

SOKOTO STATE OF NIGERIA PEER REVIEW MISSION REPORT FOR THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS FORUM

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A. STATE PROFILE

Sokoto State was created on the 3rd of February 1976, it lies in the extreme north western part of the country. The State is named after its capital, Sokoto, a city with a long history and the seat of the Sokoto Caliphate. It's total land area is 25,973 km², with an estimated population of 4,244,399 million people.

Sokoto is in the dry Sahel surrounded by sandy savannah and isolated hills. With an annual average temperature of 28.3°C, Sokoto the State Capital is one of the hottest cities in the world; however the maximum daytime temperatures are most of the year generally under 40 °C, and the dryness makes the heat unbearable. The warmest month is April, where daytime temperatures may exceed 45 °C. Highest recorded temperature is 47.2 °C, which is also the highest recorded temperature in Nigeria.

The rainy season is from June to October, during which showers are a daily occurrence rarely last long, from late October to February, during the "cold season" the climate is dominated by the harmattan wind blowing Sahara dust over the land. The dust dims the sunlight, thereby lowering temperatures significantly and also leading to the inconvenience of dust everywhere.

Sokoto State is transversed by two major rivers, Sokoto and Rima. The regions lifeline for growing crops is the floodplains of the Sokoto-Rima river system, which are covered with rich alluvial soil.

Crops Grown

Millet, Maize, Rice, Beans, Tomatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Onion, Garlic, Sesame and Okra.

Rainfall starts late and ends early with mean annual falls ranging between 500 and 1,300 mm. There are two major seasons in Sokoto namely wet and dry. The dry season starts from October, and last up to April. The wet season begins in May and lasts till September. The Harmattan, a dry cool and fairly dusty wind is experienced in the State between November and February. Heat is more severe in the State in March and April.

The vast Fadama land of the Sokoto-Rima River Systems dissects the plain and provides the rich alluvial soil fit for variety of crops cultivation in the State.

Sokoto is an agrarian state, and over 80% of it's people are agriculturalists. They produce crops like millet, guinea corn, maize, rice, potatoes, cassava, groundnuts and beans for subsistence and produce wheat, cotton and vegetables for cash.

Large scale farming is practiced using irrigation water from Goronyo dam, Lugu, Kalmalo, Wammakko and Wurno. Fishing is also well practiced.