



Nigeria and FAO

Partnering for sustainable development and food security and nutrition

Since the establishment of the FAO Representation in Nigeria, the Organization has provided unabated support to the country in the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and projects in food, agriculture and natural resources. This cooperation aims to improve food security and nutrition and reduce poverty in a broad-based, and equitable manner. The focus is on enhancing the livelihoods of smallholders in a way that is technically, economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.



Established in 1977, the FAO Representation in Nigeria is pleased to be celebrating its 40th anniversary

Youth Employment in Agriculture Programme (YEAP)

Although Nigeria's economy has continued to witness appreciable economic growth during the past few years, this has not translated into poverty reduction and job creation, especially for young people. Only a small fraction of the 4 to 5 million young people who enter the labour market each year are finding formal employment.

The creation of decent employment and development for youth are core pillars of the presidential Agricultural Transformation Agenda, and agriculture is recognized in Nigeria as a significant source of employment. Under this umbrella, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) is implementing a nation-wide Youth Employment in Agriculture Programme (YEAP) to develop 750 000 young commercial farmers and agri-business entrepreneurs for the country. Launched in September 2013, YEAP focuses on decent employment creation and innovative enterprise development for young women and men along priority value chains in targeted local economic areas. FAO is partnering with the FMARD to strengthen capacities at federal and state level to implement YEAP, and it has provided technical support in developing an investment plan, which has since been allocated approximately US\$235 million by the Government.

FAO will continue to provide support to the Government in the design and implementation of YEAP, focusing on the

Matching FAO's expertise to Nigeria's development priorities

FAO's current field programme in Nigeria is guided by the **Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2013-2017**, which describes the five broad priority areas and outcomes for FAO assistance in the country:

- **Improvement in national food and nutrition security**, through gender-responsive policies, strategies and programmes addressing food insecurity and malnutrition for vulnerable groups
- **Support for agricultural policy and regulatory framework**, with inclusive and evidenced-based development of policies and strategies for agriculture and natural resources, and improved regulatory framework
- **Support to the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) for priority value chains and promote decent employment for youth and women**, supporting practices that increase agricultural productivity and creating an enabling environment for increased market access and improved employment for youth and women in priority value chains
- **Sustainable management of natural resources**, by strengthening capacities of relevant stakeholders to sustainably manage natural resources and climate change
- **Improved disaster risk reduction and emergency management**, through the systematic application of Integrated Disaster Management and Response Systems by 2017

Jointly developed with the Government, the CPF was prepared in close collaboration with key ministries, departments and agencies in the Government, and in consultation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs) and major development partners. The CPF reflects relevant national development plans and strategies in the field of agriculture and related sectors as well as FAO's Strategic Objectives and regional priorities.

creation of an enabling policy environment. This entails policy advice that mainstreams decent employment in agricultural policies and programmes for youth and women; an enabling institutional environment, through the promotion of inter-institutional collaboration and partnership, promotion of youth-friendly information and communication technologies for knowledge management and dissemination; and facilitation of training initiatives that teach agricultural, business and life skills for young agricultural entrepreneurs for the selected priority value chains.

CONTACTS

FAO Representation in Nigeria
Old CBN Building N°4 Zaria Street Off Samuel Ladoké
Akintola Boulevard Garkii II
Abuja, Nigeria
Tel.: +234-9-7812155
E-mail: FAO-NG@fao.org

South-South Cooperation links Nigeria, China and FAO

From increasing the vitamin content of eggs to improving water management in rice fields, from building floating fish cages to introducing beekeeping – the impact of a major FAO initiative for food security can be seen throughout Nigeria. A group of Chinese experts and technicians are working in the country through a South-South Cooperation (SSC) arrangement launched by FAO. The two-phase effort, mainly funded by the Government of Nigeria, supports Nigeria's National Programme for Food Security.

The first phase, which spanned 2003-2007, saw some 500 Chinese technicians complete 3 736 field visits, conduct more than 500 demonstrations and carry out more than 200 microprojects. The programme reached nationwide,

providing support in forestry, aquaculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and crop intensification. It introduced activities ranging from greenhouse production and fruit-tree propagation to drip irrigation for water management and fish-cage technology for the production of catfish. This led not only to improved yields and livelihoods, but also to replication by farmers' organizations that had been supported by the initiative. Due to the success of the first phase, the project's reputation grew, allowing the second phase to be more demand driven. It now responds to individual states' requests for specific types of support. A total 190 experts and technicians are committed to helping Nigeria's agricultural sector improve productivity and strengthen capacities, not only of the farmers but also of processors, farm managers and extension staff.

"We have a shared commitment to reduce the agricultural divide and guarantee food security through enhanced South-South cooperation in agriculture."

FAO Director-General

Strengthening national seed systems

The importance of seed to Nigeria's agricultural development cannot be overemphasized. Improved seed is one of the most important inputs for increasing agricultural production and therefore holds the key to achieving great socioeconomic benefit to human welfare. Seed plays a catalytic role in the spread of improved technology that is essential for increasing agricultural productivity. The development and adoption of improved seeds have been shown to both improve the availability of food – at prices profitable for the producers and affordable by the consumers – and reduce rural poverty in many developing nations. Therefore, making high quality seed available to Nigerian farmers is necessary for the transformation of the predominantly subsistence agricultural production system to achieve meaningful increase in agricultural productivity in the country.

The project seeks to develop and initiate implementation of strategies to strengthen a sustainable national seed system for selected staple foods in Nigeria. FAO will work with the Government to strengthen institutions supporting crop seed production, quality control and seed supply and distribution. The outcome will enhance the capacity of the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC) as a service and regulatory body, seek and identify ways to improve and strengthen community based seed systems and promote increased participation of large- and medium-sized private sector entities involved in the seed industry. The intended and primary beneficiaries of the proposed project will be smallholder farmers, in particular millions of women and men small-scale farmers who are the main producers of the staple foods.

