



IFAD-CASP News ^{1ST EDITION}

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PROGRAMME SUPPORT OFFICE, KATSINA

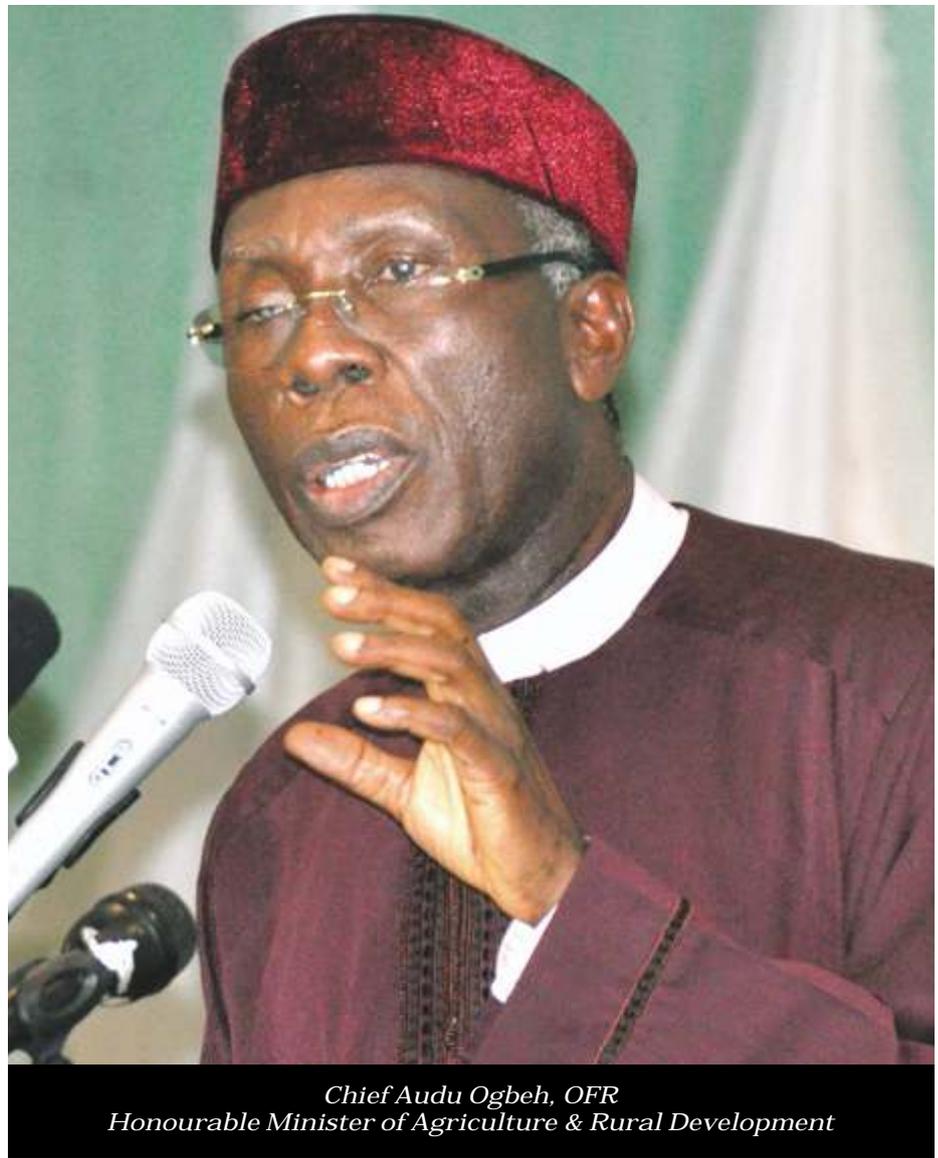
APRIL 2017

FG Reiterates Commitment to Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture As A Business

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Chief Audu Ogbeh, has restated Federal Government's commitment to its policy of promoting agricultural production in the country. Chief Ogbeh made the remark when he declared opened a One-day Sensitisation and Awareness Creation Forum on Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme (CASP), held recently at Umaru Ali Polytechnic, Sokoto.

The forum, which was organised by the State Support Office of the CASP, was designed to sensitise various stakeholders of the programme for effective take-off of the programme at its preparatory stage.

Chief Ogbeh, who was represented by the North-West Regional Director of the Ministry, Mr Aderemi Abioye, said the principle behind the launch of CASP is to ensure national food security, enhance the export of agricultural produce, create wealth and generate employment in the country. "The Federal Government is implementing programmes aimed



*Chief Audu Ogbeh, OFR
 Honourable Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development*

FG Launches N10bn Women in Agriculture Environment Impact Fund (WAEIF) P. 3

Governor Badaru Commends FG, IFAD for Supporting Farmers P. 7

Officials of Community Dev. Associations Receive Sensitisation on CASP P. 13

Brief Highlights of Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Prog. P. 16



Governor of Sokoto State, Rt. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, delivering an opening remarks at a One Day Sensitization and Awareness Creation on CASP in Sokoto.

at attracting Nigerian youth to agricultural practices across the value chains,” the Minister said, adding that farmers are being provided with needed agricultural inputs including viable seeds and chemicals, among others, to boost national food production and improve livelihood of Nigerians.

The Minister noted that many of the farmers are vulnerable to climatic extremes and stresses, especially the poor rural and peri-urban residents. Moreover, emissions from crop cultivation, forest degradation as well as livestock are principal contributors to global warming. “It is highly commendable that the International Fund for Agricultural Development is supporting Nigeria to minimize the effects of climate change on agriculture,” he said,

noting that the ministry has initiated concrete actions to respond to climate change in recognition of its potential impacts on agriculture and rural development.

“It is in response to the global call for reduction in Greenhouse gas emission that President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, in September 2016, signed the Paris Agreement which aims at minimizing global warming to the barest minimum; in addition to aligning Nigeria to the Adaptation of Agriculture in Africa (the AAA) Initiative – designed to tackle the impact of change in climate on food security in Africa. The reality of the situation has made Government to initiate policies to respond to the changing climate by embracing climate-smart agriculture,” Chief

Ogbeh said.

Sokoto State Governor, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, in his remark disclosed that the state government had paid its counterpart contribution to the programme and commended the IFAD for its gesture, while urging the people of the state to embrace self-help projects. “This is necessary as the government can no longer provide all the needs of the people,” the governor said.

The governor, who acknowledged the tremendous support of the former Community Based Agriculture and Rural Development (CBARDP) to the people of the state, also explained that CASP would create more jobs and wealth to farmers. He said the profile of IFAD-supported projects has been very interesting and assured of the state's commitment to ensure the success of the programme in the state.

The National Programme Coordinator, IFAD-CASP, Alhaji Muhammad Lawal Idah, said the programme is aimed at reducing poverty, increasing food security and accelerating economic growth on a sustainable basis. Alhaji Idah stated that CASP will promote agricultural enhancement and productivity. “We are working to turn agriculture as a business and also integrate climate change resilience adaptation measures,” he said while also giving highlights on the structure and implementation arrangements of IFAD-CASP.

Earlier in a welcome address, the Sokoto State Commissioner of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Alhaji Umaru Nagwari, stated that the IFAD Programme is a leading light towards transforming the lives of farmers including women and youths in the state. He said the state government is making conscious efforts to improve agriculture.

“
Moreover, emissions from crop cultivation, forest degradation as well as livestock are principal contributors to global warming. “It is highly commendable that the International Fund for Agricultural Development is supporting Nigeria to minimize the effects of climate change on agriculture
 ”

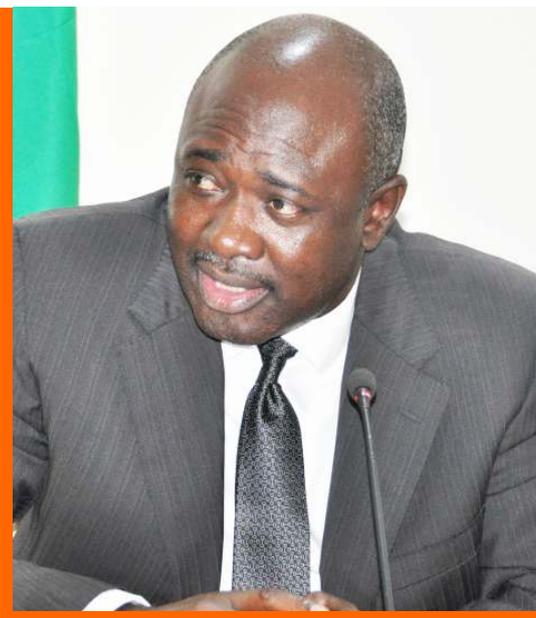
FG Launches N10bn Women in Agriculture Environment Impact Fund (WAEIF)

In its bid to diversify the economy by promoting agricultural productivity, the Federal Government has launched a N10 billion Women in Agriculture Environment Impact Fund (WAEIF). At the inaugural launch of the Fund in Abuja, President Muhammadu Buhari said the strategic aim of the programme is use women to unlock food production for enhanced food security in the country.

President Buhari, who was represented by the Minister of State, Agriculture and Rural Development, Sen. Heineken Lokpobiri, stated further that the challenges of environmental impact has contributed largely to food scarcity in Nigeria, which he attributed to lack of effective participation of women in agriculture created by massive internally displaced agricultural women occasioned by insurgency, gas flaring, oil spillage, desert encroachment, flood and other environmental hazards.

President Buhari stated that the fund will boost sustainable funding mechanism for women in agriculture which will in turn generate employment and exchange of ideas in environmental agriculture.

The President commended the



Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Agric. & Rural Development

Women Association for National Agriculture and Environment Protection (WANAEP) for its fund raising efforts, which he said will positively impact on the on-going process of economic diversification with agriculture as the best alternative.

The President acknowledged the role of the private sector in solving the core issues of limited food production and the delivery of quality standards; variables which he said are crucial and significant to achieving the overall objective of Federal Government's agricultural policy. He said government, on its part, is prepared to

facilitate and provide supportive infrastructures, systems control processes and oversight.

According to President Buhari, it is in order to address the huge infrastructure challenges that face food processors so as to attract them into our rural areas that government is developing the Staple Crops Processing Zones (SCPZs). He said food manufacturing companies will therefore be attracted to locate within these zones which are densely populated by women farmers thereby bringing them closer to farmers and areas of high food production. "Within these zones, government shall scale up infrastructure like electricity, roads and water supply," the President said, adding that this will reduce post-harvest loses, lower the cost of transporting raw materials, and stimulate rural economic growth and link farmers directly to food processing companies.

The President said evidence has clearly shown that raising the productivity and income of women through such funds will not only have huge foreign exchange earning potentials but will also greatly improve household welfare especially nutrition, health and education that will be a leverage to better standard of living of every Nigerian household.

Editorial Team

Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Muhammad Lawal Idah, Editor: Abdullahi Surajo

Contributing Editors: Achem B. Bello, Richard Nzekwu, Shugaba Modu Aji, Othman Yahaya, Abel A. Ameh, Ummulkalthum M. Ali

All Correspondence to: The Editor, IFAD-CASP News, Programme Support Office, Olusegun Obasanjo Drive, GRA, Katsina, Katsina State

A Production of Programme Support Office Knowledge Management & Communications Unit
For any information and inquiry, call: 08034273122

FG Wants Experts to Devise Ways of Mitigating Effects of Climate Change

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has called on experts in weather conditions to devise means of mitigating the effects of climate change to enhance growth in all fields of human endeavour. A former Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Dr Shehu Ahmed, made the call in a message at the IFAD-CASP Programme Facilitation Training organised to sensitise the programme's staff in Abuja.

According to Dr Ahmed, climate change is posing serious threat to sustained economic growth and food security in many nations. "It is now widely understood and accepted that climate change has affected agricultural development, poverty reduction, food security and political stability globally.

The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has also classified Africa as the most vulnerable continent to climate change and climate variability. There is a common understanding among scientists, climate experts and the international community about the causes of climate change. They attributed it to both natural



Mr. Sunday Edigbo, Director Department of Land Resources, FMARD delivering the Opening remarks on behalf of the Permanent Secretary at the PFT.

and human causes, which have affected agricultural production and an attempt in achieving food security in the country," he said.

Dr Ahmed, who was represented by Mr Sunday Edigbo, Director of Agricultural Land and Climate Change Management in the ministry, however, called for collective collaboration with all the

relevant bodies with a view to finding solution to the effects of climate change so as increase agricultural production. He said that the training was timely when the Federal Government was given its support to move agriculture forward and contribute towards diversifying the economy from over-reliance on oil.

In line with this, the Federal Government has demonstrated its commitment by the launch of the Agricultural Roadmap which was expected to last for four years.

The Programme Facilitation Training was aimed at equipping staff with the modus operandi of the IFAD supported Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme to be implemented in the seven northern states of Zamfara, Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina, Borno, Yobe and Jigawa.

“

There is a common understanding among scientists, climate experts and the international community about the causes of climate change. They attributed it to both natural and human causes, which have affected agricultural production and an attempt in achieving food security in the country.

”

IFAD-CASP to Provide Jobs for Women and Youths in LGAs and Villages

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD's) supported Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme (CASP) will provide jobs for women and youths in 104 local government areas and 727 villages.

The National Programme Coordinator of IFAD – CASP, Alhaji Muhammad Lawal Idah, made the remark in Abuja during the Programme Facilitation Training for staff of the programme from the seven participating states and the Programme Support Office.

Alhaji Lawal Idah said the objective of the training was to provide the forum for key stakeholders to interact and get better and detailed understanding of the aims and objectives of the CASP in the country's savannah belt. "CASP is a follow-up programme to the successful implementation of Community-based Agriculture and Rural Development Programme (CBARDP). The programme will be implemented in the seven Northern states of Borno, Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara, and is designed to be implemented in six years.

"In order to have impact on income, higher food security, reduce vulnerability for smallholder farmers, particularly women and youths of the benefitting communities and provide more employment, the programme is designed to be implemented in line with the policy thrust of Green Alternative of the Federal Government," he said.

The Green Alternative policy, he further stated, is aimed at restoring the agribusiness glory of the country;



PSO Gender & Youth Coordinator at Geidam LGA, Yobe State during an IDPs Needs Assessment exercise for IFAD-CASP intervention.

achieve food sufficiency, value addition, youth and women empowerment, climate smart agriculture, infrastructure support and employment generation.

He said IFAD-CASP would support productivity enhancement and climate resilience, enterprise development for women and youths and institutional development for community development associations; adding that the project will be financed from three sources, namely; IFAD, which will provide a loan of USD70 million and grants of USD0.5 million while Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) has a grant of US\$15 million contribution.

According to him, the money would be spent on projects in the seven participating states to improve food security in line with the Federal Government's new agricultural policy.

According to him, ASAP, as a body which addresses climate change issues in the country, was launched in

2012 by IFAD. "It is to improve food production in the vulnerable states, especially among youths and women. It is to create more employment for the 104 local governments and 727 village areas in line with the Green Alternative Policy of the Federal Government," he added.

He said extending the programme to Borno and Yobe states in particular was capable of salvaging the current food dearth, stressing that it would engage youths in terms of entrepreneurship and food production.

Ms Atsuko Toda, former Country Programme Manager, IFAD, said that there are emerging opportunities in agriculture. She urged youths to key into the Federal Government's agenda on Green Alternative to enable them to contribute to the country's economy and expressed the hope that all participants at the workshop are expected to have a sound understanding of how to mitigate the effects of climate change in the country for the good of all citizens.

CASP Aims to Improve Rural Livelihood in 7 States of the Savannah Belt

The Country Programme Officer, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Nigeria Country Office, Dr. Ben Odoemena, has stated that IFAD supported Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme (CASP) was aimed at improving the livelihood of the rural populace. Dr. Odoemena made this known in an exclusive interview with CASP News presentation at the orientation training for staff on Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme for the seven participating states in Abuja.

According to him, the new programme was a follow-up to the former CBARDP. He said that the goal of CASP is to improve the livelihood and living condition of the rural population with particular reference to women and youth and other vulnerable groups. He added that the programme was designed to be implemented in line with the agricultural policy of Green Alternative especially the value chain approach.

"We are having a start-up workshop for staff of our new



Dr. Ben Odoemena, CPO IFAD Country Office, making his remarks at the PFT Workshop held at 3Js Hotel, Abuja.

programme; the Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme supported by IFAD. The presentation is mainly on partnership and from the IFAD point of view; we are so much interested in up-scaling of our programme and to impact on the greater number of the rural poor.

"The three key instruments we can use are partnership, policy engagement and policy dialogue in the government with people and knowledge sharing. So in this context, we look for implementing

partners, we look for co-founding partners, service providers, policy dialogue partners, knowledge sharing partners and we go into media relationship too," he said, adding the Country Office is working on marketing access for farmers to engage in good market markers, off-takers and big processors.

"Those are the people that have the muscle to up-scale the farmer processing and in this context we establish relationship so that the farmers feel at ease to work with them to produce and supply," he concluded.

It is envisaged that the Programme will have impact on the income, higher food security, reduce vulnerability for smallholder farmers, particularly women and youth in the benefitting communities and provide more employment.

“

It is envisaged that the Programme will have impact on the income, higher food security, reduce vulnerability for smallholder farmers, particularly women and youth in the benefitting communities and provide more employment.

”

Governor Badaru Commends FG, IFAD for Supporting Farmers

Jigawa State governor, Alhaji Muhammad Badaru, has commended the Federal Government and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, (IFAD) over the support being given to farmers in the state, which he said has propelled them to greater heights in their agri-businesses.

The governor made the commendation while launching the distribution of farm inputs to dry season wheat farmers under the Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme (CASP) in the state.

Governor Badaru, who was represented by his Deputy, Barrister Ibrahim Hassan Hadejia, noted that the objective of the programme is geared towards food security as well as improving the livelihood of wheat farmers with the overall impact of bringing a leap in the economic situation in the country by improving production and productivity. He affirmed the state government's commitment towards improving the agricultural sector.

Governor Badaru further stated that the intervention of the programme would improve agricultural production and productivity in line with its objective of mitigating the impact of climate change which has been a big challenge to the sector and the environment.

Earlier in his remark, National Programme Coordinator, Alhaji Muhammad Lawal Idah, stated that the programme will provide support to farmers for the cultivation of wheat, rice and maize value crops. Alhaji Idah, who was represented by the Agricultural Development Coordinator, Shugaba Modu Aji, explained that under the 2017 dry season, 150 wheat farmers will be



Alhaji Muhammadu Badaru, Jigawa State Governor.

supported with inputs for the cultivation of 150 hectares of farm land based on cluster farming.

He said each farmer will be given one water pump, four bags of (50kg) NPK and two bags of Urea fertiliser. He said the farmers were also supported with high yield improved variety of wheat seed which they planted.

“Beneficiaries were selected from seven local government areas of the state where wheat has comparative advantage for production. The areas include; Buji, Dutse, Guri, Auyo, Kaugama, Taura

and Gwiwa local government areas,” Idah said

The National Programme Coordinator said under the Agricultural Productivity Enhancement Component, CASP will provide Improved Agricultural Extension Services and technology transfer through sustainable agricultural practices. “The focus of CASP is to treat agriculture as a business and the programme operates through value chain whereby along the chains so many jobs would be created for women and youth,” he added.

“

He said the farmers were also supported with high yield improved variety of wheat seed which they planted. “Beneficiaries were selected from seven local government areas of the state where wheat has comparative advantage for production.

”

IFAD Country Office Sensitises Staff on CASP

The Country Office of Nigeria for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in collaboration with the Programme Support Office of Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme organised a 10-day Staff retreat/sensitisation workshop for programme officers, held on 16-24 August, 2016 at 3J Hotel, Abuja.

The objectives of the workshop is to educate the programme staff and key stakeholders to have clear understanding of the programme, its implementation arrangements, procedures, processes, roles, responsibilities and results expected from programme activities.

The workshop had participants from the IFAD Country Office, federal and states ministries of Agriculture, federal ministries of Finance and Environment, Programme Officers from National and States Support Offices and the private sector.

In her remarks, former IFAD Country Programme Manager, Ms Atsuko Toda, said about 120 Programme Officers from the selected states are to assist in the programme implementation. "The officers are to design an 18-month plan and map out means to realise the goal. The programme was designed to technically train and orient some of the emerging opportunities and key challenges around climate change, promoting agribusiness, nutrition for women and working with the host communities," she said, adding that she was delighted to celebrate the sustained support of IFAD in rural and agricultural development in the country.

The National Programme Coordinator, Alhaji Muhammad Lawal Idah, made a detailed presentation of the programme's implementation procedures and the expected results. He listed, as participating states, Borno, Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara.



Former CPM IFAD West and Central Africa Region, Ms. Atsuko Toda delivering her remarks at the PFT Workshop held at 3Js Hotel, Abuja

Alhaji Idah said the participating states will benefit from \$85.5 million agriculture support scheme initiated by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Federal Government. "The breakdown of the financial support includes \$500,000 grant from IFAD, \$15 million grant from ASAP and \$70 million as loan from IFAD", he said.

The National Programme Coordinator said: "The programme funding was sourced from three points; IFAD is giving a loan of \$70 million, \$500,000 grants and \$15 million from ASAP, a body that attends to climate change issues. It will be used for the programme implementation in the seven participating states on climate change resilience agriculture production."

According to him, the training was organised to design implementation process for primary stakeholders, which are the Programme Support Officers and State Support Officers.

"Our objective today is to provide a forum for key stakeholders to interact and gain better understanding of the details and implementation strategies of the

IFAD-CASP. We intend to make this a continuous exercise as we move in to the implementation phase of the programme," he added.

In a goodwill message, the Special Adviser to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on Agricultural Business stated that CASP is a coordinated approach in solving some of the problems in the agricultural sector. He restated the importance of team work among the programme officers and challenged them to work towards team building to make the country proud. He said there was no doubt that CASP has the ability to implement sustainable projects and create wealth for farmers in Nigeria.

Borno State Programme Officer, Baba Ali Yusuf, in an interview with CASP News, commended the Federal Government for up-scaling the IFAD Programme, saying it would help restore livelihood of the people earlier sacked from their homes during the North East insurgency.

Yobe State Programme Officer, Ibrahim Bello, also lauded the Federal Government and IFAD for developing the programme to contain

PSO Vows to Uphold IFAD's Principles of Procurement

The National Programme Coordinator, Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme, Alhaji Muhammad Lawal Idah, has restated the commitment of the programme to ensure openness and accountability in all its operations. He made the remark during a public bid opening for procurement of motor vehicles and motorcycles to be used for IFAD-CASP activities at the Programme Support Office and in the participating states.

He explained that the Programme places high premium on effective monitoring and supervision. The bid opening process, he said, was to lay the foundation for a transparent framework for procurement of vehicles to ease mobility in programme operations. He emphasised the need to be fair, economical, efficient and accountable in procurement process, adding that determination of bids' responsiveness would be based on the contents of the bid itself without recourse to extrinsic evidence.

Earlier, the Procurement Officer of the Programme, Muhammad Bello Batsari, said the bid process was



NPC IFAD-CASP, Alhaji Muhammad Lawal Idah, launching the Bids Opening for the Procurement of Vehicles and Motorcycles held at the PSO Conference Hall, Katsina.

organised in compliance with IFAD procurement guidelines. He said the procurement system was set out with the objective of ensuring that goods, works and services are procured with due regards to economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The Programme Support Office invited sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of 29 pick-up vans, seven 18-seater mini buses and one Toyota Jeep.

Responding on behalf of the bidders present, representative of Kojo Motors Ltd., Lagos, Razaq

Olasimbo, expressed satisfaction with the bidding process saying that the bidders have acknowledged the objectivity in the entire process.

The bidders who participated in the process include; Ovivi Ventures Ltd, Kaura Motors, Kojo Motors Ltd, Madunka Motorcycles Company Ltd., Bogaru Frugal Resources Ltd, AT & S Investment Ltd, Madunka Motors Ltd., Multi-Dimension Consult and Technology Ltd., Frantech Global Resources Ltd., Franchigo, Danny West Company Computer Ltd., among others.

the devastating effects of climate change on agricultural production and productivity. He said CASP has come at the right time to facilitate and encourage farmers to return to their farms with ease in some parts of the state ravaged by the insurgent activities. According to him, women, youths and children have been at the receiving end in terms of attacks and malnutrition as he urged the Federal Government to sustain its efforts towards reviving the nation's agriculture sector.

The State Programme Officer of CASP for Sokoto State, Aminu Aliyu Dogon Daji, expressed happiness for up-scaling the IFAD intervention which he said has touched many lives positively. He said IFAD is a household name in all the former

CBARDP villages where various socio-economic supports was provided to rural communities in addition to rural infrastructure that enhanced the livelihood and living conditions of the people.

The workshop was declared opened by the former Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, represented by the Director, Land Resources and Climate Change, Sunday Edigbo. The programme was followed by a 9-day retreat which featured intensive technical presentations to support project officers to move to a higher level of performance and developed their capacities to manage activities effectively and efficiently.

The representative of the

Permanent Secretary presented a paper titled: "Climate Change Adaptation Approach in Nigeria", in which he emphasised that CASP is designed to tackle poverty by building the resilience of the farming population, enhancing their livelihood to adapt to emerging climate change and variability in selected states.

All the components heads of the programme also presented highlights of their activities and the expected roles and results of each individual component.

A cross section of participants interviewed expressed happiness for the workshop which they said enlightened them on basic information about the project and also built their capacities.



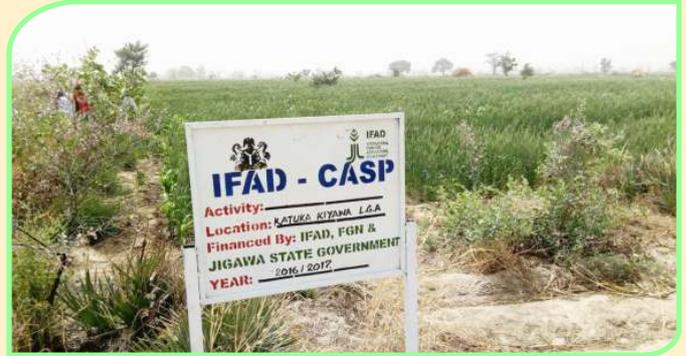
National Programme Coordinator, IFAD-CASP, Alhaji Muhammad Lawal Idah, making his presentation at the Value Chain Profiling Workshop.



The Country Programme Officer, IFAD Country Office, Oussama Ameziane Hassani answering questions from Journalists at the Value Chain Profiling Workshop held in Abuja.



NPC, IFAD-CASP, Alhaji Muhammad Lawal Idah, interacting with farmers at one of the wheat fields under CASP intervention in Kiyawa LGA of Jigawa State.



CASP Supported Wheat Field at Katuka Village, Kiyawa LGA, Jigawa State.



Malam Othman Yahaya, Institution Development Coordinator, making his presentation at CASP CDAs sensitisation held at Gusau, Zamfara State.



Mr. Richard Nzekwu making his presentation at CASP CDAs sensitization held at GSS Wurno, Wurno LGA of Sokoto State.



Official of Borno State SSO, conducting group mapping.

Representative of the NPC CASP, Shugaba Modu Aji, Agric. Dev. Coordinator, presenting Fertilizers to Wheat Farmers under CASP in Jigawa State.





A cross section of participants at the Value Chain Profiling Workshop held at Ajuji Hotel, Abuja.



Cross Section of Participants at CASP Facilitation Training for National and States Officers.



Communities during CASP Sensitization Exercise in Yobe State.



Cross section of Women participants during CASP Sensitization in Maiduguri, Borno State.



Cross Section of Traditional Leaders at the One Day Sensitization and Awareness Forum organised by Sokoto State Support Office.



Cross Section of CASP Communities at the One Day Sensitization Awareness Forum held in the Auditorium Hall of Umaru Ali Polytechnic, Sokoto.

Officials of Community Development Associations Receives Sensitisation on CASP

Continued from page 14

State Programme Implementation officers, Local Government Agents, representatives of local government councils and traditional leaders. The PSO team made detailed briefings adopting mainly the participatory methodology.

A cross section of the participants interviewed appreciated the sensitisation exercise which they said has made them to understand the concept of the new IFAD intervention. They described the provision of

farmers' Field School, and Farmers' Business School as another bold step to transform agricultural production.

Chairman of Yauta Baki Community Development Association, Birnin Magaji LGA of Zamfara State, Alhaji Bala Umar, explained that he was particularly happy with the new rules and guidelines put in place under CASP saying the rules are more advanced compared to those of CBARDP.

The Chairman of Unguwar Gyauro CDA, Halilu Umar, in his view, stated

that most of the participants showed appreciation for the provision of infrastructure development, a situation which he said has enabled many communities to now have access roads to transport their goods.

On their part, some of the women interviewed also expressed appreciation to the programme for taking care of women and youth. The women pledged to sustain their participation and to mobilise other women to join CASP for sustainable development.

IFAD-CASP Conducts Elections for Apex Associations

Mohammed Kabir Atiku
KMC Officer, Katsina

In continuation of IFAD election into Apex offices, the Katsina State office of the programme has conducted the election in Jibia, Bindawa and Kusada local areas. The State Programme Officer, Alhaji Musa Hassan Malumfashi, who monitored the exercise, had emphasised the need for cooperation among members of the groups and stated that the National Office gave the directive for the elections in all village areas of the participating states.

He said with the elections, IFAD has taken the basic step to open the activities of the programme for the benefit of participating communities. Alhaji Malumfashi said all registered members of the association were free vote and be voted for and urged team leaders to give all registered members of the associations equal opportunity in voting and being voted for. He admonished members to conduct themselves peacefully during the elections as they belong to one family.

The State Programme Officer, Alhaji Musa Hassan Malumfashi, who monitored the conduct of the elections in D/ma, Danja Musawa and Bakori local government areas said the elections were aimed at electing leaderships in order to intensify activities now that additional items have been introduced into the new programme.

Alhaji Malumfashi advised officers conducting the election to follow the guidelines of the election to avoid any wrangling. He led the team that conducted the election in Gaiwa and cautioned those elected to lead their members with transparency, justice and fairness.

Engr. Ibrahim Ila conducted the election in Rugar Bade, Illofa and

Farfaru, where he stressed the importance of collective leadership in running their activities.

Alhaji Dikko Surajodeen, who led the team that conducted the election in Yangora, Mawashi and Zaidam, called on elected leaders to be diligent in their day-to-day running of the groups; while Hajiya Maryam Liyadi, who led the election team to Aganta and Daga areas, urged those elected to carry along all members in all they do for enhanced progress of the groups.

Result of the election in Farfaru

“

He said with the elections, IFAD has taken the basic step to open the activities of the programme for the benefit of participating communities.

”

LGA shows that Saminu Yahaya was elected as chairman, Lawal Ado as Secretary, Musa Makeri as Financial Secretary, Abdullahi Maikifi as Treasurer, Hajiya Ado Sale as Auditor, while Aliyu Abubakar as Public Relations Officer. Others are Ibrahim Yunusa as Chairman of the Kofa Village Area, Yusuf Tukur as Secretary and Muhammadu Huzai as Secretary under Kusada Local Government.

The election in Bindawa produced Jamilu Sani as Chairman, Bello Ado as Secretary while Atiku Ado as Chairman of Rugar Bade.

In the other elections, Bello Zubairu was elected as Secretary while Lawal Dan-Gudai emerged as chairman of Zandam Village Area, Mannir Zimbo as Secretary and Hauwa Ibrahim Ibrahim as Auditor.

Elections into the Apex Office of

village areas in local governments that are participating in the IFAD Programme were on-going as at the time of going to press.

Speaking in Garangamawa, Iyan Shantuna village areas, Mahammad Said Idris, explained the condition and other rules of the election. At Senawa in D/Ma LGA, the electoral committee leader, Engr. Ibrahim Ida, told the delegates to conduct themselves peacefully. On his part, Alhaji Abdulkarim Abdullahi, who led the electoral team to Garu Village of Musawa local government, said the elections were meant to choose those who will be responsible for the running of the affairs of the groups.

While in Bakori, elections were also peacefully conducted through an open ballot system and leaders were successfully chosen into the apex association in each of the three village areas of the local government.

In D/Ma local government area, Aliyu Ibrahim was elected as Chairman while in Senawa, Bishir Aliyu was elected as chairman with Aminu Wada as secretary.

In Musawa, Maiwada Ahmad was elected as Garu Village Area Chairman, Yahaya Ammani as Secretary while Bakori LGA produced Idris Umar as Chairman of Kakumi with Abdullahi Zagi as Secretary.

In Bakori LGA, Tukur Janaidu was returned as chairman of Gazara apex seat with Ado Ibrahim as Secretary from among the six positions contested for.

Elections were also held at Tandama, Tsangamawa and Danka LGA while five committees were also established through nomination of members in all the village areas. The committees are for agriculture, enterprises promotion, works, water and procurement with five members each.

Following the successful formation of various agricultural and enterprise groups and the subsequent elections of officials to run the affairs of the community development associations across the participating states of the Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme, the Programme Support Office of IFAD-CASP has conducted sensitisation meetings with the officials of apex groups representing over 300 village areas of the programme.

The sensitisation exercise which was carried out across the seven participating states had two teams assigned to carry out the campaign in three states each. Team A visited Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara states, while Team B visited Jigawa, Yobe and Borno states.

In his speech to mark the commencement of the exercise in Kebbi, the National Programme Coordinator, Alhaji Muhammadu Lawal Idah, represented by Othman Yahaya, Institution Development Coordinator, urged the apex leaders to make sure that all activities of the programme are carried out with due diligence, properly managed and sustained.

Alhaji Idah stated that farmers are the drivers of the programme, as the objective of CASP is to grow agriculture and turn it to a business that will bring about profit and ensure food security and enhance farmer's livelihood. He said the sensitisation meeting was convened to raise awareness, enlighten the officials of the CDAs on CASP implementation and general activities of each component and sub-components for better understanding, commitment and active participation of the benefitting communities.

The National Programme Coordinator further explained that CASP was initiated to support the Green Alternative policy of the Federal Government particularly on the value chain and climate change mitigation to enhance food production, create wealth and employment opportunities especially for women and youth. He said the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, under the leadership of the Honourable Minister, Chief Audu

Officials of Community Development Associations Receive Sensitisation on CASP



Officials of various Community Development Associations (CDAs) during CASP Sensitization held at Argungu Jewel Hotel, Argungu, Kebbi State.

Ogbeh, has fashioned out excellent policies and programmes that could move agriculture forward and contribute to repositioning the economy, diversifying it away from over-reliance on oil.

Alhaji Idah added that the Ministry has taken up the challenge of boosting local production of food, reduced dependency on food imports, boost domestic food production, revive rural economy and expand export earnings. He said the programme would continue to work closely with all the relevant stakeholders of CASP for effective delivery of its mandate.

In his welcome address, Kebbi State Programme Officer, Joel Aiki, said the exercise was timely. He said that CASP holds tremendous opportunities for development of agriculture and rural enterprises for women and youth. The SPO called on the officials of the CDAs to work hard as the success of CASP lies on their effectiveness and efficiency. He also enjoined them to ask questions where they need clarifications.

The sensitisation meeting in Kebbi State was conducted in two centres; with the first being held in Koko Town, comprising of Koko/Besse, Shanga, Fakai, Danko Wasagu and Suru LGAs, while the second was held in Argungu Town, comprising of Argungu, Gwandu, Aliero, Arewa and Augie

LGAs.

After the opening ceremony, the PSO team made presentations on the various components and sub-components of the programme placing emphasis on the provisions and implementation arrangements of each component.

Mr Othman Yahaya, the Institutions Development Coordinator, gave the overview of Agricultural Productivity and Production Enhancements under CASP, its objectives and activities. He said CASP aimed to improve and encourage farmers to adopt improved farming techniques that will entail higher yields and turn agriculture from subsistence to business.

On institutions development, Mr Yahaya informed the participants that the CDAs and their respective village groups are very essential in the implementation of CASP. He said the programme will support the farmers in all the components as specified in the Project Document (PDR), provided that all the conditions are met by the farmers, groups and villages in all locations in the participating states. The participants were also sensitised on group formation, group dynamics, leadership and financial management's requirements and expected output.

Mr Abel Ameh, the Financial

Services Association Coordinator, spoke on formation of the Financial Services Associations (FSAs) and constitution of the General Assembly and its functions. He said the FSAs would be established to address issues relating to financial services in rural areas. "An FSA is a shareholder-based entity that operates at community level and provides credit, savings and other financial services to its members. It relies on members share capital as the main source of funds," he said, and added: "The shareholders are the owners of the FSA and its survival and sustainability lies in their hands. Shareholders must ensure that whoever obtained credit must repay at the stipulated time."

Mr Richard Nzekwu, the Climate Change Specialist, took the participants through role-play to raise their awareness on the meaning of climate change and how to adapt to it as well as the various strategies farmers need to adopt in order to cope with climate change.

Mr Nzekwu equally made presentation on Community Infrastructures (CI) on behalf of the Programme Infrastructure Engineer. The CDAs were sensitised on CASP Community Infrastructure Support as well as design and eligibility of the infrastructure. He said all infrastructure, particularly the roads, will be enhanced to minimise the impact of climate events such as flood.

Hajiya Hussaina Yusuf Mashi, the Gender and Youth Coordinator, who made presentation on agribusiness, spoke on the new approach of "turning agriculture to business." She gave detailed explanation on business plan, agricultural productivity, value addition, off-take arrangement and employment opportunities through agriculture.

On Gender and Youth intervention, the Coordinator also made detailed presentation on CASP implementation strategies for women and youth, saying that CASP will provide opportunities for rural women and unemployed youth.

The Procurement Officer, Muhammad Bello Batsari, said the objective of IFAD guidelines for procurement is efficiency, cost-effectiveness, quality of goods and services, transparency, and

competition among qualified suppliers. He explained the necessary procurement methods and committees required to run the procurement process at the national, state, local government and community levels.

The Programme Internal Auditor, Abubakar Mati, who made presentations on finance activities of CASP and the internal audit protocols, stated that with the current arrangement of disbursement of funds directly to communities, the officials of the CDAs are expected to be transparent and prudent while carrying out their function at the community level. He said the programme has set mechanisms for reporting and handling of misappropriation and other illegal activities within the programme. He further explained that CASP has a comprehensive transparent arrangement on all forms of funds flow and administration.

The Knowledge Management and Communications Coordinator, Abdullahi Surajo, stated that CASP has in place a provision for knowledge-sharing and management designed to educate farmers on good practices and scale up innovations.

In Sokoto State, the exercise was also conducted in two centres. The first was at Saida Village of Tambuwal LGA, which comprises of Tambuwal, Kware, Bodinga, Kebe, Silame and Sokoto North LGAs while the second held at the Students Hall of Government Secondary School, Wurno in Wurno LGA comprising of Wurno, Raba, Wammako, Isa, Goronyo and Illela LGAs.

The State Programme Officer of CASP, Aminu Aliyu Dogon Daji, said the implementation of CASP is a collective responsibility of all stakeholders and requires the determination and collective will to ensure its success. He said IFAD is a household name in the state considering the huge investment it made in the previous programmes which touched the lives of the rural communities and the vulnerable groups in a positive way.

In Zamfara State, the exercise was also conducted successfully at Fulbe Hotel in Gusau. The local governments that participated include; Tsafe,

Zurmi, Bukkuyum, Bungudu, Birnin Magaji, Talata Mafara and Maru. Others are; Shinkafi, Gumi, Kaura Namoda, Gusau, Bakura, Anka and Maradun.

In his remark, the State Programme Officer, Alhaji Mainasara Shehu, welcomed all stakeholders to the meeting while giving assurances that at the end of the meeting, the apex leaders and the various groups under them would operate on the same page. He stated that the vision of CASP is to build the capacity of farmers to a level where they will no longer solicit support from the government but negotiate with banks and processors on their own.

Similarly, the exercise was conducted in Borno, Yobe and Jigawa states by Team B which is comprised of Achem Bello, Agribusiness Specialist (Team Leader), Ummulkalthum Muhammad Ali, M&E Coordinator, Ismail M Tahir, Administrative Officer, Engineer Emeka Nwachukwu, Infrastructure Engineer, Ramadan Hamisu, Financial Controller and Elija Fasawe, the Programme Accountant.

The Team Leader, Mr Achem Bello, who represented the National Programme Coordinator, stated that CASP requires the full cooperation of the CDA so that results can be achieved in the next two to three years. He reiterated that the farmers would be trained on business plan preparation and farm record keeping so that they will know the profit they are making. They would further be supported with improved input varieties, agrochemicals, and new technologies to increase yield. He said the basic thing the groups need to know are the strategies to reduce cost of production, increase profitability, connection to all available markets, and generally the use of best practices to increase output. "The next generation of farmers are farmers that should see agriculture as a business and not a development project; therefore, farmers should begin to talk like businessmen," he said.

The exercise was generally participatory and several questions were asked by the participants and response was equally given by the respective speakers throughout the exercise attended by the CDA officials,

Continued on page 11

CASP Trains Programme Staff and Consultants on Value Chain Profiling

The Programme Support Office of IFAD-CASP has conducted Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for National and States Programme Staff and some Consultants as a fall out of the Training on Institutional Analysis for Rural Development Programmes organized by IFAD Country Office in Abuja. The workshop was conducted at Ajuji Greenwich Hotel, Abuja from 5th – 9th December, 2016

In his opening remarks, the IFAD Country Programme Officer for West and Central Africa Region, Oussama Ameziane Hassani explained that the training workshop was timely and significant to CASP. He said value chain profiling is necessary as it would enable the programme to identify all the actors involved in the value chain and the institutions that join them together to improve productivity and the value added from their activities.

The Country Programme Officer stated that IFAD works with smallholder farmers across the CASP States and therefore effective use of agriculture can help in poverty reduction, increase food security and accelerate economic growth on a sustainable basis.

“CASP promotes 7 value chains, namely; Rice, Maize, Millet, Sorghum, Cowpea, Wheat and Ground nut. We need to develop business models for the value chains, we need to identify and characterize all the different actors involved along each value crop in order to achieve sustainable agricultural development”, he said.

Oussama Hassani who was recently deployed to Nigeria from Rome, Italy noted that IFAD would key into the Federal Government's Green Alternative Policy to revamp the economy through agriculture. He pledged to work closely with all



Alain Onibon from the FAO, Lead Facilitator for CASP Value Chain Profiling making a remark during the ToT Workshop held at Ajuji Hotel, Abuja.

stakeholders to achieve the objective of the programme.

Earlier in a welcome address, the National Programme Coordinator, Alhaji Muhammad Lawal Idah stated that the relevance of the value chain profiling exercise cannot be over emphasized as it is the bedrock of the CASP intervention along commodity value chains.

He said the goal of CASP is to reduce rural poverty, increase food security and accelerate economic growth on a sustainable basis. The programme development objective is increased incomes, enhanced food security and reduced vulnerability for smallholder farmers, particularly women and youth in the participating States.

The National Programme Coordinator further stated that Value chains are organized linkages between groups of producers, traders, processors, and service providers.

The Lead Facilitator of the exercise, Alain Onibon said the success of any value chain intervention depends on the effectiveness of stakeholder analysis

and characterization.

The Agribusiness Specialist of the Programme, Mr. Achem Bello informed CASP News that seven Consultants were engaged, 1 per value chain in addition to two National Consultants engaged to provide leadership to the Consultants.

The Agribusiness Specialist further stated that International Consultants Dr. Henry Asamuoa, an Agribusiness Specialist from Ghana and Alain Onibon from the Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO were also engaged to provide technical assistance for the exercise.

He said characterization of the 7 value chains have been concluded and Stakeholder engagement, which basically involved field work and interaction with Farmers, Processors, Inputs dealers, Off-takers, Banks and Financial Institutions, Service Providers, etc have been concluded also.

At the end of the exercise the programme will produce 7 business models that can be used for implementing the value chains promoted under CASP.

Brief Highlights of Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme, CASP

The Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme (CASP) in the Savannah Belt was approved by the IFAD Executive Board in December 2013, while the Financing Agreement was signed and entered into force between IFAD and the Federal Government of Nigeria on 25th March 2015.

The programme is financed by the federal and state governments of Nigeria (approximately US\$ 5.77 million), beneficiaries (US\$ 1.4 million), an IFAD loan (US\$ 70 million), an IFAD grant (US\$ 0.48), and an ASAP grant (US\$ 14.95).

The goal of CASP is to reduce rural poverty, increase food security and accelerate economic growth on a sustainable basis.

The programme development objectives include increased income, enhanced food security and reduced vulnerability for smallholder farmers, particularly women and youth in the participating states.

CASP is based on the lessons from the completed IFAD-funded Community-Based Agricultural and Rural Development Programme (CBARDP).

In line with the measures of the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) of the Government of Nigeria, the programme promotes agriculture productivity enhancements and agriculture as a principal driver, integrates climate change resilience adaptation measures, has a private sector orientation in the provision of extension services, builds on the Community Development Association (CDA) model as the primary entry for implementation, makes specific consideration for insecurity in the states of Borno and Yobe, and targets women and youth.

CASP is being implemented in seven (7) states that were targeted by its predecessor project, CBARDP; which include Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, Jigawa, Borno and Yobe. It is built on activities in the LGAs that participated in the CBARDP. CASP will incorporate more LGAs in these states. ASAP activities will also focus on these states in the Savannah belt.

The priority target groups are the moderately poor and the productive core poor households, who represent over 90% of the population in the proposed states. Focus on women and youth will be reflected in the entire programme's activities; including in its management structure.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The Programme is being implemented through the following components:-

Component 1:
Productivity Enhancements and Climate Resilience

Component 2:
Enterprise Development for Women and Youth

Component 3:
Institutional Development

Component 4:
Programme Coordination and Management

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

PSO was delegated by Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) with the responsibility for the day-to-day coordination of the implementation of the programme. FMARD empowered the PSO to have the operational autonomy and flexibility which it requires to be effective in the coordination of project-funded activities.

The Programme Support Office consists of suitably qualified and experienced project team made up of the following: The National Programme Coordinator, Agricultural Development Coordinator, Climate Change Specialist, Agribusiness Specialist, Rural Infrastructure Engineer, Gender and Youth Coordinator, Institutional Development Coordinator, Knowledge Management and Communications Coordinator, Financial Services Association Coordinator, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, Procurement Officer, Financial Controller, Internal Auditor, Accountant and Administrative Officer.

The State Support Offices (SSOs) manage programme implementation and coordination at the states with the project team comprising State Programme Officers (SPOs), Agronomists, Engineers, M&E Officers and PPP Specialists.

COMPONENTS/UNITS BRIEFS

Component 1: Productivity Enhancements and Climate Resilience:

Productivity Enhancement and Climate Resilience component would sensitize and train communities on improved best production practices and mitigation measures to address the impact of climate change risks. Sub-component 1.1: Agricultural Productivity and Production Enhancements

The sub-component is responsible to facilitate and catalyzed the smallholder farmers to adopt best production practices and climate resilience measures to enhance their agricultural productivity. The major

activities of the sub-component largely cut across strengthening agricultural extension services using FFS/FBS, engaging the farmers into community seed production and support to market access.

Sub-component 1.2: Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation.

CASP will mainstream climate change adaptation measures through a landscape rehabilitation approach focused on sustainable land management, which encompasses soil erosion control, water harvesting technique and soil and water conservation. Through Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) exercises carried out by the communities (and assisted by service providers), the main climate change impacts and interventions are to be identified. Communities will be encouraged through technical assistance to implement landscape rehabilitation activities.

Component 2: Enterprise Development for Women and Youth.

CASP will support individual or group private sector enterprise development specifically for women and youth. In line with a key objective of the Government's N-Agripreneurs as captured in the Youth Employment in Agriculture Programme (YEAP), CASP would support the creation of jobs and job opportunities around value chains.

Sub Component 2.1: Gender and Youth

The G&Y sub-component under CASP is specially upgraded to meet the requirements of the IFAD Policy on Gender equality and Women's empowerment, aligned to providing economic empowerment for women and youth, and for women to have equal voice in community investment decisions, reduced work load and equal share of economic and social benefits, through a range of activities that remove barriers and obstacles along the value-chain process.

Sub Component 2.2: Agribusiness

The key consideration of the component is to support activities around the value chain points and unlock the business/enterprise angle of those activities that represent job engagement frontiers for youth and women. Support would be focused on enterprises and activities that are directly linked to adding value to production and processing and marketing or addressing constraints along the chains of the selected commodities to the market. Enterprise Development will be carried out in the following sectors: (i) Village-based input supply enterprises, (ii) Harvesting and Post-harvest handling enterprises, and (iii) Produce marketing enterprises.

Component 3: Institutional Development.

CASP would provide institution building support to the three principal structures that determine programme implementation: the farmer organizations (FOs)/ production groups; the community development

associations (CDA) and the financial services associations (FSA).

Sub-component 3.1: Support for Formation and Strengthening of CDAs and Production Groups:

(i) CASP would facilitate the establishment and/or strengthening of CDAs, which are apex bodies of the commodity/producers or enterprise groups. All group leaders (and in some cases group members) of the existing and newly formed groups will participate in trainings on leadership skills, group management, bulk procurement, market information, private sector engagement, product marketing strategies, and enhanced agro-economic and livestock practices, and climate resilience measures. CDAs are to develop Community Action Plans (CAPs) including the Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUPs), Rapid Market Analysis (RMA).

Sub-component 3.2: Strengthening Financial Services Association and Promotion of Savings and Credit Services Association.

Building on the experience of the emerging Financial Service Associations (FSAs) in CBARDP, CASP will strengthen the financial institutions. Ultimately, CASP will link the FSAs with commercial and development banks, Microfinance Banks (MFBs) and NGO MFIs. In order to strengthen the FSA model, informal financial groups, i.e. Accumulating Savings and Credit Services Associations (ASCAs) would be developed to expand the savings culture and increase outreach of financial services and linked to the FSAs. The ASCAs would be strong base for FSAs and more inclusive targeting the youth and women. To promote sustainable support to the FSAs and ASCAs, CASP would support the emergence of a State based Service Centers (SSCs) that will provide capacity building trainings and oversight functions to them.

Component 4: Programme Coordination and Management

The programme will establish a Programme Support Office (PSO) under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, State Support Offices (SSOs) at the State level and Local Government Support Offices (LGSOs) at the Local Government Level. The Programme would support training, studies, workshops, reviews, monitoring and supervision missions and other knowledge sharing activities and staff allowances. CASP would carry out a baseline study, beneficiary assessment study, impact assessments, and periodic policy analysis.

Sub-component 4.1: Administration

Sub-component 4.2: Monitoring and Evaluation

Sub-component 4.2: Knowledge Management and Communications

Sub-component 4.4: Procurement

Sub-component 4.5: Finance

Sub-component 4.6: Internal Audit

IFAD-CASP Kick Starts Collaboration with NiMet on Seasonal Rainfall Prediction (SRP)

The Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme (CASP) and the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) have commenced collaboration with the Baseline Survey for Seasonal Rainfall Prediction to support their mutual goal of providing timely and accurate climate information for use by farmers in CASP participating States of Borno, Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara.

The objective of the collaboration is to promote sustainable development in agriculture by boosting Climate Change Adaptation and Agricultural business through the provision of timely and accurate Agro-meteorological information to farmers within the CASP mandate.

CASP is a six year programme designed to reduce poverty, increase food security and accelerate economic growth on a sustainable basis by reducing vulnerability for smallholder farmers. The exercise was conducted in 21 selected Local Government Areas within the 7 participating States of CASP.

Speaking on the exercise, the National Programme Coordinator Alhaji Muhammad Lawal Idah noted that both NiMet and CASP are desirous of working on improving crops yields and farming systems by adaptation of climate change for sustainable agriculture as business and economic development.

“CASP is unique and structured to help women and youths and other Agri-entrepreneurs run agriculture as business, not just subsistence. CASP would encourage climate resilient products. It is in this regard that we look forward to this collaboration to provide information on onset and cessation dates of the growing season; length of the growing season; seasonal



NPC CASP, Alhaji Muhammad Lawal Idah, interacting with farmers in Dusuman Village, Jere LGA of Borno State.

amount of rainfall; and little dry season and dry spells to our farmers for sustainable agriculture”, he stated.

He further highlighted that in pursuing a landscape approach to climate change adaptation, CASP proposed investments in agricultural productivity and potential linkages of farmers to markets and priority commodity chains would integrate wider risks, including climate risk issues, that have direct impact on productivity and rural assets.

The National Programme Coordinator further stated that CASP would provide adequate support for the dissemination of relevant meteorological reports and other climatological information relating to agriculture generated by NiMet for the benefit of the rural farmers within the programme States.

The representative of the Director General of NiMet Mr. Joe Alozie explained that the services of the agency cut across every sector of the economy, from agriculture to maritime, aviation, oil and gas, tourism and others.

He said NiMet will provide weather information, including the likely period of dry spell and locations of likely flash flood occurrences to farmers who are grossly dependent on rain fed agriculture.

Under the collaboration, CASP-NiMet will develop crop calendars in line with the value chain crops adopted by the participating communities of CASP. NiMet will train Extension Workers, Climate Change officers and selected members of the Community Development Associations on interpretation of the seasonal rainfall predictions and analysis.

Climate Information Centres and Agro-meteorological Stations would also be established in selected Local government Areas.

The survey conducted includes collection of detailed information on weather/climate issues, farming systems, type of soil and other climate existing data to enable the agency to come up with specific rainfall prediction and other meteorological information in support of agricultural production and productivity in the CASP States.

IFAD-CASP: Zamfara SSO Conducts Sensitisation in Village Areas

Adamu Ila
KMC Officer, Zamfara

The Zamfara State Support Office of the Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme (CASP) has embarked on mobilisation and sensitisation of farmers and enterprise groups towards full implementation of the programme across all the village areas participating in the state.

The Project Implementation Team led by the State Programme Officer, Dr Mainasara Shehu, visited Birnin Magaji and Kaga local government areas. The visit was attended by all community development associations from the participating village areas.

Addressing potential beneficiaries of the Programme at the local government secretariat of Birnin Magaji LGA, Dr Shehu said CASP will support the smallholder farmers to increase production and adopt climate smart agricultural practices for efficiency and profitability in the sector. He appealed to the royal fathers, policy makers, group leaders and community leaders to support the programme in order to improve agricultural production.

Dr Shehu called on community development associations to be just in the discharge of their responsibilities, and called on the local government to support the programme officers at the local government level.

Shedding more light on the activities of his component, the State Procurement Officer, Alhaji Muhammad Sani Aliyu Maru, said under the new programme, all the local government community development associations are required to adhere strictly to procurement guidelines as contained in the Programme's concept. He explained that consultants and service providers were going to be engaged to execute some community



Cross Section of CASP Communities listening attentively during CASP Mobilization and Sensitization in Zamfara State.

projects and emphasised the importance of record-keeping adding that all purchases must contain all the necessary transaction information.

Alhaji Sani Maru said all participating village areas would be funded directly by IFAD-CASP and appealed to all community development associations' officials to be transparent and put the fear of Allah in conducting their affairs.

Also commenting, Gender and Youth Coordinator, Hajiya Rabi Abdullahi Nahuce, said under the new programme, 727 thousand people are targeted in the seven participating states. She also said that 103,858 people will benefit from the programme in Zamfara State with job creation potential for over 500 thousand youths.

Hajiya Abdullahi Nahuce further said the programme will focus on

climate change resilience, institutional development, gender and youth as well as productivity enhancement. She said women should be given at least 40 per cent share to partake in the programme with a view to enhancing their livelihood and living condition.

Also speaking, the Chairman of Birnin Magaji local government council, Alhaji Muhammad Umar Wanban Birnin Magaji gave assurances of the LGA in supporting the programme because of the remarkable achievement of IFAD and CBARDP. The chairman, who was represented by his secretary, Alhaji Suleman Galadima, said his council would punish any staff found wanting in the discharge of his responsibilities, and assured that he will give the necessary logistic support for the smooth operation of the programme.

Also commenting, Gender and Youth Coordinator, Hajiya Rabi Abdullahi Nahuce, said under the new programme, 727 thousand people are targeted in the seven participating states. She also said that 103,858 people will benefit from the programme in Zamfara State with job creation potential for over 500 thousand youths.

IFAD-CASP To Rehabilitate Existing Range Lands And Establish New Ones

Hayatu Jibo Dallatu
KMC Officer, Sokoto

In its effort to reduce rampant clashes between farmers and herdsmen, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has concluded arrangements to establish one grazing reserve at each senatorial district in Sokoto State, in line with its Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme (CASP). The State Programme Officer of IFAD in Sokoto, Alhaji Aminu Aliyu Dogon Daji, disclosed this while speaking at a sensitisation meeting organised under the IFAD - CASP villages sensitisation programme held at Shagari Local Government Area.

Alhaji Aminu Dogon Daji who was represented by the State Institutional Development Officer, Abubakar Samaila, said the motive behind the creation of grazing reserves is to pull together Fulani herdsmen into one place in order to reduce the clashes between them and farmers. "Considering the fact that Fulani herdsmen do not have a specific place that can accommodate their needs, the IFAD deemed it fit to provide them with these reserves in order to ease their suffering as well as movement from one place to another," Alhaji Dogon Daji said, adding that the Sokoto State government had already provided 300 hectares of land to each zone for that purpose so as to compliment Federal Government's efforts towards the development of pastoral activities in the state. Each grazing reserve will contain veterinary clinic, nomadic school and wind mill.

The State Institutional Development Officer, Abubakar



NPC, IFAD-CASP with SPO Sokoto, Aminu Aliyu Dogon Daji, discussing some issues with CASP Communities during Group Mapping & Formation in Sokoto.

Samaila, while explaining the objectives of IFAD-CASP programmes to the beneficiaries, said the core objectives include increased income, enhanced food security and reduced vulnerability

“

Sokoto State government had already provided 300 hectares of land to each zone for that purpose so as to compliment Federal Government's efforts towards the development of pastoral activities in the state. Each grazing reserve will contain veterinary clinic, nomadic school and wind mill

”

for smallholder farmers, particularly women and youth. He also spoke extensively on how to form group organisations within the programme, stating that that was the only process through which IFAD can come in and assist.

The State Agricultural Development Officer, Alhaji Saidu Rara, who spoke on various farming method, in which the participants in the programme can apply in order to enhance their food production from subsystem to agribusiness, also explained the reasons why IFAD insists that farmers should comply with all the directives given to them, which he said is to help improve their activities in the future.

The sensitisation meeting also featured a question and answer session in which officials from the Sokoto IFAD office responded to questions from the farmers. The local government areas visited by the IFAD officials are Tangaza, Shagari and Dange Shuni.