

A. STATE PROFILE

Taraba State was created on the 27th 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.

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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.

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