



Agriculture:

# State Budgets and the Maputo declaration of 2003





# 9 States partner Gates foundation on agric



**Bill Gates**

**By Segun Adebowale**

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation says it is funding six agricultural commodities value chains with emphasis on rice and yam production to ensure food sufficiently in Nigeria.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is the largest private foundation in the world, founded by Bill Gates.

Dr. Audu Grema, the Senior Program Officer, Agriculture in the West African Office of the Foundation, disclosed this in an interview with news men in Abuja.

Grema listed some agricultural projects of the foundation to include CARI-Project (rice), which was aimed at improving rice production, pest control, and variety enhancement.

Grema expressed optimism that Nigeria would soon be self-sufficient in

rice production.

He said the rice project by the foundation was currently being implemented in Cross River, Niger, Kebbi, Jigawa, Kano, Plateau and Edo, Ebonyi States.

The programme officer, however, said the Cassava Value Addition Project was based in Abeokuta at the University of Agriculture.

According to him: We also have a big yam project where we are working with private farms around Abuja, Kaduna, Niger, Ibadan, Abeokuta, Akure to enhance yam propagation technology through seeds.

We have a huge portfolio of agricultural investments in Nigeria. We work on maize, rice, yam, cassava and crop-livestock interface.

We have four strategic cassava investments that we think are critical that

we are funding across Nigeria.

In agriculture, we do not approve projects except if it has a small holder connection.

Anything we fund must have a connection with enhancing the status of small scale farmers.

Grema explained that the foundation was also working in public health, integrated vaccine delivery, routine immunisation revival across many states.

On the reports that Gates was a major propagator of Genetically Modified Organisms, the programme officer refuted the assertion, saying that the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation had no connection with GMOs.

Grema explained: Bill and Melinda Gates are not farmers; they are not into agricultural services; so, to think they will promote GMOs just to promote their businesses interest is very wrong.

## Anambra now exports Bitterleaf

At a time that the export of Nigerian foodstuffs like beans, has been criticized for substandard practices, it is gratifying that Anambra State has, in four months, reportedly exported two kinds of vegetables to Europe eight times. The vegetables include bitterleaf, which is abundant in the state. Encouraged by the massive response to the exports, it is understood that the state is about to start massive export of okro, especially the type with eight lobes which Indians and other Asians are known to cherish.

The exports are happily coming at a time the Federal Government is said to be genuinely leading the effort to diversify the country's revenue base, from petroleum which has in over one year been suffering glut in the international market, with all the attendant problems like

the collapse in price. Economists have over the centuries been talking about comparative advantage of nations in international trade. A country like Nigeria with tremendous natural resources is expected to take advantage of crude oil to build petrochemical industries and derive benefits from them.

It took a distinguished Harvard Business School professor, Michael Porter, for the world to realize that competitive advantage matters more than comparative advantage. It is not competitive advantage that flew nations like Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea to their present dizzying heights of development. In contrast, countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have humungous deposits of precious mineral resources but unfortunately rank among nations with the worst human development index (HDI).

## THE TEAM

**Director-General**  
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**Editor - in - Chief**  
Abdulrazaque BARKINDO

**Publications**  
Halima S. AHMED

**Researchers**  
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Timi OGUNBEKU

**IT**  
Bassi HEMAN

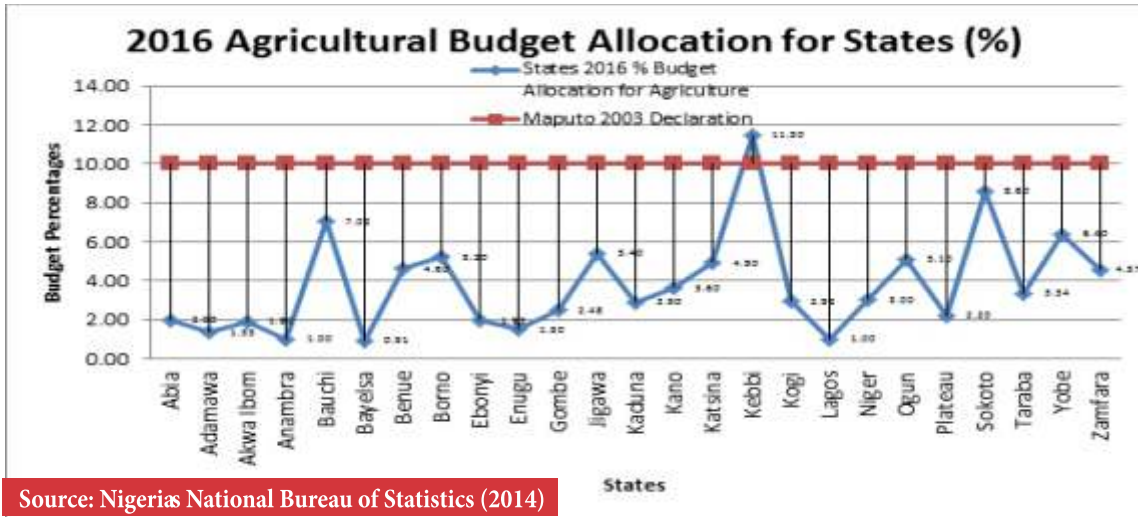
**Senior Economist**  
David NABENA

**Agric Consultant**  
Abba GAMBO

**Photography**  
Saeed SANUSI



# State's policy thrust on agric



Source: Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics (2014)

Agriculture used to be Nigeria's mainstay before attention was shifted to oil. But now that oil prices are nose-diving in the open market it has become imperative for the states to, once again, return to farming. Bunmi Akanbi, NGFs Agricultural Economist and Timilehin Ogunbeku Knowledge Management Coordinator fear, with compelling evidence, that the prospect of this happening is uninspiring based on the tenure-long projections by states and their corresponding annual budgetary allocations to agriculture, unless certain steps are taken.

For the past two years, the global economic crisis resulting from the fall in oil prices, has adversely affected national economies, especially in Nigeria, forcing the country to find alternative means of generating revenue. For this reason, states have made tenure-long projections on agriculture, which when examined alongside their corresponding budgetary provisions, especially in 2016, diminish the prospect of achieving any high-end results in food security, employment and

the overall evolution of any viable alternative to oil. Therefore, governments diversification programs which guarantee enhanced revenue generation and job opportunities have become imperative.

Experts propose that Agriculture should be revived in order to augment revenue and encourage people, most especially the youths, to engage in farming to save the states from further economic drift. However, over the years, agriculture in Nigeria has remained unattractive to young people because of failure of government to mechanize the sector and provide needed incentives. More distressing is that states have shown complacency in attaining the 10 per cent threshold as stipulated in the Maputo Declaration of 2003, more than a decade down the line.

As a result of states neglect of agriculture, the readily available manpower especially inherent in our youths has not been exploited. A recent report by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) posited that, The exodus of rural youths means fewer small-scale farmers tomorrow, which will lead

to a drastic change in the profile of farming. Below are the unemployment figures to buttress this argument.

General unemployment rate				
Year	2000	2001	2002	2003
2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
General unemployment rate (%)				
	13.1	13.6	12.6	14.8
	11.9	12.3	12.7	14.9
Source: Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics (2014)				
Year	2009	2010	2011	2012
2013	2014			
General unemployment rate (%)				
	19.7	21.4	23.9	27.4
			24.7	25.1

Something needs to be done. And urgently too. It is expected that if properly harnessed, agriculture would drive the economy and rural development with investments in relevant research and development for export crops such as cotton, groundnut, cocoa and oil palm. This is evidenced by the fact that the trade in our primary export crops are growing while more industries are also expanding their capacity to process and export. Also, research has shown that yield per

hectare in Nigeria could be increased with improved agricultural input, mechanization and irrigation. This could translate

no silver lining in the horizon in most of the States, as only Kebbi State has met and even exceeded the ten percent threshold as stipulated in the Maputo 2003 declaration, which states: Giving agriculture its rightful role can provide solutions to the current problem of unemployment and slowdown rural-urban migration. To achieve this, government should set up agricultural mechanization centers to help young farmers who lack capital, and might require farming implements like tractors, ploughs, etc which they are unable to afford. Also, there should be increase in remuneration or introduction of incentives.

Source: National Dailies, States Websites & States Budget Offices.

In the above graph, Bauchi and Sokoto states are the only other states that approach the Maputo threshold of ten per cent investments in agriculture vis-à-vis their total budget. The NGF research recommends that Agricultural practice in a developing economy should be able to enhance the development and dissemination of appropriate and efficient technologies for rapid adoption.

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# Time to move up the value chain

**M**ost farmers operate in a difficult environment and only those with skills and entrepreneurial spirit survive. Farm debt has risen steadily and producer prices have increased at a slower rate than the price of farm requisites, forcing farmers to use strategies to increase production while keeping costs down.

An obvious way to survive the cost-price squeeze is to increase the size of the operation. Economies of scale are present in most types of farming, but higher total production does not always lead to greater margins.

Farmers frequently face U-shaped long-term cost curves: as production expands, per-unit cost initially decreases; however, once a specific level of production is exceeded, costs rise again.

Larger farms offer several advantages: they have the capital to adopt expensive new technology and can fully exploit the benefits of

**Farmers receive a minor part of the consumer Naira. So it makes sense, if any value is to be added to their efforts, to shorten the distance from farm to fork by including the farmer in the business of processing their produce, writes ABDULRAZAQUE BELLO BARKINDO**

precision farming methods. Eventually, however, many of these farms reach a level of efficiency where it is difficult to achieve significant further improvement.

#### **An alternative**

There is another way to beat rising costs moving up the value chain. The greater part of the consumer's money is earned beyond the farm gate. It thus makes sense for farmers to move up the value chain and add more value on-farm before selling the product into the rest of the chain.

Nigel Kelly of the US Department of Agriculture recently pointed out that US farmers who market food directly to consumers have a greater chance of

remaining in business than similarly sized businesses that market through traditional channels. In the US, consumers currently have more opportunities to buy directly from producers than a decade ago.

Roadside farm stalls, pick-your-own farms, farmers markets as the one in Abuja and on-farm stores all provide an opportunity for consumers to interact with and buy from farmers. These farmers sell their products at higher prices than those who do not sell directly to the public.

A few South African farmers have also succeeded at selling the bulk of their products directly to the public through farm stalls and other outlets. Most agricultural prod-

ucts, however, are not in a form suitable for the consumer to buy.

Lifestyle magazines tend to idealise a rural lifestyle where people escape from the concrete jungle to farm organic geese, rabbits or other exotic animals or plants. These small enterprises are seldom really viable and those that survive have made the move from small-scale to commercial production.

Farmers who wish to sell directly to the public must either sell at very low prices or find a less price-sensitive niche market. But selling at the lowest possible price is not a sustainable strategy, and it is crucial to ensure that all costs are taken into account when planning and budgeting.

There are many hidden

costs in selling to the public, and these tend to surface only when it's already too late to reverse decisions.

Niche markets, by contrast, can be highly lucrative and a few farmers sell quite successfully at farm or food markets. The problem is that these markets are often restricted and volumes are usually not enough to enable profitable small-scale production.

The larger retail chains are usually willing to buy directly from producers, especially if there is an empowerment project involved. However, retailers often have stringent conditions attached. These add to production costs and direct sales to the major retail chains are probably not viable for most farmers.

Another option is to create a farmer-controlled business. This provides a vehicle to consolidate volumes and manage deliveries and payments. There are a small number of success stories of this type in South Africa.

## NGF Retreat

**T**he Director-General of the NGF delivering an address at the NGFS retreat which took place on the 4th and 5th of October 2016 at the Rock View Hotel in Abuja.

HALIMA S AHMED the NGFs Publications officer writes on the retreat whose theme: Repositioning the NGF Secretariat for greater relevance that the retreat sought to achieve a great team spirit and the fortification of a stronger non-partisan body which supports the governors in the delivery of the dividends of democracy within global best practices.





# Can states reinvent agriculture?

The remarkable opportunities that Nigeria's weak agricultural sector has opened up, is attracting other countries to look towards Nigeria where farmers are on the run, hunger is on the increase and food importation is on the rise.

A recent study by the Economic Research Service of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) projects decrease in this number of food insecure people in the world from 609 million people this year, 2016 to 251 million by 2025.

The main reasons for this, the USDA postulates, are an expected decrease in food prices and rising income in food-insecure countries. This is hardly encouraging since it is not, as one would expect, an increase in local food production anywhere.

The highest improvement in food security, the USDA says, is expected in Asia, where India, with more than half the region's population, will lead the way. The number of food-insecure people in Latin America and the Caribbean area is expected to fall by about 50% in the next decade.

Sub-Saharan Africa, where Nigeria is located, is the region with the highest food-insecurity in the world. Slightly more than a quarter 26% of the world's food-insecure countries are here, but the region accounts for 45% of food-insecure people. At the moment, Nigeria alone, has more than two million internally displaced persons, most of whom are subsistent farmers. This number may not regain their vocations if the country, especially the state governments do



**Benue State Governor, Samuel Ortom.**

not reinvent themselves. And so far, states are not doing enough.

Looking holistically, more than 80 % of the Nigerian population are food insecure even though they are mainly dependent on agrarian activity. We are therefore looking at more than a hundred million of the 251 million food insecure people of the world.

Even if the food security situation in Nigeria may improve, it will happen at a much slower rate than in other areas. SSA is the world's poorest region, but economic growth averaged 5%/year over the last decade. Favorable weather and strong increases in commodity prices were the main drivers of the increase in growth from the 1990s.

The USDA expects this

trend to continue, albeit with some bumps along the way. In the International Monetary Funds April 2016 World Economic Outlook, lower commodity prices and geopolitical problems are cited as reasons for slower growth in 2016. SSA economies grew by 3,4% in 2015; this is expected to slow down to 3% in 2016 and improve again to 4% in 2017, if the communal clashes and other mundane problems abate.

In 2014/2015, SSA imported 33,1 million tons of grains. Additional demand in 2016 is estimated at 33,9 million tons, increasing to 71,8 million tons by 2026.

This represents a major opportunity for farmers and agribusinesses to rise to the challenge and capture the nation's economic

recovery. This however is unlikely to happen if our produce only travel from farm to fork. There is already a very buoyant market for apple exports in the United Arab Emirates, followed by Zambia, Saudi Arabia and Mozambique. But only few commercial farmers in Nigeria are looking in that direction.

The most attractive markets for pears are the United Arab Emirates, Zambia and Qatar. Very strict phyto-sanitary measures, in many cases used as a method to keep products out, make it very difficult to export products to developed markets such as the UK and Europe.

The USDA study clearly shows that the SSA food market will not become self-sufficient soon. South Africa's highly efficient

farmers are ideally better situated to take advantage of this growing opportunity than Nigerians.

Phyto-sanitary measures are less strict and the fast development of the retail sector by SA chains has formalized the previously informal market to such an extent that it is now possible to export products to SSA and be assured of reliable payment.

State governments have an important role to play in ensuring access to these markets for Nigerian products. This includes ensuring that our farm produce are disease-free both for animals and horticulture.

Unfortunately, there is a lack of capacity in government to do this and many local exporting private farms are suffering from official neglect. Nigeria's farming expertise is also lying fallow leading to the invitation of South African farmers by the Kwara state government nearly a decade ago.

In fact, South African agriculture sector is becoming so productive that in some cases, they have been exporting products home to South Africa, adding value to them and returning them back to countries like Nigeria for higher margins. More importantly, in South Africa, the percentage of the adult population in the higher lifestyle groups has increased steadily and the development of retail stores in former informal areas has ensured that more consumers have access to a variety of food products. It is time for the Nigerian agribusiness community to pair up with state governments for greater agricultural efficiency.



# PHOTO

At the event of the September



The Chairman, NGE, Gov. Abdul Aziz Yari Abubakar (right); Gov. Aminu Tambuwal and Gov. Emmanuel Udom.



The Chairman, NGE, Gov. Abdul Aziz Yari Abubakar (left); Gov. Jibrilla Bindow and Gov. Yahaya Bello.



L-R: Go Abosede State, Re Alake A



Gov. Okezie Ikpeazu (right) arriving the venue of the recent NGF meeting.



R-L: The Chairman, NGE, Gov. Abdul Aziz Yari Abubakar; Gov. Ami of Sokoto State and the DG, NGE, AB, Okauru Esq in a chat.



Gov. Samuel Ortom (left); Gov. Yahaya Bello of Kogi State (left) and Gov. Olusegun Mimiko of Ondo State.



L-R: Gov. of Ondo State, Olusegun Mimiko; Gov. Rauf Aregbesola of Osun State and Gov Samuel Ortom of Benue State at an event recently



Governor Jibrilla Bindow of Adamawa State and ED Fin & Admin NGE, Alh. Jibia



Govern of Og

## SPEAK

### 10th Edition of the Governors' Forum



Gov. Atiku Bagudu of Kebbi State; Deputy Gov of Ogun State, Yetunde Onanuga; Abia State Gov. Okezie Ikpeazu; Deputy Gov. of Bayelsa State, Rear Admiral Gboribiogha John Jonah and the Oyo State, Chief Moses Adeniyemo.



Osun State governor, Rauf Aregbesola (left) and Katsina State governor, Aminu Bello Masari



The Chairman NGF, Abdul Aziz Yari Abubakar (middle); Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Alh. Lai Mohammed and the Executive Director, Research and Strategy, NGF, Alh. L.O.T Shittu.



Gov. Tamba Umar of Zambezi State and Governor Emmanuel Okowa of Delta State and Governor Tanko Al-Makura



L-R: Delta State Governor, Emmanuel Okowa; Abia State Gov. Okezie Ikpeazu and Chairman NGF, Abdul Aziz Yari Abubakar



Gov. of Kwara State, Abdulfatah Ahmed (left) and the governor of Zambezi State, Senator Ibikunle Amosun.



Gov Godwin Obaseki of Edo State (right) and the DG NGF



# The crucial role of women in agriculture

**W**omen in Africa are key contributors to economic growth and global food security, but they still face many challenges, according to Maureen Bandama, agricultural project consultant at IQ Logistica Investments.

The dominant narrative of women in agriculture, specifically in Africa, is one of perpetual struggle and cyclical poverty. We seldom hear about their successes and triumphs. Yet the role played by African women in agribusiness is as complex as it is significant.

Not all women in agriculture are subsistence or smallholder farmers, or provide their labour to the industry. Across the agricultural spectrum, you also find commercial makers, producers, processors, entrepreneurs, scientists and policy

It is a challenge to define the crucial role of African women in agriculture and agribusiness, largely because it is such a rich and heterogeneous group of people within a large and non-homogeneous locality. For instance, even within the smallholder farmers group, there is a great deal of diversity.

Sizes of farms differ, and farmers objectives range from production as the main source of food and income, to production as an extra source of food and income, to production for leisure. African women access to resources and information, as well as their needs, can be as diverse as they are. But they all make some contribution to the sector and the economy.

There are significant gender disparities in the way that key resources essential for success in agriculture are distributed across Africa. Access to land,

inputs, assets, markets, information and knowledge, time, decision-making authority and income still present a challenge for women in the sector.

Studies by the UNs Food and Agriculture Organisation, Farming First, and other organisations consistently show that throughout the world, women farmers control less land and make far less use of improved technologies and inputs such as fertiliser. They tend to have less access to credit and insurance and are less likely to receive extension services, which are the main source of information on new technologies in the developing world.

They are thus generally less well-resourced, and operate largely in the informal economy.

Despite women accounting for 60% to 80% of smallholder farmers in the developing world, because of legal and cultural constraints in terms of land inheritance, ownership and use, fewer than 20% of landholders are women. This figure varies widely between countries. It ran from less than 5% in Mali to over 30% in Botswana. However, in sub-Saharan Africa, on average only 15% of landholders are women and they receive less than 10% of available credit and 7% of extension services.

Limited access to agricultural extension services prevents many women from adopting the technologies that would help them increase their yields. As a result, an estimated yield gap between men and women of 20% to 30% has been observed, and this hinders the growth of the agricultural sector in many developing countries.

However, the vast majority of studies indicate



**Female farmers at work**

that women would be able to achieve the same yields as men if they had equal access to production resources and services. These include technologies that reduce time spent in production. Of the 250 million tons of crops grown in sub-Saharan Africa in 2012, a total of 75% were grown by smallholder farmers and 75% of these were weeded by hand. Between 50% and 70% of these farmers time was spent on weeding, and 90% of women smallholder farmers carry out this task themselves.

Bridging this gender gap would not only boost the yields and therefore food and nutrition security globally, but would free women up to participate in other economically viable activities that contribute to the economy.

Cultural norms that perpetuate the perception that knowledge has to be transmitted to men

first are some of the constraints. Other factors include discrimination, the lack of acknowledgement of women's role in agricultural supply chains, and the lower proportion of women employed as extension service workers. When a significant proportion of the population is unable to participate at optimal levels, it means that everyone is losing out.

Improving transformation, removing infrastructure constraints, and encouraging rural women's participation in farmers organisations and cooperatives can help to achieve economies of scale to access markets and reduce isolation, while building confidence, leadership and security.

Globally, female farmers receive only 5% of all agricultural extension services, and only 15% of the world's extension agents are women. In addition, only 10% of total aid received by the

agricultural and fisheries sectors goes to women.

The greatest challenges of the 21st century are the increasing demand on food, water and energy from a growing population, and climate change. Agriculture and smallholders are central to both, perhaps nowhere more so than in Africa.

Therefore, opportunities for women in agriculture and agribusiness lie in understanding the challenges of tomorrow and positioning themselves to meet these challenges. These opportunities are as diverse as the women in the sector.

Currently, smallholders manage only 12% of all agricultural land, but produce more than 80%, in value terms, of the world's food (FAO, 2015). The latest estimates show that feeding a world population of 9.1 billion people by 2050 will require raising overall food production by about 70% (FAO, 2015).





# Too expensive equipment, too little gain

**The strategic application of ICT in agriculture, the largest employer of labour in Nigeria, offers the best opportunity for economic growth and poverty alleviation in the country (both at the state and national levels), HEMAN BASSI, NGFs in-house IT specialist enjoins the subnational economy to beware of the technology trap! New equipment may help, but not if you're overspending on it.**

Technology can be highly seductive, as any parent of a teenager will know. It is very easy to get so involved with technology that you neglect the other important aspects of managing a farm. Nigeria's agriculture sector, specifically crop production, is largely traditional and practiced by smallholders and pastoralists. This type of agriculture is predominantly rain-fed, has low-yield, and lacks access to critical information, market facilitation, and financial intermediation services.

The role that ICT can play in addressing these challenges is increasing as innovations evolve every day. Mobile technology, on the other hand, is increasingly being adopted as the technology of choice for delivery of ICT services and solutions.

New technology usually follows what is known as the Gartner hype cycle. First, there is the trigger the announcement of some new advance. Then there's the hype, leading to inflated expectations about the benefits of the

technology. This is followed by a period of disillusionment, when it becomes clear that the claims were vastly exaggerated.

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The role that ICT can play in addressing these challenges is increasing as innovations evolve every day. Mobile technology, on the other hand, is increasingly being adopted as the technology of choice for delivery of ICT services and solutions. Considering the population growth and the urgent need for food sufficiency in Nigeria, there arises the need to intensify the rate of food crop production so as to compensate for the increasing food demand, given Nigeria's wet and dry seasons in order to support all year long crop production. A method to reduce the problems as-

sociated with farming and as well increase food crop production is the implementation of a controlled technique to meet the soil moisture requirement for different food crops grown in respective locations.

Automatic irrigation is a form of irrigation system designed to control the irrigation in accordance with the crop requirements. In this system information of various parameters such as soil moisture content, humidity, etc., are sent to a microcontroller by sensors. The microcontroller uses this information to regulate irrigation by turning, on or off, water supply.

Precision crop farming technology and the use of GM seed have probably reached this stage. Both enable farmers to produce more efficiently.

Two types of technology are used in agriculture scale-neutral and scale-dependent. The first can be employed irrespective of the size of the farming operation. GM maize seed, for example, can be used by both the small-scale and larger farmer.





## Activity page October December 2016



The DirectorGeneral, NGF (4 left) when he recieved Waziri Adio, The Executive Secretary NEITI and his management on a courtesy call on the NGE, in Abuja, recently.



The DirectorGeneral, NGF stressing a point when the DG, National Identity Card Management Commission visited the NGF Secretariat in Asokoro, Abuja. In white is Engr. Abdulaziz and his staff.



The DirectorGeneral, NGF shaking hands with an official of RTI as the staff of RTI look in admiration



NGF staff in a group photograph when he recieved a team from DFID at the Secretariat in Abuja, recently.

**PHOTOS:  
SAEED  
SANUSI**



# Post insurgency agricultural development in the north-east

By Prof Abba Gambo Agric Consultant, NGF

The unfortunate violent mayhem unleashed on the nation by the dreaded Boko Haram sect has led to the death of about 20,000 people, displacement of 5 million people, burning of houses, markets, farms and in some cases whole villages were wiped away from the face of the earth.

Borno State, being the epicenter of the insurgency had 21 out of its 27 Local Government Areas sacked, five first class Monarchs had to relocate to Maduguri, and the inhabitants of the sacked LGAs became refugees in Camps, mostly schools in Maidugiri.

The feeding, shelter, clothing, medicare and education of mostly the children was cut short: An other unfortunate scenario is the fact that the original students of the secondary schools, converted into IDP Camps had to stay away from school for three years.

The North-East is purely agrarian, with more than 90% of the population directly involved in Agriculture. There are no farms in Borno State now, there are no farmers either, as all the farmers are crammed into the 19 different IDP Camps.

Maiduguri the State capital with an initial population of 1 million, now houses more than 3 million people thereby overstressing every single service.

The Borno State Government stated that is spending N660 million per month for the feeding of the IDPs. The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) could not cope, as constant skirmishes started manifesting

in the Camps. NEMA had to intervene, and when the unfortunate pictures of starving malnourished children started coming out from the Bama IDP Camp, the World responded International Red Cross, Doctors without borders, USAID, Dangote Foundation, Government of Kuwait, USA, UK, Saudi Arabia, AU, ECOWAS etc. all contributed massively to alleviate the suffering of the IDPs. But, for how long would the State Government keep the IDPs in the Camps? With the massive successes made by the Nigerian Military in the fight against the terrorists, the State Government should fashion out a marshal plan for the return of the IDPs back to their towns, villages and of course farms.

For a very quick and flawless Post-Insurgency agricultural development, I recommend as follows:

1. Genuine professional counseling to all the IDPs
2. Comprehensive medical check-ups
3. Sweeping of their towns, villages and farms for land mines.
4. Massive cleaning of the farm lands, and indeed additional lands for increased hectarages.
5. Specially trained extension agents to guide the farmers on the modern rudiments of farming
6. Provision by the government of basic farm implements, tools, and inputs.
7. Provision of new improved hybrid seeds/seedlings.
8. Introduction of new improved breeds of livestock
9. Access to credit
10. Elderly women can be given two goats

**The Northeast has suffered comprehensive collateral damage from insurgency. NGFs Agricultural consultant, PROF. ABBA GAMBO analyses the situation and makes recommendation for the region to be reignited back to life.**



## Life gradually returning to the Northeast

(male and female), to be repaid after a year. IFAD tried this in Yobe State and the two goats became six after just a year.

11. Rebuilding of their markets

12. Good marketing board to mop up all har-

vested produce.

13. Increased communal policing among the citizenry is also required

Perhaps, with the above efforts, Borno, and indeed the North-East shall rise again to continue the supply of livestock (cattle),

beans, fish, millet, sorghum, groundnuts, hides and skin, pepper, tomatoes, onions, watermelon and several other agricultural produce to the nation and the 3 neighbouring countries of Chad, Niger and Cameroon.



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