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It's another moment to reflect on our progress!

Dear partners,

Once again many thanks to you for your support and collaboration that have been critical in enabling FAO to carry on with its mandate in Nigeria towards alleviating food insecurity and malnutrition in the country. Thank you a lot!

In this issue you will read about the results of our joint efforts and activities with the Government of Nigeria and its various institutions responsible for the development of the agriculture sector and natural resources management.

You will also appreciate testimonies by some of the beneficiaries of our interventions especially in the northeast region on how they are working towards restoring their livelihoods from the effects of the prolonged armed conflict in the area.

During this time too we held several bilateral meetings and conducted field visits with some of our partners to review progress of our field programme work.

FAO remains committed to continue collaborating with our partners in supporting Nigeria to ensure food security, nutrition and better livelihoods through improved agriculture and sustainable natural resources management.

Enjoy your reading!



Fred Kafeero

FAO Representative in Nigeria
and to ECOWAS

NIHORT appreciates FAO's support in realising its mission, vision

The National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT) has commended the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for supporting its work with the aim of improving food security and nutrition in the country.

The appreciation was recently made in Abuja by NIHORT's Executive Director, Dr. Lawal Attanda, when he and his delegation paid a courtesy call to the FAO's Representative in Nigeria and to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Fred Kafeero.

Among the projects supported by FAO at the institution include promotion of biotechnology use to boost banana and plantain production; and the development of integrated pest management and bio-rational solution for *tuta absoluta* containment and control in Nigeria.

"NIHORT is therefore grateful to FAO for equipping and upgrading its tissue culture facilities resulting into a number of benefits including efficiency and inclusiveness in research and production activities, shifting from conventional methods to more advanced models of producing planting materials, among others," he said.

According to him, the invasion of a pest – tomato leafminer *Tuta absoluta* nicknamed *tomato ebola* in 2015 completely grounded the national tomato value chain threatening efforts by the Federal Government of Nigeria in the area of food

security.

On his side, Mr. Kafeero commended NIHORT for their commitment in the development of the horticultural sector in Nigeria and reiterated FAO's commitment in helping the country to tap its agricultural potential to ensure food security and nutrition.

"FAO's mandate is to ensure that the world is food secure and that malnutrition is addressed through sustainable use of natural resources. Good to see that you're not only targeting the local market but also export and therefore the issue of food safety becomes paramount," he said.



FAO Nigeria's Representative, Fred Kafeero (right) handing over publications by FAO to NIHORT Executive Director, Dr. Lawal Attanda after their meeting.



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Ms. Fontaine (centre) speaking with one of the lactating mothers who had shown up at the food distribution centre.

ECHO's Regional Food Security Expert visits FAO and WFP projects in Bama, Borno

On June 28, 2022 the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) Regional Food Security Expert for Central and West Africa, Charlotte Fontaine, visited some of the projects by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) in Bama local government authority, Borno state northeast Nigeria.

Ms. Fontaine was conducting a monitoring exercise with the aim of getting a picture of programmatic activities that are implemented by FAO and WFP in the region.

ECHO, together with other development partners, has been on the forefront in supporting the humanitarian interventions in the region which includes Adamawa and Yobe states that have also been adversely affected by a prolonged armed conflict.

During the tour, Ms. Fontaine visited an aquaculture project cluster by youth, livestock restocking and held a meeting with beneficiaries who received dry and rainy seasons' inputs on the FAO side and a food distribution point by WFP in a camp for internally displaced people.

Besides, the ECHO official also met and talked with community leaders.

Commenting on the visit, FAO Representative in Nigeria and to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Fred Kafeero, noted that the ECHO's partnership has made a positive difference in improving food security, nutrition and livelihoods of millions of people in northeast region of the country.

Stakeholders call for concerted efforts to ensure food safety in Nigeria

To mark the World Food Safety Day, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and World Health Organization in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre organized a special panel discussion in Abuja.

With the topic 'Safer food for better health in Nigeria - the role of governments (federal and states), development partners, experts, private sector and the general public' the discussion attracted the participation of key stakeholders in the country.

Opening of the panel discussion, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Matthias Schmale, stressed the need for raising awareness on food safety as a priority in the country. "We need to raise awareness and sensitize Nigerians on the dangers of unsafe food because it really does not get adequate attention. A message at the core of this campaign is: 'If it is not safe, it is not food'."

The Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire, represented by Permanent Secretary, Mahmuda Mamman, said that over 200 diseases are caused by eating contaminated foods resulting in the magnitude of public health burden due to food-borne diseases. "This day is important it is meant to draw attention and inspire action to prevent, detect and manage food-borne risks and assure safer food for better health," he said.

FAO Representative in Nigeria, Fred Kafeero, said effective food safety and quality control systems are key to safeguarding people's health and fostering economic development.

WHO Representative, Dr. Walter Mulombo, stressed the need for Nigeria to improve food supply chains to prevent hazards, microbial pathogens, chemical residues, biotoxins and other noxious substances from getting into the food.



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Federal Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary, Mahmuda Mamman (second right) officially opening the panel discussion in Abuja.

10-year plan to support Nigeria to increase catfish production by 20 percent

Nigeria's huge catfish sector can improve production and offer better jobs without additional burden on the environment, according to a ten-year development plan presented today to some 50 stakeholders and experts, who discussed concrete action to achieve the strategy's ambitious goals.

"Nigeria is the world's largest producer of African catfish in which millions of people's livelihoods depend," said Ime S. Umoh, Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), at a meeting in Lagos today, where the ten-year plan for the sustainable development of Nigeria's catfish sub-sector was presented.

He added: "Our goal is to improve domestic catfish production, not only in quantity, but also in quality, while providing better jobs for our people and making sure no harm is done to the environment."

The strategy, developed with the technical support by the global fish value chain development initiative 'FISH4ACP' with stakeholders from across the Nigerian catfish industry, lays down a roadmap for better quality and increased production of fresh and processed catfish, more income and employment for millions of small-scale farmers and workers and a climate adapted approach that would reduce environmental and health impacts.

By 2032, the plan foresees a 20 percent increase of catfish production that would lead to 30 per cent more benefit, in particular for small-scale aquaculture producers.

At the same time, there would be a 10 percent growth of employment and the health of workers would improve due to measures reducing air pollution, while at the same time halting deforestation, protecting waters and wildlife.

"This ambitious plan for a more sustainable catfish sub-sector offers prosperity to small-scale producers and better jobs to fisherfolks while reducing its carbon footprint fitting into the sustainable development agenda that Europe supports," said Urszula Sołkiewicz, International Partnerships Officer of the Delegation of the European Union (EU) in Nigeria adding:

"FISH4ACP's is a flagbearer of the EU's development support

About the Fish4ACP Programme

FISH4ACP is an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (contributing to food and nutrition security, economic prosperity and job creation by ensuring the economic, social and environmental sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture value chains in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

FISH4ACP aims to tackle some of the underlying challenges in building sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

These include low economic performance, limited market access and poor social and environmental sustainability.

The programme is focused on enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of value chains, while ensuring that economic improvements go hand in hand with environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness.

FISH4ACP works with twelve value chains in twelve ACP countries including Nigeria by paying special attention to small and medium-sized businesses; because of their potential to stimulate inclusive growth and bolster food security, particularly those for women and young people.

FISH4ACP contributes to the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially the fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 on the conservation of the world's ocean, seas and marine resources.

for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture - it will make a difference to Nigeria's catfish sector."

Nigeria is one of the twelve countries where FISH4ACP, an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) implemented by FAO with funding from the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), works to make fish value chains more productive and sustainable.

Over the next two days, some 50 stakeholders and experts involved in Nigeria's catfish aquaculture will discuss the strategy in detail until they agree on a set of concrete activities to carry them out. It will set the agenda for FISH4ACP in the years to come and beyond its completion in 2025.

"FAO is happy to support Nigeria's ambition to increase and improve its domestic catfish production," said Fred Kafeero, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s Representative in Nigeria and to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

"FISH4ACP's innovative value chain approach is a fine example of how FAO's core objectives of Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment, and a Better Life can become a reality in Nigeria," he added.

The banner features logos for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the European Union, and German Cooperation. The text reads: **FISH4ACP** Unlocking the potential of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. **Lagos, Nigeria** **28-29 JUNE** **Farmed catfish value chain Planning workshop**. A vertical column of icons on the right side depicts various aspects of aquaculture and food systems, including a fish, a person, a boat, a fish farm, and a fish being processed.

Nigeria – FAO piloting drip irrigation farming system in Kano



Participants in discussions during the inception workshop of the drip irrigation project that was held in Abuja

To ensure sustainable food production through developed and efficient irrigation systems, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Federal Ministry of Water Resources (FMWR) signed an agreement to implement a Technical Cooperation Programme for promoting drip irrigation at selected irrigation schemes in the country.

An inception workshop organized in Abuja on 16th June 2022 by the Government through the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to inform and sensitize project stakeholders and farmers on the expected results and implementing strategy of the innovative efficient water management systems.

The Minister of Water Resources, Hon. Engineer Suleiman Adamu, while declaring the event open said that the Government's expectation was that reasonable outcomes

from the project would address national challenges of food security and poverty reduction, a lot of which are aimed towards reducing dependency on rain-fed agriculture through sustainable and efficient use of water resources, particularly for irrigation.

Represented by the Director Water Quality Control and Sanitation Emmanuel Olusola Awe, the Minister said that the anticipated increase in food demand as a result of rise in human population in the years to come necessitates a shift in from improper water management practices to a more sustainable land and water management approaches.

The FAO Representative in Nigeria and to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Fred Kafeero, while reiterating the commitment of FAO Representation in Nigeria to continually provide technical support to development projects and strategies targeted at reducing poverty. Kafeero said that the pilot programme aims at providing lessons and best practices that will guide adaptation across other River Basin Development Authorities in Nigeria. He was represented by the Assistant FAO Representative Programme, Suleiman Abubakar.

The pilot project, designed by the Department of Irrigation and Drainage of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, is an initiative to compare low energy drip based irrigated farming system with a view of coming up with some irrigation parameters such as the volume of water use, quantity of crops produced, cost of power consumed, labour cost etc. It is going to be sited in Gari Irrigation project under the Hadejia - Ja'amare River Basin Development Authority in Kano State.

Government and FAO hold joint programme review meeting in Abuja

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) together with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) on June 28, 2022 held a joint biannual programme implementation progress review meeting in Abuja.

The regular meeting is always held between FAO and FMARD senior and technical experts to review the progress of FAO's work in the country and identify government priority actions requiring technical support of FAO for the period under review.

FMARD Permanent Secretary, Dr. Ernest Umakhihe, led a team of Directors from the ministry in meeting with their counterparts who were led by the FAO Representative in Nigeria and to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Fred Kafeero.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for FAO to share with FMARD several issues that required Government intervention in accelerating food security and nutrition through agricultural development.



Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development officials in a joint programme progress review meeting with FAO officials and experts in Abuja

FAO equips farmers' trainers with innovations to boost agricultural production

In a bid to support smallholder farmers with innovative approaches, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has equipped 51 trainers with knowledge on the Farmer Field School (FFS) Approach from Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, Sokoto and Taraba states.

This was done through a three-week training that took place at the University of Maiduguri in Borno state whose official opening was presided over by the Permanent Secretary of the Borno State Government's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Alhaji Bulama Gana.

In his opening remarks, Alhaji Gana, commended FAO for the support it has been providing to Borno and other northeast states through technical capacity building and provision of agricultural inputs for more resilient and self-sustaining livelihoods following the prolonged armed conflict in the region.

"We have keenly observed how FAO has committed itself in investing technical expertise and other forms of support including agricultural inputs provision and farmers' capacity building. This has transcended their lives and made them more resilient and self-sustaining. FAO today is a household name to our farmers as the impact is being felt everywhere," he said.

Commenting on the farmer field schools, Alhaji Gana described them as a new innovation for solving problems based on field observations and testing.

FAO's Head of Northeast Programme Office, Al Hassan Cisse, said that the training of facilitators, which was under a project funded by Norway, was meant to build their capacity to facilitate innovations in the agricultural sector of economy.

"FFS is a participatory approach in providing skills to farmers. The school is a platform for an enabling environment where farmers can meet and exchange ideas to bring innovations in the agricultural sector," he pointed out.

Besides, Mr. Cisse went on, that the three-week training was to complement extension services, which had been disrupted due to the prolonged armed conflict in the region.

The training took place between May and June 2022.

Since 1989, FAO has been pioneering the Farmer Field School approach and so far it covers 90 countries across the globe where it has improved skills of over four million smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolk communities.



FAO's Head of Northeast Programme Office, Al Hassan Cisse, speaking at the opening of the 3-week training of FFS facilitators in Maiduguri, Borno state

FAO Nigeria holds programme review meeting for northeast, northwest region

Between June 21 and 23 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Nigeria conducted a programme review meeting in Maiduguri, Borno state for its interventions in the northeast and northwest states of the country.

The primary purpose of this workshop was to create space for a critical review of the FAO's Emergency Programme, reflect on key achievements, challenges and lessons learned, and re-strategize the for greater impact.

Specifically the meeting aimed to enable the programme teams and support staff to establish a shared understanding of strategic direction, outline key programmatic strategies, identify scale-up plans and develop fitches to aid resource mobilization.

The meeting was conducted through a combination of thematic presentations, group discussions and plenaries with some slots facilitated by experts from other key partners including the governments (federal and state), international organizations and sister UN agencies to provide different insights and perspectives.



FAO Nigeria's Assistant Representative (Programme), Abubakar Suleiman, giving an overview of the Country Programming Framework during the meeting

Empowering veterinarians with knowledge for dealing with transboundary animal diseases

Thirteen female veterinarians are among thirty other animal health experts who are in Jos, Plateau state for the second cohort of the In-Service Applied Veterinary Epidemiological Training (ISAVET) programme aimed at supporting Nigeria in dealing with transboundary animal diseases.

The capacity building training is jointly organized by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) through the Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services (FDVPCS), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD)'.

It was officiated by the Chief Veterinary Officer of Nigeria (CVON), Dr. Maimuna Habib, on June 6th, 2022 at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Jos.

The first such a training programme was held in Abuja from August to November last year.

Within the context of the One Health approach, the programme targets the broad goal of improving the ability of animal health experts in Nigeria to predict, prepare, prevent, respond and recover from critical health threats affecting humans and animals at the human-animal-environmental interface.



ISAVET training participants during a practical session at Jos in Plateau State

While declaring the training open, Dr. Habib congratulated the participants for sailing through the rigorous selection process conducted around the 36 states and including the Federal Capital Territory in Abuja, saying they should use “this unique opportunity for personal and career development and be good ambassadors of the veterinary profession”.

The FAO's ECTAD Country Team Leader, Guy Kouame, resonating the aim of the training and its importance to the one health approach in tackling the related challenges and achieving best health outcomes, said the programme provides the right opportunity for the trainees to learn and gain more experience for the entire good of the animal health sector in Nigeria.

The ISAVET programme takes a four months duration which is divided into a one-month didactic classroom learning and three months on-field practical sessions.

Taking awareness on standards, codes of practice for food safety to grassroots

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is rolling out regional awareness and sensitization workshops on the importance of understanding the Codex Alimentarius standards and codes of practice for food safety.

First in the line are Kano and Lagos states in which farmers, processors, marketers as well as journalists and other key stakeholders in the food value chain in Nigeria are targeted.

The Codex Alimentarius, or 'Food Code', is a collection of international standards, guidelines and codes of practice for ensuring food safety to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

During the opening of the awareness raising workshop in Kano, the National Coordinator, Food Safety and Quality Programme – Federal Ministry of Health, John Atanda, pointed out that little or no attention was given to the issue of safety practice, quality and standards in food production, processing and trading.

The Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON), which houses the National Codex Committee (NCC) Secretariat, was represented by the Head of Mandatory Assessment Programme, Tosan Akosile who together with Codex Focal Point in Nigeria, Mrs. Talatu Ethan, stressed the need for a synergy between regulatory agencies, private sector and research institutes in the subject.

FAO was represented by the project's focal point, SaAdiya Haliru, who noted that food safety is an essential path to sustainable food security and that conformity to international food standards was key.



Ms. Haliru speaking during the awareness raising workshop in Kano

Little inputs - Significant: FAO's work improves livelihoods in northeast



Usman, one of the beneficiaries of FAO's dry season intervention in northeast Nigeria, posing with some of the tomatoes that he harvested from his farm.

During the 2021/2022 dry season, FAO provided farming inputs to 140 000 smallholder farmers in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states in eastern Nigeria. One of them is Usman from Jere local government area in Borno.

He used to be a casual labourer in other people's farms. But he now has his own! FAO's dry and rainy seasons farming, aquaculture and livestock support programme in northeast have contributed to increased food security among conflict-affected households during the pandemic, providing a key source of food and income.

In the 2022 rainy season, FAO is targeting a total of 42 500 households that will be provided with improved seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural support inputs including goat farming kits.

This adds to over a million vulnerable households that FAO has reached in northeast Nigeria, since 2016, enabling them to restart their agriculture-based livelihoods (crops, livestock and aquaculture production); safe access to fuelwood energy and strengthening their resilience.

FAO's dry and rainy seasons farming, aquaculture and livestock support programme in northeast contributed to increased food security among conflict-affected households during the pandemic, providing a key source of food and income. Through FAO's agricultural support, households have been able to produce food that last them for between 5.5 and 6 months per season.

Impact of the South-South Cooperation project on Nigerian farmers

The South-South Cooperation (SSC) project in Nigeria closed in 2018. However, the outstanding success recorded in the six (6) states where it was implemented has attracted the FAO's Office of Cooperate Communication (OCC) and Regional Office for Africa (RAF) to include Nigeria in a special success stories digital brochure that is now being compiled.

A special documentation team was recently in Ekiti and Nasarawa states to take photos of the beneficiaries and their testimonies on how impactful the project has been.

Most of the beneficiaries appreciated the different benefits they got from capacity building, inputs to new technologies for easing the production and processing of rice.

They described the project as a turning point in their lives that has improved their livelihoods.

While the statuses of others changed from tenants to house owners, others have established alternative sources of

income from the proceeds they got from growing and processing rice.

The digital brochure will be shared in due course once its compilation process is completed. Stay tuned.



Adetunji Abayomi, one of the SSC project beneficiaries holding a bag of processed rice at his factory in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti state.



Adiza Umaru with her recovering husband Umaru Bobbo, at their home in Fofure, Yola - Adamawa state.

FAO's goat project saved my husband's life - Adiza

With relative stability in some parts of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states in northeast Nigeria, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is strengthening the resilience of resettled Internally Displaced People (IDPs) from the loss of their livestock due to the prolonged armed insurgency.

Through the Livestock Restocking Programme, FAO has so far provided 10 600 households with goats, bulls, rams, poultry and animal feeds in order to boost health and income.

One of the beneficiaries is Adiza Umaru a former IDP who, together with her family – a husband and eight children, has now resettled in Fofure near Yola town also in the same state. They originally hailed from Madagali - another LGA of Adamawa state where they ran away from following the emergency of the armed-insurgency in 2015.

They lost everything to the armed conflict. Before the conflict, they used to grow maize and rice and also reared sheep and goats, among other activities. Besides, her husband, Umaru Bobbo, was also working as a machines mechanic and was very

famous in the whole area.

However, one morning they woke up only to find him unable to walk or talk. All of his left hand side was non-functional and he could not even lift up a cup of tea.

This was a great shock to her and her family since the man had always been so active all through his life attending to his work as a mechanic for grain milling machines.

Through the project, in 2021 she was provided with three female and one male goats together with two bags of special feed and a mineral lick. This was after a special training on goat keeping.

“They have given birth two times by now including twins. I now have seven of them. Recently I sold a male and got NGN 30 000 to help me with my husband’s treatment,” she joyously says while putting on a wide smile on her face.

According to her, she had no money in the house when the husband suddenly fell ill. “No one was there to help me or even offering me a loan. The money I got played a critical role in his treatment. He can now stand up and walk a little on his own. I thank God for that,” she says with gratitude.

She takes him to the government hospital in Yola, about thirty (30) kilometres away on a weekly basis for physiotherapy sessions. “It is very expensive but I am managing. The project has really helped me,” she explains.

Adiza, was planning to sell three more goats when the schools were about to open in May so as to help her with the children’s fees also.

“I know I will get not less than NGN 100 000 which is enough for the purpose and also take care of our other needs,” she concludes.



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Adiza Umaru and some of her children at the posing with some of her goats.

Photo Gallery & Appreciation to Partners



A group photo between FAO Nigeria official and technical experts with AGRA Regional and Nigeria officials after their meeting in Abuja. They discussed areas of collaboration for improved agriculture, food security and nutrition in Nigeria.

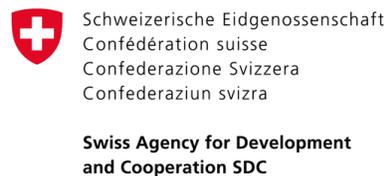


FAO Representative, Fred Kafeero, planting a tree after discussions in Ibadan with the Director General of the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria, Prof. Adepoju Olusola, on a joint Global Environmental Facility project.

FAO in Nigeria would like to appreciate the following partners for their support and collaboration



Canada



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