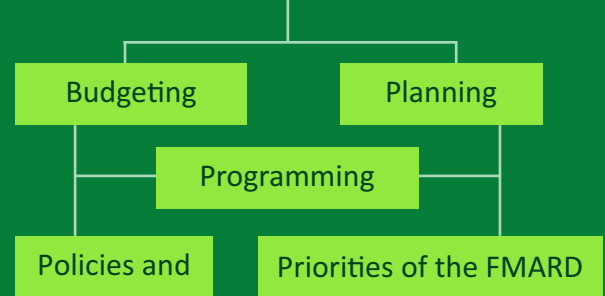
To advocate and be resolute on the

**NOT LESS THAN
35% WOMEN**



in participation of the decision making systems and structure of the agencies and ministries of Agriculture at the national, state and local government level in compliance with the policy.

Responsibility under the policy to follow up and make sure that gender processes are integrated into;



Facilitation of Confidence Building through:



Training in Leadership



Team Work



Information Communication and Technology



Negotiation



Conflict Prevention and Resolution



Adult Education

To ensure participation of smallholder women farmers in decision making processes in governance structures and systems.

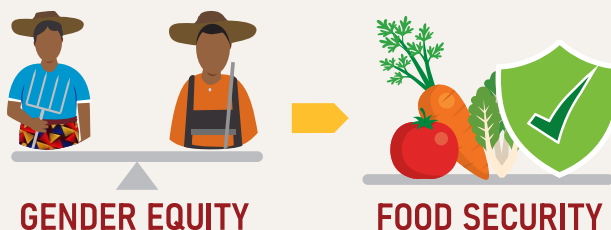


PROMOTION OF THE USE OF GENDER SENSITIVE DATA COLLECTION AND GENDER STATISTICS FOR EVIDENCE BASED PLANNING, POLICY AND PROGRAMME DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION

Background

Data is essential for planning. In the absence of qualitative and reliable data, implementation of policies and programmes can be hampered.

In relation to gender mainstreaming in agriculture, data integrity is fundamental to attainment of;



To ensure data integrity, the methodology of data collection has to reflect the concerns of smallholder women farmers.

Objectives of the Policy

Filling up the existing gaps in the availability of gender-disaggregated data in agriculture and food security in Nigeria.

Promote use of Gender-Sensitive Data Collection for Evidence-based planning, utilizing sex aggregated data and gender statistics for policy programme design and implementation.

Analysis and reviews of indicators to show gender disaggregated data and gender statistics within the various agriculture agencies and departments for planning and policy intervention.



Targets for Smallholder Women Farmers

To ensure gender equity, impact analysis of all agricultural policies, programmes, projects and activities on smallholder women farmers will be carried out periodically.

The gender unit of FMARD shall establish new mechanism and indicators for data collection

which shall be gender sensitive, specifically reflecting the concerns of smallholder women farmers.

Smallholder women farmers groups must follow up

to ensure that the new gender reflective data collection tool is developed and shared with the group.



WIDENING AND MANAGING PARTNERSHIPS AND SHARED MECHANISMS AMONGST GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR; INCORPORATE ACTIONS TO RESPOND TO PRACTICAL AND STRATEGIC GENDER NEEDS IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Background

The Gender Policy in Agricultural is holistic because of the multi-sectoral inputs. The policy incorporates input from gender units in all the relevant agencies and departments of the FMARD. Inputs were also gathered from gender aspects of regional and international protocols and conventions, which Nigeria is signatory to.

Before making the document public, a validation workshop was organized with stakeholders from Non Governmental Organizations, NGOs, Community Based Organizations, CBOs, development partners and other concerned parties.



Objectives of the Policy

The policy is to align with the Agriculture component of the 2011-2015 Agriculture Transformation Agenda and the Green Alternative Programme- the Agriculture Promotion Policy, APP. This is to reflect all necessary content of previous gender based documents and integrate into planning, financing/budgeting, programming, etc.

Targets for Smallholder Women Farmers

To integrate all the concerns, challenges and gender specific recommendations from previous policies which represent the interests of smallholder women farmers.

A gender committee, otherwise known as the gender steering committee shall be constituted to coordinate, monitor and evaluate level of compliance and engagement with partners and development organizations on quarterly basis. The consultative gender steering committee shall make sure that gender policy is fully implemented covering every concern of smallholder women farmers.



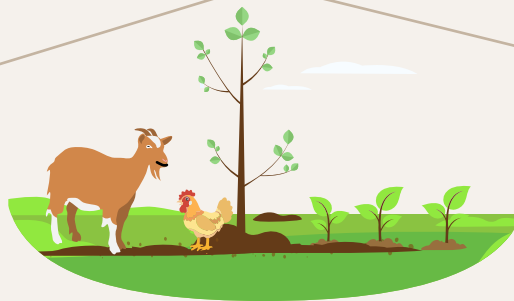
IMPROVING CULTURAL PRACTICES THAT HINDER WOMEN FROM ACCESS TO INPUT- LAND, FINANCE, FERTILIZER AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL ASSETS THROUGH ADVOCACY, SENSITIZATION WORKSHOPS, AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN – GENDER JUSTICE

Background

In no small measures, cultural practices impacts heavily on smallholder women farmers,

The issues are ranging from;

LAND INHERITANCE



LIMITED ACCESS TO PATRIARCHAL LAND

and many other gender discriminatory practices which affect participation of women in agriculture.

In some communities in Nigeria women are barred from;



Fishing



Gender friendly Farm Tools

Embedded in some cultural practices are beliefs that hamper promotion of women in agriculture. Which can be resolved when all relevant stakeholders are properly engaged.

Objectives of the Policy

This policy seeks to eliminate all forms of culture or religious based gender biases in Agriculture.



Targets for Smallholder Women Farmers



To report any matter relating to **discrimination on the basis of gender.**

Their clusters are to identify and report such issues to the gender desks of the ministries at local, state and national levels for immediate action.



To utilize the cooperative groups

to organize, sensitize, visit local government authorities, states/national assembly to advocate against all observed gender based cultural/religious biases, until they are completely eliminated.



Those in rural farming communities should **play a vital role**

in identifying and reporting such practices that hinders women access to inputs and agricultural assets.



Their cluster groups are empowered by the **policy to advocate to the National/State Houses of Assembly**

to enact a piece of legislation that will eliminate such primordial cultural or religious practices that discriminates against women in agriculture.



TRAINING OF WOMEN COOPERATIVES IN FINANCIAL LITERACY AND GROUP DYNAMICS & VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT TO REDUCE POST HARVEST LOSSES

Background

Most resources and assets available for agricultural purposes are owned and controlled by men. **Commercial agriculture firms mostly owned by men have more access to larger resources such as;**



Smallholder women farmers are more engaged in agriculture value chain. While, the small scale farmers aspire to scale up, the policy provides an opportunity for capacity development and enhancement of skills in the areas of agricultural value chain.

Objectives of the Policy

To provide skills and empowerment training for smallholder women farmers who are predominantly engaged in value chain processes in agriculture. This shall include strengthening the capacity to preserve excess supplies in order to reduce post harvest losses.



Targets for Smallholder Women Farmers



The extension department of FMARD shall engage in building the capacity of smallholder women farmers

in specific skills and competencies related to management of finance, book keeping and group dynamics.



Ability for Smallholder women farmers to approach the Ministries of Agriculture

at National, State or local level as well as development partners and Non Governmental Organizations for support or sponsorship of capacity building activities that will enhance their financial literacy skills and enhance value chain development.



The policy mandates the extension departments of FMARD

to empower smallholder women farmers with start-up packs to start their agriculture business.



PROVISION OF LABOUR SAVING DEVICES –LABOUR INTENSIVE FAMILY ENTERPRISE (LIFE) FOR SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS AND LINK THEM UP WITH INPUT COMPANIES, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR EXPORT MARKET

Background



Use of **Modern day farming devices & Technologies** in reducing hard labour.



Smallholder Women Farmers are the hardest working in the agriculture production chain.

HOE



CUTLASS



SHOVEL



The use of locally made farming tools like these are being replaced with newer gender friendly tools.

The modern devices are usually technology enabled. It eases stress and enhances better productivity, efficiency and better yields.

Objectives of the Policy

To eliminate the exertion of hard labour on farming and agricultural production processes in order to ensure high productivity.



Targets for Smallholder Women Farmers

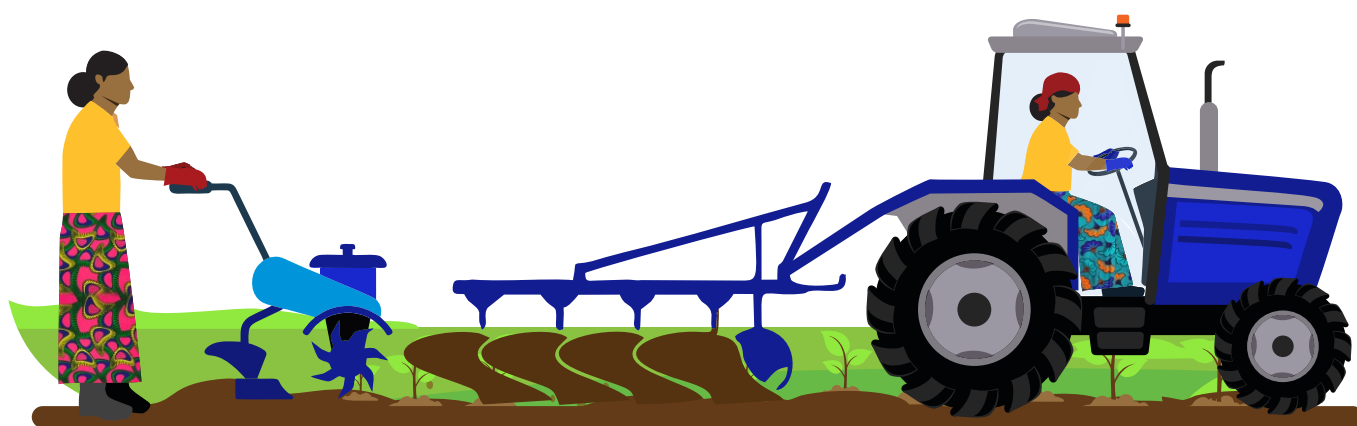
Benefit from training and linkage to farm input companies,

financial institutions, training institutions and agro-processing groups.

Advocate for direct linkages to farm input companies

for seedlings and cheaper farm inputs, and financial institutions for loans, grants and waivers, training institutions and agro-processing groups for trainings and support

Smallholder women farmers can approach FMARD, Development Partners and Civil Society Organizations and request facilitation for linkages.



TRAINING WOMEN ON NUTRITION SENSITIVE TECHNIQUES AND MESSAGES, ICT, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION, SOCIAL PROTECTION MODELS AND ADULT EDUCATION IN COLLABORATION WITH FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Background



The correct application of nutrition can make a difference to a poor household with limited nutrient options. Issues of malnutrition can be reduced when women, the household care givers are empowered with the knowledge to administer proper nutrition.



Conflicts & Insecurity



can cause
Food Shortage & Threaten Food Security

Thus the need for a robust system to train smallholder women farmers with the knowledge required to prevent and resolve conflicts.

Objectives of the Policy



Training for Smallholder Women Farmers on relevant information on nutrition.

It also recognizes the need for requisite skills and capacity in preventing and managing conflicts and disputes.

Targets for Smallholder Women Farmers



Smallholder women farmers to benefit from training on nutrition sensitive agriculture.

These trainings may be facilitated /sponsored by FMARD, Development Partners, NGOs, CBOs and other related stakeholders. They can use the cluster groups to promote and educate other women on issues of nutrition sensitive education –balanced diet

Smallholder women farmers are to engage members on awareness and sensitization on dangers of nutrition deficiencies,

conflict prevention and resolution, the opportunities for ICT training, and adult education training offered through the Ministry of Education.



MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Background



Smallholder Women Farmers ensures complete compliance and implementation of every relatable aspect of the policy.

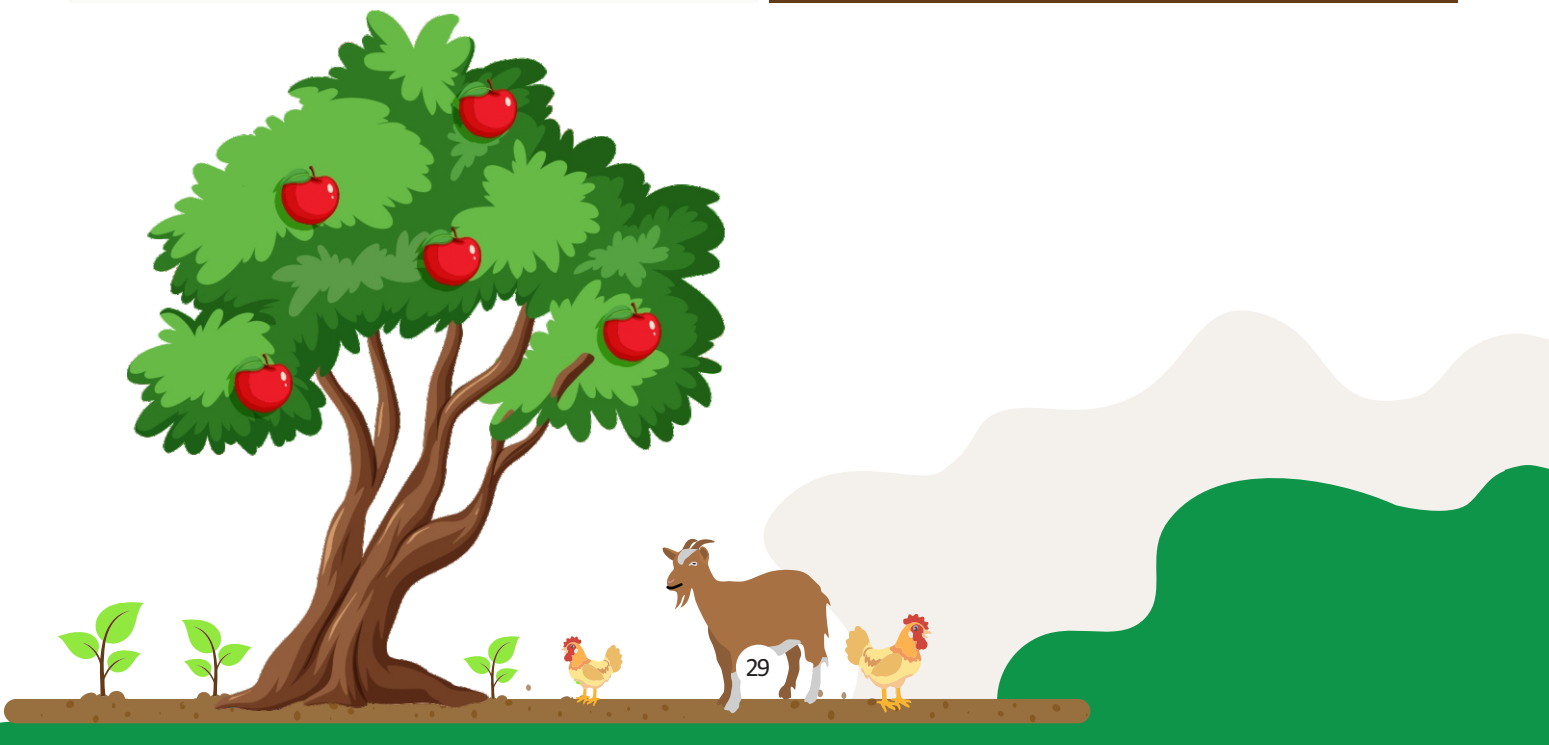
The National Gender Policy in Agriculture cannot be successful if not enforced through implementation to the very minute details. If left untested the policy will remain like any other ordinary documents and will yield no interest for the group.

Objectives of the Policy

Using the gender metrics to follow through actions and set targets of the policy to determine the level of access to inputs by men and women as well as the differential impact of the policy on men and women.

Targets for Smallholder Women Farmers

The design of a robust monitoring and evaluation system which follows through on every related content of the policy, ensuring constant engagements, advocacy, with government and relevant partners.



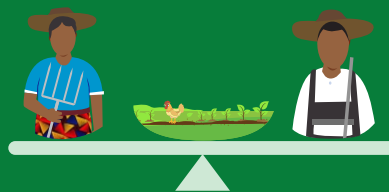


MEASURABLE TARGETS

FMARD have set measurable goals within the scope of the National Gender Policy in Agriculture. The following are the areas the ministry, agencies and departments of agriculture are working to measure progress through monitoring and evaluation in order to ensure attainment of its overall goal of gender mainstreaming in agriculture.



CROP INTENSIFICATION



Land Use Act Consolidation:

- Effective public communication of existing laws on land ownership and control to ensure that the public and members of communities understands the gender equity of land ownership.



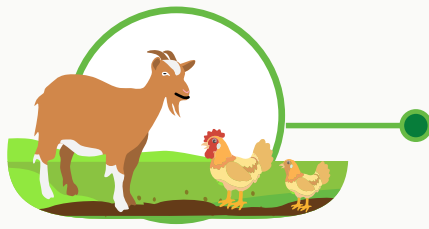
Agriculture Mechanization:

- Activation of the mechanization policy and that smallholder women farmers have equal access to mechanized tools.



Fertilizers and Seeds:

- Agro-dealers will be trained to be gender sensitive in the distribution of inputs. Smallholder women farmers will also be trained and encouraged to integrate agro-dealership as business.



LIVESTOCK

Development of templates to identify women headed households and male headed households, the template will itemize who owns what and what belongs to which member of the family.

Promotion of production of small livestock; sheep, pigs, rabbit, goats as a source of income and for subsistence.



Access to Credit:

- Awareness creation on existing facilities so that smallholder women farmers can have sufficient knowledge on how to access the funds.



Agri - Business Opportunities:

- FMARD shall promote agri-business ventures so that smallholder women farmers are regularly updated on existing opportunities.



VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT



Promotion of soft skills

- such as teamwork, leadership and conflict management to enable enhanced capacity for smallholder women farmers so that they can actively participate in governance issues and decision making processes.



Banks, Micro Finance Institutions & Cooperatives:

- Awareness and sensitization to financial institutions so that they can prioritize smallholder women farmers in their financial products and services.

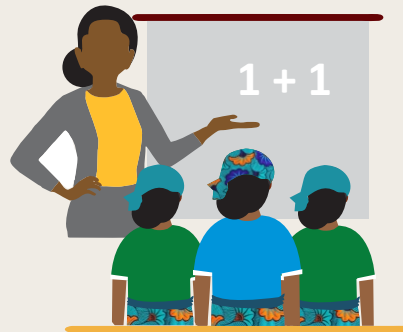
Government shall also establish commodity boards as stocks absorbers for agricultural products.





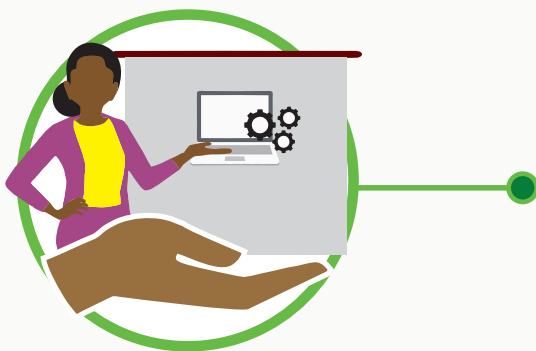
ACCESS TO COMMODITY MARKET

Making available & accessible information and communication on market prices.



Fighting Illiteracy :

- FMARD shall partner with the Ministry of Education to implement community literacy classes to enable smallholder women farmers acquire basic skills to count, read and write so as not to miss out on important information disseminated through the media.



ACCESS TO EXTENSION SERVICES

The Ministry of Agriculture shall introduce systems that will ensure smallholder women farmers have equal access to training on technologies and techniques in all aspects of agricultural production.



CONCLUSION

The National Gender Policy in Agriculture which was launched in 2019 is a comprehensive document which can be used to address various gender based issues and biases in agriculture.

The policy was validated by major stakeholders in agriculture as a piece of document that addresses most gender based issues confronting smallholder women farmers.

The document also reflects copious extracts of gender perspectives from regional and international conventions and protocols for which Nigeria is signatory to. This further enriched the content coverage with wide ranging local, regional and international perspective.

Expectedly, it forms a reference for all gender based issues regarding planning, programming and budgeting at the various gender units in ministries, departments and agencies of government requiring action on matters of gender mainstreaming.

The policy primarily focused on addressing fundamental challenges of the smallholder women farmers. In a nutshell, this is a policy for smallholder women farmers. It succinctly captures almost in entirety the challenges confronting smallholder women farmers.

Addressed in this policy are issues of enhanced capacity and training for smallholder women farmers, provision of gender sensitive tools and implements, integration and mainstreaming of gender issues in all systems and structures of agriculture, climate change, issues of nutrition and literacy, eliminating issues of discrimination relating to access to land, fund and other agricultural assets.

This policy is therefore highly recommended as advocacy and sensitization instrument to smallholder women farmers' groups and clusters for continuous engagements with government and all relevant bodies in ensuring and monitoring for implementation and compliance.





WHO WE ARE

ActionAid is a global movement of people working together to further human rights for all and defeat poverty. We prioritise works with the poor and excluded, promoting values and commitment in civil society, institutions and governments with the aim of achieving structural changes to eradicate injustices and poverty in the world. ActionAid Nigeria is a member of ActionAid global federation. We maintain a strong relationship of interdependence and mutual accountability within the international federation while ensuring a strong balance between self-rule and shared-rule. Registered in Nigeria in 1999 as a Country Programme of ActionAid International, we have transformed into an autonomous national organisation with a strong national governance structure – a Board and a General Assembly - consisting of reputable Nigerians providing strategic oversight.

Our Programmes

Central to our programmes is the full enjoyment by female and male citizens of their rights; reducing inequality; promoting gender responsive public services; and providing alternatives to the status quo in solving complex development challenges. Our programming areas are Education; Food and Agriculture; Human Security in Conflict and Emergencies; Health; Just and Democratic Governance; and Women’s Rights. Promoting the Right to Just and Democratic Governance and Women’s Rights are cross-cutting themes which apply across the whole programme, but also have stand-alone initiatives.

Linking all these is our geographically based integrated Local Rights Programme which is being implemented in twelve states of the federation. Our projects are currently spread across the 36 States in Nigeria and over 250 communities and are benefiting millions of people. From reflections and lessons of our programmes in Nigeria, we achieve good governance and accountable policies centred on the improvement of gender sensitive public services in Nigeria. Applying the Human Rights Based Approach, we centre our work on the active agency of citizens – males and females, young and old – thinking locally and acting globally. We build an awareness of rights, analyse and confront unequal and unjust power relations, advance women’s rights, build partnerships, and are accountable and transparent. Our work is structured around the principles of empowerment, solidarity and campaigns.



WE FOCUS ON 10 KEY PROMISES:

- Securing women lands rights 01
- Promoting sustainable agriculture 02
- Holding government to account on public services 03
- Achieving redistributive resourcing for development 04
- Transforming education for boys and girls 05
- Harnessing youth leadership to end poverty and injustice 06
- Building people's resilience to conflict and disaster 07
- Responding to disasters through rights 08
- Increasing women and girls control over their bodies 09
- Generating women-centred economic alternatives 10



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