Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Federal Ministry of Livestock Development
Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy
Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Federal Ministry of Environment

National Agri-Food Systems Investment Plan

(NASIP)
2026-2027

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FOREWORD

Nigeria stands at a pivotal moment in its economic transformation journey. Recent macroeconomic reforms are bringing renewed hope and stability, helping to reposition the country for sustainable growth. However, some hurdles, such as food insecurity, climate pressures, and structural challenges, continue to affect millions of lives. In times like these, agriculture is not just an economic sector, but the heartbeat of rural communities, the foundation of food and nutrition security, a source of jobs, and a pathway to a more inclusive and prosperous future. Through agriculture, Nigeria reaffirms its strong commitment to both continental and global development, particularly through frameworks such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the newly adopted Kampala Declaration on building more resilient and sustainable agri-food systems in Africa.

The National Agri-food System Investment Plan (NASIP) articulates Nigeria's drive to transform the agri-food system into an engine of resilience and shared prosperity. As the third-generation agricultural Investment Plan, it introduces a comprehensive, people-oriented agri-food system strategy. The strategy integrates production, nutrition, the environment, jobs, and climate resilience under one vision. Guided by national priorities, including Nigeria Agenda 2050, the National Development Plan (2021-2025), the National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Policy (2022-2027), the Food Systems Transformation Pathway, and Nigeria Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), NASIP brings together Federal and State institutions, the private sector, civil society, academia, and development partners in a collaborative partnership.

NASIP offers an integrated, evidence-driven strategy to modernize agriculture and drive inclusion. Its coherent approach strengthens institutions, advances digital and climate-smart agriculture, broadens access to finance and markets, restores degraded ecosystems, and promotes the inclusion of women, youth, and vulnerable populations. With seven integrated programmes and ₦6.5 trillion in planned investments for 2026-2027, NASIP targets poverty reduction, food security, agri-food GDP expansion, and job creation, setting the stage for a competitive and resilient agri-food economy.

As Nigeria works to actualize the Renewed Hope Agenda and unlock the full potential of its agricultural sector, NASIP provides a unified platform for collective action, strengthened accountability, and aligned investments at the Federal, State, and Local Levels. It also positions the country to leverage regional opportunities, mobilize private sector innovation, and deliver meaningful results for millions of Nigerians whose livelihoods depend on a vibrant and sustainable agri-food system.

Honourable Minister,
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security,
FCDA Secretariat, Garki, Area 11, Abuja.
November 2025

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We appreciate the authorities and Management of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security who spearheaded the compilation of the Nigeria National Agri-food Systems Investment Plan (NASIP) to align the nation's needs with global developments.

We appreciate the partnership of the Federal Ministry of Livestock Development, the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, and other key Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in preparing the NASIP. We acknowledge the inputs from various State and Non-State Actors in the agricultural sector, which contributed to producing the updated and harmonized document. This has led to NASIP becoming an inclusive plan.

We commend the relentless commitment of all stakeholders whose national and international partnerships continue to contribute to transformative growth in the agri-food system in Nigeria. We also recognize the continuous efforts of successive public administrations in upholding the priority of the agricultural sector in the country's development process.

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It is our firm belief that all stakeholders will sustain their commitments to Nigeria's collective development agenda while deepening collaboration and partnerships essential for achieving NASIP's strategic goals.

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ACRONYMS

ABP	Anchor Borrowers' Programme
ACGS	Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme
ACGSF	Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund
ADF	Agricultural Development Fund
ADPs	Agricultural Development Programmes
ADWG	Agriculture Donor Working Group
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFIP	Agriculture Finance and Investment Platform
AFSNS	Agricultural Sector Food Security and Nutrition Strategy
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
AGSMEISI	Agri-Business Small and Medium Enterprises Investment Scheme
APP	Agricultural Promotion Policy
ARCN	Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria
ASWG	Agriculture Sector Working Group
ATA	Agricultural Transformation Agenda
ATASP 1	Agricultural Transformation Agenda Support Program, Phase I
AU	African Union
AUDA	African Union Development Agency
BOA	Bank of Agriculture
BOI	Bank of Industry
BR	Biennial Review
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CACS	Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme
CARP	Competitive African Rice Platform
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CORAF	West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
ECOWAP	ECOWAS Agricultural Policy
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EIAs	Environmental Impact Assessments
ERGP	Economic Recovery and Growth Plan
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCDA	Federal Capital Development Authority
FGN	Federal Government of Nigeria

FMAFS	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
FMARD	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
FMBEP	Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning
FME	Federal Ministry of Education
FMoEnv	Federal Ministry of Environment
FMF	Federal Ministry of Finance
FMB&EP	Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning
FMH&SW	Federal Ministry of Health & Social Welfare
FMIT&I	Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment
FMLE	Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment
FMM&BE	Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy
FMIST	Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology
FMSTI	Federal Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation
FMWA&SD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
FMWR	Federal Ministry of Water Resources
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GES	Growth Enhancement Support
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GESS	Growth Enhancement Support Scheme
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for International Cooperation)
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
GPS	Global Positioning System
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre (International Centre for Research in Agroforestry)
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
LGA	Local Government Area
LGICs	Local Government Implementation Committees
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAFAP	Monitoring and Analysing Food and Agriculture Policies
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MFIs	Microfinance Institutions
MoAs	Ministries of Agriculture
MSMEs	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises

MT	Metric Tonnes
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
MTNDP	Medium-Term National Development Plan
MTSS	Medium-Term Sector Strategy
NABG	Nigeria Agribusiness Group
NADF	National Agricultural Development Fund
NAERLS	National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services
NAIC	Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation
NAIP	National Agriculture Investment Plan
NALDA	National Agricultural Land Development Authority
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NARS	National Agricultural Research Systems
NASC	National Agricultural Seeds Council
NASIP	National Agri-food Systems Investment Plan
NASRDA	National Space Research and Development Agency
NATIP	National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Policy
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCAFS	National Council on Agriculture and Food Security
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDP	National Development Plan
NEEDS	National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NEPC	Nigerian Export Promotion Council
NERICA	New Rice for Africa
NFSP	National Food Security Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIC	National Implementation Committee
NIHSA	Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency
NIMET	Nigerian Meteorological Agency
NIPC	Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission
NIRSAL	Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending
NITDA	National Information Technology Development Agency
NMPI	National Multidimensional Poverty Index
NRDS	National Rice Development Strategy
NSCDC	Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps
NSPFS	National Special Programme for Food Security
NSPRI	Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
PWDs	Persons With Disabilities
R&D	Research and Development

RAIPFNS	Regional Agricultural Investment Plan for Food and Nutrition Security
RAIPs	Regional Agricultural Investment Plans
RASIP	Rural Agriculture Sector Investment Plan
RBDAs	River Basin Development Authorities
RBM	Results-Based Management
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
ReSAKSS	Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System
RTEP	Root and Tuber Expansion Programme
SAIPs	State Agricultural Investment Plans
SAKSS	Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System
SASIPs	State Agri-food Systems Investment Plans
SCPZ	Staple Crop Processing Zone
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
SESAs	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments
SEZs	Special Economic Zones
SICs	State Implementation Committees
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
TETFund	Tertiary Education Trust Fund
TWC	Technical Working Committee
TWGs	Technical Working Groups
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFSS	UN Food Systems Summit
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAT	Value Added Tax
VCDP	Value Chain Development Programme
WUAs	Water User Associations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In response to recent food security and macroeconomic challenges, a change in administration in May 2023 ushered in bold reforms aimed at restoring macroeconomic stability and growth. These reforms were coupled with targeted, temporary cash transfers to support the poorest and most vulnerable households. These reforms generated significant fiscal benefits, stabilized the exchange rate, and increased official reserves to over $37 billion. Nigeria's economy experienced a significant upturn in late 2024, with a 4.6% year-on-year growth in the fourth quarter, the strongest in a decade. Overall, the growth rate improved from 1.2% in the 2015 – 2019 period to 2.1% in the 2020 – 2024 period, indicating a notable change in the macroeconomic direction of the economy. However, food insecurity remains significant with 17 million Nigerians classified as food insecure as of 2024. Sustained fiscal discipline, prudent monetary policy, and social safety interventions remain crucial for long-term stability and inclusive growth.

Agriculture remains the backbone of Nigeria's economy and a critical sector for national development, accounting for approximately 28% of the rebased GDP in 2024 and employing over 70% of the rural population. As the country strives to diversify away from oil dependency, the agri-food sector presents a unique opportunity for inclusive economic growth, improved food security and nutrition, and sustainable job creation, particularly for women and youth. Yet, despite its potential, the sector continues to face deep-seated challenges, including low productivity, poor rural infrastructure, fragmented value chains, post-harvest losses, weak access to finance, and vulnerability to climate shocks.

Given the importance of agriculture to the growth and development of the Nigerian economy, Nigeria has maintained a strong commitment to regional and continental development frameworks, particularly the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). In 2025, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), meeting at an Extraordinary Summit in Kampala, Uganda, from 9 to 11 January 2025, reaffirmed their commitment to CAADP and adopted the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035 and the Kampala CAADP Declaration on **Building Resilient and Sustainable Agri-food Systems in Africa**. The new CAADP Strategy and Action Plan marks a significant shift from a narrow focus on agriculture-led growth to a broader agri-food systems approach. This strategic shift is further informed by a thorough understanding of the complex interrelationships between agriculture, nutrition, economic development, and other sectors.

It is against this backdrop of this shift from a narrow focus on agriculture-led growth to a broader agri-food systems approach, that the **National Agri-Food Systems Investment Plan (NASIP)** has been developed. The NASIP is, in essence, Nigeria's third National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP) following NAIPs I (2011 – 2014) and NAIP II (2017 – 2020). It responds to Nigeria's evolving development priorities

as well as the renewed development drive on the continent through the Kampala Declaration, which sets targets for agricultural transformation and the building of a resilient and sustainable agri-food system across Africa. It also aligns with the country's national development aspirations as outlined in the Nigeria Agenda 2050, the National Development Plan (2021–2025), the National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Policy (2022 – 2027), the Food Systems Transformation Pathway (2021), and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE NASIP

The NASIP represents a strategic opportunity to reposition agriculture as a driver of national agro-food resilience, rural development, and structural transformation. It is informed by a systems-thinking approach recognising the interconnected nature of food, environment, health, livelihoods and places a strong emphasis on inclusiveness, climate-smart agriculture, efficiency of spending, value for money, nutrition, digital innovation, and youth employment. The NASIP incorporates a new approach to optimizing government expenditure patterns such that environmental objectives, alongside traditional food security and growth objectives are optimally supported, thereby improving efficiency of spending and value for money to the greatest extent possible.

It also builds on lessons from past investment cycles and incorporates findings from the Joint Sector Review and Biennial Reviews under CAADP. By integrating national priorities with regional and global commitments, the NASIP aims to catalyse coordinated investments, mobilise public and private resources, and accelerate progress toward achieving zero hunger, shared prosperity, and a resilient agri-food future for all Nigerians.

Overall, the NASIP is expected to lay the foundation and contribute to achieving the goals of halving poverty by 2030, achieving zero hunger, boosting agri-food GDP growth and job creation, expanding access to affordable healthy diets, promoting climate resilient practices in agriculture, and encouraging private sector investment in the sector. The NASIP aims to support the country in achieving pre-Covid levels of growth in 2026 – 2027 as a launching pad for 2028 onwards following the slowdown in growth immediately after the Covid-19 pandemic.

PROGRAMS OF THE NASIP

To achieve the goals of the NASIP, seven programs will be implemented: (i) Institutional Development, Knowledge Creation and Transfer (ii) Expansion of crop, livestock, and fisheries production, value chain development, and export Promotion (iii) Digital and climate-smart agriculture (iv) Investment in short-term productivity

drivers (v) Finance, Marketing, and Insurance (vi) Sustainable Land, Water and Biodiversity Management, and (vii) Gender Equality and Social Inclusion. The implementation of these programs will cost ₦6.5 Trillion in the 2026 – 2027 period.

Program 1: Institutional Development, Knowledge Creation and Transfer

This program will strengthen institutional aspects of the sector to support the achievement of key goals. The objectives of the program include the establishment of new national gene banks, reforming the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), reviewing and updating all laws and regulations relating to agriculture, enhancing and facilitating the take-off of the National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF), and reforming government agricultural institutions to effectively carry out their mandates. Under this program, the coordination and Monitoring and evaluation capacities of key implementing ministries will be improved.

Program 2: Expansion of Crop, livestock and fisheries production and value chain and Export Promotion

The second program of the NASIP is aimed at promoting the production and processing of priority food and export commodities value chains. This program will strengthen and expand production clusters of priority food security and export commodities, promote urban agriculture, support implementation of the National Livestock Growth Acceleration Strategy, promote the adoption of renewable energy for improved production and food supply, and implement the Food System Transformation pathway. Under this program, agricultural mechanization will be enhanced across the country and support will be provided for the creation of a sustainable and competitive tilapia value chain in Nigeria. Food processing and value addition will receive considerable attention through fast tracking the establishment of agro-processing zones with adequate infrastructure in each geopolitical zone, ultimately contributing to reducing post-harvest losses by 40%.

Program 3: Digital and climate smart agriculture

This program addresses the need to ensure agricultural development remains climate-resilient, environmentally sustainable, and economically inclusive, securing food and nutrition for current and future generations. Under this program, the adoption of digital technologies and climate-smart practices for modern, resilient agriculture will be scaled up. The program will also digitize and digitalize crop, livestock and fisheries production for increased productivity and output. Digital agricultural platforms for advisory, weather forecasting, and market information will be expanded, and capacity-building for farmers and extension workers on digital tools and CSA techniques will be implemented.

Program 4: Investment in short-term productivity drivers

Program 4 of the NASIP focuses on key drivers of productivity which can lead to quick increases in production and, consequently, food security, particularly in the context of the current high levels of food insecurity, even as longer-term drivers are

strengthened. Based on recent research, the NASIP has prioritized extension, irrigation, and inputs provision as top drivers that can lead to quick wins. The program will therefore improve access to irrigation to drive productivity growth, improve access to quality farm inputs, and promote the development of a performance-based and digital agricultural extension system. Due to the importance of these drivers, about 40% of the NASIP's budget has been allocated to them.

Program 5: Finance, Marketing and Insurance

Access to vital services remains a key determinant of productivity and production. This program will expand access to affordable and tailored agricultural finance to improve production; expand access to structured markets to improve market participation for farmers and agribusinesses; expand insurance coverage to reduce risk and enhance resilience for farmers and agribusinesses; and improve institutional capacity to provide finance and insurance services to the agri-food system by updating policies on agriculture financing and building the capacity of financial and insurance institutions, along with extension agents.

Program 6: Sustainable Land, Water and Biodiversity Management

This program will promote the sustainable use, restoration, and protection of agricultural land, water resources, and biodiversity to support climate-resilient and environmentally sound food systems. This will be achieved through the implementation of land restoration and afforestation projects; the expansion of sustainable soil and water conservation practices; conducting national agro-ecological land suitability and degradation mapping to guide agricultural investments; facilitating land titling and access to land, especially for women and youth; supporting the formation and capacity building of water user associations; promoting ecological farming, crop diversification, and integrated pest management; and developing and enforcing national guidelines for sustainable land, water, and biodiversity use in agriculture.

Program 7: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion.

This program will mainstream gender equality, youth empowerment, and social inclusion across agricultural value chains and promote equitable participation and benefit-sharing for women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and marginalized groups across the agri-food system. This will be achieved by operationalizing Gender and Social Inclusion units in the ministries of Agriculture and Food Security; the Ministry of Livestock development, and other key ministries and affiliated agencies. The program will also support the development and adoption of a national gender-responsive agricultural policy framework, as well as the integration of women and youth empowerment initiatives into value chains. Disability-inclusive service delivery mechanisms will also be established. To improve access to assets and services, the program will facilitate access to land titles and productive assets for

women and marginalized groups, design and deliver tailored input packages, credit schemes, and subsidies for underserved groups.

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR NASIP IMPLEMENTATION

The NASIP will be implemented within the framework of the Medium Term Sector Strategy and in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Livestock Development, the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, the Federal Ministry of Environment, and other key ministries. The National Council on Agriculture and Food Security (NCAFS) will provide annual oversight of the NASIP's implementation, while the newly formed Agriculture Sector Working Group (ASWG) will provide quarterly reviews of progress and more immediate guidance on programmatic direction. The NCAFS and the ASWG will rely on an effective M&E system to carry out this role. Capacity building will be provided to the M&E units of key implementing ministries to ensure that this role is played effectively.

The federal government will provide overall coordination, as well as fine tune policies, laws, and operational guidelines where needed. States and local governments are expected to drive localization through State Agri-food Systems Investment Plans (SASIPs), provide funding, and deliver last-mile services. The private sector will mobilize investment, innovation and ensure accountability and sustainability. The civil society will provide social accountability and engage in policy advocacy. Research institutions will develop and disseminate new technologies, while development partners will co-finance programmes, provide technical support, and supply global best practices to aid the achievement of the sector's objectives.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

With a gross domestic product (GDP) of approximately US$252 billion in 2024, Nigeria is Africa's fourth largest economy. A blend of economic reforms, persistent inflation, and social challenges has characterised the socioeconomic landscape of the country. Over 40 percent of the population are poor (World Bank, 2022) while income per capita in 2024 was US$1,084, lower than US$3,161 recorded in 2010 (IMF, 2025). Between 2015 and 2022, growth rates declined and real GDP per capita fell, mainly due to policy missteps and external shocks (World Bank, 2023), such that the country experienced two recessions – in 2016 and in 2020. The country was faced distortive monetary and exchange rate policies which eroded confidence. Fiscal deficits expanded with dwindling oil production and expensive subsidies, especially those sustaining an overvalued exchange rate. Additional external shocks including the COVID-19 pandemic and the surge in food and fertiliser prices globally due to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia alongside domestic shocks such as the 2023 demonetisation policy and devastating floods in 2022 and 2024, further strained the economy. Rapid population growth estimated to surpass 220 million combined with urbanisation, rising food demand, and the increasing impacts of climate change, has placed significant pressure on the food system. Food insecurity remains a major concern, with over 17 million Nigerians classified as food-insecure (CILSS et al, 2024). Conflict and insecurity in key food-producing regions have further disrupted supply chains and displaced farming communities. The COVID-19 pandemic also exposed vulnerabilities in domestic food systems and reinforced the need for resilient, inclusive, and well-financed agricultural development strategies.

In response to these challenges, a change in administration in May 2023 ushered in bold reforms aimed at restoring macroeconomic stability and growth. Key measures included complete fuel subsidy removal, electricity allowance reductions, exchange rate unification to reflect market realities, and tighter monetary policy by the Central Bank of Nigeria focused on price stability and ending deficit monetization. The government has also implemented targeted, temporary cash transfers to support the poorest and most vulnerable households, although these efforts require acceleration and expansion. Additionally, the Nigerian Senate's recent tax reforms aim to boost government revenue, with a planned increase in value-added tax (VAT) from 7.5% to 12.5%, contributing to a reduced fiscal deficit from 5.4% in 2023 to 3% in 2024 (The Guardian Nigeria, 2024). These reforms generated significant fiscal benefits, stabilized the exchange rate, and increased official reserves to over $37 billion. Nigeria's economy experienced a significant upturn in late 2024, with a 4.6% year-on-year growth in the fourth quarter, the strongest in a decade (Reuters, 2024). Overall, GDP growth which declined from 6.1% in the 2010 to 2014 period to 1.2% in the 2015 – 2019 period, subsequently improved to 2.1% in the 2020 – 2024 period, indicating a notable change in the macroeconomic direction of the economy.

Looking ahead, Nigeria's economic outlook for 2025 is cautiously optimistic. The World Bank forecasts a 3.6% growth rate, contingent on the continuation of reforms and effective policy implementation. However, persistent challenges including high inflation, with the World Bank projecting an average rate of 22.1% in 2025, driven by elevated food and energy prices, security concerns, food insecurity, and social issues pose significant risks (World Bank, 2024). Sustained fiscal discipline, prudent monetary policy, and social safety interventions remain crucial for long-term stability and inclusive growth.

Agriculture remains the backbone of Nigeria's economy and a critical sector for national development, accounting for approximately 28% of the rebased GDP in 2024 and employing over 70% of the rural population (FAO, 2024a). As the country strives to diversify away from oil dependency, the agri-food sector presents a unique opportunity for inclusive economic growth, improved food security and nutrition, and sustainable job creation, particularly for women and youth. Yet, despite its potential, the sector continues to face deep-seated challenges, including low productivity, poor rural infrastructure, fragmented value chains, post-harvest losses, weak access to finance, and vulnerability to climate shocks.

The food security crisis in Nigeria has remained severe, exacerbated by climate change-induced water scarcity that undermines agricultural productivity. With over 80% of Nigerian farmers being smallholders, many lacking resources to adapt to changing climatic conditions, food prices in urban centres have soared, with some staples nearly doubling in price. Underlying these challenges are persistent issues such as poverty reduction, ensuring the affordability of healthy diets, poor competitiveness of the agricultural sector, and sustainable natural resource management, all essential for rapid national development. Currently, only 46% of arable land is cultivated, with small farm sizes, sporadic fertilizer supply, low application rates, less than 10% irrigation coverage of irrigable land, and post-harvest losses ranging between 15% and 40% (Punch newspaper, 2024). Livestock and fish supplies remain insufficient, while malnutrition persists despite recent declines. Addressing these constraints will be critical to unlocking the full potential of Nigeria's agri-food sector.

In this context, Nigeria has maintained a strong commitment to regional and continental development frameworks, particularly the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The CAADP is an initiative of African Heads of Government, coordinated by the AU/NEPAD, aimed at increasing public spending, accelerating growth, and eliminating poverty in the sector. This was expected to be achieved by dedicating 10 percent of the annual national budget and ensuring a yearly growth rate of six percent in agriculture (African Union, 2003). CAADP programme implementation is guided by a four-pillar framework adopted by African Heads of State in 2003 in Maputo. The pillars are:
Pillar I: Land and Water Management,

Pillar II: Rural Infrastructure and Trade-related Capacities for Improved Market Access,
Pillar III: Increasing Food Supply and Reducing Hunger and
Pillar IV: Agricultural Research, Technology Dissemination and Adoption.

CAADP represented a new era in international development and has transformed not only the largely neglected agricultural sector but also created innovative and unique development partnerships. It involved inter-Ministerial formulation of country-driven and country-owned investment plans and inter-sectoral strategies; stakeholder participation, especially farmers' organizations, civil society and the private sector in setting priorities for agriculture-driven growth; mobilization of the continent's technical expertise in establishing policy frameworks, implementation guides and tools that provide a sound base and guide for evidence-based planning; and dialogue with bilateral agencies and development partners to enhance agriculture growth in the continent. CAADP gained momentum which created positive peer pressure among African governments to prepare quality strategies, translating into investment plans; ensuring enabling policy environments to implement the plans; and translate these plans into programmes that are efficient at stimulating growth and reducing poverty.
Nigeria signed its CAADP Compact on 30th October 2009, which laid the groundwork for the formulation of its first **National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP I, 2011–2014)** via an inclusive, prioritised and ownership-driven approach that deployed complementarity, collaboration and cooperation, to achieve set goals and strategies (African Union, n.d.). The NAIP is a comprehensive medium-term strategic plan, which outlines and costs activities to achieve a country's food and nutrition security objectives. It was initiated as a central feature of the CAADP to assist countries in transforming national priorities and international frameworks into concrete programs and activities. It typically covers 4-5 year period.

Nigeria's first NAIP focused on enhancing productivity and improving rural livelihoods, serving as a foundation for aligning policies and coordinating sectors. It established a *CAADP Country Team Structure* for implementing the Investment Plan. To effectively implement the NAIP's components of land and water management, productivity enhancement, inputs, products and markets linkages and coordination, commercial agricultural support, and monitoring and evaluation, a Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (SAKSS) node Steering Committee was inaugurated on 14th December, 2010.

Nigeria is not on track to achieving the CAADP Malabo commitments by 2025 (African Union, 2024a) based on the 4th CAADP Biennial Review Report. For example, Nigeria has not met the 10 percent target each year from 2015-2025 regarding government agriculture expenditure as a percentage of total public expenditures (African Union, 2024a). However, Nigeria has steadily improved in its performance since the inaugural BR cycle, scoring above five (5) out of 10 in all cycles.

Reviewing the performance of CAADP 10 years after the Maputo Declaration, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, during the 23rd Ordinary Session in 2014, the African Year of Agriculture and Food Security adopted the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. They recommitted to the principles and values of the process in terms of 10% public spending targeted in agriculture thereby doubling productivity, achieving 6% annual GDP growth, prioritised commodity value chains, inclusive public-private partnerships and strong intra and inter sectoral linkages. Other consensus reached includes, 30% youth involvement in value chains there by tripling intra-African commodity trade, ensuring 30% farm/pastoral household resilience, and deploying a result framework and review platforms (African Union, 2014). Through the declaration, they adopted the following seven commitments:

1. Recommitting to CAADP principles
2. Enhancing agricultural investment finance
3. Ending hunger by 2025
4. Halving poverty through agriculture by 2025
5. Boosting intra-African agricultural trade
6. Enhancing resilience to climate variability
7. Mutual accountability for actions and results

As part of the commitment to mutual accountability for actions and results, the Heads of State agreed and encouraged member countries to conduct reviews of the performance of their agriculture sectors every two years (Biennial Reviews). The reviews aim to ensure continuous tracking, monitoring, and reporting on progress, based on the Malabo commitments. The biennial reviews compare a country's current performance with where it needs to be to achieve the 2025 Malabo targets - that is, assessing whether countries are on track to meet the targets.

Subsequently, the **Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP)**, also known as the Green Alternative (2016–2020), guided the second phase of NAIP. This period witnessed increased emphasis on agribusiness, value chain development, and private sector participation, with some notable successes in rice production and fertiliser reforms. Despite these gains, the implementation of NAIP II revealed persistent gaps particularly in financing, institutional capacity, monitoring and evaluation, and inter-ministerial coordination. Moreover, emerging global and domestic challenges such as climate variability, food price volatility, and insecurity had underscored the need for a more integrated and adaptive approach to agricultural investment planning.

Following the limited progress achieved in meeting the Malabo Declaration's Goals and Targets as revealed by the 4th CADDP Biennial Review (BR) report, and given that despite growth in agricultural production, 20.4 percent of Africa's population experience hunger, 58 percent face food insecurity, and rising costs make healthy diets unaffordable for 924.8 million people (FAO, 2024), exacerbating food insecurity and malnutrition on the continent, the African Union formulated a new CADDP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035. In line with the CADDP vision of "***Sustainable***

and Resilient Agri-food Systems for a Healthy and Prosperous Africa," the new CADDP Strategy and Action Plan marks a significant shift from a narrow focus on agriculture-led growth to a broader agri-food systems approach (African Union, 2024b). This strategic shift is guided by a thorough understanding of the complex interrelationships between agriculture, nutrition, economic development, and other sectors.

To give impetus and support to the strategy and action plan, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), meeting at an Extraordinary Summit in Kampala, Uganda, from 9 to 11 January 2025, reaffirmed their commitment to the CAADP and adopted the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035 and the Kampala CAADP Declaration on **Building Resilient and Sustainable Agri-food Systems in Africa**.

It is against this backdrop - the strategic shift from a narrow agriculture-led paradigm to a broader agri-food systems approach, that the National Agri-Food Systems Investment Plan (NASIP) has been developed. The NASIP is, in essence, Nigeria's third National Agriculture Investment Plan following NAIPs I and II. It responds to Nigeria's evolving development priorities as well as the renewed development drive across the continent through the Kampala Declaration, which sets targets for agricultural transformation and building a resilient and sustainable agri-food system across Africa. It also aligns with the country's national development aspirations as outlined in the Nigeria Agenda 2050, the National Development Plan (2021–2025), the Food Systems Transformation Pathway (2021), and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

The NASIP represents a strategic opportunity to reposition agriculture as a driver of national agro-food resilience, rural development, and structural transformation. It is informed by a systems-thinking approach recognising the interconnected nature of food, environment, health, and livelihoods and places a strong emphasis on inclusiveness, climate-smart agriculture, nutrition, digital innovation, and youth employment. It also builds on lessons from past investment cycles, incorporates findings from the Joint Sector Review and Biennial Reviews under CAADP and was developed through stakeholder consultations culminating in a validation workshop held in August 2025, in Abuja. By integrating national priorities with regional and global commitments, NASIP aims to catalyse coordinated investments, mobilise public and private resources, and accelerate progress toward achieving zero hunger, shared prosperity, and a resilient agri-food future for all Nigerians.

1.2 Review of the Agri-Food Sectors Performance

1.2.1 Performance of the Agri-Food Sector

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Nigeria possesses approximately **70.8 million hectares** of agricultural land. This includes about 34 million hectares of arable land, 6.5 million hectares under permanent crops, and 30.3

million hectares of meadows and pastures (FAO, 2024a). Agriculture remains a vital sector in Nigeria's economy, contributing approximately 28% to the country's GDP. Nigeria's agriculture is characterised by dominance smallholder farming, high labour intensity, and significant contributions to national employment and food supply. The sector is largely rain-fed, with production concentrated in rural areas where over 70% of the population resides. It remains a key source of livelihoods, particularly for women and youth.

Crop production dominates the agricultural landscape with key staples such as cassava, maize, rice, sorghum, millet, and yam cultivated widely across the country. The country is a leading producer of several key agricultural commodities, including sorghum, where it ranks as the world's second-largest producer after the United States, palm oil, cassava, cocoa beans, yam and pineapples (USDA, 2024). Specifically, Nigeria is the fifth-largest producer of palm oil globally and the fourth-largest producer of cocoa beans (USDA, n.d.).

While Nigeria produces significant quantities of these commodities, its role as a global exporter varies by product, with cocoa beans, sesame seeds, cashew nuts, and ginger among the top-performing agricultural exports. However, Nigeria's export share for some products, like palm oil, remains relatively modest in the global market. For all major crops grown by Nigerian households, herbicides, inorganic fertilisers, animal traction, and organic fertilisers are the most common farming inputs. However, productivity remains low due to limited use of improved inputs (seeds, fertilisers, irrigation, energy supply, mechanisation), poor extension services, poor infrastructure (roads, electricity, and market infrastructure) poor research and development, all of which are exacerbated by climate-related vulnerabilities.

Livestock and poultry are integral components of the sector, particularly in northern Nigeria. The livestock sub-sector includes cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and micro-livestock, contributing to food security, income generation, and cultural practices. However, constraints such as low availability of feed, low productivity breeds, disease outbreaks (e.g., avian flu etc.), and inadequate veterinary services hamper growth[1]. Fisheries and aquaculture also provide essential protein sources and employment, particularly in coastal and riverine communities. Despite Nigeria's rich aquatic resources, domestic production lags behind demand, leading to heavy reliance on fish imports. The agricultural value chain is fragmented, with weak integration between production, processing, storage, and marketing. Post-harvest losses are estimated at 15%–40 %, particularly for perishable crops. Inadequate storage, poor rural infrastructure, and limited market access further constrain efficiency and competitiveness (Premium Times, 2023).

[1] To tackle the challenges in the livestock sub-sector in a more focused approach, the Federal Government in 2024 created a new ministry for it - the Federal Ministry of Livestock Development (FMLD).

Despite these challenges, there are significant opportunities for transformation. Nigeria possesses vast uncultivated arable land (over 50% of total arable land), diverse agro-ecological zones suitable for a wide range of crops, livestock and fisheries and a large and growing domestic market. The rise of digital agriculture, youth-led agri-tech initiatives, and public-private investment interests present a pathway to unlocking the sector's potential. While Nigeria's agriculture holds immense promise, realising its full potential will require deliberate investments in productivity-enhancing technologies, climate resilience, value chain development, rural infrastructure, institutional capacity, and inclusive policies that address the needs of women and youth.

Over the past decade, Nigeria's agri-food sector has demonstrated a mixed performance marked by pockets of progress, persistent structural challenges, and untapped opportunities. Key factors contributing to noted pockets of improvement include the enhanced use of technology and a focus on value addition in agricultural practices. Agriculture continues to contribute significantly to national development, accounting for roughly **28% of GDP** and serving as the primary livelihood for a majority of Nigerians, especially in rural areas. The agri-food sector as a whole accounts for 31% of GDP with the food manufacturing sector accounting for 3% of GDP in addition to the 28% from the agriculture sector. In terms of relative sizes, the agriculture and food manufacturing sectors account for about 91% and 9% of the agri-food sector respectively according to the rebased GDP estimates.

Despite some growth in agriculture, Nigeria remains a food-deficit country, as the food system does not provide enough food (Posthumus et al, 2019) and the country relies on imports to augment local production. Food imports quadrupled over the past decade, from an estimated USD 964 million to USD 4566 million between 1995 and 2016 (FAO et al, 2019). Although there was a ban on importation of some food items, the government in 2024 introduced a 150-day duty free window under the Presidential Accelerated Stabilization Advancement Plan to allow food import such as maize, wheat and husked brown rice, to cushion the effect of food price inflation that reached 40.66 percent in May 2024.

The food system in Nigeria suffers from several challenges, including insecurity (due to banditry, Boko Haram insurgency and conflicts between farmers and herders), poor governance and weak macroeconomic management with high dependence on crude oil to the neglect of the agricultural sector. For example, only 1.6 percent of government budget was allocated to the sector in 2019 and four percent of bank loans go to the sector as against 40 percent and 56 percent of bank loans to the industry and service sectors respectively (Premium Times, 2019). The food production sector remains largely subsistence-oriented, under-mechanised, and vulnerable to external shocks, including climate variability, market disruptions, and insecurity. The food processing sector is still dominated by small and medium scale enterprises that rely on locally fabricated machines for processing activities. Despite facing these pressing crises, the sector's ongoing shift towards sustainable

agriculture holds the potential to position Nigeria as a leading player in global food production.

While there have been pockets of progress in some commodities over the years, the persistence of the challenges discussed above, particularly the productivity, macroeconomic and security challenges has led to an overall negative trend in the agri-food sector's performance. Table 1.1 below shows trends in agri-food GDP growth rates. Agri-food GDP growth rates reduced from 4.8% in the 2010 – 2014 period to 2.5% in the 2015 – 2019 period and 1.9% in the 2020 – 2024 period. The decreases in the last 2 periods were largely driven by recessions in 2016 and 2020 which were caused by a crash in oil prices and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Table 1.1: Trends in Agri-food GDP Growth (2010 – 2024)

	2010 - 2014	2015 - 2019	2020 - 2024	Average
Agriculture	4.5	3.2	1.7	3.1
Crop Production	4.6	3.2	2.0	3.3
Livestock	3.4	2.2	-2.0	1.2
Forestry	4.7	3.0	1.8	3.2
Fishing	7.5	2.3	0.0	3.3
Food Beverage and Tobacco Manufacturing	6.5	-0.8	3.3	3.0
Agri-food	4.8	2.5	1.9	3.1
GDP	6.1	1.2	2.1	3.2

Source: Based on GDP data from the Central Bank of Nigeria

The Agriculture sector's growth rate reduced from 4.5% to 3.2% and then to 1.7% over the three periods. In contrast, the food manufacturing sector's performance reduced from 6.5% to -0.8% and then improved to 3.3%. In the agriculture sector, crops and fishing sub-sectors grew the fastest followed by forestry. The livestock sector grew the slowest at 1.2% on average and experienced a decline in 2020 – 2024 possibly due to increasing insecurity in producing areas. Overall, performance in the last decade points to an urgent need to improve productivity in the sector by addressing the challenges and inhibiting factors discussed above.

Performance of the Crops Sub-Sector

In the crop sub-sector, Nigeria has made some progress in increasing the production of staple and commercial crops, though much of this growth has been area-driven rather than yield-driven.

- **Rice** production has seen significant expansion with a total cultivation area reaching 8.3 million hectares in 2021 (FAO, 2024b) driven by government interventions such as the Anchor Borrowers' Programme (ABP) and increased local demand. Production rose from approximately 3.7 million metric tonnes (MT) in 2015 to over 5.4 million MT by 2022 (USDA, 2023). Despite this, yield

levels remain below potential, averaging 2.0–2.5 MT/ha, compared to potential yields of **4–5 MT/ha** with improved practices. The peak of rice production occurred in 2020 when output reached approximately 8.2 million metric tons, supported by increased investment in irrigation systems, improved seed varieties, and greater mechanisation. Production slightly dipped to about 8.0 million metric tons in 2021 but remained high. However, in 2022 and 2023, Nigeria's rice production faced significant challenges, resulting in a decline to about 5.0 million metric tons in 2022 and further down to 4.5 million metric tons in 2023. Factors contributing to this downturn included insecurity and conflicts in key rice-producing regions, rising costs of agricultural inputs such as fertilisers, and climate variability that affected yields. Looking ahead, rice production is projected to decline, this reduction is attributed to ongoing security concerns in northern production zones, economic constraints such as reduced government support, and high input costs. Meanwhile, rice consumption is also expected to decrease by 5.2% to roughly 7.2 million metric tons, influenced by a weakened consumer purchasing power amid rising food prices. Rice imports are estimated to fall by 21%, reflecting both reduced domestic demand and high import prices.

- **Maize** production has also grown consistently, with output increasing from 9.5 MMT in 2015 to 12.7 MMT in 2021. Cultivated areas increased steadily from 5.5 million hectares in 2015 to 6.2 million hectares in 2021 (FAO, 2024b). This growth was supported by government initiatives that introduced new maize varieties aimed at improving yields and farmers' incomes (FAO, n.d). Additionally, advancements in biotechnology, including the development of insect- and drought-resistant maize strains, have contributed to enhancing the resilience of maize crops against climate challenges. However, despite these gains, some negative trends persisted such as yield stagnation, pests - most notably the Fall Armyworm, and climate stress have affected output quality and consistency. Maize yields remained largely stagnant at around 1.7 tons per hectare, significantly lower than yields seen in other African countries like South Africa and Ethiopia (FAO, n.d). The stagnation suggests inefficiencies and challenges in farming practices and technology adoption. Moreover, climate change continued to impact maize production adversely, with increased temperature fluctuations, droughts, floods, and desertification particularly affecting the northern regions of Nigeria. Security concerns, rising costs of farming inputs, and reduced government support further strained maize production. These challenges contributed to a projected decline of around 8% in maize output for the 2024/2025 period, compounded by currency devaluation, which also affects import levels.
- **Sorghum**, a drought-tolerant cereal primarily grown in the north, has shown resilience. There has been a general increase in sorghum production and the area harvested (Yahaya et al, 2022). Nigeria had an average annual production of 6.8 million metric tons between 2015 and 2021(FAO, 2024).

This growth was supported by the expansion of cultivated land, which reached around 6.1 million hectares. Sorghum consumption has been on the rise, due to its use as an alternative to corn in animal feed and its incorporation into diverse food products. Consumption is expected to rise by about 7% in the 2025/2026. However, production has plateaued due to low input use, poor access to improved seed, and declining soil fertility (IITA, 2024). Yields remained stagnant at around 1.12 metric tons per hectare in 2024/2025, slightly below the five-year average. Post-harvest losses also pose a significant problem, with an estimated 12.3% of sorghum production lost due to inadequate storage facilities and poor handling practices (PLAN, 2023). Climate change exacerbates these issues, especially in northern Nigeria, where increased temperatures, erratic rainfall, and prolonged dry spells reduce yields and heightened vulnerability to pests and diseases.

- **Cassava**, a key food security and industrial crop, remains a bright spot, with Nigeria retaining its position as the world's largest producer. Annual production has ranged between 58 and 62 million metric tons. Output rose from about 45 million MT in 2015 to over 63 million MT by 2022. The area dedicated to cassava farming grew from over 9.16 million hectares in 2020 to nearly 9.88 million hectares by 2023, driven by rising demand for cassava and its derivatives. A notable increase occurred in the industrial processing of cassava into value-added products such as starch, flour, and bioethanol. Initiatives like the Cassava Bioethanol Initiative aim to double cassava production and create thousands of jobs, highlighting the sector's potential for economic growth. Despite the expansion, cassava yields remained low, hovering between 5 and 6 metric tons per hectare - far below yields in countries like Thailand, where yields can reach up to 40 metric tons per hectare. Most cassava is consumed domestically in raw form, with minimal processing into high-value products. This limited value addition restricts the economic benefits. Challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, inconsistent policies, and limited access to credit facilities hinder productivity, processing efficiency, and competitiveness on the global market.

- **Cocoa** is a major export commodity for Nigeria. Nigeria is the world's fourth-largest producer and third-largest exporter after Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. Production has hovered around 250,000–300,000 MT annually. Nigeria produces about five percent of the world's output (ICCO, 2023) and the country's export volumes increased significantly from 200,000 tonnes in 2015 to over 329,000 tonnes in 2023, marking a 65% growth over nine years. This surge was driven by a global price rally, with cocoa prices peaking at approximately $12,000 per tonne in late 2024, prompting renewed interest in cocoa farming. The influx of new entrants, including professionals from various sectors into cocoa farming, further stimulated the industry. Additionally, the Nigerian government set an ambitious target to boost production to 500,000 tonnes by 2024–2025, aiming to position the country as

a leading global producer. However, these positive trends were tempered by several persistent challenges. Despite the increase in exports, domestic production faced stagnation with output declining from over 302,066 MT in 2015 to approximately 280,000 MT in 2021 with a peak at 357,000 MT in 2020 (FAO, 2024). This decline was attributed to factors such as aging plantations (over 80% older than 40 years), and the spread of diseases such as black pod, which affected bean quality. Moreover, climate change exacerbated these issues, leading to irregular rainfall patterns, droughts, and increased pest attacks which further diminished yields and quality. Nigeria's cocoa processing capacity has drastically declined from 15 processing plants with 250,000 metric tonnes annually to just five plants operating at only 8% capacity by mid-2024. High energy costs, multiple taxes, and farmers'preference to sell to merchants offering premium prices further weaken the domestic processing industry.

- **Cashew** has emerged as a high-potential non-oil export commodity. Between 2020 and 2025, Nigeria's cashew sector experienced a blend of positive developments and persistent challenges that shaped its trajectory. On the positive side, Nigeria maintained its position as a significant player in the global cashew market. In 2022, Nigeria exported approximately 315,677 metric tons of raw cashew nuts, generating $252 million - a 5.24% share of Nigeria's non-oil export portfolio. Building on this momentum, the government set an ambitious target to double these earnings to $504 million in 2023, underscoring the sector's potential for economic diversification and growth. Additionally, favourable weather conditions in 2022 led to a 20% increase in cashew output, with estimates reaching 192,000 tons, attributing to improved fruiting and reduced heat during storage. However, processing capacity remains underutilized. Nigeria can process 25,000 to 35,000 metric tons of cashew nuts annually but uses only one-third of this due to high processing costs, limited financing, and poor infrastructure. Furthermore, most cashew nuts produced were exported raw, resulting in significant revenue losses.

- **Yam,** from the genus *Dioscorea,* is widely grown in West Africa, which accounts for 90% of global production. Among West African countries, Nigeria is the largest producer in the world, with yields averaging about 12 metric tonnes/hectare followed by Ghana and Cote d'voire. Yam production stood at 66 million metric tonnes in 2016, out of which 86 percent was from West Africa (FAO, 2020). Nigeria produces about 50 million tonnes of yam annually valued at $13.6 billion accounting for 70 percent of global yam production (Rpublc, 2022). Globally, a total of eighteen million tons of yam is consumed annually, while per capita consumption in West Africa is 61kg/person/year. Yam is consumed either boiled, roasted, fried, or baked. Yam is a major income earner for farmers and is used in traditional ceremonies, such as marriage ceremonies in Southern Nigeria. Although Nigeria is the highest producer of yam globally, Ghana is the leading exporter globally (IITA, 2014),

exporting about 21,000 metric tons of yam annually. White Guinea yam, *D. rotunda*, is the most important species especially in the dominant yam production zones in Nigeria. It is indigenous, as well as the Yellow yam, *D. cayenensis*. Water yam, *D. alata*, the second most cultivated species, originated from Asia and is the most widely distributed species in the world. Besides their importance as food source, yam also play a significant role in the socio-cultural lives of some producing regions like the celebrated New Yam Festival in West Africa, a practice that has also extended to overseas where there is a significant population of the tribes that observe it. The storage of yam stays relatively longer in comparison with other tropical fresh produce, and therefore stored yam represents stored wealth, which can be sold all-year-round by the farmer or marketer. Yam is mainly grown for direct human consumption and are marketed as fresh produce in all the growing regions. Common methods of preparation include boiling, baking or frying. Boiled and baked yam can be eaten with vegetable sauce or palm oil. Boiled yam can also be pounded or mashed in mortar and eaten as “fufu” or “utara”. Commercially, food processing equipment for boiling and mashing of yam into fufu at the press of a button are now available in the market. Yam cultivar, which contains toxic substances such as dioscorene, are first sliced and soaked in salt water for several hours before processing for consumption.

- **Cotton** farming remains important across Nigeria and Africa. It is the second-largest agricultural export commodity in Nigeria, contributing about 4% to the nation’s GDP (AgroNigeria, n.d.). Cotton production in Nigeria is concentrated in the Northern zone (60%); Eastern Zone (30%); and the Southern Zone (10%), mainly by small scale farmers under rainfed agriculture with farm sizes ranging from 3-5 hectares. Seed cotton yield ranges between 0.6 to 1.5 tons per hectare. The area under cultivation ranges between 0.2 to 0.6 million hectares and is produced mainly in the savannah ecological areas of the country. About 232,675 hectares were cultivated in 2005-2006, which produced about 300,000 tons of seed cotton or 110,000 tons of lint (about 607,735 bales of cotton lint) (ICAC, n.d.). The National Cotton Association of Nigeria (NCAN) is an association of cotton producers, marketers, processors and exporters including textile manufacturing organizations, which helps to promote cotton production in Nigeria.

Performance of the Livestock Sub-Sector

The livestock sub-sector is critical for food security, nutrition, and income generation. However, it faces systemic challenges including disease outbreaks, high feed costs, inadequate veterinary services, and limited access to finance.

- **Cattle,** Nigeria maintained its position as a significant player in the global cattle market. In 2022, the country exported approximately 3.3 million heads of cattle, generating about $283 million in revenue. This figure represented a notable share of Nigeria's non-oil export portfolio. Challenges in the sector include aging cattle herds, with over 80% of farms being above 40 years old,

and the spread of diseases such as bovine tuberculosis, which affects herd health. Moreover, climate change exacerbates these issues, leading to irregular rainfall patterns, droughts, and increased pest attacks, further diminishing yields and quality. Also, cattle production has remained largely traditional, with slow growth rates and persistent conflict between pastoralists and crop farmers undermining productivity. Beef demand continues to outpace supply.

- **Poultry**, especially broilers and eggs, has expanded significantly over the past decade due to rising urban demand. Between 2020 and 2025, Nigeria's poultry industry experienced a combination of growth and significant challenges, reflecting both global trends and local dynamics. On the positive side, the sector demonstrated resilience and potential for expansion. Technological advancements, such as the adoption of automated feeding systems and temperature control, have improved productivity and efficiency in poultry farming. Additionally, there has been a shift towards sustainable practices, with an increasing number of farmers adopting organic feed and natural remedies for diseases. This trend aligns with the growing consumer demand for healthier and chemical-free poultry products. Furthermore, the government's efforts to support the industry, including policies aimed at boosting local production and reducing import dependence, have contributed to the sector's growth. However, these positive developments have been overshadowed by several persistent challenges. The most pressing issue has been the escalating cost of poultry feed, driven by rising prices of key ingredients such as maize and soybeans. Between 2019 and 2022, the price of a 25kg bag of poultry feed increased from ₦3,600 to between ₦8,500 - ₦10,000, placing a significant financial strain on farmers. This surge in feed costs, which account for up to 70% of production expenses, has led to reduced profitability and, in some cases, closure of farms. Additionally, inflation and fuel subsidy removal in 2023 also increased operational costs, making poultry farming unsustainable for many small and medium-scale producers. Despite government's ban on poultry imports to protect local producers, challenges such as high feed prices and limited access to affordable inputs have persisted.
- **Goat and sheep farming** continues to be widespread across many regions, especially in rural and peri-urban areas, where they play a crucial role in the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and pastoralists. However, despite their prevalence, the sector remains largely informal and traditional, with low productivity due to limited access to veterinary services, poor nutrition, lack of modern practices, and insufficient access to markets and extension services. Without significant investment in capacity building, infrastructure, and access to markets, goat and sheep farming is unlikely to transition from this informal status to a more commercialised and productive industry soon.

- **The pig industry** in Nigeria is significant and growing., driven by rising demand for pork and related products. A huge percentage of this demand is not met by local production but through importation. In Nigeria, pigs are raised through intensive, semi-intensive or extensive production systems.

  The pig industry in Nigeria is faced with numerous challenges, such as, low productive breeds, disease outbreaks (African swine fever etc.), high feed costs, cultural/religious sentiments, poor infrastructure, poor health care, shortage of livestock professionals, and inadequate access to credit facilities etc. Despite these constraints, the sector has strong potential for expansion with improved support and investment.

Performance of the Fishery Sub-Sector

The performance of Nigeria's fishery sector reveals a pattern of fluctuating production over the past decade, with modest growth followed by periods of stagnation and decline. According to FAO (2025), between 2010 and 2023, total fish production in Nigeria increased from 817,516 metric tons in 2010 to 1.06 million metric tons in 2023, reflecting gradual growth but also intermittent declines. Production rose steadily from 2010 through 2014, reaching 1.07 million metric tons, before fluctuating between 1.03 and 1.21 million metric tons between 2015 and 2020 (Esin, Evans, & Ndekhedehe, 2025; FAO, 2025). The highest production during this period occurred in 2017 (1.2 million MT), after which a downward trend was observed, reaching 1.04 million MT in 2022 before a slight recovery in 2023 (FAO, 2025b). During this period, capture fisheries comprising marine and inland artisanal fishing consistently contributed the majority of the total domestic fish supply, surpassing aquaculture production. Output from capture fisheries rose from 616,981 MT in 2010 to 759,828 MT in 2014, followed by fluctuations between 710,331 MT in 2015 and 916,283.97 MT in 2017 (FAO, 2025b). Subsequent years recorded a gradual decline, falling to 783,101.70 MT in 2020, 784,124 MT in 2022, and a marginal increase to 799,635 MT in 2023 (FAO, 2025b). This volatility reflects the challenges facing capture fisheries, including overfishing, environmental degradation, and weak enforcement of sustainable fishing practices. Aquaculture has grown as an important complement to capture fisheries, though its contribution remains comparatively smaller. Over a longer span (2008–2018), aquaculture demonstrated a significantly faster Average Annual Growth Rate (AAGR) of 6.67%, compared to 4.19% for capture fisheries (Esin, Evans, & Ndekhedehe, 2025; FAO, 2025). Production increased from 200,535 MT in 2010 to a peak of 316,727 MT in 2015, driven by policy interventions promoting fish farming. However, aquaculture output began to decline thereafter, dropping to 261,710.72 MT in 2020 and 258,800 MT in 2023 (FAO, 2025b).

Despite being endowed with vast marine and inland water resources, Nigeria is not among the top five global producers of aquatic animals. The top producers in 2022

were China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Peru (FAO, 2024c). Nonetheless, Nigeria remains one of the most important producers in Africa and a key player in regional food security and livelihoods through fisheries and aquaculture. According to the FAO (2024c), Nigeria is the leading aquaculture producer in sub-Saharan Africa. However, in 2022, it ranked second in Africa overall, behind Egypt, which produced approximately 1.55 million tonnes of farmed aquatic animal species (Esin et al., 2025). Nigeria ranked ninth globally in inland capture fisheries production in 2022, reflecting the country's vast inland water resources and the dominance of artisanal fishing activities across riverine and lacustrine systems (FAO, 2024d). Despite being a prominent producer, Nigeria faces a widening fish supply-demand gap due to its large and rapidly growing population (Subasinghe et al., 2021; Esin et al., 2025). The nation is the largest consumer of fish products in Africa, with demand estimated at 3.61 million MT in 2018 (Esin et al., 2025). According to Subasinghe et al. (2021), domestic production is inadequate to meet this demand, resulting in a supply deficit estimated at 2.5 million MT annually. This shortfall is bridged by fish imports, which cost the government approximately $1.2 billion annually (Subasinghe et al., 2021). This reliance makes Nigeria the world's fourth-largest importer of fish and fishery products by volume (5.4% of global imports) and leading importer in West Africa, accounting for 63% of the region's total fish import value in 2020 (Subasinghe et al., 2021).

According to Subasinghe et al. (2021), the sector is constrained by several challenges, particularly related to inputs, infrastructure, and institutional issues. This include climate change and environmental degradation, water scarcity, pollution, and biodiversity loss; increasing and competing demands for water use by agriculture, industry, human consumption, and hydropower development, which threaten inland fisheries (Esin et al. (2025); environmental pollution - including oil pollution, and the degradation of mangrove forests which threaten brackish-water fisheries in the Niger Delta (Bradley et al., 2020); and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. In aquaculture, key constraints include inadequate and costly inputs, particularly feed, which accounts for over 80% of production costs for smallholders. The quality of locally produced seed, particularly catfish, is often suboptimal, as 98% originates from small or medium-scale hatcheries lacking scientific quality management systems. According to Esin et al. (2025), the decline of capture fisheries is partly attributed to environmental pollution, maritime security challenges, lack of adequate monitoring and management capacity, and widespread dam construction across the country. These dams are estimated to cause annual production losses of 85,000 - 130,000 MT. Across the value chain, post-harvest losses are substantial, estimated at over 30% of total catch, due to limited cold-chain infrastructure and inadequate refrigeration, forcing reliance on basic processing such as smoking and drying (Bradley et al., 2020 and Subasinghe et al., 2021). Institutional barriers, including stringent loan procedures, high collateral requirements, and unclear land-rights policies, further hinder access to finance for smallholders (Subasinghe et al., 2021).

The prospects for the sector are strong, especially given the economic viability and inclusivity of its value chains. The aquaculture sector is projected to grow rapidly, with output potentially increasing by 4.5 fold between 2020 and 2050 (Subasinghe et al., 2021). Smallholder catfish farming is economically profitable, with an average Benefit-Cost ratio of 1.64. Additionally, the post-farm-gate segment of the value chain (wholesaling, retailing, and processing) is highly inclusive, with women and youth owning over 50% and 35% respectively, of these activities - demonstrating strong potential for social and economic empowerment. Increasing fish supply, particularly fresh domestic fish, is essential to address nutritional deficiencies, especially in northern states where consumption is lowest and malnutrition rates are highest.

To realise these improvements, several main actions are necessary. For key species such as catfish and tilapia, investing in scientific broodstock management and genetic improvement programs is needed to ensure the availability of high-quality seed to smallholders. High feed cost and poor-quality feed can be addressed by promoting competitive local commercial feed production, investing in nutrient-dense local feed ingredients, and advocating for reduced import tariffs on feed components. Infrastructure development is critical, particularly in cold-chain systems, to extend fish availability and accessibility to remote northern regions and to reduce post-harvest losses through improved processing technology. Furthermore, clear policies on land access and land rights are essential to enable farmers to use land as collateral when seeking finance. Financial schemes must also be designed to support youth and smallholder farmers who lack collateral. Finally, there is a strong need to increase artisanal fisheries productivity through improved management practices and to empower community-based organisations to manage inland waters more effectively.

Performance of the Forestry Sub-Sector

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations (UN, 2022), the forestry sector plays a critical role in Nigeria's economy, contributing approximately 1.2% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and providing employment for over five million people through the supply of timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs). Moreover, about 80% of Nigeria's rural population depends on forests for sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction (UN, 2022). Despite these vital economic and social contributions, Nigeria's forests face a severe crisis globally. The country has one of the highest deforestation rates in the world, losing about 3.7% of its forest cover annually (Idehen & Bello, 2025). Between 2010 and 2015, Nigeria ranked fourth globally in the annual net loss of forest area, with a 5% annual deforestation rate (410,000 hectares per year) (UN, 2022). Between 2000 and 2015, total forest area decreased sharply from 13.1 million hectares to less than 7 million hectares, representing an average annual loss of 409,600 hectares (UNEP,

2017). The most dramatic decline occurred in high-value primary forests, which decreased by 97%, leaving only about 20,000 hectares by 2015 (UNEP, 2017).

According to data from the University of Maryland and the World Resources Institute (WRI), between 2002 and 2024, Nigeria lost 188 kha of humid primary forest, representing 13% of total tree cover loss. The total area of humid primary forest decreased by 9.9% within this period. Global Forest Watch reports that, from 2001 to 2024, Nigeria lost 1.44 Mha of tree cover (14% of the 2000 baseline), equivalent to 805 Mt of CO_2e emissions (WRI). According to Sims et al. (2025), 93% of this tree cover loss was due to deforestation, driven primarily by permanent agriculture (87%), shifting cultivation (5.7%), settlements and infrastructure (5.1%), logging (1.1%), and other disturbances (1%). The top four states, namely Edo (340 kha), Taraba (164 kha), Cross River (142 kha), and Ondo (138 kha), accounted for 55% of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2024 (Global Forest Watch, 2025). From 2000 to 2020, Nigeria experienced a net change of -1.47 Mha (-6.1%) in tree cover, with 20.6 Mha stable, 928 kha gained, and 2.40 Mha lost (Potapov et al., 2022). The 928 kha gained represented 0.71% of the global total, ranking Nigeria 21st globally (Potapov et al., 2022).

While naturally regenerated forests declined by 50%, plantations showed a 33% increase over the same period (UNEP, 2017). However, these plantations cannot substitute for the ecosystem services provided by natural forests. The timber and fuelwood extraction rate has increased sharply, depleting natural forest stock and reducing sustainable harvest capacity (UNEP, 2017). Timber (roundwood/industrial wood) harvests rose by 9% annually between 2000 and 2015, while sustainable harvest capacity declined by 47%, from 26 million m³ in 2000 to 14 million m³ in 2015 (UNEP, 2017). The annual deficit for forest products is now estimated at 80–100 million m³ (Ayeni, 2013). Fuelwood remains Nigeria's most significant forest product. UNEP (2017) notes that wood removal for fuel increased by 366,000 m³ per year between 2000 and 2015, with forests supplying approximately 30 million tons annually. Charcoal production, construction, and household firewood use are major contributors to mangrove forest loss (Idehen & Bello, 2025). The value of NTFPs, such as building materials, medicinal plants, and food items declined significantly from 2000 to 2015 due to extensive forest loss (UNEP, 2017). These resources are essential for rural livelihoods, providing materials such as herbs, fibres, oils, and resins (Idehen & Bello, 2025).

The main challenges in the forestry sector are complex, blending institutional failure with pervasive economic drivers. One of the most significant constraints is the outdated and ineffective legal framework; the Forestry Act is moribund and largely relies on state laws, creating regulatory gaps and hindering effective enforcement (Idehen and Bello, 2025). Regulatory unpredictability and corruption among enforcement agencies, coupled with inadequate funding and capacity limitations at the state level, further weaken conservation efforts (Idehen and Bello, 2025). Economically, deforestation is driven by the availability of woody biomass (timber,

fuelwood) and the high economic incentive to convert forest land for agricultural expansion. This land conversion, along with rapid population growth, places increasing pressure on remaining natural resources. In addition, the low productivity of natural forests - estimated at 2 m^3/ha/yr - means there is a strong economic incentive for landholders to convert forest land, particularly because the ban on timber exports prevents local timber from realizing international competitive prices. Others constraints include lack of community involvement, failure to recognise local knowledge, and a lack of a geospatial database.

Despite the systemic challenges, the sector holds immense potential for improvement. Nigeria's revised National Forest Policy (2020) and the REDD+ Strategy (2021-2050) provide the overarching frameworks for sustainable management and climate change mitigation. A major ambition is to increase Nigeria's total forest cover from the current low levels to 25 percent of its landmass by 2030 (Idehen and Bello, 2025 and UN, 2022). This goal is supported by specific pledges, such as the restoration of 4 million hectares of degraded forests. The economic viability of this transformation is strong because the ecosystem services provided by healthy forests (excluding timber) are highly valuable, outweighing the value of sustainable timber extraction. Internalizing these natural capital values through policy mechanisms can incentivize behavioural change, especially since the benefits of reforestation and afforestation currently far outweigh the realized value of losses in ecosystem services.

To drive this transformation and realize the sector's potential, three main actions and policy instruments have been identified and tested for their positive economic effects. First, certified plantation forestry and agroforestry are critical, as they can yield up to eight times more merchantable wood per hectare (up to 15 m^3/ha/a) than natural forests, thereby reversing deforestation trends and freeing up natural land for regeneration (UNEP, 2017). Agroforestry specifically addresses the heavy reliance on fuelwood by promoting the growth of fast-growing species for fuel and construction. Second, carbon trade mechanisms (such as REDD+) must be leveraged. While a pure carbon mechanism alone may not be sufficient, combining it with the value of other ecosystem services, which add a highly significant 220 percent to carbon value, can create strong financial incentives for sustainable forest management (UNEP, 2017). Third, value-adding industrialisation must be encouraged to increase the economic benefit captured from forest products. Finally, fundamental institutional and legal reforms must be implemented to underpin these policy instruments. Urgent steps include enacting a comprehensive, updated, and unified National Forestry Act that incorporates existing state laws and aligns with current realities. Enforcement mechanisms must be significantly strengthened through punitive measures against illegal loggers, proper staffing with trained forest professionals, and the utilisation of modern technology such as remote sensors, drones, and satellite imagery for effective monitoring. Crucially, communities must be integrated as stakeholders in forest management and be encouraged to participate

in the promotion of sustainable practices to ensure the long-term preservation and conservation of Nigeria's forests.

Performance of the Food Manufacturing Sub-Sector

The Nigerian food manufacturing sector, typically grouped within the broader food, beverage, and tobacco category or as part of off-farm agribusiness, has demonstrated significant dynamism and resilience despite notable economic constraints (Mghenyi, et al., 2024). Specifically, the food, beverage, and tobacco sub-sector constitutes a major component of Nigeria's industrial economy, accounting for 34% of the entire manufacturing sector and contributing approximately 5% to the national GDP in 2022 (Industrial Times, 2024). The off-farm agribusiness sector, which includes food processing and manufacturing, outperformed the overall Nigerian economy between 2009 and 2018 in key metrics, including GDP growth (5.3% annually versus 3.7% economy-wide), job creation (3.5% versus 2.5%), and labour productivity growth (1.8% versus 1.2%) (Mghenyi et al., 2022). In Q1 2025, the food, beverage, and tobacco manufacturing sector recorded a growth of 3.48%, reaching a nominal value of ₦3.53 trillion (Nairametrics, 2025).

Despite rising costs and inflationary pressures, consumer demand for packaged foods, snacks, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, and staples has remained strong, underscoring the sector's resilience (Nairametrics, 2025). This is because consumers consistently seek meal solutions that are convenient and time-saving, leading to expected growth in sub-markets such as convenience food and healthy snacks (Flanders Investment & Trade, 2020). The ready-meals market, though still niche, is also projected to expand due to the growing need for convenience among urban, time-restricted consumers (Statista, 2025). Additionally, the industry is experiencing a surge in online food delivery services, facilitated by mobile applications and e-commerce platforms (Statista, 2025). Bread remains a key staple and major growth driver in the baked goods segment, especially due to urbanization. Nigeria was Africa's largest manufacturer of biscuits as of 2020 (Flanders Investment & Trade, 2020). Nigeria's food, beverage, and tobacco manufacturing sector is pivotal to the national economy and remains the largest sub-sector within the country's entire manufacturing industry (Industrial Times, 2024). According to Nairametrics (2025), the sub-sector was the seventh-largest sector in Nigeria by nominal GDP in Q1 2025.

Nigeria's food processing sector is still underdeveloped despite its huge market potential. Structural analysis confirms that transformation in the broader agribusiness sector, encompassing both primary production and downstream processing, is still in its early stages. There are only a few small, medium, and multinational companies for example, Nestle and Unilever, involved in the food processing sector in Nigeria (Infoguide Nigeria, 2019). Out of the 37 million microenterprises in Nigeria, about

8.9% are involved in agriculture (Flanders Investment and Trade, 2020). However, there is still a high dependence on processed food importation.

Key challenges include:

- Infrastructure deficits – poor road networks, unreliable power supply, and weak cold-chain facilities.
- Energy costs – power accounts for around 40% of manufacturers' expenses, and outages affect about 93% of agribusinesses, often lasting over half a day, leading to spoilage and sales losses (Mghenyi et al., 2022).
- Forex instability and inflation – persistent currency volatility, high import costs, and inflation erode profitability and consumer purchasing power.
- Regulatory unpredictability – port clearance procedures are slow and bureaucratic, while high tariffs, levies, and import bans distort market dynamics.
- Informality and quality issues – pervasive informality among microenterprises results in low investment in food-handling technology and poor compliance with standards, causing food safety risks and dependence on imports.
- Financing constraints – limited access to credit hampers SMEs'ability to invest in modern equipment and technologies.

These factors collectively contribute to the sector's low competitiveness despite its strong demand base and potential. Despite these formidable challenges, the food manufacturing sector shows considerable resilience and strong growth prospects, underpinned by demographic expansion, urbanisation, and shifting consumer preferences. The food, beverage, and tobacco sub-sector is projected to reach US$224.85 billion by 2025, growing annually by 10.68% (CAGR 2025–2030) (Statista, 2025).

Growth is expected to be driven by:

- An expanding population and rising urbanization;
- Increasing demand for convenience, healthy, and locally sourced foods;
- Rising consumer awareness of nutrition and wellness; and
- Significant potential for job creation and industrial transformation in off-farm processing and input supply.

The agribusiness sector overall was projected (pre-COVID-19) to create six million jobs by mid-2027. With improved electricity access and better coordination along value chains, the sector could play a leading role in inclusive economic recovery and industrialisation.

Achieving the sector's potential requires a coordinated public–private strategy combining supportive government policies, structural reforms, and enterprise-level innovation. The government must stabilise the currency and reduce import dependence to protect local manufacturers, while also introducing targeted incentives such as tax holidays and concessional loans for food processors to stimulate output and investment. Ensuring affordable and reliable access to electricity is critical for reducing operational costs, and implementing a functional

Warehouse Receipt System (WRS) will improve access to finance, enhance price discovery, and minimise post-harvest losses. Additionally, strengthening technical and vocational education is necessary to build the industrial skills required for a modern manufacturing workforce. Aligning national policies with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) framework will further enhance competitiveness and open opportunities for regional trade integration. On the private sector side, companies should invest in plant modernisation, product innovation, and compliance with international quality standards to remain competitive in both local and export markets. Expanding local sourcing of raw materials will help hedge against exchange-rate volatility and strengthen domestic supply chains, while improving vertical integration across the value chain will reduce fragmentation between farming and processing. Furthermore, adopting modern technology will optimise production efficiency and reduce waste, and strengthening workforce training will boost productivity and management capacity, enabling firms to meet the growing demand for high-quality, affordable, and sustainable food products.

1.2.2 Nutrition Outcomes

Despite increased food production, nutrition outcomes in Nigeria remain suboptimal, particularly among vulnerable populations. Nutrition outcomes are shaped not only by food availability but also by food access and affordability of nutritious foods (which relate to poverty), poor dietary diversity, limited nutrition education, water and sanitation challenges, and inadequate maternal care practices.

Due to the high cost of nutritious foods, in 2022 healthy diets were unaffordable for 172 million of Nigerians, which is equivalent to 78.7% of the population. In 2022, the cost of a healthy diet was 3.83 PPP dollars per person per day compared to 3.74 PPP dollars for the African continent as a whole (FAO et al, 2024). This has consequences on nutrition which are experienced by Nigerians in multiple forms. In fact, according to the **2021 National Multidimensional Poverty Index (NMPI)** and the **2021 Food Systems Transformation Pathway**, malnutrition persists in various forms:

- **Stunting** affects approximately **32%** of children under five, with higher prevalence in the North East and North West regions.
- **Wasting** rates remain above WHO emergency thresholds in several states, particularly in areas affected by conflict and displacement.
- **Micronutrient deficiencies**, including iron, vitamin A, and zinc, are widespread among women of reproductive age and children.
- **Overnutrition** is also emerging, especially in urban areas, reflecting the double burden of malnutrition.

1.3 Review of Past Policies and NAIPs

1.3.1 Review of Past Policies

Since the return to democratic rule in 1999, Nigeria has implemented a series of agricultural and food security policies aimed at stimulating productivity, enhancing value chains, and reducing poverty. However, the success of these policies has been **mixed**, largely due to implementation gaps, weak coordination, inadequate funding both in size and in efficient allocation, and insufficient private sector engagement, which has not operated in the most favourable investment environment. The summary of past agricultural policies since the inception of democratic rule in 1999 is presented in Table 1.2 but some key highlights are summarised as follows.

1. The **National Special Programme for Food Security (NSPFS)** was launched in January 2002 by the Federal Government of Nigeria in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), as part of the global Special Programme for Food Security. It aimed to improve food and nutrition security, reduce rural poverty, and promote sustainable agricultural development through a community-based, participatory approach. Initially piloted in 109 Local Government Areas—one per senatorial district—the programme was later scaled up to cover more areas across the country. The NSPFS focused on five key areas: small-scale water management (including tube wells, small dams, and simple irrigation systems); crop intensification through access to improved seeds and inputs; development of livestock and fisheries; post-harvest storage and processing to reduce losses and add value; and capacity building for farmers, extension workers, and community groups. Despite its ambitious design and initial successes, the programme faced several implementation challenges. These included inadequate and irregular funding, weak institutional coordination, insufficient monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and poor infrastructure in rural areas. Moreover, the programme lacked strong private-sector involvement and struggled with sustainability once donor or government support ended. Nonetheless, the NSPFS offered valuable lessons: it demonstrated the effectiveness of integrated and community-driven approaches, highlighted the importance of appropriate low-cost technologies, and underscored the need for robust monitoring systems and well-planned exit strategies. It also emphasised the importance of policy continuity to sustain impact.
2. The **Root and Tuber Expansion Programme (RTEP)**, implemented from 2003 to 2007 in 26 states, targeted cassava, yam and potato, providing improved varieties and processing equipment, and promoting value addition and by-product utilisation for animal feed and organic fertiliser. Field studies reported 70–80 % adoption rates for recommended cassava varieties, with beneficiaries experiencing net yield increases of 13–18 t/ha and poverty incidence that was 23 % lower than non-beneficiaries, demonstrating strong impacts on livelihoods and crop income. However, RTEP struggled with weak

market linkages, limited private-sector engagement, and uneven institutional support at the state level.

3. **National Food Security Programme (2008–2011):** In response to the 2007–08 global food crisis, the National Food Security Programme (NFSP) was launched in 2008 with a strategic focus on sustainable access, availability and affordability of quality food for all Nigerians. The Federal Government appropriated an additional 1.8 % of total revenue to the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, established the National Food Reserve Agency, and expanded strategic grain reserves to 500,000 MT, distributing inputs to over 2 million smallholder farmers. Despite a 10 % increase in staple cereal production, governance gaps in subsidy targeting, infrastructure bottlenecks and weak M&E systems allowed resource leakages and uneven state-level performance.
4. The **Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA, 2011–2015)**, launched by President Jonathan's administration, aimed to achieve a hunger-free Nigeria through market-oriented reforms, private-sector incentives, risk-sharing schemes and improved research-extension linkages. Under ATA, rice production doubled from 3 million to 6 million tons, the Anchor Borrowers'Programme extended NGN 200 billion in credit to 500,000 farmers, and cotton and oil palm outputs grew by over 20 %. Nonetheless, currency volatility, land-border closures and institutional fragmentation across ministries limited sustainability and scalability.
5. The **Agricultural Promotion Policy (APP, "Green Alternative", 2016–2020)** built on ATA and focused on value chains, youth and women inclusion, and crowding-in private investment, with ATASP-I (AfDB-funded) mobilising USD 113 million for mechanisation and input financing. Value-chain projects in rice, maize and cassava generated about 150,000 jobs, and the public budget on agriculture rose from 2% to 3.5 % of the national budget. However, APP's impacts remained largely confined to pilot-state confined, hampered by inadequate rural infrastructure and slow institutional reforms.

Table 1.2: Summary of Major Agricultural Policies (1999–2025)

Policy	Period	Objectives	Achievements	Challenges
Revised Agricultural Policy for Nigeria	1999	Ensure food security, rural income growth	Policy continuity from the 1988 version	Weak implementation, poor stakeholder coordination
Presidential Initiatives on Selected Commodities	2001–2007	Promote key commodities (cassava, rice, tree crops, etc.)	Boosted cassava exports, value chain promotion	Limited infrastructure, poor monitoring, inconsistent funding
National Economic Empowerment	2004–2007	Agricultural commercialisation, poverty reduction,	Introduced reforms in land and credit	Weak rural-urban linkage; Limited rural

and Development Strategy (NEEDS)		privatisation, food self-sufficiency	access; Encouraged private sector role in agriculture	infrastructure and weak smallholder inclusion
Seven-Point Agenda	2007–2010	Food security as a national priority, land reform, and irrigation	Laid the foundation for ATA; Agricultural investment awareness increased	Policy inconsistency and governance issues
Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA)	2011–2015	Treat agriculture as a business, attract the private sector; value chain development, e-wallet for input subsidy, agro-processing zones	E-wallet system reached over 14 million farmers; rice self-sufficiency push gained momentum, GESS, SCPZ launched	Inadequate logistics, extension gaps, Inadequate post-harvest infrastructure, high cost of fertiliser
Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) – "The Green Alternative"	2016–2020	Boost productivity, reduce imports, agribusiness, job creation, and climate resilience	Introduced 16 policy levers and 10 priority projects; Strengthened crop focus (rice, maize, wheat); expanded agro-dealer networks	Funding and infrastructure limitations, security issues, Weak monitoring and coordination between tiers of government

National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Policy (NATIP)	2022–2027	Leverage technology, climate-smart agriculture, and youth inclusion	Focus on mechanisation, digital agriculture	Implementation capacity, insecurity, climate shocks, Low public awareness and state-level uptake

Source: FMAFS compilation

Cross-Cutting Insights

- Policy Continuity: While some policies built on past frameworks (e.g., ATA → APP → NATIP), lack of sustained political commitment has often led to inconsistent implementation.
- Private Sector Role: Emphasis has grown over time, but investment is still constrained by risks and an inadequate enabling environment.
- Inclusivity: Recent policies (APP, NATIP) show improved attention to women, youth, climate change and healthy diets, though mainstreaming remains weak.
- Regional Alignment: Alignment with ECOWAP/CAADP and Malabo Declarations has improved, especially through NAIP planning cycles.

1.3.2 Review of Past NAIPs (I – II)

Nigeria's engagement with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework has seen the development and implementation of two successive NAIPs since 2011. While each phase sought to build on lessons from its predecessor, the level of impact has varied due to persistent structural, institutional, and financing challenges.

National Agricultural Investment Plan 1 (NAIP 1), **(2011–2014)**

NAIP 1 was developed in line with ECOWAS and CAADP frameworks as Nigeria's post-compact agricultural investment plan. It was Nigeria's first comprehensive effort to transform its agricultural sector. It evolved from the National Food Security Programme (NFSP) and was a transitional plan, covering 2011–2014. It was developed through close collaboration with all stakeholders in the agriculture and

water sectors to arrive at a private sector-led growth agenda, where the public sector plays a facilitating role. Its central aim was to drive private-sector-led agricultural growth while the government facilitated policies, infrastructure, and coordination. NAIP 1 successfully established a foundational policy framework that mobilised both government and donor commitments toward improving food security, increasing agricultural productivity, and building institutional capacity. The plan fostered greater awareness of the importance of agriculture for national development and encouraged collaboration among multiple stakeholders, including federal and state governments, development partners, and farmers. The approach adopted by NAIP addresses the entire agriculture value chain for crops, livestock (including poultry) and fisheries.

NAIP 1 targeted three main commodity groups—crops, livestock (including poultry), and fisheries—across the entire agricultural value chain, from production to marketing. Key supporting components included input provision (seeds, fertilizers), quarantine services, irrigation infrastructure, research and development, and farmer associations.

Programmes and services

Key crop-related programmmes included the National Programme for Food Security (NPFS), Fadama III, and the NERICA rice project. The livestock program emphasized increasing productivity and private sector participation, while the fisheries program focused on policy, technical, and financial support to boost output. Supporting services addressed disease surveillance, seed inspection, irrigation, technology adoption, and environmental mitigation.

Goals and Targets

NAIP 1 set ambitious targets for achievement by 2015, including:

- Doubling crop productivity.
- Increasing fish production from 700,000 to 3 million tonnes.
- Expanding irrigated land from 1% to 10%.
- Reducing food imports by 50% and increasing agricultural exports.
- Reducing post-harvest losses by 50%.
- Increasing value addition and rural infrastructure by 20–30%.
- Achieving adoption of improved seeds and extension coverage of 1:500.

Implementation

Implementation was shared among federal MDAs, the private sector, and development partners through public-private partnerships (PPPs). Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) were coordinated by FMARD using CAADP and ReSAKSS guidelines, with provisions for annual reviews and a comprehensive mid-term evaluation.

Financing

NAIP 1 required ₦235 billion (approx. $1.57 billion) over four years, with a substantial financing gap (representing approximately 45% of FGN's capital budget in 2010), especially for land/water management and productivity enhancement.

Challenges and Risks

Despite its initial successes, NAIP 1 faced significant obstacles. Coordination among different government agencies was weak, resulting in fragmented implementation. Funding shortfalls and limited technical capacity at sub-national levels hindered progress, while monitoring and evaluation systems were underdeveloped, making it difficult to measure the plan's impact and make informed adjustments. External risks such as oil revenue fluctuations, political instability, and climate change were also acknowledged as threats to implementation success.

Lesson Learnt

The design process revealed the necessity of inclusive stakeholder engagement to ensure ownership and relevance, while implementation demonstrated that clear roles and coordination mechanisms were critical. Reviews stressed the importance of robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks and integrating nutrition and gender considerations to enhance inclusiveness and sustainability.

National Agricultural Investment Plan 2 (NAIP 2) (2017–2020)

NAIP-2 built on the foundation laid by NAIP 1 and was designed to operationalise Nigeria's Agricultural Promotion Policy (APP) in alignment with continental goals such as the African Union's Malabo Declaration. It aimed to transform Nigerian agriculture into a modern, market-oriented sector through strategic public investments and enabling infrastructure, and to accelerate agricultural transformation by promoting food security, nutrition, and sustainable productivity increases. This would be achieved through targeted government investments to create an environment conducive to increased production, especially by investing in the infrastructure required for agricultural intensification in terms of production and processing, technological innovations and public–private partnerships. It represented a continued commitment to aligning Nigeria's agricultural strategy with regional and international frameworks. It was structured around the APP's three main programmes and ten ERGP/MTSS-prioritised sub-programmes, with clearly defined outputs, strategies, and expected economic benefits, such as increased rural incomes and foreign exchange earnings. The plan also addressed financing, comparing required investments with government budget allocations and private/development partner contributions. It identified a funding gap of over ₦600 billion out of a projected ₦844 billion over four years. Aligned with the CAADP/Malabo goals, NAIP-II included a results framework to track progress toward national food security and agricultural growth targets. It emphasised performance monitoring and stakeholder accountability through joint reviews. Implementation was through coordination among federal, state, and local governments, along with the private sector and development partners. The Ministry of Agriculture's regional

offices were tasked with aligning efforts, mobilising funding, and ensuring coherent planning and execution of agricultural programmes across Nigeria.

Achievements:

- Supported the roll-out of agro-dealer networks and mechanisation initiatives.
- Strengthened donor coordination under the Agricultural Donor Working Group (ADWG).
- Private sector partnerships increased in seed, fertiliser, and processing.
- More structured engagement with sub-national actors.

Challenges

However, the plan encountered challenges that limited its effectiveness. NAIP 2 suffered from poor integration with other national strategies, particularly the Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security Strategy, leading to policy fragmentation and coordination challenges. The governance and conceptual framework were weak, lacking clarity on implementation modalities and accountability structures. There was also a notable absence of clear benchmarks, targets, and monitoring indicators, especially concerning Malabo commitments. Gender and nutrition issues were insufficiently prioritised, and unclear coordination mechanisms risked duplication of efforts and institutional complexity.

Lessons Learnt

From the design standpoint, NAIP 2 highlighted the need for stronger policy coherence and early incorporation of monitoring and evaluation frameworks with measurable indicators. Implementation lessons included the importance of building capacity, ensuring clear accountability, and integrating gender and nutrition throughout. The review process emphasised regular, participatory monitoring and evaluation and the need to align with international and regional commitments for coherence and resource mobilisation.

NAIP 2 revealed that successful implementation requires robust coordination and clear lines of accountability to prevent duplication and inefficiency. Capacity building for implementing agencies was necessary to translate plans into effective actions. The experience demonstrated that integrating gender and nutrition priorities into all stages of implementation enhances the plan's impact and equity. Sustainable financing mechanisms and continuous stakeholder engagement were also recognised as vital for maintaining momentum. The review process for NAIP 2 emphasised the need for regular, participatory monitoring and evaluation systems that provide timely feedback for adaptive management. Establishing clear benchmarks and indicators is crucial for assessing progress and ensuring accountability. Reviews should be inclusive, incorporating diverse stakeholder inputs to improve ownership and relevance. Aligning the plan with international, continental, and regional frameworks was reaffirmed as key to coherence and resource mobilization. The summary of NAIP's outputs, outcomes, and challenges is presented in Table 1.3, while a comparison of NAIP I and II is shown in Table 1.4.

Table 1.3: Summary of NAIPs: Outputs, Outcomes & Challenges

Dimension	Achievements	Challenges
Policy Alignment	Nigeria successfully aligned with CAADP targets and processes.	Disconnect between federal and state-level implementation.
Investment Planning	Sector investment needs were mapped and costed.	Budget execution rates remained below 50%.
Value Chain Development	Focused interventions in rice, maize, and cassava improved productivity.	Exclusion of livestock, horticulture (fruits and vegetables), and aquaculture in early designs.
Private Sector Involvement	Inclusion improved over time, particularly under ATA and APP.	Poor enabling environment (access to land, finance, markets).
Monitoring & Evaluation	Introduction of performance frameworks and KPIs.	Weak data systems and inconsistent reporting across MDAs.

Table 1.4: Comparison of NAIP I, and II

Category	NAIP I (2011–2014)	NAIP II (2016–2020)
Strategic Focus	Increase investment, align with CAADP, enhance productivity	Deepen value chains, improve resilience, support youth/women
Design Strengths	Strong CAADP alignment, roadmap for investment	Inclusion of private sector and youth/women
Key Achievements	Policy awareness raised; investment maps developed	Improved market linkages, targeted interventions in key value chains
Implementation Gaps	Weak M&E, low budget execution, poor state-level buy-in	Fragmented coordination, funding shortfalls
Lessons Learned	Realistic budgeting needed; need for sub-national involvement	Stronger M&E frameworks and funding mechanisms necessary
Outlook	Foundation-building phase	Operational momentum gained but uneven progress

Source: FMAFS compilation

Lessons Learned

1. Align ambition with financing: NAIP 1 under-disbursement and NAIP 2 funding gaps demonstrate the need for realistic costing aligned with confirmed funding streams.
2. Strengthen coordination: Fragmentation across federal ministries and state ADPs underscored the necessity of robust national coordination units and clear roles for state-level SAIPs.

3. Enhance M&E systems: Incomplete baselines, unreliable data and weak extension monitoring hampered performance tracking; investments in digital M&E tools and sector statistics are critical.
4. Integrate nutrition and inclusivity: Future NAIPs must better incorporate nutrition, gender and youth strategies, as gaps in NAIP 2 limited progress toward Malabo targets.
5. Mobilise private sector: De-risking agribusiness through credit guarantees, PPP frameworks and streamlined subsidy delivery (e.g., GESS) proved essential for scaling adoption and value-chain development.

CHAPTER TWO: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE NASIP

2.1 Overview of the NATIP, Regional and International Policies and Initiatives

The development of Nigeria's National Agrifood Systems Investment Plan (NASIP) is anchored on a robust landscape of existing national, regional, and global policies, frameworks, and initiatives to which the country has committed to. These policies provide both strategic direction and implementation anchors for transforming Nigeria's food and agriculture sector in a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient manner. Nigeria's agrifood system operates within a complex policy ecosystem that reflects the country's development priorities, international obligations, and responses to emerging challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, youth unemployment, and gender inequality. The NASIP is therefore not being developed in isolation; but rather as a complementary investment plan designed to operationalize and align with key existing strategies, ensuring coherence, continuity, and synergy.

This section provides an overview of the most relevant national and international policies, programs, and initiatives that inform the formulation of the NASIP, including Nigeria's Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP 2021–2025), the National Food Systems Transformation Pathways (2021–2030), the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and Nigeria's commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement, among others. These frameworks serve as a foundation for identifying priorities, setting investment targets, and shaping the governance structure of NASIP to ensure it reflects Nigeria's broader development vision and international responsibilities.

2.1.1 Nigeria National Development Plan (2021–2025)

The Nigeria National Development Plan (NDP) 2021–2025 is a comprehensive medium-term blueprint co-created with the private sector, sub-national governments, and civil society, aimed at fostering sustainable, inclusive economic growth and development across the country. It succeeds the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) 2017–2020 and aligns with Nigeria's long-term vision encapsulated in the Nigeria Agenda 2050.

Key objectives:

i. Economic diversification: Establish a robust foundation for a diversified economy, emphasising the growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and enhancing the business environment.
ii. Infrastructure development: Invest in critical physical, financial, digital, and innovation infrastructure to stimulate economic activities and improve service delivery.
iii. Security and governance: Strengthen security mechanisms and promote good governance to create a conducive environment for development.
iv. Human capital development: Enhance the quality of education and healthcare systems to build a skilled and healthy workforce.

v. Social development: Implement social protection programs aimed at poverty alleviation and reducing inequality.
vi. Regional development: Promote balanced development across all regions to reduce disparities and harness local potential.
vii. Plan implementation: Ensure effective execution, monitoring, and evaluation of the plan's initiatives to achieve desired outcomes.

Targets:

- Job creation: Generate 21 million full-time jobs by 2025.
- Poverty reduction: Lift 35 million people out of poverty within the plan period.
- Investment mobilisation: Attract investments totalling approximately ₦348.1 trillion, with 85.7% expected from the private sector and 14.3% from the public sector.

Strategic focus areas:
The NDP 2021–2025 is structured around seven key areas:

i. Economic growth and development: Focusing on sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, oil and gas, and solid minerals to drive economic expansion.
ii. Infrastructure: Developing transportation, power, housing, and digital infrastructure to support economic activities.
iii. Public administration: Enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of government institutions and processes.
iv. Human capital development: Improving education and healthcare systems to build a competent and healthy populace.
v. Social development: Addressing issues related to gender equality, youth empowerment, and social inclusion.
vi. Regional development: Ensuring equitable development across all regions to harness local potentials and reduce disparities.
vii. Plan implementation: Establishing mechanisms for effective execution, monitoring, and evaluation of the plan's initiatives.

Inclusivity and Collaboration:
The plan was developed through a collaborative process involving the private sector, sub-national governments, civil society organisations, and facilitated by the Federal Government of Nigeria. This inclusive approach aims to ensure broad-based participation and ownership, enhancing the plan's effectiveness and sustainability.

2.1.2 National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Policy (NATIP 2022–2027)

The National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Policy (NATIP) 2022–2027 is Nigeria’s strategic framework for modernizing its agricultural sector. Developed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) in May 2022, NATIP aims to transition from subsistence farming to a technology-driven, market-

oriented, and resilient agri-food system. It aligns with the broader National Development Plan (2021–2025) and incorporates lessons from previous policies such as the Agricultural Promotion Policy (APP) and the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA).

Policy Objectives

NATIP is structured around several key objectives:

1. Enhance Research and Extension Services: Strengthen agricultural research, innovation, and extension services to disseminate knowledge effectively across value chains.
2. Promote Technology Adoption: Deploy appropriate technologies and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to boost production, processing, and marketing of crops, fisheries, and livestock for both domestic and international markets.
3. Establish Agricultural Development Fund (ADF): Support the evolution of the ADF into a mega-agency to address funding inadequacies and accelerate rural development.
4. Improve Access to Finance: Increase access to agricultural finance, rural microfinance, and promote agricultural insurance with active private sector participation.
5. Implement Climate-Smart Agriculture: Promote digital and climate-smart agriculture, organic farming, and efficient water management to enhance productivity and income amid climate change challenges.
6. Develop Rural Infrastructure: Increase access to agricultural land through land development and rural infrastructural improvements to bolster livelihoods and community resilience.

Strategic Pillars and Interventions

NATIP's implementation is anchored on several strategic pillars:

- Mechanization and Innovation: Accelerate mechanization and integrate digital technologies to modernize farming practices.
- Value Chain Development: Strengthen value chains for priority crops, livestock, and fisheries, including the establishment of special agro-processing zones.
- Market Access and Trade: Develop markets and trade infrastructure to facilitate the movement of agricultural products and enhance competitiveness.
- Food Security and Nutrition: Ensure efficient management of strategic food reserves and improve the nutritional composition of stored food commodities.
- Security and Land Use: Implement coordinated responses to security challenges affecting agricultural land and investments.

Stakeholder Engagement

NATIP was developed through a collaborative process involving various stakeholders, including:

- Government Agencies: Federal and State Ministries of Agriculture and related departments.
- Research and Academic Institutions: Organizations such as the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), supported by USAID-Feed the Future Nigeria Agriculture Policy Activity, and universities such as Bayero University, Kano.
- Private Sector and Civil Society: Commodity associations, traditional institutions, and other stakeholders in the agriculture sector.

Expected Outcomes

By 2027, NATIP aims to achieve:

- Job Creation: Generate at least 12 million jobs in the agricultural sector.
- Food Security: Enhance national food security through increased productivity and efficient food reserve management.
- Economic Diversification: Contribute significantly to national economic diversification drive by boosting agricultural exports and reducing import dependency.
- Resilience Building: Improve the resilience of rural communities through infrastructure development and climate-smart agricultural practices.

2.1.3 National Livestock Growth Acceleration Strategy (NL-GAS 2025 - 2035)

The National Livestock Growth Acceleration Strategy (NL-GAS) 2025 – 2035 is designed to deliver on two fronts: to build a livestock herd that is 2 – 3 times larger than the 2025 level and to increase the economic value from $32B to $74B - $90B by 2035. Delivering these outcomes will require significant private, public, donor, and other third-party investments. The private sector will lead investment, while the Federal Government assumes a convening and regulatory role.

The strategy focuses on building on a reputation for quality anchored on healthy herds, evolving management practices, boosting output processing, quality, and packaging, and maintaining an organic posture where possible, Nigeria intends to establish a “Bred in Nigeria” brand positioning.

The strategy integrated guidance from the President’s Agenda and Priorities:

i. Food Security, Quality and Income

- Increase access to quality livestock products for improved nutrition;
- Enhance livestock productivity and reduce mortality;
- Increase the contribution of livestock to household incomes;
- Promote livestock products export.

ii. Future Proofing

- Strengthen livestock governance and institutional capacity;
- Promote climate -smart livestock practices to mitigate environmental impacts;

- Construction of livestock service centres.

iii. Capacity and System Support

- Train and build the capacity of One Health Officers;
- Establish national and local level committee for conflict mitigation;
- Initiate and implement quarterly citizens and stakeholders' engagement sessions.

The strategy is built on ten (10) pillars to achieve a specific outcome on the path to deliver the 2035 sectoral aspirations. These pillars and their strategic objectives are indicated in Table 2.1 below:

Table 2.1: National Livestock Growth Acceleration Strategy (2025 - 2035)

Enabling Pillar	Strategic Objective
1. Livestock Value Chain Development & Market Access	To modernize the multiple animal value chains, boost productivity, improve the breeds via technical investments and improve local production and processing
2. Animal Health and Zoonoses Control	To reduce animal disease burden and zoonoses in Nigeria by 15% annually in the next five years thereby protecting livestock farmers investments and protecting human health
3. Feed and Fodder Development	Ensure quality and affordable nutrition resources for improving livestock productivity, by reducing dependence on importation, seasonal feed scarcity, strengthening pastoral systems and reducing pasture related conflicts
4. Water Resources Management	Development of water resources to support large scale animal production
5. Finance & Insurance	Partnership with financial services and insurance providers to launch products and services for livestock industry, drive farmer uptake, and reduce loss risk
6. Peace Building, Security & Social Cohesion	Design and implement interventions for effective prevention, mitigation and resolution of conflicts to attain peaceful coexistence, security and social harmony among farming and livestock producing communities nationwide
7. Infrastructure Development & Waste Management	Improve livestock production facilities in the 114 grazing reserves and other production facilities; Enhance Access to animal health and support services; Enhance energy integration for sustainability by partnering with private sector + development partners
8. Livestock Extension Services	Design and promote the implementation of a functional extension service scheme for optimizing productivity in the livestock industry
9. Youth & Women	To increase women and youth participation in livestock production in Nigeria by 10% yearly through targeted training programs, access to finance and credit, market linkage to ensure improved livelihood and economic empowerment of rural communities
10. Statistics & Information	To develop and implement a comprehensive National Livestock Information and Management System (NLIMS) to track, analyze and report livestock data

2.1. 4 Nigeria’s Policy on Fisheries Development

Despite Nigeria’s extensive natural endowments, including an approximately 853-kilometre coastline and roughly 15 million hectares of water bodies, the sector remains a low contributor to national GDP and struggles to meet domestic demand, relying heavily on imports (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2024). The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy of Nigeria, 2025–2029 (NFAP) notes that Nigeria imports 70–75 percent as much fish as it produces, supplying only 40–45 percent of domestic consumption, a gap exacerbated by stagnating aquaculture production since 2014 and steadily declining capture fisheries (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2024). This policy aims to reform governance, accelerate sustainable investment, and maximise the sector's contribution to employment, poverty reduction, and food security (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2024).

The overall vision for the fisheries sector falls under the broad Marine and blue economy aspiration: "To sustainably develop our blue economy potentials through knowledge-led innovations for national economic growth and inclusive prosperity" (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2025). More specifically, the NFAP's vision is "To become one of the world’s leading fish and aquaculture producers by developing a sustainable and vibrant fisheries and aquaculture value chain that will contribute significantly to livelihood diversification, economic growth, environmental sustainability, and food and nutrition security in Africa" (FGN, 2024). The mission is to transform the sector into a highly productive, efficient, inclusive, and sustainable entity through improved governance and appropriate technologies. The primary goal is to sustainably increase fisheries and aquaculture production to bridge the supply and demand gap, attain self-sufficiency in aquatic food production, and establish the sector as a major source of livelihood, economic growth, sustainable development, and nutrition security.

The NFAP outlines three main strategic objectives for the 2024–2028 period: (1) ensuring sustainable development to enhance national nutrition and food security; (2) optimising human and natural resource utilisation to attain self-sufficiency, climate resilience, and environmental sustainability; and (3) providing inclusive and sustainable livelihoods, creating wealth, and reducing poverty. A key, ambitious target for the NFAP is to increase aquaculture production by 1 million metric tons (MT), raising the output from the official FAO statistics of 300,000 MT in 2021 to 1.3 million MT by 2028. The MBE policy further aligns these sector-specific goals with broader national aspirations, aiming to stimulate economic growth and job creation by expanding fisheries and aquaculture, and contributing to the overall Blue Economy goals of generating 100,000 new jobs (direct and indirect) annually.

To achieve these objectives, the NFAP focuses on nine core thematic areas, beginning with Aquaculture Development. Key proposed activities include identifying and developing marine, brackish, and freshwater cultured fish zones, promoting species diversification away from the current heavy dependency on catfish, encouraging private sector-led brood stock development, and establishing farm

clusters with co-management arrangements. Recognising that high costs, particularly for feed, have hindered growth, the policy mandates minimising reliance on imported fish feeds and promoting research into cost-effective local feed materials, such as agro-industrial by-products. The MBE policy reinforces this by calling for strengthening institutions responsible for specialised training and providing capacity building to enable efficient and sustainable mariculture operations.

Regarding capture fisheries, the policies emphasise sustainable management and curbing illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing, which threatens sustainability and artisanal livelihoods. Key activities under the MBE policy and NFAP include strengthening laws and enforcement systems, including implementing tiered fishing licensing and spatial controls/quotas. For industrial marine fisheries, the policies aim to upgrade the sector to harvest potential in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), conduct fish stock assessments, and enforce the application of Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as turtle excluder devices (TEDs) to meet certification standards for export markets (e.g., EU and US). For artisanal fisheries (which account for over 70 percent of domestic supply), activities include modernising techniques using eco-friendly technologies, establishing community-based management structures, providing credit access to fisherfolk, and providing critical infrastructure, such as jetties, cold stores, and processing facilities in fishing communities.

In terms of processing and trade, the aim is to promote value addition, advance food security, and facilitate access to international markets. The NFAP stresses strengthening regulations on processing and licensing to promote export, maintaining quality and safety standards from the point of catch to the consumer, and reducing seafood loss and waste. Furthermore, efforts include providing critical infrastructure, such as laboratories for certification in line with international standards, and establishing business support centres for processing clusters. Trade policies will be designed to promote the export of fish products to diversify trade and boost growth, while aligning with international protocols, such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Finally, the policies address crucial cross-cutting issues, specifically focusing on social inclusion, equity, and the need for rigorous monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The NFAP mandates that development efforts actively include women, youth, and marginalised groups, with indicators designed to measure the extent of empowerment and benefit achieved by these populations. The MBE policy similarly requires that 50% of the new jobs created should be for youths (18–35 years), with 70% allocated to women and people with special needs. Recognising the severe dearth of reliable data for planning and management, both policies prioritise investing in data systems, research, innovation, and technology development, which are essential for evidence-based decision-making and for sustaining progress. Implementation funding is expected from a combination of government budgets, multilateral development banks (MDBs), public-private partnerships (PPPs), and

innovative financing mechanisms, such as grants, including those focused on climate change, and specialised "bio-blue funds" (FGN, 2025).

2.1.5 Sector Food and Nutrition Security Strategy (2016–2025)

The Agricultural Sector Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (AFSNS) 2016–2025 is Nigeria's comprehensive framework aimed at enhancing food and nutrition security through the agricultural sector. Developed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), this strategy aligns with national policies and international commitments to address malnutrition, promote sustainable agriculture, and foster inclusive economic growth.

Objectives

The primary goal of the AFSNS is to improve the food and nutrition security of all Nigerians while empowering women and promoting resilience of the agricultural sector. It seeks to integrate nutrition considerations into agricultural policies and programs, ensuring that agricultural growth translates into better nutritional outcomes.

Strategic Pillars

The strategy is built upon several key pillars:

1. Food Availability and Accessibility: Enhancing the production and distribution of diverse, nutritious foods to ensure year-round availability and affordability.
2. Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture: Promoting agricultural practices that consider nutritional outcomes, such as bio-fortification and diversification of crops.
3. Capacity Building: Strengthening the skills and knowledge of stakeholders, including farmers, extension workers, and policymakers, to implement nutrition-sensitive interventions.
4. Research and Development: Investing in research to develop and disseminate technologies and practices that improve food and nutrition security.
5. Monitoring and Evaluation: Establishing robust systems to track progress, assess impact, and inform policy adjustments.

Stakeholder Engagement

The AFSNS emphasizes a multi-sectoral approach, involving collaboration among various stakeholders:

- Government Agencies: FMAFS, Ministry of Health, and other relevant ministries.
- Development Partners: Organizations like the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) among others.
- Civil Society and Private Sector: Non-governmental organizations, farmer groups, and agribusinesses.

Expected Outcomes

By 2025, the strategy aims to achieve:

- Reduced Malnutrition: Lower prevalence of undernutrition, especially among vulnerable groups like children and women.
- Improved Dietary Diversity: Increased consumption of a variety of nutritious foods.
- Enhanced Agricultural Productivity: Boosted production of nutrient-rich crops and livestock.
- Strengthened Resilience: Improved capacity of communities to withstand food and nutrition shocks.

2.1.6 National Rice Development Strategy II (2020–2030)

The National Rice Development Strategy II (NRDS II) 2020–2030 is Nigeria's comprehensive 10-year road-map aimed at transforming the rice subsector into a self-sufficient, competitive, and export-ready industry. Given rice's central role in Nigerian diets, NASIP will embed dedicated rice sub-programmes aligned with NRDS II's targets on mechanization, seed systems, and private-sector engagement. Building upon the successes of the first strategy (NRDS I, 2009–2019), NRDS II aligns with national goals of food security, economic diversification, and rural development.

Strategic Objectives

NRDS II focuses on:

- Achieving Self-Sufficiency: Targeting an annual rice production of 34 million metric tons by 2030 to meet domestic demand and reduce reliance on imports.
- Enhancing Food and Nutrition Security: Ensuring the availability of quality rice to improve national food security and nutritional outcomes.
- Creating Employment Opportunities: Generating jobs across the rice value chain, from production to processing and marketing.
- Promoting Export Potential: Producing surplus rice for export to boost foreign exchange earnings.

Key Components

To achieve these objectives, NRDS II outlines several strategic interventions:

i. Value Chain Development: Strengthening each segment of the rice value chain, including input supply, production, processing, and marketing.
ii. Infrastructure Improvement: Investing in irrigation systems, storage facilities, and transportation networks to reduce post-harvest losses and improve market access.
iii. Research and Innovation: Promoting the adoption of improved rice varieties and farming practices through research and extension services.

iv. Capacity Building: Enhancing the skills of farmers, processors, and other stakeholders through training and support services.
v. Policy and Institutional Support: Establishing favourable policies and institutional frameworks to encourage private sector investment and participation.

Stakeholder Collaboration

The implementation of NRDS II involves a multi-stakeholder approach:

- Government Agencies: Led by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS), with support from state governments.
- Development Partners: Collaboration with organisations such as the German International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Competitive African Rice Platform (CARP).
- Private Sector: Engagement of agribusinesses, financial institutions, and investors to drive commercialisation and scalability.
- Farmers and Cooperatives: Active participation of rice farmers and their organisations to ensure grassroots involvement and ownership.

Expected outcomes by 2030

- Increased Production: Achieving the target of 34 million metric tons of rice annually;
- Reduced Imports: Significantly decreasing rice imports, leading to savings in foreign exchange;
- Job Creation: Generating employment opportunities across the rice value chain;
- Enhanced Export Capacity: Positioning Nigeria as a net exporter of rice in the West African region.

2.1.7 ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP)

The Economic Community of West African States Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP), adopted in 2005, serves as the regional framework guiding agricultural development across the 15 ECOWAS member states. It is aligned with the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and aims to promote food security, economic growth, and poverty reduction through sustainable and inclusive agricultural practices. NASIP seeks to align Nigeria’s national priorities with ECOWAP’s axes -productivity, market integration, and resilience to leverage regional programmes and funding mechanisms.

Core Objectives

ECOWAP seeks to:

- Ensure food and nutrition security for the West African population;
- Enhance the productivity and competitiveness of regional agriculture;

- Promote regional integration by facilitating intra-regional trade and harmonizing agricultural policies;
- Reduce poverty and create employment opportunities, particularly in rural areas;
- Sustainably manage natural resources and strengthen climate-change adaptation efforts.

Strategic Axes

ECOWAP's implementation is structured around three main axes:

1. Increasing Productivity and Competitiveness: Focusing on modernizing agriculture through improved technologies, access to inputs, and support for value chains.
2. Implementing a Regional Trade Regime: Establishing policies that facilitate the free movement of agricultural goods within the region.
3. Adapting Trade Policies with External Partners: Developing strategies to manage trade relations with countries outside the ECOWAS region, ensuring protection and competitiveness of local agriculture.

Implementation Mechanisms

To operationalize ECOWAP, ECOWAS has established:

- Regional Agricultural Investment Plans (RAIPs) and National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs), which outline investment priorities at both regional and national levels.
- Partnerships with technical institutions including collaborations with organizations such as the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) to support research, policy development, and implementation.
- Engagement with stakeholders, involving farmers' organizations, private sector actors, and civil society in the planning and execution of agricultural policies.

Progress and Challenges

Since its adoption, ECOWAP has contributed to:

- Improved coordination of agricultural policies among member states.
- Increased investment in agriculture, leading to enhanced productivity in some areas.

However, challenges remain, including:

- Fragmented implementation due to varying national capacities and commitments.
- Limited funding and reliance on external donors.
- The need for stronger monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress and impact.

2.1.8 ECOWAS 2025 Strategic Policy Framework

The ECOWAS 2025 Strategic Policy Framework serves as a comprehensive roadmap guiding agricultural development and food security initiatives across West Africa. It builds upon the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP), aligning regional efforts with continental objectives such as the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and global commitments like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Framework 2025 a modern, competitive, and inclusive agro-forestry-pastoral and fisheries sector in West Africa. Its five-year programmes under the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan for Food and Nutrition Security (RAIPFNS) provide templates for NASIP's thematic interventions in climate-smart agriculture and value-chain development.

Vision and Objectives

Vision: To establish a modern, competitive, inclusive, and sustainable agro-forestry-pastoral and fisheries sector that ensures food and nutrition security, food sovereignty, and decent employment for the population.

Overall Objective: To sustainably meet the food and nutritional needs of the population, contribute to economic and social development, reduce poverty, and address inequalities among territories, zones, and countries within the ECOWAS region.

Specific Objectives:

i. Enhance Productivity and Competitiveness: Improve the performance of the agricultural sector to meet regional food demands.
ii. Promote Regional Integration: Facilitate intra-regional trade and harmonize agricultural policies among member states.
iii. Strengthen Resilience: Develop capacities to adapt to climate change and manage natural resources sustainably.
iv. Improve Governance: Establish effective institutional frameworks and stakeholder participation in policy implementation.

Implementation Mechanisms

- Regional Agricultural Investment Plan for Food and Nutrition Security (RAIP-FNS): Translates strategic objectives into actionable programs over five-year periods.
- National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs): Member states develop country-specific plans aligned with the regional framework.
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E): Robust systems to track progress, assess impact, and inform policy adjustments.
- Resource Mobilization Strategy: Identifies funding sources and mechanisms to support implementation.

Stakeholder Engagement

The framework emphasizes a multi-stakeholder approach, involving:

- Government Agencies: National ministries and regional bodies coordinate policy and implementation.
- Development Partners: Collaboration with international organizations and donors for technical and financial support.
- Private Sector and Civil Society: Engagement of agribusinesses, NGOs, and farmer organizations to ensure inclusivity and sustainability.

Expected Outcomes by 2025

- Food and Nutrition Security: Significant reduction in hunger and malnutrition rates across the region.
- Economic Growth: Increased agricultural productivity contributing to GDP and employment.
- Regional Integration: Enhanced trade and policy coherence among ECOWAS member states.
- Environmental Sustainability: Adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices and sustainable resource management.

2.1.9 CAADP Kampala Declaration on Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems

The Extraordinary African Union (AU) Summit on the Post-Malabo CAADP Agenda, held in Kampala, Uganda, from 9–11 January 2025, marked a pivotal moment for African agriculture and food systems. Convened under the theme *"Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa"*, this Summit brought together Heads of State and Government to chart a renewed course for agricultural transformation beyond the Malabo commitments of 2014. The Summit was convened in the wake of significant global and continental challenges, including:

- Persistent food insecurity and malnutrition across large parts of Africa, exacerbated by conflicts, pandemics, and economic shocks.
- Climate change which continues to undermine agricultural productivity through extreme weather events, droughts, floods, and shifting rainfall patterns.
- Rapid population growth, with Africa's population projected to reach 2.5 billion by 2050, requiring an urgent scale-up of food production, processing, and distribution.
- Youth unemployment and underemployment, particularly in rural areas, necessitating the creation of inclusive and sustainable agrifood livelihoods.
- Post-harvest losses, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to finance, and underdeveloped value chains which continue to weaken Africa’s food systems.
- Rising urbanisation and changing consumption patterns presenting both opportunities and challenges for food system transformation.

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), launched in 2003 under the Maputo Declaration, has long served as the continent's flagship policy framework for agricultural development. This role was reaffirmed through the 2014 Malabo Declaration, where Member States committed to a set of measurable targets aimed at achieving agricultural transformation by 2025. As the Malabo deadline approaches, the Kampala Summit sought to take stock of progress, identify gaps, and launch a new phase of CAADP — through the Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2035 — with renewed political will and stronger implementation mechanisms. The Summit responded to the call for a comprehensive agrifood systems transformation — a shift from siloed, production-focused interventions to integrated approaches that consider the full value chain, sustainability, nutrition, and equity. It also aligns with broader continental and global development frameworks, including:

- Agenda 2063: The AU's blueprint for inclusive and sustainable development.
- The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which aims to boost intra-African trade in agricultural products and services.
- The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

The **Kampala CAADP Declaration**, therefore, represents a recommitment by AU Member States to drive forward a bold, inclusive, and climate-smart transformation of Africa's agrifood systems, with clear targets set for 2030 and 2035. The Declaration outlines strategic commitments in areas such as sustainable production, agro-industrialisation, investment and financing, nutrition, inclusion, resilience, and governance. This context underscores the urgency and ambition of the Kampala Declaration and sets the stage for coordinated, multi-stakeholder implementation through National Agrifood Systems Investment Plans (NASIPs), regional cooperation, and robust monitoring and accountability systems.

Key Challenges

- Rapid population growth (projected 2.5B in Africa by 2050).
- Climate change, environmental degradation, and extreme weather events.
- Limited agrifood processing and infrastructure.
- Gender and youth inequities in agriculture.
- Trade barriers and underutilization of AfCFTA.
- Insufficient investment in R&D, nutrition, and digital agriculture.

Strategic Commitments (2026–2035)

I. Sustainable Production, Agro-Industrialization & Trade

- 45% increase in agrifood output.
- 50% reduction in post-harvest losses.
- Tripling intra-African agrifood trade.
- 35% of agrifood GDP from locally processed food.

- Focus on sustainable inputs, emerging technologies, and SME competitiveness.

II. Investment & Financing

- Mobilize $100 billion in public-private agrifood investment.
- Commit 10% of public budgets to agrifood systems.
- At least15% of agrifood GDP to be reinvested annually.
- Facilitate access to finance, especially for climate resilience.

III. Food & Nutrition Security

- Achieve zero hunger by 2035.
- Reduce stunting, wasting, and overweight by 25%.
- Ensure 60% of the population is able to afford healthy diets.
- Promote indigenous crops, food safety standards, aquaculture, and One Health approaches.

IV. Inclusion & Equitable Livelihoods

- 50% reduction in extreme poverty and gender yield gap.
- Empower atleast 30% of women, youth, and vulnerable groups in value chains.
- Improve rural infrastructure, access to land, and green job creation.

V. Resilience Building

- 30% of land under sustainable management.
- 40% of households protected from shocks.
- Expand climate-smart practices, indigenous knowledge, and early warning systems.
- Increase climate finance and adaptation strategies.

VI. Governance & Accountability

- All AU Member States and RECs should integrate the Kampala Declaration into national investment plans by 2028.
- CAADP Biennial Review integrated into national sector reviews by 2030.
- Develop financial instruments, strengthen producer organizations, and empower parliaments.

Call to Action

Member States should:

- Reflect the Declaration in NASIPs and national budgets.
- Ensure inclusive governance and M&E systems.
- Promote private sector investment and regional trade.

AU, AUDA-NEPAD & RECs should:

- Support NASIP/RASIP integration.
- Establish private sector advisory councils.
- Facilitate regional harmonization and conduct biennial reviews.

The Kampala CAADP Declaration redefines Africa's agricultural transformation roadmap for the next decade, shifting focus from an agriculture-led approach to a holistic agrifood systems strategy centred on resilience, inclusivity, nutrition, and sustainability.

2.1.10 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal set of 17 interconnected goals adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These goals provide a shared blueprint for peace, prosperity, and environmental sustainability for people and the planet. The SDGs aim to address the world's most pressing development challenges by promoting inclusive economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection. Each goal is underpinned by specific targets (169 in total) and measurable indicators to guide implementation, monitoring, and reporting.

The 17 SDGs are:

1. No Poverty – End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2. Zero Hunger – End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. Good Health and Well-being – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
4. Quality Education – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities.
5. Gender Equality – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
6. Clean Water and Sanitation – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation.
7. Affordable and Clean Energy – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy.
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth – Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work.
9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.
10. Reduced Inequality – Reduce inequality within and among countries.
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
12. Responsible Consumption and Production – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13. Climate Action – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
14. Life Below Water – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources.
15. Life on Land – Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.
16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, ensure access to justice, and build effective institutions.
17. Partnerships for the Goals – Strengthen global partnerships to support and achieve the SDGs.

Directly Relevant SDGs for NASIP

1. SDG 1: No Poverty
    - By investing in smallholder farmers, rural infrastructure, agribusinesses, and job creation, NASIP aims to reduce rural poverty and enhance livelihoods.
2. SDG 2: Zero Hunger
    - NASIP targets increased food production, improved nutrition, greater resilience to shocks, and enhanced access to affordable, nutritious food across Nigeria.
3. SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
    - Through agribusiness development, value chain financing, digital tools, and youth entrepreneurship, NASIP supports job creation and inclusive economic growth.
4. SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
    - NASIP promotes sustainable agricultural practices, the reduction of food loss and waste, and more efficient resource use throughout the value chain.
5. SDG 13: Climate Action
    - Climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land management, and investments in adaptation and mitigation measures are core NASIP strategies.
6. SDG 15: Life on Land
    - NASIP promotes sustainable forestry management and biodiversity conservation, especially to halt and reverse desertification, achieve land degradation neutrality, and halt biodiversity loss.

The SDGs are integrated and indivisible, meaning progress in one goal supports progress in others. Their implementation is guided by principles of universality, inclusion, equity, and sustainability. Aligning the National Agrifood Systems Investment Plan (NASIP) with the SDGs is essential for delivering long-term, inclusive development outcomes and fulfilling global commitments under the 2030 Agenda.

2.1.11 Food Systems Transformation Initiatives

Nigeria's National Food Systems Transformation Pathways (2021–2030)

In response to the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) of 2021, Nigeria developed its National Food Systems Transformation Pathways through a multi-stakeholder, consultative process led by the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning (FMFBNP), in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) and other key partners. The goal was to articulate a coherent national agenda to transform Nigeria's food systems to be inclusive, resilient, equitable, healthy, and sustainable by 2030. Nigeria's food systems

transformation vision is to ensure that all Nigerians have access to safe, nutritious, and affordable diets—produced in ways that safeguard the environment, create jobs, and promote inclusive economic growth, especially for women, youth, and vulnerable populations.

Key Transformation Pathways

The transformation agenda is structured around five core pathways:

1. Ensure Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All
    - Improve household food and nutrition security through targeted investments in nutrition-sensitive agriculture, social safety nets, and food fortification.
    - Promote consumer awareness of healthy diets.
2. Shift to Sustainable Consumption Patterns
    - Promote food safety, and reduce food waste and loss across the value chain.
    - Encourage healthy dietary behaviour through education and public policy (e.g., school feeding, labelling, awareness etc.).
3. Boost Nature-Positive Production
    - Support climate-smart agriculture, agroecology, and sustainable land use practices.
    - Improve water resource management and promote regenerative agriculture.
    - Strengthen smallholder farmers' access to extension, inputs, finance, and innovation.
4. Advance Equitable Livelihoods and Value Distribution
    - Promote decent jobs in agriculture and agribusiness, particularly for youth and women.
    - Strengthen land rights, improve access to finance and services for marginalised groups.
    - Develop inclusive value chains and rural infrastructure.
5. Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks, and Stresses
    - Enhance the capacity of food systems to withstand climate change, pandemics, conflict, and economic shocks.
    - Expand early warning systems, insurance, and emergency preparedness.
    - Support local food systems and reduce import dependency.

National Priorities and Flagship Actions (2021–2030)

Nigeria’s pathway document outlines priority actions in the following strategic areas:

- Policy Coherence and Institutional Coordination: Establish a robust policy environment for integrated food systems governance across ministries, the private sector, and civil society.

- Youth Engagement and Employment: Harness youth potential through agripreneurship programs, digital agriculture, and skill development.
- Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality: Strengthen the role of women in value chains, ensure gender-responsive programming, and increase access to finance and land.
- Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability: Implement nature-based solutions, promote renewable energy in food processing, and build climate-resilient infrastructure.
- Digital Innovation and Data Systems: Scale digital platforms for extension, finance, and markets; improve food systems data for planning and monitoring.
- Inclusive Financing: Mobilise private and public investment in food systems transformation, including blended finance and concessional instruments.
- Food Systems Governance and Accountability: Establish multi-stakeholder platforms at federal and sub-national levels for tracking progress, promoting transparency, and ensuring stakeholder ownership.

These priorities inform the National Agrifood Systems Investment Plan (NASIP), which is designed as a financing and implementation mechanism to translate the food systems pathways into actionable programs, aligned with national development goals and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2.2 Strategic Considerations and Priorities

The development and implementation of Nigeria's National Agrifood Systems Investment Plan (NASIP) must be grounded in a set of cross-cutting strategic considerations that align with national aspirations, regional frameworks, and global development agendas. These considerations ensure that investments in agriculture not only drive economic growth but also contribute to environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and improved nutrition outcomes.

2.2.1 Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management

Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management are central to the sustainability and resilience of Nigeria's agri-food systems. Nigeria is one of the most biodiverse countries in Africa, yet agricultural expansion and unsustainable practices continue to threaten its ecosystems. The degradation of forests, soils, water bodies, and biodiversity threatens the long-term viability of agricultural production, especially for smallholder farmers and vulnerable communities. Integrating biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management into the NASIP is essential for maintaining ecosystem services such as pollination, pest control, soil fertility, and water regulation—all of which underpin agricultural productivity. It also strengthens Nigeria's capacity to adapt to climate change, prevent environmental shocks, and meet international commitments under the SDGs, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The NASIP will promote climate-smart, agro-ecological, and landscape-based approaches to enhance food security, protect livelihoods, and ensure the

resilience of Nigeria's food systems. Emphasis will be placed on sustainable land use planning, watershed management, and the promotion of diversified crop and livestock systems that reduce genetic erosion and enhance ecosystem services.

Strategic Implications for NASIP

i. Integrate landscape-level planning in investment projects.
ii. Promote climate-smart and agroecological practices.
iii. Fund community-led natural resource governance initiatives.
iv. Invest in soil health, tree planting, and watershed restoration.
v. Mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services in value chain development and agricultural zoning.

2.2.2 Climate Change and Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)

Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) must be at the heart of Nigeria's agricultural transformation agenda, as articulated in the NASIP, due to the escalating risks posed by climate change to food security, livelihoods, and economic stability. Nigeria's agriculture sector is predominantly rain-fed and highly vulnerable to climate-related shocks such as prolonged droughts, extreme heat, delayed or erratic rainfall patterns, flooding, and land degradation. These climate-induced disruptions have led to declining crop yields, reduced livestock productivity, increased pest and disease outbreaks, and growing food price volatility—exacerbating poverty, malnutrition, and rural-urban migration.

CSA provides a strategic framework that enables Nigeria to transition from reactive crisis management to proactive, risk-informed planning. It is built on three interlinked pillars: (i) sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes, (ii) adapting and building resilience to climate change, and (iii) reducing or removing greenhouse gas emissions where possible. The emphasis will be on adaptation and resilience, especially for smallholder farmers, women, youth, and pastoralist communities who are on the frontlines of climate vulnerability.

In operational terms, prioritizing CSA under the NASIP entails scaling up the use of drought-tolerant and early-maturing crop varieties; expanding small- and large-scale irrigation infrastructure; adopting conservation agriculture and agroforestry systems; improving soil health management; strengthening climate-resilient livestock systems; and integrating weather-indexed insurance and early warning systems. It also involves institutional capacity building, climate-informed agricultural extension, and investment in digital tools to enable farmers to make real-time, climate-smart decisions.

CSA further aligns Nigeria with its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and regional frameworks such as the ECOWAS Climate Strategy. Integrating CSA into the NASIP enhances Nigeria's credibility in attracting climate finance, green investments, and

donor support while laying the foundation for inclusive and sustainable food systems transformation.

By embedding CSA into the NASIP's design, implementation, and monitoring frameworks, the government ensures that agricultural development is climate-resilient, environmentally sustainable, and economically inclusive—securing food and nutrition for current and future generations.

2.2.3 Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Economic Growth

Poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth are foundational to the success and sustainability of Nigeria's National Agrifood Systems Investment Plan (NASIP). With over 60% of the population directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods—and with rural poverty rates significantly higher than urban averages—the agricultural sector presents the most viable pathway for driving broad-based economic transformation, reducing inequality, and fostering social stability. Nigeria's rural economy is characterised by high levels of underemployment, low productivity, and limited access to markets, finance, and infrastructure. These conditions not only entrench poverty but also stifle the potential of millions of women, youth, and vulnerable groups who are critical to the future of food systems.

Making poverty reduction and inclusive growth central to NASIP means deliberately targeting investments and policies that uplift marginalised populations, especially smallholder farmers, landless labourers, pastoralists, and rural entrepreneurs. This includes supporting equitable access to productive assets (land, inputs, and finance), improving rural infrastructure (roads, storage, ICT infrastructure), strengthening inclusive value chains, and promoting decent rural employment through agribusiness incubation and vocational training. Given the large yield gaps that exist for many staple crops, this will require support particularly for short-run productivity drivers such as extension, improved supply of inputs and irrigation which have the potential to rapidly improve yields and consequently incomes within a short period (Nwafor et al, 2025). A large part of the budget of the NASIP will therefore need to be devoted to these short term productivity drivers. Gender-responsive and youth-targeted interventions will also be key to unlocking Nigeria's demographic dividend, as women and youth constitute the majority of the agricultural workforce but remain structurally excluded from decision-making and benefits.

Moreover, inclusive economic growth in agriculture has proven to be two to four times more effective in reducing poverty than growth in other sectors, according to global evidence. Prioritising this in NASIP will also contribute to achieving several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). It will also support Nigeria's medium-term development strategies, such as the National Development Plan (2021–2025), and align with the African Union's

Kampala Declaration on **Building Resilient and Sustainable Agri-food Systems in Africa**.

By embedding poverty reduction and inclusivity as cross-cutting priorities in the NASIP's design, implementation, and monitoring frameworks, Nigeria can ensure that the transition to sustainable agri-food systems delivers not only food and economic security but also social equity, resilience, and long-term national prosperity.

2.2.4 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups form a substantial part of Nigeria's agricultural labour force but often face systemic barriers that limit their access to land, finance, technology, training, and markets. These disparities not only constrain the productivity and income potential of these groups but also perpetuate cycles of poverty, food insecurity, and social inequality.

Incorporating Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) as a strategic priority in NASIP ensures that agricultural policies and investments promote equitable participation and benefit-sharing across all social groups. This includes closing gender gaps in land ownership and tenure security, expanding financial inclusion through tailored credit and insurance products, enhancing access to climate-smart technologies, and fostering leadership and decision-making roles for women and youth within agricultural institutions and cooperatives. Attention to social inclusion also means addressing the unique challenges faced by persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and vulnerable rural populations through context-sensitive interventions.

Beyond social justice, prioritizing GESI strengthens the overall resilience and productivity of Nigeria's food systems. Studies show that empowering women and inclusive community engagement leads to improved household nutrition, higher adoption of sustainable farming practices, and greater economic diversification. GESI-focused interventions thus contribute directly to multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).

Furthermore, aligning NASIP with Nigeria's National Gender Policy, the African Union's Gender Strategy, and international frameworks such as CEDAW ensures coherence, accountability, and access to gender-responsive financing. By mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion across all pillars of NASIP—from production and processing to marketing and governance—Nigeria can harness the full potential of its diverse population to achieve an inclusive, resilient, and prosperous agricultural sector.

Women play a central role in Nigerian agriculture, yet they continue to face systemic barriers to land ownership, credit, technology, and decision-making. NASIP will adopt a gender-responsive approach by integrating gender indicators across all

investment programmes, ensuring women's participation in value chains, and promoting female-led agribusinesses. Gender-disaggregated data will be used for planning and monitoring, and interventions will be designed to reduce women's unpaid care burden and support their access to productive resources.

2.2.5 Environmental Sustainability

Nigeria's agriculture sector depends heavily on natural resources such as land, water, and biodiversity, which are increasingly under threat from land degradation, deforestation, water scarcity, pollution, and climate change. Unsustainable farming practices, including excessive use of chemical inputs, poor soil management, and inappropriate irrigation techniques, contribute to the depletion of these vital resources, undermining food security and rural livelihoods.

Integrating environmental sustainability into NASIP ensures that agricultural development does not come at the expense of ecosystem health or future generations'ability to meet their own food needs. Sustainable land and water management practices, conservation agriculture, agroforestry, and the promotion of organic inputs help maintain soil fertility, improve water use efficiency, and enhance biodiversity. These approaches also contribute to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration, aligning Nigeria's agriculture sector with global climate commitments such as the Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Moreover, environmental sustainability in NASIP supports the preservation of ecosystem services critical to agriculture, including pollination, pest regulation, and water purification. It reduces vulnerability to environmental shocks like floods and droughts, which disproportionately affect smallholder farmers and marginalized communities. By fostering sustainable resource use, NASIP contributes to safeguarding Nigeria's natural capital, supporting rural livelihoods, and promoting resilience to climate change and other environmental stresses.

Finally, prioritizing environmental sustainability aligns NASIP with national policies such as the National Environmental Policy, the Nigeria Climate Change Policy, and international frameworks like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). Embedding environmental sustainability as a cross-cutting priority ensures that Nigeria's agricultural transformation pathway is both productive and sustainable, securing food systems that support economic growth while preserving the environment for future generations.

NASIP will promote environmentally sustainable agricultural practices to prevent land degradation, water pollution, deforestation, and loss of soil fertility. Investments will focus on the promotion of organic inputs, integrated pest management, renewable energy use in processing, sustainable livestock practices, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and strategic

environmental and social assessments (SESAs) will be integrated into all major projects.

2.2.6 Access to Affordable, Healthy Diets

Despite being a major food producer, Nigeria faces high levels of undernutrition and diet-related non-communicable diseases. Ensuring access to affordable, healthy diets is a fundamental strategic priority for Nigeria's National Agrifood Systems Investment Plan (NASIP) because it directly addresses the twin challenges of malnutrition and food insecurity that continue to undermine national development. Despite Nigeria's abundant agricultural potential, millions of Nigerians—especially children and vulnerable populations—suffer from undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and increasing rates of diet-related non-communicable diseases. These nutritional challenges are often rooted in limited availability, accessibility, and affordability of diverse, nutrient-rich foods, including fruits, vegetables, legumes, animal-source foods, and fortified products.

Prioritising access to affordable, healthy diets within NASIP requires a holistic approach that goes beyond increasing staple crop production and transforming food systems towards diversity, nutrition sensitivity, and equity. This involves supporting diversified production systems, strengthening value chains for nutritious foods, improving post-harvest storage and processing to reduce losses, and enhancing market access, especially for smallholder farmers and agro-entrepreneurs. It also entails promoting nutrition education and awareness to influence consumer choices and leveraging social protection mechanisms to enable vulnerable groups to access nutritious foods.

Integrating nutrition and health considerations into agricultural policy and investment helps break the cycle of malnutrition and poverty by improving cognitive development, school performance, workforce productivity, and reducing the burden of healthcare costs. Moreover, ensuring equitable access to healthy diets contributes to multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

By making access to affordable, healthy diets a core strategic priority, NASIP aligns Nigeria's agricultural transformation with broader national development objectives, including improved human capital and social equity. This prioritization fosters resilient food systems capable of meeting the nutritional needs of a growing population while promoting sustainable agricultural growth.

NASIP will support nutrition-sensitive agriculture by increasing the production and consumption of diverse, safe, and affordable foods—including fruits, vegetables, legumes, pulses, and animal-source foods. Food safety systems, market incentives for nutrient-rich crops, and public awareness campaigns on dietary diversity will be incorporated. This aligns with Nigeria's Agricultural Sector Food and Nutrition

Security Strategy (ASFNS) and the global agenda on transforming food systems for better nutrition outcomes.

By incorporating these strategic considerations and priorities into the NASIP framework, Nigeria can build a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agrifood system capable of addressing current challenges while positioning the sector for long-term transformation and prosperity.

2.2.7 Efficiency of Government Spending

While evidence points to a need to scale up government expenditure levels in order to support the achievement of larger impacts (Nwafor et al, 2025), there is also a need to ensure that the structure of government expenditure is such that it prioritizes areas that bring optimal returns in terms of outcomes. This is one way to improve the efficiency of spending such that for every Naira spent, optimal results are obtained. In this way, there would be better value for money for agriculture expenditure. This is even more important given the revenue shortfalls and fiscal deficits that Nigeria has been facing in recent years.

Evidence from FAO's recently developed Policy Optimization Tool (PolOpT) [2] indicates that the structure of government expenditure when optimized can significantly improve outcomes in the areas considered above – poverty, environment, job creation etc. In the framework of FAO's Monitoring and Analysing Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP) programme, this analytical innovation is allowing FAO to support policy makers in finding a *coherent way* to simultaneously make progress on six development objectives: (i) boosting agrifood output, (ii) generating off-farm jobs in rural areas, (iii) reducing rural poverty, (iv) making healthy diets more affordable, (v) reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agri-food production, and (vi) reducing deforestation. While objectives 1 to 4 are the traditional food and nutrition security objectives, objectives 5 and 6 are primarily environmental objectives which make food and agriculture production more sustainable.

The *coherent way* to make progress in ensuring that public expenditure best fosters food and nutrition security is found by the PolOpT tool through optimal re-allocations and execution of public spending across policy priority areas that target agriculture sub-sectors. These priority areas include fertilizer and seed subsidies, the provision of extension and training services, mechanization, research and development, and

[2] In essence, **PolOpT** combines multicriteria decision-making (MCDM) techniques with a recursive-dynamic computable general equilibrium (CGE) model, which together allow for the optimization of policies and investments to pursue several policy objectives under a set of economy-wide constraints given by the CGE model. The tool finds its theoretical underpinnings and first country application in Sánchez and Cicowiez (2022) and Sánchez and Cicowiez (2023). More information on the PolOpT can be found in FAO (2025a).

different public investments in infrastructure, including irrigation, rural electrification, and rural roads. For the purpose of supporting the development of the NAIP, the PolOpT was applied to Nigeria for the period 2025 to 2035. The findings highlight the pathways through which agri-food led growth can drive inclusive and sustainable poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, while also informing optimal policy and investment adjustments for maximizing long-term sectoral impact. With the aid of the PolOpT, ensuring improved efficiency of government spending is a key consideration of the NASIP.

Findings using the PolOpT indicate that more focus will be needed on fertilizer and extension and training funding, while less will be needed on rural electrification and rural roads compared to the existing structure of the government's budget in both the short and medium term (Figures 2.1 and 2.2). Similarly, more expenditure would be needed on fruits, vegetables and legumes while less will be needed on cereals, other crops and livestock in both the short and medium term (Figures 2.3 and 2.4).

With this package of expenditures, the achievement of the 6 development objectives is optimally achieved in the second scenario such that about 200,000 are lifted out of poverty and about 1.3 million people are able to afford a healthy diet by 2030 compared to a situation where the current expenditure prioritization is maintained (see Table 2.2 below). In addition, GHG emissions are reduced compared to scenarios where only traditional poverty and food security objectives (the first 4 objectives) are prioritized. Finally, land use in agriculture is reduced – implying reduced deforestation.

The consideration of environmental objectives in the design of possible expenditure structures for the NAIP is a novel approach that has not been used in Nigeria and most African countries in the past. Altogether, the PolOpT analysis shows how a given budget can be allocated to obtain optimal results across different important development domains even without increasing the budget. If the budget were to be increased, larger results could be achieved. Importantly, the prospective scenarios presented below show optimal ways of allocating public budgets to get better results, which are different from the current allocation, suggesting that budget allocations are currently suboptimal and there is scope to increase their returns.

Table 2.2: Outcomes from Optimizing Agriculture Expenditure (Compared to Present Trends Results)

	Traditional poverty and food security objectives *weights = 1/4 for each of the 4 policy objectives*			**Traditional poverty and food security objectives + environmental objectives** *weights = 1/6 for each of the policy objectives*		
Indicator	2026	2030	2035	2026	2030	2035
Agr GDP (% deviation)	0.678	0.522	0.547	0.628	0.467	0.507
Agrifood GDP (% deviation)	0.611	0.468	0.490	0.558	0.415	0.454
Total GDP (% deviation)	0.252	0.178	0.172	0.231	0.158	0.160
Employment (number of employed individuals)						
Nation	72,538	52,837	51,882	66,398	46,755	48,284
Rural	16,413	13,621	16,238	15,595	12,554	15,590
Rural on-farm	-135,644	-93,032	-79,146	-113,727	-76,638	-69,774
Rural off-farm	152,057	106,653	95,384	129,323	89,192	85,364
Urban	56,125	39,216	35,645	50,802	34,201	32,693
Poverty (number of individuals below the national poverty line)						
Nation	-349,310	-254,890	-238,180	-319,789	-223,964	-217,553
Rural	-156,635	-94,674	-72,872	-143,789	-82,320	-65,493
Urban	-192,676	-160,216	-165,308	-176,000	-141,644	-152,060
Affordability (number of individuals that cannot afford the least-cost diet)						
Nation	-1,579,856	-1,126,697	-1,094,556	-1,786,916	-1,261,041	-1,186,531
Rural	-693,646	-479,644	-447,997	-800,702	-551,009	-496,364
Urban	-886,211	-647,052	-646,558	-986,214	-710,032	-690,167
GHG Emissions (% deviation)	0.134	0.064	0.043	0.113	0.047	0.033
Land Used in Agriculture (% deviation)	-0.442	-0.280	-0.228	-0.400	-0.239	-0.199

Source: FAO's Monitoring and Analysing Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP) programme based on scenarios generated with PolOpT (May 2025)

Figure 2.1: Change in budget allocation by policy support measure in 2026 (percent point deviation from base)

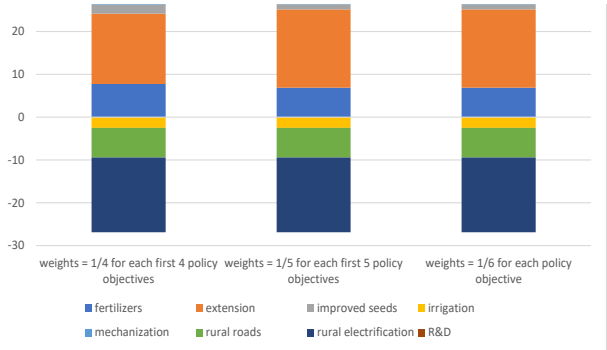


Figure 2.2: Change in budget allocation by policy support measure in 2035 (percent

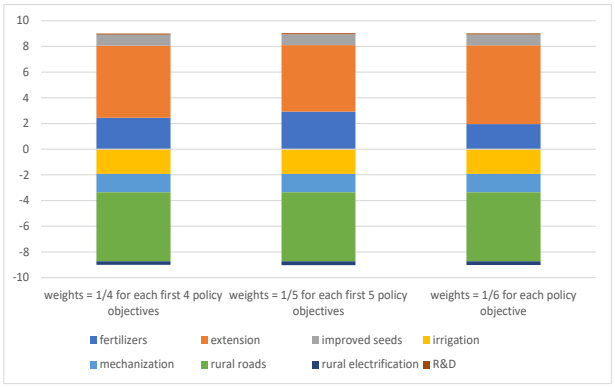
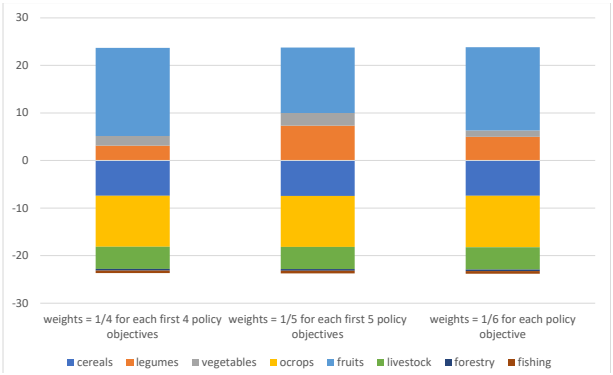


Figure 2.3: Change in budget allocation by broad commodity in 2026 (percent point deviation from base)

Figure 2.4: Change in budget allocation by broad commodity in 2035 (percent point



Source: FAO's Monitoring and Analysing Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP) programme based on scenarios generated with PolOpT (May 2025)

2.2.8 Promoting Macroeconomic stability through increased Agric-exports Revenue

The country has recently faced severe challenges partly induced by the devaluation of the currency. In the long term, stemming significant depreciation of the local currency will be more feasible with stronger total exports which bring in foreign exchange. In this regard export crops can play a significant role if adequately supported. Unfortunately, the performance of key export commodities such as Cashew and Cocoa has not been strong with output levels declining considerably between 2005 and 2025 and yields also declining (Nwafor et al, 2025). There has been limited policy support to these key commodities in recent years (Nwafor et al, 2025). It is therefore necessary to use the NASIP as an opportunity to strengthen support to these 2 export commodities as well as other key exports as a means of improving overall macroeconomic stability in the country. Among actions that need to

be taken are the development of a cashew value chain strategy and the elimination of double taxation for export commodities (Nwafor et al, 2025).

2.3. Long-Term Goals and Expected Impacts of the NASIP

The National Agri-food Systems Investment Plan (NASIP) sets a transformative agenda for Nigeria's agri-food systems, aiming to significantly reduce poverty and enhance food and nutrition security through targeted investments, productivity increases, and structural reforms. This section outlines the long-term goals and expected impacts of the plan guided by national and international policies and initiatives as well as the strategic considerations discussed above.

2.3.1 Halve Poverty by 2030 (from over 63% of Nigerians Multidimensionally Poor in 2022)

NBS estimates that 63 percent (NBS, 2022) of Nigerians were multidimensionally poor in 2022. Thus, reducing poverty to below 30% represents a transformative ambition for Nigeria's socio-economic development. Given that a significant portion of the population relies on agriculture for livelihood, NASIP aims to implement inclusive growth strategies that improve productivity, increase incomes, and enhance access to markets and financial services. This poverty reduction will be driven by optimizing public investments that should target interventions for smallholder farmers, rural entrepreneurs, women, and youth, ensuring that marginalised groups are empowered to participate fully in the agricultural economy. This will also contribute to national stability and improved living standards.

Key Actions:

- Optimize the allocation of public expenditures across priority areas in the agri-food sector for rural poverty reduction
- Implement targeted poverty alleviation programs focused on smallholder farmers and rural households.
- Expand access to affordable credit, insurance, and financial literacy programs.
- Promote diversification of rural incomes through agro-processing, rural enterprises, and value addition.
- Strengthen social protection schemes linked to agricultural productivity.

Stakeholders: Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, National Social Investment Programmes, Financial Institutions, NGOs.

Indicators:

- Poverty rate among rural households.
- Number of farmers and rural entrepreneurs accessing finance.
- Increase in average rural household income.

2.3.2 Achieve Zero Hunger and Improved Food Security through Increased Domestic Production and Reduced Food Import dependency

NASIP envisions a Nigeria where food availability and access are guaranteed for all citizens. By boosting domestic agricultural production through improved inputs, extension services, infrastructure, and technology adoption, Nigeria can significantly reduce its reliance on food imports, which pose economic and food security risks. Increasing local production of staples and nutrient-rich foods will help address chronic hunger, reduce food price volatility, and enhance national food sovereignty.

Key Actions:

- Boost productivity in agriculture
- Increase investments in high-yield, climate-resilient crop varieties and livestock breeds.
- Expand irrigation infrastructure to reduce dependence on rain-fed agriculture.
- Enhance extension services to disseminate best practices on production, storage, and pest management.
- Strengthen early warning systems and food reserve mechanisms.

Stakeholders: Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Institutes, Water Resources Ministry, FAO, Local Governments.

Indicators:

- Food production volumes for staples and nutrient-rich crops.
- Reduction in food import volumes and expenditure.
- Prevalence of undernourishment and food insecurity rates.

2.3.3 Boost Agri-food GDP Growth to At Least 3% Annually

Sustained agri-food GDP growth is crucial to driving overall economic growth, employment, and poverty reduction. The Covid pandemic and other challenges caused agriculture growth rate to decline to 1.7% per annum in the last 5 years. A key target of the NASIP is to bring growth back to at least the pre-covid rate of 3% per annum while the food processing sector will be supported to grow above recent performance. NASIP seeks to modernise the agri-food sector by promoting innovation, mechanisation, irrigation, and high-value crop, livestock and fisheries production and processing. This growth will be supported by improved value chains, market linkages, and the facilitation of private sector investment. Achieving this growth rate will help diversify the economy and strengthen Nigeria’s position in regional and global agricultural markets.

Key Actions:

- Boost total factor productivity
- Promote mechanisation and adoption of modern agricultural technologies.
- Develop and rehabilitate rural infrastructure such as roads, storage facilities, and markets.
- Optimize the allocation of public expenditures across priority areas with the highest productivity gains to boost agri-food output

- Facilitate access to inputs (fertilisers, seeds, agrochemicals) through subsidy reforms and private sector partnerships.
- Encourage research and innovation in high-value and export-oriented agriculture.

Stakeholders: Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Private Sector, Research Institutions.

Indicators:

- Annual growth rate of agri-food GDP.
- Mechanisation levels among small and medium-scale farms.
- Volume and value of agricultural exports.

2.3.4 Increase the Share of Agri-food sector in Job Creation, Especially for Youth and Women

Youth unemployment and underemployment are major challenges in Nigeria, and the agri-food sector offers vast untapped potential for generating decent and inclusive jobs. NASIP prioritises creating opportunities along the entire agri-food value chain, from production to processing, logistics, and marketing. By focusing on skill development, entrepreneurship, access to finance, and technology adoption, NASIP aims to make agriculture an attractive and viable career path, especially for young people and women, thereby harnessing the country's demographic dividend.

Key Actions:

- Develop youth and women-focused agricultural training and entrepreneurship programs.
- Support access to land and financial services specifically for women and youth.
- Foster agribusiness incubation hubs and digital platforms for market access.
- Promote gender-responsive policies and frameworks in agricultural governance.

Stakeholders: Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Women Affairs, Private Sector, NGOs.

Indicators:

- Number of youth and women employed or engaged in agriculture.
- Number of agribusiness start-ups led by youth/women.
- Access to land and credit by gender and age.

2.3.5 Expand Access to Affordable, Healthy Diets, with a Focus on Underserved Rural Populations

Access to nutritious food is fundamental to human development and productivity. NASIP aims to enhance the availability and affordability of diverse, nutrient-rich foods—such as fruits, vegetables, legumes, and animal-source products—especially

in rural areas where food insecurity and malnutrition rates are highest. This goal involves transforming food systems to be more nutrition-sensitive by promoting diversified production, reducing post-harvest losses, improving food safety, and raising awareness about healthy diets.

Key Actions:

- Optimize the allocation of public expenditures across priority areas in the agri-food sector to produce more and reduce the cost of diverse nutritious foods that constitute a healthy diet
- Support production and value chains of diverse, nutrient-rich foods (fruits, vegetables, legumes, animal-source foods).
- Invest in cold storage, food processing, and distribution infrastructure.
- Implement nutrition education campaigns targeting rural and vulnerable populations.
- Integrate nutrition objectives into agricultural policies and programs.

Stakeholders: Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Education, Food Industry, Civil Society Organisations.
Indicators:

- Availability and affordability of nutritious foods in rural markets.
- Rates of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.
- Household dietary diversity scores.

2.3.6 Promote Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Practices in Agriculture

Climate change poses significant risks to Nigeria's agriculture, threatening productivity and food security. NASIP prioritises integrating climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land and water management, agroforestry, and conservation practices to build resilience across farming systems. These efforts aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance carbon sequestration, protect natural resources, and prepare farmers to better cope with climate variability and extreme weather events.

Key Actions:

- Scale up climate-smart agriculture practices, including agroforestry, conservation agriculture, and water-efficient irrigation.
- Strengthen farmers access to weather and climate information services.
- Promote sustainable land and water resource management policies.
- Facilitate access to climate finance and carbon markets.
- Optimize the allocation of public expenditures across priority areas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agri-food production

Stakeholders: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change Agencies, Research Institutions, Farmers' Organisations.
Indicators:

- Adoption rates of climate-smart agricultural practices.
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from agrifood production.
- Improved resilience metrics (crop/livestock loss reduction during climate events).

2.3.7. Improve Forestry Resources and Protect Biodiversity in the Agri-Food System

Nigeria is endowed with huge forest resources and biodiversity which play vital roles in the economic, ecology and social lives of the people. The forestry and biodiversity resources of the country is spread across over five main distinct ecological zones:- the Freshwater/Mangrove, the Lowland Rainforest, the Derived Savanna, the Guinea Savanna and the Sudan/Sahel Ecological Zones. Despite the vast resources, a substantial part of the forests have been deforested and degraded. Out of 10 percent of Nigeria's land area of 923,767 km^2, which was designated as forest reserves and conservation areas, less than six percent are remaining due to deforestation and forestland degradation, climate change phenomena, infrastructural development and other anthropogenic factors including illegal encroachment (FME, 2019).

Strategic Importance

The forest and biodiversity resources are critical for:

- Rural development, employment generation, livelihoods sustenance especially food security and medicines, poverty alleviation and good governance.
- Ecosystem services and environmental regulation including climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Maintenance of cultural and aesthetics values and ecotourism.

Key Strategic Focus Areas

In line with the National Forest Policy, the key strategic focus areas are as follows:

- Increase, maintain and enhance the national forest estate through sustainable forest management practices.
- Carry out reforestation of degraded forest reserves and tackle the main causes of deforestation, forestland degradation and desertification.
- Enhance private sector investment in forestry development and forest products value chain, and encourage public- private partnerships.
- Enhance the development of urban forestry.
- Ensure sustainable wildlife resources management, biodiversity conservation and environmental services of forests including carbon sequestration, and water and soil biodiversity conservation.
- Implement REDD+ strategy to enhance investment in forests and the development of offset projects for the voluntary carbon market.

- Develop capacity and institutions for the effective stakeholders participation in forest resources management, research and development at all levels.
- Enhance community-based forest management by ensuring the participation of NGOs and CBOs in sustainable forest management.

2.3.8 Leverage Private Sector Investment and Improve Value Chains for Priority Commodities

Private sector engagement is essential for scaling agricultural innovations, improving infrastructure, and ensuring market efficiency. NASIP seeks to create an enabling environment that attracts domestic and foreign investments in agriculture through policy reforms, risk mitigation instruments, and public-private partnerships. By strengthening value chains for priority commodities in the crop[3], livestock, fishery[4] and forestry sub-sectors, NASIP will enhance product quality, reduce post-harvest losses, and increase farmers'incomes.

Key Actions:

- Create enabling policy and regulatory environments to attract investment in agriculture.
- Develop public-private partnerships for infrastructure and innovation.
- Facilitate access to credit and risk mitigation instruments for agribusinesses.
- Strengthen market information systems and value chain coordination.

Stakeholders: Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock, Ministry of Marine and Blue economy, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Trade and Investment, Private Sector Associations, Financial Institutions.
Indicators:

- Volume of private sector investment in agriculture.
- Number of functional agribusiness partnerships and cooperatives.
- Reduction in post-harvest losses and increased value addition.

2.4 Required Growth Rates

2.4.1 Agri-food Sector

The agri-food sector remains central to Nigeria's economic transformation agenda, serving as a key engine for poverty reduction, food security, employment creation, and inclusive growth. To meet the goals outlined in the National Agrifood Systems Investment Plan (NASIP), agricultural sub-sector targets an improvement of growth rate to pre-covid levels, with an ambition to improve on this from 2028. As is well

[3] In the crops sub-sector, priority commodities identified in the NATIP are maize, sorghum, rice, wheat, cassava, sesame, tomatoes, yam, cowpea, soybeans, cocoa, palm oil, hibiscus, cashew, potatoes, cotton, ginger, groundnuts and sugar cane.

[4] Tilapia and Catfish are top priorities in the fisheries sub-sector

known, the Covid pandemic had a strong impact on growth and the country has slowly been recovering from this. As such, achieving pre-covid growth rates in the next few years can be seen as a launching pad for much higher growth as successes are consolidated on. An overall growth of 3.2% is targeted for the agri-food as well as agriculture sector in the NASIP period of 2026 – 2027 (Table 2.3).

Table 2.3: Agri-food Sector Growth Targets

	Pre-Covid growth (2015 – 2019)	2020 – 2024	NASIP Target (2026 - 2027)
Agriculture	3.2	1.7	3.2
Crop Production	3.2	2	3.2
Livestock	2.2	-2.0	2.2
Forestry	3.0	1.8	3.0
Fishing	2.3	0.0	2.3
Food Beverage and Tobacco manufacturing	-0.8	3.3	3.5*
Agri-food	2.5	1.9	3.2

*The Pre-covid growth rate for the food manufacturing was poor so a target close to the present 3.3% growth rate is aimed at.

Key Strategic Objectives:

1. Lift Millions Out of Poverty—Particularly the Rural Poor

Over 70% of Nigeria's poor live in rural areas where agriculture is the dominant source of income. By scaling up investments in smallholder agriculture, improving rural infrastructure, and expanding access to finance, markets, and extension services, NASIP aims to empower millions of rural households. This will not only increase their productivity and incomes but also build resilient rural economies that can sustainably reduce poverty.

2. Achieve Productivity Growth Across Key Value Chains

Improving productivity across priority commodities—such as rice, maize, cassava, sorghum, soybeans, livestock, poultry, Tilapia and catfish—is essential for achieving national food security and competitiveness. NASIP promotes the adoption of improved seed varieties, livestock breeds and fish species, expansion of input distribution systems, and strengthening of agricultural research and development. By focusing on strategic value chains, Nigeria can also reduce post-harvest losses, enhance value addition, and expand export opportunities.

3. Improve Food Availability and Stabilize Prices

Enhancing food production and market efficiency will lead to improved food availability and affordability for Nigerian households. NASIP targets increased

investment in storage, transportation, and distribution infrastructure to reduce seasonal volatility and price shocks. Strengthening local food systems also reduces Nigeria's dependence on food imports and exposure to global supply disruptions, ensuring a more stable and secure domestic food supply.

4. Enable Sector Transformation Through Mechanisation, Irrigation, Inputs, and Climate-Smart Practices

Modernising agriculture is a core component of NASIP's strategy. This includes:

- Mechanisation: Expanding access to affordable tractors, processing equipment, and digital tools to reduce labour intensity and increase efficiency.
- Irrigation: Scaling up small and large-scale irrigation infrastructure to reduce reliance on rain-fed agriculture and increase cropping intensity.
- Inputs: Ensuring the availability and affordability of quality inputs—fertilisers, seeds, and agrochemicals—through private sector-led systems and targeted subsidy reforms.
- Climate-Smart Agriculture: Promoting practices that build resilience, reduce emissions, and protect natural resources, such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, integrated pest management, and soil health enhancement.

Through these strategic focus areas, NASIP envisions an agriculture sector that is productive, resilient, inclusive, and market-driven - capable of ensuring national food security, creating jobs, and driving Nigeria's economic transformation.

If NASIP is implemented successfully and targets are met, the agri-food sector would reflect:

- Diverse, competitive, and inclusive value chains, with strong SME and cooperative participation.
- Widespread use of climate-smart technologies, such as drought-tolerant seeds and precision farming tools.
- Efficient food markets, reducing post-harvest losses and consumer prices.
- Expanded rural infrastructure (roads, storage, irrigation).
- Gender and youth empowerment through targeted finance, training, and entrepreneurship programs.
- Nutrition-sensitive agriculture, integrating production with dietary diversity and health outcomes.
- Increased private **investment**, catalysed by supportive policies and de-risking mechanisms.

2.4.2 Non-Agriculture Sector in the NASIP

While agriculture forms the backbone of Nigeria's food systems, the non-agriculture sector—comprising industries and services linked to agriculture—plays a vital complementary role in driving value addition, employment, and inclusive economic growth. NASIP targets a minimum growth rate of **3.5% per annum** in this sector to

encourage broader development outcomes beyond farm productivity and fast-track growth in these areas which have lagged behind for a long period now.

Strategic Importance

The non-agriculture sector is critical for:

- Creating rural and urban jobs beyond the farm.
- Enhancing market efficiency and reducing post-harvest losses.
- Driving rural transformation and economic diversification.

Key Strategic Focus Areas

i. Create Off-Farm Jobs: Logistics, Processing, Marketing

As agricultural productivity rises, off-farm job creation becomes essential for absorbing surplus labour, especially youth and women.

Key actions include:

- Optimize the allocation of public expenditures across priority areas to ensure higher employment creation off-farm in rural areas where due to productivity gains that boost agri-food output, there may be a lower need to employ people in primary agriculture;
- Developing agro-logistics services: Transportation, warehousing, cold chains;
- Expanding agro-processing enterprises: Local value addition for staples, livestock, fishery and perishable commodities;
- Building rural service ecosystems: Input suppliers, repair shops, packaging, and market agents.

Impact: Strengthened rural economies, reduced youth unemployment, and expanded SME growth.

ii. Strengthen Rural–Urban Linkages

Efficient rural–urban connectivity is critical for linking farmers to markets, consumers to food, and businesses to supply chains. Strategic investments will focus on:

- Infrastructure: Feeder roads, storage hubs, and digital connectivity.
- Market systems: Strengthening wholesale and retail markets for local and regional trade.
- ICT solutions: Mobile platforms for input delivery, price information, and e-commerce.

Impact: Reduced food losses, increased incomes, and better price transmission from farm to fork.

iii. Drive Industrialisation Around Agro-Processing and Exports

To maximise agriculture's economic potential, Nigeria must transition from raw commodity exports to value-added agro-industrial products. NASIP will:

- Promote agro processing zones which involve clustering of enterprises and providing adequate infrastructure for them for high quality and price competitive processing and packaging

- Support SMEs and large-scale processors through access to finance, energy, and technology.
- Strengthen quality control and standards to access high-value export markets.

Impact: Enhanced foreign exchange earnings, industrial development, and food systems transformation.

Success Indicators

- Annual growth rate of at least 3.5% in **agro-related manufacturing and services**.
- Number of off-farm jobs created in processing, logistics, and marketing.
- Volume/value of value-added exports and domestic processed goods.
- Reduction in post-harvest losses and improved market efficiency.

By integrating the non-agriculture sector into NASIP's framework, Nigeria can build a resilient, inclusive, and diversified economy that leverages the full spectrum of its agrifood system—from the farm to the factory to the fork.

CHAPTER THREE: PROGRAMS OF THE NASIP

3.1 Program Components of the NASIP

The National Agri-food Systems Investment Plan (NASIP) will be operationalised through a suite of thematic, and integrated programs that align closely with the strategic priorities and implementation strategies of the National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Policy (NATIP) (FMARD, 2022), the priority focus of the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS, 2023), priority areas from the National Livestock Growth Acceleration Strategy and the National Policy on Marine and Blue Economy, as well as diagnostic findings from the previous chapter. Each program directly addresses critical cross-cutting national, regional, and global development goals, particularly in climate resilience, forest and biodiversity preservation, gender equality, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, and access to affordable, and nutritious diets. The programs include:

1. Institutional Development, Knowledge Creation, and Transfer;
2. Expansion of Crop, Livestock and Fisheries production, Value Chain Development, and Export Promotion;
3. Digital and Climate-Smart Agriculture;
4. Investment in Short-Term Productivity Drivers;
5. Finance, Marketing and Insurance;
6. Sustainable Land, Water, and Biodiversity Management; and
7. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion.

Table 3.1 shows the programs, their objectives, targets/activities, outcomes, key actors and the Kampala commitment (and associated actions) with which they align.

Table 3.1: NASIP Programs

3.1.1 Program 1: Institutional Development, Knowledge Creation and Transfer

Objectives	Activities/Targets	Outcomes	Key Actors	Kampala Alignment
1. Establish new national gene bank facilities for crops, livestock and fisheries	1. Establish two gene bank facilities, each for crop, livestock and fisheries.	1) Genetic resources conserved and food security enhanced. 2) Enhanced national capacity for agricultural innovation and technology transfer 3) A stronger legal and institutional environment for private sector engagement 4) Evidence-informed policy development 5) Increased productivity and output and food security.	FMAFS,FMLD, FMMBE, ARCN, NARS, NADF, National Assembly, FMF, FMSTI, State Ministries, Private Sector	Commitments 2 (actions b and c), 5 (action c) and 6 (action b)
2. Reform the national agricultural research system (NARS).	2. Research and conservation of neglected and underutilized crop species are enhanced. 3. Two embryo transfer and artificial insemination centres established. 4. National coordinated research projects implemented 5. Generation and management of agricultural research data by NARS increased. 6. Research on topical issues of current national importance in crop, livestock and fisheries conducted in NARS for evidence-informed policy and action. 7. Set up world-class, accredited laboratories in			

	agricultural research institutes.
	8. Strengthen the coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation capacity of FMAFS, FMLD, FMMBE and ARCN.
	9. Develop and enhance the capacity of the management of agriculture research institutions.
	10. Strengthen research, farmers, industry and input linkages.
3. Review and update all laws and regulations relating to agriculture.	11. Agricultural-related laws and regulations reviewed to facilitate their enactment to enhance farmers' income and livelihoods, and private sector participation.
4. Enhance and facilitate the take-off of the National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF)	12. Mobilize the private sector and development banks and strengthen the institutional framework for effective utilization of the NADF.
5. Reform of government agricultural institutions to effectively carry	13. Establish a partnership mechanism for project execution between the three tiers of government.

out their mandates.

3.1.2 Program 2: Expansion of Crop, Livestock and Fisheries Production and Value Chain and Export Promotion

Goal/Objective	Activities	Outcomes	Key Actors	Kampala Alignment
1. **Strengthen and expand production clusters of food security crops;** **yam, cassava, maize etc**	1. Fast track the establishment of Agro processing zones with adequate infrastructure in each geopolitical zone and contribute to the reduction of post-harvest loses by 40% 2. Increase production by 30% through improved inputs and mechanisation. 3. Reform/re-introduce secondary school farms in collaboration with States.	1. Improved food and nutrition security 2. Increased productivity, jobs, rural incomes and export earnings 3. Better access to climate-resilient and market-responsive production systems 4. Increased national self-sufficiency in staple cereals	FMAFS, NEPC, FMITI, NIRSAL, FMLD, FMMBE, Value Chain Actors, Exporters, State Ministries, Farmers' Organizations	Commitment 1 (actions c and f), Commitment 3 (actions a – e, f – g), commitment 4 (action a and d), commitment 6 (action a).
2. Expand and Strengthen export crop value chain	4. Rehabilitate 150,000 ha of cocoa and cashew plantations. 5. Train farmers on GAP and certification. 6. Facilitate traceability and access to export markets.			

3. Promote urban agriculture.	7. Establish urban community farms.	and enhanced export competitiveness, leading to improved farmer incomes and reduced import dependency
	8. Disseminate urban agriculture kits to households.	
	9. Integrate urban agriculture into city planning in 10 locations.	
	10. Build the capacity of youth and women in urban agri-tech.	5. Increased value addition and export earnings from cocoa and cashew, supporting non-oil revenue diversification and rural employment
4. Promote implementation of the National Livestock Growth Acceleration Strategy	11. Implement 10 pillars of National Livestock Growth Acceleration Strategy.	
	12. Support the development of private feed mills.	
	13. Establish 10 fodder banks and commercial feedlots.	
	14. Train livestock producers on pasture/feed systems.	6. Improved urban food security, nutrition, and livelihood opportunities through localized, space-efficient food production systems
5. Develop and implement the National Farmers' Soil Health Card Scheme	17. Issue 2 million soil health cards.	
	15. Establish or upgrade soil testing labs.	
	16. Train 10,000 extension workers on soil testing and advisory.	
6. Promote the adoption of renewable energy for improved production and	17. Facilitate the installation of 100,000 Solar streetlights in rural farming communities.	7. Reduced cost of livestock production and improved
	18. Facilitate the adoption of solar dryers and cold rooms.	

food supply.		productivity of the animal-source food sector through a sustainable national feed system		
7. Enhance agricultural mechanization across the country	19. Establish agricultural equipment hiring enterprise across the country.			
8. Ensure the creation of a sustainable and competitive tilapia value chain in Nigeria	20. Propagation and Implementation of the tilapia value chain development programme (TVC-DP)	8. Improved soil fertility and crop yields through data-driven, site-specific fertiliser use and better-informed land use practices.		
9. **Institutional support for improved nutrition in the country**	21. Strengthen National Nutrition Surveillance through implementation of Food System Transformation pathway			

3.1.3 Program 3: Digital and Climate Smart Agriculture

Goal/Objective	Activities	Outcomes	Key Actors	Kampala Alignment
1. Scale up the adoption of digital technologies and climate-smart practices for modern, resilient	1) Deployment of digital platforms for extension, input support, and monitoring.	1. Improved resilience to climate risks 2. More efficient, technology-driven farming systems	FMAFS, FMLD, FMMBE, NIMET, FMWR, NITDA, Telcos, FMEnv, NASRDA, Private AgriTech Firms, NGOs	Commitment 1 (action b), Commitment 5 (actions a, b, d and e)

agriculture.		3. Enhanced service delivery to farmers and agribusinesses 4. Updated CSA & digital agriculture implementation guidelines
2. Digitize and digitalize crop, livestock and fisheries production for increased productivity and output.	2) Digitize and digitalize the production of key crops (rice, maize, sorghum), livestock & livestock products) and fisheries & fisheries products	5. Increased number of hectares of rice and other priority crops under digital farming.
3. Expansion of digital agricultural platforms for advisory, weather forecasting, and market information.	3) Integration of early warning systems and weather tools	6. 6 hubs operational with labs, training centres, and demo farms
	4) Promotion of e-agriculture platforms and data-driven farming	7. 2 million farmers adopting CSA practices
	5) Review and update policies to integrate CSA and digital agriculture at the federal and state levels	8. 5 million farmers receiving digital advisories
	6) Establish Digital Agriculture Innovation Hubs in each geopolitical zone	9. 500,000 ha under precision farming

	7) Scale up adoption of CSA practices (drought-tolerant seeds, water harvesting, agroforestry, conservation agriculture, recirculatory aquaculture systems, cage culture systems and climate smart livestock production system)	10. 100,000 actors trained (40% women, 50% youth) 11. ₦50 billion mobilized for innovation and farmer support 12. Real-time MEL platform in use at national and subnational levels
	8) Promote the use of GPS-enabled tools, drones, IoT sensors, and satellite data	
	9) Establish a CSA & Digital AgriTech Fund with blended finance	
	10) Develop digital dashboards and tools for tracking adoption and impact	
4. Capacity-building for farmers and extension workers on digital tools and CSA techniques.	11) Train extension agents, cooperative leaders, youth, and women farmers on CSA and digital tools	

3.1.4 Program 4: Investment in Short-Term Productivity Drivers.

Goal/Objective	Activities	Outcomes	Key Actors	Kampala Alignment
1. Improve access to irrigation to drive productivity growth	1. Rehabilitated and expanded irrigation infrastructure 2. Promote small-scale irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and drip irrigation systems 3. Expand public and PPP-led irrigation schemes to cover an additional 100,000 ha. 4. Promote private-sector-led irrigation models for small and medium-scale farms. 5. Provide 871 Nos motorized/solar powered boreholes for increased portable water access to 174 LGA agricultural clusters.	1. Improved national food and nutrition security through yield increases and production stability 2. Enhanced farmer access to knowledge, technologies, timely, affordable, and quality inputs 3. Reduced seasonal yield variability	FMAFS, RBDAs, State Ministries of Agriculture, ADPs, NASC, NSPRI, NALDA, NIRSAL, Extension Officers' Association, NIRSAL Microfinance Bank, Input Suppliers, FAO, IFAD, World Bank	Commitment 1 (action a), Commitment 3 (action b), Commitment 4 (actions b and c), Commitment 5 (action a)
2. Increase agricultural productivity and resilience by improving access to quality farm inputs	6. Strengthened national input delivery system- establish an agro-input distribution, monitoring and coordinating office in each geopolitical zone. 7. Procure and distribute certified seeds and fertilisers to 2 million smallholders 8. Establish a digital input distribution and subsidy	4. A revitalized, digitally enabled and farmer-centered extension system. 5. Expanded irrigated area contributing to		

	tracking platform nationwide.	resilience and all-year-round production.
	9. Input support for artisanal fishermen; provision of 12,500 Dugout, fibre glass and wooden canes with outboard engine, fishing nets, floats and weighing scales for 12,500 fishermen Nationwide.	
	Establishment of reference fertilizer and agrochemical laboratory in the six geopolitical zones and Abuja.	
3. Promote and develop performance based and digital agricultural extension system	10. Revitalised agricultural extension architecture	
	11. Recruit and deploy 10,000 new extension agents under a national revitalisation scheme	
	12. Build 500 farmer field schools for extension outreach and demonstrations	
	13. Institutionalise performance-based extension delivery through digital M&E tools.	
	14. Integrate climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive extension content across all zones	

3.1.5 Program 5: Finance, Marketing and Insurance

Goal/Objective	Activities	Outcomes	Key Actors	Kampala Alignment
1. Expand access to affordable and tailored agricultural finance to improve production	1. Scaled-up agricultural credit schemes 2. Develop and promote crop, livestock, fisheries and value chain finance products 3. Develop and scale mobile banking, digital wallets, and fintech solutions 4. Train farmers and agribusinesses on financial management and credit use 5. Facilitate PPPs to leverage private sector investment in agri-finance 6. Operationalise an Agri-Fintech platform to link farmers to credit, markets, and insurance 7. Launch national agricultural value chain financing frameworks with major banks 8. Institutionalise warehouse receipt systems in all geo-	1. Improved financial inclusion and de-risked investments in agriculture. 2. Increased access to structured, transparent, and profitable markets for producers. 3. Enhanced farmer resilience to shocks through wider insurance adoption. 4. Strengthened agribusiness ecosystems through finance-market-insurance linkages. 5. Improved rural financial	FMAFS, CBN, BOA, NIRSAL, NAIC, NADF, SEC, FMITI, FMF, Nigerian Commodities Exchange, Apex Banks, State Ministries of Agriculture, Agri-Fintech Startups, Farmers' Cooperatives, Development Partners (e.g., IFAD, AfDB, GIZ)	Commitment 1 (action e), Commitment 2 (actions a and d), Commitment 3 (action h), Commitment 4 (action c)

	political zones.	inclusion
	9. Scale up blended finance schemes for youth- and women-led agribusinesses.	6. Improved institutional service delivery and product innovation
2. Expand access to structured markets to improve market participation for farmers and agribusinesses.	10. Establish commodity aggregation and trading platforms. 11. Construct 1,161km rural feeder roads as supportive infrastructure for the transportation, logistics and marketing of agricultural produce at 387 LGAs farm clusters 12. Establish agricultural marketing incubation centres (Agricultural Development Centres) for youth and women in six geopolitical zones.	7. Increased PPP initiatives and financing flows; farmers and agribusinesses with improved credit access
3. Expand insurance coverage to reduce risk and improve market participation for farmers and agribusinesses.	13. Expanded index-based agricultural insurance coverage 14. Design and implement affordable and accessible insurance products 15. Support and Promote weather-index insurance linked to climate data	

	16. Sensitize farmers on risk management and insurance benefits	
4. Improve institutional capacity to provide finance and insurance services to the agri-food system	17. Update policies to support agricultural finance and insurance markets	
	18. Build the capacities of financial and insurance institutions	
	19. Strengthen the integration of financial literacy, contract farming, and risk profiling tools into the extension system	

3.1.6 Program 6: Sustainable Land, Water and Biodiversity Management

Goal/Objective	Activities	Outcomes	Key Actors	Kampala Alignment
Promote the sustainable use, restoration, and protection of agricultural land, water resources, and biodiversity to support climate-resilient and environmentally sound food systems.	1. Implementation of land restoration and afforestation projects 2. Improved watershed and catchment management 3. Expansion of sustainable soil and water conservation practices 4. Conduct national agro-ecological land suitability and degradation mapping to guide agricultural investments 5. Scale up land restoration using agroforestry, contour farming, and organic amendments 6. Facilitate land titling and secure land access, especially for women and youth 7. Implement integrated watershed and catchment restoration in degraded zones 8. Support the formation and capacity building of water user associations (WUAs) 9. Establish community seed banks and conserve	1. Improved productivity and sustainability of agricultural landscapes. 2. Enhanced ecosystem health, biodiversity, and water security. 3. Increased resilience of farming systems to climate shocks and environmental degradation. 4. Environmental sustainability mainstreamed into agri-food policies and practices.	FMAFS, FMEnv, NASC, NIHSA, RBDAs, Ecological Fund Office, State Ministries of Environment and Agriculture, Nigeria Conservation Foundation, ICRAF, IITA, UNDP, FAO, Local Governments, Farmer Groups, Community-Based Organizations	Commitment 1 (action a), Commitment 2 (action a), Commitment 4 (action c), Commitment 5

	indigenous crop varieties and livestock breeds			
	10. Promote ecological farming, crop diversification, and integrated pest management (IPM)			
	11. Raise awareness and integrate biodiversity into extension and school curricula			
	12. Develop and enforce national guidelines for sustainable land, water, and biodiversity use in agriculture.			

3.1.7 Program 7: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Goal/Objective	Activities	Outcomes	Key Actors	Kampala alignment
1. Mainstream gender equality, youth empowerment, and social inclusion across agricultural value chains	1. Operationalise GESI units in FMAFS and all affiliated agencies.	1. Greater participation of women, youth, and vulnerable groups in agriculture 2. Enhanced economic empowerment and resilience of women, youth, and marginalized	FMAFS, National Gender Machinery, FMWASD, State Ministries of Agriculture & Women Affairs, UN Women, FAO, IFAD, Youth & Women Networks, CSOs, Development Partners, Cooperatives, Traditional Councils	Commitment 1 (action d), Commitment 4 (actions c - e), Commitment 6 (action a).
	2. Develop and adopt a national gender-responsive agricultural policy framework.			
	3. Women and youth empowerment initiatives integrated into value chains			
	4. Establishment of disability-inclusive service delivery mechanisms			

2. Promote equitable participation and benefit-sharing for women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and marginalized groups across the agri-food system.	5. Facilitate access to land titles and productive assets for women and marginalised groups 6. Design and deliver tailored input packages, credit schemes, and subsidies for underserved groups 7. Enforce gender/youth quotas in employment, extension, and procurement under NASIP interventions 8. Organise targeted skills development for women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) 9. Support female and youth participation in producer organisations, cooperatives, and policy platforms 10. Recruit and train more female/youth extension agents and equip them with digital tools 11. Implement community sensitisation, advocacy campaigns, and dialogues to address discriminatory norms 12. Integrate GBV protection, reporting mechanisms, and	communities. 3. Reduced structural inequalities in access to land, finance, training, and markets. 4. Inclusive and socially equitable agricultural growth. 5. Improved representation of vulnerable groups in policy, planning, and service delivery processes. 6. More women and youth gain access to land/assets and benefit from targeted schemes 7. GBV safeguards are integrated in all NASIP programs as applicable

	training into agricultural projects	8. More PWDs included in agri-food programs
	13. Provide adapted training, tools, and access pathways for PWDs in agriculture	
	14. Institutionalise gender budgeting and social inclusion monitoring in all agriculture projects.	
	15. Scale up land and asset access reforms that secure tenure rights for women and youth.	
	16. Implement affirmative procurement and investment policies in favour of disadvantaged groups.	

3.2 Costing of the NASIP

The costing of the NASIP is based on the federal government's Medium Term Expenditure framework (MTEF) for 2025 to 2027 (Budget office of the Federation, 2024), as well as guidance from FAO's PolOpT analysis and other key considerations. The MTEF indicates planned overall federal government expenditure ceilings. Using these ceilings, the costing here assumes that agriculture-related ministries will maintain their share of the 2025 appropriation in 2026 and 2027, and that the structure of expenditure across ministries will remain the same as noted in recent years, as reported in FAO's recent Policy Monitoring and Review (Nwafor et al, 2025).

Table 3.2 shows the budget by program[5], while Table 3.3 shows indicative expenditure by ministries on agriculture-related activities in line with recent expenditure patterns. The agriculture ministry[6], for example, accounts for about 70% of agriculture specific expenditure, while other ministries account for the remaining 30% (Nwafor et al, 2025). The PolOpT analysis, as well as Nwafor et al (2025) indicate that short-term productivity drivers such as extension and inputs support, provide the largest returns in terms of poverty reduction, food security, and environmental outcomes over the next 10 years. As such, stakeholders agreed that a large share of the NASIP's budget should go to investment in short-term productivity drivers, while expansion of value chains receives the next largest share. The direct influence of research findings on the investment plan's budget is a novel approach that should be maintained.

Table 3.2: NASIP Budget by Programme (2026 – 2027)

Programme	2026	2027	Total	%
1. Institutional Development, Knowledge Creation and Transfer	291,324,269,578	320,352,736,213	611,677,005,791	9
2. Expansion of Crop, livestock and fisheries production and value chain and Export Promotion	582,648,539,156	640,705,472,425	1,223,354,011,581	19
3. Digital and Climate Smart Agriculture	145,662,134,789	160,176,368,106	305,838,502,895	5
4. Investment in short-term productivity	1,143,456,645,275	1,257,394,262,362	2,400,850,907,637	37

[5] The detailed budget by activity is shown in the appendix.

[6] Here the agriculture ministry refers to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development before the Ministries of Marine and Blue economy and Livestock development were created. See Nwafor et al (2025) for more information on the agriculture public expenditure analysis carried out using FAO's Monitoring and Analyzing Food and Agriculture Policies (MAFAP) methodology.

drivers				
5. Finance, Marketing and Insurance	339,195,021,954	372,993,480,941	712,188,502,895	11
6. Sustainable Land, Water and Biodiversity Management	291,324,269,578	320,352,736,213	611,677,005,791	9
7. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	291,324,269,578	320,352,736,213	611,677,005,791	9
Total Agric Specific expenditure	3,084,935,149,908	3,392,327,792,473	6,477,262,942,381	100

Table 3.3 Indicative Expenditure across Ministries

	2026	2027	Total	%
Agriculture and Food security	2,061,429,117,258	2,266,836,399,105	4,328,265,516,362	66.8
Marine and Blue economy	11,152,907,758	12,264,218,570	23,417,126,328	0.4
Livestock development	17,812,072,134	19,586,923,032	37,398,995,166	0.6
Water resources	331,056,308,733	364,043,800,734	695,100,109,467	10.7
Education	243,585,532,111	267,857,160,773	511,442,692,884	7.9
Humanitarian Affairs	164,924,876,851	181,358,510,382	346,283,387,234	5.3
Environment	136,114,744,592	149,677,645,917	285,792,390,510	4.4
Science and Technology	77,679,690,912	85,419,939,670	163,099,630,581	2.5
Industry and trade	41,179,899,559	45,283,194,290	86,463,093,848	1.3
Total Agric Specific expenditure	3,084,935,149,908	3,392,327,792,473	6,477,262,942,381	100.

Source: Based on recent expenditure patterns in Nwafor et al (2025)

CHAPTER FOUR: INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR NASIP IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Statutory Sectoral Medium-Term Sector Strategy (MTSS)

The Medium-Term Sector Strategy (MTSS) is a critical planning and budgeting tool within Nigeria's national development framework. It is a statutory requirement designed to ensure that each sector's priorities are aligned with the overarching goals of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2021–2025 and that budget allocations are transparently linked to sector-specific strategies and deliverables.

In the context of the agricultural sector, the MTSS provides the operational bridge between the National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Policy (NATIP) and the NASIP, allowing for the coherent translation of policy aspirations into measurable investments over a rolling three-year period. The MTSS ensures that sectoral interventions are not only strategically prioritised but also fiscally realistic and aligned with annual budget cycles.

The NASIP, which serves as the investment framework for the implementation of NATIP, is embedded within the MTSS through the following mechanisms:

- **Alignment of Priorities:** NASIP's proposed programs and projects have been prioritised based on the strategic thrusts of NATIP and will be reflected in the MTSS templates of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS). These include interventions related to climate-smart agriculture, rural infrastructure, extension services, mechanization, value chain development, and agricultural finance.

- **Costing and Budgeting:** The financial estimates presented in NASIP will be disaggregated and incorporated into the MTSS, which guides the annual budget submissions to the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning (FMBEP) and the Budget Office of the Federation. This ensures that NASIP implementation is synchronized with statutory budget ceilings and fiscal space available for the agriculture sector. The NASIP budget is equally guided by the country's Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2025 – 2027 which sets the overall expenditure ceilings for the government for 2025 to 2027.

- **Performance Monitoring:** Upcoming MTSS frameworks will include specific key performance indicators (KPIs) that will be drawn from the NASIP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan. This will enable effective tracking of outputs and outcomes, fostering a performance-based budgeting culture within the sector.

- **Institutional Accountability:** The MTSS process enhances internal consistency and accountability by requiring Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), including FMAFS, FMLD, FMMBE and their parastatals, to

align their programs with NASIP components. The Technical Working Groups (TWGs) responsible for MTSS preparation will include key stakeholders from NASIP's implementation committees to ensure coherence.

The flowchart in figure 4.1 below illustrates the institutional and procedural linkages between the NASIP, the MTSS, and national budgeting processes.

Figure 4.1: NASIP–MTSS–National Budgeting Flowchart

Key Interfaces:

- MTSS translates NASIP into actionable budget lines.
- FMAFS leads the coordination, while NASIP provides investment logic.
- NASIP implementation committees feed into MTSS and national reporting.

4.2 Institutional Roles in NASIP Implementation

4.2.1 Committees and Technical Working Groups

To ensure efficient coordination, transparency, and ownership at all levels, NASIP implementation is anchored on a robust institutional framework derived from the NATIP implementation architecture. This includes the following committees:

1. National Implementation Committee (NIC)

- **Chair:** Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Food Security
- **Roles:** High-level oversight; strategic decision-making; policy coordination across ministries; monitoring fund utilization; harmonization with MTSS.

2. Technical Working Committee (TWC)

- **Chair:** Permanent Secretary, FMAFS

- **Roles:** Technical coordination; harmonisation of NASIP and MTSS targets; ensuring alignment between NASIP programs and sector KPIs; validation of M&E findings.

3. State Implementation Committees (SICs)

- **Chair:** State Commissioners of Agriculture
- **Roles:** Development of State Agri-food Systems Investment Plans (SASIPs) which localize and adapt NASIP components and; monitoring of fund flows and project performance; alignment with state budgets and plans; input into MTSS updates.

4. Local Government Implementation Committees (LGICs)

- **Chair:** Local Government Chairpersons
- **Roles:** Last-mile delivery of NASIP activities through SASIPs; community mobilisation; data collection for M&E; reporting upward to states and FMAFS.

5. Stakeholder Engagement Platforms

- Farmer organisations, private sector actors, NGOs, development partners, and research institutions contribute through consultative meetings, technical roundtables, and policy dialogues.

4.2.2 Role of Key Stakeholders and Institutions in NASIP Implementation

Effective delivery of the National Agri-food Systems Investment Plan (NASIP) depends on a network of actors whose mandates and comparative advantages echo the implementation architecture already defined under the NATIP. The roles below are presented in line with the governance findings in Section 1, which highlighted fragmentation, capacity gaps, and financing constraints) and the investment targets in Section 2, focusing on productivity, resilience, inclusion, and jobs.

a. Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs): The federal MDAs will lead integration, policy coherence, and budget alignment. Table 4.1 shows the core MDAs and illustrative responsibilities regarding NASIP implementation.

Table 4.1: Core MDAs and illustrative responsibilities regarding NASIP implementation

Core MDAs	Illustrative NASIP Responsibilities	Alignment with NATIP & Targets
FMAFS (lead)	Overall coordination, chair National Implementation Committee (NIC); prepare MTSS and budget submissions; track KPIs	All strategic priorities
Livestock (FMLD)	Coordination of livestock development	Livestock priorities

	programs	
Fishery (FMMBE)	Coordination of Fisheries development programs	Fisheries priorities
Water Resources (FMWR)	Irrigation & watershed investments; climate-resilient infrastructure	Sustainable land & water
Environment (FME)	Biodiversity safeguards, climate-change mainstreaming	CSA & biodiversity targets
Health (FMH&SW)	Food-safety standards; nutrition-sensitive interventions	Nutrition target
Science & Technology (FMIST)	R&D collaboration with ARCN/NARIs; digital agriculture	Innovation & digital targets
Trade & Investment (FMIT&I)	Market access, AfCFTA linkages, export promotion (NEPC)	Value-chain competitiveness
Finance, Budget & National Planning (FMFBNP)	Fiscal ceilings, MTSS scrutiny, debt & PPP approvals	Sustainable financing

A dedicated synergy among MDAs' programmes, including quarterly inter-ministerial meetings and a Community of Practice, institutionalizes collaboration and reduces mandate overlap, with budgets provided in the NATIP implementation matrix.

b. State and Local Governments: The states will drive localization, counterpart funding, and last-mile service delivery. The implementation arrangements will include:

- **State Implementation Committees (SICs)**, chaired by Commissioners of Agriculture, adapt NASIP programmes to state SASIPs, mobilise state budgets, supervise ADPs/extension, and feed routine data to the federal M&E dashboard.
- **Local Government Implementation Committees (LGICs)**, chaired by LGA chairpersons, mobilise communities, facilitate land access, and oversee field-level extension, mechanisation hiring centres, and farmer registration.

These tiers are crucial for meeting NASIP's rural-infrastructure, youth-employment, and cooperative-revitalisation targets.

c. National Council on Agriculture and Food Security (NCAFS) and Other Standing Mechanisms: The NCAFS would provide national policy direction and peer review:

- The NCAFS convenes federal, state, and non-state actors at least two times during 2026-2027 to review progress, issue policy communiqués, and endorse annual NASIP priorities.
- The Agriculture Sector Working group (ASWG) which comprises of all stakeholders in the sector, will meet quarterly (at least eight times during the implementation period) to review NASIP progress and improve coordination among stakeholders. This will ensure that its implementation is on track and

where not course correction can be done in a timely manner. The group's work will be heavily dependent on up-to-date information from the M&E system; thus, the M&E system will be fully supported to ensure operational readiness.

d. Private Sector, Farmer Organisations, and Civil Society: The private sector will mobilize investment, innovation, and ensure accountability and sustainability. This group includes:

- **Organised private sector (including the Nigeria Agribusiness Group, NABG):** Represented on the National Implementation Committee (NIC); will lead PPP investments in mechanisation, processing, renewable energy, and agro-logistics; and will co-finance NASIP via blended-finance windows (e.g., NADF, CBN schemes etc).
- **Farmer organisations & cooperatives:** Will participate in State Implementation Committee (SICs)/ Local Government Implementation Committee (LGICs), receive capacity-building and finance, aggregate produce, and relay feedback to policymakers.
- **Civil-society organisations/NGOs:** Will provide social accountability, gender and nutrition advocacy, overall policy advocacy, and third-party monitoring; they will be formally listed among state-level committee members.

e. Research Institutions & Development Partners: These groups will generate technologies, evidence, and provide technical assistance. These include:

- **ARCN, NARIs, universities, and TETFund** spearhead demand-driven R&D, extension prototypes, and technology fairs.
- **Development partners** will co-finance programmes, supply global best practice, and sit on donor coordination platforms acknowledged in the NATIP.

A summary of the stakeholders described above, their primary value added, and key NASIP targets they would support is presented in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Summary of Stakeholder Value-Add to NASIP Targets

Stakeholder Group	Primary Value-Add	Key NASIP Targets Supported
MDAs (federal)	Policy coherence, budget integration	Productivity, climate resilience, and food safety
States & LGAs	Local delivery, counterpart funding	Rural infrastructure, youth jobs, and cooperative growth
National Council on Agriculture and Food Security (NCAFS) & ASWG	Strategic oversight, peer review	Governance, accountability, cross-sector synergy
Private Sector	Investment, PPPs, market access	Value-chain competitiveness, poverty

		reduction
Farmer Orgs & CSOs	Inclusivity, social accountability, advocacy	Nutrition, gender equity, and smallholder incomes
Research Institutions & Development Partners	Innovation, evidence, TA & finance	R&D, climate-smart tech, data-driven decisions

Through these delineated roles—codified in NATIP's governance structure and reinforced by NASIP's investment logic—the diverse stakeholder ecosystem functions as an integrated, multi-level engine to achieve Nigeria's agricultural transformation goals by 2027.

4.3 Policy and Legislative Changes Required to Support NASIP Implementation

The successful implementation of the National Agri-food Systems Investment Plan (NASIP) depends on an enabling policy and legal framework that fosters an environment conducive to agricultural growth, innovation, and sustainability. To achieve the objectives of NASIP, policy and legislative reforms are necessary. These reforms aim to remove existing bottlenecks, incentivise investment, and ensure effective coordination across sectors. Some of the required actions are as follows:

1. Amendment of Existing Agricultural Laws: Current agricultural laws may require revision to align with NASIP's strategic priorities, including modernisation, commercialisation, and climate resilience. Nigeria has about nine laws governing agriculture. The laws and their purposes are summarized in Table 4.3. A review of these laws is essential to enhance the achievement of NASIP targets and modernize farming in Nigeria. For example, secure land rights are fundamental to encouraging long-term investments in agriculture. Strengthening land rights - especially for smallholder farmers and women through formalization of customary land rights and streamlining land registration processes under the Land Use Act, is essential to promote women's and youths' involvement in farming and agricultural intensification. Reviewing existing laws and legal frameworks is part of the activities to be carried out under the proposed NASIP program on Institutional Development, Knowledge Creation and Transfer.

Table 4.3: Existing Laws Governing Agriculture in Nigeria

Law	Purpose
Land use Act of 1978	Regulates land ownership and usage, influencing access of farmers to land and their rights over agricultural land
National Agricultural Land Development Authority Act	Establishes the National Agricultural Land Development Authority, which focuses on land development for agriculture and related purposes
Nigerian Seed Council Act	The law created the Nigeria Seed Council which is responsible for regulating quality of seeds used by farmers in Nigeria
Fertilizer Quality Control Act	Created the standards for quality, production, and distribution of fertilizers in Nigeria
Pesticide Act	Guides the registration, distribution, and use of pesticides in agriculture
Anima Disease Control Act	Focuses on the control and prevention of animal diseases. Its implementation affects livestock production in Nigeria.
Plant Variety Protection Act	Provides for the protection of plant varieties by ensuring that farmers benefit from efforts at developing new plant varieties
Agriculture Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund Act	This act establishes a fund to provide credit guarantees to farmers by encouraging investment in agriculture
Quarantine Act	Regulates the importation and movement of agricultural products to prevent the spread of pests and diseases

Source: FFF Publications and Services Company Limited (2025)

2. Enactment of New Laws to Promote Private Sector Participation: Although enacting new laws takes time in Nigeria, legislation encouraging private sector investment and public-private partnerships (PPPs) is essential. Laws that provide tax incentives, protect investor rights, and streamline business registration processes will attract capital and innovation into agriculture. This includes strengthening frameworks for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in areas like irrigation, storage, and agro-processing.

3. Creation of Environmental and Climate-Smart Agriculture Legislation: To mitigate the impacts of climate change and promote sustainable agricultural practices, a new law or amendments should support climate-smart agriculture technologies, promote water conservation, encourage the use of renewable energy in agriculture, and regulate the use of agrochemicals and genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

5. Legal Framework for Agricultural Financing and Insurance: Legislation enabling access to affordable credit and insurance products for farmers, especially smallholders, is critical. This involves creating regulatory frameworks for agricultural banks, credit guarantees, and crop insurance schemes. Legal reforms should facilitate the establishment and regulation of agricultural credit institutions, microfinance, and insurance schemes such as the Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC), providing farmers with affordable credit and risk mitigation tools.

5. **Trade and Market Access Policies:** Policy adjustments to facilitate trade, improve market infrastructure, and regulate quality will support NASIP's goal of expanding domestic and export markets for agricultural products. For example, providing farmers with capacity building to benefit from the global market for sorghum and making the protection of rice time-bound, coupled with support for quality processing through special agro-processing zones, can considerably increase farmers'incomes from these commodities (Nwafor et al, 2025). In the case of rice, in particular, it is especially important to make its protection to be time-bound while simultaneously improving the environment for production and processing. This is important as price incentives analysis by the FAO MAFAP programme indicates that, despite over a decade of protection, the level of processing has not increased commensurately, and consumers have largely consumed locally processed rice because foreign alternatives have been expensive due to high tariffs (Nwafor et al, 2025). Thus, for Rice and other protected commodities, the government, in partnership with the private sector, needs to invest in the creation of zones and opportunities for significant improvements in production and processing capacities in ways that are competitive in both price and quality.

CHAPTER FIVE: RESOURCE MOBILISATION PLAN

The implementation of the National Agri-food Systems Investment Plan requires a robust and sustainable resource mobilisation strategy. This section outlines previous funding approaches, assesses their effectiveness, and presents a roadmap for mobilising adequate resources, including innovative mechanisms and strategic partnerships for future implementation.

5.1 Previous Funding Approaches and Challenges

Over the past two decades, Nigeria has adopted various funding approaches to drive agricultural development, with mixed results. These approaches have included a combination of public sector allocations, development partner contributions, private sector financing, and community-based initiatives. The experience gained from these efforts offers valuable lessons for designing a more effective and sustainable financing strategy under the NASIP. Some of the previous funding strategies are as follows:

1. Government Budget Allocations

Historically, funding for agriculture in Nigeria has been largely dependent on annual budget allocations from the federal and state governments. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS), along with its affiliated agencies, served as the primary disbursement channels. States were also expected to fund their agricultural programs, often through counterpart funding arrangements linked to federal or donor-supported projects. However, agriculture's share of the national budget has consistently fallen below the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) recommended benchmark of 10% (African Union, 2024), limiting the sector's capacity to scale up impactful interventions.

2. Development Partners Support

Nigeria has benefitted from a wide range of bilateral and multilateral funding sources, including the World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), European Union (EU), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), USAID and others. These partners funded key initiatives such as the Fadama programs, Agri-Business Small and Medium Enterprises Investment Scheme (AGSMEIS), Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP), and Rural Finance Institution Building Programme (RUFIN) among others. While donor funds brought significant technical assistance and innovation, they were often project-specific, short-term, and faced coordination challenges with national and state policies; some interventions were not sustained after project completion.

3. Specialised Agricultural Finance Schemes

To improve access to finance for farmers and agribusinesses, Nigeria introduced several targeted schemes, including:

- Anchor Borrowers' Programme (ABP) by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), which disbursed over ₦1 trillion to smallholders through aggregators;

- Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL), which provided risk guarantees and technical assistance to reduce commercial banks'risks;
- Growth Enhancement Support (GES) scheme, which subsidised inputs via electronic vouchers (e-wallet);
- Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS); and
- Commercial Agriculture Credit Scheme (CACS).

While these schemes improved access to finance in certain segments, they were heavily dependent on public subsidies, had limited geographic and gender equity, and sometimes suffered from low repayment rates and political interference.

4. Private Sector Participation and PPPs

Although the private sector has been involved in agricultural inputs, processing, and trade, its role in direct investment and financing has been limited. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) frameworks have existed but lacked the enabling environment to thrive. Barriers include policy inconsistency, land tenure issues, inadequate infrastructure, and weak access to market intelligence. Notable successes such as the NABG-led agribusiness forums and private investments in commodities like rice, cassava, and dairy under the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) demonstrated the potential of market-driven models, but these were not fully institutionalised.

To elicit private sector confidence in the agricultural sector, it is important that the government provides a conducive and enabling business environment for the private sector to thrive. Enabling and consistent policies, sustainable energy and power supply, road infrastructure, optic fibre connectivity, one-stop shops, functional rail systems, and access to low-cost credit for business financing are among the key issues that should be addressed to make the agricultural sector more attractive to private sector operators. By so doing, private sector investment in the agricultural sector could be properly harnessed to complement that of public sector. Indeed, such investment can be leveraged to drive overall agricultural development. Private sector investment is a major part of the panacea to unemployment amongst Nigeria's teeming population.

5. Community and Cooperative Financing

At the grassroots level, farmer cooperatives and community-based organisations have historically pooled resources to finance activities such as land preparation, input procurement, and group marketing. Microfinance institutions (MFIs) and rural savings schemes also provided credit to smallholders. However, these systems remained informal, undercapitalised, and could not often scale or integrate into formal financial systems.

Challenges Encountered

Despite the diversity of financing sources, several common challenges constrained the effectiveness of past agricultural funding approaches:

- Inadequate and untimely budget releases, affecting continuity and implementation.
- Fragmentation of funding sources, with poor coordination among federal, state, and donor actors.
- Low capacity of implementing institutions to manage, track, and report on funds.
- Limited private sector confidence due to risks related to land, logistics, and market instability.
- Weak accountability and M&E systems, leading to underperformance and a lack of transparency.
- Insufficient focus on women and youth, despite their central role in the sector.
- Inconsistent political support and policy shifts, which disrupted long-term planning.

Lessons for NASIP

These experiences highlight the need for NASIP to adopt a coherent, results-oriented financing strategy that:

- Combines domestic resource mobilisation with innovative finance instruments;
- Strengthens public-private partnerships (PPPs) and de-risks private investment;
- Emphasises fiscal decentralisation and state-level accountability;
- Enhances transparency, data systems, and financial governance; and
- Promotes inclusive, climate-smart, and digitally enabled financing pathways aligned with NATIP.

5.2 Suggested Approaches and Funding Mechanisms for NASIP

To ensure adequate financing for NASIP implementation, Nigeria must diversify its funding sources and adopt innovative resource mobilisation strategies especially market-creating innovations (Christensen et al, 2019), which enable farmers and sector stakeholders to access to services that were previously unaffordable or unattainable, leveraging financial models that focus on profitability before growth and designed for the local financial market. These are grouped as follows:

1. Enhanced Government Commitment

- Advocate for increased agricultural budget allocation to meet the 10% target set by the Malabo Declaration.
- Strengthen budget execution, tagging and tracking systems to ensure timely release and utilisation of funds.

2. Private Sector Engagement

- Establish a clear investment framework to de-risk and attract private investments in agri-infrastructure, input supply, mechanization, processing,

logistics, and export development. The supply of fertilizer and other inputs to farmers can be carried out through an arrangement de-risked by development banks such as the Bank of Industry, among others.
- Promote agro-industrial parks and Special Agro-Pocessing Zones (SAPZs) through tax incentives and investment guarantees.

3. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

- Utilize PPPs for the development of critical infrastructure such as irrigation, storage, and rural roads. This will require strengthening PPP policy and institutional frameworks to encourage private sector participation.
- Encourage collaborative financing models involving agribusinesses, financial institutions, and cooperatives.

4. Blended Financing Mechanisms

- Combine concessional loans, grants, and equity from development partners with commercial capital from private investors.
- Leverage platforms such as the Agriculture Finance and Investment Platform (AFIP) to align donor and investor resources.

5. Innovative Financing Instruments

- Introduce agricultural green bonds (including green, social, sustainability, and sustainability-linked bonds) (FAO et al, 2024) to finance climate-smart initiatives.
- Expand the use of warehouse receipt systems and commodity exchanges for structured finance.
- Promote crowd-funding and digital agricultural finance platforms to support smallholders and startups.

6. **Re-allocating Funds for Food Security** Debt-for-development swaps: restructuring and re-allocating of a specific part of the country's debt can be carried out to support investments in food security and nutrition especially supplying inputs to farmers through the private sector.

7. Insurance and Guarantees:

- Provide insurance to farmers to better manage risks, especially climate risks - for example, flood risks through index insurance.
- Introduce innovative credit guarantees to farmers, for example, those involving the private sector.

8. Subnational Resource Mobilization

- Support state-level NASIP domestication through SASIPs and integration into Medium-Term Sector Strategies (MTSS).
- Facilitate inter-state agricultural financing collaborations and public-private investments at the local government level.

The summary of suggested NASIP resource mobilization mechanism is presented in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Summary of NASIP Resource Mobilisation Strategies in Nigeria

Funding Source	Examples	Mechanism	Role in NASIP	Challenges Addressed
Government Budget	Federal & State Agriculture Budgets	Annual budget allocations through ministries and agencies	Core funding for public goods (e.g., R&D, extension services, rural roads)	Underfunding, delays, poor execution, low rates of return
Development Partners	World Bank, AfDB, IFAD, FAO, USAID, EU etc	Grants, concessional loans, and technical assistance	Funding for projects like FADAMA, ATASP, VCDP	Fragmentation, weak coordination
CBN-led Schemes	Anchor Borrowers' Programme (ABP), CACS, ACGSF	Subsidized credit via commercial banks	Financing inputs for smallholders and agri-SMEs	Limited reach, repayment challenges
Private Sector Investments	Olam, Dangote, Flour Mills of Nigeria, Babban Gona etc	Direct investment, contract farming, out-grower schemes	Agro-processing, value chain development	Perceived risks, unclear land tenure, lack of incentives
Public-Private Partnerships	SAPZs, irrigation schemes, agro-logistics hubs	Joint infrastructure and service delivery agreements	Investment in agri-infrastructure, processing, logistics	Legal gaps, weak PPP frameworks
Blended Finance	IFAD + private equity co-financing, Guarantee funds	Mix of grants, equity, concessional and commercial finance	Risk-sharing, increased private sector participation	Access to commercial capital, investor confidence
Innovative Finance	Green bonds, agricultural crowdfunding, digital finance platforms	Capital markets, fintech-based tools	Climate-smart agri-investments, financing youth/women farmers	Awareness, regulatory gaps
Sub-national Financing	State domestication of	Integration into state MTSS	Local implementation,	Capacity gaps, misalignment

	NASIP through SASIPs, State IFAD projects (e.g., in Niger, Benue)	and annual budgets	coordination of LGAs	with national priorities

Source: Compiled by the authors based on a review of various sources

5.3 Addressing Previous Challenges

To tackle previously identified challenges, the following measures are proposed:

- **Improve Coordination and Harmonisation**: Ensure the effective use of the National Council on Agriculture and Food Security, the Agriculture Sector Working Group and the Agriculture Donor Working Group to align donor, federal, and state-level investments with NASIP priorities.
- **Build Institutional Capacity**: Strengthen the planning, budgeting, and monitoring capabilities of Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and agricultural extension services at all levels.
- **Enhance Transparency and Accountability**: Implement digital tracking systems for fund flows, expenditures, and project outcomes to ensure transparency and foster donor and investor confidence.
- **Risk Mitigation Tools**: Develop and scale up agricultural insurance schemes, guarantee funds, and resilience programs to reduce investment risks for both public and private actors.
- **Policy and Legal Reforms**: Create an enabling environment by updating policies that support innovative finance, public-private investment frameworks, and land tenure security.

CHAPTER SIX: MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

6.1 Monitoring Approach

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan provides a systematic approach for tracking NASIP implementation progress, ensuring accountability, learning, and making informed decision-making. This plan outlines the key M&E activities, responsible institutions, and timelines for delivery. M&E will avoid the linear conceptual model in which monitoring and evaluation come at the end of the implementation process. Instead, the monitoring of the implementation of NASIP will be continuous and based on measurable indicators (see the conceptual model for monitoring in Figure 6.1 and the results framework in Table 6.1). This will involve monitoring from the beginning of implementation and a thorough comparison of projected activities with actual achievements.

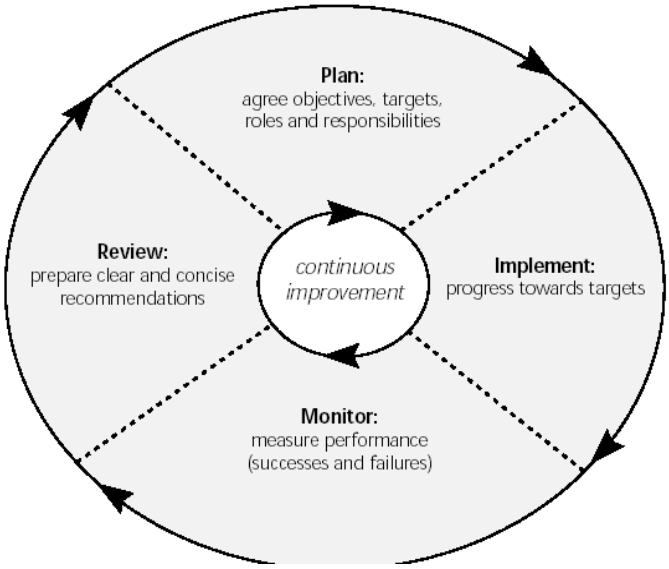


Figure 6. 1: Conceptual Model for monitoring process

6.2 Results Framework

A results framework for the strategy has been developed to facilitate monitoring. The NASIP Results Framework is designed to logically track the flow from low-level inputs and activities through outputs and intermediate outcomes toward the final goals and development impacts. This framework ensures that all interventions under the NASIP programs are systematically aligned with national development objectives, the ECOWAP/CAADP principles, and the strategic direction of NATIP. The framework supports results-based management (RBM) by defining a clear chain of causality, establishing performance indicators, and enabling regular monitoring, learning, and accountability across all program components. The diagrammatic description of the results framework is shown in Figure 6.2 below, while the results framework based on the NASIP program activities is presented in Table 6.1.

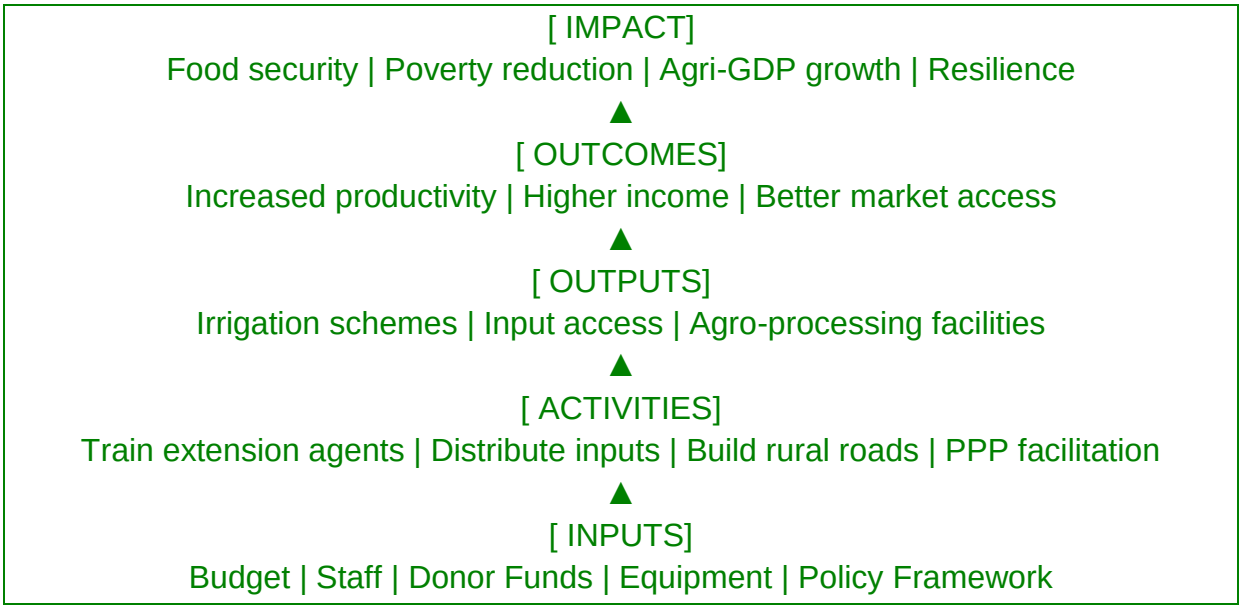


Figure 6.2: Diagram Description of the Results Framework

Table 6.1: Results framework for monitoring based on the NASIP program activities

Program 1: Institutional Development, Knowledge Creation and Transfer

Objectives	Activities/Targets	Output	Means of verification	Outcomes
1. Establish new national gene bank facilities for crops, livestock and fisheries	1. Establish two gene bank facilities, each for crop, livestock and fisheries.	1) Six gene banks established in six designated locations	1) Building housing the gene banks, equipment purchased, pictures and samples of genetic materials.	1) Genetic resources conserved and food security enhanced. 2) Enhanced national capacity for agricultural innovation and technology transfer
2. Reform the national agricultural research system (NARS).	2. Research and conservation of neglected and underutilized crop species are enhanced. 3. Two embryo transfer and artificial insemination centres established. 4. National coordinated research projects implemented 5. Generation and management of agricultural research data by NARS increased. 6. Research on topical issues of current national importance in crop, livestock and fisheries conducted in NARS for evidence-informed policy and action. 7. Set up world-class, accredited laboratories in agricultural research institutes.	2) At least 3 Research projects on underutilized crops carried out in designated research institutes. 3) Two embryo transfer and artificial insemination centres established in designated locations 4) World Class accredited laboratories in designated locations. 5) Coordination mechanism for FMAFS, FMLD, FMMBE and ARCN	2) Publications in reputed national and international journals, policy briefs and samples of underutilized crops improved. 3) Building and documenting of established Centres 4) Laboratory equipment, manuals, laboratory accreditation documents. 5) List of staff trained, course certificates.	3) A stronger legal and institutional environment for private sector engagement 4) Evidence-informed policy development 5) Increased productivity and output and food security.

	8. Strengthen the coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation capacity of FMAFS, FMLD, FMMBE and ARCN.	put in place 6) Management of ARCN and other agro-research trained on specific issues and their capacity enhanced to manage agricultural research activities and projects. 7) Farmers receive timely agricultural technology information from Nigeria agro-research system. 8) All relevant laws, legislations and regulations reviewed and updated, passed and signed.	6) Number of farmers receiving agricultural technology information and inputs. 7) Copies of laws and regulations reviewed and updated.
	9. Develop and enhance the capacity of the management of agriculture research institutions.		
	10. Strengthen research, farmers, industry and input linkages.		
3. Review and update all laws and regulations relating to agriculture.	11. Agricultural-related laws and regulations reviewed to facilitate their enactment to enhance farmers' income and livelihoods, and private sector participation.		
4. Enhance and facilitate the take-off of the National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF)	12. Mobilize the private sector and development banks and strengthen the institutional framework for effective utilization of the NADF.		
5. Reform of government agricultural institutions to effectively carry out their mandates.	13. Establish a partnership mechanism for project execution between the three tiers of government.		

Program 2: Expansion of Crop and Animal production and value chain and Export Promotion

Goal/Objective	Target	Output	Means of verification	Outcomes
1. Strengthen and expand production clusters of food security crops; yam, cassava, maize etc **2. Expand and Strengthen export crop value chain** **3. Promote urban agriculture.** **4. Promote implementation of the National Livestock Growth Acceleration Strategy**	1. Fast track the establishment of Agro processing zones with adequate infrastructure in each geopolitical zone and contribute to the reduction of post-harvest loses by 40% 2. Increase production by 30% through improved inputs and mechanisation. 3. Reform/re-introduce secondary school farms in collaboration with States. 4. Rehabilitate 150,000 ha of cocoa and cashew plantations. 5. Train farmers on GAP and certification. 6. Facilitate traceability and access to export markets. 7. Establish urban community farms. 8. Disseminate urban agriculture kits to households. 9. Integrate urban agriculture into city planning in 10 locations. 10. Build the capacity of youth and women in urban agri-tech. 11. Implement 10 pillars of National Livestock Growth Acceleration Strategy. 12. Support the development of private feed mills. 13. Establish 10 fodder banks and commercial feedlots.	1. Six processing centres established in six selected locations in Nigeria. 2. At least 2000 farmers linked to structured markets. 3. Post-harvest losses in the country reduced by 40% of the baseline. 4. 150 cocoa and cashew plantations rehabilitated. 5. At least 2000 farmers trained on GAP and certification. 6. At least 1000 farmers linked to export markets. 7. City plan indicating urban agriculture areas	1. Buildings and infrastructures for the centres, list of workers, etc. 2. Names and identity of farmers linked to structured markets. 3. Report and data on postharvest losses. 4. Pictures and videos of rehabilitated hectares of cocoa and cashew plantations. 5. List and identities of farmers trained on GAP. 6. List and identities of farmers linked to export markets. 7. Report on urban agriculture in Nigeria. 8. List and identities of youths and women trained in agri-tech.	1. Improved food and nutrition security 2. Increased productivity, jobs, rural incomes and export earnings 3. Better access to climate-resilient and market-responsive production systems 4. Increased national self-sufficiency in staple cereals and enhanced export competitiveness, leading to improved farmer incomes and reduced import dependency 5. Increased value addition and export earnings from cocoa and cashew, supporting non-oil revenue diversification and rural employment 6. Improved urban food security, nutrition, and livelihood opportunities through localized, space-efficient food production systems 7. Reduced cost of livestock production and improved productivity of the animal-source food sector through a sustainable national feed system 8. Improved soil fertility and crop yields through data-driven, site-specific fertiliser use and better-informed land use practices.

	14. Train livestock producers on pasture/feed systems.	produced and implemented in at least 10 cities across Nigeria.	9. Names of feed mills supported and evidence of amount spent on the mills.
5. Develop and implement the National Farmers' Soil Health Card Scheme	17. Issue 2 million soil health cards. 15. Establish or upgrade soil testing labs. 16. Train 10,000 extension workers on soil testing and advisory.	8. At least 1000 youth and women in Nigeria trained in agri-tech.	10. Pictures of fodder banks established indicating the different stages of establishment, list of staff employed in the fodder banks.
6. Promote the adoption of renewable energy for improved production and food supply.	17. Facilitate the installation of 100,000 Solar streetlights in rural farming communities. 18. Facilitate the adoption of solar dryers and cold rooms.	9. At least 12 feed mills, 2 in each geopolitical zones supported.	11. Names and identities of livestock producers trained in pasture/feed systems.
7. Enhance agricultural mechanization across the country	19. Establish agricultural equipment hiring enterprise across the country.	10. At least 10 fodder banks, 1 at least in each geopolitical zones established in Nigeria.	12. Pictures of solar light installations in communities, testimonies of community members about solar lights installed and working.
8. Ensure the creation of a sustainable and competitive tilapia value chain in Nigeria	20. Propagation and Implementation of the tilapia value chain development programme (TVC-DP)		
9. **Institutional support for improved nutrition in the country**	21. Strengthen National Nutrition Surveillance through implementation of Food System Transformation pathway	11. At least 1000 livestock producers trained in pasture/feed systems 12. At least 50, 000 farming communities installed with solar lights.	13. Pictures and list of equipment at the hiring centres, List of staff at the centres, names and identities of farmers that benefited from

		the hiring centres. 14. Pictures of soil testing laboratories established and operational 15. List and identities of extension workers trained in Nigeria. 16. Inception and progress reports of the Tilapia value chain development program
	13. At least one agricultural equipment hiring centre established in each geopolitical zone in Nigeria. 14. At least one soil testing laboratory established/upgraded in one geopolitical zone. 15. At least 10,000 extension workers trained in Nigeria on soil testing and advisory. 16. Tilapia value chain development program is implemented	

Program 3: Digital and Climate Smart Agriculture

Goal/Objective	Target	Output	Means of verification	Outcomes
1. Scale up the adoption of digital technologies and climate-smart practices for modern, resilient agriculture.	1) Deployment of digital platforms for extension, input support, and monitoring.	1. Digital platforms and innovation hubs established in Nigeria with at least one digital centre/innovation hub in each geopolitical zone. 2. At least 1000 farmers adopting Digital agriculture across the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. 3. At least 2000 farmers across the geopolitical zones receiving early warning and climate services. 4. At least 2000 farmers across the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria supported to	1. Pictures of buildings and other infrastructure in the digital platforms and innovation hubs, list and identities of staff manning the hubs. 2. List and identities of farmers implementing digital innovation in their rice farms. 3. List and identities of farmers receiving early warning information and climate services. 4. List and identities of farmers supported to implement CSA practices	1. Improved resilience to climate risks 2. More efficient, technology-driven farming systems 3. Enhanced service delivery to farmers and agribusinesses 4. Updated CSA & digital agriculture implementation guidelines 5. Increased number of hectares of rice and other priority crops under digital farming. 6. 6 hubs operational with labs, training centres, and demo farms 7. 2 million farmers adopting CSA practices 8. 5 million farmers receiving digital advisories 9. 500,000 ha under precision farming
2. Digitize and digitalize crop, livestock and fisheries production for increased productivity and output.	2) Digitize and digitalize the production of key crops (rice, maize, sorghum), livestock & livestock products) and fisheries & fisheries products			
3. Expansion of digital agricultural platforms for advisory, weather forecasting, and market information.	3) Integration of early warning systems and weather tools			
	4) Promotion of e-agriculture platforms and data-driven farming			
	5) Review and update policies to integrate CSA and digital agriculture at the federal and state levels			

4. Capacity-building for farmers and extension workers on digital tools and CSA techniques.	6) Establish Digital Agriculture Innovation Hubs in each geopolitical zone 7) Scale up adoption of CSA practices (drought-tolerant seeds, water harvesting, agroforestry, conservation agriculture, recirculatory aquaculture systems, cage culture systems and climate smart livestock production system) 8) Promote the use of GPS-enabled tools, drones, IoT sensors, and satellite data 9) Establish a CSA & Digital AgriTech Fund with blended finance 10) Develop digital dashboards and tools for tracking adoption and impact 11) Train extension agents, cooperative leaders, youth, and women farmers on CSA and digital tools	implement CSA practices. 5. At least 500 farmers and farms across the six geopolitical zones supported to use GPS enabled tools, drones etc. in farming. 6. At least 1000 extension agents and women across the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria trained on CSA practices and the use of digital tools. 7. Digital AgriTech Fund established and operational in Nigeria. 8. Digital dashboard implemented in the FMAFS, FMLD and FMMBE to track the digital	(supported with improved seeds, supported to implement agroforestry practices etc). 5. List and identities of farmers supported with GPS enabled tools, drones etc. in their farms. 6. List and identities of extension agents and women across the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria trained on CSA practices and digital tools. 7. Names and identities of farmers benefiting from agri-tech fund in Nigeria. 8. Digital dashboard operation in the FMAFS, FMLD and FMMBE headquarters in	10. 100,000 actors trained (40% women, 50% youth) 11. ₦50 billion mobilized for innovation and farmer support 12. Real-time MEL platform in use at national and subnational levels

	innovations in agriculture in Nigeria.	Abuja.	

Program 4: Investment in Short-Term Productivity Drivers.

Goal/Objective	Target	Outputs	Means of verification	Outcomes
1. Improve access to irrigation to drive productivity growth	1. Rehabilitated and expanded irrigation infrastructure 2. Promote small-scale irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and drip irrigation systems 3. Expand public and PPP-led irrigation schemes to cover an additional 100,000 ha. 4. Promote private-sector-led irrigation models for small and medium-scale farms. 5. Provide 871 Nos motorized/solar powered boreholes for increased portable water access to 174 LGA agricultural clusters.	1) At least one irrigation facility to cover 1000 farmers established and existing irrigation facilities across the six geopolitical zones rehabilitated. 2) Rainwater harvesting infrastructure established in at least two locations in each geopolitical zone.	1) List and identities of farmers and hectares of farmland covered with irrigation facilities across the six geopolitical zones. 2) List and identities of farmers benefiting from rainwater harvesting infrastructures established in the six geopolitical zones.	1. Improved national food and nutrition security through yield increases and production stability 2. Enhanced farmer access to knowledge, technologies, timely, affordable, and quality inputs 3. Reduced seasonal yield variability 4. A revitalized, digitally enabled and farmer-centered extension system. 5. Expanded irrigated area

2. Increase agricultural productivity and resilience by improving access to quality farm inputs	6. Strengthened national input delivery system- Establish an agro-input distribution, monitoring and coordinating office in each geopolitical zone. 7. Procure and distribute certified seeds and fertilisers to 2 million smallholders 8. Establish a digital input distribution and subsidy tracking platform nationwide. 9. Input support for artisanal fishermen; provision of 12,500 Dugout, fibre glass and wooden canes with outboard engine, fishing nets, floats and weighing scales for 12,500 fishermen Nationwide. Establishment of reference fertilizer and agrochemical laboratory in the six geopolitical zones and Abuja.	3) At least 100,000 hectares of farmland under PPP-led irrigation scheme across the six geopolitical zones. 4) An agro-input distribution, monitoring and coordinating office established with a digital input distribution tracking system in each geopolitical zone.	3) List and identities of farmers benefiting from a PPP-led irrigation scheme across the six geopolitical zones. 4) Pictures of building and digital infrastructure of the input distribution and coordinating office, list and identities of staff of the establishments.	contributing to resilience and all-year-round production.
3. Promote and develop performance based and digital agricultural extension system	10. Revitalised agricultural extension architecture 11. Recruit and deploy 10,000 new extension agents under a national revitalisation scheme 12. Build 500 farmer field schools for extension outreach and demonstrations 13. Institutionalise performance-based extension delivery through digital M&E tools.	5) At least 2000 registered farmers and fishermen in each geopolitical zone receive 5kg of assorted certified seeds (rice, maize, sorghum, vegetables etc) and 5 bags of	5) List and identities of farmers that received fertilizer, certified seeds and other inputs at the beginning of farming season each from 2026. 6) List and identities of extension agents recruited and deployed	

	14. Integrate climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive extension content across all zones	fertilizer at the beginning of farming season. 6) At least 10,000 extension agents recruited and deployed across the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. 7) At least 500 farmer field schools and extension demonstration farms built across the six geopolitical zones.	across the six geopolitical zones. 7) Pictures of buildings, infrastructure, farming equipment and demonstration plots, videos of demonstration plots at the farmer field schools.

Program 5: Finance, Marketing and Insurance

Goal/Objective	Target	Outputs	Means of verification	Outcomes
1. Expand access to affordable and tailored agricultural finance to improve production	1. Scaled-up agricultural credit schemes 2. Develop and promote crop, livestock, fisheries and value chain finance products 3. Develop and scale mobile banking, digital wallets, and fintech solutions 4. Train farmers and agribusinesses on financial management and credit use 5. Facilitate PPPs to leverage private sector investment in agri-finance 6. Operationalise an Agri-Fintech platform to link farmers to credit, markets, and insurance 7. Launch national agricultural value chain financing frameworks with major banks	1) At least 3000 farmers across each geopolitical zone in Nigeria directly benefit from an agro-credit product each farming season. 2) At least 2000 farmers in each geopolitical zone benefit from mobile banking and digital wallet scheme facilitating access to credit and inputs. 3) At least 2000 farmers and small-scale agribusinesses in each geopolitical zone trained and sensitized on financial management and	1) List and identities of farmers directly benefiting from an agro-credit product each farming season. 2) List and identities of farmers benefiting from mobile banking and digital wallet scheme and number of times it facilitated their access to credit and inputs. 3) List and identities of farmers and small-scale agribusinesses trained and sensitized on financial management and credit use, and risk management	1. Improved financial inclusion and de-risked investments in agriculture. 2. Increased access to structured, transparent, and profitable markets for producers. 3. Enhanced farmer resilience to shocks through wider insurance adoption. 4. Strengthened agribusiness ecosystems through finance-market-insurance linkages. 5. Improved rural financial inclusion 6. Improved institutional service delivery and product innovation 7. Increased PPP initiatives and financing flows farmers and agribusinesses with improved credit access

	8. Institutionalise warehouse receipt systems in all geo-political zones.	credit use, and risk management and insurance.	and insurance.
	9. Scale up blended finance schemes for youth- and women-led agribusinesses.	4) At least 3000 farmers in each geopolitical zone benefit from Agri-Fintech platforms and national agricultural value chain financing frameworks.	4) List and identities of farmers benefiting from Agri-Fintech platforms and national agricultural value chain financing frameworks.
2. Expand access to structured markets to improve market participation for farmers and agribusinesses.	10. Establish commodity aggregation and trading platforms. 11. Construct 1,161km rural feeder roads as supportive infrastructure for the transportation, logistics and marketing of agricultural produce at 387 LGAs farm clusters 12. Establish agricultural marketing incubation centres (Agricultural Development Centres) for youth and women in six geopolitical zones.	5) At least one agricultural marketing incubation centre established in each of the six geopolitical zones.	5) Pictures of buildings and other facilities of the incubation centre, list and identities of staff of the incubation centres.
3. Expand insurance coverage to reduce risk and improve market participation for farmers and agribusinesses.	13. Expanded index-based agricultural insurance coverage	6) A warehouse receipt system established in all the six geopolitical zones.	6) List and pictures of facilities and infrastructure including staff in ware houses established in each geopolitical zone.
	14. Design and implement affordable and accessible insurance products	7) At least 2000 farmers in each	7) List and identities of farmers benefiting from various insurance
	15. Support and Promote weather-index insurance		

	linked to climate data	geopolitical zone benefit from an insurance scheme (index insurance and other agro-based insurance scheme).	schemes.
4. Improve institutional capacity to provide finance and insurance services to the agri-food system	16. Sensitise farmers on risk management and insurance benefits 17. Update policies to support agricultural finance and insurance markets 18. Build the capacities of financial and insurance institutions 19. Strengthen the integration of financial literacy, contract farming, and risk profiling tools into the extension system		

Program 6: Sustainable Land, Water and Biodiversity Management

Goal/Objective	Target	Outputs	Means of verification	Outcomes
Promote the sustainable use, restoration, and protection of agricultural land, water resources, and biodiversity to support climate-resilient and environmentally sound food systems.	1. Implementation of land restoration and afforestation projects 2. Improved watershed and catchment management 3. Expansion of sustainable soil and water conservation practices 4. Conduct national agro-ecological land suitability and degradation mapping to guide agricultural investments 5. Scale up land restoration using agroforestry, contour farming, and organic amendments 6. Facilitate land titling and secure land access, especially for women and youth 7. Implement integrated watershed and catchment restoration in degraded zones 8. Support the formation and capacity building of water user associations (WUAs) 9. Establish community seed banks and conserve indigenous crop varieties and livestock breeds 10. Promote ecological farming, crop diversification,	**1.** Land restoration and afforestation projects covering at least 50,000 hectares implemented in each geopolitical zone. **2.** Land suitability and degradation mapping carried out in all the six geopolitical zones. **3.** At least 120,000 hectares of farmland, at least 20 hectares in each geopolitical zone under agroforestry. **4.** At least 20 states in Nigeria institute agricultural land titling regulation to facilitate women	1. Maps and pictures of afforested and restored land in each geopolitical zone. 2. Data and land suitability and degradation maps of the areas covered in each geopolitical zone. 3. Map and pictures of land areas under agroforestry. 4. Agricultural Land titling and ownership regulation document of the states. 5. Pictures and maps of watershed restoration projects carried out in each geopolitical zone. 6. List and identities of water use association in each state. 7. Picture of community seed bank, list of species in the seed bank and names and pictures	1. Improved productivity and sustainability of agricultural landscapes. 2. Enhanced ecosystem health, biodiversity, and water security. 3. Increased resilience of farming systems to climate shocks and environmental degradation. 4. Mainstreamed environmental sustainability into agri-food policies and practices.

	and integrated pest management (IPM) 11. Raise awareness and integrate biodiversity into extension and school curricula 12. Develop and enforce national guidelines for sustainable land, water, and biodiversity use in agriculture.	and youths access to land. **5.** At least 1 watershed and catchment restoration project carried out in each geopolitical zone. **6.** Water use association established in each state in Nigeria. **7.** One community seed bank established in each state in Nigeria. **8.** Extension agents disseminate information to farmers about biodiversity conservation. **9.** National guidelines for sustainable land, water, and biodiversity use in agriculture developed, launched and operationalized.	of staff manning the seed bank. 8. Document showing the National guidelines for sustainable land, water, and biodiversity use in agriculture, pictures of the launching event.

Program 7: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Goal/Objective	Target	Output	Means of verification	Outcomes
1. Mainstream gender equality, youth empowerment, and social inclusion across agricultural value chains **2. Promote equitable participation and benefit-sharing for women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and marginalized groups across the agri-food system.**	1. Operationalise GESI units in FMAFS and all affiliated agencies. 2. Develop and adopt a national gender-responsive agricultural policy framework. 3. Women and youth empowerment initiatives integrated into value chains 4. Establishment of disability-inclusive service delivery mechanisms 5. Facilitate access to land titles and productive assets for women and marginalised groups 6. Design and deliver tailored input packages, credit schemes, and subsidies for underserved groups 7. Enforce gender/youth quotas in employment, extension, and procurement under NASIP interventions 8. Organise targeted skills development for women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) 9. Support female and youth participation in producer organisations, cooperatives, and policy platforms	1) Increased empowerment of women and youth 2) Lower inequalities in access to land and other assets 3) Improved percentage of vulnerable groups in policy, planning and service delivery 4) All NASIP programs have an articulated section on GBV as applicable	1) Improvement in empowerment index (based on survey reports) 2) Improvements in equality (based on survey reports) 3) Improvements in representation of vulnerable groups (based on survey reports) 4) Copies of the sections of the program documents on GBV where applicable	1. Greater participation of women, youth, and vulnerable groups in agriculture 2. Enhanced economic empowerment and resilience of women, youth, and marginalized communities. 3. Reduced structural inequalities in access to land, finance, training, and markets. 4. Inclusive and socially equitable agricultural growth. 5. Improved representation of vulnerable groups in policy, planning, and service delivery processes. 6. More women and youth gain access to land/assets and benefit from targeted schemes 7. GBV safeguards are integrated in all NAISIP programs as applicable 8. More PWDs included in agri-programs

	10. Recruit and train more female/youth extension agents and equip them with digital tools	
	11. Implement community sensitisation, advocacy campaigns, and dialogues to address discriminatory norms	
	12. Integrate GBV protection, reporting mechanisms, and training into agricultural projects	
	13. Provide adapted training, tools, and access pathways for PWDs in agriculture	
	14. Institutionalise gender budgeting and social inclusion monitoring in all agriculture projects.	
	15. Scale up land and asset access reforms that secure tenure rights for women and youth.	
	16. Implement affirmative procurement and investment policies in favour of disadvantaged groups.	

6.3 Operational Plan for NASIP Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) operational plan systematically tracks NASIP implementation progress, ensuring accountability, learning, and informed decision-making. This plan outlines the key M&E activities, responsible institutions, and timelines for delivery as summarized in Table 6.2.

Aims of the M&E Operational Plan

- Ensure timely data collection, analysis, and reporting.
- Measure performance against targets and outcomes.
- Support adaptive management and continuous learning.
- Foster transparency and stakeholder engagement.

Next Steps for M&E Operationalisation

- Develop a comprehensive M&E strategy document with detailed indicators, baselines, targets, and data collection methods.
- Build the capacity of the M&E Units within the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock, Marine and Blue Economy, and other key ministries to operationalize the strategy with the support of development partners.
- Build capacity at the state level for decentralised data collection and reporting.
- Leverage digital tools (e.g., dashboards, GIS, mobile surveys) to track progress in real time.
- Ensure participatory M&E, involving farmers'groups, private sector actors, and development partners in feedback and learning loops.

Table 6.2: Key M&E Activities, Responsible Institutions, and Timelines

Activity	Responsible Institutions/Units	Timeline
1. Development of NASIP M&E Framework and Guidelines	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) M&E Unit in collaboration with FMLD, FMMBE and other key ministries	Q1, Year 1 (immediate)
2. Baseline Survey Design and Implementation	FMAFS, FMLD, FMMBE, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), State Ministries of Agriculture	Q2–Q3, Year 1
3. Development of Monitoring Tools and Templates	FMAFS M&E Unit, FMLD, FMMBE in collaboration with State M&E Units	Q2, Year 1
4. Capacity Building for M&E Officers at Federal and State Levels	FMAFS, FMLD, FMMBE, National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS), Development Partners	Q2–Q3, Year 1
5. Quarterly Monitoring of	FMAFS, FMLD, FMMBE, State	Every Quarter

Inputs, Activities, and Outputs	Ministries of Agriculture, Local Government Agriculture Departments	
6. Mid-Year and Annual Progress Reviews and Reports	FMAFS M&E Unit, in collaboration with Planning Department, FMLD, FMMBE, other MDAs and Partners	Mid-Year and Year-End Annually
7. Data Collection through Digital Platforms and Mobile Surveys	FMAFS ICT/M&E Teams, Extension Officers in collaboration with FMLD, FMMBE and other MDAs	Continuous, Starting Q3, Year 1
8. Field Supervision and Spot Checks	FMAFS, FMLD and FMMBE Monitoring Teams, Development Partners	Biannually
9. Outcome and Impact Evaluations (Midterm and Endline)	Independent Evaluators, NBS, FMAFS, FMLD, FMMBE,	Midterm (Year 3), Endline (Year 5)
10. Stakeholder Feedback and Learning Forums	FMAFS, FMLD, FMMBE, State M&E Units, Farmer Organisations, Private Sector Reps	Annually
11. Policy Briefs and Evidence Dissemination Workshops	FMAFS, FMLD, FMMBE, Research Institutes (e.g., NARIs), Donors	Annually or as needed
12. Harmonisation with Other National M&E Systems (e.g., ERGP, SDGs)	FMAFS, FMLD, FMMBE, Ministry of Budget & National Planning (FMBEP)	Continuous

Institutional Arrangements for M&E Implementation

- Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS): Lead agency coordinating national M&E activities, aggregating data, and reporting progress.
- Inter-ministerial M&E Team: A dedicated technical team under FMAFS tasked with managing day-to-day M&E operations, with M&E officers from FMAFS, FMLD, FMMBE, FMEnv and other key MDAs.
- State Ministries of Agriculture: Responsible for subnational data collection, supervision, and reporting in alignment with NASIP indicators.
- National Bureau of Statistics (NBS): Provides technical support for surveys, impact evaluation design, and statistical quality assurance.
- Development Partners: Offer technical and financial support, participate in joint reviews, and support capacity-building efforts.
- Research Institutions (NARIs, NAERLS): Provide evaluation support, validation of results, and evidence for policy feedback.
- Farmer Organisations and Private Sector: Actively participate in participatory M&E, feedback mechanisms, and review meetings.

Sustainability and Learning

- M&E will be fully integrated into the NASIP Implementation Coordination Framework, ensuring ownership and sustainability.

- Lessons learned will inform future agricultural policy and investment planning and feed into Nigeria's broader national development agenda (e.g., the NDP, Kampala Declaration, and SDG alignment etc).

CHAPTER SEVEN: IMPLEMENTATION RISKS AND MITIGATING MEASURES

7.1 Key Implementation Risks and Mitigation Measures

Successful implementation of NASIP depends on identifying and proactively managing potential risks across financial, institutional, environmental, and socio-political dimensions. This section outlines key risks, proposed mitigation strategies, responsible actors, and the need for capacity building and budget allocations to ensure resilience and adaptability in execution. Table 7.1 summarizes the key implementation risks and mitigation measures.

Table 7.1: Key Implementation Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk Category	Identified Risk	Mitigation Measures	Responsible Actor(s)	Capacity/Budget Needs
1. Financial	Delayed release and underfunding of budget allocations	- Annual joint planning with FMF and FMBEP - Ring-fencing funds for priority activities - Quarterly financial reviews	FMAFS, FMF, Budget Office	Budget execution training; M&E audit funds
2. Institutional	Weak coordination between federal, state, and local institutions	- Establish NASIP Steering Committee - Develop harmonized M&E and reporting tools	FMAFS, State MoAs, NASIP Secretariat	Technical support unit; coordination workshops
3. Data & M&E	Poor data quality and limited real-time monitoring capacity	- Use of digital tools and mobile data collection - Partner with NBS for baseline and impact evaluations	FMAFS M&E Unit, NBS, NAERLS	ICT tools and training; baseline survey funding
4. Private Sector Role	Low private sector participation due to regulatory bottlenecks and unclear incentives	- Streamline agribusiness regulations - Strengthen PPP frameworks - Provide credit guarantees	FMAFS, NIPC, CBN, BoI	PPP legal advisory support; credit risk funding mechanisms
5. Climate Change	Increasing frequency of floods, droughts, and other climate-	- Scale up climate-smart agriculture (CSA) - Early warning	FMAFS, NIMET, NASC, NARS	CSA training for extension agents; investment in climate-resilient infrastructure

	related shocks	systems - Drought-resilient seed varieties		
6. Political Economy	Policy inconsistency due to changes in leadership or political priorities	- Institutionalize NASIP within national development plans - Ensure oversight by the NCAFS and the ASWG	FMAFS, National Assembly, FMBEP	Policy sensitization workshops; legislative briefings
7. Capacity Gaps	Limited technical capacity at sub-national and LGA levels	- Nationwide capacity-building program - Recruit technical advisors for high-priority states	FMAFS, State MoAs, LGAs	Budget for continuous training; deployment of state-level M&E advisors
8. Community Buy-In	Resistance or limited engagement from farmers and rural stakeholders	- Engage traditional leaders and farmers' cooperatives - Use participatory planning processes	FMAFS, Extension Units, Community Dev. Orgs	Community sensitization campaign budget
9. Security Risks	Insecurity in agrarian regions disrupting access and implementation	- Engage local security agencies - Focus investments in more secure regions initially	FMAFS, State Govts, NSCDC, Security Task Forces	Contingency funding; conflict-sensitive planning training

7.2 Roles and Responsibilities for Risk Mitigation

To effectively mitigate identified risks, important roles must be played by several stakeholders in the agri-food system as follows:

- FMAFS: Overall coordination, federal-level mitigation oversight, stakeholder engagement.
- State Ministries of Agriculture: Localized mitigation planning and execution; coordination with LGAs.
- Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning (FMF, FMBEP): Financial risk management, policy coherence, and political alignment.
- CBN/BoI/NIRSAL: Private sector support and financial risk mitigation (credit guarantees, blended finance).

- National Emergency Management Agencies (NEMA), NIMET: Support for climate and disaster risk management.
- NBS, NAERLS, NASC: Data quality assurance and technical inputs into evaluations and adaptation strategies.
- Traditional/Community Leaders and CSOs: Community risk engagement and feedback loops.

7.3 Capacity Building Requirements

Effective risk mitigation will require training on digital tools, legal frameworks, climate resilience, community engagement and policy advocacy for MDA staff, financial institutions' staff, extension workers, and other stakeholders in the agri-food system as follows:

- Training for M&E Officers (federal and state): Digital monitoring tools, data management.
- PPP Legal Framework Workshops: Training for legal units and investment officers on risk-sharing agreements.
- Climate Resilience Training: Extension workers to be trained in CSA techniques.
- Community Engagement: Social mobilization officers trained in participatory communication.
- Policy Advocacy: Sensitization for legislators and political actors on NASIP commitments.

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Appendix: Detailed NASIP Budget

Program	Goal/Objective	Activity	Budget
Program 1: Institutional Development, Knowledge Creation and Transfer	1. Establish new national gene bank facilities for crops, livestock and fisheries	1. Establish two gene bank facilities, each for crop, livestock and fisheries.	30,000,000,000
	2. Reform the national agricultural research system (NARS).	2. Research and conservation of neglected and underutilized crop species are enhanced.	5,500,000,000
		3. Two embryo transfer and artificial insemination centres established.	7,000,000,000
		4. National coordinated research projects implemented	10,000,000,000
		5. Generation and management of agricultural research data by NARS increased.	20,000,000,000
		6. Research on topical issues of current national importance in crop, livestock and fisheries conducted in NARS for evidence-informed policy and action.	30,000,000,000
		7. Set up world-class, accredited laboratories in agricultural research institutes.	96,000,000,000
		8. Strengthen the coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation capacity of FMAFS, FMLD, FMMBE and ARCN.	50,000,000,000
		9. Develop and enhance the capacity of the management of agriculture research institutions.	20,000,000,000
		10. Strengthen research, farmers, industry and input linkages.	63,177,005,791
	3. Review and update all laws and regulations relating to agriculture.	11. Agricultural-related laws and regulations reviewed to facilitate their enactment to enhance farmers' income and livelihoods, and private sector participation.	30,000,000,000

	4. Enhance and facilitate the take-off of the National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF)	12. Mobilize the private sector and development banks and strengthen the institutional framework for effective utilization of the NADF.	200,000,000,000
	5. Reform of government agricultural institutions to effectively carry out their mandates.	13. Establish a partnership mechanism for project execution between the three tiers of government.	50,000,000,000
Total			**611,677,005,791**
Program 2: Expansion of Crop, livestock and fisheries production and value chain and Export Promotion	1. Strengthen and expand production clusters of food security crops; yam, cassava, maize etc	1. Fast track the establishment of Agro processing zones with adequate infrastructure in each geopolitical zone and contribute to the reduction of post-harvest loses by 40%	211,500,000,000
		2. Increase production by 30% through improved inputs and mechanisation.	74,000,000,000
		3. Reform/re-introduce secondary school farms in collaboration with States.	77,400,000,000
	2. Expand and Strengthen export crop value chain	4. Rehabilitate 150,000 ha of cocoa and cashew plantations.	150,000,000,000
		5. Train farmers on GAP and certification.	15,000,000,000
		6. Facilitate traceability and access to export markets.	30,000,000,000
	3. Promote urban agriculture.	7. Establish urban community farms.	30,000,000,000
		8. Disseminate urban agriculture kits to households.	23,000,000,000
		9. Integrate urban agriculture into city planning in 10 locations.	5,000,000,000
		10. Build the capacity of youth and women in urban agri-tech.	30,000,000,000
	4. Promote implementation of the National Livestock Growth Acceleration Strategy	11. Implement 10 pillars of National Livestock Growth Acceleration Strategy.	50,000,000,000
		12. Support the development of private feed mills.	15,000,000,000
		13. Establish 10 fodder banks and commercial	10,000,000,000

		feedlots.	
		14. Train livestock producers on pasture/feed systems.	5,454,011,581
	5. Develop and implement the National Farmers' Soil Health Card Scheme	15. Issue 2 million soil health cards.	50,000,000,000
		16. Establish or upgrade soil testing labs.	50,000,000,000
		17. Train 10,000 extension workers on soil testing and advisory.	30,000,000,000
	6. Promote the adoption of renewable energy for improved production and food supply.	18. Facilitate the installation of 100,000 Solar streetlights in rural farming communities.	130,000,000,000
		19. Facilitate the adoption of solar dryers and cold rooms.	30,000,000,000
	7. Enhance agricultural mechanization across the country	20. Establish agricultural equipment hiring enterprise across the country.	150,000,000,000
	8. Ensure the creation of a sustainable and competitive tilapia value chain in Nigeria	21. Propagation and Implementation of the tilapia value chain development programme (TVC-DP)	50,000,000,000
	9. Institutional support for improved nutrition in the country	22. Strengthen National Nutrition Surveillance through implementation of Food System Transformation pathway	7,000,000,000
Total			**1,223,354,011,581**

Program 3: Digital and Climate Smart Agriculture	1. Scale up the adoption of digital technologies and climate-smart practices for modern, resilient agriculture.	1) Deployment of digital platforms for extension, input support, and monitoring.	30,000,000,000
	2. Digitize and digitalize crop, livestock and fisheries production for increased productivity and output.	2) Digitize and digitalize the production of key crops (rice, maize, sorghum), livestock (livestock & livestock products), fisheries (fisheries & fisheries products)	15,000,000,000
	3. Expansion of digital agricultural platforms for	3) Integration of early warning systems and weather tools	6,000,000,000

	advisory, weather forecasting, and market information.	4) Promotion of e-agriculture platforms and data-driven farming	8,000,000,000
		5) Review and update policies to integrate CSA and digital agriculture at the federal and state levels	10,000,000,000
		6) Establish Digital Agriculture Innovation Hubs in each geopolitical zone	60,000,000,000
		7) Scale up adoption of CSA practices (drought-tolerant seeds, water harvesting, agroforestry, conservation agriculture, recirculatory aquaculture systems, cage culture systems and climate smart livestock production system)	50,000,000,000
		8) Promote the use of GPS-enabled tools, drones, IoT sensors, and satellite data	22,000,000,000
		9) Establish a CSA & Digital AgriTech Fund with blended finance	60,000,000,000
		10) Develop digital dashboards and tools for tracking adoption and impact	2,000,000,000
	4. Capacity-building for farmers and extension workers on digital tools and CSA techniques.	11) Train extension agents, cooperative leaders, youth, and women farmers on CSA and digital tools	42,838,502,895
Total			**305,838,502,895**
Program 4: Investment in short-term productivity drivers	1. Improve access to irrigation to drive productivity growth	1. Rehabilitated and expanded irrigation infrastructure	240,000,000,000
		2. Promote small-scale irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and drip irrigation systems	108,000,000,000
		3. Expand public and PPP-led irrigation schemes to cover an additional 100,000 ha.	205,000,000,000
		4. Promote private-sector-led irrigation models for small and medium-scale farms.	107,000,000,000

		5. Provide 871 Nos motorized/solar powered boreholes for increased portable water access to 174 LGA agricultural clusters.	26,122,500,000
	2. Increase agricultural productivity and resilience by improving access to quality farm inputs	6. Strengthened national input delivery system- establish an agro-input distribution, monitoring and coordinating office in each geopolitical zone.	380,000,000,000
		7. Procure and distribute certified seeds and fertilisers to 2 million smallholders	278,677,005,791
		8. Establish a digital input distribution and subsidy tracking platform nationwide.	100,931,017,371
		9. Input support for artisanal fishermen; provision of 12,500 Dugout, fibre glass and wooden canes with outboard engine, fishing nets, floats and weighing scales for 12,500 fishermen Nationwide.	7,020,384,475
		Establishment of reference fertilizer and agrochemical laboratory in the six geopolitical zones and Abuja.	35,000,000,000
	3. Promote and develop performance based and digital agricultural extension system	10. Revitalised agricultural extension architecture	150,000,000,000
		11. Recruit and deploy 10,000 new extension agents under a national revitalisation scheme	150,000,000,000
		12. Build 500 farmer field schools for extension outreach and demonstrations	420,000,000,000
		13. Institutionalise performance-based extension delivery through digital M&E tools.	92,500,000,000
		14. Integrate climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive extension content across all zones	100,600,000,000
Total			**2,400,850,907,637**

Program 5: Finance, Marketing and Insurance	1. Expand access to affordable and tailored agricultural finance to improve production	1. Scaled-up agricultural credit schemes	20,838,502,895
		2. Develop and promote crop, livestock, fisheries and value chain finance products	63,000,000,000
		3. Develop and scale mobile banking, digital wallets, and fintech solutions	10,000,000,000
		4. Train farmers and agribusinesses on financial management and credit use	10,000,000,000
		5. Facilitate PPPs to leverage private sector investment in agri-finance	20,000,000,000
		6. Operationalise an Agri-Fintech platform to link farmers to credit, markets, and insurance	10,000,000,000
		7. Launch national agricultural value chain financing frameworks with major banks	5,000,000,000
		8. Institutionalise warehouse receipt systems in all geo-political zones.	25,000,000,000
		9. Scale up blended finance schemes for youth- and women-led agribusinesses.	20,000,000,000
	2. Expand access to structured markets to improve market participation for farmers and agribusinesses.	10. Establish commodity aggregation and trading platforms.	15,000,000,000
		11. Construct 1,161km rural feeder roads as supportive infrastructure for the transportation, logistics and marketing of agricultural produce at 387 LGAs farm clusters	406,350,000,000
		12. Establish agricultural marketing incubation centres (Agricultural Development Centres) for youth and women in six geopolitical zones.	20,000,000,000
	3. Expand insurance coverage to reduce risk and improve market participation for	13. Expanded index-based agricultural insurance coverage	20,000,000,000
		14. Design and implement affordable and accessible	15,000,000,000

	farmers and agribusinesses.	insurance products	
		15. Support and Promote weather-index insurance linked to climate data	5,000,00,000
		16. Sensitise farmers on risk management and insurance benefits	12,000,000,000
	4. Improve institutional capacity to provide finance and insurance services to the agri-food system	17. Update policies to support agricultural finance and insurance markets	5,000,000,000
		18. Build the capacities of financial and insurance institutions	15,000,000,000
		19. Strengthen the integration of financial literacy, contract farming, and risk profiling tools into the extension system	20,000,000,000
Total			**712,188,502,895**
Program 6: Sustainable Land, Water and Biodiversity Management	Promote the sustainable use, restoration, and protection of agricultural land, water resources, and biodiversity to support climate-resilient and environmentally sound food systems.	1. Implementation of land restoration and afforestation projects	88,000,000,000
		2. Improved watershed and catchment management	78,000,000,000
		3. Expansion of sustainable soil and water conservation practices	30,000,000,000
		4. Conduct national agro-ecological land suitability and degradation mapping to guide agricultural investments	60,000,000,000
		5. Scale up land restoration using agroforestry, contour farming, and organic amendments	80,000,000,000
		6. Facilitate land titling and secure land access, especially for women and youth	75,000,000,000
		7. Implement integrated watershed and catchment restoration in degraded zones	40,000,000,000
		8. Support the formation and capacity building of water user associations (WUAs)	10,000,000,000
		9. Establish community seed banks and conserve indigenous crop varieties	80,000,000,000

		and livestock breeds	
		10. Promote ecological farming, crop diversification, and integrated pest management (IPM)	55,677,005,791
		11. Raise awareness and integrate biodiversity into extension and school curricula	10,000,000,000
		12. Develop and enforce national guidelines for sustainable land, water, and biodiversity use in agriculture.	5,000,000,000
Total			**611,677,005,791**
Program 7: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)	1. Mainstream gender equality, youth empowerment, and social inclusion across agricultural value chains	1. Operationalise GESI units in FMAFS and all affiliated agencies.	70,000,000,000
		2. Develop and adopt a national gender-responsive agricultural policy framework.	60,000,000,000
		3. Women and youth empowerment initiatives integrated into value chains	80,000,000,000
		4. Establishment of disability-inclusive service delivery mechanisms	30,000,000,000
	2. Promote equitable participation and benefit-sharing for women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and marginalized groups across the agri-food system.	5. Facilitate access to land titles and productive assets for women and marginalised groups	20,000,000,000
		6. Design and deliver tailored input packages, credit schemes, and subsidies for underserved groups	106,677,005,791
		7. Enforce gender/youth quotas in employment, extension, and procurement under NASIP interventions	20,000,000,000
		8. Organise targeted skills development for women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs)	100,000,000,000
		9. Support female and youth participation in producer organisations, cooperatives, and policy	5,000,000,000

	platforms	
	10. Recruit and train more female/youth extension agents and equip them with digital tools	40,000,000,000
	11. Implement community sensitisation, advocacy campaigns, and dialogues to address discriminatory norms	12,000,000,000
	12. Integrate GBV protection, reporting mechanisms, and training into agricultural projects	8,000,000,000
	13. Provide adapted training, tools, and access pathways for PWDs in agriculture	20,000,000,000
	14. Institutionalise gender budgeting and social inclusion monitoring in all agriculture projects.	10,000,000,000
	15. Scale up land and asset access reforms that secure tenure rights for women and youth.	10,000,000,000
	16. Implement affirmative procurement and investment policies in favour of disadvantaged groups.	20,000,000,000
Total		**611,677,005,791**
Grand Total		**6,477,262,942,381**