



## COUNTRY FACT SHEET ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE POLICY TRENDS

### Socio-economic context and role of agriculture

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is a food deficit country, the most populous country in Africa (190 million), and among the largest in terms of area (910 802 km<sup>2</sup>). The country has the 27th biggest economy in the world, with a gross domestic product (GDP) of US\$486.7 billion as of 2015.<sup>1</sup> Nigerian agriculture is primarily rainfed and characterized by low productivity, low technology and high labour intensity.<sup>2</sup> Since 2005, the value added of the agricultural sector has been growing rapidly, averaging about 7 percent annually.<sup>3</sup> Sorghum, millet and maize are the traditional food crops in the north, whereas in the central and southern regions,

cassava, yam, plantain, maize and sorghum are traditionally consumed. Rice is an essential cash crop mainly for small-scale producers, who account for 80 percent of total production but only 20 percent of consumption. Cash crops, which earned significant revenue before the oil boom of the 1970s, have experienced low investment. Prioritizing the oil sector at the expense of agriculture resulted in leaving Nigeria highly vulnerable to fluctuating oil prices on the world market.

Concerning trade, although Nigeria is one of the largest rice producers in Africa, it is also one of the largest rice importers

Selected indicators		2007	2011	2015
SOCIO-ECONOMIC	GDP (current billion US\$) *	166.4	408.7	486.7
	GDP per capita (current US\$) *	1 131	2 495	2 671
	Agricultural value added (percent of GDP) *	32.7	22.3	20.9
	Agricultural value added (annual percent growth) *	7.2	2.9	3.7
	Total population (million)	147.1	163.7	182.2
	Rural population (percent of total)	59.1	55.7	52.6
	Employment in agriculture (percent of total employment)*	48.6	30.5 (2010)	NA
Human Development Index**	(2015)	0.527 (ranking 152 out of 188 countries)		
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION & TRADE	Area equipped for irrigation (ha)	(2014)	293 000	
	Value of total agriculture (current million US\$)	6 1431	5 1231	6 4181 (2014)
	Yield for cereals (hg/ha)	13 998	13 345	15 918 (2014)
	Cereal import dependency ratio (percent)	(2007-2009)	15.9	
		(2009-2011)	21.7	
	Top 3 commodities	Production quantity (2013)	Cassava; yams; maize	
		Production value (2013)	Yams; cassava; fruit	
Import value (2013)		Rice; wheat; oil; palm		
Export value (2013)		Cocoa; beans; sesame seed; rubber natural dry		
FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION	Top 3 commodities available for consumption	(2013)	NA	
	Per capita food supply (kcal/capita/day)	2 720	2 706	2 700 (2013)
	People undernourished (million)	(2008-2010)	9.3	
		(2014-2016)	12.9	
	Prevalence of undernourishment (percent)	(2008-2010)	6.0	
		(2014-2016)	7.0	
	Obesity (body mass index ≥ 30), age-standardized (percent) ^	Male (2014)	5.3	
Female (2014)		15.4		
Global Hunger Index ^	(2016)	25.5 (Serious)		
Access to improved water sources (percent of population)*	60.1	64.5	68.5	

Source: FAOSTAT; \*WB; \*\*UNDP; ^WHO; ^ ^IFPRI; accessed in May 2017

1 World Bank. 2015. GDP (current US\$) (dataset). URL: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?locations=NG>  
 2 IITA (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture). 2017. *Synthesis Report of the Nigeria Zero Hunger Strategic Review*.  
 3 IFPRI. 2016. *Delving Deeper into the Agricultural Transformation and Youth Employment Nexus: The Nigerian Case*.

in the world. Moreover, the country is the largest producer of cassava in the world.<sup>4</sup>

The fisheries subsector contributes about 3–4 percent to annual GDP and supplies 50 percent of animal protein intake. Domestic livestock products, although crucial for agricultural growth, do not meet national demand; therefore the country relies on large imports of livestock and livestock products. Nigeria has achieved

the MDG 1c target by halving the proportion of hungry people by 2015.<sup>5</sup> However, as of 2016, nearly 13 million Nigerians still suffer from hunger. The high prevalence of hunger in rural areas is associated with low agricultural growth, poor road infrastructure, limited access to safe water and sanitation, and inadequate health and education services.<sup>6</sup>

## 1. Government objectives in agriculture and food and nutrition security

The government's long-term economic blueprint is expressed in the **Nigerian Vision 20: 2020 (2009)**, which aims to transform agriculture into a sustainable and profitable sector with a focus on increasing agricultural productivity and production for direct consumption and processing for local market and export. To implement Vision 20: 2020, the National Planning Commission developed a **New Medium-Term Plan** for the period 2010–2013; meanwhile the Federal Ministry of Agriculture developed the **National Agricultural Sector Strategy (NASS)** and a five-point agricultural agenda, which is largely consistent with the four Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Plan (CAADP) pillars: water management, rural infrastructure, increasing food supply and technology transfer to the agricultural sector.

Together with the Vision 20: 2020, the overarching framework that guides agriculture, food and nutrition security in Nigeria is the **National Agriculture and Food Security Strategy (NAFSS, 2010–2020)**, which is now embedded in the **Agriculture Transformation Agenda (2013–2015)**. The agenda was launched in 2011 to diversify the economy and enhance foreign exchange earnings, with the objective of achieving a hunger-free Nigeria through an agricultural sector that drives equitable income growth and distribution, accelerates the achievement of food and nutrition security, generates decent employment and transforms Nigeria into a leading player in global food markets.<sup>7</sup> These two strategic frameworks have provided the basis for the **CAADP National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP, 2011–2014)**, which seeks to enhance agro-industrialization and employment; and the **National Agriculture and Food Security Programme**, which seeks to increase agricultural output and rural household incomes.

In 2016, the Government of Nigeria developed the **Green Alternative: The Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP, 2016–2020)**, which considers the agricultural sector a key instrument to long-term economic growth. It aims to prioritize

specific crops; assist agricultural growth through private sector-led business; strengthen commodity value chains; improve market orientation through infrastructure and commodity exchanges; mainstream climate change measures and environmental sustainability into agricultural development; and implement nutrition interventions for vulnerable groups.

In 2017, the Government of Nigeria launched the **Synthesis Report of the Nigeria Zero Hunger Strategic Review**, a strategic plan and road map to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture) by 2030.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, the government formulated the **Economic Recovery and Growth Blueprint (ERGP 2017)** as the new medium-term plan to tackle the economic crisis, restore growth, and ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.

Concerning social protection, in 2015 the government drafted the **National Social Protection Policy**, which aims to reduce poverty; improve the management of social protection projects and programmes; ensure access to basic social services and infrastructure; enhance social welfare and improve food security and nutrition; support decent employment and sustainable livelihoods; protect households from shocks; and foster coordination among all social protection intervention agencies. With regard to nutrition, in 2016 the government developed the **National Policy on Food and Nutrition**, which aims at reducing hunger and malnutrition through a multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach encompassing various interventions at the community and national levels. By 2025, Nigeria expects to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and malnutrition; decrease the stunting rate among under-five children; decrease the incidence of malnutrition among victims of emergencies; achieve universal access of all school children to school feeding programmes; and increase access to potable water.<sup>9</sup> This is complemented by the **National Nutrition**

4 FAO. (no date). *FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) Federal Republic of Nigeria 2013–2017* (available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-au053e.pdf>).

5 FAO. 2015. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*. Rome (available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf>).

6 Ibid.

7 FAO (no date). (Op cit.)

8 *The Nigeria Zero Hunger Strategic Review* seeks to: i) provide a comprehensive understanding of the food security and nutrition context, including strategies, policies, programmes, institutional capacities, and resources; ii) identify key development and humanitarian challenges in achieving the Zero Hunger aspirations of SDG 2; iii) discuss the role of the private sector in achieving Zero Hunger, including food security and improved nutrition, and related national priorities; iv) propose actionable areas where federal, state and local governments can make significant progress toward Zero Hunger; v) propose areas where partners can better support the country to make significant progress toward Zero Hunger; and vi) recommend milestones, key actions and effective partnerships that would serve as a national road map to achieve SDG 2 in Nigeria.

9 Scaling Up Nutrition. 2016. *Annual Progress Report* (available at <http://docs.scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Nigeria-SUN-Movement-Annual-Progress-Report-2016.pdf>).

**Strategic Plan (2014–2018)** and the **National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition (2014–2019)**, whose priority areas are maternal nutrition, infant and young child feeding, management

of severe acute malnutrition in under-five children, micronutrient deficiency control, diet-related non-communicable diseases, and nutrition information systems.<sup>10</sup>

## 2. Trends in key policy decisions (2007 to 2017)

### 2.1 Producer-oriented policy decisions

During the review period (2007–2017) Nigeria's agriculture sector underwent major reforms. The introduction of the **Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA)** reformed the input delivery system, strengthened farmers' resilience to shocks and enhanced agricultural credit in order to boost agricultural production.

#### *Shifting from government-direct procurement of fertilizer to private-sector distribution*

In the last decade, heavy reliance on price subsidies has hindered market development in Nigeria.<sup>11</sup> In order to address this issue and enhance the usage of fertilizer,<sup>12</sup> in 2012 the Nigerian Government developed the **Growth Enhancement Support (GES)** scheme as part of the ATA. This scheme provides farmers with a 50 percent subsidy on a maximum of two bags of fertilizer purchased directly from agrodealers in order to facilitate the shift from subsistence to commercial farming. Under the previous system, state governments directly procured fertilizer from importers and distributed subsidized fertilizer to farmers. With the GES scheme, the government changed its role and began facilitating procurement, inspecting fertilizer quality, and mobilizing active private-sector participation in the fertilizer value chain.<sup>13</sup> Farmers now receive their subsidies via a mobile phone platform called the "e-Wallet" (or by vouchers in case they are unable to access the platform). Beneficiaries have increased significantly, from 1.2 million farmers in 2012 to about 5.2 million in 2013.<sup>14</sup> The goal is to target 20 million farmers in the coming years. In 2012, the government also launched (as part of the GES Scheme) the first database of farmers to promote the efficient and effective distribution of subsidized seeds and fertilizers; develop wider markets for agricultural inputs; and increase agricultural productivity.<sup>15</sup>

#### *Strengthening farmer's resilience*

In 2014, the Government of Nigeria developed the **National Agricultural Resilience Framework** to make the country's

agricultural sector resilient to shocks. The government committed to expanding the **Nigeria Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)** to 15 million smallholder farmers by 2017 through the Framework. As part of the GES Scheme, the Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC) extended crop insurance coverage (through the **Planting with Peace Programme** and using the e-Wallet system) to farmers entitled to subsidized inputs. Farmers will receive financial compensation in the event of crop losses due to flood, drought, fire, pests and diseases. The cost of insurance is included in the price of each bag of fertilizer sold under the GES scheme. The targeted number of farmers is 10 million.<sup>16</sup> To further strengthen farmers' resilience, the government also implemented weather index insurance in selected parts of the country affected by droughts and floods.

#### *Enhancing agricultural credit*

In 2006, Nigeria implemented the **Agricultural Credit Support Scheme** to enhance access to credit for small- and medium-scale farmers. The Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (ACGSF) guarantees up to 75 percent of all loans granted by commercial banks for agricultural production and processing. Additionally, the **Commercial Agriculture Credit Scheme (CACs)** was introduced in 2009 to fast-track development of the agricultural sector by providing credit facilities to commercial agricultural enterprises, and to enhance national food security by increasing food supply and keeping food inflation low. In 2011, the Nigerian Government launched a new initiative, the **Nigeria Incentive-based Risk-sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL)**, which aims to reduce the risks in agricultural lending to farmers as well as lowering the cost of lending for banks.<sup>17</sup> In 2016, the government launched the **Anchor Borrowers Programme**, which is being managed by the Central Bank of Nigeria and provides farmers with financial assistance through bank loans. The loan is kept in an account allowing agricultural input suppliers to be paid directly, based on the cost of supplies provided to the farmer.<sup>18</sup>

10 IITA, 2017. (Op cit.)

11 Hellin, J., Hansen, J. & Araba, D. 2015. *Evidence-Based Insurance Development for Nigeria's Farmers*. Briefing paper for Nigerian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD)-CCAFS Knowledge-Sharing Workshop, London, 27–28 January 2015. CGIAR (available at <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/rest/bitstreams/59217/retrieve>).

12 FAO. (no date). *The Impact of Agricultural Productivity on Welfare Growth of Farm Households in Nigeria: A Panel Data Analysis* (available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bp143e.pdf>).

13 Hellin, Hansen & Araba, 2015. (Op cit.)

14 Ogunkola, O. 2016. How can trade policy promote sustainable agricultural development in Nigeria? *International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development*, 19 July 2016 (available at <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges-africa/news/how-can-trade-policy-promote-sustainable-agricultural-development>).

15 See <https://fmard.gov.ng/home/agricultural-resilience/>

16 Hellin, Hansen & Araba, 2015. (Op cit.)

17 FAO. 2016. *Review of the livestock/meat and milk value chains and policy influencing them in Nigeria*. Rome, FAO/ECOWAS (available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5259e.pdf>).

18 USDA. 2017. *Grain and Feed Annual*. GAIN Reports (available at [https://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Grain%20and%20Feed%20Annual\\_Lagos\\_Nigeria\\_4-6-2017.pdf](https://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Grain%20and%20Feed%20Annual_Lagos_Nigeria_4-6-2017.pdf)).

## 2.2 Consumer-oriented policy decisions

Social protection is one of the building blocks of Nigeria's human development plan and ranks high on the development policy agenda of the new administration.<sup>19</sup> In 2016, the government launched the **Social Investment Programme** which aims to strengthen the programmes implemented under the national social protection system, such as school feedings, conditional cash transfers, and health and food biofortification programmes.

### *Scaling up the Home-Grown School Feeding programme*

The **Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme** is part of an N500 billion (US\$2 billion) Social Investment Programme to tackle poverty and improve the health and education of children and other vulnerable groups. The HGSF programme was first piloted in 2004 and provides free school meals procured from local farmers. The food is usually delivered in the form of a hot, balanced meal at lunch, containing at least one-third of the recommended dietary allowance of nutrients. In 2016, the government scaled up the programme to the national level, targeting 155 000 beneficiaries.<sup>20</sup> Additionally, in June 2016 it launched the **National Home-Grown School Feeding Strategic Plan (2016–2020)**, which constitutes the cornerstone of the nationwide HGSF programme. When fully implemented, the school feeding component of this programme will support Nigerian states in feeding more than 24 million school children, making it the largest school feeding programme of its kind in Africa. As of 2017, the government has spent N375 million (US\$1 million) under the HGSF to deliver one hot meal a day to approximately 700 000 primary school pupils across seven states.<sup>21</sup> A total sum of N844 360 550 (US\$2 million) has so far been allocated for the programme.<sup>22</sup>

### *Introduction of conditional cash transfer programme (COPE)*

The **In Care of the Poor (COPE)** programme is a conditional cash transfer programme that provides a monthly basic income transfer of US\$10 per child (with a cap of US\$33 for four or more children) for 12 months to a designated family member. The programme was first piloted in 2007 in some states and subsequently scaled up over the years at the national level. The programme benefits extremely poor households including women, people with disabilities, elderly persons, or other vulnerable groups (people

living with HIV/AIDS and with school-age children). However, by 2009, only 22 000 households had been targeted.<sup>23</sup> The transfer is given only if children register at least 80 percent attendance in school and undertake routine health immunization programmes provided by the government. Participating households can be enrolled in the programme only for one year. At the end, each household receives a Poverty Reduction Accelerator Investment (PRAI) fund of approximately US\$270.<sup>24</sup> The PRAI helps households engage in business or trade activities to generate income and subsequently sustain them upon their graduation from the programme.<sup>25</sup>

### *Tackling health problems through the Saving One Million Lives Initiative*

Nigeria has the 2nd largest HIV epidemic in the world with a prevalence of 4 percent, especially among women and children.<sup>26</sup> In 2012, the government launched the Saving One Million Lives (SOML) Initiative to tackle health problems affecting mothers and children. The initiative aims to improve maternal and child health; enhance routine immunization coverage and achieve polio eradication; end mother-to-child HIV transmission; scale up access to essential medicines and commodities; control malaria; and improve child nutrition. In 2015, Nigeria extended the initiative until 2020 as part of the **National Strategic Health Development Plan (NSHDP) 2016–2020**. The SOML Initiative is supported by the Programme for Results (PforR), a performance-based programme of the Government of Nigeria and the World Bank that provides incentives based on achievement of health outcomes. In addition to the **National Strategic Plan (NSP) on HIV and AIDS 2010–2015**, the government initiated a **Presidential Comprehensive Response Plan (PCRP)** in 2013 to galvanize the national response in order to attain the targets set in the National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan (2010–2015).<sup>27</sup>

### *Cancellation of SURE-P and introduction of food biofortification programme*

In 2012, the Government of Nigeria implemented the **Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P): Community Services Women and Youth Employment (CSWYE)**, which targeted poor Nigerian men aged 18–35 and women aged 18–50, with no other source of income and with only a secondary school education. Beneficiaries were provided with N10 000 (US\$61 746) per month for five hours of work per day.

19 Asogwa, R., Barungi, B. & Odhiambo, O. 2017. Country Profile. *African Economic Outlook* (available at <http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/country-notes/nigeria>).

20 IPC (International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth)/UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). 2016. *Social Protection in Africa: Inventory of Non-contributory Programmes* (available at [http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/eng/Social\\_Protection\\_in\\_Africa.pdf](http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/eng/Social_Protection_in_Africa.pdf)).

21 See <http://www.nigeriatoday.ng/2017/01/revisiting-the-social-investment-programme/>

22 See <http://www.schoolsandhealth.org/News/Pages/Nigerian-Vice-President-launches-National-School-Feeding-Programme.aspx>; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201702130517.html>

23 ODI (Overseas Development Institute). 2012. *Social Protection in Nigeria* (available at <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/7583.pdf>).

24 IPC. 2016. *Rethinking the design and implementation of Nigeria's COPE Conditional Cash Transfer Programme*. One Pager, August 2016 (available at [http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/eng/OP330\\_Rethinking\\_the\\_design\\_and\\_implementation\\_of\\_Nigeria\\_s\\_COPE.pdf](http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/eng/OP330_Rethinking_the_design_and_implementation_of_Nigeria_s_COPE.pdf)).

25 See <http://vulnerabilityandpoverty.blogspot.it/2014/05/nigerias-cope-cct-programme-and-its.html>

26 ILO. 2016. *The ILO in Nigeria* (available at [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis\\_ababa/---ilo-abuja/documents/publication/wcms\\_461891.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---ilo-abuja/documents/publication/wcms_461891.pdf)).

27 National Agency for the Control of AIDS. 2013. *President's Comprehensive Response Plan for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria* (available at <http://naca.gov.ng/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/PCRP-2013-2015-Part-1.pdf>).



The government also launched the **SURE-P: Maternal and Child Health (MCH, 2012)**, a conditional cash transfer programme that required beneficiaries to register for antenatal care. As of 2014, 26 461 women had received the transfers.<sup>28</sup> However, in 2016 the government decided to abolish the SURE-P, and instead began implementing a vitamin A food biofortification programme – **Scaling Up Biofortification Investment in Nigeria** – with the aim of reducing death rates and improving nutrition.

### 2.3 Trade-oriented and macroeconomic policy decisions

Over the years, Nigerian agricultural trade policy has oscillated between liberal and protectionist tendencies. Tariffs, import substitution measures and domestic support (fertilizer subsidies) constitute the main trade policy instruments. Nigeria has been aligning its tariffs with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) common external tariff (CET). It also applies a number of additional duties to reduce the country's reliance on imports.<sup>29</sup> In 2017, Nigeria began negotiations to adopt the **Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)**, which seeks to increase intra-African trade, facilitate free trade and achieve greater regional integration.

#### *Reducing Nigeria's reliance on food imports through the adoption of import substitution measures*

In 2012, the government launched the ATA to make Nigeria self sufficient in rice and less reliant on food imports. One method of the agenda was to increase the production of the country's five key crops, including rice, sorghum and cassava. A number of import substitution measures were also adopted, such as the

mandatory inclusion of 10 percent cassava flour in bread. Input availability and access were supported in the framework of the ATA. Additionally, the Central Bank of Nigeria banned importers from accessing foreign exchange markets in 41 categories of items.<sup>30</sup> While these items were not banned from importation, importers had to acquire the foreign currency to purchase these items from an autonomous market at a higher exchange rate. The ban was partially lifted in October 2015, allowing imports through land borders after payment of appropriate duties and charges. However, these measures amplified informal cross-border imports from neighbouring coastal countries, which resulted in the Nigerian Customs Service reintroducing the rice import restrictions as of March 2016. Nigeria applies additional duties to reduce the country's reliance on imports.<sup>31</sup> However, there have been some inconsistencies between taxes on imported and produced goods. For example, excise duties are not levied on imports, only on domestically produced goods.<sup>32</sup> Still, although it is the largest rice importer in Africa, Nigeria's rice imports are expected to decrease by 50 percent by the end of 2017.<sup>33</sup>

#### *Decline in the average applied tariff*

Despite Nigeria having a binding 150 percent ceiling rate on all agricultural products (plus a maximum 80 percent for other duties and charges) at the WTO, the country lowered the average applied tariff from 33 percent in 2000 to 15.6 percent in 2013. The maximum tariff is currently set at 35 percent in order to comply with the country's commitment under the ECOWAS CET adopted in 2015. In spite of this commitment, Nigeria has yet to institute mechanisms to implement agricultural tariff quotas and agricultural safeguarding mechanisms to deal with problems associated with trade liberalization.

## 3. Emerging issues

### *Addressing the humanitarian crisis in northeastern Nigeria*

In 2009, the Jihadist rebel group Boko Haram began an armed rebellion against the Nigerian Government, which led to a humanitarian crisis affecting some 17 million people across northeastern Nigeria, Cameroon's Far North, western Chad, and the southeast of the Niger.<sup>34</sup> Since 2014, the insurgency in the northeast has displaced 2.6 million people and exacerbated food insecurity, which increased in 2016 as a result of lack of food production, limited access to food and disruption of food markets. According to the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan, 8.5 million

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14 October 2016 Damaturu, Nigeria. In Northeast Nigeria, crisis-hit farmers are considering a return to fields they left up to three years ago.

28 IPC/UNDP, 2016. (Op cit.)

29 WTO, 2011. *Trade Policy Review* (available at [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/tpr\\_e/s247\\_sum\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/s247_sum_e.pdf)).

30 For instance, rice, margarine, palm kernel/palm oil products, vegetable oils, meat and processed meat products, vegetables and processed vegetable products, poultry, eggs, turkey, and frozen/tinned fish as well as tomatoes/tomato pastes.

31 WTO, 2011. (Op cit.)

32 Ibid.

33 FAO, 2017. *Country Briefs. Nigeria* (available at <http://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=NGA>).

34 Reliefweb, 2017. *Humanitarian Needs and Requirement Overview* (available at [http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/LCB\\_HNRO\\_2017\\_0.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/LCB_HNRO_2017_0.pdf)).

people are in need of assistance.<sup>35</sup> As of 2017, according to Cadre Harmonisé Analysis (Phase 3 to 5), 5.1 million of these are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and are affected by acute food and nutrition insecurity in the States of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe.<sup>36</sup> Furthermore, staple food prices have risen in the affected areas by 50 to 100 percent, mainly due to insecurity and increased transport costs. To address the crisis, in June 2016 the Nigerian Government prepared the **Buhari Plan**, whose main goal is to set out the broad policy thrusts and strategies in the federal government's rebuilding agenda.<sup>37</sup> The Ministry of Budget and National Planning (MBNP) set up an Inter-Ministerial Task Force, while the Humanitarian Country Team developed the 2017 **Humanitarian Response Plan** in order to coordinate crisis responses and provide urgent food assistance and food production support to the most affected individuals.<sup>38</sup> The Humanitarian Response Plan aims to target 6.9 million people.<sup>39</sup> To address the humanitarian crisis, the government should increase food distribution; implement nutrition emergency activities that target under-five children and pregnant and lactating mothers; set up health facilities, including psychosocial support centres; provide cash and voucher assistance in areas with functioning markets; and strengthen livelihood resilience.<sup>40</sup>

### Developing smallholder value chains

Smallholder agricultural producers' food value chains are significantly undeveloped.<sup>41</sup> Current public storage capacity is approximately 300 000 tonnes, making it unable to handle the annual output of maize alone, which is 7 million tonnes. Thus smallholders experience high post-harvest losses. Nigeria's fast-growing population and high rate of urbanization have generated a food deficit of 56 million tonnes. In order to tackle this, the government will need to focus on modernizing

agriculture production through increased public and private sector investments in irrigation and farmer training to improve yields and expand production areas; improving post-harvest management; and implementing more sustainable management of agricultural resources. Production and processing gains in yam, cassava, potato, maize and rice are necessary in order to meet urban demand for food.<sup>42</sup>

### Tackling youth unemployment

Although Nigeria's economy has experienced substantial economic growth over the past few years, this has not led to poverty reduction and job creation, especially for young people.<sup>43</sup> As of 2016, the unemployment rate for the working age population was 7.5 percent.<sup>44</sup> To address this, Nigeria developed a **National Action Plan on Employment Creation (2009–2020)**, which identified the major activities needed to meet unemployment challenges. Furthermore, in 2016 the government validated the **National Employment Policy** in order to harmonize the different employment strategies and mainstream employment and decent work in all sectors. In 2014 it launched a nationwide **Youth Employment in Agriculture Programme (YEAP)** to develop 750 000 young commercial farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs. YEAP focuses on decent employment creation and innovative enterprise development for young women and men along priority value chains in targeted local economic areas. In 2014 the government also launched the **National Schools Agricultural Programme (NSAP)**, aimed at developing a new generation of young agricultural entrepreneurs in Nigeria.<sup>45</sup> Finally, in 2016 the **Nigeria Teaching Plan** was launched, which is part of the Social Investment Programme, whereby 500 000 teachers have been hired by public schools.<sup>46</sup>

35 Reliefweb, 2016. *Humanitarian Response Plan, Nigeria* (available at [http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ocha\\_nga\\_hrp\\_2017\\_summary\\_16122016.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ocha_nga_hrp_2017_summary_16122016.pdf)).

36 FAO, 2017. *Northeastern Nigeria. Situation Report, January 2017* (available at [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/FAO-countries/Nigeria/ToR/FAO\\_Situation\\_Report\\_Northeastern\\_Nigeria\\_January\\_2017.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/FAO-countries/Nigeria/ToR/FAO_Situation_Report_Northeastern_Nigeria_January_2017.pdf)).

37 The objectives of the plan are thus: enhance agricultural sector productivity and market opportunities; expand the availability of agricultural inputs and upgrade animal livestock; enhance agricultural human capital development; enhance agricultural facilities and transform the agricultural produce marketing sector; improve agricultural infrastructure and equipment; and improve irrigation through channelization.

38 Reliefweb, 2016. (Op cit.)

39 IITA, 2017. (Op cit.)

40 Reliefweb, 2016. (Op cit.)

41 IITA, 2017. (Op cit.)

42 Ibid.

43 FAO, 2015. *Nigeria and FAO. Partnering to achieve sustainable development and food security and nutrition* (available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-az487e.pdf>).

44 ILO, 2016. *The ILO in Nigeria* (available at [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis\\_ababa/---ilo-abuja/documents/publication/wcms\\_461891.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---ilo-abuja/documents/publication/wcms_461891.pdf)).

45 See <http://www.nigeriagoodnews.com/president-goodluck-jonathan-launches-the-national-schools-agricultural-programme-nsap-for-young-agricultural-entrepreneurs-in-nigeria/>

46 See <http://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/204953-nigeria-begins-recruitment-of-500000-unemployed-graduates.html>



The FAPDA initiative promotes evidence-based decision making by collecting and disseminating information on policy decisions through a freely accessible web-based tool. For more information, please visit:  
[www.fao.org/in-action/fapda](http://www.fao.org/in-action/fapda)  
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This fact sheet was prepared by the Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis (FAPDA) team of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with contributions from the FAO Country Office in Nigeria. The information reported in this brief comes from the review of primary and secondary data sources, accessible in the FAPDA Tool.