

## A. STATE PROFILE

Kebbi State lies at the extreme North West of Nigeria on latitudes 10° and 13°15' and longitude 3°30' and 6° East. In the North, it borders the Republic of Niger, to the West, the Republic of Benin, and to the South and East, with Niger and Sokoto States respectively. The State has a total land area of 37,698.68 sq km. Kebbi is bounded by the Sahara Desert, thus its weather is often dry with lots of sunshine. The rainy season lasts between the months of April to October, while the dry season lasts for the remaining part of the year. The heaviest rainfall is experienced in the months of July and August, usually accompanied by tropical thunderstorms.

Mean temperature is 23°C, with maximum at 38°C and minimum at 18 °C. This climatic peculiarity allows for the cultivation of a number of crops such as millet, sorghum, cowpea, groundnut, cotton, cassava, sesame, maize, rice and an array of vegetables. It also provides alternative livelihood activities such as fisheries, livestock development and poultry.

Kebbi has 420, 000 ha of Fadama, out of which 170,000 ha has high potential of extractable shallow aquifer to support medium and small scale irrigation activities. The State is transversed by two major rivers namely Rivers Niger and Rima, with several smaller rivers and their tributaries.

Kebbi is totally agrarian, more than 80% of the population are farmers.

## B. AGRICULTURE

The agricultural policy of Kebbi State is tailored towards the attainment of the main goals of the National Policy on agriculture, and is principally aimed at increasing productivity of crop and non crop sub-sectors with the aim of raising the standard of living of the farming communities and attaining food sufficiency and recognizing the pivotal contribution of agriculture to poverty reduction.

The agricultural policy in the state recognizes the role of small scale farmers as the engine of growth of the sector and is accordingly providing a wide range of support services to such group of farmers. At the same time, the State Government also encourages and supports large scale farmers due to their role as major producers and providers of employment at the farm level. Similarly, the policy recognizes the need for total inclusiveness of the youth, women, disabled and other vulnerable groups in promoting agriculture in the society.

Implementation of the agricultural policies and programme is being made through the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources which has eight (8) technical departments as follows:-

- i. Agricultural Services;
- ii. Livestock and Fisheries Services;
- iii. Produce and Pest Control;
- iv. Irrigation Engineering;
- v. Fisheries Services;

- vi. Finance and Supply;
- vii. Personnel Management;
- viii. Planning, Research and Statistics

The Ministry of Agriculture has three (3) main Parastatals responsible for the implementation of the programmes as follows:-

- a. Kebbi Agricultural and rural Development Authority (KARDA) is responsible for the implementation of agricultural development programmes in the state and is currently coordinating the implementation of the following key programmes:
  - i. National Agricultural Technology Support Programme,
  - ii. IFAD/CBARDP programme,
  - iii. KBS/CBARDP programme,
  - iv. Fadama III Project
  - v. National Programme for Food Security (NPFS)
- b. Kebbi Agricultural Supply Company (KASCOM)
- c. College of Agriculture, Zuru

## ACHIEVEMENTS

This administration had tailored systems to ensure the effectiveness of the service it provides to its populace and it is in this regard that it appointed a Committee on Agriculture to advise on the areas of intervention by the Government. The committee had submitted a report to the Government and its recommendations are already being implemented. Some of the salient achievements in the Agricultural Sector include the following:-

1. The distribution of 10,000 units of water pumps to co-operatives and individuals for small scale irrigation development.
2. Installation of Sprinkler Irrigation Systems at Zauro and Koko.
3. The payment of the sum of N85 million as 15% subsidy contribution for the PPP operated Cooperative Tractor Hiring Service Scheme and the distribution of 65 units of Tractors to the Cooperative Associations in the state. The State Government had also distributed additional 27 units of tractors and implements to large scale farmers in the State.
4. The procurement and distribution of 40,000 bags of assorted grains worth N320 million distributed to Civil Servants and the general public in 2009. This is in addition to the receipt of assorted grains from farmers that had benefited from loans as repayments in kind in settlement of the loans. A total sum of N114 million had so far been expended for procurement of grains for the buffer stock for 2010 in the State. This is in relation to the warning by FAO that drought looms in the neighbouring Republic of Niger.

5. The construction of 3 units of 1,000 metric tonnes capacity stores in Birnin-Kebbi at the cost of ₦24,495,760.00 to improve the existing storage capacity in the State.
6. The State is collaborating with the Federal Government in the implementation of a number of projects which include the construction of 100,000 mt capacity grains silo, construction of Agro Export Conditioning Center, construction of 3 nos. Community Warehouses, and establishment of 2 nos. Large Scale Rice Processing Mills.
7. To safeguard farmers production from damage and losses from migratory birds, Government procures pesticides worth ₦12 million in 2009 and provided additional flying hours to those allocated by the Federal Government for Qualea control worth ₦18.9 million in 2009.
8. A consignment of 171 mt of assorted improved seeds worth ₦33,485,000.00 had been procured and will soon be distributed to farmers for the up coming 2010 wet cropping season. The improved seeds will be distributed free to the farmers with the aim of promoting the adoption of the use of improved seeds and appropriate technology as a panacea to obtaining increase in yields and income.
9. Procurement of livestock vaccines, veterinary drugs and cold chain facilities worth ₦7.5 million for the 2009 livestock vaccination campaigns against various livestock killer diseases. 204,000 cattle were vaccinated against Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia (CBPP), 126,000 cattle against Black Quarter Disease, 325,000 sheep and goats against Pestes Des Petit Ruminants (PPR) and 225 dogs against Rabies. The sum of ₦15 million had been released for the conduct of the 2010 livestock vaccination exercise which shall be conducted in June.
10. Purchase of supplementary feeds consisting of 160 tons of Wheat Offals, 160 tons of cotton seed cake and 10,000 units of mineral salt blocks which cost the state Government over ₦25 million. The feeds were sold to pastoralists and other livestock producers in the State at 60% subsidy in order to cushion the effects of hunger faced by livestock especially during the dry season when pastures are scarce.
11. A total of 49,620 mt of assorted fertilizers was procured and distributed at subsidized rate of ₦1,700 per bag to farmers for the 2009 production season. 30,000 metric tonnes had been procured for the 2010 wet season. It is worthy of note that the state adopts a distribution strategy which delivers fertilizer to all the political wards in the State and is distributed through ward level committees to ensure the fertilizer (and its subsidy) actually reaches the farmers.
12. The various donor assisted agricultural intervention programmes in the state (IFAD/CBARDP, FADAMA III, Food Security Programme) are implementing a

number of projects that are demand driven and demand responsive, which had helped to provide the communities in the State with various infrastructures, capacity building and social awareness and generally improved agricultural service delivery while improving the living conditions of the communities in the State. Loan Packages totaling ₦68,271,300.00 were administered to 90 Associations formed in the nine (9) participating Local Government Areas. The loan packages include work bulls, bull fattening, ram fattening, sheep and goat production, fish farming, home gardening and family income generation activities, and agro-forestry. This administration had been unwavering in the payment of counterpart contribution to all the programmes with annual contributions of over ₦650 million.

13. Various interventions particularly on trainings and capacity building are being provided to promote the establishment of private owned aquaculture in the State. This is in recognition of the dwindling resources of the lakes and rivers occasioned mostly by the obnoxious fishing practiced by the fishermen. The promotion of aquaculture is beginning to show results as there exists at least 100 standard fish farms in the State beside several homestead fish ponds. Kebbi State is also collaborating with the Federal Department of Fisheries in the establishment of Cage Culture Programme at Tarasa Village in Birnin-Kebbi and the establishment of modern Fish Market at Yauri. The State is also implementing the ECOWAS artisanal fisheries promotion project for second phase of the programme with the training of sixteen (16) Fisheries Officers on Hatchery and Integrated Fish Farming.

### **C. WATER RESOURCES**

From 2007 to date, a total of 338 water projects were initiated and executed by the Kebbi State Government in the 21 LGAs at a total cost of ₦3,806,394,185.00.

The table below shows some completed projects. Though with various rivers, Kebbi State is yet to attain the UN Standard of 100 litres/per/day.

**KEBBI STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON IDENTIFICATION OF PROJECTS  
ALL PROJECTS BEING EXECUTED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT FROM 2007 TO DATE (2010)**

S/NO	NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION LGA	COST OF PROJECT	NAME OF CONTRACTOR	EXPENDITURE TO DATE	DURATION OF CONTRACT	PROGRESS 100% AND ABOVE	REMARKS
1.	Motorized Water Scheme	Badariya North B/Kebbi	₦9,971,800.00	D/Illela	₦9,971,800.00	1 Year	100%	Completed
2.	Motorized Water Scheme	Gesse Fulani B/Kebbi	₦9,971,800.00	D/Illele	₦9,971,800.00	1 Year	100%	Completed
3.	Motorized Water Scheme	Central Mosque B/Kebbi	₦9,971,800.00	Garad	₦9,971,800.00	1 Year	100%	Completed
4.	Motorized Water Scheme	Gulumbe B/Kebbi	₦9,971,800.00	Garad	₦9,971,800.00	1 Year	100%	Completed
5.	Motorized Water Scheme	T/Magaji Noma B/Kebbi	₦9,971,800.00	Garad	₦9,971,800.00	1 Year	100%	Completed
6.	Motorized Water Scheme	Behind CID Office B/Kebbi	₦9,971,800.00	Garad	₦9,971,800.00	1 Year	100%	Completed
7.	Motorized Water Scheme	NDLEA B/Kebbi	₦9,971,800.00	ABN	₦9,971,800.00	1 Year	100%	Completed
8.	Motorized Water Scheme	Shiyar Wali B/Kebbi	₦9,971,800.00	Garad	₦9,971,800.00	1 Year	100%	Completed
9.	Motorized Water Scheme	Abdullahi Fodiyo B/Kebbi	₦9,971,800.00	Garad	₦9,971,800.00	1 Year	100%	Completed
10.	Motorized Water Scheme	Garkar S/Fawa B/Kebbi	₦9,971,800.00	Garad	₦9,971,800.00	1 Year	100%	Completed
11.	Motorized Water Scheme	Behind Hajj Camp B/Kebbi	₦9,971,800.00	Kitari	₦9,971,800.00	1 Year	100%	Completed

## **D. CHALLENGES**

- Power to generate energy for both Agricultural and Water-based activities is a major challenge. The epileptic power from the PHCN cannot be able to drive most water pumps.
- Due to the high livestock population in the State, restriction of watering points and grazing areas for nomads is another serious challenge. Nomadic/pastoralist conflicts are of common occurrence in the State.
- Quela birds, especially at the Argungu Rice Scheme. Additional labour and cost are incurred in scaring away the birds, physical scaring through claps and drums are used.
- Disbursement and repayment of loans to farmers.
- Accessibility of rural markets by the farmers.
- Fertilizer procurement, allocation and distribution face serious challenges in the State.

## **E. BENCHMARKS**

1. Kebbi State is the only State with a well Mapped Agricultural Policy, it was the result of a committee of experts and the State Government is implementing the report religiously.
2. KATASHI – Kebbi Agricultural Transformation and Self-Help Initiative:- This is aimed at revamping agriculture in the State, as well as means of economic and social liberation, poverty alleviation, employment and above all a source of wealth for the participating farmers. 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 blueprint was designed to form the basis for intervention by the State Government in all areas of agricultural productivity. The farmers are formed into groups within clusters to cultivate the vast Fadama land. Rice seeds, small scale irrigation infrastructure (pumps and tube wells) and other inputs like fertilizers and agro-chemicals as well as trainings and extension support are given to the farmers. This ensures that dry season rice production is increased significantly, while at the same time, providing employment to the teaming youths in the State.
3. The development of 100 sprinkler and 300 flood irrigation facilities in 24 sites in 12 LGAs. This covers 300 ha of Fadama in addition to the 40,000 ha under KATASHI.

## **F. RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS**

- Create a marketing channel for the huge produce.

- Installation of agro-processing plants for example, tomato Processing Factory at the Aliero axis, Rice Mills at Argungu and Onion and Pepper Processing Plants at the Mungadi axis.
- To ensure sustainability, a legislation may be required.

## **G. CONCLUSION**

With the successes recorded so far, Kebbi State is likely to attain it's local requirement for rice as well as to meet the demands of other states and perhaps, export. A ban on the importation of Rice if properly articulated by the Federal Government shall further boost rice production in Kebbi State.

It is anticipated that the tempo of operations created with the implementation of KATASHI will be sustained for a long time and the programme further expanded across the State.

# **KEBBI STATE OF NIGERIA PEER REVIEW MISSION REPORT FOR THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS FORUM**

- A. State Profile
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- F. Recommendations/Suggestions
- G. Conclusion

By

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Consultant/Policy Adviser  
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## **A. STATE PROFILE**

Taraba State was created on the 27<sup>th</sup> August, 1991. It is located in the North-Eastern part of the country and shares borders with Adamawa, Benue, Cross Rivers and the Republic of Cameroon. It has 16 LGAs and a population of 2.5 million people.

## **B. AGRICULTURE**

Taraba is an agrarian state, where almost everyone is a farmer. The State Government had achieved the following in recent years.

### **Achievements**

1. Provision of 22 units of tractors for the tractor hiring unit.
2. Renovation, rehabilitation and reactivation of stock routes.
3. Fertilizer heavily subsidized to ₦2,000.00 per bag, the State also registered with IFDC for the voucher system of fertilizer procurement.
4. Taraba State pays all counterpart funds when due.
5. Establishment of 16 Farm Centres in each LGA.
6. Registered 100,000 farmers for 3 bags/farmer under IFDC.
7. Under the Tractor Hiring Unit, 2 bulldozers, 2 trucks and combined harvesters ere procured.
8. Federal Government assisted in cocoa farms and vaccines procurement.

## **C. WATER**

The Taraba State Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development was established with the mandate of providing adequate portable water supply and improved sanitary facilities.

### **Urban Water Supply**

This department is essentially saddled with the responsibility of policy formulation, project conceptualization, design and construction of water supply facilities for communities in the semi-urban and urban areas with population of not less than 5,000 people per community.

### **Achievements**

1. Urban water supply projects at Zing and Ibi completed. New pipe line extension networks and replacement of absolute AC pipes covering a distance of 126 km done for Jalingo, the State Capital.
2. Procurement of 3 Nos 650 KVA generator sets for Jalingo, Zing and Ibi Water Supply Schemes.
3. Procurement of 100 KVA generator set for Lau Water Supply Project.
4. Government had spent a daily operational cost of N465,476.00 from November 2007 to February, 2010 for eight water scheme at Jalingo, Wukari, Ibi, Gembu, Zing, Lau, Jen and Bantaje.
5. The State Government is sourcing for a loan from the African Development Bank for the expansion and rehabilitating of the Jalingo Water Supply Scheme.

### **Rural Water**

This directorate had drilled and equipped 151 hand pump boreholes, and also constructed 12 Nos solar powered boreholes. It has also developed 3 Nos spring water sources at Nguroje, Mayo-Ndaga and Mbanga in Sardauna Local Government Area of the State.

### **D. CHALLENGES**

1. Power:- This is highly inadequate for both agricultural and water projects.
2. Theft and pilfering of solar panels: there seems to exist a "dis-connect" between the various governmental agencies and the communities.
3. The rough terrain, especially at the Zing, Gembu and Mambila areas hinders developmental projects.

### **E. BENCHMARKS**

The highland Tea Factory at Gembu, is a major foreign exchange earner.

### **F. RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS**

Taraba State is highly blessed with abundant natural resources, if properly harnessed, the State has the potentials of becoming one of the richest States in the country. Areas to be given adequate attention include:-

1. Power generation at the Mambila Area.
2. Large Scale Commercial Agricultural activities, both crops and livestock at the Gembu-Mambila axis.

3. Tourism, - the large cultural variety and diversity of the State, if properly harnessed shall boost the State as a tourism haven.

## **G. CONCLUSION**

Though a young State, Taraba is still grappling with the teething problems of laying a solid infrastructural development plan. There must be a genuine approach, in a holistic way to bring all the people together, so as to harness the abundant natural resources, for the overall good of the people of the State.