



MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND
NATIONAL PLANNING



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COMMUNIQUE

Preamble

ActionAid Nigeria (AAN), Oxfam in Nigeria, the Ministry of Budget and National Planning, and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, and ECOWAS Commission organised a 2-day Stakeholders Consultative Meeting on the 2019 Agriculture Budget at Swiss International D'Palms Airport Hotels, Lagos from 25th – 26th June 2018 to:

- Facilitate conversations amongst key stakeholders connecting the continental framework, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) targets and Government intentions within the Agriculture Promotion Policy
- Further pre-validate the National Agricultural Investment Plan 2 (NAIP2)
- Facilitate more citizens' inputs into the 2019 Agriculture Budget, creating ownership, linking and integrating programmes that will help Nigeria achieve food security, wealth creation and deliverables within the continental CAADP Results Framework
- Support effective biennial reporting by Nigeria to the African Union Heads of States and Government in line with the Malabo Declaration and Commitments of 2014.

Participants included the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD); the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development; House Committee on Agriculture and Production Services, other MDAs within the Agriculture sector; Ministry of Budget and National Planning (MBNP); some State Ministries of Budget and Economic Planning as well as their Agriculture counterparts; Farmers' Organizations; representatives of Small Scale Women Farmers Organization in Nigeria (SWOFON); representatives of Association of Small-Scale Agro Producers in Nigeria (ASSAPIN); Media, Academia, Research & Finance Institutes; and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Youth groups.

COMMENDATIONS

- The Agriculture Budgets since 2016 till 2018 has been increasing both in absolute terms and as a percentage of the total budget, which we commend, but it still has not attained the 10% required to support at least 6% growth rate for the sector as postulated in the CAADP framework.

- We also commend the allocation of a higher capital component than recurrent for developmental projects in the 2018 agriculture budget; this should be maintained and increased.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

During the consultation, participants made the following observations as core issues to be addressed in the 2019 agriculture budget, APP implementation and preparation for the biennial reporting:

1. Farmers, especially women smallholder framers who are producers of over 60% of the food consumed in Nigeria, are not currently involved in the agriculture budgeting processes as there is no formal strategy for their involvement resulting in untapped potential of the women farmers and the attendant low productivity.
2. The challenges faced by the sector include non-compliance to the 10% national annual budget for agriculture as provided for in the Maputo/Malabo Declaration; and lack of timely passage and full release of budgeted funds for agricultural development.
3. Lack of stakeholders' (Ministries, Departments and Agencies, State Ministries, Farmer Organizations, CSOs, Private Sector, etc.) knowledge on the CAADP/Malabo performance indicators.
4. Most of the capital projects in the agriculture sector fail due to poor or zero monitoring by sector MDAs, Ministry of Budget and National Planning, and relevant Committees of the National Assembly; and poor coordination of the Monitoring & Evaluation system between sectors and tiers of government.
5. The agriculture budget is not gender responsive as some budget line items for women farmers are lumped with that of youths and this limits the application of funds to issues faced by women farmers and tracking of such line items is challenging.
6. The 2018 Agriculture budget of some sector MDAs contains some allocations that are unclear, ambiguous, over-bloated, and lumped up; the problem being that their monitoring is almost impossible.
7. That there is huge investment in procurement of heavy expensive machines that are not always appropriate to the needs of the users and unsuitable for the topography and size of land cultivated by such farmers. These technologies are also hard to maintain and usually gets dumped when faults develop, leading to wastage.
8. Although the Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) & Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) are related in that both are policies of the same administration, a few inconsistencies were observed. The ERGP should adopt provisions and recognition of food as a human right issue as contained in the APP.
9. The stakeholders' consultative meeting should be taken as an integral part of the budgeting process, as it is productive and it allows stakeholders to make inputs in the pre-budget discussions and ownership within the sector.
10. Agriculture budgeting and planning is currently challenged by inadequate gender disaggregated data which makes planning and reaching target groups difficult to ascertain.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Adopt use of the CAADP/Malabo indicators at state level and build the capacity of state-level stakeholders on the CAADP/Malabo performance indicators.
2. The gains made by the sector MDAs as mentioned in the commendations should be sustained and improved upon in the 2019 agriculture budget, the GES should be retained, and the budget should be increased to address the inputs gaps experienced by smallholder farmers, especially women.
3. For 2019 and subsequent years, agriculture budgeting and other policymaking processes, a strategy for involving and mainstreaming the concerns of smallholder farmers should be developed. For example, leaders of women farmer organizations and other smallholder farmers, vulnerable groups such as farmers living with disabilities, and CSOs should be invited to budget preparatory meetings before the release of Budget Call Circulars.
4. There should be political will to allocate at least 10% of annual budgets and actuals of revenues to the agriculture sector to increase the realisation of the Maputo and Malabo benchmarks for agricultural investment. Buffer funds from sources such as Natural Resource Funds and Climate Resource Funds may also be considered given the strategic importance of the sector. Additionally, given the time bound nature of farming activities, agricultural budgets must be released in time and fully to enable farmers plant in due season.
5. There should be a scale up of investment in types of public spending that has been shown by evidence to yield better economic outcomes. This includes support for smallholder farmers especially women and youths in agriculture, agricultural finance/credit, agricultural insurance, farm inputs, extension services, Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA), labour saving technologies, and in research and development.
6. The implementation of Agricultural projects in the budgets needs to be monitored by all relevant stakeholders such as FMARD; State Ministries of Agriculture; and Agriculture Committees in the NASS using an adapted CAADP Results measurement framework and reports documented, shared and reviewed to enhance lessons learning and improvement in budget implementation.
7. There is the need to ensure that Nigeria re-engages in the CAADP/ECOWAP/NAIP formulation process. The APP can be mainstreamed in the NAIP.
8. Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and general food safety issues have been identified with some Nigerian agricultural export commodities such as yam and beans. It is important that food safety issues for both domestic consumption and export markets is improved upon.
9. The 2019 and subsequent years agriculture budget should be gender sensitive and responsive by providing line items that address specific challenges that affect women farmers different from men as well as avoid lumping up budget for women farmers and other groups such as youths.
10. At the federal and states, all the unclear budget lines both in the capital and recurrent aspects of the budget should be reviewed for clarity, appropriate size and efficiency and all inappropriate line items should be expunged or amended.

11. The sector should invest more in locally fabricated simple farming machines according to the soil requirements of Nigerian agro-ecological zones which the smallholder farmers can easily access and manage.
12. As a matter of principle, the 2019 budget for agriculture and rural development should be in conformity with the APP and the ERGP.
13. The FMARD should develop an implementation strategy, as well as develop a result framework, to align the APP to the CAADP Results Framework and easy Biennial reporting to the Heads of States.
14. FMARD, State Ministries of Agriculture and other Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) should create a budget line to continue the implementation of the consultative meeting annually.
15. The FMARD and State Ministries of Agriculture should work closely with National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and States Bureau of Statistics (SBS) to develop tools and mechanisms for planning and developing Gender Responsive budgeting and disaggregated agricultural data for better sector performance.

NEXT STEPS

- FMARD should subject the Draft National Agricultural Investment Plan2 (NAIP2) to proper stakeholders' validation
- AAN to transmit Communique to relevant MDAs and Institutions as well as all participants
- The communique is to be accompanied with advisory notes as well as request for advocacy visits
- State teams headed by Directors present at the meeting should be formed to lead advocacy at state-levels

Endorsed By

List of Organizations, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, and Institutes that participated in the Stakeholders Consultative Meeting on 2019 Agriculture Budget

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Natural resources, Ebonyi State
2. Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD)
3. Ministry of Budget and National Planning
4. Federal Ministry of Finance
5. Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute (ARMTI), Ilorin
6. Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR), Benin City
7. National Root Crops Research Institute, Umudike
8. National Institute for Fresh Water Fisheries (NIFFR), New Bussa, Niger State
9. Institute for Agricultural Research, Samaru, Zaria
10. National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT), Ibadan
11. Institute of Agricultural Research and Training, Ibadan
12. National Agriculture Extension Research Liaison Services, Zaria
13. Ministry of Agriculture, Bauchi
14. Ministry of Agriculture, Ondo
15. Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Ondo
16. Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Bauchi State
17. Ministry of Budget and Planning, Kogi State

18. Federal Capital Territory Agricultural and Rural Development Secretariat
19. Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ebonyi State
20. Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Delta State
21. Ministry of Finance, Gombe State
22. Ministry of Agriculture, Gombe
23. Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Kwara State
24. Ministry of Budget and Planning, Kwara
25. Ministry of Agriculture, Kogi State
26. Ministry of Agriculture, Adamawa
27. Ministry of Budget and Planning, Adamawa
28. Ministry of Agriculture, Kebbi
29. Ministry of Budget and Planning, Kebbi
30. Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN)
31. Senate Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
32. House of Representative Committee on Rural Development
33. Bank of Agriculture (BOA)
34. The Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA)
35. Association of Small Scale Agro Producers in Nigeria (ASSAPIN)
36. Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)
37. BudgIT
38. Oxfam
39. Activista Nigeria
40. ActionAid Nigeria
41. National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS)
42. ECOWAS/ReSAKSS WA
43. News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)
44. Daily Trust
45. Ray Power F.M
46. Premium Times
47. Radio Nigeria
48. Blue Print
49. Participatory Development Alternative, Ebonyi
50. Centre for Community Empowerment and Poverty Eradication, Kwara
51. Participation Initiative for Behavioral Change in Development (PIBCID), Kogi
52. Small Scale Women Farmers Organization in Nigeria (SWOFON)
53. Hope for the Lonely, Gombe
54. Environmental and Rural Mediation Centre (ENVIRUMEDIC), Delta
55. ONE
56. Justice Development and Peace Commission, Ondo
57. Fahimta Women and Youths Development Initiative, Bauchi
58. Synergos
59. Trade Initiative Network (TNI)
60. Development Exchange Center (DEC), Kebbi
61. Christian Rural and urban Development Association of Nigeria (CRUDAN), Adamawa
62. Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA)
63. Tree Initiative
64. West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), Nigeria
65. Center for Social Justice (CSJ)
66. Nigerian Women in Agricultural Research and Development (NiWARD)