



BRIEF ON
KEBBI AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND SELF
HELP INITIATIVE (KATASHI)
RICE PRODUCTION INITIATIVE.

“KATASHI provides the most enduring platform for our economic and social liberation because, apart from providing inexhaustible means of augmenting our incomes, the programme also holds the key to our ultimate liberation from the scourge of poverty and unemployment. It is envisaged that as soon as this programme is embraced by all able bodied men and women in the State, Kebbi State will become the food basket of Nigeria and parts of West African sub region and beyond”

Comments by His Excellency, the former Executive Governor Kebbi State, Dr Alh Muhammadu Adamu at the occasion of the Workers day (May Day) celebration on May 1st 2006 at Birnin Kebbi.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Kebbi state lies at the extreme North West of Nigeria on latitudes 10 "and 13' 15'and longitude .R 3' 30' and 6' East. In the North and West, it shares borders with Niger and Benin Republics respectively. In the South and East it shares border with Niger and Sokoto States respectively. The State has a total land area of 37, 698.685 square kilometres. Kebbi is bounded by the Sahara desert, thus its weather is often dry with lots of sun shine. The rainy season lasts between the months of April to October while the dry season lasts to the remaining part of the year. The heaviest rainfall is experienced in the Months of July and August. The rains during this period are usually accompanied by tropical thunderstorms.

The mean temperature is 23degrees centigrade. Maximum temperature is about 38' centigrade while the minimum temperature is about 18' centigrade. This climatic peculiarity allows for the cultivation of a number of crops such as millet, sorghum, cowpea, groundnut, cotton, cassava, sesame, maize, rice etc as well as providing

alternative livelihood activities such as fisheries, livestock development, and poultry. Indeed, many tropical crops can be grown in one part of the State or the other.

Kebbi State is also endowed with very fertile agricultural land which includes well over 420,000 hectares of Fadama land out of which over 170,000 hectares has high potential of extractable shallow aquifer to support medium and small scale irrigation activities. The State is traversed by two major rivers namely Rivers Niger and River Rima as well as minor rivers of Zamfara, Ka and their tributaries.

In recognition of the fact that the state is totally agrarian and well over 80% of its population are farmers, and in accordance to the policy statement of the Presidential initiative on rice which provides that Nigeria shall not only be self sufficient in rice production, but is also expected to start export by 2007, the Government of Kebbi State is undertaking the implementation of three programmes aimed at rapid promotion and year round cultivation of rice. This is with the view to filling up some of the gap that would be created with the ban on importation of rice. The three activities being implemented simultaneously are:-

1. The Kebbi State Government had gone into partnership with a Chinese Firm under **The Green Agricultural Development Programme for the Development** for rice cultivation of an initial 2900 Hectares of fadama land at the Wara Irrigation Scheme. This programme was launched by the Minister of State of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture in December 2005 and was also inspected by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in April 2006. The project has potential for expansion to cover over 10,000 hectares in the next three years.
2. The development of 100 sprinkler and 300 flood irrigation facilities in each of 24 sites in 12 Local Governments which will be developed and handed back to the farmers. Facilities to be provided include boreholes, water channels, access roads, sprinkler lines and communal fencing. In addition, the Mungadi irrigation site will cover 3000 Hectares of fadama land Development.
3. The development of over 40,000 hectares of fadama on small scale farmer managed irrigation development under the **Kebbi Agricultural Transformation and Self Help Initiative (KATASHI)**. This programme which commenced with the implementation of a pilot phase involving 3000 farmers in the 2005 dry season had now been expanded to cater for the needs of 30,000 farmers for the 2006 dry season operation. The 2006 programme was graciously launched at Gabachi, Birnin Kebbi by Mr President in April 2006. This programme forms the basis of this information paper

2.0 THE KATASHI PROGRAMME

The KATASHI Programme which is an undertaking of the Government of Kebbi State is aimed at revamping agriculture in the State. It is seen as an assured means of economic and social liberation, poverty alleviation, employment provider and above all a source of wealth for all participating farmers. **KATASHI** is an acronym for **Kebbi Agricultural Transformation and Self Help Initiative**.

The **KATASHI** is a follow up to the implementation of the agricultural blue print as approved by the Kebbi State Executive Council in 2005. The agricultural blue print was designed to form the basis for intervention by the State Government in all areas of agriculture including crop production, fisheries development, livestock, agro forestry etc.

The **KATASHI** initiative was specifically designed to encourage farmers to cultivate the vast Fadama Land the State is endowed with by encouraging farmers through the provision of improved rice seed, small scale irrigation infrastructure (pumps and tubewells), other supportive inputs such as fertilizers and agro chemicals, as well as trainings and extension support. This is with the view to ensuring not only that dry season rice production in the State is increased significantly, but also provide employment to the teeming population in the State especially the youth.

2.1 IMPLEMENTATION

The idea behind the programme implementation is the formation of group of farmers within clusters while at the same time providing right of way to grazing and watering points. This enables ease of administering packages and provision of extension support while at the same time limiting the possibility of conflict with pastorals.

Programme implementation was started with sensitization visits to all fadama areas with the view to enlighten the populace and encourage interested farmers to form groups to enable them participate in the programme. The various forums which were attended by farmers, community leaders, pastorals and local government representatives, enabled full discussion on the needs, fears, aspirations and requirements of all stakeholders in order to create harmonious relationship for the total benefit of all stake holders. In this forum, the various requirements of the communities were assessed including availability or otherwise of land preparation equipment, existing irrigation facility such as open water bodies, existing wells, etc.

2.2 TRAINING

Following the formation of associations, trainings were conducted by the ADP staff and the Sasakiwa Global 2000 (SG2000) to all the farmers in four ADP Zones across the State. Areas of focus for the training include field measurement, seed bed preparation, transplanting, application of pesticides and herbicides, and other necessary agronomic practices. Also in collaboration with CANDEL Co. Nig, training was also conducted on the use of the R-Box technology. Similar training was also independently conducted by African Agro, Jubaili and SARO companies on the use of pesticides and herbicides.

2.3 PROGRAMME LAUNCH

The 2006 KATASHI Programme was launched by the President and Commander in Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Chief Osegun Obasanjo at Gabachi site in Birnin Kebbi 10th April 2006. The programme launch which was also graced with the attendance of The Honourable Minister of Agriculture and The Honourable Minister of Water Resource, witnessed demonstration the arts of wash boring and drilling of irrigation wells, transplanting of rice, as well as a presidential visit to the WARA Irrigation project being established by the Chinese.

2.4 LAND PREPARATION EQUIPMENT.

With the view to easing farmer's problem in land preparation, The Government of Kebbi State procured and distributed a total of 400units of Tractors complete with implements comprising plough, disc ridgers, harrows and trailers. These tractors were distributed to farmer cooperative associations on loan repayable over a three year period. Similarly, Government had also agreed to receive repayments from the farmers in kind by collecting maize, millet, or rice as repayment.

2.5 IMPROVED SEED PROVISION.

During the 2005 programme, 3500 R-Boxes were procured and distributed to participating farmers. Each R Box contained 8kg of seed, 4 liters of herbicide, 2 liters pesticide, and boost extra. With the assistance of SG 2000, the R-Boxes were obtained from the CAMDEL Company which had the mandate to provide states with the boxes under the Presidential rice initiative. Two rice varieties were procured namely WITA

4 and SIPPI. Further to this, the State also procured 2mt of NERICA 1 for seed multiplication with the view to supporting the seed requirement of the programme in 2006. Certification of this seed at LABANA firm was conducted by the NSS ZARIA. With this initiative, the 2006 programme had sufficient varieties of good quality seed of WITA 4, SIPPI and NERICA as produced from the seed multiplication initiative.

2.6 PROCESSING EQUIPMENT.

Further to the efforts of Government in providing amenities for ease of production, 35 multi purpose thrashers were procured from FR of Iran and distributed on loan across all the 29 Local Governments in the State to large Scale farmers on cash and Carry basis.

2.7 OTHER INPUTS:

Each participating farmer is allocated with improved seed (R Box or 20kg of NERICA), 6 bags of fertilizer, a 2inch water pump, irrigation tube well, sprayers and agro chemicals on loan repayable over a longer period of 3 years. Additional request for fertilizers by farmers over and above the initial 6bags allocated is provided on cash and carry basis while linkage was made to some agro dealers to meet farmer's additional demand for insecticides and herbicides.

2.8 SUPERVISSION

Three level of supervision was organized comprising of extension agents, ADP officials and Ministry of Agriculture. Two or three extension agents are deployed to each of the implementing sites depending on the number of participating farmers per site. The number of farmers per site range from 60 to 200 and each agent is expected to cater for no more than 100 farmers. The extension agents are responsible for the day to day supervision of the technical requirement for the implementation of the Programme including the certification of the suitability of the location on the basis of laid down criteria.

In order to ensure regular visits to sites, 5 No 4wd vehicles and 100 units of 100cc motorcycles were procured and given out to officials and village extension agents involved in the programme. Visits were carried out to all areas irrespective of the difficulty of the terrain. Where necessary, use of small boats is made to reach

areas across water bodies and thus ensuring that all farmers are encouraged to produce.

Periodic supervision visits were carried out by the Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture, The Permanent Secretary, and all the Directors to several project sites. The Programme Manager and his Deputies, the State coordinator of SG 2000 as well as the media unit of the organization have weekly visit itinerary covering project sites to ensure that each site is visited each fortnight.

Similarly, the Executive Governor and members of the State Executive councils also carry out periodic supervisory visits to some of the project sites to provide encouragement and solve some of the problems of the farmers most especially on issues of policies. This had given tremendous impetus to the success of the Programme.

High level delegations visiting the State had shown tremendous interest in the initiative by this Government in launching the Katashi programme. 15 man visits by the members of the KURU near Jos, and the Swedish Ambassador to Nigeria are some of the notable visitors to the sites in the State,

3.0 PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY FARMERS DURING IMPLEMENTATION.

Contrary to the generally held belief that irrigation activities within the fadama areas in the State is not feasible due to livestock activities within the fadama and the fear of will full damage by the pastorals, this programme had been very successful due mainly to massive sensitization efforts carried out involving both the farmers, pastorals, local government councils. Farmer associations participating in the programme are encouraged to operate within clusters and there were very few cases of damage from livestock reported. As a matter of fact, in one of the visits to Argungu, livestock rearers in the area were pleased that the programme is now allowing their livestock to have access to fodder in the dry season.

To ensure the realization of total success of the programme and reduce possibility of conflict, it is necessary that access to watering points is not restricted and reasonable allowance for grazing by livestock is made.

3.1 PEST AND DESEASES.

Very few cases of pest and diseases were recorded during the programme implementation. This may be attributed to the fact that all the farmers have in their possession quantities of insecticides as contained in the R Boxes. However, cases of bug infestation, rats invasion and some few reports were also received of Stem Borer damage to rice crop.

By far, the most disturbing concern by the farmers is the QUELEA Birds and grasshoppers. Quelea birds and grasshoppers have already become a serious threat to the overall objective of the programme and are discouraging the farmers from not only expanding the land under cultivation, but also of discouraging other entrants into the programme. Despite the aerial spray carried out, the pest control unit of the Ministry of Agriculture had to embark on manual sprays of roosting sites in many parts of the State. It is very apparent that these birds are on the increase and will in fact multiply before the next dry season production and adequate preparations had to be made to control their damaging impact to the programme.

Beside the loss of crop due to these birds, the production cost is also greatly increased due to the need to hire additional labour to scare away the birds at dawn daily until harvest.

3.2 DURATION AND MATURITY OF SEED:

Some farmers are particularly concerned with the extended duration of the seed variety which lasts in excess of 150days. This is particularly the case in Dandi and Bagudo Local Government (Buma and Illo areas) where obtaining daily supply of petrol is very difficult and expensive in comparison to other areas. This problem also affects areas where the soil type is sandy in nature and requires daily irrigation.

3.3 DRILLING OF TUBEWELLS:

Because the programme was not started very early, not all areas requiring irrigation wells were reached and some sites have to resort to the use of local drillers to provide the wells. There was reported of dry wells in Zuru where the farmers started their irrigation using surface water but the water dried out before harvest of the rice. It is however noted that the transfer of technology in the provision of irrigation

wells through wash boring had fully taken hold in the state and over 75% of all the wells provided in the 2006 programme were provided by the farmers themselves.

3.4 LAON REPAYMENT

In order to encourage the farmers, Kebbi State Government had directed the collection of the rice produced under the programme as repayment from the farmers in kind and is also procuring all the excesses at very attractive price. With this arrangement, the farmers are assured of the disposal of their produce at a fair price.

3.5.1 CROP PERFORMANCE

The performances recorded in the implementation of the programme in all the sites have been very encouraging. Yield of up to 9mt per hectare were recorded in some areas where the best of agronomic practices were put into practice. The average yield in the State in the implementation of the programme is about 4.5mt per Hectare.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Sensitisation and Registration of groups to participate in the programme including visits to all the sites to assess their potential for irrigation should be a continuous exercise.
2. Procurement of Irrigation water pumps and material for drilling should be completed by October of each year so that drilling operations are commenced by October ready for field operation by November of each year. Irrigation wells should precede the programme implementation as availability of irrigation facility is conditional to the allocation of pumps and inputs.
3. Improved Seed for dry season operation should be procured early and the varieties should take cognisance of soil type as well as the need to reduce irrigable days without compromising yield. It is thus recommended that shorter duration varieties such as NERICA with 85 irrigable days are promoted.
4. The immediate arrangement between the State and Federal Government to obtain a coordinated, timely and well targeted aerial spray for effective control of queala birds and grass hoppers. The pest control department should also be empowered to obtain effective coverage across the State.

5. As rice production increases in the State, it is necessary that effort is made to procure harvesters, processors, threshers, and other supporting implements for processing.
- 9 Fertilizers should be procured timely and sold directly to all participating farmers.

WAY FORWARD

With the success recorded in both pilot and the expanded phase, it is believed that this gesture will ensure that Kebbi state will attain its local requirement for rice and gets well positioned to meet the needs of other states and thus provide a cushion to the ban on the importation of rice which must be commended for being both timely and desirable. Similarly, there is need to establish medium to large scale irrigation especially in areas where shallow wells are not feasible as these will reduce irrigation cost to the farmers. It is in this respect that the effort by the State government to partner with the Federal Government in order to ensure the realisation of the construction of the Zouro Poulder Project is very desirable as this will be beneficial not only for the farmers of the State but the country at large.

It is anticipated that the tempo of operations created with the implementation of KATASHI will be sustained for a long time and the programme will continue to expand across the State. This will be the focus of the NATASHI programme as a natural extension of KATASHI. This will bring about the desire for:

1. The establishment of processing facility to process the rice produced to add value and allow it to make entrant into the market through enhancement of its quality.
2. As more and more land is put to cultivation, there will be pressure to provide for the livestock development with the view to reducing the possibility for conflict with the farmers. Consequently is desirable that serious effort is made to develop grazing reserves, stock routes, watering points, extension and upgrading the livestock.

**ITENARY FOR THE TOUR OF SELECTED PROJECTS SITES
IN KEBBI STATE BY THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM
PEER REVIEW TOUR TEAM**

S/NO	TIME	PROJECTS/INFRASTRUCTURES	TYPE/LOCATION
1.	8.00	Primary School	Atiku Bagudu Primary School, B/Kebbi
2.	8.30	Water Works	Dukku Water Works, B/Kebbi
3.	9.00	Specialist Hospital	Sir Yahaya Memorial Hospital B/Kebbi
4.	9.30	Poverty Alleviation	Skills Acquisition Centre, Ministry for Women Affairs & Social Development and VVF Centre Gesse, B/Kebbi
5.	10.00	Roads	PDP Junction – Badariya B/Kebbi
6.	10.30	Skill Acquisition	Co-operative Tractor Hiring Service, B/Kebbi
7.	11.00	200 Housing Unit	B/Kebbi – Kalgo Road, B/Kebbi
8.	11.30	New Hospital	Along Kalgo Road
9.	12.30	Tertiary Institution	Kebbi State University of Science & Technology, Aliero
10.	1.30	General Hospital	Gwandu, Gwandu Local Government
11.	2.00	Secondary School	Kanta College Arg. & Gov.t Girls Comprehensive Secondary School, Argungu
12.	3.00	Primary Health Centre	Gawassu Primary Health Centre, Gawassu

13 Dabon – Koko Road Fakar Local Govt.