

**NIGERIA FOOD INSECURITY:
WHICH WAY FORWARD?**

BY

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**GUEST PAPER 2024 ANNUAL FRCN LECTURE SERIES
NICON LUXARY HOTEL ABUJA**

19TH DECEMBER 2024

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is endowed with substantial natural resources. These include 69 million hectares of arable land, freshwater sources covering 12 million hectares, 960 kilometers of coastline and an ecological diversity which enable the country to produce a wide variety of crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries products (Abalu, 1984). Politically, it consists of 36 states.

Nigeria is a country, located on the western coast of Africa that has a diverse geography, with climate ranging from arid to humid equatorial.

Nigeria is a multinational state inhabited by more than 250 ethnic groups speaking 500 distinct languages, all identifying with a wide variety of cultures.

THE NIGERIAN SCENARIO

- 92.3m ha
- 79.8m ha (Arable)
- 33.4m ha (Actual Cultivation)
- 3.14m ha (Fadama)
- 400,000 ha (Actual)
- 200 million people
- 528 Ethnic groupings
- 87% involved directly or indirectly in Agriculture
- 14 million farming families (less than 10%)

AGRO-ECOLOGY

- **Savanna**
 - Sahel
 - Sudan
 - Guinea
 - Derived Guinea
- **Rainforest**
 - Rainforest
 - Mangrove Swamp
- **Montane**
 - Mambilla
 - Jos
 - Obudu
- **Diversity**
 - All Major Groups
 - Livestock
 - Aquatics

FOOD SECURITY

- Availability
 - Affordability
 - Balanced
 - 79% of the population live below \$2.00 per day
-
- **QUESTION: Is Nigeria Secured Food-Wise?**

Agriculture is at the heart of climate resilience. As we face the increasing impacts of climate change—from erratic rainfall patterns to prolonged droughts and extreme weather events—agriculture remains both one of the most vulnerable sectors and one of the greatest opportunities for building resilience. Through the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, we can help safeguard our food systems while mitigating the effects of climate change on the most vulnerable communities. By investing in sustainable practices such as water management, conservation agriculture, and the use of renewable energy in farming, we are not only protecting our environment but also creating a more resilient agricultural sector that can adapt to future challenges.

The issue of food security has never been more urgent. With the global population on the rise, and with many regions facing challenges that threaten their ability to produce and access food, it is our duty to ensure that our states are not only food-secure but that we are also able to contribute to the food security in the region. By increasing local production, reducing post-harvest losses, and enhancing value addition, we can meet both our domestic needs and become key players in the regional and global agricultural markets.

The future of our economies depends on the future of agriculture. If we truly want to build economies that are resilient, inclusive, and prosperous, we must prioritize agriculture. This sector is the bedrock of development, and it is through sustained investment, innovation, and collaboration that we will be able to unlock its full potential.

As leaders, we bear the responsibility to act.... Now!!!

We cannot afford to be passive in the face of the challenges that agriculture faces. We must take deliberate steps to support initiatives that empower our farmers, invest in agricultural infrastructure, and create enabling environments for agribusiness to thrive. This is how we will secure the future of agriculture and, by extension, the future of our states.

Despite the country's enormous potential with fertile lands, diverse climates, and abundant water resources, the country's agricultural sector still faces several challenges, including poor infrastructure, limited access to financing, and low productivity. These challenges have resulted in a high level of food insecurity in the country, with millions of Nigerians experiencing hunger and malnutrition.

THE NIGERIAN FOOD INSECURITY

The above emanated from several factors, some immediate, some remote, some natural and indeed some humanly inflicted

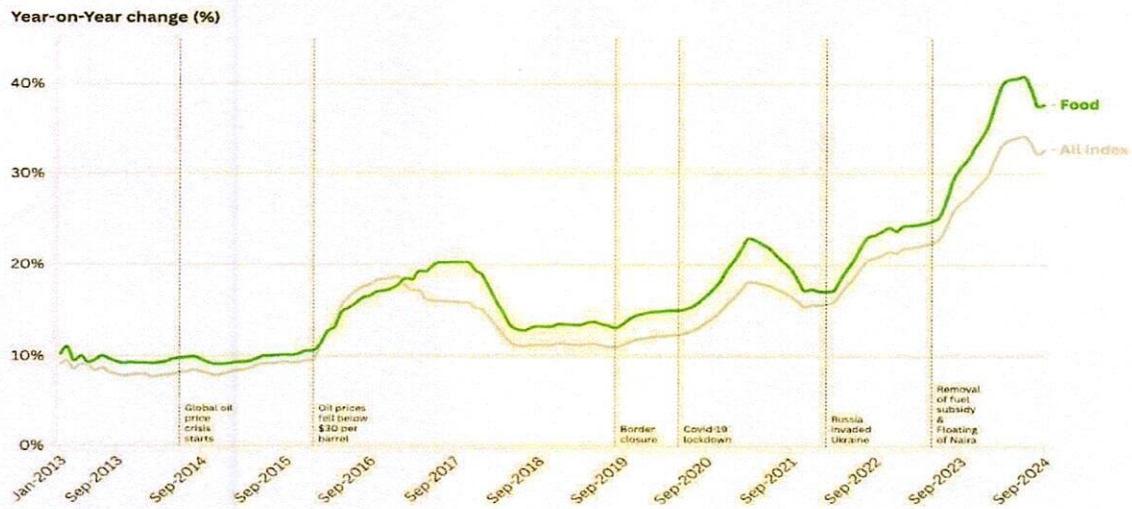
1. COVID 19 - The global shut down during the worst pandemic of the century greatly affected food production and distribution across the country. Farmers were shut off from their farms and means of transportation of food from areas. Even markets across of supply to areas of demand were also stopped due to the total close-down. The country was closed.

2. The naira-swap Policy of the CBN just before the 2023 general election also aggravated the food insecurity in Nigeria. There was food, but no cash available to buy. Farmers could not access farm inputs.
3. The withdrawal of fuel subsidy also greatly impacted on the already staggering skeletal food scenario. For every rise in pump price of PMS, historically, there has always been a corresponding rise in the prices food-stuffs due to the rise in the cost of transportation.
4. The inconsistency in governmental policies, particularly in the Agricultural sector, has slowed down National food production. From the operation feed the nation of the General Olusegun Obasanjo's military era, the green revolution of Shehu Shagari, the back to farm of General Muhammadu Buhari, the FEAP of the General Sani Abacha, down to the e-wallet of Dr. Adeshina, the green alternative of Chief Audu Ogbeh, the Anchors borrowers programme, and the present NAPTIP, all disparage one another, and in most cases, babies were thrown with the bath water.
5. The unending farmers/pastoralists skirmishes also greatly reduced the food production matrix especially in the food Basket areas of Benue, Plateau and Taraba States, with further incursions into other States.
6. The aging population of the farmers - recent studies put the average age of a typical Nigeria family at 59.
7. Rural-Urban migration: All the hefty strong youths that are supposed to be on the farms are in major cities selling PMS, as "black marketers", recharge card

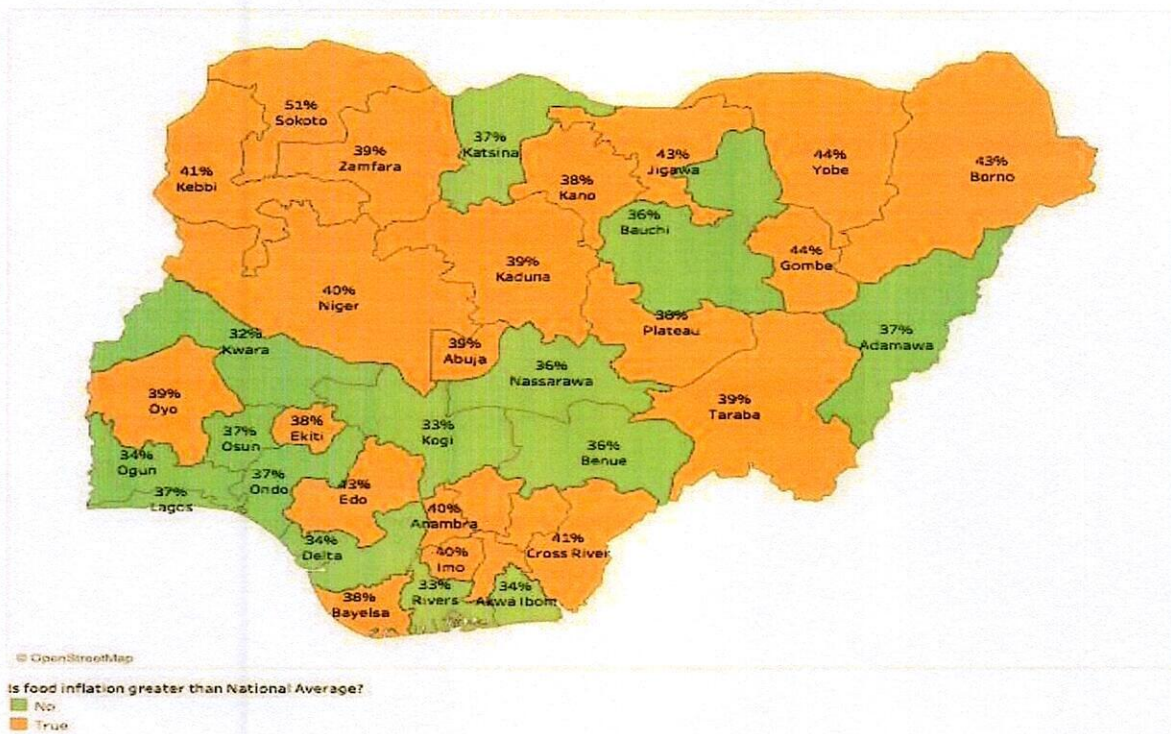
sellers and political thugs, POS agents, “shoe-shiners”, “aboki,” “Mai shayi” and others selling aphrodisiac with loudspeakers in major markets.

8. The population issue - The population of Nigerians is stated at 220 million today, with postulations that Nigeria will be the 3rd most populous country in 2050 after China and India.
9. Poor access to credit
10. Poor infrastructure, particularly road networks
11. Lack of Agro-processing plants
12. Poor capacity of our farmers
13. Low technology
14. Poor extension delivery service.
15. Hoarding
16. Land tenure system - The above law is now archaic and needs to be amended to reflect present realities
17. Climate change: Low duration of rainfall, desertification, flooding, erosion and reduction in farm sizes are all indicators of climatic changes.
18. Post harvest technology

Food inflation and Headline Inflation trend over the last 10 years



Food inflation rates across the 36 states and FCT (%)



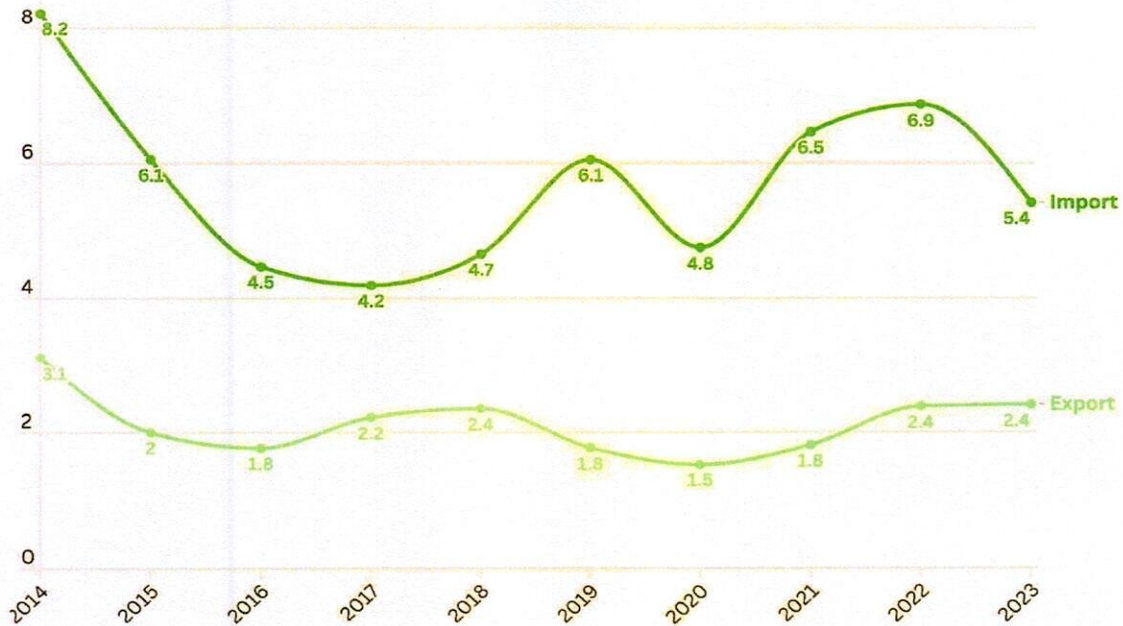
Food Prices Soar: Over 100% Increase in Most Items in the Past Year

Food Item	Avg. Price (Sep 2023)	Avg. Price (Sep 2024)	Increase (x)	Percentage change (Y-o-Y) ▼
Beans brown,sold loose	₦717	₦2,739	3.8x	282%
Beans:white black eye. sold loose	₦691	₦2,579	3.7x	273%
Broken Rice (Ofada)	₦753	₦2,359	3.1x	213%
Yam tuber	₦593.83	₦1,668.49	2.8x	181%
Plantain(unripe)	₦544	₦1,511	2.8x	178%
Tilapia fish (epiya) fresh	₦1,501	₦3,851	2.6x	157%
Plantain(ripe)	₦586	₦1,500	2.6x	156%
Tomato	₦566	₦1,431	2.5x	153%
Rice local sold loose	₦757	₦1,915	2.5x	153%
Gari white,sold loose	₦468	₦1,170	2.5x	150%
Gari yellow,sold loose	₦496	₦1,238	2.5x	150%
Chicken Wings	₦1,631	₦4,063	2.5x	149%
Chicken Feet	₦1,309	₦3,244	2.5x	148%
Rice Medium Grained	₦807	₦1,998	2.5x	148%
Rice agric sold loose	₦798	₦1,966	2.5x	146%

Food Prices Soar: Over 100% Increase in Most Items in the Past Year

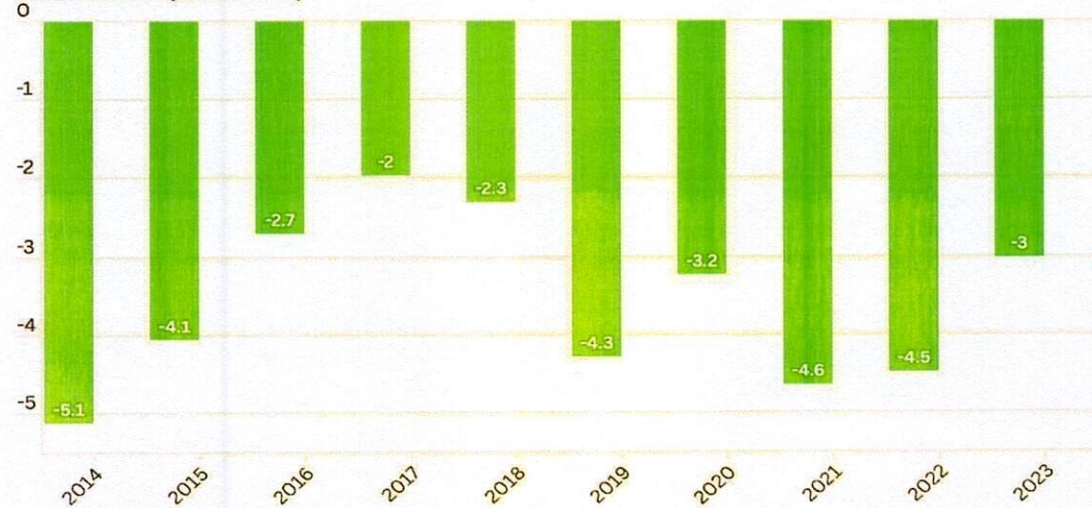
Food Item	Avg. Price (Sep 2023)	Avg. Price (Sep 2024)	Increase (x)	Percentage change (Y-o-Y) ▼
Rice, imported high quality sold loose	₦982	₦2,404	2.4x	145%
Sweet potato	₦360	₦870	2.4x	142%
Irish potato	₦688	₦1,663	2.4x	142%
Mudfish (aro) fresh	₦1,681	₦3,994	2.4x	138%
Agric eggs medium size	₦1,047	₦2,487	2.4x	137%
Wheat flour: prepacked (golden penny 2kg)	₦1,515.88	₦3,570.75	2.4x	136%
Onion bulb	₦516	₦1,207	2.3x	134%
Agric eggs (medium size price of one)	₦96	₦220	2.3x	129%
Catfish (obokun) fresh	₦1,823	₦4,060	2.2x	123%
Beef Bone in	₦2,174	₦4,750	2.2x	118%
Bread unsliced 500g	₦662	₦1,431	2.2x	116%
Titus: frozen	₦2,046	₦4,417	2.2x	116%
Bread sliced 500g	₦708	₦1,528	2.2x	116%
Mackerel: frozen	₦1,877	₦4,047	2.2x	116%
Dried Fish Sardine	₦2,248	₦4,566	2x	103%

Agricultural Trade (USD billion)



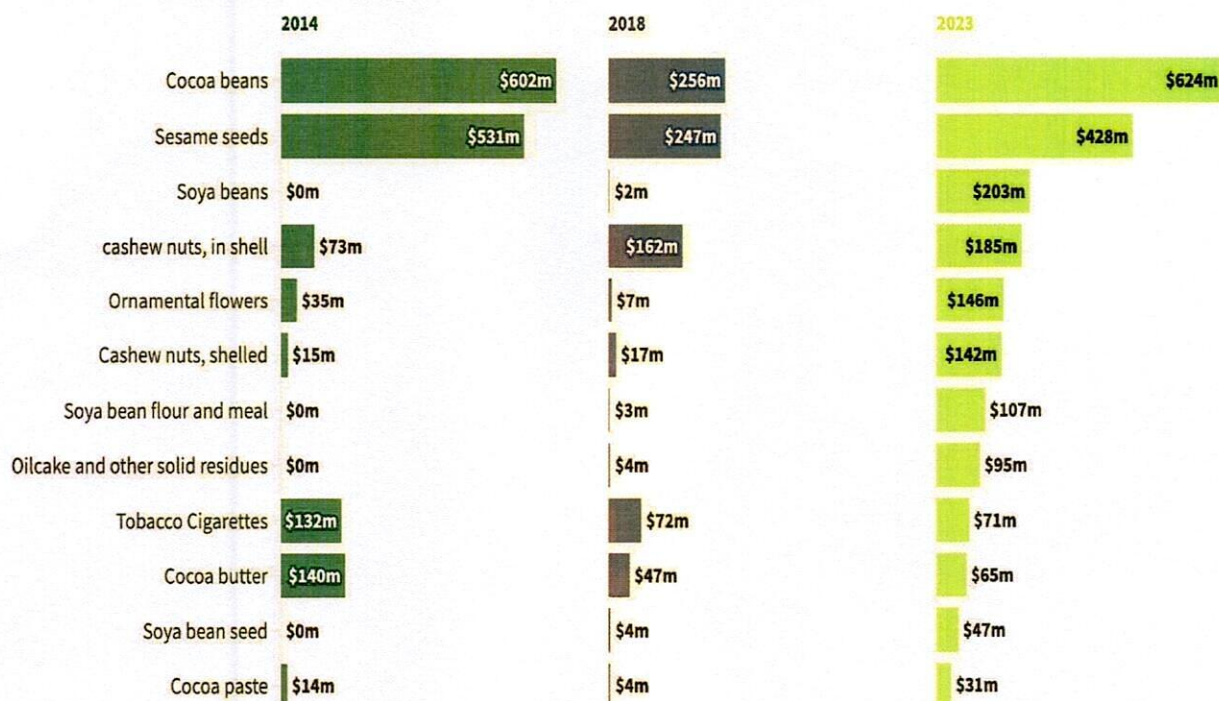
Nigeria has remained a net importer of Agricultural goods

Trade Balance (USD billion)



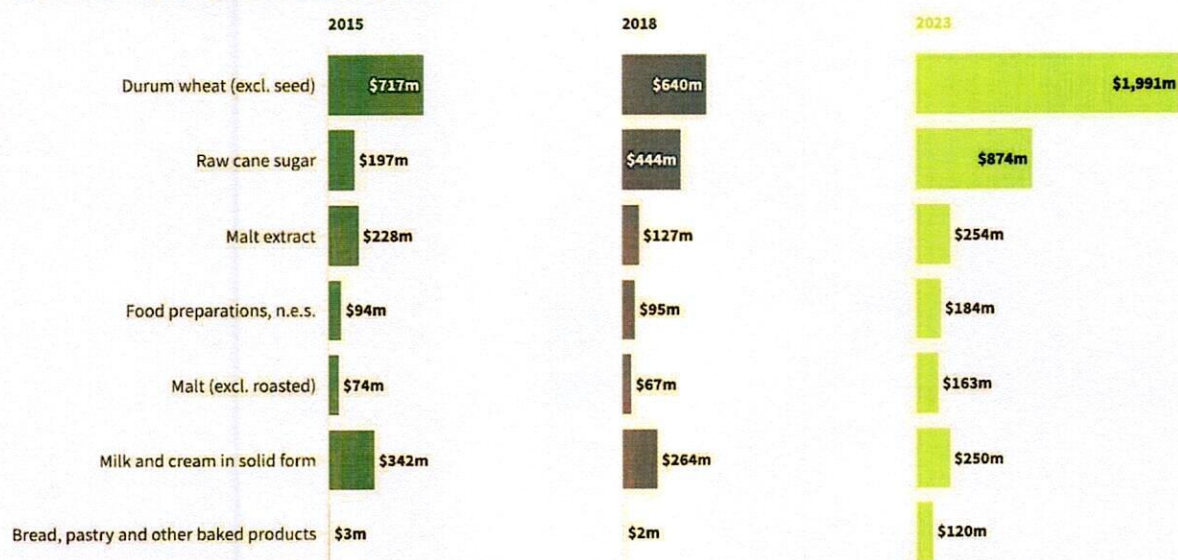
Data Source: UNCTAD

Nigeria's Major Agricultural Exports



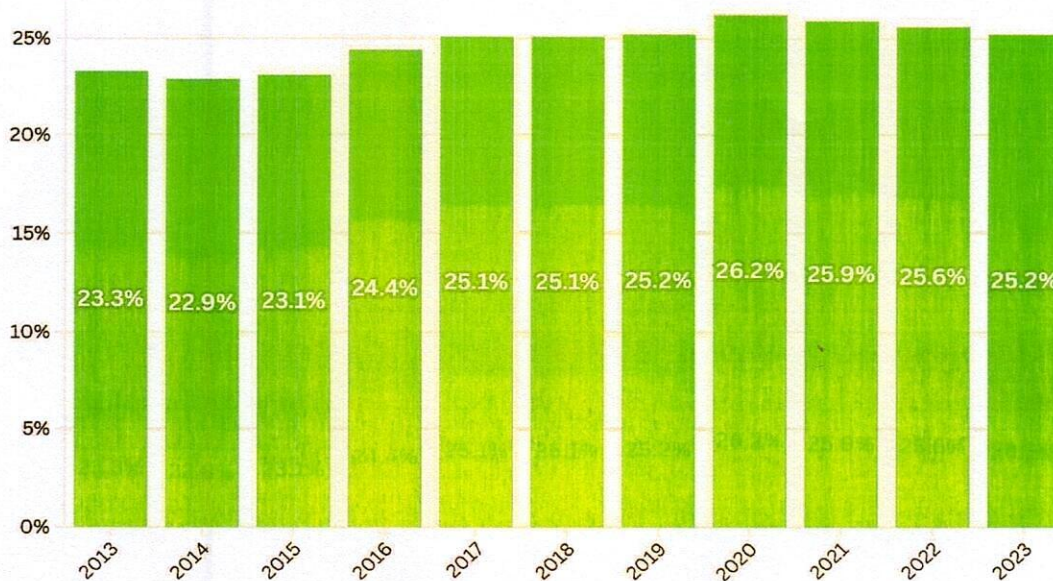
Data Source: Trademap

Nigeria's Major Agricultural Imports



Data Source: Trademap

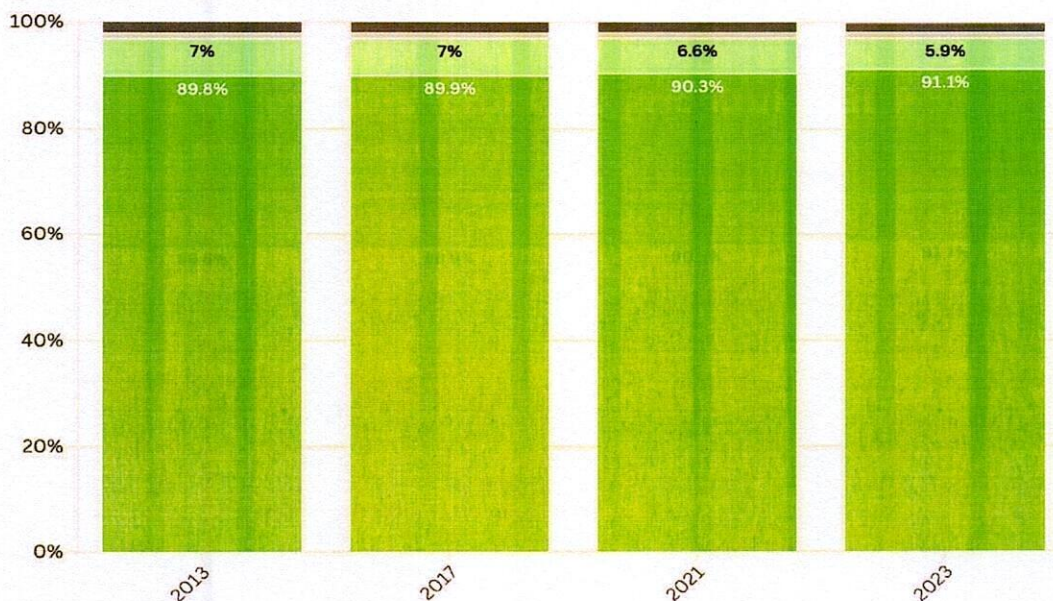
Agriculture's contribution to GDP (2013- 2023)



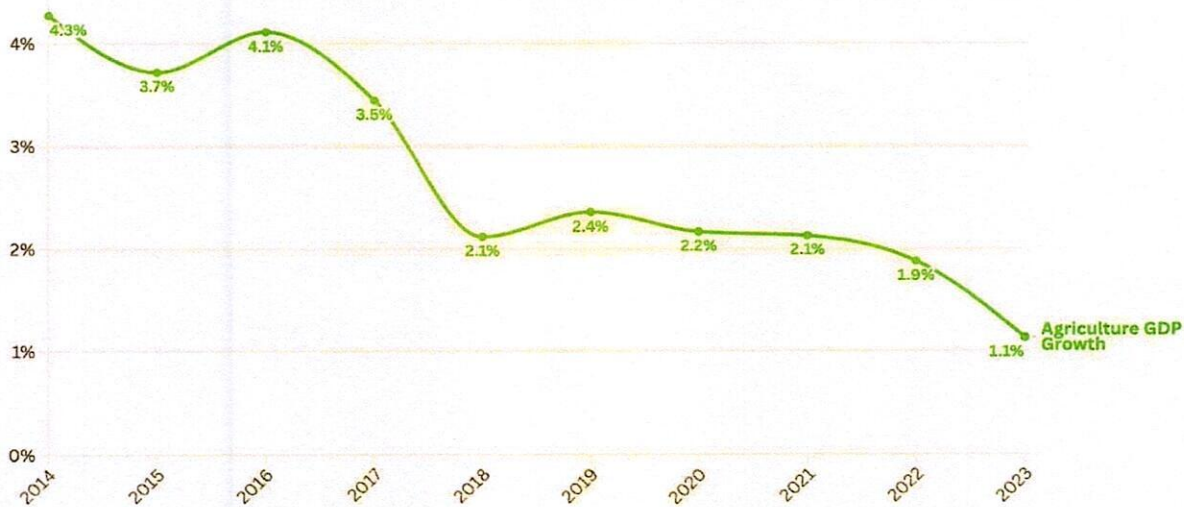
Data Source: NBS

Contribution of sub-sectors to Agricultural GDP

■ Crop Production
 ■ Livestock
 ■ Forestry
 ■ Fishing

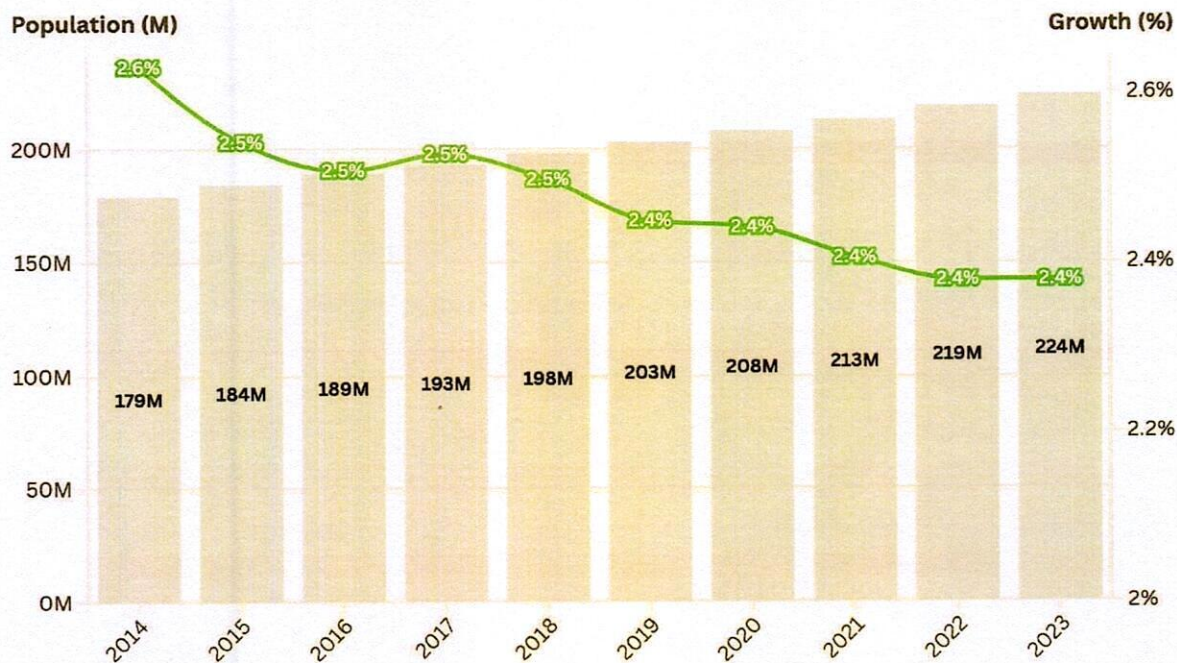


Agricultural sector growth has consistently declined over the last decade



Data Source: NBS

■ Growth ■ Population

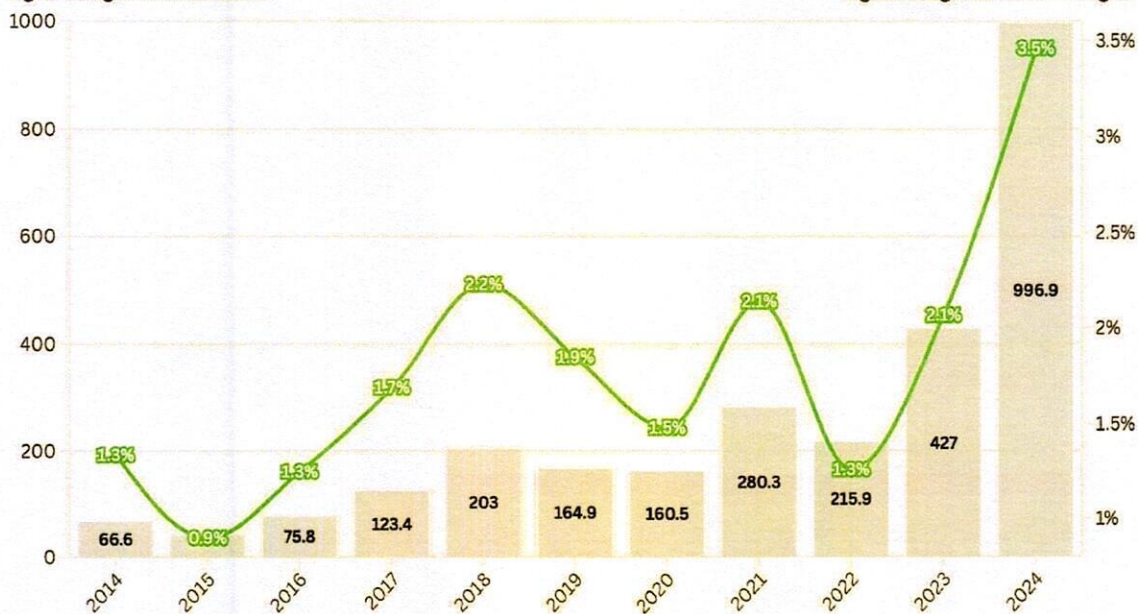


Source: World Bank
M = Millions

■ Agric Budget (% of FG Budget) ■ Agric Budget (NGN Billions)

Agric Budget (NGN Billions)

Agric Budget (% of FG Budget)



Source: Budget Office

WAY FORWARD

1. Farmers Database

There is an urgent need to know who the real farmers are, with the GPS co-ordinates of their farm, areas of habitation, types of crops grown and yield per hectare.

This will give the government, at all tiers (Federal, States and the LGAs) to plan adequately for the needs of the farmers in order to boost agricultural productivity maximally.

2. Comprehensive soil map

This is a guide to the types, status and nutrient capacity of soils. It is also a guide to fertilizer usage. If the soil is acidic, alkaline fertilizers like SSP, muriate of potash are applied to balance the soil pH.

Similarly, NPK, Urea, and other acidic fertilizers are used on alkaline soils. Acidic fertilizers on acidic soil destroy the soil status, same as alkaline fertilizers on alkaline soils.

3. Comparative advantages

Every State should identify its peculiar agricultural advantage and try to build upon it. The presence of the Mambila mountains is a comparative advantage to Taraba State, same with Obudu in Cross rivers state, the plateau in Plateau State, and the sharing of boundaries with three different countries, (Chad, Niger, and Cameroon) by Borno State.

4. Efficient water management system

Nigerian's agricultural sector faces significant water scarcity challenges, particularly in the northern regions. There are also inefficient irrigation systems leading to water waste and reduced crop yields. Lack of investment in infrastructure is also another challenge for inefficient water management systems.

For efficient water management systems, the following should be considered

- i. Drip irrigation systems that deliver directly to the roots of plants, reducing evaporation and runoff.
- ii. Sprinkles irrigation systems that distribute water evenly across fields, reducing water waste and increasing crop yields.
- iii. Rainwater harvesting may be considered and store for irrigation, reducing reliance on government and surface water sources.
- iv. Precision agriculture by use of technology, such as drones and satellite imaging, to optimize irrigation systems

5. Germplasm Development

Germplasm development can help Nigerian farmers access high yielding and disease resistant crop varieties. Developing crop varieties that are resistant to climate change can help farmers adapt to changing weather patterns.

Germplasm development can contribute to improved food security by increasing crop yield and reducing post-harvest losses. A robust germplasm development program can stimulate the economic growth in the agricultural sector

6. Research and Development

Research and development is a crucial aspect of improving agricultural productivity, food security, and economic growth. Research and development can help develop yielding disease resistant crop varieties. The ARCN, which is the supervisory body for research Institute, should be adequately funded.

7. Access to credit

Provision of access to credit will improve productivity, livelihood, job creation, and economic growth. It is important to increase funding for agricultural credit schemes, improve financial literacy. There is also a need to develop digital financial services and encourage public-private partnership.

8. Commodity Marketing Board

Commodity marketing board can help stabilize prices for Agric commodities reducing risks of price fluctuation for farmers. It provides market access for farmers, connecting them with buyers and facilitating the sale of their produce.

Commodity marketing board establishes quality standards for Agric produce, ensuring that produce meet buyers' requirements

9. Effective and efficient Extension System

Now how can we tell the world only Nigeria has not got an effective agricultural extension delivery organization as we have been dead trouble in agric. Development years! we should go back to seek support in doing this from the international community. The yields of our agricultural units, as earlier mentioned are so low when compared with those of their counterparts in other parts of the world! As you know we were making rapid progress on this with the support of other nations in the early 1960s before our national political upheaval in 1966.

Therefore, international support or partnership of a competent private sector should always be sought, and we too should be prepared to support orders we did so and it was well paying. The Germans were helping the northern regions to develop its cattle production in Mando, Kaduna from 1960; they were also supporting us on similar project in Mokwa. The British were supporting us in Mambilla plateau at that time. The eastern region was being supported by Israel and it would have been par with agric. development Nations in basic crops production by now. As pointed out earlier it is very sad that virtually all our agricultural units are today yielding less than 10% of what similar units in other parts of the world yielding (Admiral Nyako, 2021)

10. Improved Gender Consideration

Women play a significant role in the Nigerian agricultural system, it's important that the necessary agricultural skills, capacity building and technical know-how be extended to our women folk. In the northern part of the country, planting is usually

done by women while in the southern part of the country virtually every woman has a small home garden. Value addition to crops is usually done by women

11. Comprehensive Input Delivery

All agricultural inputs should be given to the farmers before the beginning of the rainy season. Distribution of fertilizers during the rainy season has very little impact on the agricultural systems. Similarly, chemicals for the control of Pests and diseases should be provided early enough. There is a low technological advancement in the agricultural sector, the government should be proactive in the provision of tractors, combined harvesters, etc.

12. Grazing Reserves (Zero Grazing)

Nigeria is an agrarian country, with 87% of the total population directly and indirectly involved in the agriculture.

The country is also adorned with an array of different agro-ecological zones comprising Sahel Sudan and guinea savanna in the North. While the south has mangroves, rainforest and the derived savanna.

Nigeria as abundance of livestock population estimated at more livestock than the human population. The livestock sub-sector has contributed greatly to the GDP of Nigeria, through the exportation of hides and skins and other animal by-products.

Nigerians are also “natural meat lovers”. Most Nigerians do not take a meal without meat and it's common in Nigerians to see a single pot of soup with pieces of meat like lamb, goat, chicken, snail and other ‘orishirishi’ combined.

However, the pattern of raising livestock – nomadic pastoralism has since become rudimentary and archaic.

The constant movement of the cattle from Borno to Port Harcourt and Sokoto to Lagos on an annual basis has significantly reduced the by-products of the cattle. This applies particularly to dairy and beef, in addition to the myriads of security challenges all over the country.

The constant farmers versus pastoralist conflicts include cattle rustling and other negative vices keep on increasing as a result.

The modern method of grazing all over the world now is termed “Zero Grazing”. Instead of moving with the animals to look for food and water, the animals are now stationed “in-situ”, in one place and their feed and water served to them. A typical zero grazing concept involves a piece of land, grasses (pastures and forages).

A permanent source of water, a shed for protection from the sun and rainfall are also key related factors.

Another is a special shed for delivery and calving: also, another for pregnant cattle as well as a vet clinic with a veterinary doctor on stand-by.

As part of the farm’s corporate social responsibility, a school, hospital and a market should be provided for the workers tending to these animals.

Security is another point of attention. The area should be well secured to prevent harm to both the livestock and its tenders.

One major challenge is the lack of access roads to the farmlands or pens. This should be improved for commuters to include the farmers, livestock as well as distributors and buyers.

The above scenario will make the cows produce more dairy products such as milk, yield better quality of beef and increase the calving ratio.

The zero-grazing policy, if well-articulated, will end the constant farmer/pastoralist clashes. (Gambo B A 2023).

13. Human resource development (motivation of youth into agriculture)

Youth need to be motivated to engage in agricultural activities because agriculture plays an important role in the economy and job creation. Agriculture contributes significantly to Gross domestic product of the country. Agriculture remains a dominant source of employment for the teeming youth population in this country. It also provides the means to food expenditure and improve nutritional status thereby enhancing national food security.

14. Emphasis On Value-Chain

Agriculture value chain is not an object that you can see, rather a useful way of understanding how the world of producing, buying and selling works. We are all part of the value chain in one way or the other as producers, consumers of goods and services, processors, retailers, finance providers, and so on.

As consumers we all eat and we all wear clothes, and so we are linked to many value chains. Chains of grain crops, tubers and roots, fruit and vegetables, textiles and legumes. These chains stretched from growers to our kitchen clothing and so on.

15 Re-orientation towards export

In modern Agriculture, the development of innovative and investment activities in agriculture is a driver for ensuring food security and increasing the export potential of the agro allied industries of the country. The development of new technology and methods of cultivation of Agricultural crops are some of the priorities of sustainable agriculture. Youths need to be re-oriented towards export of agricultural products because of its contribution to Gross domestic product increase source of income and foreign exchange and boosting of food security for sustainable development.

16. Investment-Based

It is always good to invest in Agricultural sector, if you are thinking of investing on agricultural sector, you must see the market of that product first and then sustainability of that product in that environment. Some of the agricultural sector that you can make your investment in are; Aquaculture, Cash crops, poultry farming, horticultural crops, Apiculture (bee keeping), cattle farming and so on. It is important to know that Agricultural products are the most used materials and many of the product are risky in nature. So, we can work for value addition of each, and every

product produced to get more benefit from our produce and make the investment worthy in order to improve our income and sustain food security.

17. Commercialization

Commercialism of Agriculture refers to cultivating crops for selling instead of domestic or personal use. An excess of output above consumption must be taken to markets. The marketable surplus was decided by peasant farmers. Small scale agriculture frequently influences the choice to produce cash crops. The expansion of marketplaces should act as a catalyst for the country's agrarian growth. Commercialization of agricultural products will stimulate rural growth, poor people can gain through improving employment opportunities, increasing agricultural labour productivity, expanding food supply and potentially improving nutritional status.

18. The role of Media in achieving national food security

Analyzing the role of mass media, McQuail Dennis, a scholar of mass communication theories (1987:53,4) described the media playing a "mediating" role amongst the various institution in society and between "social reality and personal experience". He further added that; "The mass media are intermediate and mediating in several senses: they often lie between use (as receivers) and that part of potential experience which is outside our direct perception of contact; then between ourselves

and other institutions with which we have dealings... they provide link between these different institutions..."

The connectivity of media to other institutions in society is metaphorically expressed by McQuail when he explains the media as;

- a window which extends vision
- an interpreter which explains and makes sense out of what is said
- an interactive which relates senders to receivers, and
- as a signpost which direct.

19. Traditional Rulers

The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria should reconsider the present status of the Traditional rulers in Nigeria, in order to accord them all the official privileges and etiquettes of their dignified offices.

Traditional rulers happen to be the closest to the people, and they are viewed as spiritual, religious and traditional leaders. Historically, they have always maintained peace and order in their respective domains

20. Youth and Women inclusion into the agricultural sector.

This needs massive sensitization and motivation for the youth to accept working in the fields. For example, the **HOE** is the major impediment to youths' participation in agriculture.

Can we do away with hoe?

Simplify the role of mass media - Harold Lasswell (in Doris 1997:5) listed three major junctions of the mass media to include;

- surveillance of the world to report on-going events
- interpretation of meaning of the events
- socialization of individuals into their cultural settings.

Therefore, from the functions of the mass media given by McQuail and Lasswell, we can inference that in our modern society, the media play the role of providing us with information, education, and entertainment and above all they serve as changing agent in the society through linking one institution in the society to another and by effecting changes that leads to the development of the society

The agricultural sector is a part of the societal framework and just like in other institutions, the mass media can play a big role in the development of this sector. Let us, however, give close attention to how this can be achieved using diffusion of innovation concept of development (Liman A. M., 2003).

RENEWED HOPE AGENDA

29TH May 2023

Presidential Proclamation of National Emergency on Food Security

Fresh Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Fresh Ministry of Livestock Development

The Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, is committed to advancing the nation's agri-food system through technology and innovation for job creation, youth empowerment and poverty reduction in Nigeria. This stance rhymes with the global economic transformation approach, emphasizing technology and innovation in agri-food system as the key drivers of growth and development and compelling us not to lag. To this end, my Ministry and the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, who is now in charge of fisheries mandate in Nigeria, will work out modality for optimal operation of this fishery technology and innovation to meet its objectives.

Today, I am very pleased to present to you our focal areas that hinge integration, sustainability, and resilience to our challenges. These span the immediate, short, medium, and long term as presented below:

a) The Immediate priority actions - ongoing to the end of 2023:

The most pressing actions we are currently handling is preparation for the next dry-season farming beginning from November 2023. To this end, some preparatory activities have been carried out and many others are at the advanced stage viz:

- i. Certification of available planting materials for some food security crops in readiness for dry-season farming;
- ii. Aggressive promotion and preparations for dry season farming commences from November this year.
- iii. Implementation of the dry season Wheat production Starting in November 2023 as part of the National Agricultural Growth Scheme and Agro Pocket (NAGS-AP) projects funded by the African Development Bank. Under this scheme, the target is to:
 - produce wheat over 70,000 hectares across the wheat production zone of the country with an expected yield of 875,000 metric tonnes for our food reserve.
 - blending of appropriate fertilizers to support this year's dry season farming while making provisions for next year farming season well in advance.
 - providing Train-the-Trainer for extension agents involved in dry season farming in collaboration with wheat producing States and other partners such as flour mills.
- iv. Furthermore, arrangements are also at an advanced stage for dry season farming of rice, maize and other horticultural crops;
- v. Hold the National Agriculture and Food Security Summit in November 2023 to bring all Stakeholders together for development of National Action Plan for Food Security with an implementation and sustainability strategy.
- vi. Hold the National Council for Agriculture and Food Security (NCAFS) Meeting in Cross River State in November 2023 to develop a strategic

operational plan for Federal-State-Local Government joint implementation plans and strategies;

- vii. Review the mechanisms and processes for delivering fertilizers and agro pesticides input to farmers under a transparent and accountable regime. This will be part of the main agenda at both the Summit and the NCAFS meetings in November this year;
- viii. Distribute pasture seeds and cuttings for dry season pasture and fodder development for livestock productivity beginning November 2023.

b) Short-term priority actions (2023- 2024)

- i. Agriculture and Food Security Stakeholders' analysis and mapping;
- ii. Make significant investment in animals feed-crops, fodder and pasture production as an antidote to the farmers and herders clashes by focusing the development of paddocks, foliage and fodder estates equipped with necessary facilities for all year round production;
- iii. Strengthen agriculture and food security institutions and repositioning them for the tasks ahead;
- iv. Reform the National Agricultural Research System to serve as the engine of growth for innovative solutions to strategic value chains, increase productivity -yields of our food Security and export crops, livestock, and fisheries;
- v. Establish 2 new national gene bank facilities, each for crop and animal respectively to conserve our fast-eroding genetic resources for food security.
- vi. Fast-track the take-off and operations of the National Agricultural Development Fund;
- vii. Develop a National Framework for proper coordination and alignment of all ongoing and future development partners' projects to our national priorities.

- viii. Develop innovative communication, monitoring, evaluation, learning and accountability platforms that guarantee Continuous interface among all the critical stakeholders to ensure 24/7 engagements and field reporting. ICT tools will be deployed to support these platforms for the facilitation of e-extension services at scale.
- ix. Develop a stakeholder Engagement and Communication Strategy for Agriculture and Food Security;
- x. Develop a new strategy for strengthening agricultural infrastructure and provision of support to our new farm types (which shall be unveiled before the end of the year);
- xi. Prepare a Joint Action Plan with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to unlock the huge irrigation potentials of the River Basins Development Authorities and other flood Plains in the country to guarantee all year round food production. It is very important to note the directives of Mr. President when he declared the national state of emergency on food security thus: ***"There must be an urgent synergy between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Water Resources to ensure adequate irrigation of farmlands and to guarantee that food is produced all year round."*** It is on this note that the Ministry shall make strategic investment in renewable irrigation solutions like solar-powered irrigation pumps for small-holder farmers.
- xii. Conduct a comprehensive review of all existing agricultural laws and legislation to fast-track necessary amendments and enactments to support farmers' welfare and private sector participation in agriculture and food security;
- xiii. Develop a standard framework and guide for ***'Ease of Doing Agriculture and Food Security (EDAFS)'*** operations/projects/business in Nigeria;

- xiv. Identify all available vacant farmlands in various Federal Government Institutions (Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education, Unity Schools, federally owned production to enhance our food security indices;
- xv. Collaborate and partner with states to revive secondary school farms to enhance food security and agri-business enterprises;
- xvi. Promote urban agriculture that is technology-enabled and especially driven by innovations and the passions of our teeming youths;
- xvii. Enhance the implementation of the National Livestock Transformation Plan for increased productivity and job creation;
- xviii. Deepen engagement between farmers, herders, traditional communities to promote peaceful institutions and coexistence and conflict resolution;
- xix. Develop and promote a performance based agricultural extension system;
- xx. Promote the establishment of agricultural marketing incubation centres (Agribusiness Development Centres) for youth and women across the six (6) geo-political zones;
- xxi. Capacity building to strengthen the farm inputs regulatory functions to enable them play their regulatory role to checkmate the infiltration of adulterated farm inputs i.e. fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides etc;
- xxii. Institutionalization in the Ministry and consolidation of Nigerian Food System Dashboard for informed quality planning, policy decision and information dissemination on the state of food and nutrition in the Country.
- xxiii. Ensure the development of a robust and sustainable innovation ecosystem, call for application for agronnovation enterprise and venture development Competition targeting Nigerian youths is being developed.

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c) Medium term actions - 2024 -2026

- i. Development of digital/ICT Mobile-based Agro-industry System and E-extension platforms to support farmers through the establishment of the national centres in the 6 agro-ecological zones of Nigeria while the command and control office will be here in Abuja;
- ii. Meat, dairy, eggs, fish and other protein from animal sources will receive our special intervention to increase productivity target of annual growth rate of 10% year on year;
- iii. Our interventions will accelerate the uptake of Minimum Viable Products from our institutions and agencies in the agricultural mechanization and implements production space in Nigeria for full commercialization by the private sector investment
- iv. Development of comprehensive soil fertility mapping and soil information system for food security;
- v. Development and implementation of the National Farmers Soil Health Card Scheme to increase productivity;
- vi. Up-scaling and Out-scaling of various agricultural value Chain projects in crops, livestock, fisheries and support services under the annual appropriation and special interventions;
- vii. Using Fintech solutions, wallets shall be created for all financial disbursements to deliver directly to the targeted end users. Priority shall be given to the use of digital and DEFI solutions to reform Bank of Agriculture and Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation among others;
- viii. Conduct standard feasibility and viability studies for commodity board operations in Nigeria;

- ix. Set up world class accredited laboratories in our Research Institutes that will receive and be governed by international standard organization -ISO certification and other regional, continental and international permits to validate the quality of our exports and certification before shipment.
- x. Develop a new Intergovernmental partnership framework for the implementation of mutually beneficial agricultural projects between Federal, State and Local governments;
- xi. Strengthen Commodity Exchange for agriculture in Collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment;
- xii. Revive and promote home economics and food and nutrition knowledge transfers and practices at the State and Local Governments level under the watch of the First Lady of the Federal Republic and First Ladies at State levels for food and nutrition security;
- xiii. Development and promotion of cooperative models for impactful agricultural development across the various agriculture value-chains;
- xiv. Promotion and strengthening of Agro-Rangers to include other paramilitary to assist in solving the problems of civil insecurity at the farm level.

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d) Long Term actions - 2024-2027

- i. Development of a national agricultural database for planning and implementation of agriculture and food security programs and initiatives. We are committed to working with relevant MDAs, private sector and international development partners to co-create a functional digital

transformation platform that will facilitate data driven precision farming, climate resilience and smart agricultural practices including e-extension services;

- ii. Carryout technology/ICT enabled farms and farmers enumeration and mapping in collaboration with states, local governments and development partners;
- iii. Repositioning the Universities of Agriculture, Veterinary Medicines and Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicines to play key roles in our agricultural transformation through the development of practical approaches for production and mechanization;
- iv. We are set to unlock the job creation potentials of cold chain systems by encouraging private sector participation in community cold chain enterprises. The target is to incentivize the establishment of new food storage ventures across the country with direct and indirect new job creation.
- v. Reform and remodel the Federal Colleges of Agriculture (FCAs) and the Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute (ARMTI) to focus on vocational skills development & management training for agriculture and food security issues;
- vi. Development of critical mass of agricultural breeders (crops, livestock, and fisheries) and other emerging knowledge areas in ICT for agriculture (smart agriculture) to position our agricultural production system for the challenges of feeding an increasing population under scarce and challenged resource base;
- vii. Provide support for acquiring advanced laboratories equipment to drive new One health approach for veterinary practices while ensuring collaboration with human health practitioners and researchers to achieve Nigeria's One health.

- viii. Establishment of new agro tourism hubs where our farms and national agricultural heritage can be made to create new wealth and jobs. Our target is to strengthen existing investments and encourage the youth and the practitioners/ investors in the hospitality industry to establish new agro tourist centres across the country.
- ix. Review of existing curriculum for all fields of agriculture in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Education, National Universities Commission (NUC) National Board of Technical Education (NBTE) and the National Commission for Colleges of Education towards the production of future agricultural graduates that are prepared for the next generation of agriculture (Agriculture 4.0);
- x. Establishment of Animal Disease Free Zones and of compartmentalization for export of livestock and livestock product;
- xi. Conduct a scientific migratory pattern studies on migratory birds (pest) to develop intervention map and mitigation measures for the control of trans boundary pests;
- xii. Stabilization of feed and other input products and prices in poultry value chain;
- xiii. Strengthening the Community of Practice (CoP) for Knowledge exchange and sharing of experiences to promote innovation and best practices amongst Federal, State and Local Government officials involved in agriculture and food security
- xiv. Promote viable agricultural mechanization enterprises and services such as the tractor and equipment e-hailing hiring services at the State and Local Government levels to enhance tractorization.
- xv. Establishment of multipurpose Input Resources & Communication Centres (IRCC) across the country in phases. The centres will ensure transparent and

accountable last mile delivery of agricultural inputs while creating an effective communication platform and co-location of e-extension services digital platforms. This will create huge job opportunities for Nigerian youths and women.

Senator Abubakar Kyari, 2023

CONCLUSION

I wish to conclude by quoting the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Abubakar Kyari CON.

“Since our assumption of office on 21st August 2023, we have received briefings from all the departments and Agencies with a View to understanding where we are, what is on-going that is delivering the desired results and outcomes, and what needs to give way. Accordingly, we have examined what needs to and what we need to do to re-align existing initiatives and programs that are on course to be in line with the four priorities of the renewed hope agenda that are core to the mandates of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. For the avoidance of doubt, the following Presidential Priorities are our core Agenda and are well aligned with the mandates and operations of our Ministry:

- i. Food Security
- ii. Economic Growth and Job Creation
- iii. Poverty Eradication
- iv. Inclusivity (Youth and Women) and enabling environment for individuals, groups, and the private sector to participate in governance and economic activities”

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