

**FACTSHEET**

# **WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT INVESTMENT IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN NIGERIA**



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## Agricultural Budget in Nigeria

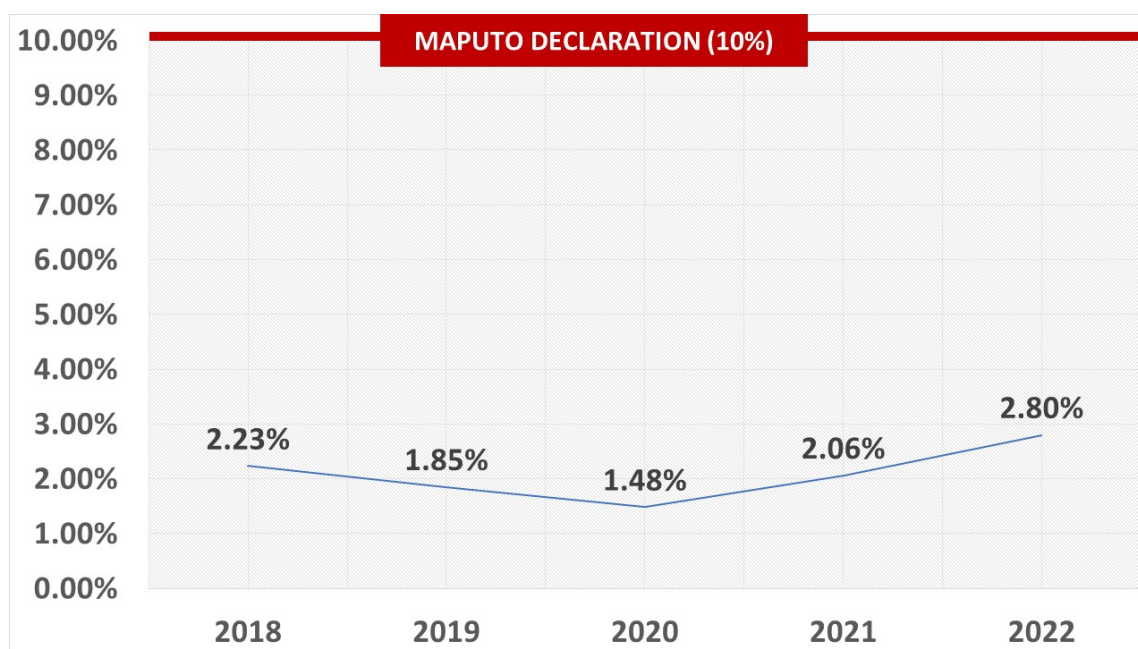
The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) allocated the sum of N1.28 trillion for the agricultural sector between 2018 and 2022, averaging N257 billion over the period.

In 2022, the sum of N479 was allocated as the agriculture budget. This shows an increase of 71% (or N199 billion) compared to the 2021 agriculture budget.

The allocated fund represents 2.8% of the total 2022 budget size. This is far below 10% specified in the Maputo 2003 Declaration

- The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) allocated the sum of N1.28 trillion for the agricultural sector between 2018 and 2022, averaging N257 billion over the period. In line with the new national development plan 2021-2025, the FGN has estimated a public investment of N1.46trn for the period 2021-2025. The total N760 allocated to the sector in 2021 and 2022, constitutes 52% of the total N1.46trn expected fund for the sector for the five years period.
- In 2022, the sum of N479 was allocated as the agriculture budget. This shows an increase of 71% (or N199 billion) compared to the 2021 agriculture budget. The allocated fund represents 2.8% of the total 2022 budget size. This is far below 10% specified in the Maputo 2003 Declaration <sup>1</sup>.

Agriculture Budget as % of Budget Size 2018-2022



- The second quarter Agriculture capital budget performance report shows that N69.9 billion of the allocated N102.4 billion agriculture capital budget was released and cash backed. Out of the N69.9 billion released, N31.8 billion was utilized. Amount utilized constitutes 46% of the total released and cash backed and 31% of the total Agriculture capital budget. Indeed, 54% of the released fund was not utilized within the period <sup>2</sup>.

(1) "AU 2003 Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security", <https://www.nepad.org/caadp/publication/au-2003-maputo-declaration-agriculture-and-food-security>  
 (2) 2021 Second quarter and half year Budget Implementation Report, page 39.

The budgetary allocation to WEE in the approved 2022 increased by 101.61% compared to N51bn in 2021

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has the highest WEE allocation of N33.1bn. The amount allocated constitute 32% of the total FGN WEE N103bn allocation. The Ministry retained its first position 2022.

More than 80% of Nigeria's farmers are smallholder farmers. These numbers accounts for 90% of Nigeria's agricultural produce. Women farmers in Nigeria constitute over 60% of the agriculture workforce and provide inputs and functions that are critical to food security

In 2022, the FGN specifically allocated the sum N412 millions of women empowerments in agribusiness

The sum of N33 billion is allocated to women's economic empowerment (WEE) projects under the FMARD 2022 budget. This represents 8.2% of the total FMARD capital budget and 6.9% of its budget size.

## Women's Economic Empowerment Budget Allocation

- In 2022, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) allocated 103.49bn Women economic empowerment (WEE) - related projects (these include Women-core and women-plus-others) projects. The percentage allocated to WEE is 1.89% of the FGN total capital budget expenditure and 0.60% of its total approved budget size.
- The budgetary allocation to WEE in the approved 2022 increased by 101.61% compared to N51bn in 2021. In this regard, the total of Women-core projects increased from 118 to 164 in 2022, the total women-plus-others WEE project increased from 527 to 774 in 2022. This shows 39% and 47% increase respectively. The overall WEE projects increased from 645 in 2021 to 938 in 2022 with about 45%.
- 122 Federal ministries, department and agencies under the 24 Ministries will implement 938 WEE projects in 2022 against 105 MDAs under 26 Ministries in 2021.
- The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has the highest WEE allocation of N33.1bn. The amount allocated constitute 32% of the total FGN WEE N103bn allocation. The Ministry retained its first position 2022.

## Women's Economic Empowerment Investment in the Nigerian Agricultural Sector

- More than 80% of Nigeria's farmers are smallholder farmers. These numbers accounts for 90% of Nigeria's agricultural produce. Women farmers in Nigeria constitute over 60% of the agriculture workforce and provide inputs and functions that are critical to food security<sup>3</sup>.
- The national development plan 2021-2025 recognized the inclusion of women in agriculture and food security. Female participation in agriculture is projected to increase from 19.6 % to 25% by 2025.
- The Federal government committed to support value chain actors in maintaining and scaling up their operations, while ensuring inclusion for women and youth-owned agro-businesses<sup>4</sup>. In 2022, the FGN specifically allocated the sum N412 millions of women empowerments in agribusiness<sup>5</sup>.
- In the 2022 budget, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) has over 2500 projects, 314 of these focused on women's economic empowerment, out of which 263 women-plus-others and 51 targeting women specifically.
- 1.3% (or N5 billion) of the FMARD capital budget is allocated as specific budget provision for stand-alone programs or projects that specifically target women and 6.9% (or 27.9 billion) of the FMARD capital budget women-plus-other WEE projects.
- The sum of N33 billion is allocated to women's economic empowerment (WEE) projects under the FMARD 2022 budget. This represents 8.2% of the total FMARD capital budget and 6.9% of its budget size. Notes that several other projects are not sex-disaggregated.

(3) <https://prnigeria.com/2021/08/03/farming-agri-tech-covid-19-women/>  
(4) National Development Plan 2021-2025 (Draft), page 56  
(5) FGN 2022 Approved Budget, page 422.

# Challenges of WEE in Agricultural Sector in Nigeria

About 13.2% of the women in agriculture have access to resources including land, loan, financial services and bank account compared to 86.8% of men

Less than 10% of Nigerian women own land

In Nigeria, women farmers experienced negative impacts of climate change even though they constitute 60% of the agricultural labor force

- About 13.2% of the women in agriculture have access to resources including land, loan, financial services and bank account compared to 86.8% of men <sup>6</sup>. They also have limited ownership and control over resources such as farm and farming inputs, livestock, etc. This impacts their ability to develop and sustain agribusiness.
- Despite the roles of women in agriculture and society and the significance of land for production, women are often discriminated against in land ownership, especially in the case of inheritance. In Nigeria, less than 10% of Nigerian women own land <sup>7</sup>.
- Nigerian women have limited access to extension services, training, and education. A significant number of women are untrained on enhanced agricultural practices and financial literacy <sup>8</sup>. Indeed, 8% of the women in agriculture have access to services compared to 92% of men <sup>9</sup>.
- There is limited access to advanced technologies, and market opportunities <sup>10</sup>. Women are often confined to the traditional tools and local market, which in most cases prolong working hours, reduced productivity and offers lower prices than advanced technologies and urban market.
- Poor access to information is another major barrier to small-scale women farmers, especially information on good farming practices, seasonality, market proximity, and market prices, financial opportunity, data on yields, soil health, and weather patterns.
- In Nigeria, women farmers experienced negative impacts of climate change even though they constitute 60% of the agricultural labor force and 80% of food producers <sup>11</sup> and 50% of animal husbandry and other related activities <sup>12</sup>.
- Agriculture has N1.23 trillion shortfall in 2022 given the 10% specified in the Maputo 2003 Declaration. The N1.71 trillion expected for the year would have helped address various challenges, especially issues around women farmers in the sector.

## What Needs to Be done

### Government

- The government should ensure 10% allocation to the agricultural sector in line with the 2003 Maputo declaration.
- Efforts should be made towards improving the number of women-specific empowerment projects in the annual budget. This should follow with timely releases and cashback.
- The government has made several commitments in the national development plan 2021-2022. These include building a sustainable food production system from N34 million hectares to N42 million hectares by 2025, increasing agricultural export volume from 4.37% to 6.12% by 2025, as well as food self reliance through increased productivity. Adequate investment in women farmers is important to realize these targets.

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- (6) FAO and ECOWAS Commission. 2018. National Gender Profile of Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods – Nigeria. Country Gender Assessment Series, Abuja page 28
  - (7) FAO and ECOWAS Commission. 2018. National Gender Profile of Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods – Nigeria. Country Gender Assessment Series, Abuja page 34. See also Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey, 2018 page 394.
  - (8) <https://www.pwc.com/ng/en/assets/pdf/afcfta-agribusiness-current-state-nigeria-agriculture-sector.pdf>
  - (9) FAO and ECOWAS Commission. 2018. National Gender Profile of Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods – Nigeria. Country Gender Assessment Series, Abuja. page 28
  - (10) Jeandré van der Walt, “Data: key to empowering Africa’s women farmers”, Farmers Weekly, August 14, 2021.
  - (11) <https://www.farmersweekly.co.za/agri-business/empowerment/data-key-to-empowering-africas-women-farmers/>.
  - (12) Yekeen Akinwale, “As climate change hits Nigeria, small scale women farmers count losses”, Premium Time, May 6, 2021, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/agriculture/459780-as-climate-change-hits-nigeria-small-scale-women-farmers-count-losses.html>.
  - (13) Mohammed Dahiru Lawal, “Farming: Agri-Tech Cushioning COVID-19 Disruption but Rural Women Years for Access”, PRNigeria, August 3, 2021, page 1, <https://prnigeria.com/2021/08/03/farming-agri-tech-covid-19-women/>

- Infrastructure development through the provision of accessible road networks in the rural areas and digital literacy to women farmers.
- Provides women farmers with tools, skills, and resources needed to increase productivity and incomes in the changing climate environment.
- There is need to establish the Women Agricultural Development Fund where women farmers can easily access credits.
- Bridge institutional capacity gap in GRB across the fiscal governance chain.
- Improve access to information on advanced agriculture practices and market among women farmers through National Agricultural Information System.

### **Private Sector**

- By 2025, the bank credit allocation to agricultural sectors is expected to increase from 5.1% to 10% of total private sector credit. There is a need for the private sector to channel more of these funds to increase women's access to credits.
- The private sectors should also make their credit allocation friendly to women farmers by making the procedure easy and accessible.
- Support women farmers through technical training, mentorship programs, and access to inputs including feeds, and business management skills.
- The private sectors can also set up specific funds and programs targeting women farmers alone to help them in their agricultural activities and export of their agricultural produce.

### **Civil Society Organization**

- Increase awareness on the need to improve budgetary allocation targeting women farmers.
- Improve budget literacy among the activist/media/Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to track the project implementation process and report performance.
- They should also intensify research efforts on WEE in agricultural sector to identify areas of improvement and gaps

**Women's Economic Empowerment is National Economic Empowerment**

PARTNERSHIP FOR  
ADVANCING WOMEN IN  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## About PAWED

The Partnership for Advancing Women in Economic Development (PAWED) is a public policy advocacy project which aims to increase visibility, awareness and salience of women economic empowerment (WEE) policies, programs and projects by positioning women's economic collectives and cooperatives to articulate evidenced-messages on the benefits and value of investing in women as economic actors to decision makers in the executive, legislature and in private sector agencies working with the Nigerian government at national and state levels.



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