



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



National gender profile of agriculture and rural livelihoods



N I G E R I A

Country Gender Assessment Series



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A poultry farmer gathering eggs from the hen house.

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Published by

the FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

and

THE COMMISSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

Abuja, 2018

Required citation

FAO and ECOWAS Commission. 2018. National Gender Profile of Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods – Nigeria. Country Gender Assessment Series, Abuja. 92 pp.

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ISBN 978-92-5-130810-3 (FAO)

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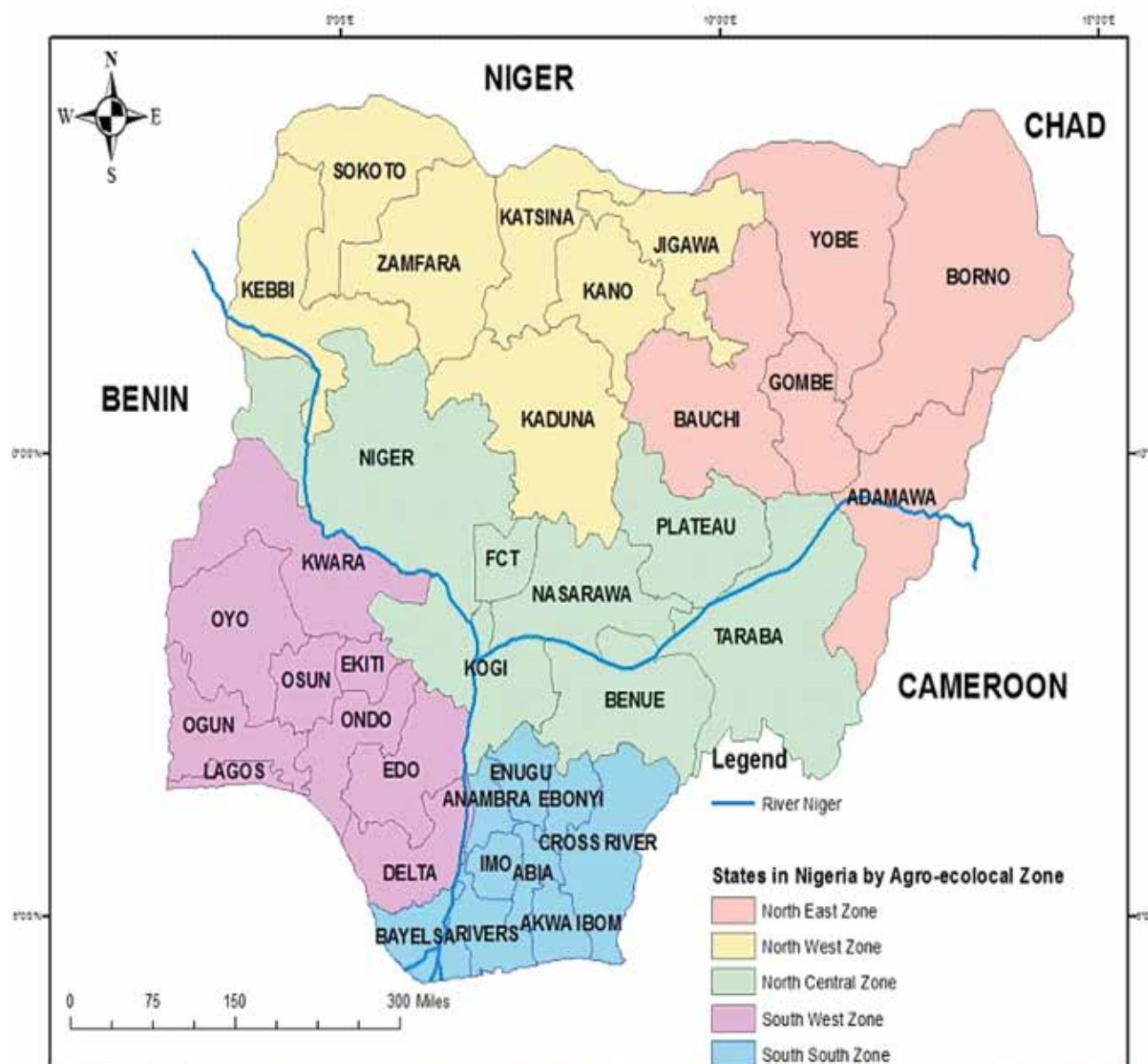
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Source: Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2016

Foreword

Women in Nigeria and in Africa have long been clamoring for equality. Efforts by the community have not been sufficient to mitigate the overarching challenges they face year after year. Specific to agriculture, they continue to be inadequately recognized for their contributions towards the national, social and economic development of the country. The disadvantaged status of rural women and the prevalence of gender stereotypes limits women's access to power and decision-making, resources, opportunities and fulfilment of rights. The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development is the government entity for coordinating strategies for addressing gender inequalities in Nigeria. However, in order to achieve gender transformation that will accelerate sustainable development, it is critical that the underlying factors that hamper the progress towards equality are addressed.



Prior to the formation of the National Gender Policy of 2006, a government policy created in 1968 established Women in Agriculture as an arm to the Agriculture Development Programme, and was designed to integrate women into the agricultural development system, by providing equal access to agricultural inputs, credit, loans and extension services. Today, the Women's Affairs Department is a key operational department charged with the responsibility of promoting women's advancement at both national and international levels, working with Gender Desks and focal points in the various Ministries, Department and Agencies.

I am pleased to present to you this National gender profile of agriculture and rural livelihoods commissioned by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in partnership with the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria within the framework of their Technical Cooperation Project on: "Gender Responsive Regional and National Agricultural Investment Plans for meeting the Zero Hunger Challenge in the ECOWAS region". This assessment highlights the gender gaps inherent in the Nigerian agricultural and rural development sector, and provides policy recommendations for agricultural growth and transformation that leaves no woman behind.

This assessment is also timely as we are heading to the Sixty-second Session of the Commission on the Status of Women which took place in March 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters on the priority theme: "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls".

I pledge the commitment of the Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development working hand in hand with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, to spearhead gender equality and women's empowerment in policies and programmes related to agricultural development, food and nutrition security and natural resource management in the context of climate change. I urge all partners to step up their efforts towards the socio-economic empowerment of rural women as a key foundation stone for the achievement of the Sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Senator Aisha Jummal Alhassan (Mrs)
Minister for Women Affairs and Social Development, Nigeria

Preface

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is making great strides towards further diversification of its economy. Despite the prominence of oil in the country's economic wealth, agriculture contributes significantly to Nigeria's economy, and its growth is key to overall economic development. For instance, the agricultural sector still provides employment to more than 70% of the population, contributing about 30% to the GDP. With a population of over 180 million, agricultural development and food security are vital for both national prosperity and sustainable development.



Women play key roles in agriculture and in food and nutrition security, from the farm to the kitchen. They constitute a significant part of the agricultural labour force, their contribution is essential to the success of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Despite affirmative action, important gender inequalities still exist in the agrifood sector. The gap between policy and implementation and limited availability of sex disaggregated data to monitor progress towards gender equality have undermined the efforts towards women's empowerment in the sector.

I would like to commend the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) for undertaking a gender audit of the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) in 2013 which led to the elaboration of a sector baseline report on gender, a two year strategic action plan on gender and a set of gender guidelines for the ATA, which has been replaced by ERGP.

It is with this background that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have commissioned the preparation of a National Gender Profile of the Agricultural and Rural Livelihoods as an important step to inform policies and actions for gender equality in the agrifood sector.

The Profile reveals gender disparities in access to critical agriculture and rural resources, services, knowledge, opportunities and markets. It also explores the existing gender relations and gaps in the various sub sectors of agriculture, their possible causes and impact on food and nutrition security to inform the elaboration of the second generation National agricultural investment plan within the framework of ECOWAP at 2025.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda also provides a renewed commitment to end hunger, malnutrition and poverty. The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, will create opportunities to address gender inequalities in the agriculture and rural sectors in food security and nutrition. It will also allow policy makers and implementers to take into consideration the measures and initiatives targeted towards the inequalities.

The Profile therefore provides baseline information and data to inform these important policy processes. It is my belief that if the findings and recommendations of this report are internalized and utilized by the different actors, we will see an enhancement of livelihoods of families, reduction of rural poverty and an improvement in economic and social empowerment of women.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Suffyan Koroma'.

Suffyan Koroma

FAO Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS

Acknowledgements

This Country gender assessment (CGA) was prepared within the framework of the FAO-ECOWAS technical cooperation project “Gender responsive regional and national agricultural investment plans for meeting the Zero Hunger challenge in the ECOWAS region”. The project is implemented in the fifteen ECOWAS member countries under the leadership of M. Bukar Tijani, FAO Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Africa, and Honourable Dr Siga Fatima Jagne, ECOWAS Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender.

Both FAO and the ECOWAS Commission recognize the centrality of gender equality for achieving food and nutrition security for all for a zero hunger generation, improving agricultural productivity and natural resource management, and providing better livelihoods to rural populations.

The development of the CGA was conducted under the leadership of the FAO Country Representative, Mr. Suffyan Koroma and the overall coordination of Tacko Ndiaye, FAO Senior Gender and Rural Development Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa and Bolanle Adetoun, Principal Program Officer for Gender, Department for Social Affairs and Gender, ECOWAS Commission. It was spearheaded by Sa’adiya Ibrahim, Gender Focal Point at the FAO country Office.

This gender assessment report would not have been possible without the contributions and hard work of a wide range of stakeholders from Government, United Nations Organizations, civil society Organizations, farmers’ groups and academia. Special recognition goes to Mrs. Karima Babangida, Director of Gender and Youth, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) for her advice and provision of necessary materials to ensure the completion of the study. We also acknowledge various organizations that provided useful information and contributed to this study especially, FMWASD, FADAMA III, RUFIN, CASP, ADPs in the States sampled, and UNDP.

We greatly appreciate the contribution of staff of the IFAD-Value Chain Development Programme Zonal Coordinators for their support in sampling the LGAs, communities and respondents for the study and participation in primary data collection. Our acknowledgements also go to all other informants and all those who participated in the validation meeting of the report. The information, data and comments they provided enriched the report.

Last but not the least, we want to express our gratitude to beneficiaries of FAO’s projects in the visited States, community members, government staff, and others who contributed their time and energy and shared their stories to make this study possible.

FAO is indebted to the intellectual contribution of Prof Sarah J. Auta, consultant commissioned to prepare this country gender assessment report. Her dedication to excellence in undertaking this challenging yet exciting assignment is shown in the quality of the report. Our special thanks go also to the research team composed of Dr T. D. Bidoli, Mal. Ali Goni Adams and Mr. T. C. Oduhie for their participation and hard work at all stages of the study that ensured completion of the work. Appreciation also goes to Dr Boladale O. Akanji, Senior Consultant on Gender and Agriculture, Pious Asante and Colleen Obino, consultants at the FAO Regional Office for Africa who contributed tremendously in the finalisation of the report. FAO would also like to thank Sadhana Ramchander, Consultant Editor, BluePencil Infodesign, and her team, for the final edition and layout of the report.

Acronyms and abbreviations

ADP	Agricultural Development Programme
AfDB	African Development Bank
APP	Agriculture Promotion Policy
ATA	Agricultural Transformation Agenda
AU	African Union
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CASP	Climate change Adaptation and agribusiness Support programme
CBARD	Community Based Agricultural and Rural Development
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CBNRMP	Community-Based Natural Resource Management Programme
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CGA	Country Gender Assessment
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CPF	Country Programing Framework
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DD	Deputy Director
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECOWAP	ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FDAE	Federal Department of Agricultural Extension
FEPAR	Federal Public Administration Reform Programme
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGN	Federal Government of Nigeria
FMARD	Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development
FMENV	Federal Ministry of Environment
FMWASD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GDI	Gender Development Index,
GEI	Gender Equality Index
GEM	Gender Empowerment Measure
GII	Gender Inequality Index
HDD	Household Dietary Diversity
HDI	Human Development Index
HFIAS	Household Food Insecurity Access Scale

IAR	Institute of Agricultural Research
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
KADP	Kaduna Agricultural Development Project
LGA	Local Government Area
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MICS	Multiple Indicator Clusters Survey
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
NAERLS	National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services
NAIP	National Agricultural Investment Plan
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NCAA	National Coalition on Affirmative Action
NCCC	National Consortium Coordination Committee for gender equality
NFSP	National Food Security Programme
NDHS	National Demographic Health Survey
NDI	National Demographic Institute
NEEDS	National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIHORT	National Institute for Horticultural Research
RUFIN	Rural Finance Institution Building Programme
SG2000	Sassakawa Global 2000
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
NGP	National Gender Policy
NPC	National Planning Commission
NPFS	National Programme on Food Security
SEAGA	Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis Framework
SIGI	Social Institution and Gender Index
SPMU	State Programme Management Unit
TCP	Technical Cooperation Project
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCDP	Value Chain Development Programme
WB	World Bank
WIA	Women in Agriculture

Executive summary

Introduction

The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Commission of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are partnering to implement a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) on Gender Responsive National and Regional Agricultural Investment Plans to meet the Zero Hunger Challenge in the region. The goal of the project is to ensure that agricultural transformation and inclusive agricultural growth fully benefit and empower women and youth farmers in ECOWAS region. The project contributes to the ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP)/Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) 2025, the ECOWAS Zero Hunger Initiative and the ECOWAS Regional Agricultural Investment Plan from a gender perspective. Within this framework, Nigeria has prepared a gender profile based on a thorough Gender Assessment of the Agriculture and Rural Sector (CGA-ARS). This has revealed gender-based differentials in asset ownership, processes and outcomes, while addressing inequality and inclusive growth of the sector.

The assessment combined both empirical and qualitative data drawn from primary and secondary sources to identify the needs, challenges, gaps and achievements of rural women in the agriculture and rural sector. This will inform new guidelines for more gender responsive future formulation, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP), as well as preparation of the ECOWAS Action Plan on Gender in Agriculture. It will also: facilitate reporting on the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), offering up-to-date and objective information on the situation of rural women; inform high-level policy dialogue and capacity development; and provide a baseline for monitoring the implementation of agricultural policies, the NAIP and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) at country level.

Needs, gaps and constraints of men and women in the agriculture and rural sector

The problem of inadequate agricultural and rural development is not caused by paucity of ideas and plans, nor by insufficient funding of programmes. It is mainly the result of insufficient attention to gender, corruption and embezzlement of funds, coupled with the adoption of a top-down approach to programme development and the absence of a reliable sex disaggregated database. Rural women are the most affected sector of the population.

Findings have revealed some challenges and constraints that retard the smooth implementation of programmes. These include: lack of deliberate gender mainstreaming at institutional level, attitudinal problems and societal beliefs and inadequate gender sensitive labour saving devices at household and farm level. Other constraints are lack of support from husbands, a feeling of marginalization due to culture and tradition, illiteracy of women and religious restrictions. Inadequate funding has also been a limiting factor, since support provided to farmers could not reach every woman/household. The lack of follow-up resulted in women being unable to put into practice the knowledge that they learnt from extension services and other trainings. The inability of women to own land in most communities is a serious limiting factor, which prevents them from growing certain cash crops and/or 'male' crops.



A woman extracting excess liquid from cassava with a scrull press in preparation for making gari.

Cases of malnutrition are still recorded in communities, despite efforts to improve household nutrition. Findings revealed the root causes to be: Lack of effective use of available food resources; illiteracy of women, resulting in inability to prepare balance diets for their families; lack of knowledge of nutrition programmes; poverty, which reduces the rate of feeding; and lack of storage facilities, which reduces the ability of households to store foods that are seasonal.

Female-headed households and widows generally had higher poverty rates, and lower food security than male-headed households. Lack of access to productive resources, inadequate extension services and farm inputs hamper rural women in increasing food production and improving food security. Also, insecurity in the Northern part of Nigeria has caused large numbers of families to become internally displaced, unable to settle back into their communities. These have a higher prevalence of malnutrition, which has seriously affected food security and led to increased gender inequality.

Gender inequalities in ownership, purchase and transfer of assets, critical production resources, group membership and leadership

In Nigeria, there continue to be inequalities between women and men in most human development indices, with the gap widening in the education, employment and health subsectors. In the agricultural and rural sectors, the following issues were identified:

- Land ownership and control are still dominated by men in terms of average land size apportioned to farming activities, with widespread disparity across communities and states. For example, in Taraba State, average holdings are 7.5 hectares (ha) for men and 0.8ha for women; Abia State showed equal average holdings for both sexes. However, women in Katsina State had slightly higher average land size (0.8 ha) compared with men (0.6 ha). The majority of men acquired land through inheritance, while women mostly obtained theirs through lease or purchase. In Kano, Katsina and Oyo States, women also acquired land

through inheritance, where the religion apportions 50 percent of everything that men inherit to women. In farming operations, men spent 4-8 hours each day clearing land, ploughing, weeding, transporting and harvesting. This compares with women, who spent 4-8 hours daily on processing, planting, fertilizer application and marketing.

- Gender disparity in livestock production shows that women are mainly involved in rearing small ruminants (goats and sheep) and non-ruminants (pigs and rabbits), while men dominate the production of large ruminants (cattle, camels and donkeys) that carry a higher monetary value.
- Disparity exists regarding women's rights to their own savings, financial assets and fair remuneration for their contribution to the family business. Results show that women increasingly supply national and international markets with traditional and high-value produce (garri, fish, vegetables) to a greater extent than men. They also dominate buying and selling of agricultural produce. However, men who trade in agricultural products have an advantage, because they are often selling their own produce. Time spent by men and women in agribusiness management, including marketing, record-keeping and sales is greater for women than for men in all the agro-ecological zones.
- The majority of the respondents spend their earnings on agricultural income-generating investments. This ranges from 45 percent of total earnings in the South East to 30 percent in the North East. The proportion of income spent on food and nutrition ranges from 40 percent in North Central to 3 percent in the South West. However, only 8 to 20 percent of total farm incomes were spent on education across all zones.
- Disparity also exists regarding the percentage of women belonging to mixed farmers' groups. In Benue and Ogun States, 51 to 75 percent of women participate in mixed groups, compared with less than 2 percent in Gombe and Taraba States. In Kano and Katsina States, men and women operate in separate groups due to sociocultural and religious factors. The percentage of women in leadership positions within groups also varies across states, with fewer than 25 percent holding leadership positions in most states. Only Ogun and Oyo States had 26 to 50 percent of women in leadership positions in mixed groups.

Based on Focus Group Discussions (FGD), women reported lack of access and control over the following critical resources: land (21.8 percent), training (16.7 percent), inputs/technologies (16.7 percent), equipment (13.5 percent), water (5.2 percent) and health facilities (4.2 percent). These 'gender gaps' hinder women's productivity and reduce their contributions to the achievement of broader socio-economic development goals.

In general, reasons for the persistence of gender inequalities include: cultural and societal values; low level of education and sensitization; religious beliefs; high level of poverty among women; poor implementation of gender policies; lack of continuity and sustainability of development programmes; early marriage, etc.

Achievements in gender equality, women's empowerment and food security

The majority of women farmers across all states were aware of the existence of extension and advisory services. In areas where there are interventions by development partners/special projects, women have access to agricultural extension workers, training, advisory services, information sharing, learning from successful private farmers, linkages to markets and sources of credit.

Also, special projects provide support to both men and women (in cash and kind) to boost their agricultural activities. Findings showed that women operate in mixed farmers groups in states without sociocultural restrictions.

Participation in women's groups gives women farmers a voice to help them champion their cause effectively. Furthermore, women had opportunities to organize themselves into agricultural production, processing and marketing groups, though they hold few leadership positions.

Most farmers who live in these communities have improved household food security. Women who were formally not involved in agricultural activities were motivated by the success recorded by participants.

Recommendations to promote gender in agriculture and rural development in Nigeria.

Nigeria's gender policy is all encompassing, covering all productive sectors of the economy, including agriculture. However, from the preceding summary it is clear that the well-intentioned and articulated policy has not had any significant impact on the lives of Nigerian girls and women. The main reason for the failure is lack of political will to implement its policies and intentions, so as to enable women to make an effective contribution to agricultural and rural development. It is therefore recommended that:

1. The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN), together with its partners including FAO, appropriately address gender disparity and the prevalence of gender stereotypes regarding women's roles in livestock production, by increasing understanding and appreciation of women's critical contributions to household food security. Women need to have stronger ownership rights to different livestock species, including large ruminants, which can be a lucrative enterprise for women's empowerment.
2. There is a need for Federal and State Governments to conduct gender responsive budgeting (GRB) as a step not only towards accountability for women's rights, but towards greater public transparency and economic stability. In addition, GRB will help the Government to understand how it may adjust its priorities and reallocate resources to meet its commitments to achieving gender equality and advancing women's rights—including those stipulated in CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. It is a matter of urgency for both Federal and State Governments to improve and sustain funding to the Agricultural Development Programmes (ADP) to enable them to achieve reasonable standards in extension delivery, in order to realize the agricultural growth inherent in the Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP).
4. FGN to collaborate with FAO and other development partners through its Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA) to conduct a national census of extension personnel and unemployed graduates of agriculture-related fields, with a view to factoring their integration into the value chain scheme of the APP. At least 30 percent of extension personnel should be women.
5. FGN/National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS)/FAO to develop and maintain sex disaggregated database in agriculture and rural sector, with clear gender performance indicators. In line with its policy on gender equality adopted in 2012, FAO has systematized gender mainstreaming in its assistance to agricultural censuses.
6. Agricultural project development processes at all levels should involve women, men and youth in all their management cycles, to enhance the relevance of interventions, as well as satisfaction and ownership.
7. Due attention should be given to the formation and strengthening of women and youth farmers' groups, to empower them in productive income-generating activities and entrepreneurship development, so as to increase accumulation of capital and asset ownership at household level.
8. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD), in collaboration with FAO, UN Women and other partners, to initiate advocacy and sensitization of both men and women to ensure implementation of 35 percent women's representation in leadership positions at various levels and 10 percent budgetary allocation to the agriculture sector, women's rights to ownership, savings and decision-making on their agricultural investments and revenues.
9. FAO and ECOWAS Commission to strengthen already established partnership with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development (FMARD) and other line ministries in areas of women and youth entrepreneurship development, cottage industries and skill acquisition in crops, livestock and aquaculture.
10. Government at all levels should initiate a deliberate commitment to ban or impose strict penalties on negative traditional and cultural practices that are obstacles to the national and individual development of women, through increased advocacy and sensitization to traditional rulers, religious and community leaders, women's/men's groups, policy-makers and other stakeholders.

11. The current Agricultural Promotion Policy of FMARD should include a detailed guide on how to mainstream gender in all agricultural value chain activities, including crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry, with support from FAO.
12. There are gender inequalities in educational attainment, with a widening gender gap of 18.3 percent in literacy rates between boys and girls, especially in rural areas and among the poorest populations. Also in some regions, more than 80 percent of women cannot read or write, compared with 54 percent of men. In order to reduce these disparities, Federal, State and Local Governments need to improve funding for education and functional literacy, particularly targeting rural areas. UN agencies, such as UNICEF and UNESCO, can collaborate to develop and fund special education programmes for girls and women.
13. Land ownership and control in Nigeria is still dominated by men. Government needs to establish programmes and partnerships that will specifically target women, in order to improve access to land so as to enable them to increase their productive capacities, promote involvement in cash crop production and improve livelihood status.
14. FGN efforts to reduce poverty and achieve inclusive agricultural growth should tailor provision of productive resources to reduce regional differences by ensuring that women in the south have access to, and use similar quantities of inputs, including herbicides and labour-saving devices, as men. In the north, provision to women farmers should also take into account the structural disadvantages that prevent women and their households from fully benefiting from agricultural production.



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In 2016, FAO is providing agricultural assistance to 12 400 IDP households and host families during the ongoing rainfed cropping season with the financial support of the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

1. BACKGROUND

Nigeria has highly diversified agro-ecological conditions, allowing the production of a wide range of agricultural products. As a result, agriculture constitutes one of the most important sectors of the economy. The country's agriculture sector provides direct employment for about 75 percent of the population (NBS, 2011). In the 1970s and 1980s, agriculture contributed some two-thirds of the country's GDP. Currently, it contributes about 40.2 percent, employs approximately 70 percent (male/female) of the labour force, accounts for more than 70 percent of non-oil exports and, most importantly, provides over 80 percent of the country's food needs (FAO CPF, 2012-2017).

In Nigeria, women's contribution to agriculture is estimated at 60-79 percent of labour, especially for food production, processing and marketing (FAO CPF, 2012-2017). Many women are farmers in their own right, as well as working on family farms. However, their role in economic terms continues to be inadequately recognized in the development of agricultural policies and programmes. Mtsor and Idisi (2014) identified the factors responsible for their non-recognition to be:

- a. Male-dominated cultures, which place women in inferior positions;
- b. Custom, taboos and sex-based division of labour, which keeps women subordinate to men;
- c. The failure of economists to place value on unpaid women's domestic production;
- d. Uncertainty of women's ability to articulate their problems and needs effectively;
- e. The problem of the land tenure system and the inability of women to meet basic collateral security as bank requirements for loans intended for agricultural production.

Rural development in Nigeria dates back to the founding of the Moore Plantation in Ibadan in 1914, followed by the launch of the Bamanda project in Cross River, and the Niger Agricultural Scheme at Mokwa in 1940. However, the impact of such efforts has yet to be felt in rural areas, due to lack of infrastructure, such as potable water, electricity, feeder roads, etc. in many localities. According to Ndangara (2005), the process of rural development is synonymous with agricultural development, but it is widely known that agriculture cannot develop unless other rural development amenities are present. Rural development should therefore affect all aspects of the economic, social and political lives of people in rural areas, and it should be relevant to the alleviation of all the conditions associated with the rural sector.

The problem of underdevelopment of the rural sector is often not caused by a paucity of ideas and plans, nor by insufficient funding of programmes. It is mainly the result of socio-cultural factors, corruption and embezzlement of funds, coupled with the adoption of a top-down approach to programme development and the absence of a reliable database (Ndangara 2005). Rural women are the most affected sector of the population.

1.1 Purpose of the Country Gender Assessment (CGA) and assessment of the NAIP

FAO and the ECOWAS Commission are partnering to implement a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) on Gender Responsive National and Regional Agricultural Investment Plans to meet the Zero Hunger Challenge in the region. The goal of the project is to ensure that agricultural transformation and inclusive agricultural growth fully benefit and empower women and youth farmers in Africa.

The CGA provides information on the needs, difficulties and achievements made by rural women in agricultural and rural development. It will assess the challenges and gaps that they face in carrying out their activities, with the aim of informing new guidelines for more gender responsive future formulation, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of NAIPS; preparation of the ECOWAS Action Plan on Gender and Agriculture, food and nutrition security, and the ECOWAS/CAADP processes at country level. It will also facilitate reporting on CEDAW, providing up-to-date and objective information on the situation of rural women in the country, inform high-level policy dialogue and capacity development, and provide a baseline for monitoring the implementation of agricultural policies, NAIPS and SDGs at country level.

1.2 Objectives of the Country Gender Assessment

The objectives are to:

- Analyze the different experiences and constraints experienced by men and women in accessing productive resources, assets, services and opportunities, and identify discriminatory practices that undermine women's rights in agriculture and food systems.
- Inform the development of new guidelines for more gender-responsive formulation, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 2nd generation of NAIP.
- Inform the preparation of the ECOWAS Action Plan on Gender and Agriculture, the FAO-ECOWAS regional publication on gender in agriculture, food security and nutrition, and other ECOWAP/CAADP 2025 processes at country level.
- Provide a baseline for monitoring the implementation of agricultural and rural development policies, the roll out of the SDGs in Nigeria, and country reporting on the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discriminations against women (CEDAW), using with up-to-date and objective information on the situation of rural women in the country.
- Inform FAO's Country Programming Framework (CPF) and policy assistance, capacity development and programming activities at country level.

1.3 Methodology

The methodology for conducting the CGA was based on FAO's guide to conducting the exercise. Two sources of data were used: secondary and primary.

Secondary data sources

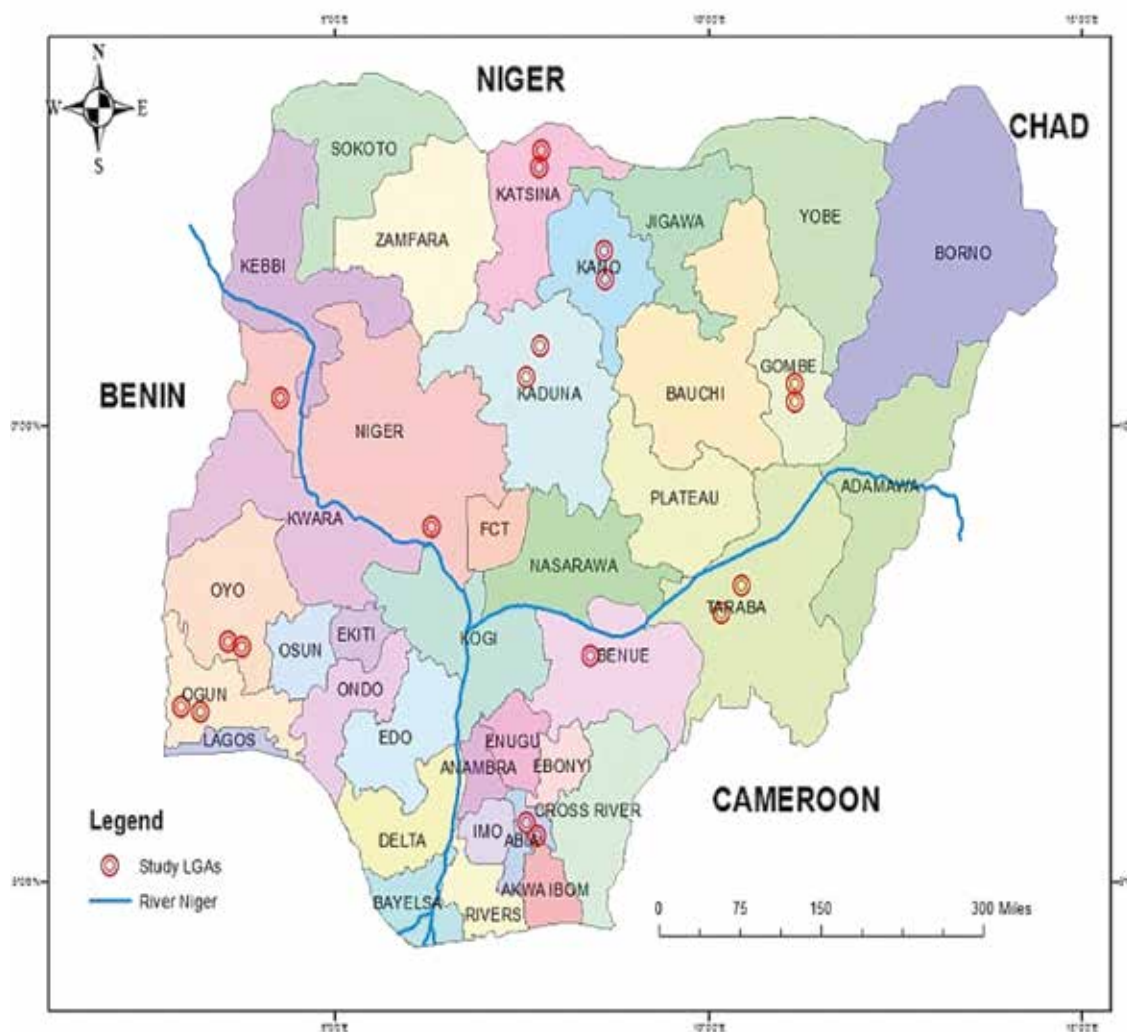
This stage involved a review of relevant documents, including the FAO Country Programing Framework (CPF), FAO's Gender and Land Rights Database, Policy Frameworks, UN Women documents, National Programme documents, reports from Federal and State Governments, NGOs, international conventions, CEDAW, relevant academic studies and reports, etc.

Primary data sources

Discussions were held with a wide range of stakeholders in the agriculture and rural sector, as presented in Annex.

Selection of respondents and field methodology

A purposive sampling approach was used to select the states coverage and primary respondents (Table 1). In the North West and North Central Zones, three states each were selected. Two states were selected from South West Zone and one state each from South East and North East Zones. Only one state was selected in the South East and North East, due to logistics and security problems respectively. Extension staff of Agricultural Development Projects (ADP) in the selected states, and the NAERLS Zonal Officers, assisted in the selection of Local Government Areas (LGA), communities and respondents. Interaction was conducted with members of farmers' groups, individual farmers and agro-input dealers from the respective communities. The coverage for the study comprised 10 states, 20 Local Government Areas, 23 communities, 26 farmers' groups, 20 agro-input dealers and 40 individual farmers (Figure 2). The condition that guided the selection of communities was the availability of agricultural activities and functional farmers' groups.



Source: Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development, 2016

Map of Nigeria showing Local Government Areas (LGA) sampled

Checklists were developed for focus group discussions and interviews with other stakeholders. The groups included producer organizations, women's producer organizations, pastoralists, fisher folk, beneficiaries of agricultural interventions, agricultural workers, etc. The states, LGAs, communities and farmers' groups selected are presented in Table 1.

The survey used the FAO Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) framework, among the various gender assessment frameworks. This provides a wide range of tools and methods for field workers, development planners and policy-makers for incorporating socio-economic and gender considerations into development projects, programmes and policies (FAO, 2001). In this CGA, the SEAGA provided a set of practical questions on different socio-economic factors that affect agricultural livelihoods, i.e., sociocultural, economic, demographic, political, institutional and environmental. The basic questions are summarized as follows:

- Who does what?
- Who owns what?
- Who has access to/controls what?
- Who knows what?
- Who benefits?
- Who should be included in development programmes?

With attention to cover both male and female operatives in all the areas, a total of 333 females and 352 males were interviewed as individuals and groups. It was clear that there was gender segregation in many of the activities, indicating male-intensive and female-intensive activities. For instance, no male respondent was

Table 1: States, LGAs, communities and farmers' groups for the study

Zone	State	LGA	Community	Group Name	Male	Female
South East	Abia	Bende	Uzoakoli	Evergreen Producers and Marketers Farmers Group	41	21
		Umuahia South	Olokororo	Olokororo Producer and Marketing Group	30	20
North Central	Bunue	Gwer East	Mbasa	NPFS Mbasa Rice Production Cooperative Society	11	3
		Gwer East	Gberker	Gberker Women Fadama III Rice Marketers	0	25
	Niger	Bida	Kupafu	Kupafu Rice Farmers Group	23	2
			Bida	Bida Victorious Widows	0	20
		Wushishi	Isako	Isako farmers Multipurpose Cooperative Society	15	0
	Taraba	Wukari	Wukari	Anuwuzhi Fishermen	7	3
			Byepyi	Fojibajen MPCs	6	4
		Gassol	MutumBiyu	Albarkawa Fadama MPCs	25	0
				Amachon Women MPCs	0	20
	North West	Kaduna	Chikun	Bagai II	Bugai II Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative Society	32
SabonGari			Sakadadi	Sakadadi Amalgamated Women Cooperative	0	23
				Sakadadi Youth Farmers’ Cooperative Society	20	0
Katsina		Katsina	Katsina	Bugaje Farmers Association	26	0
		Batagarawa	Batagarawa	Batagarawa Pastoralist Association	15	0
				Women Farmers Association	0	17
Kano		Bunkure	Bunkure	Mata DangiZumuci Association	0	25
		Kumbotso	Zawaciki	Zawaciki Fadama Community Association	29	0
			Kayi	Kayi Fulani FADAMA Farmers Pastoralist Association	19	0
North East	Gombe	Kwami Akko	Doho Kumo	Doho Women MPCs	0	56
				TUSAIDA Kumo Coop. Society	20	25
South West	Ogun	Ifo	Ifesowapo-Opete	Ifesowapo Cassava Farmers Group	19	6
		EgbadoNorth	Fagbesoro	Fagbesoro Women’s Group	0	19
	Oyo	Ido	Koguo	Koguo Women Farmers’ Group	14	6
		Ibarapa East	Okolo	Okolo Farmers’ Group	0	18
				Total	352	333

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

involved in rice marketing in North central while 11 men and 3 women were interviewed in rice production. The same pattern was observed in Niger state.

1.4 FAO's presence in Nigeria

FAO opened its office in Nigeria in 1978, and has therefore been operational in the country for 44 years (FAO CPF, 2018-201). Currently, the country office works directly with three Ministries of the Federal Government (Agriculture and Rural Development, Water Resources, Environmental), and Ministries of State Governments. FAO continues to provide strategic support to national development programmes and strategies aimed at reducing poverty, and improving food security and management of natural resources.

From 1978 to 2012, FAO supported and implemented 111 projects in Nigeria, with a total value of about US\$ 70 million. In addition to providing its own resources, the organization mobilized financial support for implementation of country programmes from bilateral donors, as well as Nigerian beneficiary member programmes.

FAO supported activities focusing on providing technical assistance and policy advice for the development of crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry subsectors, with an emphasis on institutional capacity-building and development of local skills and expertise to ensure sustainability and future local support. Within this

context, the organization has also introduced and piloted a number of new technologies which have been adopted by Government for use and upscaling in the country. FAO continues to support agriculture related emergency responses and rehabilitation in crops and animal health, such as the eradication of avian flu in Nigeria. It has also funded a number of Telefood projects for community groups, and has always supported the promotion and empowerment of women in agriculture and rural areas.

The CPF for Nigeria describes FAO's medium-term assistance priorities and results, derived from nationally defined priorities and objectives, to be achieved in a five-year period of the country programming cycle (2013-2017). The rationale for these five priority areas stems from the nation's commitment to attaining sustainable national food and nutrition security, as well as repositioning agriculture as a vehicle for economic growth and employment creation. The Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) was the past government's strategic framework for a paradigm shift that addressed agriculture from a business rather than a development perspective. As a result, the Government needed technical support and assistance, as well as capacity-building in value chain development.

In order to ensure its national ownership, the CPF has been prepared in close collaboration with key Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA), including the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMENV) and the National Planning Commission (NPC). Other relevant stakeholders are the States Ministries of Agriculture and Natural Resources (SMANR), non-governmental organizations (NGO), civil society organizations (CSO) and major development partners. The process culminated in the identification of the following five broad priority areas and specific CPF outcomes for FAO assistance in the country:

- a. Improvement in national food and nutrition security;
- b. Support for agricultural policy and regulations framework;
- c. Support to the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) for priority value chains and promoting decent employment for women;
- d. Sustainable management of natural resources;
- e. Improved disaster risk reduction and emergency management.

1.5 Organization of report

The first section of the current report has provided the background as well as the purpose and objectives of the CGA. An explanation of the methodology has also been done in the introduction in addition to a quick assessment of the current CPF. The second section, following the background presents a detailed country context with regards gender (in) equality. The country context section has highlighted the main demographic, socio-economic and political characteristics of the country. This section is key to the entire report as it contains general information that provides the background for the country gender assessment.

The section that follows, the third, presents gender analysis of the agricultural and rural sectors. This section presents existing policies as well as the institutional arrangements around the promotion of gender equality. A discussion of the main stakeholders in the agricultural and rural sectors is presented in section four. The fifth section provides a detailed of the implementation and impacts of the NAIP. The sixth session presents the main findings and conclusions while section seven highlights the recommendations.



2. ANALYSIS OF COUNTRY POLICY CONTEXT

Nigeria is the most populous country in West Africa. It occupies a land area of 923 768 km² and lies between latitudes 4° and 14°N, and longitudes 2° and 15°E. Nigeria operates a federal system of government, with 36 states and Federal Capital Territory (FCT), which is under the control of the Federal Government. There are 774 Local Government Areas (LGA), each with a significant degree of autonomy. With elections conducted along ethnic and religious lines, Nigeria's democratic development poses a major challenge to electoral politics in the country. The country is also facing various insurgencies, which have threatened to distract the Government from its reform agenda. However, the Government is making concerted efforts to curtail the spread of attacks, as reflected in its allocation of substantial funds to address the security challenges. Various efforts to find a lasting solution are required to tackle the underlying problems of high unemployment, poverty and underdevelopment, especially in rural areas. The structure of the country's economy is predominantly primary product oriented (agriculture and crude oil production). In the past (previous administrations), the oil sector accounted for an average 79 percent of revenue collected at federal level, and 75 percent of export revenue. The recent fall in oil prices and vandalizing of oil pipes in the Niger Delta have driven the country into economic recession. As a result, Nigeria needs to explore other sources, especially the agriculture sector, to revamp its ailing economy.

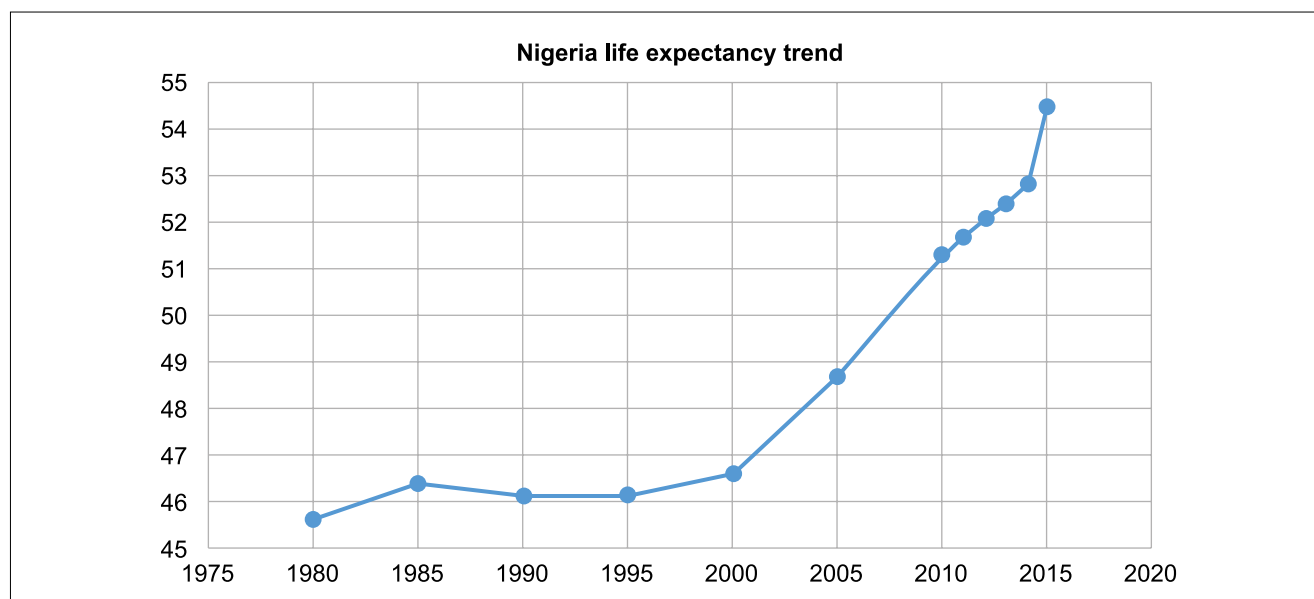
2.1 Human development and gender

In Nigeria, there continues to be a gap between men and women in most human development indices, with the gap widening in the education, employment and health subsectors. This section presents the data available on human development indicators disaggregated by gender, rural/urban residence and demographics, as well as other socio-economic indices.

2.1.1 Demographics

The population of Nigeria was estimated to be 184 635 279 in 2016. This is an increase of 2.67 percent (4 796 305 people), compared with 2015 estimates (FGN, 2016). Women account for 48.8 percent of the population. The ratio between the urban and rural population is 48.3 percent to 51.7 percent. Of the urban population, 27 percent is food insecure, compared with 44 percent of the rural population. The sex ratio of the total population is 1.026 (1026 men per 1000 women), which is higher than the global sex ratio. The male/female sex ratio for the working age population (15-64) in 2013 was 0.99, while the ratio at birth was 1.06. According to 2016 estimates, population dynamics will develop as follows: 20 391 live births average per day (849.63 in an hour), 6 723 deaths average per day (280.13 in an hour), 177 emigrants average per day. Youth accounts for 70 percent of the unemployed population, mostly due to inadequate skills. The unemployment rate in rural areas increased from 14.8 to 24.2 percent between 2006 and 2010. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) (2015), total life expectancy (both sexes) at birth for Nigeria was 54.5 years, as shown in Figure 1, giving the country a global life expectancy ranking of 171. This is below the average life expectancy at birth of the global population, which is about 71 years (UN, 2015). Male life expectancy at birth is 53.4 years, while female life expectancy at birth is 55.6 years, as indicated in Table 3. The issue of internally displaced persons has become a major problem in Nigeria's north east region due to insurgency by the Boko Haram Sects. Within this scenario, data shows that women are over-represented among the IDPs. The Displacement Tracking Matrix reported 21 555 618 Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and 352 840 households identified in Adamawa,

Figure 1: Trend in total life expectancy, Nigeria



Source: WHO, forthcoming.

Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Gombe, Kaduna, Kano, Nassarawa, Plateau, Taraba, Yobe, Zamfara States and Abuja. The highest number of IDPs is in Borno State, at 1 427 999, followed by Yobe, with 150 718, and Adamawa, with 134 415. The IDP population is made up of 54 percent women and 46 percent men. Some 58 percent of the total population of IDPs are children, of whom more than half are under 5 years old, while 42 percent are adults. More than 91 percent of IDPs live in host communities. A total of 97 camps have been identified.

2.1.2 Human Development Index value and rank

According to UNDP (2016), Nigeria's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2015 was 0.527, which places the country in the low human development category, positioning it at 152nd out of 188 countries and territories. As shown in Figure 2, between 2005 and 2015, Nigeria's HDI value increased from 0.467 to 0.527 a rise of 10.1 percent, and an average annual increase of about 1.07 percent. As inequality in a country increases, the loss in human development also increases. The 2015 female Human Development Index (HDI) value for Nigeria was 0.482, compared with 0.569 for males, resulting in a GDI value of 0.847. Overall, the implementation of MDG programmes in the country, supported by the debt-relief funds from the debt forgiveness secured in 2005 highly favored the gender and human development especially in the area of female literacy rates, Hence, higher GDI figure reported.

2.1.3 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

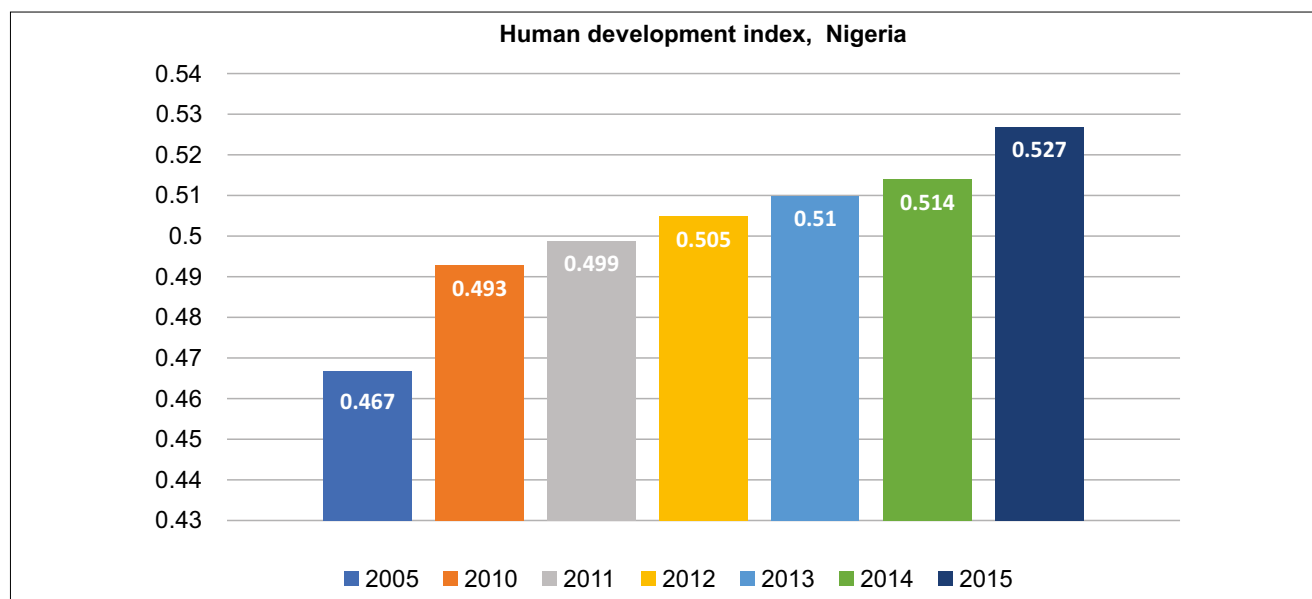
Nigeria has high and rising levels of inequality. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2016) reported that the proportion of people living below the national poverty line rose from 65.5 percent in 1996 to 69.0 percent in 2010 and then has fallen to 46 percent in 2015. Poverty is higher in rural areas (73.2 percent) than in urban areas (61.8 percent). According to the UNDP (2015), Nigeria's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Human Development specifications was 0.279 in 2013. In Nigeria, 50.9 percent of the population (88 425 000 people) is multidimensionally poor, while an additional 18.4 percent lives near multidimensional poverty ratings (32 001 000 people). The average of deprivation scores experienced by people in the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is 54.8 percent. The MPI is the share of the population that is multidimensionally poor, adjusted by the intensity of deprivations.

2.1.4 Gender Inequality Measures

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

Gender inequality remains a major barrier to human development in Nigeria. The GII is an inequality index that measures gender inequalities in three important aspects of human development: reproductive health,

Figure 2: Human Development Value, Nigeria



Source: UNDP, 2016

measured by maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rates; empowerment, measured by the proportion of parliamentary seats occupied by females; and education. According to the subcategory of access to reproductive health, Nigeria had a mean score of 49.8 for maternal mortality, of 43.1 for births attended by skilled health staff, and of 55.1 for pregnant women receiving prenatal care (AfDB, 2015). Nigeria ranks 118 out of 134 in the Gender Equality Index (Table 2).

Gender Empowerment Index (GEI)

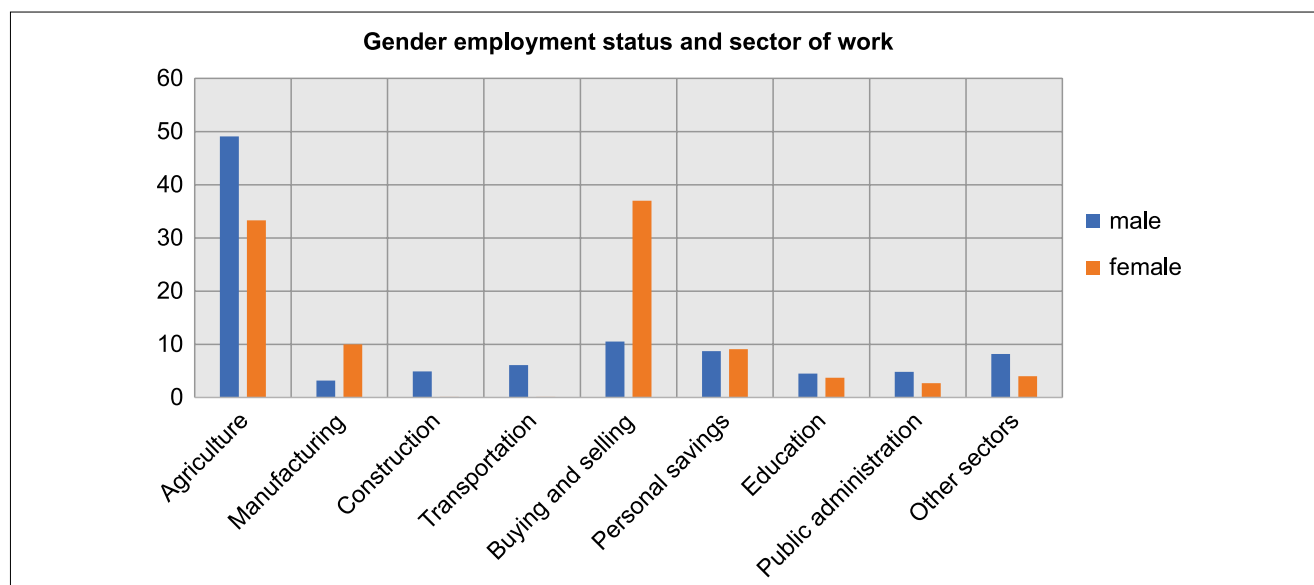
Nigeria ranks 18 out of 52 Africa countries in the Gender Empowerment Index, with a mean score of 66.2 in the overall economic opportunities index. This indicates that women can explore obtainable resources at their disposal to register a business, sign contracts and open a bank account in the same way as men (Table 2).

Table 2: Human Development and Gender Development Indicators for Nigeria, 2015

Human Development Indicators		Gender Development Indicators	
Life expectancy at birth (years)	53.1	Life expectancy at birth female (years)	55.6
Life expectancy index	0.44	Life expectancy at birth male (years)	53.4
Adult literacy rate (percent age 15 and above)	59.6	Adult literacy rate female (percent age 15 and above)	65.3
Youth literacy rate (percent age 15-24)	72.6	Adult literacy rate male (percent age 15 and above)	79.9
Multidimensional Poverty Index (2013)	0.279	Sex ratio males per 1,000 females	1.026
Combined gross enrolment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary schools (percent)	35.5	Combined gross enrolment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary schools female (percent)	NA
Expected years of schooling (years)	9	Gender empowerment measures	66.2
Education index	0.59	Combined gross enrolment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary schools male (percent)	53.8
GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	\$5,443	Estimated earned income, female (PPP N)	N4052
Gross National Income (GNI) per capita	\$5,639	Estimated earned income, male (PPP N)	N6585
GDP index	0.36		
HDI index	0.527	Ratio estimated male to female earned income	0.41
Ranking (out of 183 countries)	152	Gender Development Index (GDI)	0.841

Source: UNDP, Human development report 2016

Figure 3: Gender employment status and sector of work, 2013



Source: NBS, 2013

Inequality adjusted HDI (IHDI)

Nigeria's inequality adjusted Human Development Index in 2015 was 0.32, making it one of the countries with the lowest inequality index. The human inequality coefficient for Nigeria is 37.5 percent, due to inequality in the distribution of the HDI dimension indices. According to UNDP (2015), the average loss due to inequality for low HDI countries is 32.0 percent, and for sub-Saharan Africa, 33.3 percent.

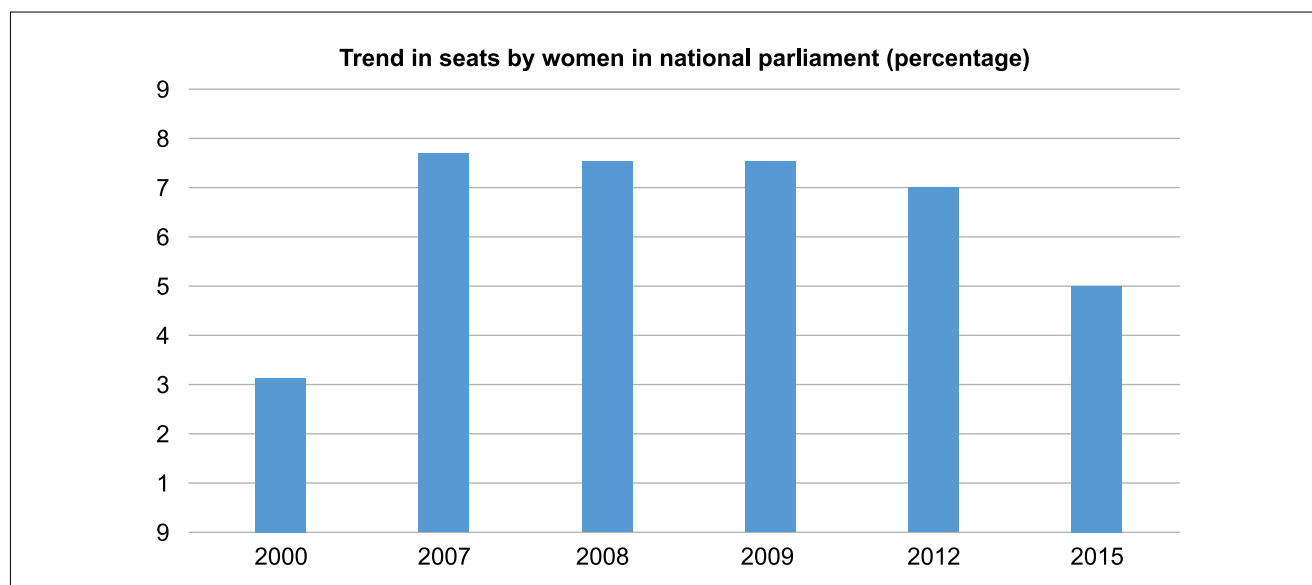
2.1.5 Employment

The Department for International Development (DFID, 2012) reported that Nigeria's 80.2 million girls and women have significantly worse life chances than men, or their counterparts in comparable societies. Some 54 million Nigerian women live and work in rural areas, where they constitute 60 to 70 percent of the rural workforce. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2013), 49.1 percent of the female working age population was part of the labour force, compared with 64 percent of males of the same age. Women represented 42 percent of the total labour force. The employment ratio of men and women in urban areas is 42.37 percent, while the employment ratio of men to women in rural areas is 63.58 percent. The main employment sector is wage labour, household enterprise activities or farming. Agriculture, trade and personal services are important employment sectors for both men and women (Figure 3). While agriculture is the largest employment sector for men, trading dominates in the case of women (37 percent), with agriculture in second place (33 percent). In comparison, men are much less likely to work in trading (10 percent) than in other sectors. The male/female sex ratio for the working age population (15-64) in 2013 was 0.99, while the ratio at birth was 1.06.

2.1.6 Women's voice and political representation

In Nigeria, women and men have the same formal rights to participate in political processes. Although women actively participate in the membership of political parties, they mainly serve as supporters for men to acquire political positions. Men tend to control the party hierarchy and hence have an advantage in influencing parties' internal politics. The Gender Inequality Index (GEI) ratio of women's participation has a mean score of 17.8, with women in parliament having a mean score of 3.0, compared with men, giving the country a ranking of 30th in Africa. At just 5.9 percent, Nigerian women have one of the worst levels of representation in national legislatures, which comprises 469 members (Figure 4). Women at ministerial level have a mean score of 34.9, while women judges have a mean score of 15.4 in GEI ratings. Women's household rights have a mean score of 58.8; women's legal rights have a mean score of 40.6 (GEI), out of 52 African country ratings.

Figure 4: Trends in seats by women in Nigeria's National Parliament (percent)



Source: FGN, 2015

In the current dispensation, only 25 out of the 360 members of the Nigerian House of Representatives are women, and only about 4 percent of local government councillors are women, confirming that women are under-represented in political decision-making bodies, and that their representation has not increased since the inception of democratic rule. Fewer than 10 percent of the seats have been occupied by women members of parliament since 1999, when Nigeria returned to democratic rule.

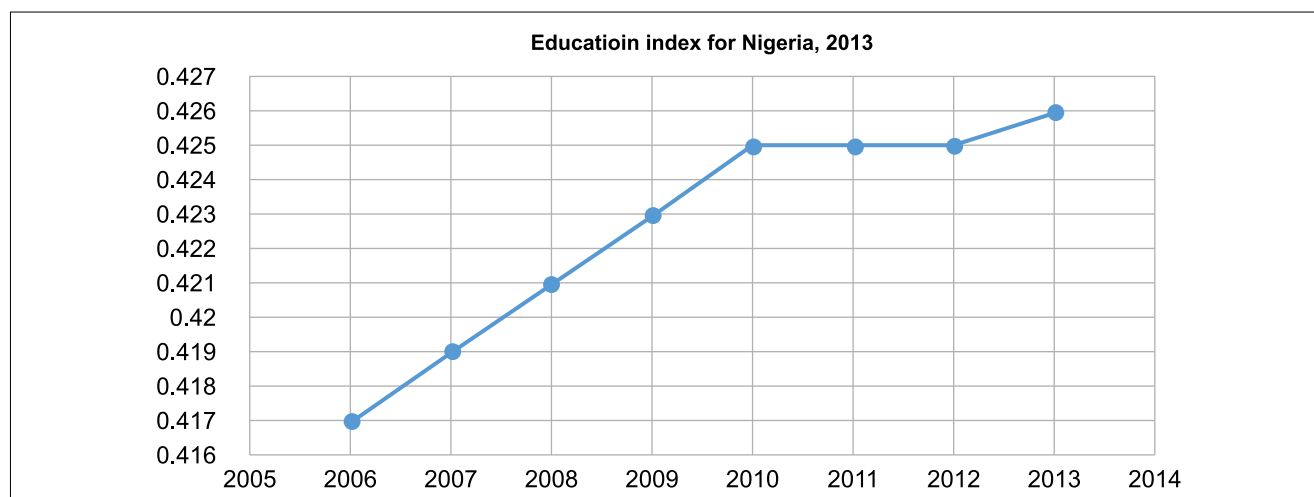
2.1.7 Education

According to UNDP (2015), more than 1.5 million (8.1 percent) Nigerian children aged 6 to 14 are currently not in school, a situation that has earned Nigeria a ranking as the world's largest out-of-school children country. More than one-third (38 percent) of Nigerian women and 21 percent of men aged 15 to 49 have no education. Only 17 percent of women and men have attended primary school. More than one-third (36 percent) of women and nearly half of men have attended secondary school (Table 4). Less than 10 percent of women and 14 percent of men have attended tertiary education. Nigeria ranks 32nd out of 52 African countries in terms of equality in the human development education subcategory. For the gender equality index, the country obtained a mean literacy score of 51.1, a primary school enrolment mean score of 81.5, a secondary school enrolment mean score of 79.3 and a tertiary school enrolment mean score of 62.9. Regarding gender disparity, in eight Northern states, more than 80 percent of women are unable to read, compared with 54 percent of men. According to the Central Bank of Nigeria, the gender gap in literacy rates between boys and girls at rural level was 18.3 percent in favour of boys. Similarly, the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS, 2013) indicated wide disparities. School attendance is lowest in rural areas especially among the vulnerable who constitute the poorest of the poor, and dropout rates are higher for girls towards the end of primary school. However, in the age group 6 to 9 years (primary school ages), the score was only 3.9 percent in favour of boys. This indicates that there is a gender dimension to educational attainment and development in Nigeria. The Nigeria education index shows steady improvements from 2006 to 2010 (from 0.417 to 0.2425), but maintained static indices from 2010 to 2012, as shown in Figure 5.

2.1.8 Health

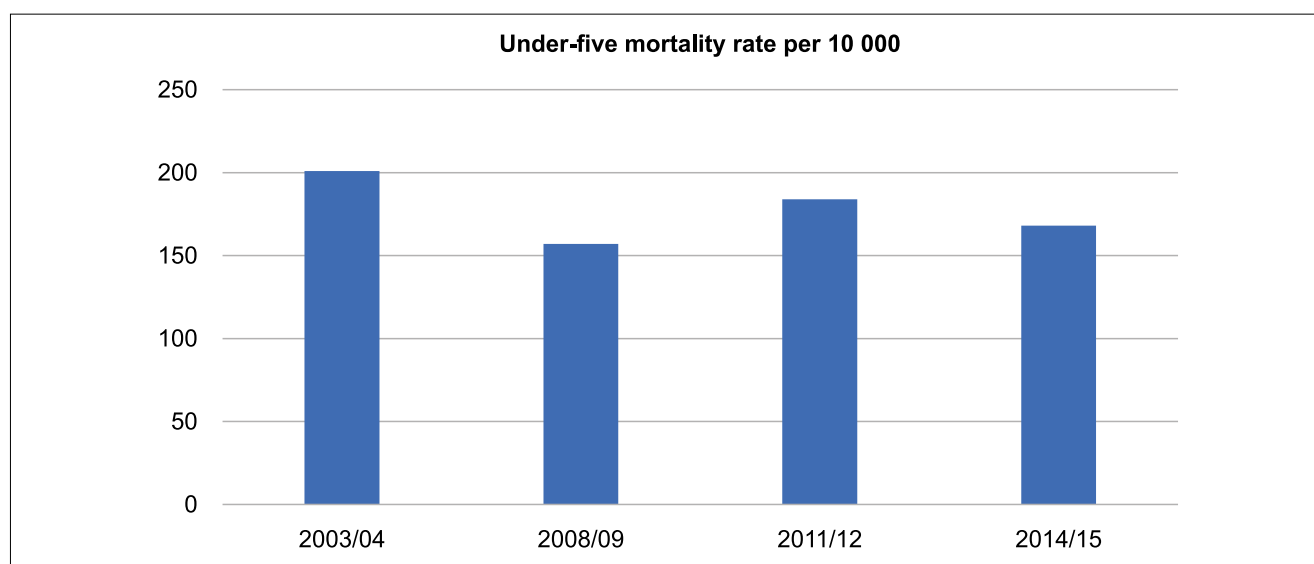
According to UNICEF (2014), about 2300 under-fives and 145 women of childbearing age lose their lives every day in Nigeria. The under-five mortality rate is 168 per 1 000 live births (Figure 6). This gives the country the world's second highest ranking for infant and maternal mortality. The infant mortality rate is 103 deaths per 1 000 live births. Male deaths per 1 000 live births are 79.02, while for females it is 68.87 deaths per 1 000 live births. The adolescent fertility rate is 118 births per 1 000 adolescent girls (National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS), 2013). Sixteen percent of women have an unmet need for family planning. Women's

Figure 5: Education Index of Nigeria, 2013



Source: Adapted from UNDP, 2015

Figure 6: Trend in under-five mortality rate per 10 000, Nigeria



Source: UNICEF, 2014

chance of dying from pregnancy and childbirth in Nigeria is 1 in 13. Less than 20 percent of health facilities offer emergency obstetric care and only 35 percent of deliveries are attended by skilled birth attendants. Preventable or treatable infectious diseases, such as malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoea, measles and HIV/AIDS, account for more than 70 percent of the estimated one million under-five mortality rate in Nigeria. Nigeria has the second highest HIV burden in the world. The prevalence is 3.6 percent among the general population (4 percent females, 3.2 percent males) and 4.1 percent among pregnant first-time antenatal care attendees. Around 3.1 million Nigerians are HIV positive; 58 percent of these are women, including around 229 000 pregnant women (NDHS, 2013).

According to WHO (2015), prevalence of anaemia in reproductive mothers in Nigeria is 49 percent which is very high amongst other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (WHO, 2015). 33 percent of the adults are overweight (26 percent men and 41 percent women) while 10 percent of adults are suffering from obesity (WHO, 2015). The NDHS (2013) also found that 30 percent of women aged 15 to 49 have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM). The prevalence varies according to ethnicity and geographic zones, with the practice being most common in the South East and South West. The percentage of FGM according to ethnicity is Fulani 8.5 percent, Hausa 20.3 percent, Ibibio 15.8 percent, Yoruba 58.4 percent, Ijaw 23.5 percent, Igbo 51.4 percent and others 14 percent. Regarding geographic zones, the figures are: North East 2.7 percent, North West 19.6 percent, South East 52.8 percent, South West 53.4 percent and South-South 34.2 percent. The main indicator of childhood malnutrition

is stunting, and NDHS (2013) reported that 57 percent of children under five years-old were stunted from chronic undernutrition, while 42 percent were wasted due to acute undernutrition. Nigeria is facing a crisis of malnutrition and ranks second behind India among all countries with high numbers of stunted children. About 2 in 5 Nigerian children are stunted, with rates varying throughout the country. Moreover, almost 30 percent of Nigerian children are underweight. Nearly 4 out of 5 Nigerian children do not meet the WHO recommendation for being exclusively breastfed during the first six months of life. Although analyses of recent trends show that the country is making progress in reducing infant and under-five mortality rates, the pace still remains slow. Infant mortality rates also remain high - and higher for female children with 79.02 female and 68.87 males out of 10,000 births across the country.

2.1.9 Other socio-economic indicators

Social Infrastructural

In Nigeria, women and men have the same formal privileges to access basic infrastructures such as sanitation and water facilities. The NDHS (2013) reported that 28.7 percent of the population practise open defecation, while 37.3 percent use unimproved latrines. About 59.6 percent of the female population has access to improved sources of drinking water, while only 34 percent use improved sanitation facilities. Similarly, 23.34 percent of adult females, compared with 16.1 percent of adult males, have responsibility for fetching drinking water. In the case of children, the burden of fetching water is slightly greater for girls (4.9 percent) than for boys (4.2 percent). Only 18 percent of women own a house, either alone or jointly, and only 15 percent own land. In comparison, 60 percent of Nigerian men do not own a house and two-thirds do not own land. Also, 30 percent of households have an improved, not shared sanitation facility. Three in ten households have no sanitation facility. In urban areas, 37 percent of households use improved sanitation facilities, compared with 25 percent of households in rural areas.

In terms of early marriage, the 2011 MICS reports that 17.6 percent of women aged 15 to 49 were married before the age of 15, while 39.9 percent were married before the age of 18. The 2008 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) estimated that 28.4 percent of girls between 15 and 19 were married, separated, divorced or widowed.

2.2 Country's development planning framework

Nigeria has a national gender policy that focuses on women's empowerment, while also making a commitment to eliminate practices that are harmful to women. According to FMWASD (2008), the process for developing a strategic framework for implementation of National Gender Policy (NGP) was started in August 2007, following approval by the Federal Executive Council in 2006. Two consultants with requisite skills for the assignment were recruited, with support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), to harmonize the process and provide the framework in consultations with all critical stakeholders on gender equality in Nigeria. Development of the Strategic Results Framework, NGP management system and the monitoring and reporting framework was preceded by a survey to review the preparedness of Government and development agencies and the private sector in the implementation of the National Gender Policy. The Strategic Framework was only for an initial five-year period and there was a selection of priority areas of focus, based on the situation analysis. The draft Strategic Framework was presented to a technical group of gender experts drawn from governments, CSOs, women's human rights organizations and development partners, including UN agencies, for review on 13 August 2008. A workshop was held to adopt the reviewed Strategic Framework on 15 August 2008. The framework was adopted as amended by FMWASD, state Commissioners of Women Affairs, representatives of other federal ministries, the office of the Senior Special Adviser to President on MDGs, and representatives of CSOs.

The strategic goal of the National Gender Policy was to *"build a just society devoid of discrimination, harness the full potentials of all social groups regardless of sex or circumstance, promote the enjoyment of fundamental human rights and protect the health, social, economic and political wellbeing of all citizens in order to achieve equitable rapid economic growth; evolve an evidence-based planning and governance system where human, social, financial and technological resources are efficiently and effectively deployed for sustainable development."*

The objectives of the National Gender Policy include:

- i. Establishing a set of rules for both government agencies (federal/state/local), the private sector (formal and informal businesses) and civil societies to guide them in responding to gender issues

in the provision of social services, justice, legislation, the administrative and regulatory system, agriculture, livelihoods, health, employment, technology, infrastructure and financing.

- ii. Developing gender mainstreaming tools, approaches and instruments that fit into the national development policy.
- iii. Adopting gender mainstreaming as a core value and practice in the general polity of Nigeria.
- iv. Incorporating CEDAW, the Optional Protocol on African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Right of Women in Africa, and other global and regional instruments on the equality of rights in the legislative process, laws, judicial and administrative systems of the country.
- v. Achieving minimum levels of representation for women to promote equal opportunity in all areas of life for women, as well as for men.
- vi. Undertaking specific projects for women and men that will build the capacity of both to make use of economic and political opportunities for gender equality and empowerment.
- vii. Educating all relevant agencies, bodies and individuals that gender equality is central to national development.

The gender policy results framework delineates the areas of internal organizational strengthening needed to allow the Federal and State Ministries of Women Affairs to implement the Strategic Development results framework and strengthen its partnerships with CSOs and other national agencies and development partners, including UN agencies in Nigeria. The framework is divided into three areas:

- a. Overall strategic direction, capacity-building and policy advice to Federal and State Governments;
- b. Monitoring and evaluation (accountability, target setting, risk and oversight); and
- c. National coordination.

In Nigeria, implementation of the policies on gender equality mandates and Strategic Results Framework requires strategic partnerships with relevant federal agencies (including the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development), State Governments and donor governments. It incorporates UN-supported national priorities, with a focus on national harmonization and results. The Strategic Results Framework is one such initiative that has shaped relations between Nigeria and development partners in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, to which development partners have also made commitments.

2.3 Nigeria's Agricultural Policy and Processes

Coherence of regional, subregional and national agricultural frameworks

The activities of the Nigeria National Agricultural Strategic Policy Framework are coordinated by the National Council on Agriculture, which has the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development as its chair, and the State Commissioners of the same as its members. The implementation of agriculture and gender related policy frameworks are synchronized and aligned with relevant national, regional and subregional agencies, in order to achieve their overall goals. The agriculture sector plays a key role in ECOWAS. The regional agricultural policy adopted by ECOWAS, the ECOWAP (2005), fashioned after the African Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP, 2003), sets out a vision of a modern and sustainable agriculture based on effective and efficient family farms and the promotion of agricultural enterprises through the involvement of the private sector. Its general objective is to contribute in a sustainable way to meeting the food needs of the population with regards to economic and social development and the reduction of poverty in Member States, and thus to reducing existing inequalities among territories, zones and nations.

The global objective of the Regional Agricultural Policy document for West Africa (2008), ECOWAP, is broken down into specific objectives focusing on:

- a. Food security for people in the region;
- b. Reducing food dependence and achieving food sovereignty;
- c. Involving producers in markets;
- d. Creating jobs with guaranteed incomes in order to improve living conditions and services in rural areas; Intensifying production systems in a sustainable manner;

- e. Reducing the vulnerability of West African economies by limiting factors of instability and regional insecurity.

The three major themes of this policy are:

- Increasing the productivity and competitiveness of West African agriculture;
- Implementing a trade regime within West Africa;
- Adapting the trade regime vis-à-vis countries outside the region.

Nigeria's economic transformation agenda (Vision 2020) places the socio-economic well-being of Nigerians at the forefront of the agenda. The blueprint recognizes that there is a gap between the country's economic growth and human development progress and seeks to address that divide. One of the two broad objectives of National Vision 20:2020 is to translate economic growth into equitable social development, or improvements in well-being for all citizens. Based on this objective, the Vision intends to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; enhance access to quality healthcare; provide sustainable access to potable water and basic sanitation; promote gender equality and empower women, among other goals. Women and other disadvantaged groups have also been identified in the NV 20:2020 document as one of the cluster groups within the social development thematic area. The Nigeria Vision 20:2020 (NV20:2020) is Nigeria's long term development goal designed to propel the country to the league of the top 20 economies of the world by 2020.

The Vision is a coherent view of the key principles and thrust of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) and explicitly recognizes the strategic importance of the agriculture sector, listing a number of special initiatives that the Federal Government intends to pursue in order to promote increased production. The agricultural policy objectives outlined in NEEDS are complemented by those contained in the New Agricultural Policy, MDGs, the Seven-point Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, within a common standpoint that is consistent with Nigeria's long-term national goals. The Nigerian objectives and goals are clearly linked to FAO's Country Programming Framework (CPF) and the Zero Hunger initiative of ECOWAS.

2.3.1 The national agriculture and rural development strategy

The Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) 2016-2020

To refocus the agriculture and rural sector, the Federal Government implemented a strategy known as the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA), built on the principles that agriculture is a business. The focus was on rebuilding a sector characterized by high levels of food imports. According to FMARD (2016), the Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) will focus on how to build on the initial progress and successes made by the ATA in terms of agribusiness performance. The new strategy has the primary focus of closing the gaps in supply and demand in crop and livestock production by addressing issues related to inputs, financing, storage, transport and market access in key value chains. To achieve this, the APP is to work with key stakeholders to build on an agribusiness economy that can deliver sustained prosperity by meeting domestic food security goals, generating exports and supporting income and jobs. The APP principles for stability and focus on agriculture as a business, as adapted from the ATA, view agriculture as a key to long-term growth, and food security as a human right. They prioritize crop production and market orientation and facilitate climate and environmental sustainability. For the APP to achieve its goals, policies and interventions were organized into three different themes as summarized in Table 3.

Table 3: Three themes for APP

Productivity enhancements	Crowding in private sector investment	FMARD institutional realignment
Soil fertility, access to land, inputs, information and knowledge, storage, processing, production management, marketing and trade.	Access to finance, agribusiness investment development.	Institutional setting and role, youth and women, infrastructure, climate change, research and innovation, food and nutrition security.

Source: FGN, APP, 2016

2.3.2 Agricultural policy conception and formulation in Nigeria

Since independence, Nigeria has pursued its major economic and agricultural development programmes using various national development and rolling plans. In 1987, specific agricultural policy initiatives were introduced for the first time, with the aim of accelerating agricultural production and providing farmers with adequate price incentives, easy credit, export facilities, better access to markets and improved infrastructures to encourage rural enterprises (Shaib et al., 1997). The major agricultural policies conceived and formulated in Nigeria at the time were:

- Agricultural pricing policy
- Agricultural trade policy
- Agricultural land policy
- Agricultural credit policy
- Agricultural input supply and subsidy policy
- Infrastructural development policy

The agricultural policy document, as finalized in 1988, was supposed to remain in operation until the year 2000. A new agricultural policy document, launched in 2001, had most of the features of the 1987 document, albeit with more focused direction and articulation. The key features of the new policy included:

- Evolution of strategies to ensure self-sufficiency and improvement in technical and economic efficiency in food production. This was to be achieved through (i) the introduction and adoption of improved seeds and seed stock; (ii) adoption of improved husbandry and appropriate machinery and equipment; (iii) efficient use of resources; (iv) encouragement of ecological specialization; and (v) recognition of the roles and potential of small-scale farmers as the country's major food producers.
- Reduction of risks and uncertainties in agriculture, to be achieved through the introduction of a more comprehensive agricultural insurance scheme to reduce natural hazards in agricultural production and improve security of investment.
- A nationwide, unified and all inclusive extension delivery system under the Agricultural Development Programmes (ADP). The Women in Agriculture (WIA) programme had been incorporated into the ADP in 1987.
- Active promotion of agro-allied industry to strengthen the linkage of agriculture to the economy.
- Provision of facilities and incentives such as rural infrastructure, rural banking, primary health care, cottage industries etc., to encourage agricultural and rural development and attract youth (including school leavers) to embrace agriculture.

The current Nigerian agricultural policy document, called the Agriculture Promotion Policy (2016 - 2020), was launched in 2016. The APP, which has components of ATA (5-point agenda) and NV20:2020, highlighted 11 key guiding principles, including participation and inclusiveness as a measure for maximizing the participation of stakeholders

2.4 Gender and Agriculture Policy in Nigeria

2.4.1 Women in Agriculture (WIA) policy

Despite their significant contribution to national food security, women received no formal recognition by way of a policy pronouncement to encourage, protect, and facilitate their access to inputs and services until 1986, when a Government policy directive was developed to establish the Women in Agriculture (WIA) component of ADPs that were responsible for grassroots extension and advisory services in all states of Nigeria.

The overall goal of the WIA policy was the integration of women into the nation's total agricultural development, through the mainstreaming of women into the ADP system, to enable them to have equal access to agricultural inputs, credit, loans and extension services. The specific objectives were to:

- i. develop innovative gender specific programmes for women farmers in close collaboration with national agricultural research institutions;
- ii. promote the development and use of appropriate agricultural technologies which reduce drudgery and meet the needs of women for poverty alleviation;

- iii. assist in linking women farmers to sources of credit;
- iv. increase agricultural productivity and income of women farmers;
- v. improve skills of women in food processing, utilization and marketing for enhanced income;
- vi. organize women into cooperative groups for effective group action; and
- vii. encourage women farmers to keep livestock to improve their nutritional status.

The premise of this policy was that the successful integration of women into the ADP system would significantly increase their productivity, raise their incomes, improve their quality of life and make a significant contribution to the nation's overall agricultural development.

Implementation approach

The approach was through a single line of command under the Training and Visit (T & V) system of extension already promoted in the ADPs. It involved:

- i. Identifying project beneficiaries and classifying them according to their interests into Economic Interest Groups (EIGs) to promote agribusiness.
- ii. Identifying any ethnic and/or physical constraint hindering women farmers from successfully performing farm operations. Such constraints will then be addressed at management level or at the Monthly Technology Review Meeting (MTRM) for possible solution. These were regular analyses of technological innovations, research findings from various research institutions for introduction, adaptation, and dissemination for adoption to increase women farmers' production and productivity.
- iii. Maintaining active liaison with agroprocessing research institutes to keep track of latest innovations and machinery design development that would best address constraints faced by women processing groups.
- iv. Organizing Women in Agriculture into cooperatives to achieve economies of scale, in relation to production, resource sourcing and marketing of products.
- v. Capacity-building of WIA staff and their clients, both in-house and off station.

Challenges:

It was observed and confirmed by ADP WIA officials that the WIA programme never achieved its stated ideal objectives, even with World Bank support for the ADPs. This was principally because:

- a. The targeted number of female extension agents (EA) was never achieved in most of the states;
- b. The critically needed commitment to funding and the political will to back the policy with appropriate legislation were never realized, especially after termination of the World Bank support to the ADPs;
- c. There was no concrete policy to provide for women's access to land and production inputs –major determinants of successful agricultural production and poverty alleviation – to back up the limited extension and advisory services being provided by the WIA extension staff.

Nevertheless, it should be highlighted that the WIA programme was not a total failure, as it created awareness of the importance of women in agricultural production and development and promoted capacity-building for women to adopt new production and processing technologies. It also fostered collaboration with research institutes to promote labour saving devices for women.

2.4.2 Other women's development strategies of FGN/development partners

National FADAMA development project

This is a World Bank assisted project designed and implemented in selected states of Nigeria. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to sustainably increase the incomes of participating rural community dwellers. The project was implemented in phases: FADAMA I, II and III. Target groups include: (a) the rural poor engaged in economic activities (farmers, pastoralists, fishers, nomads, traders, processors, hunters and gatherers, as well as other economic interest groups); (b) disadvantaged groups (widows, the handicapped, the sick and other vulnerable groups, including people living with HIV/AIDS and unemployed youth; and (c) service providers, including government agencies, private operators and professional/semi-professional associations operating in the project areas. The impact assessment of FADAMA I and II revealed that beneficiary households realized substantial increases in their incomes during the first year of the project, compared with those in communities that did not participate. The average measured increase in real income was 60 percent

during the first year of the project, which exceeded the PDO targeted increase of 50 percent (World Bank, 2008). Furthermore, the project led to the acquisition of productive assets by beneficiaries and improved access to markets and transport services. Women, the poor and other disadvantaged groups were given a voice through the project. The project pro-actively supported women's organizations participating in project related activities. It rehabilitated men and women with disabilities and trained them to be useful economic agents, thus making meaningful contributions to the quality of life of the beneficiaries and the local economy (World Bank, 2008).

An NPFS project undertaken with the support of development partners, including FAO, aimed to assist Nigerian fishers in constructing and maintaining fish cage nets, using local construction materials. The project impacted farming households as follows:

- Increasing farmers' incomes, enabling them to pay school fees/buy learning materials for their children.
- Improving food availability for the community.
- Improving health status by providing alternative sources of protein from fish consumption.
- Reducing water pollution, making the project environmentally friendly.
- Outreach to about 75 households.
- 35 fish cages imported by China.
- 40 fish cages created locally by replicating the new technology.
- About 350 farmers in local communities engaged in fishing including men, women and youths.

An assessment of the FADAMA II project indicated that 50 percent of male and female FADAMA users who benefited from project support activities saw an increase of at least 20 percent in their average real incomes (FADAMA II, 2007).

The ATA Support Fund recorded key impacts as additional incomes to an increased number of producers and entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector through the creation of about 120 000 jobs along the value chain of priority commodities. An additional 20 million metric tons of key commodity food crops were added to domestic food supply per annum (ADF Appraisal Report, 2013).

USAID MARKETS

USAID MARKETS II in Nigeria aims to improve the performance, income, nutrition and food security of poor Nigerian rural farmers or smallholders in an environmentally friendly manner. The key objectives include smallholder farmer's access to increased income, ready markets, better inputs (improved seeds and optimal use of fertilizer), adequate finance, better water and pesticide management, appropriate technology and extension services. They also include improved nutritional use of grown or purchased food (USAID, 2015). MARKETS II programme implementation in Nigeria ensures gender equality for food security, so that both men and women have significant influence on household spending.

The project contributed to the Federal Government's Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA), which included among its outcomes adding 20 million metric tons (MT) of food to the domestic food supply by 2015 and import substitution via local production in five value chains: cocoa, cassava, rice, sorghum and aquaculture. Two sub-value chains – soybean and maize – provide raw materials for aquaculture fish feed. MARKETS II continues to support the Government's agricultural development objectives by presenting FMARD targets alongside MARKETS II productivity results, to reflect its contribution to national goals.

USAID MARKETS II farmers have more than doubled yields from 1.3 MT/ha to 5.08 MT/ha by adopting best practices for spacing, fertilizer application, weeding and harvesting.

The project worked with soybean farmers to uptake close planting, which ensures quick canopy closure, controls weeds and provides 1.5 times more plants to harvest than previous farming methods. Project farmers have increased yields by 60 percent and contributed 48 703 MT of soybean to the domestic food supply since 2012.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Following the outcome of the World Food Conference in 1974, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was established in 1977 to finance agricultural development projects for food production in developing countries. IFAD's mission is to overcome rural poverty by focusing on country specific situations,

which include empowering poor rural women and men to achieve higher incomes and improving food security (IFAD, 2010). IFAD participation is designed to orient policies to service the agriculture and rural sectors more effectively; strengthen institutions that will bring financial services to the poor and facilitate the participation of rural people and their institutions in implementation and finance policy.

In Nigeria, IFAD has financed and implemented programmes and projects with a strong gender component to improve the income, food security and general living conditions of poor rural households, particularly female-headed households, youth and the physically challenged (IFAD, 2011). The programmes include:

- i. Rural microenterprise development programme (RUMEDP)
- ii. Rural Finance Institution-building programme (RUFIN)
- iii. Community-Based Natural Resource Management Programme (CBNRMP)
- iv. Community-Based Agricultural and Rural Development programme (CBARDP)
- v. Climate change Adaptation and agribusiness Support Programme (CASP)
- vi. Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP)

UNDP/FAO Strengthening of extension in Nigeria project

A major component of the *UNDP/FAO Strengthening of extension in Nigeria* project (NIR/87/014) was support to the Women in Agriculture Programme of the ADPs, with a focus on providing labour saving production tools and processing equipment, as well as training for women in use of equipment and maintenance in five selected states of Cross-River, Gongola (now Adamawa/Taraba), Kano (including the present Jigawa State), Niger and Ogun.

Challenges to use, promotion and upscaling:

- a. Equipment found useful was not available in the desired/commercial quantities for interested women's groups.
- b. Some of the equipment was found to be gender unfriendly, and therefore judged 'inappropriate' for women.
- c. Inadequate capacity-building on equipment operation, performance monitoring and maintenance.
- d. High cost of some equipment, especially given poor access to affordable credit by women, who generally did not have the collateral demanded by banks.

2.4.3 APP gender policy implementation strategies

The Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) recognizes women as the main drivers of small and medium-scale agricultural production, although they have less access to land, inputs and agricultural services than men. The special attention paid to key gender gaps in the proposed policy involves:

- Amending the current land use act, especially facilitating the recognition and entitlement of land ownership by formal or customary means to assist collateralization for women;
- Reviewing the gender policy to implement activities by expanding wealth creation opportunities for women and youth;
- Developing and launching entrepreneurship platforms that will create pathways for youth and women to enter the agribusiness economy and expanding cooperation with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) intervention fund, targeting women and youth;
- Promoting an entrepreneurial ecosystem to encourage youth and women's integration into service provision roles;
- Building the capacity of women and youth in entrepreneurship, including providing support for start-up ventures, technical training and access to financial services;
- Addressing the issues of stunting, wasting, underweight and other manifestations of hunger and malnutrition, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, which include children below five years, nursing mothers and persons with chronic illness and disabilities.

2.5 Key political commitment and policies on agriculture and gender equality

Nigeria as a country has made several commitments, at both national and international levels, to ensuring that gender issues are not only part of the national discourse, but also integrated into the development and

implementation of Government policies and programmes. These are contained in frameworks such as the Vision 20:2020 National Plan, National Gender Policy, ATA Policy, Agricultural Promotion Policy, etc.

Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979 and came into force in 1981. Nigeria ratified CEDAW in 1985, with no reservation whatsoever. The convention provides the basis for realizing equality between men and women by ensuring women's access to equal opportunities in all spheres of life – political, economic, social and cultural. CEDAW is the only international human rights treaty that addresses rural women directly and exclusively through its Article 14. Nigeria committed to plan and undertake a series of measures to combat discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure (on the basis of equality between men and women) that they participate in benefits from rural development. The convention provides the opportunity for UN specialized agencies to contribute to the work of the CEDAW committee by providing specific information on issues falling within the scope of their mandate. The country's efforts to eliminate discrimination against women, including rural women, can be instrumental in defining recommendations to the Government. The promise of equality which CEDAW holds for Nigerian women remains unfulfilled, due to the fact that the condition of women in Nigeria is deteriorating, and the equality gaps are widening (Figure 6).

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (1995). This is a supplementary provision of the African charter on human and people's rights that focuses on entrenching women's rights adopted in Maputo in 2003.

- Article 2 of the Protocol urges all member states to combat all forms of discrimination against women by including the principle of equality between men and women in all national constitutions and legislative instruments, enacting legislative and regulatory measures that prohibit any form of discrimination against women and take corrective action where discrimination against women exists.
- Article 3 addresses women's right to dignity.
- Article 4 addresses women's right to life, integrity and security. Other articles address the elimination of harmful practices, marriage, separation/divorce/annulment of marriage, access to justice and equal protection before the law, right to participate in the political and decision-making process, right to peace, protection of women in armed conflicts, rights to education and training, economic and social welfare rights, health and reproductive rights, right to food and security, right to adequate housing, right to positive cultural context, right to a healthy and sustainable environment, right to sustainable development, widows' right, right to inheritance, special protection of elderly women, of women with disabilities and women in distress and articles on implementation.

Geneva Declaration for Rural Women. This declaration mobilizes political will for women's participation in development policies, programmes and projects; the provisions in the declaration include ensuring the economic needs and well-being of rural women are taken into account in all sectoral policies and programmes; improving rural women's access to resources and equitable distribution of land, capital, labour, technology, social services and infrastructure; launching initiatives that raise productive capacities of men and women. Special attention is paid to disadvantaged rural women; promoting national and household food security, alleviating women's workload, improving health and nutritional status of mothers, children and the quality of life of the family; providing information, communication and education that meet the needs of rural women; optimizing the role of rural women as agents of change, and creating conditions for their social, political and economic empowerment; creating opportunities for rural women to assume leadership positions in the decision-making process; and promoting, strengthening and disseminating rural women's organizations in order to establish effective channels for their access to decision-making bodies at all levels.

African Union Gender Policy 2009. This is a commitment by heads of States in Africa including The Gambia to social and economic development, which takes into account the diversity in social, cultural, and traditional settings on the continent. It also sets out to address cultures and practices that militate against enjoyment of freedom and rights by women and girls.

The AU is almost through with the development of a new gender strategy that will achieve the goal of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE), a goal that is common to both Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030. The new gender strategy will take into account successes and lessons learned in the development of Agenda

2063 and 2030, as well as to take into account other recent commitments of importance to women. This new strategy will build on the on the current AUC policy on GEWE, adopted in 2009, which is the first continent-wide policy of its kind.

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1989) has a special focus on the girl child. The objective of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is to protect children from discrimination, neglect and abuse. It is the principal children's treaty, covering a full range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) (1995). This promotes women's economic and political empowerment, education and training. The Beijing Plus 20 review addressed key areas such rural women's empowerment, food security, nutrition etc. It recognizes that women continue to face disproportionate barriers to the equitable ownership; control of and access to natural resources and land; the impact of the actions of extractive industries and multinational corporations on women's rights to land and natural resources, disregard of rural women's environmental knowledge and skills, and their role in agricultural decision-making; need for extensive mainstreaming of gender, including the equitable consideration of the needs and vulnerabilities of women and men, girls and boys, in relation to climate change and natural disasters etc. In this regard, recognizes the diversity of women in all societies and that the most disadvantaged rural women are in need of specific measures to improve their status and access to productive resources; it affirms that that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is fundamental to achieving human rights and for equitable, gender responsive, inclusive and sustainable development for the benefit of all persons and societies, notes the overall reductions in the proportion of women and girls living in extreme poverty and improvements in food security for women and girls to name a few.

UN Resolution 1325 (2000). Calls for increased participation of women at all levels of decision-making, including in national, regional, and international institutions, in mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict.

Vienna Convention (1993). Promotes women's rights as human rights. Four critical areas in this convention are human rights to education, equal status of men and women, and human rights of women, migrant workers and indigenous people, all of which are strongly relevant to the situation of women and girls in rural areas.

Rio commitment. Stresses women's central contribution in environment management, and acknowledges women's suffering due to environmental depletion. The latter has now assumed alarming dimensions in the context of climate change. It further highlights that environmental depletion is caused by intensified pollution driven by wasteful consumption, unprecedented growth of the human population, persistent poverty, and social and economic inequalities. This is a big commitment by nation states including Sierra Leone and intersects with gender and the environment, yet nothing or very little has been done to address climate change issues facing women, who are more vulnerable to disaster and have little capacity to recover.

Regional Policies

Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme: Endorsement of NEPAD/CAADP in 2005, with the aim of increasing agricultural growth rates to 6 percent per year, and sustaining this over time; CAADP is the main vehicle for accelerating African agricultural growth, through promotion of public and private sector investment, creating a conducive policy environment and institutional capacity strengthening. The main objective is to help African countries achieve higher economic growth through agriculture led development, thereby eliminating hunger, reducing poverty and ensuring food security. The initiative has also been instrumental in refocusing national and global development support to agricultural development, and has become a platform for a wider stakeholder consultation that involves national governmental bodies, continental and regional organizations, development partners, the private sector and civil society. The CAADP framework provides a common platform for African countries to address agricultural transformation and eradicate hunger and malnutrition, enabling the expansion of exports, and supporting environmental resilience. In 2014, the "Sustaining the CAADP Momentum: the CAADP 10-year results framework" was launched with the aim to accelerate country implementation of CAADP, based on three levels of results. Level 1 on "Agriculture's Contribution to Economic Growth and Inclusive Development" deals with wealth creation, economic opportunities and prosperity through jobs and poverty alleviation, food security and productive safety nets, nutrition and environmental resilience and sustainability. Level 2 on "Agricultural Transformation

and Inclusive Agricultural Growth” addresses agricultural production and productivity, agriculture and food markets, agro-industry and value addition, and management and governance of natural resources for sustainable agricultural production. Level 3 on “Strengthening Systemic Capacity for Effective Execution and Delivery of Results” focuses on policy design and implementation capacity, effective and accountable institutions, evidenced based agricultural planning and implementation processes, coordination, partnership and alliances, investments in agricultural value chains and data quality. CAADP is the main vehicle for accelerating African agricultural growth through promotion of public and private sector investment, creating conducive policy environment and institutional capacity strengthening. CAADP has also been instrumental to refocusing national and global development support to agricultural development, and has become a platform for a wider stakeholder consultation that involves national governmental bodies, continental and regional organizations, development partners, the private sector and civil society.

Declaration on 2015 Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Agenda 2063: This declaration, adopted by the African Union Summit in June 2015, sets an ambitious agenda to enhance women’s contribution and benefit from formal agriculture and agribusiness value chains. It invites AU member States to increase mechanization, technological innovation, education and skills development for women, intensify their financial inclusion in agribusiness and empower them with knowledge and skills to use modern technologies in agribusiness and agricultural value chains. Another key dimension is to enforce women’s rights to productive assets including land and their access to public procurement processes in agribusiness. The Declaration also calls upon financial institutions to have a minimum quota of 50% to finance women to grow from micro to macro businesses. It stresses the need to ensure that the Continental Free Trade Area promotes the empowerment of women in agribusiness and agricultural value chains.

The ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP/CAADP): ECOWAP/CAADP represents the ECOWAS countries’ efforts to accelerate implementation of regional and national agricultural programmes in the light of CAADP. It is the coordinating framework for implementation of CAADP in West Africa. Fifteen National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIP) and a Regional Agricultural

Investment Plan (RAIP) represent the instruments of ECOWAP implementation. The investment plans (regional and national) address issues and national and regional dimensions of agriculture, natural resource management and food security. They cover the agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry subsectors. The Regional Partnership Pact for the Implementation of the ECOWAP/CAADP 2025 adopted during the Conference on “ECOWAP+10 and Prospects for 2025” held in Dakar in November 2015 made commitments to improve the governance of agricultural policy by strengthening compliance with the principles of gender equality and equity, and accountability.

The Malabo Declaration on “Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods”: Nigeria is also committed to the 2003 Maputo Declaration’s commitment to allocate at least 10 percent of national budgetary resources to agriculture and rural development issues. However, the budgetary allocation to agriculture is yet to achieve the 10 percent figure stipulated in the declaration. Political commitment at both federal and state levels will be required to enforce reforms. The Declaration calls for deliberate and targeted public support for all segments of the population, particularly women, the youth and other disadvantaged groups to participate and directly benefit from the growth and transformation opportunities to improve their lives and livelihoods. It also raises concerns about high levels of hunger and malnutrition especially among children and the limited progress made in agro-industries and agribusiness development which hampers value addition and competitiveness of African products in local, regional and international trade, thus depriving African women and youth from gainful employment opportunities. It also highlights the significance of enhancing conservation and sustainable use of all of our natural resources including land, water, plant, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, and these are particularly crucial for women. The Implementation Strategy and Roadmap of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Africa Agriculture Growth and Transformation was elaborated to guide the effective implementation of the Declaration.

Supplementary Act of ECOWAS on Gender Equality: The effective implementation of this Supplementary Act will add substantial value to the regional integration process and thus propel the journey towards the attainment of the ECOWAS Vision 2020. Member States have been urged to identify and assess the factors impeding women’s contribution to regional development efforts, as well as to determine a framework likely to allow

finding a solution to these problems and take into consideration women's concerns and needs in the working of society. As a result, the mandate entrusted to ECOWAS in the Treaty is unambiguous: to phrase policies and develop programs allowing women to meet their needs in the economic, social and cultural fields.

Other declarations to which Nigeria is committed include:

- The Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water (2004), geared towards addressing challenges in implementing integrated and sustainable development of agriculture and water in Africa;
- The Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer for the African Green Revolution, under which African Union (AU) member states resolved to increase fertilizer use from 8 to 50 kilograms of nutrients per hectare by 2015;
- The Sharm El-Sheik Declaration on High Food Prices in 2008, under which the AU Assembly committed to reducing by half the number of undernourished people in Africa by 2015, eradicating hunger and malnutrition in Africa and taking all necessary measures to increase agricultural production and ensure food security in Africa, in particular through the implementation of AU-NEPAD/CAADP and the 2003 AU
- The Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to significantly reduce poverty, and inequality, among other objectives.

However, with the exception of achieving a 6 percent growth rate in agriculture, Nigeria is yet to make significant progress in the attainment of the goals and commitments made.



3. GENDER ANALYSIS OF THE AGRICULTURAL POLICY PROCESS

Gender inequalities are often the result of discriminatory beliefs and practices, which restrict women's and men's full participation in agriculture and related careers. This is a situation that goes against international commitments to equal opportunities and creates inefficiencies in human capital and productivity (Figure 5).

Regarding the roles of stakeholders as agents of change in the Nigerian agricultural economy, the goal of gender inclusiveness in the nation's agricultural system recognizes the need to maximize the contribution of women and youths to agricultural production and eliminate discriminatory practices in their employment. FMARD works towards improving access to credit and inputs for both men and women within the sector. In order to reduce the disparities between men and women, the following actions were undertaken to improve women's access to productive resources:

- Encourage all banks and lending institutions to work towards a minimum female loan access rate of 35 percent, in line with the requirements of the National Gender Policy;
- Collaborate with CBN, other national agencies and international partners to conceptualize and implement customized loan mechanisms for rural women farmers;
- Provide ongoing entrepreneurial development training for women and youth farmers;
- Work with other stakeholders and partners (LGA authorities and community leaders) to advocate for women's access/use of land, FMARD (2013).

3.1 National Gender Policy coherence with agriculture sector strategy

The National Policy on Women was formulated to improve the situation of Nigerian women. However, there was scant commitment to implementation of the policy due to lack of legislative backing, budgetary allocation, and deep-seated cultural and religious barriers. These setbacks prevented full realization of the policy objectives, which would have ensured full participation of women in nation building, especially in agricultural development. The challenge for the Government lay in insufficient sensitization and education of men on the rights of women, and their important contributions to national development.

Although the Federal Ministry of Women and Social Development (FMWASD) has primary responsibility for the coordination and implementation of the National Gender Policy, based on its mandate as the key national gender machinery of the Federal Government of Nigeria. A strategic Agriculture Policy Framework on gender has been developed by FMARD to ensure clarity and coherence on gender issues, as well as the political will to implement the policy through the allocation of resources. The policy identifies targets that are in concert with sectoral objectives aimed at accelerating economic recovery and progress towards the MDGs. A holistic multisectoral approach was proposed for implementing the gender policy.

There is no doubt that the gender policy is all encompassing, covering all the productive sectors of the economy, including agriculture. However, the well intentioned and articulated policy has not had any significant impact on the lives of Nigerian girls and women and girls due to lack of political will to implement it effectively. According to the British Council (2012), writing about gender in Nigeria: *"excellent policies and intentions have not translated into budgets or action to make the changes required if women are to contribute effectively to Nigeria's development. The National Gender Policy has yet to bear fruit, while implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has stalled"*.

Historically, development policies in Nigeria have been those of a general neglect of women. Thus, FGN (2006) commented that *“The first twenty years of development planning in Nigeria as a Republic remained largely welfares, whereby gender concerns and women’s interests were subsumed within the national interest, and a trickle down approach to development practice. Under such arrangement, development policies remained gender-blind, thus gender was never an issue of development planning”*. Combined action is needed from Government and other stakeholders to address these challenges, including serious involvement on the part of traditional institutions, especially with respect to sensitization and mobilization of men on the rights of women and their important contributions to national development, food security and poverty alleviation.

3.2 Gender mainstreaming in the policy development process

Gender mainstreaming in the policy development process was facilitated by the FMARD Gender Task Team, with technical support from the Federal Public Administration Reform Programme (FEPAR) to provide direction for the Ministry in terms of improving gender specific outcomes within the policy context. The policy development process was based on findings from a gender audit carried out with the support of FEPAR. The audit involved an extensive desk review process and broad-based consultations with a sample of farmers in designated rural communities and other sectors’ stakeholders. Major outputs from the audit process included: a sector baseline report on gender and a two-year strategic action plan on gender, which itemizes priority activities among others.

It has been observed that women’s contributions are not reflected in the national accounting system, or given prime consideration in agricultural policy processes. As such, women’s concerns in the agriculture sector have been largely overlooked in programmes dedicated to improving agricultural productivity (NCAA, 2006). Aside from the 1987 agricultural policy, which had the WIA programme embedded into the agricultural production system, and the 2016 policy, which addresses women and youth concerns in agricultural entrepreneurship platforms, capacity-building for improved decisions and dialogue for institutional change, no other agricultural policy in Nigeria has targeted mainstreaming gender in the sector.

A key goal of the Nigerian 2016 agricultural policy was to encourage a shift in behaviour that results in negative outcomes for women and youth, and strengthen efforts to expand wealth creation opportunities for them (FMARD, 2016). The major policy objectives and targets are to:

- a. Develop and launch entrepreneurship platforms that create a pathway for youth and women to enter the agribusiness economy, expanding cooperation with CBN’s intervention funds targeting women and youth and facilitating investment advisory support for potential entrepreneurs;
- b. Review the subsisting gender policy document with a view to improving implementation activities;
- c. Expand training of key leaders and influencers across FMARD to ensure that gender/ youth considerations are integrated into decision-making;
- d. Expand capacity-building in entrepreneurship for women and youth, including technical training and access to financial services;
- e. Facilitate dialogue with farmers’ groups and service providers (for women and youth), so as to expand the pool of ideas that FMARD can pursue to institutionalize change.

The APP document addresses gender equity along critical areas of agricultural value chains in Nigeria. However, the extent of implementation of this policy thrust in the Nigerian agricultural system, and the achievements made, have yet to be ascertained.

3.3 Availability and use of gender indicators

Systematic collection, analysis and use of sex disaggregated data and gender sensitive indicators are critical to substantiate the importance of closing the gender gap for inclusive agricultural growth, enhanced productivity and food security and nutrition and inform sound policies, programmes and investment plans in the agricultural and rural sectors. In response to the lack of gender sensitive indicators in the agriculture and rural sectors, FAO has systematized gender mainstreaming in its support to member countries to improve data availability and quality through various initiatives:

- Research and guidance for the collection, analysis and use of sex disaggregated data and gender sensitive indicators, including within the framework of the roll out and monitoring of the SDGs;
- Capacity development workshops in collection, use and analysis of gender sensitive indicators in the agricultural and rural sectors;

- Introduction of the Gender and Agricultural Statistics Framework;
- Preparation of an agriculture toolkit for the development of sex disaggregated data in agriculture;
- Systematization of gender mainstreaming in agricultural censuses. This involves the inclusion of gender experts in the teams responsible for designing the data collection and analysis instruments and preparation of a standalone census report highlighting and analyzing sex-disaggregated data and gender sensitive indicators.
- Identification of a minimum set of data that countries will collect to improve the availability and quality of agricultural statistics and to allow comparable analyses, e.g. agricultural production, prices, expenditures; social inputs, e.g. demographics of rural and urban population.

Evidence from Nigeria revealed that gender breakdown is prominent in social and health statistics. However, most agricultural indicators are genderblind. Gender perspective is missing in the agricultural indicators database. Although, Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics, population censuses and other censuses present data based on sex disaggregated statistics for sectors, including agriculture, conventional approaches to development indicators are mostly used. These include indicators based on increases in productivity and income, reduction in poverty rate (percentages) and improvements in asset ownership. The gender indicators for agriculture proposed by FAO (2011), using data obtainable from some surveys and censuses are detailed in Annex 2.

This core set of indicators has the potential to provide a basic picture of the socio-economic status of women and men in agriculture.

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- Identification of a minimum set of data that countries will collect to improve the availability and quality of agricultural statistics and to allow comparable analyses, e.g. agricultural production, prices, expenditures; social inputs, e.g. demographics of rural and urban population.

3.4 Institutional capacity for gender equality and women's empowerment

As a composite index, the SIGI scores countries on 14 indicators. The indicators are grouped into five sub-indices that measure one dimension of social institutions related to gender inequality.

The SIGI classification clusters 108 countries into five levels of discrimination in social institutions: very low, low, medium, high and very high. Discriminatory social institutions are correlated with countries performing poorly in many socio-economic dimensions and development outcomes, such as vulnerable employment among women and gender segregation in the labour market (Cerise and Francavilla, 2012; OECD, 2012). The negative impact of gender inequality in social institutions on child malnutrition, educational outcomes, political governance and demographic transition demonstrates their importance (Branisa *et al.*, 2009). Countries with very high levels of gender discrimination in social institutions recorded SIGI > 0.35. These countries are characterized by very high levels of discrimination in legal frameworks and customary practices across most sub-indices, and by very poor implementation measures.

3.4.1 Gender mainstreaming in the Ministry of Agriculture

Gender mainstreaming is the process of assessing the implications for women and men, of any planned action, including legislation, policies and programmes, in any area and at all levels. (ECOSOC, 1997).

In Nigeria, FMWASD is responsible for providing support to FMARD on issues of policy related to gender mainstreaming. Specifically, the Federal Executive Council, through FMWASD, uses the structures, processes and mechanisms to disseminate support services to FMARD for effective gender mainstreaming in its departments and agencies. The FMARD gender unit operates with a team of 60 gender focal persons and a gender specialist in charge

of the unit. A gender audit report of the agricultural transformation agenda value chains of FMARD indicated that the Ministry's internal gender machinery is situated within the Extension Services department, which has a Gender and Youth Directorate coordinating the Gender and WIA units (FEPAR, 2013). A gender specialist is also located within the horticulture team of FMARD. The gender unit is responsible for facilitating the appointment of gender focal persons in each of the Ministry's departments and agencies. Based on this arrangement, a team of 60 focal persons were formally trained in September 2013. A gender related SWOT analysis of FMARD, with respect to ATA activities, revealed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats arising for the gender mainstreaming efforts of FMARD. In essence, FMARD and FMWASD both operate units with trained and experienced gender focal persons managing them. The gender units are important arms of these ministries, crucial for mainstreaming gender activities in order to balance power relations between men, women and youth and also to reduce gender disparities in agriculture.

3.4.2 Gender mainstreaming in agriculture-related sectors

Gender norms constitute an important constraint to increasing agricultural productivity. Marked inequalities in the distribution of resources between men and women are linked to production inefficiency. However, interventions aimed at smallholder farmers often fail to address women's lack of access to and control of important agricultural resources. Visible constraints for women include access to and control over land, water, forestry and other natural resources, as well as complimentary inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers, new varieties and technologies, agricultural extension, labour, credit, markets and social capital. Mtsor and Idisi (2014) reported that women in Nigeria constitute 60 percent of the agricultural labour force and contribute about 80 percent of total food production, but only 14 percent of women own the land they cultivate. Quisumbing and Pandolfelli (2008) observed that both statutory and customary land tenure systems in Nigeria operate to the disadvantage of women agricultural producers. In most cases, women have no rights to land, water, forest and other natural resources. Even where property rights exist for women, the security of such rights is very weak, thereby limiting women's ability to exercise them. This constraint in turn limits women's ability to obtain credit and invest in soil fertility practices. Pronounced gender disparities in agriculture, as reflected in Table 4, include contribution to agricultural production and processing, as well as access to both resources and services.

3.4.3 Partnerships in gender and agriculture

Major partnerships and linkages in Nigeria based on gender mainstreaming in agriculture include those pursued by FMARD in collaboration with other Federal Ministries, such as the Ministry of Women Affairs and

Table 4: Gender disparities in agriculture

Domain	Indicators	Men percent	Women percent
Contribution to production/ agroprocessing	Agricultural production (ACTION AID, 2009)	30	70
	Agricultural processing (Action Aid, 2009)	40	60
	Animal husbandry (Action Aid, 2009)	50	50
Access to resources	Ownership of land (DFID, 2012)	93	7
	Access to agricultural loans	70	30
	Access to capital from financial services (DFID, 2012)	99	1
	Ownership of bank accounts (DFID, 2012)	85	15
Access to services	Share among extension workers (DFID, 2012)	94	6
	Farmer registration	90	10

Source: FMARD, 2016

Social Development and the Ministry of Labour and Productivity, and with international agencies such as FAO, IFAD, USAID, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Sassakawa Global 2000 (SG2000-Nigeria). In Nigeria, gender mainstreaming operates within the framework of the National Gender Management System, as shown in Figure 7.

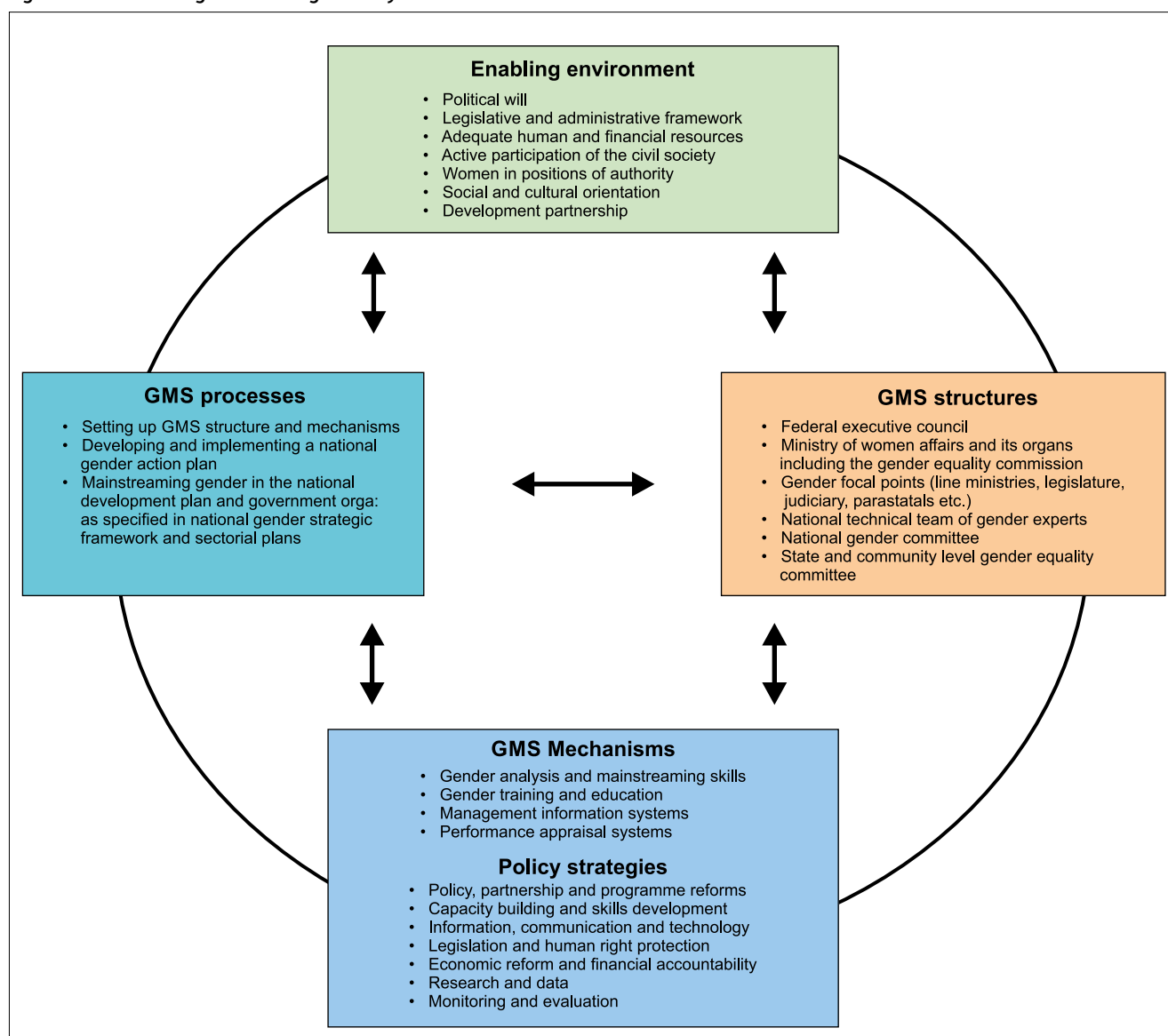
The national mandate for gender equality operates at federal, state and local government levels. At federal level, the Federal Executive Council creates the political will for an appropriate legislative and administrative framework, with adequate human and financial support to encourage the active participation of civil society, social and cultural organizations and development partners. This is communicated through FMWSD to other line ministries, including FMARD, the legislature and judiciary, departments, agencies and centres, as presented in Figure 8.

Figure 9 outlines the structure and flow of gender mainstreaming partnerships between FMWSD and various CSOs, CBOs, NGOs, private organizations and development partners.

3.4.4 Budgeting for gender equality in the agriculture sector.

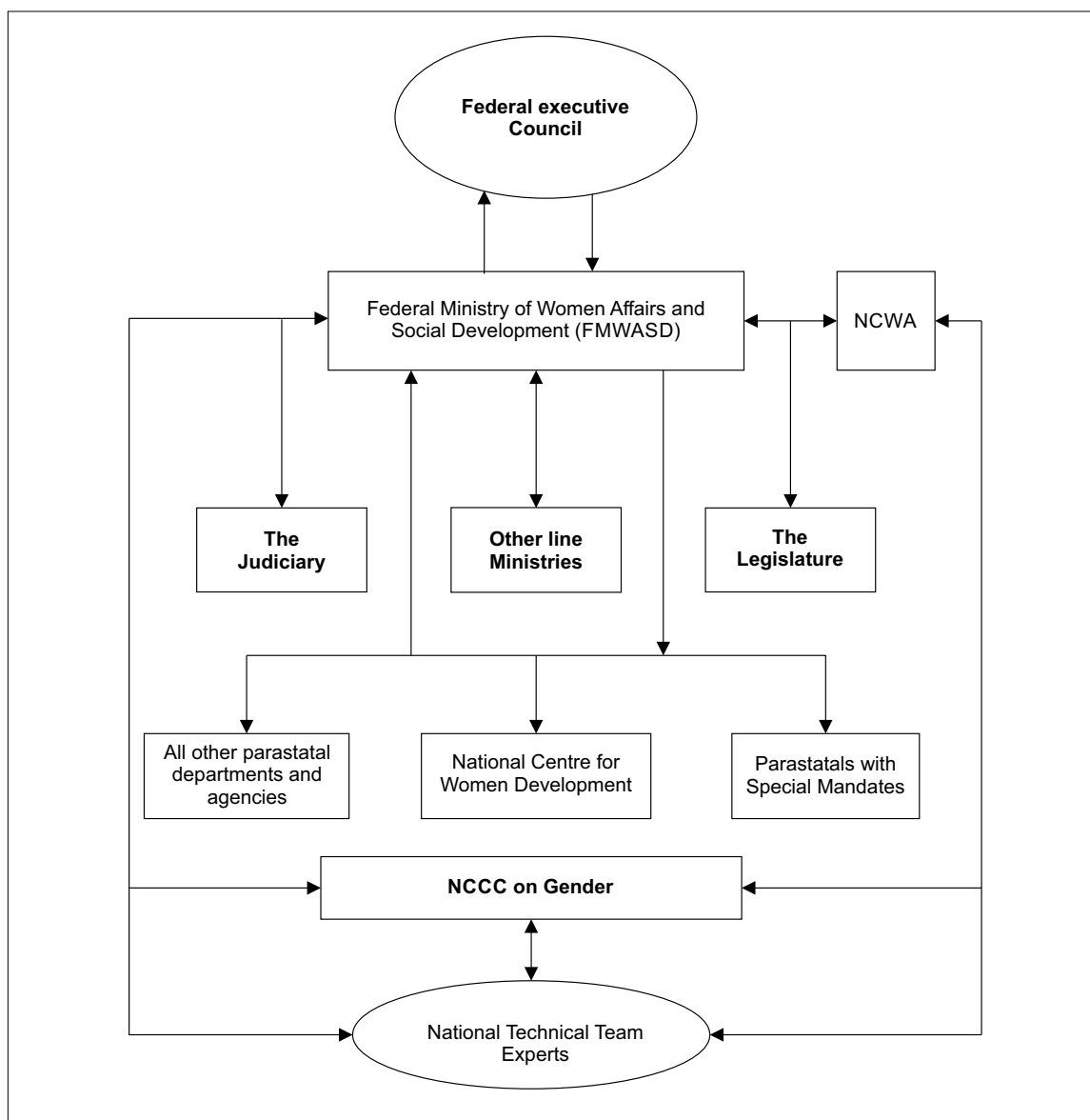
Nigeria has joined 57 countries in Africa, Asia, Middle East, Europe and America to establish national and subnational gender responsive budgeting initiatives. As a result, Nigeria has adopted Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB), which creates a direct linkage between social and economic policies through the application

Figure 7. The national gender management system



Source: NCAA, 2009

Figure 8: National mandate for gender equality (Government institutions)



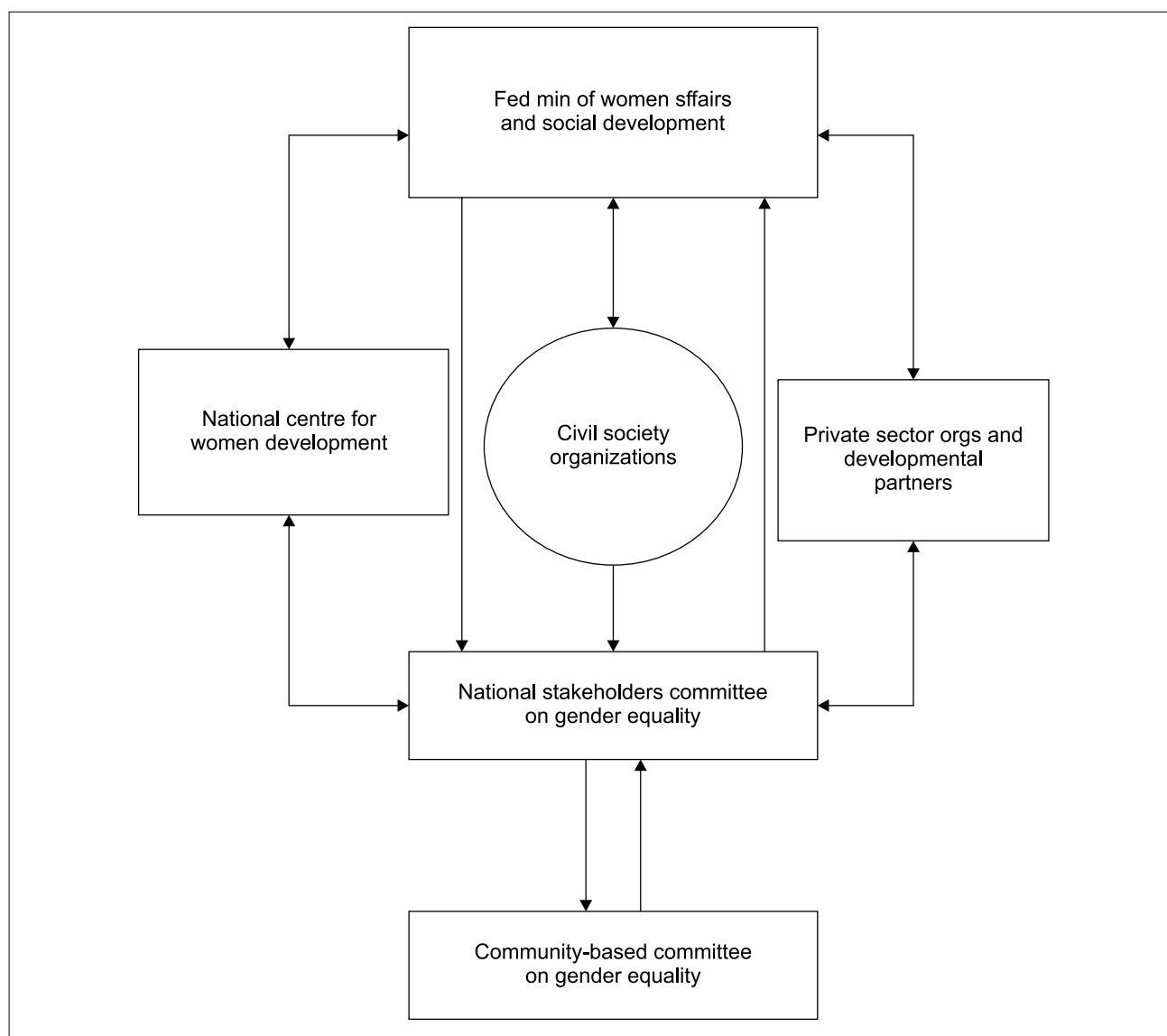
Source: NCAA, 2009

of a gender analysis to the formulation and implementation of government budgets. In this initiative, gender budget analysis is applied to gender specific expenditures that promote gender equity within the public service and general or mainstream expenditures (NDI, undated).

GRB has been defined as a situation where the formulation of the budget builds in analysis of public expenditure and the method of raising public revenue, from a gender perspective, identifying the implications and impacts for women and girls, compared with men and boys (Elson, 2003; Okoh, 2009).

A gender responsive budget is an important mechanism for ensuring greater consistency between economic goals and social commitments. Because the GRB initiatives lead to a more efficient use of resources, gender analyses of government budgets are crucial for improved targeting. Also, GRB initiatives provide an opportunity to evaluate the nature and extent of the paid economy and unpaid work, in particular the provision of care that individuals undertake, both in the community and in households. When recognized, this interaction enables policy-makers to avoid ‘false economies’ and loss of output. In addition, GRB helps governments understand how it may need to adjust its priorities and reallocate resources in order to meet its commitments to achieving gender equality and advancing women’s rights – including those stipulated in (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals. Thus, conducting a gender responsive budget analysis in Nigeria can be seen as a step not only towards accountability for women’s rights, but also towards greater public transparency and economic stability.

Figure 9 : Partnership structure on gender mainstreaming activities from FMWASD to CSOs, CBOs, NGOs, private organizations and development partners



Source: NCAA, 2009

An example in Nigeria, where GRB has been used to mainstream gender issues, was within the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) programme launched in 2008. The thrust of NEEDS in respect of women was to fully integrate them by enhancing their capacity to participate in the economic, social, political and cultural life of the country.

In an analysis of Nigerian 2007 and 2008 budget statements, Okoh (2009) observed that the 2008 budget was more gender irresponsible than the 2007 budget. For example, the expenditure benefit incidence analysis showed that men in agriculture benefited more from budgetary allocations in 2008. The conclusion was that the national budget for agriculture was gender biased. Specifically, the expenditure benefit incidence analysis for aggregate allocations to agriculture were N 1.24 and N 0.58 billion in 2007 and N 2.01 and N 0.86 billion in 2008, for men and women, respectively. The gender gap in the agricultural budget for 2008 was 1.15 billion, while that of 2007 was 0.66 billion. This is a clear indication that although the 2008 budget contained a higher allocation for agriculture, the gap between men and women was greater in 2008 than in 2007. Therefore, the 2008 budget was less gender sensitive. Generally, it has been observed that the budget in Nigeria is not gender responsive.

In summary, although a robust framework exists for gender mainstreaming across all sectors including agriculture and many programmes have been initiated with a women empowerment focus, it is clear that the institutional capacity and political will is still very weak to support full implementation. The status of women in various agricultural sub-sectors is a result of this weakness.



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A man channels irrigation water to his cabbage farm at an FAO-supported farm project at Gongolong Village, Jere Local Government Area, 11 kilometers away from Maiduguri metropolitan in Borno, northeast Nigeria.

4. SITUATION ANALYSIS

This chapter presents the situation analysis based on document review, the findings of the Country Gender Assessment (CGA) and other surveys and censuses conducted in Nigeria.

4.1 Gender and food and nutrition security

Information available showed that rural women in Nigeria produce between 60 and 80 percent of food in the rural areas, which provides up to 90 percent of the rural poor intake and family food security. Women are involved in family health, nutrition and home management. According to Francis and David (2012), women also dominate the production of legumes and vegetables in small plots, raise poultry and small ruminants. In spite of this, female-headed households and widows generally have higher poverty rates and lower food security than men. Lack of access to productive resources, adequate extension services and farm inputs hinders rural women's food production and food security (Francis and David, 2012). Insecurity in the Northern part of Nigeria has caused large numbers of families to become internally displaced, unable to settle back into their communities. These have a higher prevalence of malnutrition, which has seriously affected food security and led to increased gender inequality.

However, most farmers living in communities where there have been interventions have experienced improved household food security, as have the communities at large. Women who were not formally involved in agricultural activities have been motivated to take these up, due to successes recorded by participants. They have learned new ways of food production and processing and are now productive and less dependent of their husbands. During a FGD with farmers, a female farmer said that *"women now produce odourless fufu and make a living out of it. Most jobless women now have one form of agriculture-related job or another and have improved their standard of living"*. A male farmer said that *"people have seen the need to engage in agriculture with the advent of increased food prices to improve their level of living, and most of the programmes the women engaged in are helpful in home-making."* Another female farmer commented that *"most of the women now have their own farms and raise money from the sale of harvested products. Also, women engage in fish farming and have eliminated total dependence on their husbands"*.

4.2 Gender and rural agricultural labour

In many parts of Nigeria, men have a claim over women's labour, but women do not have a similar claim over men's labour. For example, women in male-headed households are obliged to work in fields controlled by men, which take precedence over their own. Similarly, women face difficulty in obtaining sufficient labour during peak activities. They are also unable to hire labour, due to cash shortage.

Women engage in agricultural activities and provision of food both for subsistence and commercial purposes, just like their male counterparts. They are also involved in processing and marketing of agricultural products, as well as decision-making for pricing of goods and commodities and also household welfare. Men dominate in most activities involving drudgery, such as land preparation, clearing, weeding, transport and wholesale operations along the value chain, as indicated in Table 5.

Table 5: Roles played by both men and women in agriculture and rural development

Women	Men
Processing and marketing of agricultural products	Production, processing and marketing of agricultural products
Production and provision of food, planting, fertilizer application, weeding	Land preparation (clearing, weeding, fertilizer application, planting) and most operations along the value chain, such as transport
Livestock (small ruminants) and poultry keeping	Livestock (large ruminants)
Raising income for family use	Household expenditure

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

Results in Table 6 showed the estimated time spent by men and women in different operations on a zonal basis. Men spent most of the time on activities such as land preparation, ploughing, weeding, transport and harvesting, with an average of 4-8 hours a day, compared with women, who spent more time on activities such as processing, planting, fertilizer application and marketing.

Table 6: Estimated time spent in different productive operations by gender

Tasks/operations	North West		North Central		South West		South East		North East	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Preparing the land	-	5	4	8	2	6	5.5	3.5	4	8
Ploughing		8	-	8	1	8	1	6	-	8
Planting	3	4	8	2	7	2	2	2	8	2
Fetching water for agrochemical dilution	-	1	5	5	8	0	1	0.5	5	5
Fertilizer application		2	3	3	6	2	2.3	3	3	3
Weeding	4	8	8	3	2	4	4	4	8	3
Harvesting	5	8	8	3	8	3	6	3	8	3
Grading	4	3	4	4	7	1	1.5	1.5	4	4
Transport (from farm to road)	-	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	2	2
Marketing	5	4	7	4	8	1	6	2	7	4
Processing/value addition	8	-	8	5	8	2	6	4	8	5
Maintaining farm equipment	-	3	-	4.5			4	3	-	4.5

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

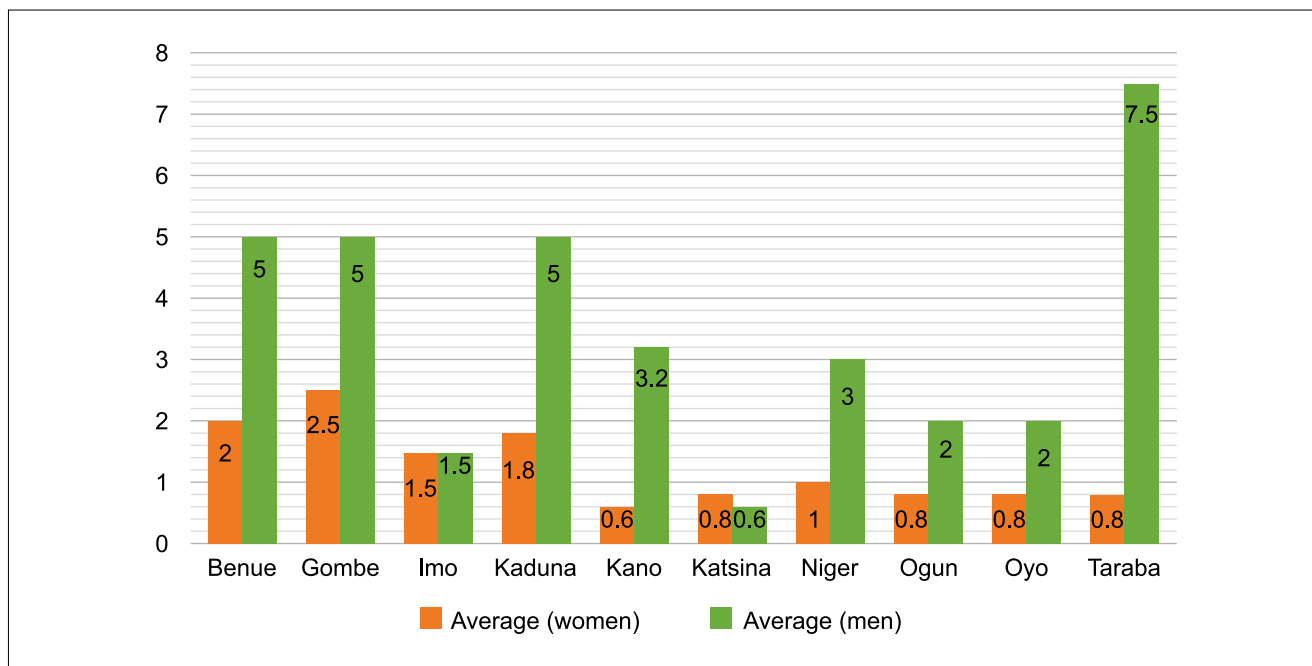
4.3 Gender and land

According to the British Council (2012), women own 4 percent of land in the North East, and just over 10 percent in the South East and South West. The World Bank (2014) reported gender disparity in plots managed by men and women in northern and southern zones. Key gender differences exist in land size, fertilizer use, labour and other household characteristics. In the northern zone, plots managed by women produce 27 percent less (in terms of gross value of output) per hectare than plots managed by men. Similarly, in the south, plots managed by women appear to produce substantially less per hectare than plots managed by men.

Fewer than 10 percent of Nigerian women own land (Figure 10). The majority of land is owned by men, since they have more rights to land ownership than women. Despite the roles played by women in agriculture and society, and the critical nature of land for production, women are often discriminated against in land ownership, especially in the case of inheritance. In rural communities, inheritance is seen as the prerogative of men and constitutes a determinant in land ownership. This is the result of culturally embedded discriminatory beliefs and practices, both in customary and formal land tenure systems (Emeasoba, 2012). There is a need for the Federal Government to articulate legislation on property and land rights protecting personal safety and gender equality.

Land ownership and control in Nigeria is still dominated by men in terms of average land size apportioned to farming activities in the states surveyed, with widespread gender disparity in Taraba State (men 7.5 ha,

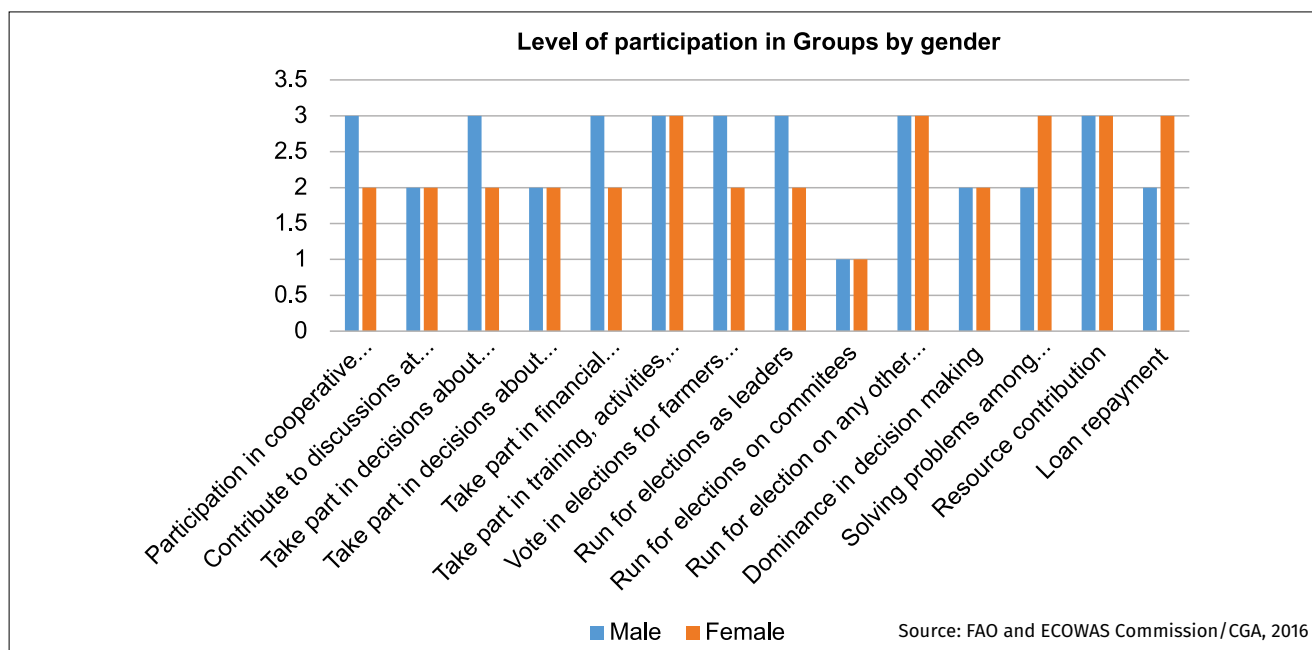
Figure 10: Average land apportioned to agricultural activities by gender in Nigeria



Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

women 0.8 ha). Abia State had equal average land size holdings for both sexes. However, women in Katsina State had a slightly higher average land size (0.8 ha) apportioned to farming than men (0.6 ha), as shown in Figure 10. Regarding the means of land acquisition and ownership, the majority of men acquired it through inheritance, while women acquired theirs through lease or purchase, with very few inheriting land. In Kano, Katsina and Oyo States, some women did acquire land through inheritance, since religion here allows women to have 50 percent of whatever men inherit. Other states reported that women had limited acquisition through inheritance, mainly due to cultural, religious beliefs and customs. Traditional practices that influence access and control of resources in rural communities include women often being denied the right to inherit land or contribute to decision-making in the home. Also, certain crops such as palm fruits, cocoa and yam cannot be cultivated by women.

Figure 11: Gender participation in farmers' groups in Nigeria



Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

Women's limited control over land affects their farming, leading to lower expected profits, an inability to produce choice crops, reduced productivity and limited expansion of farm size. This results in reduced income and disruption of farm planning.

In northern Nigeria, plots managed by women appear to be just as productive as plots managed by men, when simple averages are compared. However, between men and women, there are key gender differences in terms of quantities across many important factors of production, such as land use, fertilizer use, labour and household characteristics. After accounting for such differences, plots managed by women produced 27 percent less (in terms of gross value of output) per hectare than plots managed by men. In addition to differing quantities of productive factors, differences in returns on such factors are also an important component of the gender gap, suggesting that simply providing women with similar quantities of productive inputs to men's will not close the gap (World Bank, 2014).

In southern Nigeria, when simple averages are compared, plots managed by women appear to produce substantially less per hectare than plots managed by men. However, after accounting for differences in quantities of key productive factors, this gender gap is no longer statistically significant. Unlike in the north, women in the south have similar average returns on productive factors as men. This suggests that if women in the south had similar quantities of productive factors to men's, they could produce just as much, and the gender gap might disappear (World Bank, 2014).

The survey also revealed the severity of inequalities among men and women, as presented in Table 7.

Table 7: Inequalities among men and women

Inequalities among men and women	Degree of severity*
More men are educated than their female counterparts	High
Men claim monopoly and ownership of farm proceeds	Moderate
Men inherit farm land while women do not in most communities	High
Women have poor access to assets, household and input decisions	Low
Women are restricted to farming certain types of crops/commodities	Low
Household decisions are mostly taken by men	High
Less access to credit by women reduces agricultural production	High
High rural unemployment among women	High
Less respect for women in society	Moderate
Discrimination against women's appointments	High
Fewer female extension agents	High
Women do most of the work at home	High
Low remuneration for all forms of women's work in agricultural activities, e.g. farm labour	High

Low = Less than 30 percent; Moderate = 30-50 percent; High = above 50 percent

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

Table 8: Types of crops grown by gender according to zones

Crops grown		
Men	Women	Agro-ecological zones
Millet	Millet	North East, North West and North Central
Soybeans , cowpeas	Soybeans, cowpeas	All zones
Yams	Yams	All zones except a few states in North East
Cassava	Cassava	All zones
Guinea corn/sorghum	Guinea corn/sorghum	North West, North Central and North East
Rice	Rice	All zones
Cotton	-	North East, North West and North Central
Maize	Maize	All zones
Sesame/benniseed	Sesame/ benniseed	All zones except a few states in South East

Tomatoes, onions, pepper, cabbage,	Vegetables, tomatoes, onions, rosettes, okra	All zones
-	Cocoyam, melon	All zones except a few states in North East
Cocoa	-	South East and South West
Palm tree	Palm tree	South East, North Central

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

4.4 Gender and crop production

Women are mainly involved in the production, processing and trading of food crops such as maize, rice, cassava, cowpea, melon, pepper, vegetables, yam and palm oil. Men carry out the heavy labour, with tasks such as land clearing and felling of trees, gathering and burning of bush, and making ridges, while the women do the planting.

In addition, women participate in weeding, harvesting, off-farm processing and selling of farm produce. Women are rarely involved with agricultural export crops, such as cocoa, rubber and cotton. A survey on gender involvement in crop production by the National Bureau of Statistics (2014) showed that male involvement in crop production was in decline, while female involvement was on the increase. Women often have to carry out farming and processing tasks using rudimentary technologies.

The survey highlighted constraints for both men and women, which hamper agricultural activities in rural areas (Table 8).

4.5 Gender and livestock

According to Assan (2014), women's access to productive resources for livestock keeping deserves special attention for the potential it holds for them. Women should have stronger ownership rights to different livestock species, rather than being limited to small ruminants. Maximum benefits can be accrued by increasing the involvement of women in Nigeria's agricultural and rural sectors through women's groups, making funds available to them for income-generating activities by providing credit facilities. Appropriately addressing gender disparity and the prevalence of gender stereotypes – especially regarding women's roles in livestock production – will encourage women in Nigeria. There is a need for a greater understanding and appreciation of women's pivotal role as livestock producers and their critical contribution to household food security. Interventions by FAO and NGOs to develop programmes aimed at helping women to rear small-sized stock, such as goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits and poultry, have shown to have strong potential as lucrative enterprises and engines for women's empowerment. However, due to the poor resource base of most livestock owners in rural areas, animals are often left to scavenge for food and water during the day, before returning home at sunset. The level of women's involvement in the production of small ruminants (goats and sheep) and non-ruminants (pigs and rabbits) is presented in Table 9. Men dominate the production of large ruminants (cattle, camel and donkeys).

The major constraint to livestock production emerged as conflicts among herdsmen/farmers. Other challenges include lack of access to capital and discrimination against women, which restricted them from rearing certain types of animals, as shown in Table 10.

Table 9: Livestock production according to gender

Women	Zone	Men	Zone
Small ruminants (goat, sheep)	All zones	Large ruminants (cattle, camel)	North West, North East and North Central
Poultry keeping	All zones	Poultry keeping	All zones
Pig, rabbit production	South East, North Central, South West and North West	Horses and donkeys	North East and North West

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

Table 10: Constraints for both men and women in livestock production

Constraints/needs	Rank
Farmers/herdsmen/communal conflicts	1
Lack of access to capital/funds/finances	2
Discrimination against women	3
Low level of training on improved animal production	4
Security challenges(kidnapping, cattle rustling and killing of farmers)	5
Poverty	6
Non-sustainable farmers' organizations	7
Poor/access to feed	8

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

4.6 Gender and fisheries and aquaculture

Women make a significant contribution to the nutritional needs of the family. The information available suggests that in Nigeria, women's participation in aquaculture is rapidly increasing, and this is contributing to household food security. The gender roles of women in aquaculture production are recognized in three stages of production: fishing, processing and marketing. According to Olulate *et al.*, (2011), in coastal wetland communities, women are closely involved in artisanal fishing activities. These include unloading of fish from canoes and fish processing and marketing. Processing is the most common activity for women engaged in fisheries in the Lake Kainji area, involving about 60 percent of all women (Nwabeze *et al.*, 2013). Despite the important role that they play, women have received little recognition. Social, economic and political indicators all show that women's status is very low in this sector. As a result, there is a strong need to provide incentives to women in Nigerian fish production, if their contribution to producing this valuable source of quality animal protein is to be optimized (Olufayo, 2012). In addition, women have poor access to finance for fish value chains, and this needs to be addressed if their potential is to be realized.

Rearing fish in earthen ponds is the most common method of aquaculture used in Nigeria. It was introduced to a group of farmers by the Fisheries Department of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, as well as by other fisheries departments in various Nigerian universities, and has now become widespread. Farmers say that the method is simple to adopt and has the advantage of producing faster fish growth.

Gender roles in fisheries indicate that men predominate in production of fingerlings, artisanal fishing, processing and storage and marketing in that order. For women, the major activities are processing and marketing. Their operations in fishing is limited to loading and offloading of fish from canoes. This gender division of labour has dichotomized the benefits of women and men in the sub-sector with women being generally disadvantaged.

4.7 Gender and forestry

Agroforestry has the potential to offer considerable benefits to women. However, their participation is hampered by socio-economic, cultural and policy issues. A review of women's participation in agroforestry indicates the extent of women's involvement relative to men to be fairly high in technologies such as soil fertility management, fodder production and woodlots. Women also participate in shea butter production and medicinal plant collection from the forest. According to Kiptot and Franzel (2012), women are increasingly exercising their user rights to land and tree resources. However, their rights are usually limited to products that are considered to have little or no commercial value. In order to promote gender equity in agroforestry and ensure that women benefit fully, they should be accorded security of land tenure and facilitated in forming and strengthening women's associations (Women Forest Users). There is a need to ensure that women are fully represented in all activities related to forestry.

4.8 Gender and agricultural value chains

An analysis of the cassava value chain in Nigeria from a pro-poor and gender perspective of farming households in southwest Nigeria shows that 36.7 percent of men were involved, compared with 79.3 percent of women (Apatha, 2013). Women are also involved in the sale of packaging materials used for most crops and

processed foods, such as *garri*, maize and yam flakes. Men exclusively play the role of middlemen, across the value chain. Women are less closely involved in wholesale, being more active on the retail side, especially in open air markets. Women find it more difficult to enter the wholesale market due to limited education, funds and low social status. Interventions are needed to improve the efficiency and equity of the value chain, and thereby maximize the benefits received by its participants. Imbalances in economic and management empowerment limit women's participation, income and control of household expenditure (Table 11).

4.9 Gender and post-harvest management

In the past few decades, there has been a steady increase in awareness of the need to empower women in order to improve their socio-economic status, so that they can contribute effectively to food security and reduce post-harvest losses of both crops and fisheries, especially perishable commodities. Rural women play a pivotal role in efforts directed at agricultural development and are crucial to their overall success. Findings from various studies have revealed that women make up 60-80 percent of the agricultural labour force in Nigeria. Studies also indicate that women are more closely involved in processing activities along the value chain and therefore require labour-saving devices to ensure effective post-harvest management. Needs assessment surveys were carried out in six states in 2010 by SG2000 with the aim of examining post-harvest and agroprocessing activities for crop value chains on. Based on the outcome of the assessment, capacity-building training was conducted for 475 processors, of whom 460 were women.

Table 11: Roles played by both men and women in agricultural value chains

Value chain activity	Men involved (n=352)*	Women involved (n=333)*
Production	Very high	Very high
Processing/value addition	Low	Very high
Utilization/consumption	Very high	Very high
Transport	Very high	Low
Marketing	Moderate	High
Middlemen	High	Low
Wholesale	High	Low
Retail	Low	High
Livestock upgrading	High	Moderate
Packaging	Moderate	High
Storage	High	Moderate

* Low = less than 25 percent; Moderate = 26-50 percent; High = 51-75 percent; Very high = more than 75 percent

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

Table 12: Gender sensitive post-harvest technologies developed by Nigerian NARIs.

Institutions	Post-harvest technologies
Nigeria Stored Products Research Institute (NSPRI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cassava tuber storage shed (3 months); - Hybrid dryer for various commodities: (reduces drying time, energy consumption and improves hygiene of product).
National Cereals Research Institute (NCRI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved rice parboiling technology; - Improved paddy rice cleaning methods to reduce impurities and improve finished product; - Drying technology of parboiled rice.
National Institute for Fresh Water Fisheries Research (NIFFR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fish smoking kiln; - Damper modification smoking kiln; - Kainji solar tent fish dryer.
Institute for Agricultural Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maize sheller (hand), sorghum/millet sheller.
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manual cassava grater, hand operated cassava chipper, cassava dewatered, drum-type <i>garri</i> fryer, load cart, cassava lifter, blender.

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

Several gender sensitive post-harvest technologies have been developed in past years by National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARI), though studies show that the majority of rural women experienced constraints in accessing these. The constraints include lack of awareness of availability of the technologies, inappropriateness of tools and equipment, and lack of funds. Some of these technologies are presented in Table 12.

Table 13: Types of extension services provided to women farmers

Extension services provided to women farmers	
Extension types	Zones
Training in fish production	North Central, South East, South West
Linkages to markets	All zones
Linkages to sources of credit	All zones
Linkages to sources of inputs (e.g. agroservice providers)	All zones
Teaching on improved technologies for crop production (strip planting of soybeans, dripping planting of crops)	All zones
Training in poultry production	All zones
Training in livestock production	North East, North West, North Central
Soap and pomade making	North West, North East and South West
Training in post-harvest handling	All zones
Improved processing and value addition for crops such as cassava, rice and palm crops	All zones

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

Table 14: Estimated time spent in agribusiness management by gender

Tasks/operations	North West		North Central		South West		South East		North East	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Marketing	5	4	7	4	8	1	6	2	7	4
Record-keeping	3	5	0.5	1	0	3	1	1.5	0.5	1
Managing sales	5	2	7	7	4	1	6	6	7	7
Logistics	2	5	1	1	2	5	1	1	1	1

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

Table 15: Constraints to women engaged in agricultural marketing and agribusiness

Constraints	Rank
Poor marketing information	7
Traditional norms and customs	10
Religion and cultural practices	11
Illiteracy	8
Lack of productive resources	2
Lack of decision-making powers	1
Lack of right to control and own farm proceeds	4
Lack of encouragement from spouses	12
Low prices of agricultural prices	9
Poor marketing of agricultural products	3
Lack of mobility	5
Access to training	6

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

4.10 Gender and agricultural extension

Several agricultural programmes with a strong extension component have been introduced in Nigeria, by Government, NGOs and development partners. However, these initiatives were established to promote agriculture and agricultural extension delivery services in the country, with a limited focus on gender. The Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) is the agency responsible for public extension service delivery at grassroots level, in collaboration with the LGAs. The quality of staff and resources of the LGAs are such that they have little impact on farmers (Arokoyo, 2003). The WIA programme as a unit was created within the ADP system in 1987, in order to make extension services available to women farmers in Nigeria. This was in recognition of the important role played by women farmers in agricultural activities.

A good example is a UNDP/FAO project for Strengthening Agricultural Extension in 5 selected states of Cross-River, Gongola (now Adamawa/Taraba), Kano (including the present Jigawa State), Niger and Ogun to Women empowerment strategies. The Women in Agriculture Training & Visit programmes benefitted under this programme by promoting access to women farmers to (specific) farm technologies, although these were restricted to women-focused commodities.

The activities of WIA involved providing extension to women farmers, through the channel of female extension staff. The service was conducted for groups and individuals in the areas of crop and livestock production, processing, storage and utilization, handling and marketing techniques. The unit aimed to harness the total on-farm and off-farm agricultural capabilities of women farmers in order to build better lives for themselves, their families and communities (Odebode, 2012). Over the years, extension delivery in Nigeria has also been assisted through NGOs and development partners. One example is SG2000, which has encouraged the formation of groups and value chain development activities, the use of labour-saving technologies and offers advisory services to women. In some parts of the country (especially the northern states), cultural and religious barriers have made it difficult for male extension workers to have contact with women farmers. In such cases, women farmers have had reduced access to extension services (Anaglo *et al.*, 2014). In addition, women are often overlooked by extension service providers, because they may be poor and vulnerable and have less access to resources.

The majority of women farmers across all the states were not aware of the existence of extension and advisory services. However, in localities/areas where there are interventions by development partners/special projects, women have access to agricultural extension workers, training and advisory services and the opportunity to share information and learn from successful private farmers. Also, the special projects provide support to both men and women (in cash and kind) to boost their agricultural activities. Services provided by extension workers to farmers include training and linkages to markets, sources of credit and farm inputs (agroservice providers), as well as improved technologies for poultry, fish and small ruminant production. Skills taught include soap and pomade making, strip planting of soybeans, dippling planting of crops and improved processing and value addition for crops such as cassava, rice and palm crops, as shown in Table 13.

4.11 Gender and agricultural marketing

According to NBS (2011), women dominate the buying and selling of agricultural products (37 percent of women participate, compared with 10.5 percent of men), while men dominate in the case of mining and forestry products. However, men who trade in agricultural products have an advantage, because they are often selling their own produce. The hours spent by men and women in agribusiness management is presented in Table 14.

Men also dominate the service sector, while women and men trade equally in industrial goods. Disparity exists in rural households on women's rights to their own savings and financial assets and assistance in claiming fair remuneration for their contribution to the family business. The information available suggests that women increasingly supply national and international markets with traditional and high-value produce (*garri*, fish, vegetables), compared with men. However, women farmers and entrepreneurs face a number of disadvantages, including lower mobility and poor access to training, market information and productive resources (Table 15).

The most important challenges faced by women are poor gender power relations in the household, religious and cultural practices and traditional norms, which are both related as they impose negative practices that, devalue women's contributions and limit their rights to resources and mobility.

4.12 Gender and rural finance

Agriculture is critical to achieving sustainable development, by generating a greater proportion of rural households' incomes. In Nigeria, women are involved in food production and provide a majority share of the total agricultural labour force. Despite their significant contribution, women still face challenges in participating in agricultural production. For example, both men and women have different levels of access to agricultural resources, despite the equal roles they play in agricultural activities. It has been argued that if women's incomes were increased, they would have more access to resources and invest in their children's education, health care and nutrition.

Women are often hampered in accessing new opportunities by poor access to resources, including new markets, due to their limited educational background, poor networks and mobility restrictions.

Also, women have poor access to financing, which hinders them from hiring labour for agricultural activities, forcing them to depend on their own labour and that of family members. Women face high transaction costs for credit, a situation that is exacerbated by their limited property rights and their poverty. Although men also face this barrier, women are more vulnerable in rural areas. In cases where women have access to credit, the amounts are usually very small and repayment conditions are unsuitable (Anaglo *et al.*, 2014). As such, poor access to credit facilities prevents women from purchasing the inputs they need for agricultural production. In addition, most rural financial programmes have been designed, crafted and implemented with the male head of household as the intended client, and fail to recognize that women are active, productive and engaged economic agents, despite their own financial needs and constraints (Fletschner and Kenney, 2011). Similarly, there are considerable gender inequalities in household decision-making and management of income from agriculture. Men tend to spend more time on financial management of agriculture than women do.

4.13 Gender and climate change

Gender equality and women's empowerment are vital for environmental sustainability. Gender equality gaps that need to be addressed are participation in decision-making and resource management, and access to social protection measures, education, health and early warning (Glasser, 2016). Women and girls are particularly exposed to climate related disaster risk. According to UNDP (2013), women and children are 14 times more likely than men to die during a disaster. Indeed, low income, coupled with prevalent gender inequalities, aggravates women's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Agwuand Okhimamhe (2009) reported that the social impacts of climate change, such as male migration, increase the workload of women since they expose them to physical and sexual abuse and encourage early marriages. IFPRI (2015) asserts that inequality exists in men's and women's differing abilities to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change; women perceive climate change as an environmental issue, due to the fact that they have less access to climate information. Thus, climate change can be said to reflect great injustices for both women and men, posing an increased threat to poor women and other vulnerable sectors of the community. As a result, policies need to consider gender issues and women's involvement, if climate change knowledge is to be advanced.

In Nigeria, women and children are greatly affected by disasters, since they are more vulnerable than men. At least 90 percent of disasters are linked to natural hazards, such as storms, heavy rainfall, floods, droughts, landslides, water stress and heat waves. NEMA (2014) stressed that more women than men died in recent floods experienced across some states of Nigeria, because they were less likely to know how to swim and long clothing hampered their movement. Precise information and disaggregated data on the impact of disasters are needed, in order to take better corrective measures. According to the UN (2016), women and girls should be at the core of disaster risk reduction intervention, given that they often bear the impact of climate change and hazards. Women can contribute their strong capabilities and skills to disaster risk reduction and management; however, these skills are often not recognized or tapped due to women's low social status.

4.14 Gender and social protection in agriculture

Nigeria currently spends less on social protection than many other African countries, despite its relative wealth. However, the Federal Government of Nigeria, in collaboration with State Governments and development partners, has sought to develop a social protection mechanism to tackle high rates of poverty and vulnerability in the country. To this end, FGN in 2016 budgeted 500 billion Naira to provide for social assistance targeting vulnerable citizens, including women, the elderly and the disabled, through social protection programmes

Table 16: Common expenditures for men and women in the household

Men	Rank	Women	Rank
Farming expansion	5	Buying more inputs	2
Farming equipment	3	For business (income-generating activities)	5
Vehicle/motorcycle	7	Poultry and small ruminant production	7
Capital items(housing)	6	Luxury items	6
Education of children	2	Farming	3
Food and nutrition	1	Food and nutrition	4
Health care	4	Health care	1

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

Table 17: Percentage composition of women and leadership in mixed groups

States	Group membership (percent)	Leadership (percent)
Kaduna	26-50	Less than 25
*Katsina	Less than 25	100
*Kano	Less than 25	100
Niger	26-50	Less than 25
Benue	51-75	Less than 25
Gombe	Less than 25	Less than 25
Taraba	Less than 25	Less than 25
Ogun	51-75	26-50
Oyo	26-50	26-50
Abia	26-50	Less than 25

* Women only groups

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

offering conditional cash transfers of 5 000 Naira monthly to reduce gender inequalities in rural areas. Women public servants in Nigeria are entitled to 4 months maternity leave, with full monthly wages. Both men and women are entitled to the same right to paid leave, retirement benefits, job, health and occupational security. There are no arrangements to provide for social care services for women in agriculture in Nigeria. Women have the right to vote and be voted for, although this is not always put into practice in real terms. The representation of women in various political positions (section 2) does not show progressive realization. More so, less educated rural women are often left out of politics except in activity based community activities such as leadership of market associations, processors associations, thrift and credit associations and so on. This is reflected in the ability of rural women to network and be engaged with development activities occurring around them. Table 16 shows the participation of women farmers in group activities.

4.15 Gender and rural institutions

In Nigeria, the recent growth of women's associations, which place a special focus on gender issues, has resulted in considerable benefits for rural women (Ogunlela and Mukhtar, 2009). The emergence of women's groups, NGOs and civil societies has given rural women farmers a voice, enabling them to effectively champion their cause. Findings show that the proportion of women belonging to mixed farmers' groups in Benue and Ogun States is between 51 and 75 percent. In Kano and Katsina States, the majority of farmers' groups are based on gender, since sociocultural factors do not allow men and women to engage in mixed groups. In Gombe and Taraba States, fewer than 25 percent of women participate in group activities, as shown in Table 17. The percentage of women in leadership positions within groups also varies across states, with the majority indicating less than 25 percent. Only Ogun and Oyo States have 26 to 50 percent of women in leadership positions in mixed groups.

Despite these developments, many barriers remain and would need to be addressed in order to further enhance women's role in agricultural and rural development. Rural women farmers deserve better recognition and greater appreciation for their tangible contributions to agricultural and rural development, as well as to

food and nutrition security. However, many such groups need capacity-building in group dynamics, technical knowledge and management. Ogunlela and Mukhtar (2009) observe that women hold extremely low numbers of decision-making positions in organizations dealing with agriculture and rural development.

However, states face problems in managing the groups, due to lack of understanding of group dynamics. Women have opportunities to organize themselves into agricultural production, processing and marketing groups, but they hold few leadership positions, except in the case of women only groups. For mixed groups, members' level of participation in activities varies according to gender, as indicated in Figure 13. Gender disparity exists in levels of participation at cooperative meetings, especially regarding the approval/disapproval of financial statements, decisions about internal issues and candidature for elections as leaders. Women play a dominant role in loan repayment and solving problems among members.

4.16 Gender and technologies

The majority of farmers (men and women) in Nigeria still produce crops using manual or traditional methods, and plant local varieties. Some of the methods and technologies used by farmers include mixed farming, intercropping and crop rotation, which were handed down by their forefathers. Very few have access to improved and mechanized farming methods, or improved varieties, such as cassava, maize and rice, as shown in Table 18. Female farmers tend to apply less fertilizer per hectare than men in the north and according to the World Bank (2014), this disparity accounts for a substantial proportion of the overall gap in productivity. Also, women in the south use less herbicides per hectare compared with men, and this imbalance has further contributed to widening the gender productivity gap in the south.

Most women with access to improved technologies were introduced to these through special projects, adopting them because the technologies improve their yield and income and reduce the drudgery associated with farm labour. Reasons for preferring to continue using traditional farming methods and local varieties include inheritance from parents, unavailability of better alternatives, and low cost of these technologies.

An analysis of ownership of agro-input businesses by gender shows that 84 percent belong to men, compared with 16 percent to women. Results on sources of funds for starting the business indicate personal savings in first place (53 percent), followed by loans (26 percent) and cooperatives (11 percent), as shown in Table 19. Regarding staffing, the majority of agro-input businesses have 65 percent male employees, compared with 35 percent women. The gender of customers is 70 percent to 30 percent in favour of men. The type of operations carried out by employees indicates that loading/off-loading, driving, trainings of field workers and security guards were all performed by men. Operations such as sales and record-keeping are mostly done by women (53 percent), with men accounting for 47 percent.

The majority of agro-input dealers indicated differences among their customers, based on the quantities of purchases and sales by gender. Sixty five percent of purchases are made by men, compared with 35 percent by women, as indicated in Table 19. Almost all the agro-input owners indicated their willingness to give inputs

Table 18: Most common farming methods and technologies used by farmers

Farming methods and technologies			
Men	Rank	Women	Rank
Cultural and manual	1	Cultural and manual	1
Mechanized	9	Mechanized	10
Manure	8	Manure	8
Herbicides/pesticides	5	Herbicides/pesticides	5
Fertilizers	4	Fertilizers	4
Mixed cropping	2	Mixed cropping	2
Inter cropping	6	Inter cropping	6
Improved seeds	7	Improved seeds	7
Local/saved seeds	3	Local/saved seeds	3
Crop rotation	10	Crop rotation	9

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

Table 19: Ownership of agro-input business, customers and operations

Ownership of agro-input business	Frequency		Percentage	
Men	16		84	
Women	3		16	
Sources of funds for business				
Sales of farm produce	3		16	
Loan	5		26	
Savings	10		53	
Parents/relatives	1		5	
Cooperative	2		11	
Gender of employees by agro-input dealer				
Men	59		65	
Women	32		35	
Gender of customers				
Men	70		70	
Women	30		30	
Types of operations in agro-input business by gender	Men		Women	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Driving	19	100	0	0
Loading and off-loading	19	100	0	0
Sales and record-keeping	9	47	10	53
Training of field workers	19	100	0	0
Security guards/watchmen	19	100	0	0
Public relations	3	16	3	16

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

to their customers on credit, with some conditions. However, responses on loan repayments indicated that 58 percent of women are creditworthy, compared with 42 percent of men.

4.17 Gender and rural development planning

With rapid socio-economic growth now being experienced all over the world, women in Nigeria are found to be playing significant roles in rural development programmes. However, gender disparities exist for levels of participation, especially on the part of women in rural areas. According to Umeh (2014), the majority of women beneficiaries (84.4 percent) were not involved in planning the activities of the National Programme on Food Security (NPFS). This implies that the level of involvement of women in rural development programme planning is low. It has been observed that many poverty alleviation and rural development programmes have failed due to inadequate involvement of poor people, who are the intended beneficiaries, during the planning and designing stages. The rural poor, particularly women, have little political voice and often have great difficulty organizing and expressing their preferences (Francis and David, 2012).

Over the years, attempts to bridge the gap between men and women farmers in Nigeria have resulted in the emergence of various women's groups and organizations. These have made a very strong contribution to the gains recorded by women farmers in agricultural and rural development.



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Farmer pruning the leaves of a crop of telepheria. With the sale of the leaves she is able to support her family. The telepheria plant is highly medicinal and produced in all geographical zones of the country.

5. STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

The purpose of a stakeholder analysis is to help FAO identify potential partners in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women in agriculture and the rural sector in a given country. In Nigeria, this analysis included a description of the stakeholders, their objectives and main areas of work, and an explanation of why they should be a potential partner to FAO.

Federal Ministry Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD)

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development regulates agricultural research, agriculture and natural resources, forestry and veterinary research throughout Nigeria. The vision is to “achieve a hunger-free Nigeria through an agricultural sector that drives income growth, accelerates achievement of food and nutritional security, generate employment and transform Nigeria into a leading player in global food markets to grow wealth for millions of farmers”. However, the country has suffered for more than 30 years due to the collapse of the Agricultural Development Project (ADP), which was previously tasked with extension, under the aegis of the World Bank. With the end of World Bank financing in the 1980s, following structural adjustment, agricultural productivity plummeted in Nigeria. In the past four years, the country’s agriculture sector has undergone major reforms and transformation. The introduction of the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) brought about reforms in the input delivery or Growth Enhancement Support (GES) Scheme. Agricultural financing, value chain development – including the Staple Crop Processing Zones – and farm mechanization have helped to improve harvests for farmers and made gains for the country. The Ministry currently has 17 Departments, as well as a large number of agencies through which it carries out its activities. The establishment of a stand-alone Department of Agricultural Extension is crucial for the revitalization of the agriculture sector, given that use of modern technologies is very low. A national agricultural extension strategy has been developed to coordinate agricultural extension activities in the following areas:

- Field extension services
- Advisory, research and extension liaison services
- Youth in commercial agriculture
- Women in agriculture

The vision of FMARD is in line with the FAO mandate, through which it has been supporting Nigeria in the formulation of policies, strategies, programmes and projects in food, agriculture and natural resources. The aim is to improve food security and nutrition over a broad base, in an equitable and sustainable manner, and achieve poverty reduction. It is therefore recommended to further strengthen this existing partnership.

Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD)

The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development was created as part of a United Nations agreement to establish institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women’s matters. It is a product of efforts established through a Decree in 1989, which gave rise to the National Commission for Women and the creation of the Better Life Programme for Rural Women.

Since its inception, the Ministry has conducted advocacy, awareness-raising and several projects. It has fulfilled the requirements of all UN conventions, treaties and protocols, as well as the charters of other

regional and subregional bodies, such as the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Other national policies and laws designed to advance the cause of women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and other vulnerable groups include:

- Millennium Development Goals 3, 4, 5 and 6 (promoting gender equality and women's empowerment; reducing child mortality and improving maternal health) through the Ambulance Emergency Intervention Programme; fighting HIV/AIDS and malaria.
- The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and other African/ECOWAS regional instruments.
- The National Gender Policy and its strategic implementation framework and plan to enhance women's empowerment, gender equality and mainstreaming.
- The UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), girl-child education, the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girl-children, including support for the intensification of campaigns against harmful traditional practices affecting women and girls.
- The establishment of the Nigerian Women Trust Fund and zonal women's political participation in decision-making and ICTs.
- National policy guiding the establishment of gender units in ministries, departments and agencies of Government.
- Policies guiding economic empowerment programmes for women through the Business Development Fund for Women (BUDFOW) and the Women Fund for Economic Empowerment (WOFEE).
- UN Convention on Rights of the Child to protection and participation and the Nigerian Child Rights Act, which also seeks to protect orphans and vulnerable children.

The Women Affairs Department is charged with promoting women's advancement at both national and international levels. It coordinates all activities relating to the active participation of Nigerian women in national development and gender mainstreaming in all aspects of public life. The department promotes policy formulation and programme implementation aimed at integrating women into all sectors of development, in order to meet Government targets. To achieve the set goals, the department works in close collaboration with Gender Desk Officers in line ministries and agencies, women's NGOs and cooperative groups, United Nations, civil society groups, legislatures and international development agencies. Given FAO's target of mainstreaming gender equity throughout Nigeria's agriculture and rural development sector, it is highly recommended to strengthen its partnership with FMWASD.

Federal Ministry of Water Resources (FMWR)

The Federal Ministry of Water Resources was first created in 1976 to formulate national water resources development policies and coordinate their development. Since then, the Ministry has undergone several merging and demerging processes with other line ministries, before being demerged from FMARD in 2010.

The functions of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources relating to agriculture are to:

- a. Formulate National Water Resources policy towards ensuring adequate water supply for agricultural, industrial, recreational, domestic and other uses.
- b. Formulate and implement a Water Resources Master Plan for the development of dams, irrigation and drainage, water supply, soil erosion and flood control, as well as hydrological and hydro-geological activities.
- c. Develop and support irrigated agriculture and reduce the nation's dependence on rainfed agriculture.
- d. Promote and sustain national food security by minimizing unexpected and undesirable shortfalls in domestic food production and agro-based raw materials caused by the vagaries of weather.
- e. Support, monitor and evaluate the programmes and performances of the River Basin Development Authorities (RBDA) and National Water Resources Institute (NWRI).
- f. Explore and develop underground water resources.
- g. Formulate and review, from time to time, the National Water Legislation.
- h. Coordinate the development and utilization of water resources for irrigation and water supply.
- i. Liaise with all relevant national and international agencies on all matters relating to water resource development.

- j. Support studies and research on the nation's underground and surface water resource potential.
- k. Formulate and implement a national irrigation policy that is consistent and complementary to the national agriculture policy.
- l. Develop programmes and policies towards surface water storage schemes.
- m. Develop guiding principles for dam construction nationwide.
- n. Formulate and support a national rural water supply programme with a national on-farm storage programme, with emphasis on full initial involvement of local communities and local government performance, to ensure sustained maintenance of built infrastructure.
- o. Identify and promote programmes that would enhance greater productive economic activities in rural areas, as well as help to improve the quality of life and standard of living of rural people.
- p. Promote adequate training and manpower development in the water resources sector.

Parts of the above functions are being carried by the four new commissions/agencies created from the Ministry, although they are yet to be legal entities. These objectives are in line with FAO's guiding principles to improve agricultural development in the country. As such, it is recommended that FMWR should be a strong partner.

National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARI)

Nigeria has 21 Agricultural Research Institutes responsible for the development of agricultural technologies. The NARIs are coordinated by the Agriculture Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN), whose programme focuses on the intensification of applied research. ARCN publishes a Journal of Agricultural Research Development and holds an annual stakeholders workshop on research, training and extension. This and other projects meet the agriculture research technology dissemination and adoption principles of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). These are expressed in the NFSP document, which is consistent with MDG I for poverty reduction and the subsequent 5-point agenda aligned to the CAADP principles. Each of the 21 NARIs is responsible for improvement of commodities within their mandate, including crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry, etc.

The National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS) is one of the NARIs responsible for research into agricultural extension approaches and adoption processes. It is also involved in overall coordination of research and extension linkage activities nationwide, as well as the collation, evaluation and dissemination of agricultural technologies to rural farm families and other interested end users, by building of capacity of field extension workers. The institute is generally concerned with aspects related to technical training of extension workers and the promotion of food security and poverty alleviation programmes among farmers. These functions are in consonance with FAO's activities geared towards food security and poverty reduction. It is therefore recommended to FAO as a potential partner.

Local Government Areas (LGA)

Local Government Areas are the third tier of government in Nigeria, and are closer to the people at grassroots level, where most agricultural activities take place. There are 774 LGAs in Nigeria, operating different departments that include agriculture, health, education, community development, etc., all of them working to improve conditions for rural dwellers. The Home Economics unit of the Agriculture department is responsible for communicating information and agricultural technologies to women, in an effort to improve household livelihoods. Most of the programmes funded by development partners involve the LGAs and have recorded considerable levels of success. It is recommended that FAO partner with LGAs to reach grassroots communities in a sustainable manner.

Development partners, NGOs and civil society organizations

The United Nations (UN) agencies in Nigeria support gender related activities within their mandates. As a UN development agency, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) plays a critical role in helping countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provides long-term humanitarian and development assistance to children and mothers. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) protects refugees worldwide and facilitates their return home

or resettlement. The World Food Programme (WFP) aims to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. It is the world's largest humanitarian agency. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled. UN Women merges and builds on the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system, which focus exclusively on gender equality and women's empowerment. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) focuses exclusively on rural poverty reduction, working with poor rural populations in developing countries to eliminate poverty, hunger and malnutrition, raise their productivity and incomes and improve the quality of their lives. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) focuses on food and nutrition among other priorities, funded through its wide range of projects. The World Health Organization (WHO) is responsible for global vaccination campaigns, responding to public health emergencies, defending against pandemic influenza, and leading the way for eradication campaigns against life-threatening diseases such as polio and malaria. These UN agencies are already collaborating with the Nigerian Government. Their objectives are directed at providing humanitarian services, of which FAO is also a party.

Among NGOs working in Nigeria are a number involved in food, nutrition and livelihoods interventions. Notable among them is SG2000, an international NGO which specializes in agricultural extension and advisory services. In its almost 30 years of operations in Africa, including Nigeria, it has reached millions of farmers

Women harvesting peppers and tomatoes at an FAO-supported farm project, Gongolong village.



with productivity enhancing technologies. The Federal Government of Nigeria signed a memorandum of understanding with SG2000 to significantly raise agricultural productivity and improve outputs and marketing of smallholder farmers through more effective and efficient agricultural extension and advisory services. Over the past 18 years, SG2000 Nigeria has worked with more than 3000 extension agents and 3 million smallholder farmers on the diffusion of improved wheat, maize, rice, cowpea, soybean, groundnut, millet, sorghum, sesame, cotton and cassava technologies.

The five main thematic programme areas implemented by SG2000 include: crop productivity enhancement; post-harvest and agroprocessing; public-private partnerships and market access; human resource development (the SAFE component) and monitoring, evaluation, learning and sharing.

The gender responsive advisory approaches currently being promoted for upscaling involve the adoption and use of participatory group extension in a variety of learning platforms for all actors along the value chain. The principal goal is to increase the productivity of farmers and improve market access through networking and linkages. The SG2000 participatory extension approach is complemented by regular and close field supervision and in-situ training of farmers and extension staff. SG2000 is a potential partner for FAO.

There are many civil society organizations (CSO) in Nigeria, involved in agricultural development activities, especially at grassroots level. FAO can partner with these to reach rural communities.



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Caption: A commercial chicken farmer showing her 5 000 chickens. She has successfully protected her flock from bird flu through good hygiene and good farming practices.

6. GENDER ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT OF THE NAIP

The National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) is structured around five programmes: i. Agricultural productivity enhancement; ii. Support to commercial agriculture; iii. Land management and water control; iv. Linkages and support for inputs and product markets and v. Programme coordination, monitoring and evaluation. This chapter presents a gender analysis of the NAIPs based on the framework provided.

6.1 Relevance

Policy conception

No gender assessment disaggregated by sex was carried out during the conception of NAIP, although women's groups were among stakeholders consulted during the development process. However, some of the projects proposed, such as agricultural productivity enhancement, incorporated the vulnerable (the elderly, youth, victims of natural disasters and female-headed households). Some activities target gender equity, although this is not spelled out as a specific objective. Project documents should include the issue of social inclusiveness (gender, marginalized/stigmatized people of all categories). Specifically, as far as practicable, at least 30 percent of beneficiaries should be made up of vulnerable groups, depending on location and types/level of vulnerability.

Food security and nutrition

Project outputs and outcomes are designed to achieve the Government's food security and poverty reduction objectives, as well as MDG 1 of reducing by half, the number of people living in poverty. However, these are not disaggregated by gender. Provisions were made to reduce post-harvest losses of agricultural produce by 50 percent (in general), and this is an activity that is mostly carried out by women, depending on the location and commodity. There are no specific gender disaggregated interventions to address issues of malnutrition, but there is a general objective to reduce the proportion of hungry people by 50 percent (women, men, youth and children) and increase value addition of agricultural products by 20 percent through processing and nutrient fortification.

Participation in developing the NAIPs and in direct implementation

Gender assessment and analysis were not incorporated in the formulation of programmes. However, gender inclusiveness is mentioned under the generic issues of gender and environment, since these are critical to strengthening poverty reduction.

Gender and vulnerable groups: i. Issues of inclusiveness (gender marginalized/stigmatized people of all categories) in express terms; ii. At least 30 percent of beneficiaries to come from vulnerable groups, depending on location and types/level of vulnerability in the area; iii. There should be a mandatory clause that stipulates the level of involvement of vulnerable groups preceding the release of funds; iv. In communities where the vulnerable are voiceless, either by tradition or due to sociocultural values, there should be sensitization and advocacy for all, with a view to involving these groups in socially feasible levels of project implementation; v. In projects with credit components, conditions such as land ownership should be underplayed, especially in cultures where women are not allowed to own land; vi. A community participatory bottom-up approach should be widely adopted.

In the process of preparing NAIPs, focus group discussions with stakeholders (farmers associations, CBOs, NGOs, women's groups, the private sector, research institutes, MDAs from federal government, state LGAs, etc.) were held. This shows that the planning process was based on consultations with different stakeholders, including both men and women, although the figures are not broken down by gender. The implementation process involved agricultural MDAs at Federal, State and LGA level, as well as from the Water Resources and National Planning Commission. Women's groups were among stakeholders consulted during the planning process, although their role was not specified. The gender focal person in FMARD was involved in preparation of NAIP.

Budgeting (agriculture and rural development financing and investments)

Funds were allocated through components/subcomponents for project implementation in the various programmes, for which 30 percent of beneficiaries are expected to be vulnerable groups, depending on location and type/level of vulnerability. There was no specific budget provision for stand-alone programmes or projects that specifically target women or address inequality and existing gender gaps. However, ongoing projects and programmes, such as those involving FAO, NPFS, IFAD, FADAMA III and USAID Markets, had strong gender components.

In project implementation, it is mandatory to allocate 30 percent of the budget to women (as recommended by FAO), but only N 600 million (0.26 percent) was allocated to the programme on promotion of youth in agriculture. NAIP did not make provision for gender-responsive budgeting, but based allocations on the existing outlined projects and programmes with no specific gender provision.

6.2 Effectiveness

NAIP was basically guided by the former administration's 5-point agenda (ATA), which is consistent with the 4-point principles of CAADP.

Institutional capacity for (gender) programming

FMARD has decentralized activities to the States, in order to bring programmes closer to farmers. It has created a gender and youth division to mainstream women and youth concerns into policy, programmes and institutional culture.

Service delivery systems and institutional capacity

The preparation of NAIP has addressed the four pillars of CAADP, within the context of the commodity value chain. Challenges and constraints to productivity of smallholders, the vulnerable, women in agriculture and civil society organizations are addressed through the provision of support services and promotion of farmers' associations. However, institutional capacity-building is not specifically mentioned. Training for extension services exists, but gender sensitivity is not specified.

Agriculture and food systems

There are no specific considerations/programmes for post-harvest management for women farmers. However, there is emphasis on capacity-building for unemployed youths and women's associations, with a view to livestock development. NAIP did not make provision for capacity-building based on gender sensitive indicators.

Monitoring and evaluation

Gender sensitive indicators, such as the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) and Household Dietary Diversity (HDD), are used. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is to be conducted at community level, taking a participatory approach that will include women and youth as stakeholders. Sex disaggregated data is not used to highlight the gender impacts of programmes on men and women. There is a need to identify the vulnerable using the Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach.

6.3 Efficiency of resource use

The plan has not given sufficient consideration to the indigenous knowledge of rural women for natural resource management. However, issues of the environment and climate change are mentioned in general terms.

Natural resource management

There is gender involvement through a bottom-up (community, participatory) approach on issues of the environment and climate change mitigation measures. Processes for soil and seed management that include women are not specified. Woodlot and orchard development is being promoted for both sexes.

Technological efficiency (labour use)

The agricultural productivity enhancement programme targets the provision of support services (including inputs and seeds) to women and the vulnerable. Gender sensitive research for labour saving technology was not specified. However, women can benefit through promotion of research and development support services to the vulnerable. In terms of training, insufficient consideration is given to enhancing rural women's use of improved technologies. Women could benefit from the training of 15 000 agro-dealers by NFSP, who will in turn train 2.5 million farmers, including women and youth.

Value chain development and access to markets

There are programmes to improve rural infrastructure and trade relations for all farmers, including women and youth. There is no mention of strengthening women's cooperatives for value chain participation. Capacity-building for youth is specifically highlighted. The plan clearly stipulates how it will deal with gender and the vulnerable and both men and women have equal opportunities to access investment flows.

6.4 Impact

Decent rural employment

In terms of employment, NAIP will support cottage industries involving women in the areas of processing groundnut oil and cake. There is also provision of social services, but not specifically for women. No provision is made for reducing unpaid farm labour by women and children. Women may benefit from existing programmes promoting agriculture as a business. Social protection programmes for women in agriculture are not specified. Also not specified are measures to eradicate negative working conditions for women in agriculture and its value chains. Increased planting in agroforestry programmes will result in further gender inequality in locations where women do not have access to land.

Food security

In terms of food security, targets are set for both men and women in NAIP programmes and projects. The result framework indicated a 50 percent reduction among the food insecure, but this was not disaggregated by gender. Targets for reducing the malnourished population by 50 percent concern both sexes.

Zero hunger

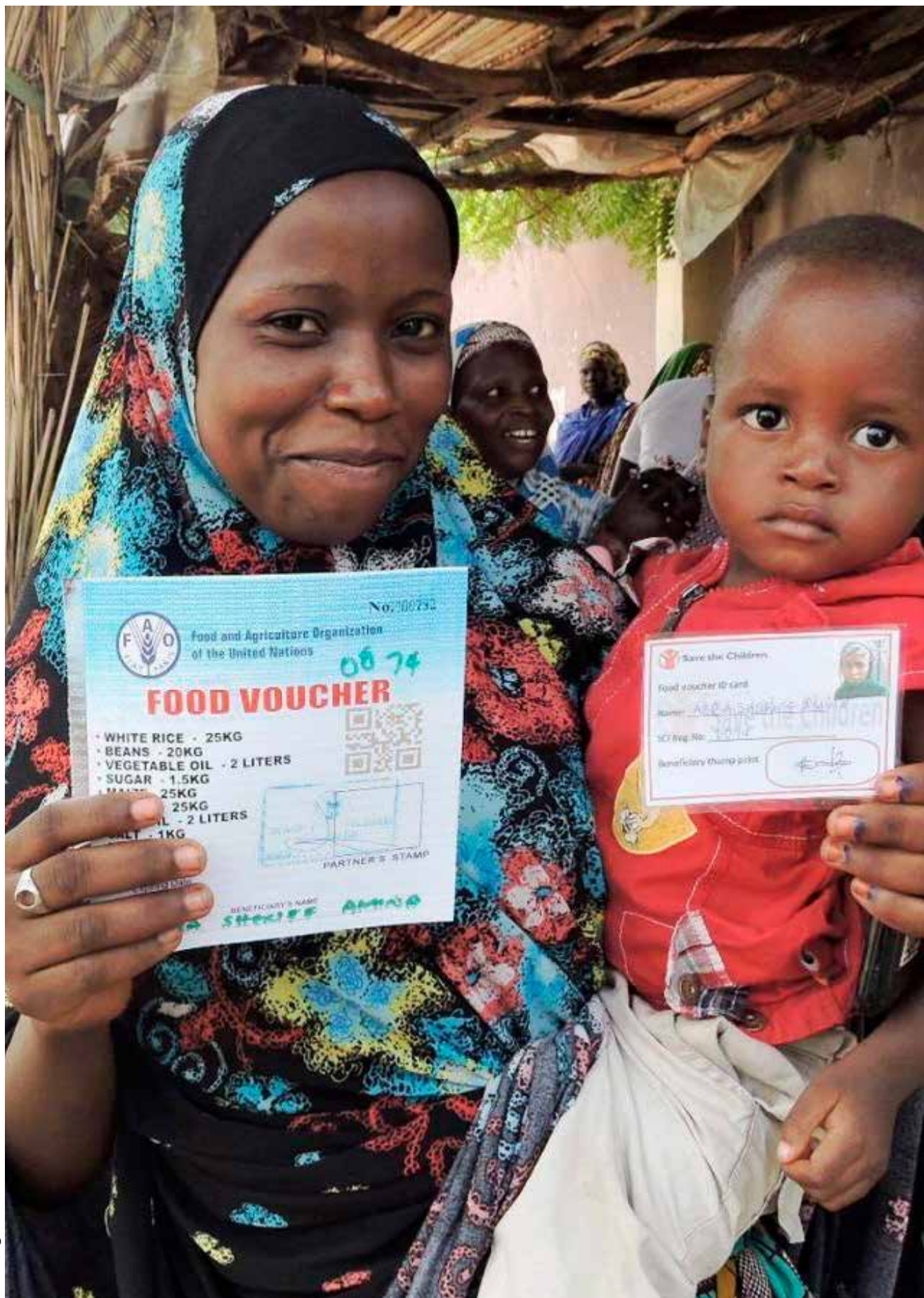
The programmes and sub-programmes have interventions that relate to the achievement of zero hunger status as a CAADP principle. However, greater involvement on the part of women will be required to achieve the goal.

6.5 Sustainability strategy for putting policy into action which includes financing

NAIP facilitates access to financial support for women farmers and women-led agribusinesses as follows: Bank of Agriculture (BOA) for women and youth; BoI-CAP Fund; and Rural Finance Institution Building Programme (RUFIN). NAIP promotes producer organizations, but the plan makes no provision for financial inclusion.

Resilience of agriculture and food systems

The plan covers the issue of social inclusiveness (gender), expressed in terms of the environment and climate change. The FADAMA III project has a strong gender component that supports securing women's asset base. Programmes are being implemented for special target groups among rural dwellers (women, youth) and victims of natural resource emergencies (IFAD- CBNRMP and IFAD-CASP).



Beneficiaries at the Maiduguri distribution site, Borno State. Repeated attacks on civilians from Boko Haram have led to massive displacements and negatively impacted livelihoods in North Eastern Nigeria.

7. OVERVIEW OF GENDER EQUALITY AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF NAIPs

Projects of significant importance to food security, poverty alleviation and overall improvement in the livelihoods of households in the agriculture sector are implemented under a coordinating instrument called the National Programme for Agriculture and Food Security (NPAFS). This comprises: the National Programme on Food Security (NPFS), the FADAMA III Development Project, the IFAD assisted Community Based Agriculture and Rural Development Programme (IFAD-CBARDP) in seven northern states, the IFAD assisted Rural Finance Institution Building Programme, the AfDB supported Community Based Agriculture and Rural Development Programme (AfDB-CBARDP) in five northern states, the Multinational NERICA Rice Dissemination Project, and the IFAD-supported Community Based Natural Resource Management Programme (CBNRMP) in Niger Delta (FGN, 2010).

7.1 Overall trends, gaps and challenges

Results of data collected from the field revealed that programmes and projects undertaken under NAIPs have improved the livelihoods of women, with major achievements recorded at household, community and institutional levels, as presented in Table 20.

Table 20: Achievements at household, community and institutional levels

Household	Community	Institution
Value addition to major crops, e.g. rice, cassava	Establishment of rural agro-enterprises for women	More support by men for women's business engagement and price negotiation
Adoption of pro-vitamin A cassava variety by women	Increased food production	Creation of more job opportunities for women
Women's ability to buy production inputs increased	Increased income	Improved leadership position for women
Increased food production	Improved standard of living for households	Increased formation of cooperative groups along commodity value chain
Increased income	Increased agribusiness due to increased food prices	Awareness of improved inputs, technologies and post-harvest activities
Improved standard of living for households	Positive attitude towards gender equity	More women's participation in leadership of groups
Complementary feeding (fortification of food) for improved nutrition	Increased access to land	
Increase in knowledge, skills	Awareness of improved inputs, technologies and post-harvest activities	
Increased self-reliance (stability in homes) and less dependence on husbands		

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

Despite the achievements recorded, findings revealed that some challenges are still hampering the smooth implementation of the programmes. The needs and gaps affecting both men and women were highlighted as constraints by gender in agricultural and rural sectors in Nigeria. These are factors that could hinder agricultural production in rural areas. Key stakeholders and respondents were asked to rank the constraints in ascending order of importance during the FGD in study areas and the results are presented in Table 21.

Table 21: Constraints/ needs/gaps in agricultural activities

Constraints/needs/gaps	RANK
Lack of access to capital/funds/finances	1
Lack of access to modern technologies/equipment	9
Illiteracy/education/ technological know-how	5
Low level of training on improved animal production	3
High cost of post-harvest technologies	15
Low prices/poor marketing of agricultural products	11
Drudgery/ inadequate labour-saving devices	13
Security challenges(kidnapping and killing of farmers)	2
Land shortage/fragmentation of farm land	16
Lack of mobility/access roads	14
Poor linkages to off-takers	4
Poverty	10
Lack of information	6
Adulteration/ low quality of agricultural inputs	17
Non-sustainable farmers' organizations	7
Discrimination against women	12
Poor agricultural yield	18
Farmers/herdsmen/communal conflicts	8

Source: Field Assessment on Gender, 2016

Deliberate gender mainstreaming does not exist at institutional level. Limitations reported included attitudinal problems and societal beliefs, insufficient funds and inadequate processing facilities at household level. Others were lack of support (poor motivation), feeling of marginalization due to tradition, illiteracy on the part of women (computer illiteracy hinders participation in some programmes), and cultural and religious restrictions. In terms of improving women's livelihoods, inadequate funds have been a limiting factor, since the support provided could not reach every woman/household even in the same community. Also, lack of follow-up after training meant that most women never put what they learned into practice. The culture of women not owning land is a serious limiting factor because it severely restricts their involvement in agricultural ventures of their choice, and because they cannot grow certain cash crops and/or 'male' crops.

Despite efforts made by women to improve the welfare of their families, especially in terms of nutrition, there are still cases of malnutrition recorded in communities. The root causes of malnutrition, as provided by key informants, are lack of storage facilities and general poverty and reduction in frequency of feeding in the household.

The reasons for the persistence of gender inequalities include: cultural and societal values, low levels of education and sensitization, religious beliefs, high levels of poverty among women, poor implementation of gender policies, lack of continuity and sustainability in development programmes and early marriage, which prevents women from furthering their education.

Similarly, findings on critical resources to which women have no access and over which they have no control revealed the following results: land 21.8 percent, training 16.7 percent, input technologies 16.7 percent, equipment 13.5 percent, access to water 5.2 percent and health facilities 4.2 percent, as shown in Table 30. According to Anaglo *et al.* (2014), this 'gender gap' hampers women's productivity and reduces their contribution to the agricultural sector and to the achievement of broader economic and social development goals.

Table 22: Critical resources women do not have access to, and control over

Critical resources	Frequency	Percentage
Land	21	21.8
Training	16	16.7
Input technology	16	16.7
Equipment (farm& household)	13	13.5
Information	8	8.3
Health care	4	4.2
Water	5	5.2
Loan	8	8.3
Savings	5	5.2

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2016

7.2 Good practices in gender responsive programming and implementation

Over the years, the FGN and its development partners have made concerted efforts to achieve the overall goals of poverty reduction and food security. The following programmes coordinated by NPAFS have gender responsive targets embedded in them.

- National FADAMA Development Project
- Rural Finance Institution Building Programme (RUFIN)
- Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme (CASP)
- Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP)
- Community-Based Natural Resource Management Programme (CBNRMP)

Good practices in gender responsive programming and implementation are as follows:

Table 23: Women in Agriculture (WIA) programme

Title	Women in Agriculture (WIA) programme
Type of initiative	Component of World Bank-supported Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs).
Location/ geographical Coverage	All States of the Federation
Scope	Integration of women into the nation's total agricultural development, through the mainstreaming of women into the ADP system, to enable them to have equal access to agricultural inputs, credit, loans and extension services.
Stakeholders and partners	The Government of Japan, NEPAD, FMARD, FMWR, its Federal and State level coordination offices, as well as State Ministries of Agriculture, the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA), LGAs, communities and Fadama User Associations (FUAs).
Impacts	<p>The approach was through a single line of command under the Training and Visit (T & V) system of extension already promoted in the ADPs. It involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying project beneficiaries and classifying them according to their interests into Economic Interest Groups (EIGs) to promote agribusiness. • Identifying any ethnic and/or physical constraint hindering women farmers from successfully performing farm operations. Such constraints will then be addressed at management level or at the Monthly Technology Review Meeting (MTRM) for possible solution. These were regular analyses of technological innovations, research findings from various research institutions for introduction, adaptation, and dissemination for adoption to increase women farmers' production and productivity. • Maintaining active liaison with agro-processing research institutes to keep track of latest innovations and machinery design development that would best address constraints faced by women processing groups. • Organizing Women in Agriculture into cooperatives to achieve economies of scale, in relation to production, resource sourcing and marketing of products. • Capacity building of WIA staff and their clients, both in-house and off station.

Table 24: National FADAMA Development Project

Title	National FADAMA Development Project
Type of initiative	World Bank assisted project designed and implemented in Nigeria.
Location/ geographical Coverage	Phases I and II (12 States each), III (19 States)
Introduction	'Fadama' is a Hausa word for irrigable land, usually low-lying plains underlain by shallow aquifers found along Nigeria's major river systems. Such lands are especially suitable for irrigated production and fishing, and traditionally provide feed and water for livestock. The project development objective (PDO) was to sustainably increase the incomes of participating rural community dwellers. The project adopted a demand driven approach whereby all users of FADAMA resources are encouraged to develop participatory and socially inclusive local development plans (LDP).
Scope	The project's target groups include: (a) the rural poor engaged in economic activities (farmers, pastoralists, fishers, nomads, traders, processors, hunters and gatherers, as well as other economic interest groups); (b) disadvantaged groups (widows, the disabled, the sick and other vulnerable groups, including people living with HIV/AIDS and unemployed youth); and (c) service providers, including government agencies, private operators and professional/semi-professional associations operating in project areas.
Stakeholders and partners	The Government of Japan, NEPAD, FMARD, FMWR, its Federal and State level coordination offices, as well as State Ministries of Agriculture, the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA), LGAs, communities and Fadama User Associations (FUAs).
Impacts	According to a beneficiary assessment and impact evaluation undertaken by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), beneficiary households realized substantial increases in their incomes during the first year of the project, compared with communities that did not participate. The average measured increase in real income was about 60 percent during the first year of the project, exceeding the project development objective target of 50 percent by 10 percent. The project has led to the acquisition of productive assets by beneficiaries and improved access to markets and transport services. Women, the poor and disadvantaged groups have been given a voice through the project. It has pro-actively supported women's organizations involved in project related activities. The project has rehabilitated disabled men and women and trained them to be useful economic agents. FADAMA projects have made meaningful contributions to both the quality of life of the beneficiaries and the local economy.
Innovation and success factors	The project provides targeted support to potentially insecure stakeholders. Such support was designed to turn them into agents of change and champions of the project by ensuring that they share in the benefits.
Constraints	The M&E system of FADAMA II was inadequate. Project reports were based on outputs and expenditure activities rather than outcomes, and failed to capture results from internal and external reporting and monitoring of subprojects.
Sustainability	The sustainability of project benefits depended on ownership and commitment of recipients, financial and technical soundness of subprojects, financial sustainability of the income-generating investments, capacity of communities, and the stability of the social, economic and political environment.
Upscaling	Based on the successes recorded in project implementation of FADAMA I and II, the FADAMA III project was launched to cover 19 States. CDD and participatory local development planning approaches were designed to promote social cohesion and provide income and employment opportunities for the target population, especially youth. The FADAMA III project included subprojects for activities that are particularly beneficial to women and monitored the incidence of benefits according to gender.
Conclusion	The CDD and participatory local development planning approaches were designed to promote social cohesion, provide income and employment opportunities for the target population, especially youth, and helped to overcome some of the structural problems associated with social and economic insecurity. Furthermore, by promoting more efficient agricultural practices, the project reduced pressure on already environmentally fragile land and improved sustainable agriculture.
Contact details	Agriculture and Rural Development Unit, Sustainable Development Department, Western Africa Country Department 2, Africa Region.
Related websites	http://www.fadamaaf.net/res/manualsx/Project%20Implementation%20Manual.pdf

Table 25: IFAD/Value Chain Development Programme

Title	VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (VCDP)
Type of initiative	Programme Financing Agreement between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The programme was prepared in 2010 for an IFAD loan of US\$74.4 million and a grant of US\$ 0.5 million in April 2012. A financing agreement signed in August 2012 became effective on 31 October 2013 and disbursement became effective in February 2015. The completion date is scheduled for 31 December 2019, while the closing date is 30 June 2020.
Location/ geographical coverage	The programme will work in five selected Local Government Areas in six states: Anambra, Benue, Ebonyi, Niger, Ogun and Taraba, totalling 30 LGAs.
Scope	<p>The programme focuses on enhancing the productivity and profitability of smallholder farmers and small/medium-scale agroprocessors by improving their access to markets and capacity to increase yields, as well as to add value to locally produced raw materials through improved processing and packaging. Women will comprise at least 40 percent of farmers trained through the FFS and FBS, and special efforts will be made to ensure gender sensitive delivery (time, venue etc.). Activities will draw on and enhance women's role as custodians of seed knowledge. Special efforts will be made to ensure that women's knowledge is not exploited and that women are not excluded as activities become more lucrative. Reasonable extra expenses (e.g. child care, venue of training) would be covered to ensure reaching women with training. Women's groups will play a key role in preparation of the Value Chain Action Plans (VCAP). At least 30 percent of group leaders in the implementation committees are to be women. Production and enterprise groups are to have 25 percent women, and at least 30 percent of groups are to be women only by the end of the programme. There is a focus on strengthening the management, leadership and technical capacity of women only groups, in order to empower them to retain control over produce, technology and income.</p> <p>Women in the programme have been properly mobilized and sensitized and currently own productive assets, especially in the production and processing sectors of both cassava and rice value chains.</p> <p>They are represented in all leadership structures of the groups in the programme.</p>
	Farmers' groups/organizations with service providers (input dealers, seed companies, tractor operators, agrochemical sprayers/dealers, extension providers, technology centres, commercial banks, microfinance banks, non-bank MFIs, different public and private credit facilities, NAIC etc.). Farmers/processors groups with credible off-takers, aggregators of output, institutional markets in private and public organized market outlets (market makers), different youth agri-entrepreneurship programmes/projects, etc.
Impacts	<p>End of programme, unless stated otherwise. The achievement of the PDO at the end of the programme will be measured by the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 percent of targeted smallholder farmers and value chain operators (by sex and age) have increased their real agricultural income by at least 25 percent in programme areas. • 10 percent increase in household asset index* by PY6 in programme areas • 25 percent reduction in the prevalence of child malnutrition in programme LGAs. • 25 percent increase in household food security in target LGAs.
Innovation and success factors	<p>The programme targets youth, in order to create income-generating activities through inclusion in the proposed value chains. The targeted performance will be followed using participatory poverty monitoring and a tracer study that allows tracking of target groups, such as youth.</p> <p>Some youths in the programme have been trained as spraying gangs and are providing services to their communities as an income-generating activity.</p> <p>Thirty youths are undergoing seed production training by AfricaRice at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan to become skilled community seed producers, so as to effectively produce good quality rice seeds for their communities.</p> <p>Youths in the programme have been trained in agricultural mechanization. Some have been selected to start a mechanization pilot scheme using power tillers, planters, harvesters, threshers, etc. This is with a view to attracting young people into agriculture, since these simple farm machines will reduce the drudgery associated with manual production and also increase productivity and incomes.</p>

Title	VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (VCDP)
Constraints	<p>Religious and cultural factors still limit women from actively participating in development projects, as women are not permitted to go out to mix with others, women do not talk where men are, especially in the presence of their husbands, and are not allowed to own productive resources such as land, etc. In some cases, male programme staff are not allowed to interact with women. The high illiteracy level of women and youths impedes good communication between project staff and beneficiaries. All these combine to constrain development works in many areas and underdevelopment remains a serious problem for most communities.</p> <p>Sometimes, development projects do not put in place sustainability strategies/exit strategies to ensure that project beneficiaries remain in business after project closure.</p>
Sustainability	<p>The programme will work in collaboration with existing service providers, either public/private organizations or NGOs that display the necessary skills, professionalism and commitment to address identified challenges. The State Programme Management Unit (SPMU) assessment of service providers in the states ensures the highest technical and management standards. A Gender Action Learning System (GALS) would strengthen women groups in the value chains.</p> <p>VCDP is a market led, demand driven and private sector driven programme. It is engaging professional and committed private service providers to supply services to farmers' organizations, with a view to establishing sustainable relationships that will continue to be explored beyond the lifespan of VCDP.</p>
Upscaling	<p>The programme was initially only implemented in three Local Government Areas in the six states, but these have since been scaled up to five, and may be scaled up further by the project's mid-term review in 2017.</p>
Conclusion	<p>VCDP places a high premium on the participation of women and youth and is working towards ensuring that these categories of beneficiaries gain maximum benefit from the programme. For this reason, the programme has a gender and youth mainstreaming component, with staff in the states and at headquarters.</p>
Contact details	<p>FGN/IFAD – Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP), No 3B Lake Kariba close, off Mississippi Street, Maitama, Abuja, Nigeria.</p>
Related websites	<p>www.vcdpnigeria.com , www.facebook.com/vcdpnigeria</p>

Table 26: IFAD/ Rural Finance Institution Building Programme (RUFIN)

Title	RURAL FINANCE INSTITUTION BUILDING PROGRAMME (RUFIN)
Type of initiative	FGN/IFAD Rural Finance Institution Building Programme
Location/ geographical coverage	<p>The programme is being carried out in a total of twelve states of the borrower's territory, covering three zones and thirty-six Local Government Areas. The zones are:</p> <p>Zone 1: Adamawa, Bauchi, Katsina and Zamfara States.</p> <p>Zone II: Benue, Nasarawa, Lagos and Oyo states.</p> <p>Zone III: Anambra, Imo, Akwalbom and Edo States.</p>
Introduction	<p>The focus of IFAD's support for the Government poverty reduction programme is on building capacity and strengthening institutions to be able to facilitate the provision of services to the rural poor and developing IFAD target group member-based organizations to enhance their effective participation. IFAD also assists with necessary policy changes, promoting sectoral initiatives to create conditions for rapid poverty reduction and economic growth, led by the private sector, improving accountability and transparency. The programme benefits the rural poor, including vulnerable groups in the programme area, with the emphasis on women, youth and the physically challenged.</p> <p>The goal of the programme is to improve the income, food security and general living conditions of poor rural households, particularly female-headed households, youth and the physically challenged.</p>
Scope	<p>To economically empower 345 000 households in 36 LGAs, or 9 583 households per LGA of rural poor. To strengthen 70 microfinance banks (MFB), 24 microfinance institutions (MFI) and 7 500 village saving and credit groups (VSCG), as well as about 6 000 staff of MFIs (financial cooperatives, MFBs and Facilitating Non-Governmental Organizations (FNGO)) through training in gender roles and needs. To build gender awareness, gender and development, empowerment and participation, gender and microfinance, mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS on microfinance activities. Also, to establish and strengthen apex organizations for microfinance banks and non-bank microfinance institutions.</p>
Stakeholders and partners	<p>State Cooperative Finance Agencies, Federal Department of Cooperatives, State Cooperative Apexes, Central Bank of Nigeria, PFIs (including grassroots MFIs), cooperatives (societies, unions, associations), and NGO-MFIs, apex and umbrella organizations of MFBs/NBMFIs, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Federal Ministry of Finance, National Poverty Eradication Programme, Bank of Agriculture (BOA), Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, all farmers' association of Nigeria, participating banks, other donors.</p>
Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved skills and knowledge in financial literacy; • increased access to income: loans helped to foster crop farming, animal raising and business development associations, which played important roles in organizing the farmers to save, increase productivity and improve their marketing strategy; • increased asset and ownership; • increased gender equality and women's empowerment; • reduced immediate vulnerability and food insecurity; • targeting women has had a positive impact on their status (e.g self-esteem, recognition, etc.); • increased shared roles and responsibility; • increased participation and decision-making.

Title	RURAL FINANCE INSTITUTION BUILDING PROGRAMME (RUFIN)
Innovation and success factors	<p>Each programme party shall ensure that gender concerns are integrated into all activities during programme implementation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gender mainstreaming in project design</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring and evaluation system incorporates gender disaggregated data; • appointment of a gender focal person; • programme goal focus mainly on women; • participatory, gender sensitive analysis; • direct targeting. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Project performance during implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • existence of a gender action plan strengthens integration of gender implementation; • operational measures ensure gender equitable participation using quota (at least 30 percent) to facilitate participation of both women and men; • designing activities specifically to target female beneficiaries. These include: financial literacy training and other capacity-building activities, particularly aimed at increasing women's skills and leadership, financial management, group dynamics, business/entrepreneurial development formation of only women; • focus on supporting by consolidating on the formation of only women village savings and credit groups in 2013 after the mid-term review; • facilitation of women in leadership and their adequate representation in VSCGs; • facilitation of Gender Action Learning System (GALS) training for beneficiaries to guide women's involvement and empowerment, both in project activities and at household level; • facilitation of gender audit providing further in-depth analysis of institutional capacity to implement gender mainstreaming strategies; • gender sensitization for partner financial service providers (MFI/MFBs); • facilitation of financial linkage of VSCGs with MFI/MFBs; • training was designed on the basis of participatory needs assessments at community level; • gender annual work plan & budget for implementing gender activities; • gender disaggregated data collection and/or gender specific indicators in the M&E system.
Constraints	
Sustainability	<p>Single digit interest rate will encourage more participation in the programme. Inclusion of women in programme implementation will ensure sustainability.</p> <p>Rural finance institutions need to be competitive and cost-effective to reach scale and responsibly serve their clients, so promotion of Rural Business Plan Initiative among financial service providers increased outreach for sustainability.</p>
Upscaling	Not yet
Conclusion	Not yet
Contact details	Central Programme Management Unit, No 3, Safana Close, Off Zaria Street. Garki II, Abuja, Nigeria
Related websites	www.rufinnigeria.org

Table 27: IFAD/Community-Based Natural Resources Management Programme

Title	COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (CBNRMP)
Type of initiative	Federal Government of Nigeria FGN/ IFAD Community Based Natural Resource Management Programme (CBNRMP) financing programme.
Location/ geographical coverage	The programme is operating in the nine Niger Delta Oil producing states: ABIA, A/IBOM, BAYELSA, C/RIVER, DELTA, EDO, IMO, ONDO and RIVERS.
Introduction	The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) is representing the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN)/ IFAD programme for Community Based Natural Resource Management Programme (CBNRMP), with the goal of improving the livelihoods and living conditions of at least 400 000 rural households in the nine Niger Delta States. There is a strong emphasis on women and youth.
Scope	The programme has maintained a pro-poor focus in its design and implementation by targeting and reaching the poorest members of rural communities, with activities that have enabled beneficiaries to escape poverty in the nine participating states.
Stakeholders and partners	It involves partnerships with Songhai, Bank of Agriculture (BoA), Lift Above Poverty (LAPO), USAID/ MARKETS and the USAID-funded Children of Hope Project (COP), NARIs, such as the National Root Crops Research Institute (NCRI), Umudike, Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), Ondo State Inputs Disruption Agency, Federal Agency, particularly, the NPC and the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment.
Impacts	Implementation performance shows that CBNRMP established and supported a total of 4 783 rural small and medium enterprises (SMEs) made up of 382 group enterprises and 4 394 individually owned enterprises. These operate within the crop, livestock, fisheries, processing and vocational trade sectors, with on-farm enterprises accounting for the highest number, with a total of 3 586 enterprises, while off-farm activities and non-farm enterprises account for 542 and 655 respectively. The updated impact on total households in all states through training and institutional strengthening was not assessed in detail during this mission. However, at the end of the 2013 SM based on the RIMs data, it was estimated that more than 97 000 households had been reached by the programme, since its inception. The extended and continued training support to other apex organizations and consolidation and upgrading of enterprises and training programmes, the numbers of households benefiting from the programme, will remain significantly important in the nine states.
Innovation and success factors	A Training-of-Trainers (TOT) strategy and its 'step-down' practice to other members of a commodity group (or other members of the community living in the same area) has been designed and is being carried out to transfer knowledge to other group members. Training is gender neutral, as evidenced by data from the programme.
Constraints	Challenges including lack of counterpart financing and coordination challenges between federal and state levels.
Sustainability	
Upscaling	Evidence from the CBNRMP M&E databank shows that target beneficiaries have seen income increases. This was corroborated by the benchmarking of performing enterprises carried out by an IFAD consultant.
Conclusion	Lack of counterpart financing at community level has inevitably come as a severe blow to the ability of the programme to reach its development objectives. The need for real disbursement of counterpart financing at local government levels and regular release from federal, NDDC and state levels is a hard earned lesson for IFAD. The programme continues to be sensitive to ensuring that women (and youth) participate as equally as men, even with a changed overall focus on economic development.
Contact details	IFAD Nigeria Community-Based Natural Resource Management Programme (CBNRMP). West and Central Africa Division Programme Management Department.
Related websites	https://operations.ifad.org/documents/654016/dcf1adf4-0f3f-48b0-8d19-2201b36497d5



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A woman winnowing rice

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Country Gender Assessment (CGA) analysed gender related activities of Nigeria's agriculture and rural sector at different levels – policy and legislation, institutional, community and household. The aim was to identify gender inequalities in access to critical productive resources, assets, services and opportunities. The assessment combined both empirical and qualitative data, drawn from primary and secondary sources. It examined gender relations and inequalities in the various subsectors of agriculture, as well as their possible causes and impact on food and nutrition security. Specifically, the CGA assessed the needs, gaps and constraints experienced by men and women in the agriculture and rural sector, including gender inequalities in ownership, purchase and transfer of assets, critical production resources and group membership and leadership. It also identified achievements in gender equality, women's empowerment and food security. Based on the findings, a series of recommendations was offered.

8.1 Recommendations to Government

1. It is a matter of urgency for both Federal and State governments to improve and sustain funding to the Agricultural Development Programmes (ADP), to enable them to achieve reasonable standards in extension delivery, in order to realize the agricultural growth inherent in the Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP).
2. There is a need for Federal and State governments to conduct gender responsive budgeting (GRB), as a step not only towards accountability for women's rights, but towards greater public transparency, economic stability and outputs for women's empowerment. In addition, GRB will help the Government to understand how it may adjust its priorities and reallocate resources to live up to its commitments to achieving gender equality and advancing women's rights – including those stipulated in CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. Agricultural project development processes at all levels should involve vulnerable groups from the outset, in order to enhance satisfaction and ownership.
4. Due attention should be given to the formation and strengthening of women's and youth farmers' groups, to empower them in productive income-generating activities and entrepreneurship development, so as to increase accumulation of capital and asset ownership at household level.
5. Government/financial institutions should facilitate women farmers' access to credit through cooperative groups before the onset of the planting season, to enable them to purchase production inputs such as fertilizer and agrochemicals, and pay for hired labour.
6. FGN, in collaboration with appropriate institutions, to create Women in Agricultural Development Tax Fund, which will serve as a social protection mechanism to minimize vulnerability and farm losses for women, and improve their livelihood status.
7. FGN to increase investments in critical infrastructures in rural areas, such as improved power, portable water supply, transport, roads and sanitation, to reduce women's drudgery and minimize rural/urban migration.

8. Government at all levels to initiate a deliberate commitment to ban or prescribe strict penalties for negative traditional and cultural practices that pose obstacles to national and individual development of women, as well as increased advocacy and sensitization to traditional rulers, religious and community leaders, women's/men's groups, policy-makers and other stakeholders.
9. FGN to put in place a law to compel state, local government and private organizations in Nigeria to establish gender units for the purpose of mainstreaming gender in agricultural and rural development activities.
10. The current Agricultural Promotion Policy of FMARD should include a detailed guide on how to mainstream gender in all agricultural value chain activities for crops, livestock and fisheries, with FAO support.
11. Land ownership and control by gender in Nigeria is still male dominated, in terms of average land size apportioned to farming activities. Government to establish programmes and partnerships that will specially target women in order to improve access to, and control over land, to enable them to increase their productive capacities, promote involvement in cash crop production and improve livelihood status.
12. FGN should put in place a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of rural women and youth activities in agriculture and rural development.
13. FGN efforts to reduce poverty and achieve inclusive agricultural growth should tailor provision of productive resources to regional differences, by ensuring that women in the south have access to, and use similar quantities of inputs, including herbicides and labour-saving devices, as men. In the north, provision to women farmers should also take into account the structural disadvantages that prevent women and their households from fully benefiting from agricultural production and modernization.

8.2 Recommendations to FAO

1. FAO to appropriately address gender disparity and the prevalence of gender stereotypes regarding women's roles in livestock production, by increasing understanding and appreciation of women's pivotal role as livestock producers and critical contributors to household food security. Women need to have stronger ownership rights to different livestock species, including large ruminants, as a lucrative enterprise for women's empowerment.
2. FAO should collaborate with FGN for improved funding of research to develop appropriate technologies for mitigating the effects of climate change, multi-purpose tree species for checking erosion and desertification, and nutrient efficient crop varieties, control of pest and diseases of crops, livestock and fisheries, low-cost feeds and feeding techniques for fisheries and livestock, as well as gender sensitive labour-saving devices to inform sound policies and programmes. Such data and indicators will also provide a strong baseline for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and National agricultural investment plan. In line with its policy on gender equality adopted in 2012, FAO has systematized gender mainstreaming in its assistance to agricultural censuses..
3. FAO to advocate with NAERLS to conduct a national census of extension personnel and unemployed graduates of agriculture-related fields, with a view to factoring their integration into the value chain scheme of the APP. At least 30 percent of extension personnel should be women.
4. FAO/FGN/NAERLS to develop and maintain sex disaggregated database in agricultural and rural sectors, with clear gender performance indicators.
5. FAO, in collaboration with FMWASD, to initiate advocacy and sensitization of both men and women to ensure 35 percent women's representation in leadership positions at various levels and 10 percent budgetary allocation to the agriculture sector, as well as women's rights to ownership, savings and decision-making on their agricultural investments and revenues.
6. FAO to strengthen existing partnership with FMARD and other line ministries in areas of women and youth entrepreneurship development, cottage industries and skill acquisition in crops, livestock and aquaculture.

7. Given massive post-harvest losses for many crops, renewed focus should be placed on value addition and understanding commodity value chains, in order to advance market-driven agriculture. To this end, FAO, development partners and FGN, in collaboration with beneficiaries, should provide support/incentives for development of agro-cottage enterprises to open new corridors for trade and employment that will equally benefit women and men.
8. FAO should support the FGN in the effective implementation of the Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security to secure women's rights to land.

8.3 Recommendations to the ECOWAS Commission

While partnerships are always required in development, the emphasis should be on the nature of such partnerships. On this basis, the recommendations to other partners and stakeholders are:

1. ECOWAS should support capacity building and invest more resources at subnational level on gender mainstreaming.
2. Conditions for donor support should define and articulate gender equality and women's rights requirements with specific gender specific indicators, and should be reflected in monitoring and evaluation tools, such as periodic reviews, project evaluation and project reports.
3. ECOWAS should help to reduce gender inequality by ensuring that national policy-makers and practitioners move beyond the issue of awareness to actual implementation of relevant interventions to meet gender needs.

8.4 Recommendations to other partners/stakeholders

1. Development partners should consider women's exceptional capabilities and skills in disaster risk reduction and management. Currently, these are often not recognized or tapped, due to women's low status. Women and girls need to be at the core of disaster risk reduction intervention, given that they often bear the main impact of climate change and hazards.
2. There are gender inequalities in educational attainment, with a widening gender gap of 18.3 percent in literacy rates between boys and girls, especially in rural areas and among the poorest population. In some regions, more than 80 percent of women are unable to read or write, compared with 54 percent of men. In order to reduce these disparities, Federal, State and Local Governments need to improve educational funding, especially that targeting rural areas. UN agencies such as UNICEF and UNESCO can collaborate to develop and fund special education programmes for girls and women.

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ANNEXES

Annex 1: Stakeholders interviewed for the CGA report

Respondents for primary data collection

S/No	Agency/respondents	Number	Contact
1.	FDAE, FMARD	3	DD Gender and Youth and staff
2.	FMWASD	2	Ag. Director, Women Affairs and Staff
3.	FGN/IFAD	8	Country Programme Officer, staff of RUFIN, VCDP and Climate Change & Agribusiness Programme.
4.	UNAIDS	1	Gender and Human Rights Adviser
5.	UN WOMEN	1	Deputy Director
6.	SG2000 Nigeria	1	Gender Focal person
7.	IAR Zaria	1	Head, Extension Unit,
		1	Head of Home Economics Unit
8.	NIHORT, Ibadan	1	Head of Extension Research
9.	College of Agriculture	1	Head of Home Economics Unit
10.	Kaduna Agricultural Development Project (KADP)	8	Programme Manager, Management Team, and State Coordinators of FADAMA, NFSP, USAID MARKETS, WIA programmes.
11.	State Agricultural Development Projects (ADP)	10	Head Women in Agriculture (WIA)
12.	Local Government Councils	20	Head/Director, Agriculture Department
13.	Agro-input dealers	20	Wholesalers and retailers, 2/State
14.	Individual farmers	40	Men and women 2/LGA
15.	Farmers' groups	42	2 groups/states, Katsina and Taraba had 1 additional group, pastoralists and fisher folk respectively.

Source: FAO and ECOWAS Commission/CGA, 2018

Annex 2: Gender Indicators in the APP

Agricultural and rural population by sex

- i. Percentage of rural population by sex;
- ii. Percentage of agricultural population by sex;
- iii. Percentage of holders by sex;
- iv. Percentage of households by sex of household head, by rural/urban.

Mode age group by sex of the holder, land access and ownership

- i. Average land size, by sex of the holder;
- ii. Percentage of parcels, by land tenure and sex of the holder;

Access to agricultural labour

- i. Average number of household members of working age, engaged in farm related work on the holding, by sex of members and sex of the holder;
- ii. Percentage of holding with hired labour, sex of holder and sex of hired labour.

Access to credit

- i. Percentage of holdings receiving credit for agricultural purposes, by sex of the holder.

Access to agricultural extension

- i. Percentage of holders receiving agricultural extension services, by sex of the holder.

Access to agricultural inputs

- i. Percentage of holdings using fertilizer, by sex of the holder;
- ii. Percentage of holdings using pesticides, by sex of the holder;
- iii. Percentage of holdings using machinery.

Access to water

- i. Percentage of holdings with any form of irrigation in the holding, by sex of the holder;
- ii. Percentage of household without water on premises, by sex of the main person responsible for collecting drinking water, by rural/urban.

Crop production

- i. Top three crops grown by agricultural holdings, by sex of the holder (and percentage or number of holdings growing crops).

Livestock

- i. Top three livestock by agricultural holdings, by sex of the holder (and percentage or number of holdings with the selected livestock).

Agriculture

- i. Percentage of holdings that have agriculture on the holding, by sex of the holder.

Marketing of agricultural products

- i. Percentage of holdings involved in marketing/selling activities related to the agricultural holding employment.

Nutrition

- i. Percentage of women and men with iron-deficiency anaemia, by rural/urban.
- ii. Percentage of underweight children under five.

National gender profile of agriculture and rural livelihoods

Gaps between policy commitment and implementation, and limited availability of sex disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators to inform sound policies, programmes and budgets have kept women marginalized in many sectors. No baselines mean no measurement of progress in effectively implementing the array of commitments towards gender equality and women's empowerment in agriculture, food security and nutrition, rural development and management of natural resources. This report was jointly prepared by FAO and the ECOWAS Commission within

the framework of their technical cooperation project on "Gender responsive regional and national agricultural investment plans for meeting the Zero Hunger challenge in the ECOWAS region". It reveals gender disparities in access to critical agriculture and rural resources, knowledge, opportunities, services and markets. It explores the existing gender relations and gaps in the various sub sectors of agriculture, and their possible causes and impact on food and nutrition security, and makes policy recommendations to address them.

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ISBN 978-92-5-130810-3



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CA0818EN/1/07.18