

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY,  
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT, DR. ABDULKADIR MU'AZU AT THE SPECIAL  
INTERACTIVE MEETING ON MONITORING AND EVALUATION,  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020 AT CHIDA HOTELS,  
UTAKO, ABUJA**

**PROTOCOL**

1. It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this special interactive meeting on monitoring and evaluation of the 2019 projects and programmes which has brought together Line Directors, Zonal Directors, State Coordinators, Heads of Units including most senior projects/planning officers from the 6 Zonal and 36 State offices and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).
2. The event is aimed at reaffirming our commitments to the delivery of Government mandate for the Ministry through effective projects monitoring and evaluation working with the Zonal and State offices as key drivers of the implementation of Government agricultural policies at grassroots.
3. The meeting will also ensure that the Headquarters as well as the Zonal and State offices including other stakeholders in projects implementation are on the same page with regards to expectations of the Ministry on projects monitoring and evaluation in which the Department of Planning & Policy Coordination has a critical role to play. In addition, it will provide opportunity for reflection on the present state of projects monitoring and evaluation in the Ministry especially the delivery of 2019 capital projects and lay foundation for improved projects monitoring and evaluation in the current financial year.
4. Permit me to mention that available records indicates that the Ministry made appreciable progress in the implementation and ultimate delivery of agricultural projects across the country in the year under review. This achievement could not have been possible without the support of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Alh. Sabo Nanono, his counterpart, the Honourable Minister of State, Hon. Baba

Shehuri, key actors in the execution and delivery of projects, as well as members of the three-level Project Delivery Teams comprising the Central, Departmental, Zonal and State Project Delivery Teams.

5. In order to consolidate on this achievement in the current financial year and in line with the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), I have directed all Departments and Units in the Ministry to align their activities to the agriculture-specific 2019-2023 priority projects, programmes and deliverables handed down as key mandate to the Ministry by Government.

6. In the same vein, I also mandated that overview of programmes and projects of Technical Departments in the Ministry be forwarded to the Strategic Planning Committee Secretariat in the Federal Department of Agriculture as a way of ensuring that they remained focused towards delivery of the mandate of the Ministry.

7. I have also initiated on assumption in office in the Ministry, a Technical Review Meeting aimed at reviewing programmes and projects objectives, implementation strategies and Monitoring & Evaluation systems geared towards enhanced delivery of agricultural services. I wish to encourage you to replicate this in the Zonal and State offices as well as Zonal Peer Review meeting chaired by the Zonal Directors.

8. It is my hope that this meeting will equip participants with best practices in monitoring and evaluation to enable us perform better in the implementation of agricultural programmes and projects going forward as we discuss issues bordering on monitoring & evaluation and impact assessments.

9. I urge you to continue to work assiduously as a team and collaborate with relevant stakeholders including Development Partners at home and abroad with bias for agriculture to enable us support the Honourable Ministers in achieving their mandate.

10. It is on this note that I once again welcome you to this special interactive meeting and wish you successful deliberation.

11. I thank you all for your attention.