

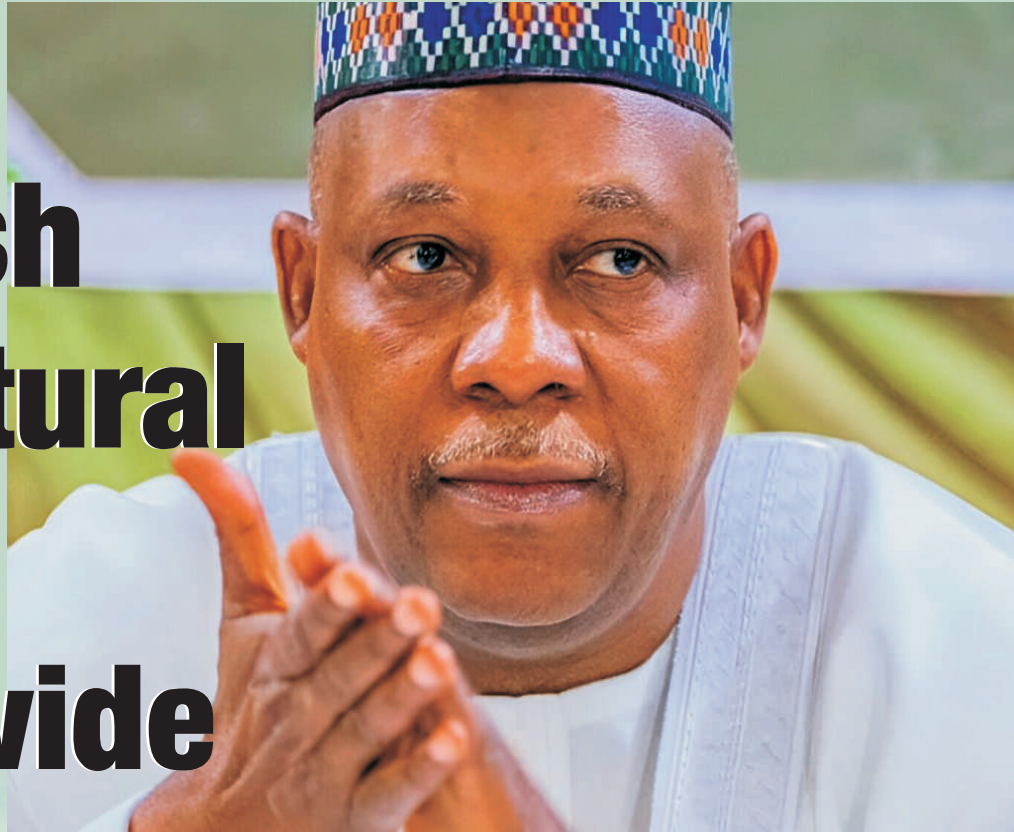


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NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF SPECIAL AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING ZONES (SAPZ) PROGRAMME

FG To Establish Agricultural Hub Nationwide



FG Restates Commitment to Achieve Food Security Through SAPZ Implementation



AfDB President Pledges to Support SAPZ in Nigeria



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The Dawn of a New Day

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to the inaugural edition of our publication, The SAPZ Newsletter, a platform dedicated to exploring the complexities and opportunities within the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) Programme. As we embark on this enlightening journey together, we will delve into the core objectives and far-reaching impact of this transformative initiative.

The Programme Development Objective of the SAPZ is to support inclusive and sustainable agro-industrial development in Nigeria, aimed at diversifying Nigeria's economy through agriculture and reduction of food import bills.

The programme represents a transformative initiative aimed at driving economic growth and food security across the country. It is designed to create designated areas where agricultural production, processing, and value-added activities are centralized to boost productivity and attract investment.

By integrating infrastructure, technology, and logistics, SAPZs will help address the challenges of fragmented agricultural value chains, post-harvest losses, and low productivity in rural areas.

SAPZs are envisioned as engines of economic diversification and rural transformation, with the aim of bridging the gap between smallholder farmers and large markets, increase job opportunities, and foster sustainable agricultural practices. Through public-private partnerships and coordinated investment, SAPZs offer a promising approach to modernizing agriculture and agro-processing industries, contributing to poverty reduction, agro-industrialization and economic resilience.

As these zones evolve, the SAPZ Programme is gaining traction with support from multilateral development organizations, governments, and the private sector, making it a key pillar for sustainable development in the agricultural sector.

This edition delves into the progress, challenges, and prospects of SAPZs, with insights from industry experts, policymakers, and community leaders working to realize the potential of this visionary programme.

This edition also serves as an in-depth exploration, designed to unravel the layers of the SAPZ Programme and its potential to reshape the agricultural landscape in Nigeria. Through a curated collection of articles, interviews, and features, we aim to provide you with a better understanding of the pivotal role agro-industrialization plays in driving national growth and prosperity.

Thank you for joining us on this path of discovery and progress. It is indeed a new dawn.

Warm regards.

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FG To Establish Agricultural Hubs Nationwide

The Federal Government of Nigeria says it would establish an agricultural hub across the States of the country through the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZs) Programme and the Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) to increase production and value-added processing.

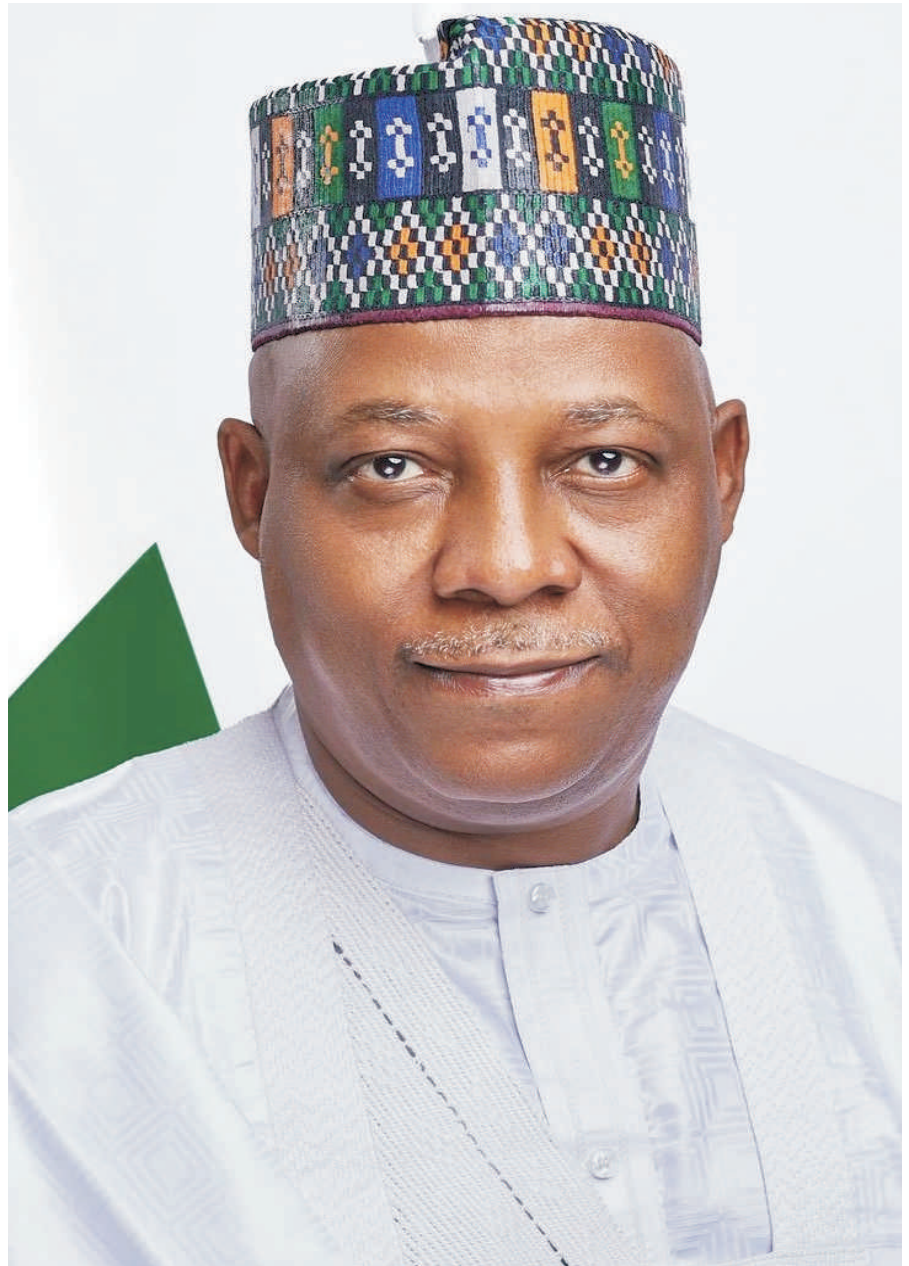
This was contained in a communiqué issued at the end of the Nigeria High Level Event on Innovative Finance for Food Systems Transformation, a case study of Nigeria's SAPZ and VCDP Programme.

The meeting was organized on the sidelines of the 2023 United Nations Food Systems Summit held in Rome, Italy.

The Vice President, Kashim Shettima, who chaired the event, said that the Federal Government would continue to accord high priority on mobilization of innovative financing to address key challenges of food systems.

The Vice President explained that tackling challenges of food security is in line with the Nigeria Food Systems Transformation Pathways.

"Considering the huge food finance gap in Nigeria, we are calling for the mobilization of key national and international stakeholders to build a win-win



*His Excellency Alhaji Kashim Shettima
Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria*

partnership," the Vice President said, adding that this is to catalyze transformative and substantial funding for the achievement of sustainable, resilient, and inclusive

food systems.

In his remark, the President of IFAD, Mr Alvaro Lario, said to stimulate private investment, there was a need for governments and

development agencies to lead the way with their own investments.

According to him, “We must also ensure these investments help smallholder farmers increase their incomes, improve their access to markets, increase their production, as well as build their resilience.”

In their separate remarks, the President of Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser and the President of African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Akinwumi Adesina represented by Mrs Hassatou N'Sele, Vice-President AfDB, reiterated their firm commitment to support Nigeria in achieving its development aspirations and implementing its future national development plans.

According to the communiqué, two case studies were presented with a high-level panel discussion showcasing two innovative finance models aimed at transforming Nigeria's food system.

The first case study was the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) Programme, which is a five-year programme designed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) in close collaboration with the Africa Development Bank, (AfDB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Islamic Development Bank, (IsDB), participating states and local governments, as well as other key development partners.

SAPZ was launched in 2022 with a funding of US\$538.5 million to promote inclusive agribusiness development and



The first case study was the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) Program, which is a five-year program designed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) in close collaboration with the Africa Development Bank, (AfDB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Islamic Development Bank, (IsDB), participating states and local governments, as well as other key development partners.



rural transformation by establishing agricultural-specific economic zones.

The programme targets 100,000 direct beneficiaries with 90 per cent smallholders and 10 per cent small processors / traders / service providers.

The communiqué also presented the Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) as the second case study and highlighted that, VCDP was launched in 2016, with funding from IFAD to the tune of US\$329 million.

The programme's objective is to improve the income and food security of poor rural households engaged in production, processing and marketing of rice and cassava on a sustainable basis.

It targets 135,000 direct beneficiaries comprising 121,000

smallholder farmers and 14,000 processors/ marketers.

The communiqué recommended that government develop visions with the right policies, strategies, and an enabling environment to stimulate innovative food investments by all actors. It emphasized the need for accelerated and coordinated implementation of the National Pathways for Food System Transformation.

Furthermore, it called on the private sector to scale up its innovative investments to support the country's food systems priorities. It also highlighted the importance of integrating social, environmental, and health costs into funding decisions and fostering Public-Private Partnerships among international development partners.

AfDB President Pledges to Support SAPZ in Nigeria



*Dr. Akinwumi Adesina
President, African Development Bank (AfDB)*

The President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr. Akinwunmi Adesina says the bank would provide strong support to the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZs) Programme in Nigeria.

Dr. Adesina, who made the remark during the bank's launch of the SAPZs in Nigeria, said AfDB has resolved to invest over \$1 billion to finance the implementation of 18 SAPZs across African countries.

He noted that the SAPZs would help to transform the food and agricultural sector, adding that they would attract

private agribusinesses to move into these infrastructure enabled areas.

"They would create massive jobs across agricultural value chains," he said. "SAPZs would also help to reduce rural to urban migration, expand the physical space and enhance the emergence of competitive agricultural value chains."

The AfDB President said most importantly, SAPZs would help in transforming rural economies of Nigeria from zones of economic misery to zones of economic prosperity, boosting wealth and livelihoods.

Similarly, the President and Group Chairman of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), H.E. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser in his address during the official launch, reiterated the firm commitment of the IsDB Group to supporting Nigeria in achieving its development aspirations and implementing its future national development plans.

He explained that IsDB Group's involvement in the country has focused on various sectors especially agriculture which is the backbone of the economy in most IsDB member countries.

Dr. Al Jasser further expressed his gratitude to the Government of Nigeria as well as other major development partners including the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) Group, and the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) that stood by the IsDB Group in making SAPZ a reality.

The Nigeria Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) programme is being implemented in seven states across Nigeria including, Cross River, Imo, Kaduna, Kano, Kwara, Ogun, and Oyo as well as the Federal Capital Territory. SAPZ's objective is to support inclusive and sustainable agro-industrial development in Nigeria. It mainly focuses on



DG, Lamin Barrow of AfDB, IFAD Vice President and IsDB President during SAPZ Nigeria Launch.

supporting the development of enabling climate-adapted infrastructure for Agro-Industrial Hubs and improving agricultural productivity and enterprise development to enhance agricultural value chains and job creation.

The Programme is government-enabled and private sector-led effort that seeks to mobilize private sector investment into the selected zones. The total amount mobilized for Phase 1 of the Programme is \$538 million.

FCTA Build Capacity of Staff to Effectively Deliver SAPZ in FCT

The Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) under the Agriculture and Rural Development Secretariat recently conducted a five-day training for members of Programme Implementation Committee of the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) Programme to ensure smooth implementation of the programme.

The main objective of the training was to enhance the understanding of the implementation team and develop their capacities to manage activities effectively and efficiently.

While declaring the training workshop open, the Mandate Secretary of the Agriculture and Rural

Development Secretariat of the FCTA, Mr. Lawan Geidam explained that the SAPZ would transform agriculture, increase agricultural productivity, enhance rural agricultural industrialization thereby creating jobs and wealth for the rural communities of the FCT.

He further explained that the programme will not only generate significant revenue for the FCT but also generate employment opportunities and infrastructural development in host communities.

"Let me assure you of the firm commitment and support of the FCT Administration towards successful implementation of the SAPZ," he stated.

Continued on page 9

FG Restates Commitment to Achieve Food Security Through SAPZ Implementation

The Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Abubakar Kyari has restated the commitment of the Federal Government to achieve food security through the implementation of Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones Programme (SAPZ).

The Minister made the remark at an inception workshop organized for Phase II of the SAPZ Programme in Abuja recently.

The Minister explained that the Ministry would accelerate the implementation of the Programme as it was designed to diversify the rural economy through agriculture thereby making it a more profitable venture.

Senator Kyari said SAPZ is a comprehensive and inclusive agro industrialization programme designed as a tool for creating integrated, agricultural focused platforms that will accelerate private sector investment in value added agro-processing to unlock opportunities for improved food security, job creation, import substitution, rural poverty reduction and increased contribution of agriculture to national GDP.

He said that food security is the collective responsibility of all Nigerians, adding that President Bola Tinubu's administration would continue providing unprecedented support to agriculture and food security.



*Senator Abubakar Kyari
Hon. Minister for Agriculture and Food Security*

“The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security was working hard to achieve Mr. President's agenda on food security, poverty reduction and job creation,” the Minister said.

“We are also working with relevant stakeholders to support private business development, because agriculture should be treated as a business.”

The Minister, who commended the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) for supporting the SAPZ, reaffirmed the commitment of the government to work with the States and private sector to mobilize resources for the

implementation of the programme.

Earlier on, the Director General, Nigeria Country Department of AfDB, Lamin Barrow, said the bank was set to commence the implementation of phase II of the Programme which was designed to promote the development of value chains for strategic commodities in Nigeria.

The Director General said that following the successful results being recorded under the phase I, about 27 States indicated interest to key into phase II of the SAPZ, which aims to transform agriculture through provision of

world class infrastructure to support agri-businesses, develop competitive value chains supported by logistic systems that will drive food processing and value addition.

The States include, Anambra, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Borno, Benue, Delta, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Enugu, Gombe, Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Lagos, Nasarawa, Niger, Sokoto, Osun, Ondo, Rivers and Taraba

Barrow further explained that the programme would help in wealth creation and job opportunities for the teeming youth and women in rural areas. He said SAPZ would certainly improve the livelihoods and living conditions of farmers.

“Under the Phase I, about 1.5 million households were expected

“

Under the Phase I, about 1.5 million households were expected to benefit directly through the agricultural value chain. This includes private agribusinesses, agro-processors, smallholder farmers, agripreneurs and agro-dealers.

”

to benefit directly through the agricultural value chain. This includes private agribusinesses, agro-processors, smallholder farmers, agripreneurs and agro-dealers.

“The Programme would create at least 400,000 direct jobs and 1.6

million indirect jobs during construction and operational phase. Micro, small and medium enterprises, as well as factories, along the value chain would create most of the jobs along with tenant industries in the agro-industrial hubs,” he said.

FCTA Build Capacity of Staff to Effectively Deliver SAPZ in FCT

Continued from page 7

Geidam urged the participants to work as a team and ensure that the objectives of the programme were achieved.

Earlier in her speech, the State Programme Coordinator in the FCT, Hajiya Umma Abubakar restated the determination of her team towards the success of the programme adding that the livestock sector of the FCT would be transformed under the SAPZ

She commended the Africa Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank for supporting the programme in the FCT.

Hajiya Umma Abubakar further stated that SAPZ aims to support the development of climate adaptive infrastructure for agro-industrial hubs, and improve agricultural productivity and enterprise development to enhance agricultural value chain as well as job creation among others.

In his remark, Dr. Adesola Oyebanji, an Agricultural Consultant who gave an overview of the programme said that the training workshop was organized to equip the participants with project management skills.

He said the training will help the committee members to overcome both anticipated and unforeseen challenges in the course of implementation.

Dr. Oyebanji noted that the proposed Paikon Kore Grazing Reserve would become the hub of livestock production, processing and marketing in the FCT as soon as all its challenges are addressed under the SAPZ.

A cross section of the participants who spoke to SAPZ News expressed optimism that the training would help them discharge their responsibilities accordingly.

SAPZ Trains Staff on Programme Implementation

The National Co-ordination Office of the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone Programme (SAPZ) recently organized a two day Implementation Support Workshop for staff of the implementation units of FCT, Kwara and Kano States participating under the funding support of the Islamic Development Bank.

The training workshop which held at Fadama House Conference Hall, Abuja was convened to further re-invigorate the implementation process of the programme.

While declaring the workshop opened, the Director of the Projects Coordinating Unit (PCU), Federal

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS), Alhaji Bukar Musa emphasized the relevance of the training towards educating the project staff to enable them have clear understanding of the SAPZ, its implementation arrangements, procedures, processes, roles, responsibilities and expected results.

The Director said FMAFS and PCU would continue to provide all the needed support to SAPZ for successful implementation to achieve its Programme Development Objective.

Earlier in a welcome remark, the National Programme Coordinator, Dr. Kabir Yusuf explained that the objective of the workshop was to ensure that all

key staff of the participating States were well equipped technically to enable them discharge their responsibilities effectively. "The aim was to build states' staff capacities for efficient project implementation process," he added.

The National Programme Coordinator further stated that the training workshop would improve the capacity of the frontline officers and also acquaint them with implementation guidelines and procedures. He said the SAPZ would continue to support the Staff and beneficiaries of the Programme for the realization of its objectives.

Dr. Kabir Yusuf noted that the objective of the SAPZ is to support



The National Programme Coordinator, Dr. Kabir Yusuf giving an overview of the programme during the SAPZ-NCO workshop.



Musa Bukar, Director Projects Coordinating Unit, giving an opening remarks during SAPZ-NCO Implementation workshop.

inclusive and sustainable agro-industrial development in Nigeria.

“The SAPZ would support farmers to increase agricultural production, enhance agricultural businesses to create wealth, jobs, and markets in order to revive the rural economy through agro-industrial initiatives,” he said.

In a vote of thanks on behalf of the participants, the Kwara State Programme Coordinator (SPC), Engr. (Dr.) Busari Toyin Isiaka expressed profound appreciation to the NCO for organizing the training which he described as timely and a prerequisite towards effective implementation of the SAPZ.

Also during the technical session of the training, the National Programme Coordinator, Dr. Kabir Yusuf made a detailed presentation of the SAPZ's implementation strategy, procedures and the expected results.

He said IsDB would support farmers to increase production of rice, tomato, groundnuts and sesame in Kano State in addition to



The IsDB representative, Alhaji Umar Ibrahim, giving his remarks during SAPZ-NCO implementation workshop held in Abuja.

establishment of tomato paste and concentrate processing mills, while in Kwara, maize and soyabean crops as well as livestock production would be boosted to improve the livelihoods and living conditions of the rural farmers. He said SAPZ would support the setting of modern abattoirs and power plants within the agricultural industrial hubs that would be established by the SAPZ.

Similarly, the component heads

of the programme also gave detailed overview of their component's activities, expected roles and results of each component. These include, presentation on construction of agro-industrial hubs and management, financial control, procedures and regulations, monitoring and evaluation in donor funded programmes/project and procurement procedures and regulations.



Group photograph during the SAPZ-NCO Implementation Support Mission held in Abuja.

PHOTO NEWS



Dr. Kabir Yusuf, NPC-SAPZ having a handshake with Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, AfDB President.



Dr. Kabir Yusuf (right) briefing the HMS FMAFS, Dr. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi (centre), during a tour of exhibition at Nigeria Cooperation Open House held at Abuja Continental Hotel.



From Right: Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Kashim Shettima, NPC-VCDE, Dr. Fatima Aliyu and NPC-SAPZ, Dr. Kabir Yusuf, in a group picture at the United Nation Food System Summit on Rome.



Group photograph of participants during the Workshop organised by NCO-SAPZ for Technical Staff on Contract Management.



Dr. Kabir Yusuf interacting with Gender Officers of the SAPZ participating States during Gender and Nutrition Training at Abuja.



Knowledge Management and Communication Specialist, Shehu Babangida, interacting with Dr. Adebayo, IFAD Program Manager at FGN-FAD Implementation Support Mission.

PHOTO NEWS



Dignitaries during the SAPZ Nigeria Launch.



Dr. Kabir Yusuf (NPC, SAPZ) with Mr. Abu Ibrahim (ES, NAD FUND) during collaboration meeting with the NCO - SAPZ.



Group Photograph at United Nation Food Summit in Rome.



Group Photograph during SAPZ-NCO Fiduciary taring at Portharcourt.



The Vice President of Nigeria, Kashim Shettima (3rd from right) with participants at the United Nation Food System Summit in Rome.

FGN/IFAD SAPZ Host Start-Up Workshop/ Implementation Support Mission



Dignitaries in a group picture during FGN-IFAD SAPZ Implementation Support Mission.

The Nigeria's Country Office of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in collaboration with the Federal Government of Nigeria has conducted a five-day Start-Up Workshop/ implementation support mission for the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones Programme in Kano.

The workshop had in attendance the IFAD Country Director, Dede Ahoefa Ekoue and her team, representatives of IFAD West and Central Africa Office, the Minister, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Africa Development Bank (AfDB), representative of the Federal Ministry of Finance, representative of National Planning Commission, the representative of Kano State Governor, Kano State Commissioners for Agriculture and Finance and other dignitaries from Kano State Government.

The participants were drawn from key stakeholders comprising of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) including Projects Coordinating Unit PCU, Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning (FMFBNP) including the International Economic Relations Department (IERD), Kano state government, Kano State Ministry of Agriculture, Kano State Ministry of Finance, IFAD Country Office in Nigeria, WCA and HQ. Others are

the African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, SAPZ National Coordination office, SAPZ State Project implementation unit, Ongoing FGN/IFAD Projects (VCDP & LIFE-ND), FGN-IFAD Country Programme Advisory Team (CPAT), Representative of FGN/IFAD farmer groups/association, and Other key stakeholders including private sector actors.

In his remarks, the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Sen. Abubakar Kyari, who was represented by Director Projects Coordinating Unit (PCU), Mr Musa Bukar, said FGN/IFAD implementation mission/start-up workshop for SAPZs was meant to support the development of the programme in enhancing high food production.

He added that, the program would help in creating Agro-industrial Hubs and Agricultural Transformation Centres through the provision of support infrastructure and policy regulatory incentives for the private sector, which would be led by AfDB.

The Minister noted that the FGN/IFAD programme targets rural women and youth, stressing that the programme would also include social inclusion and provide opportunities for participation on internally displace person and people with special needs.

Senator Kyari stated that the strength of the SAPZ lies in integrated funding from major partners AfDB,

IFAD and IsDB, leveraging experiences from existing programmes.

“Nigeria's economy has taken bold steps to attract investments, boost domestic investment, and promote economic growth and job creation, thanks to the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu”, the minister said.

In her welcome address, the IFAD Country Director, Dede Ahoefa Ekoue, stated that the objectives of the mission were to mobilize and build capacity of key stakeholders from oversight institutions, project management units, partners organisations such as farmer's organizations on strategies, collaboration approaches and procedures for a successful project implementation

The Country Director lent credence to IFAD's commitment to agricultural and rural development of Nigeria.

She said, “IFAD is deeply committed to bringing the gains of transformation to farmers in Nigeria. Part of which is the on-going SAPZs.

“The Programme was envisaged to transform the lives of its beneficiaries, improve agricultural production and productivity through provision of agro processing centres, and equipment, including agricultural inputs support, all of which will bring more income, economic prosperity and ensure food security.”

Ekoue said that the technical session of the workshop would be very educative for the PIUs to understand their Schedule and have a better understanding of the Program document and Cost Table.

“The Country Office intends to help the PIU understand the program, make the program a center of excellence where there will be a culture of professionalism,” she said.

Also in his remarks, the National Programme Coordinator, Dr. Kabir Yusuf, stated that the objectives of the workshop which was to provide a forum for key stakeholders to interact and gain better understanding of the details and implementation strategies of the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones Programme.

Dr. Yusuf explained that it was expected that at the end of the workshop, there would be an understanding of the Implementation Arrangements and Procedures of the Programme, understanding of the roles and responsibilities of key program staff, understanding of management procedures and fiduciary arrangements of the Programme and knowledge of result expected from



The Country Director IFAD Nigeria, Mrs. Dede Ekoue presenting her welcome address at FGN-IFAD SAPZ Implementation Support Mission.

programme activities etc. In addition, to accelerate private sector engagement in value-added agro-processing, addressing critical aspects such as food security, job creation, rural development, and a significant boost to the national GDP.

The National Programme Coordinator expressed appreciation to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Federal Ministry of Finance, the IFAD Country Office, Kano State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the State Coordinating Office whose hard work would help determine the success of the programme.

In a Goodwill Message, delivered by Dr. Jonathan Agwe, IFAD Lead Regional Technical Specialist, Rural Finance, Markets and Value Chains of the IFAD West and Central Africa Office said that from originating as African Special Economic Zones in the late 1990s, transitioning into Agro-Industrial Parks in the early 2000s, and finally evolving into SAPZ in the 2020s, the project has undergone significant transformation.



Dr. Kabir Yusuf, NPC SAPZ, asking question during FGN-IFAD SAPZ Implementation Support Mission.

He said the SAPZ initiative, a collaborative effort involving FGN, AfDB, IFAD, IsDB, Kano State, and various public-private producer partnerships, aims to uplift vulnerable rural communities lacking development opportunities due to inherent vulnerabilities. The programme focuses on hard-to-reach populations and integrates a 4P model - Public-Private-Producer Partnership. Key targeted commodities are selected based on criteria such as nutrition, gender, youth sensitivity, climate resilience, and support for vulnerable groups like IDPs and people with disabilities, PwDs.

Dr Jonathan further said that the innovative approach of the SAPZ includes blending concessional resources from IFAD with funds from GCF/IGREENFIN to attract private capital, emphasizing sustainability and economic and social returns on investment. Additionally, market-priced loanable resources are provided to support commercial producers, ensuring a holistic strategy for sustainable rural development.

Also in his remarks, the representative of the Islamic Development Bank expressed gratitude to IFAD for the opportunity to speak at the start-up/implementation support mission.

He restated the commitment of the bank in financing three Nigerian states: Kano, FCT, and Kwara to the tune of \$150.5 million under the SAPZ. He said the IsDB was

committed to providing necessary support to both national and state-level Project Implementation Units (PIUs), emphasizing their readiness to assist in procurement, disbursement, and reporting.

He urged the Kano State PIU to utilize the start-up workshop to understand implementation strategies and assured their availability for any workshop-related issues.

Similarly, the representative of the Africa Development Bank said the SAPZ would transform and modernize agriculture focusing on enhancing economic growth and food security in Nigeria. She added that the programme focuses on fostering partnerships with public and private sectors, agro industries, farmers' organizations, youth and women entrepreneurs, service providers, and academic/research organizations to promote business-oriented agriculture through an inclusive value chain approach.

In his address, the Governor of Kano State, Kabir Abba Yusuf represented by the Commissioner of Budget and Planning, Musa Suleiman Shanono, said the State Government would support the implementation of the SAPZ to achieve its objective of enhancing the competitiveness of the Nigerian agricultural sector by eliminating supply side constraints.

The Governor noted that Kano State Government in partnership with the SAPZ would rehabilitate and renovate existing institutions related to poultry, livestock, fisheries, irrigation, farm mechanization, and entrepreneurship development.

He said SAPZ aims to elevate Nigeria's agribusiness sector to new heights, making it competitive in both local and global food markets. He also emphasized the importance of supporting SAPZ implementation, considering the agricultural sector's significant role as the highest employer of labor and a major contributor to the country's GDP.

The SAPZ News reports that the FGN/IFAD SAPZ start-up workshop provided a unique opportunity to attract investments in agribusiness, support farmers, create jobs, ensure inclusivity for women and young people, and enhance food security.

The mission proceeded with robust technical presentations and discussions with the participants essentially to build their capacity in line with the expectations and operational guidelines of the SAPZs. The session was characterized by series of power point presentations.



Musa Bukar, Director Projects Coordinating Unit, giving a remark during the FGN-IFAD SAPZ Implementation Support Mission.

Nigeria, IFAD Deepen Cooperation to Boost Food Security



*Dr Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, CON
Hon. Minister of State for Agriculture & Food Security.*

The Federal Government of Nigeria and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), are strengthening their partnership to improve the food system in Nigeria.

The Associate Vice President of IFAD, Dr. Donal Brown, during an official mission to Nigeria, said IFAD has been Nigeria's trusted partner for reducing rural poverty and continues to partner with the government in developing Agricultural value chains.

“We are also establishing Community-driven development initiatives, developing profitable smallholder agri-business, building rural institutions, and pursuing financial inclusion for rural poor households,” he said, adding, “Since 1985, IFAD's Cooperation with the FGN helped financed 12 projects for a total \$1.586 billion, including \$546.59 million from IFAD's own resources, benefitting millions of Nigerian rural households.”

Dr. Brown told the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Abubakar Kyari that the Mission was to deepen the partnership between the Federal Government of Nigeria and IFAD to support government's efforts to transform the country's food system for food and Nutrition security, improved livelihoods of smallholders farmers and inclusive agro-industrialization.

The IFAD Associate Vice President informed the minister that Nigeria is a key partner of the UN organization, adding that he was in the country to assess existing IFAD projects and areas of further collaboration.

According to him, “Nigeria is one of our strongest partners and part of my mission is to try to strengthen

and deepen that partnership.

“Not only is my mission to strengthen our relationship, but also to look at the future direction of support that IFAD can provide the Government.”

In his remarks, the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Senator, Abubakar Kyari, expressed gratitude to IFAD for massive food security support and due diligence in the existing operations of FGN/IFAD Portfolio.

He said, “The smooth implementation of the Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises – Niger Delta (LIFE-ND), Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) Additional Financing (AF) and Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) Programme, underscores the unique quality of our strategic partnership.”

During the Mission, Dr. Brown met key officials and partners, including Vice President of Nigeria H.E Senator Kashim Shettima, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Abubakar Kyari, Minister of State Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, Minister of Budget and National Planning, Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, Executive Governor of Enugu State, Dr. Peter Mbah and Executive Governor of Benue State, Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Alia, Development partners, Farmers and the Private Sector.

Continued on page 19

SAPZ to Create 50,000 Jobs in FCT

The Minister of State, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Dr Mariya Mahmoud said the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones Programme, SAPZ would create about 50,000 jobs in the territory.

The Minister made the remark when she flagged off the distribution of assorted agricultural inputs to beneficiaries of the FCT.

The Minister who was represented by the Mandate Secretary, Agriculture and Rural Development Secretariat (ARDS), Hon. Lawan Kolo Geidam noted that agriculture plays a vital role in meeting human need and for that reason the FCT Administration embraced the SAPZ programme to provide the needed manpower, resources and investments to transform the agricultural the agricultural sector for sustainable development.

It was further gathered that agricultural inputs being distributed, comprises of bull calves, animal feeds, crop seeds, fertilizers, and crop protection chemicals and equipment.

Mahmoud, who disclosed that among the beneficiaries of the 5,000 crop and livestock farmers who have been successfully profiled and cleared under the first phase of the SAPZ intervention, also expressed optimism that the support will serve as a vital catalyst for building a more resilient and sustainable agricultural sector.

Identifying food as the most essential need for human survival, the minister noted that agriculture remains the backbone of the economy, providing livelihoods for



National Programme Coordinator attended the FCT-SAPZ farm inputs distribution.

millions of people and ensuring food security for the nation.

Represented by the Mandate Secretary, Agriculture and Rural Development Secretariat (ARDS), Hon. Lawan Kolo Geidam, observed that farmers and agro-industrial entrepreneurs face numerous and complex challenges, ranging from climate change, poor agricultural practices, and access to market, stressing that these challenges require innovative solutions and collaborative efforts.

According to her, the successful implementation of the Special Agro-industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) in the nation's capital would target at empowering approximately 50,000 direct and indirect jobs, with a significant focus on women, who will constitute 40% of the beneficiaries.

“It is for these reasons that the FCT Administration has fully embraced the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) Project, an initiative that is in tune with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda predicated on injecting the much-needed manpower, resources and investments to reinvigorate the agricultural sector for sustainable development”, she stated.

She also reaffirmed the FCT Administration's unwavering commitment to supporting the successful implementation of the SAPZ project, adding that over its 5-year duration, this project targets at empowering approximately 50,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries.

Furthermore, the minister thanked President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for the creation of the

Ministry of Livestock Development, aimed at the development of the sector which had been neglected for long.

Similarly, the Permanent Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development Secretariat (ARDS), Mrs. Grace Adayilo, explained that the SAPZ is an initiative that seeks to unlock the immense potential of the livestock sub-sector in the FCT, by providing critical financing and support to drive the growth, productivity, and sustainability of the sector.

Adayilo, who read the address of ARDS's Mandate Secretary, Hon. Lawan Kolo Geidam, noted that two years into this project, the administration has made significant strides not only in an operational hub at the Paikon-Kore grazing reserve in

Gwagwalada, but also having substantial impacts with the construction of value addition projects.

In a goodwill message by National Programme Coordinator, SAPZ Program, Nigeria, Dr. Kabir Yusuf, encouraged farmers to continue striving for excellence, embracing innovative practices, and contributing to the sustainability of the agricultural sector.

He said: "To our hard-working farmers and beneficiaries, I commend your dedication and resilience. Your efforts are the foundation upon which we build our nation's agricultural success.

"As we move forward, let us remember that the success of this project depends on our collective efforts. Let us continue to work

together to ensure that the FCT Agro-Industrial Processing Zone becomes a model of excellence, setting the standard for other regions to follow. By doing so, we can create a prosperous future for our farmers, our communities, and our nation."

Earlier, while presenting an overview of the initiative, the Project Coordinator, FCT SAPZ, Hajia Umma Abubakar, noted that the project was designed to promote livestock value chain and concentrate industrial processing and marketing of Beef and Dairy.

She added that it is aimed at developing the rural areas, increasing household income, foster job creation in rural agricultural communities especially for the youth and women, enhancing food and nutrition security in FCT.

Nigeria, IFAD Deepen Cooperation ...

Continued from page 17

He also undertook a field visit to Enugu where he interacted with the Executive Governor of Enugu State, Dr. Peter Mbah, and engaged with small-scale farmers in a rural community of Nenwe in Aninri LGA supported by IFAD funded Value Chain Development Programme.

The field visit confirmed the positive impact on the ground of the cooperation between the Federal Government of Nigeria and IFAD.

The IFAD Vice President alongside Minister of State, Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi also participated in a portfolio review of FGN/IFAD cooperation programme and also attended the open house exhibition fair. They took a tour of the exhibition of products of various value chains by IFAD funded projects.

The Minister of State Agriculture and Food Security and IFAD Vice President co-chaired a gender dialogue with the 2024 International Women's Day with the theme "Investing in Women: Accelerate Progress" to dialogue with 100 small scale farmers and processors.

At the close of the IFAD high-level mission, Dr.

Donal Brown had an audience with His Excellency, Vice President of Nigeria, Senator Kashim Shettima who said that the Federal Government of Nigeria highly appreciates the quality of cooperation with IFAD and will take the necessary actions to maximize the benefit of the cooperation.



*Dr. Donal Brown
Associate Vice President, IFAD*

Joint FGN/AfDB Preparatory Mission to Potential States for the Second Phase of the SAPZ

As the second phase of the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) Programme was set to commence across the States that have expressed interest in the program, a team of a joint preparations mission visited about 27 States to assess their level of readiness for the SAPZ.

The mission was undertaken by three teams that comprised of Federal Government Delegation (from Federal Ministries of Agriculture, Finance, Environment), and delegation of the Africa Development Bank and other partners.

In all the States visited, the mission teams began with technical presentations and discussions with the states' officials essentially on the context and objectives of SAPZ programme as well as encouraged the states to meet the readiness and selection criteria for participation.

Also, the teams had interactions with private sector actors, investors and development partners as well as

conducted physical assessment and verifications of proposed project sites for Agro-industrial hubs, agricultural transformation Centers, ATC and Aggregation Centres in terms of their location, available facilities such as road access, power supply, also the availability of feasibility studies report and environmental and social impact assessment report. etc.

Similarly, the mission paid a courtesy calls on the Governors of the States visited and indeed the Governors' words unveiled their true enthusiasm and readiness to SAPZ.

Team 1 of the mission led by the National Programme Coordinator, Dr. Kabir Yusuf visited Borno, Adamawa, Taraba, Bauchi, Gombe, Katsina, Jigawa and Plateau States.

In his address at Borno State Government House, the National Programme Coordinator emphatically elaborated on the objective of the mission which was to assess readiness of each State and

discussed potential partnerships and co-financing opportunities with bilateral and multilateral development partners.

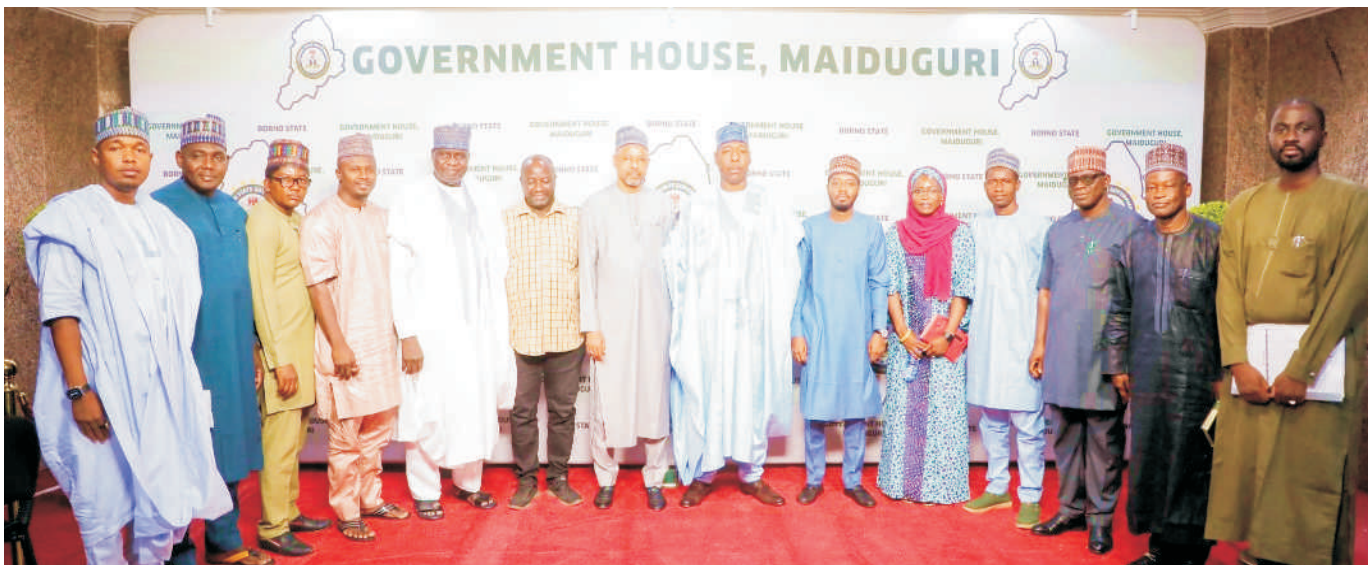
Dr. Kabir Yusuf further said that the Programme Development Objective of the SAPZ was to support inclusive and sustainable agro-industrial development in Nigeria, aimed at diversifying Nigeria's economy through agriculture and reduction of food import bills.

“SAPZ is a cross-cutting platform to attract private sector investment into value-added agro-processing to unlock opportunities for improved food security, job creation, export earnings, rural poverty reduction and increased contribution of agriculture to national GDP”.

“The Programme would increase household incomes, foster job creation in rural agricultural communities, for youth and women, and enhance food and nutritional security in Nigeria”, he said.



The Joint Mission Team in a group photograph with Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State, during the visit to the state.



The Joint Mission Team in a group photograph with Governor Babagana Umara Zulum during their visit to Borno State.

The National Programme Coordinator said SAPZ would help improve agricultural productivity, promote aggregation of commodities, and ensure reliable supply of quality raw materials, market access, value addition and private sector investment.

In his response, the Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Umara Zulum who was overwhelmed by the performance of the program said that the State has vast arable land ready for harnessing.

“In Borno State, we have a land mass of about 62,000 square kilometers. We have the potentials to key into the programme. This administration is fully committed to joining the SAPZ to provide support to our teeming farmers.

“The State has excelled in the production of rice, cowpea, groundnut, cashew and livestock. Before the insurgency, the State was the largest producer of livestock”, he said.

While in Bauchi State, the State Governor who received the team at the Government House lauded the Africa Development Bank, AfDB for the transparent selection process

of the States.

The Governor noted that the State has developed her agricultural policy and conducted value chains studies on the 9 crops the state proposed to engaged in the programme.

“This is done to ensure effectiveness of our preparations and readiness to key into the SAPZ. The Government would provide all the necessary support needed to ensure successful participation of the State”, he said.

Earlier on, Engr. Bashir Ibrahim Gaya from the Africa Development Bank, AfDB stated that the team was also assessing the report of each State on Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) as well as sites for the establishment of Agro-Industrial hub which would become an industrial and economic centre for rural agricultural economy to boost income generation, job creation and processing of agricultural products.

Similarly, in Jigawa State, the AfDB Task Manager for the SAPZ, Monde Nyambe commended the state for being ahead of time in the completion of necessary studies

required towards securing the participation of the programme which she said would be reviewed to ensure compliance with the set standard.

The proactive approach of the state was evident on the efforts made at the proposed Gagarawa Agro-industrial hubs where essential infrastructure such as road network, power supply and water facility were already established in the area.

Responding, the State Governor, Umar Namadi said he was confident that the program would provide a lot of benefits to the people of the state.

“Jigawa State is an agrarian state, and we have a population of almost close to 7.5 million people and out of that number 35% were youths. And we believed that SAPZ would certainly provide opportunity to engage them and have a means of livelihood.

“SAPZ Programme was a very good initiative and that was why we decided to key into it. We are fully ready to participate and to give all necessary support for its implementation”, the Governor said.

The Katsina State Governor,



The Joint Mission Team in a group photograph with Governor Mohammed Umaru Bago, during their visit to Niger State.

Malam Dikko Umaru Radda Ph.D, who also received the mission team in his office, restated the determination of the state government to key into SAPZ to boost household incomes, generate employment opportunities particularly for youths and women in the rural agricultural communities.

The Governor further said, “It was time to stop importation of agricultural products because we produce enough of the raw materials.

“We believe as soon as the Agro-Industrial Centres were established across the region, we would curtail agricultural product wastage, improve value addition, ensure high quality packaging for export and ultimately reduce poverty and unemployment”.

The State Commissioner of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Professor Ahmed Muhammad Bakori informed the team during an engagement session with stakeholders that the State Government had recently engaged an additional 722 agricultural extension workers who are expected to support farmers to produce more of the commodities that would be harness under the programme.

In Taraba State, the team visited Lau LGA and interacted with farmers, private investors and other stakeholders and later received by the State Governor, Agbu Kefas at the Government House, Jalingo.

The Governor who expressed readiness of the state to key into the programme also commended the AfDB for initiating the SAPZ which aims to empower farmers with skills and facilities to improve agricultural businesses and rural industrialization.

“Taraba is safe, we are improving the security of the state and generally, Taraba would be the safest place for investors, so we welcome the SAPZ”, he said.

In a related development, Dr. Chuma Ezedinma from the AfDB who led team II of the mission to Niger State informed the state delegation that as soon as the SAPZ was established rural farmers would have the opportunity to export their agricultural products.

“From what we have seen, the most important factor for us is to have a private sector driving the process and Niger state already has that”, he said.

The team who later met with the State Governor Mohammed Umaru Bago said the programme would help diversify rural economy by leveraging on agriculture to become a profitable economic venture and also provide a win-win scenario for investors, Government and the citizens.

In his remarks, the Governor said all the required facilities were put in place to enable the state participate in the SAPZ adding that the state would focus on production of rice, soyabean, sesame, cowpea, sorghum and other cash crops to improve the livelihoods and living conditions of the teeming farmers.

Governor Bago further expressed the commitment of Niger State Government to key into the SAPZ for the development of agriculture and agro-processing facilities to enhance food production, processing, promote value addition, and export capabilities in the state.

In his address, the State Commissioner of Agriculture, Musa Bawa Bosso said government had led a solid foundation for successful take off of the programme.

AfDB Begins Disbursement of \$540m for the First Phase of the SAPZ

The Africa Development Bank (AfDB) has commenced the disbursement of \$540 million to finance the first phase of the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones Programme.

This is contained in a statement issued by the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Communication, Office of the Vice President, Stanley Nkwocha in Abuja recently.

The statement revealed that the Senior Special Adviser on Industrialization to the President of the Africa Development Bank, Prof. Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka made the disclosure while presenting the bank's report to the Vice President, Kashim Shettima at the Presidential Villa.

Professor Oyelaran-Oyeyinka who led a delegation of the bank and that of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and presented their separate reports on the status of projects being executed in Nigeria, said that AfDB is committed to funding the SAPZ along with other development partners to support Nigeria to drive its policies on food security in the country.

The Senior Special Adviser noted that AfDB would continue to help to fight poverty and improve living standards for

people of Nigeria through a wide range of lending and non-lending support.

“The primary objective of the SAPZ is to support inclusive and sustainable agro-industrial development in Nigeria,” he said.

“The phase one of the programme is at the point of disbursement. Kaduna, Oyo and

will bring equity and join up with them. It is a government-enabled project, but private-sector driven.”

SAPZ News reports that the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) is an initiative of the Federal Government of Nigeria and the African Development Bank for the purpose of turning the rural landscape into economic zones of prosperity and harnessing the power of commercial agriculture and food.

The goal of the SAPZ is to increase household incomes, foster job creation in rural agricultural communities, especially for youth and women, and enhance food and nutritional security in Nigeria.

The development objective was to support inclusive and sustainable agro-industrial development. The Programme interventions would also enhance the competitiveness of selected value chains. This would be achieved through increased productivity, aggregation and reliable supply of quality raw materials, value addition, market access and private sector investment.

The first phase of the SAPZ is being implemented in seven states of Cross River, Imo, Kaduna, Kano, Kwara, Ogun, and Oyo, as well as the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).



The goal of the SAPZ was to increase household incomes, foster job creation in rural agricultural communities, especially for youth and women, and enhance food and nutritional security in Nigeria.



Cross River States are all in the process of receiving disbursements and we hope that the other states can speed up with their documentation so that we can fast-track these states.

“We raised \$540,000,000 in catalytic funding and we expect every state to find a partner that



**SPECIAL AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING ZONES
(SAPZ) PROGRAMME**

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