



**REPORT**  
**OF**  
**45<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON**  
**AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**HELD AT**  
**LANGFIELD LEISURE PARK, RAYFIELD,**  
**JOS,**  
**PLATEAU STATE**

**15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022**

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**45<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (NCARD), HELD AT LANGFIELD LEISURE PARK, RAYFIELD, JOS, PLATEAU STATE, FROM 12<sup>TH</sup> TO 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022**

**COMMUNIQUE**

- 1.0.** The 45<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the National Council on Agriculture and Rural development (NCARD), with the theme, Strengthening Agricultural Value Chain Development Process for Food Security and Economic Development, was held at the Langfield Leisure Park, Rayfield, Jos, Plateau State from 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar.
- 2.0.** The meeting was preceded by the Technical Meeting of Officials held on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, under the Chairmanship of the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Ernest A. Umakhihe. The Official Meeting considered three (3) lead papers presented by experts in the field of Agriculture, with focus on the theme. The Meeting also considered Sixty Three (63) substantive and noted Twenty (20) information memoranda.
- 3.0.** The Council Meeting was held on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, and was presided over by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar. Other dignitaries were the Honourable Minister of State, Hon. Mustapha Baba Shehuri, the Permanent Secretary and the Honourable Commissioners of Agriculture from the 36 States and Federal Capital Territory. Participants included National Assembly members, Federal and State Ministries of Agriculture, Departments and Agencies, Organized private Sector, representative of All Farmers Association of Nigeria, Women Organizations, Seeds and Fertilizer Companies, Agro-Input Dealers NGOs, Civil Society Organizations and virtual participants.
- 4.0.** The Welcome Address at the opening session was delivered by the Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon. Mustapha Shehuri. Goodwill messages were delivered by the President, All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Dr. Rabiu Farouk Mudi, represented by Prince Olusegun Dasalu, Gbong Gwom Jos, HRM, Da. Jacob Gyang Buba, CON, OFR, Country Programme Manager, IFPRI, Dr. Hyacinth Edeh, FAO Country Representative in Nigeria and ECOWAS, Dr. Fred Kafeero, Representative, Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Janet Olisa, Representative of the Honourable Minister of Water Resources, Mr. Godwin Abu, Chairman, House Committee on Agric. Colleges &

Institutions, Hon. Munir Baba Dan Agundi and Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Sen. Muhammad Bima Enagi.

**5.0.** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar, delivered the Keynote Address. The Executive Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Honourable Simon Bako Lalong delivered an address and formally declared the Meeting open. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Permanent Secretary, Dr. Ernest A. Umakhihe.

**6.0.** A total of 1,422 participants attended the 45<sup>th</sup> NCARD Meeting both physically and virtually. The meeting considered and adopted a total of **63** substantive memoranda and noted **20** information memoranda.

**7.0. Council Acknowledged:**

- i. The support and partnership of the Government of Plateau State for the successful hosting of the 45<sup>th</sup> NCARD Meeting in Jos, the capital city.
- ii. The role of Federal and State Governments in addressing the current economic and global climate challenges, especially with regards to COVID-19 pandemic and the need to strengthen agricultural value chain development process for food security and economic development.
- iii. The efforts of the Administration of His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, to deliver on the promise to Nigerians through the implementation of the recently approved NATIP towards achieving food and nutrition security.

**8.0. Council Approved as follows:**

- i. Sustained funding of Powering of Rural Economy for Prosperity with Agriculture and Renewable Energy (PREPARE) project as well as a funding structure to facilitate sustainability of infrastructure in rural communities across the country, increase productivity of agricultural value chains and economic diversification.
- ii. Sourcing of Intervention funds to facilitate the promotion of Rural Non-Farm Enterprises to enhance economic growth and diversification and liaise with Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs.

- iii.** Upscaling of successful Rural Micro-finance Institutions (RMFIs) models in the 36 States and FCT to encourage private investment and financing of agricultural value chains. Liaise with CBN.
- iv.** Sustained enforcement of “closed season” fisheries management through Integration of “closed season” into the existing fisheries management system in Nigeria.
- v.** Development and deployment of FISHDAS Software for fisheries data collection and management.
- vi.** Promotion of cage culture system and the proposed strategies across the six (6) geopolitical zones using the underutilized water bodies as one of the aquaculture farming media.
- vii.** Establishment of a National Elimination Program for Bovine Tuberculosis (NEP-bTB) to eliminate Bovine Tuberculosis in animals by 2035.
- viii.** Establishment of a National Elimination Program for Rabies (NEP-RABIES) with the aim of eliminating Dog-Mediated Human Rabies by 2030 in line with the Global Agenda.
- ix.** Implementation of control and eradication strategy for AT&TBDs in Nigeria in line with extant ECOWAS strategy and active participation of the three tiers of government in the implementation of the programme.
- x.** Full execution of the Hides and Skin Improvement Services component of National Leather and Leather Products Policy Implementation Plans at Federal, State, and Local government levels.
- xi.** Development of a comprehensive strategy for the control of canine reproductive diseases to ensure optimal health and improved productivity and encourage the training and deployment of local breeds of dogs as Explosive Detection Dogs (EDDs) considering their potentials to provide such services.
- xii.** Introduction of Feedlot System as Compartmentalization Strategy for disease control and safe trade in animal and animal products in Nigeria.
- xiii.** Re-instatement of Directors of Veterinary Services (DVS) as statutory members of the Veterinary Council of Nigeria (VCN) with immediate effect and

commencement of the process to amend the Veterinary Surgeons Act with a view to re-instating the DVS as statutory members of the VCN.

- xiv.** FMARD to engage with the Federal Ministry of Finance to ensure that every import duty exemption for tractors include clearance certificate from National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization/FMARD.
- xv.** Commencement of process to amend the NCAM Act to ensure compliance by States and encourage States, Local Government and the Private Sector to patronize only tractors, implements and agricultural equipment that have been tested and certified by NCAM.
- xvi.** Establishment of Agro-Export Conditioning and Quality Improvement Centre in each of the Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria and National Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Development Centre (NAEDC) in each State of the Federation and FCT.
- xvii.** Establishment and promotion of priority crops value chains for Citrus, Plantain, Banana, Mushroom, Sunflower, Pineapple, Date Palm, Tea, Coffee, Kolanut and Jatropha.
- xviii.** Establishment of modern Fisheries Training and Development Centers (FTDC) in at least 3 Senatorial zones.
- xix.** Revitalization of Zamfara State Tractor Hiring Agency (THA) and establish Tractor Service Centers (TSC) in all the 14 LGAs and establishment of Agro-processing and Training centers (APTC) in each LGA.
- xx.** State Governments should consider PPP approach to revitalize Tractor Hiring and Servicing Centres as an agricultural mechanization initiative. Establishment of a special livestock intervention program that will focus on support to the victims of cattle rustling/ banditry and inclusion of Zamfara State in various FGN livestock intervention projects such as the National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP) and lots of others.

**9.0. Council also Approved as follows:**

- xxi.** Nasarawa State Government partner with the Organized Private Sector to revitalize its cottage processing centres to deepen the development of its Cassava Value Chain.

- xxii.** Efforts be intensified to step up public advocacy on the role of Home Economics in the improvement of child nutrition and support for the training of caregivers at the local community level.
- xxiii.** Implementation strategies to strengthen Agribusiness MSMEs through promotion of small-scale businesses across agricultural Value Chains.
- xxiv.** Establishment of a Department for Village Savings Loan Associations (VSLAs) for all Agricultural Commodities Value Chains in all the 774 Local Government Areas.
- xxv.** Adoption of strategies at all levels of Governments to speed up action to operationalize the Tissue Culture Laboratories in Plateau State to provide disease free and high yielding varieties of potato seed through the Root Crop Research Institute–Potato Station Kuru and establishment of a Potato Development Fund (PDF) under FMARD.
- xxvi.** Establishment of Feed and Animal Products Reference Laboratory across the six (6) geopolitical zones in the country as testing centres for livestock feeds and animal products.
- xxvii.** Establishment of a comprehensive organic agriculture programme and policy and standard authority for accreditation of organic certifying bodies and registration of organic foods and organic inputs producers.
- xxviii.** Establishment of Fish Farm Estates and Processing Centres in rural communities as panacea for the development of rural communities and increase quality fish production, job creation and to improve the economy/social status of rural dwellers.
- xxix.** Adoption of practice of digital enumeration of farmers along the commodity cropping lines by States in the Federation and the establishment of farmers' Data Bank in the State Ministries of Agriculture for ease of reference, planning and statistical analysis to promote profitability, efficiency and sustainability in the agricultural sector.
- xxx.** Provision of Control Posts facilities in Cross-River State, for effective disease surveillance, prevention and control.
- xxxi.** Payment of hazards allowance for Agriculture Professionals.
- xxxii.** Support of the development of regenerative agriculture policy.



- xxxiii.** Signing of subsidiary MOU with the thirty-six (36) States and FCT, and other relevant stakeholders for the promotion of science-based climate-smart agriculture in order to mitigate the effects climate change and improve adaptive options.
- xxxiv.** Reclamation of degraded and redundant land resources for economic growth and the establishment of Insect Larvae Production Centres in the six geo-political zones of Nigeria.
- xxxv.** Immediate transformative action to turn forgotten /neglected /underutilized foods into valued and supported ingredients of healthy diets and the inclusion of these crops in the mandates of relevant Research Institutes.
- xxxvi.** FMARD to provide interventions and support to Kogi state government to enhance and facilitate dry season farming in the State to compliment the rain fed farming.
- xxxvii.** Upgrading of the NRCRI potato-out station in Jos to a research institute and that it be presented to the National Assembly for enactment.
- xxxviii.** FMARD to comprehensively support agric-business initiatives of States to enable youth, men and women gainfully employed.
- xxxix.** Facilitation of the intervention of Development Partners and relevant Non-Governmental Agencies to invest in Agriculture in Kogi State.
- xl.** Government to request Commercial banks to lend to agriculture (poultry sector) at not more than 5% and on a long-term basis for maximum output and return on investments.

**10.0. Council further Approved as follows:**

- xli.** Effective collaboration of FMARD with the Nigeria Customs Service and the Federal Competition and Consumers Protection Commission to step up their anti-smuggling crusade, towards preventing the continuous smuggling of poultry and poultry products into the country.
- xlii.** FMARD to collaborate with Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning and the Nigeria Customs Service on the effective implementation of the Zero Duty Fiscal Policy on Agricultural Machinery and include poultry equipment and micro ingredients as part of zero duty fiscal policy.

- xl.iii.** FMARD to collaborate with the States to stop multiple taxation on agricultural commodities.
- xl.iv.** FMARD to support Cross River State Government and Farmers to recover from the flood and post flood disaster variables in terms of funds, post-harvest losses, Agro Chemicals and other inputs.
- xl.v.** Creation of a Budget Line by the Federal, States and FCT for Regular Updating of Livestock Data across the country.
- xl.vi.** Establishment of National Strategic Animal Feed Reserve under the coordination of the Federal Department of Animal Husbandary Services.
- xl.vii.** Validated 2022 Revised National Agricultural Seed Policy for endorsement to FEC.
- xl.viii.** Introduction of Cattle Damage Insurance Policy under the auspices of NAIC and the immediate implementation of the concluding part of NAIC recapitalization Roadmap of injecting ₦4 billion into the Corporation's equity capital, in line with the requirements of the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM).
- xl.ix.** FMARD to support the FCT Administration in the area of sensitization and capacity building on Agro-forestry to improve the livelihood of rural farmers and mitigate the effects of climate change.
- I.**
  - i.** Establishment of more Apiaries across the nation towards job creation for youths and women.
  - ii.** Federal and State Ministries of Agriculture to give effect to Executive Order 009 to End Open Defecation in Nigeria by including sanitation facilities in their Development Projects.
  - iii.** FMARD, States and NIFFR to collaborate to stock Nigerian freshwater bodies with Clupeids to make it abundantly available for fish farming and improved inland waters fish production and establishment of Fish Meal Plant to up-take the Clupeids directly from fishermen.
  - liii.** Nationwide sensitization on the Single Haulage (SHF) and Single Inter-State Road Sticker (SIRTS) for Agricultural Produce.
  - liv.** Establishment of a National Cooperative Development Fund (NCDF) to mobilize funds for Cooperative project development and execution.

- lv.** Use of registered and verified Cooperatives as channels for delivering developmental intervention and government support for sustainability.
- lvi.** Adoption of registered and verified cooperatives as one of the major channels for delivering government and development partner interventions and support for sustainability.
- lvii.** Recapitalization of the Bank of Agriculture by the Federal Government and that all funds and grants for disbursement to farmers, cooperative societies and agro-allied companies should be channeled through the bank.

**11.0** Council unanimously resolved that the 46<sup>th</sup> NCARD Meeting will hold in Cross-River State and the 47<sup>th</sup> NCARD Meeting in Ekiti State.

**This day: 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2022**  
**Langfield Leisure Park, Rayfield, Jos,**  
**Plateau State.**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LEAD PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE TECHNICAL OFFICIAL MEETING OF  
13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022 AT THE 45<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURE & RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT, JOS, PLATEAU STATE**

**I. Value Chain Development: An Imperative for Repositioning Nigeria's  
Agricultural Sector the Way-Forward by Prof. Paul Amaza, University of Jos**

1.1 According to the paper, the livelihoods of agricultural producers are not entirely dependent on what they produce on the land, but also on their ability to access required inputs as well as markets to sell their surplus produce. A better understanding of agricultural producers' opportunities and constraints to benefit from and reduce their risks participating in a value chain is important to ensure that markets work for the poor.

1.2 The paper stressed that there is need to promote value addition to leverage its potential in agriculture as to enhance its export competitiveness because the global market demands for high-quality products with acceptable global market standards, which can only be met through the value chain.

1.3 The paper posited that enhancing the options for the poor and empowering them to seize the opportunities through the availability of finance, access to technology and capacity building is critical to increase their productivity and addressing the risks and vulnerabilities that could wipe out their assets or affect them to operate an enterprise within the value chain system.

1.4 Furthermore, the paper highlighted the tremendous achievements of the government in the rice value chain over the recent years but noted that challenges militating against the industry as well as others which include Insecurity, Low agricultural productivity and high post-harvest losses, Infrastructural deficiency, Low Levels of technology, limited Technical capacity, constraint in meeting market demands, poor farmer organization, limited access to finance and inadequate private sector development.

1.5 Finally, the paper recommended as critical considerations for the government in addressing the above challenges the essence of prioritizing agricultural value chains with market orientation and linkage with the private sectors; creating a secure environment; addressing infrastructural constraints; investing in technology; treating agriculture as a business and a key to long-term economic growth and security.

**II. The Use of Nuclear Techniques for Processing of Food and Agricultural Products and Its Contribution to Nigeria's Economic Diversification by Prof. Yusuf Aminu Ahmed, CEO, Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission**

2.1 The paper discussed the goal, vision, and mission of Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC) as well as the application of Gamma Irradiation Facilities (GIF) in the agricultural sector, with emphasis that food irradiation is a proven and safe technology for controlling the microbiological contamination causing food-borne disease and food losses due to spoilage.

2.2. It stated that the multipurpose gamma irradiation facility was acquired as a pilot plant by the Federal Government of Nigeria for application in agriculture, medicine and industry, to boost food production via high yielding and disease resistant varieties, increase productivity through drastic reduction of food-borne diseases, preserve food and agricultural products, and assure food security and price stability in the country.

2.3 The paper indicated the objectives of GIF to include the preservation of food and agricultural products, packaging, increased productivity through drastic reduction of food-borne diseases and Improved primary health care delivery through radio-sterilization of medical devices, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products.

2.4 It specifically explained the application of irradiation technology to sprout inhibition of tuber crops, delay ripening of fruits, insect disinfestation of grains and cash crops, microbial load reduction in spices, microbial decontamination of seafood, meat and poultry, as well as quarantine treatment and quality control of export products. Apart from food preservation, irradiation is also said to be useful for mutation breeding to improve the varieties of plants and crops.

2.5 The benefits of GIF according to the paper, included environmental friendliness, effectiveness and efficiency in the treatment of products and absence of chemical residues in treated products, while the implementation organs include research institutes, relevant stakeholders and Universities.

III. **The Role of Stakeholders in Food Security and Economic Development by Mrs. Ene Obi, Country Director Action-Aid Nigeria**

3.1 The paper presented the relevance of committing 10% of national budget to agricultural sector funding to boost Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of government, promote food security, economic growth and development. It raised pertinent question on "Why States are not investing in silos and strategic food reserves?".

3.2 The paper underscored the importance of food to national security, human development, economic growth and public sector investment in agriculture. It reiterated that the 44<sup>th</sup> Regular NCARD approved that the three tiers of government should commit 10% of their annual budget to the agriculture sector as provided in the Maputo/Malabo Declaration and at least 6% growth rate for the sector as postulated in the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework.

3.3. The paper indicated that the national government spending across the three tiers in 2022 is about N27.1 trillion while spending on agriculture is about N598 billion representing 2.21% share of the national budget. It was projected that committing 10% funding to the sector will add 8.54% to nominal GDP growth in the country. However, success in agriculture sector funding towards the CAADP commitment is not possible without the three tiers of government committing 10% of their budgets to agriculture.

3.4. The paper decried the low access of farmers to credit, extension services, land and benefits of Public Private Partnership (PPP) approach. It noted that the financial burdens of post-harvest losses estimated at N3.5 trillion far outweighed the national budget for agriculture. It therefore called for a rethink on the country's approaches in agriculture and rural infrastructure development.

3.5. The paper recommended scaling-up public investment in agriculture, the adoption of NATIP by States as well as the development of the National Agricultural Investment Plan-three (NAIP- 3), the State Agricultural Investment Plans (SAIPs), increased engagements of stakeholders in public agricultural budgeting, establishment of modular processing and storage facilities in communities by States, enrolment of agricultural insurance policies for farmers at all levels and support for smallholder farmers to strengthen access to credit. It advocated that Council meeting should hold prior to budget preparation at Federal and State levels as a coordinated national approach.

**REPORT OF THE 45<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, HELD AT LANGFIELD LEISURE PARK, RAYFIELD, JOS,  
PLATEAU STATE**

**1.0 Opening**

1.1 The 45<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the National Council on Agriculture and Rural development (NCARD), with the theme, Strengthening Agricultural Value Chain Development Process for Food Security and Economic Development, was held at the Langfield Leisure Park, Rayfield, Jos, Plateau State, from 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar.

1.2 The meeting was preceded by the Technical Meeting of Officials held on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, under the Chairmanship of the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Ernest A. Umakhihe. The Official Meeting considered three (3) lead papers presented by experts in the field of agriculture, with focus on the theme. The Meeting also considered Sixty-Three (63) substantive and noted Twenty (20) information memoranda, which were recommended to Council.

1.3 The Council Meeting held on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, was presided over by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar. Other participating dignitaries were the Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture & Rural Development, Hon. Mustapha Baba Shehuri, the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Ernest A. Umakhihe, and the Honourable Commissioners of Agriculture from the 36 States and Federal Capital Territory. Participants also included National Assembly members, Federal and State Ministries of Agriculture, Departments and Agencies, Organized private Sector, representatives of All Farmers Association of Nigeria, Women Organizations, Seeds and Fertilizer Companies, Agro-Input Dealers NGOs, Civil Society Organizations and virtual stakeholders.

1.4 The Welcome Address at the opening ceremony was delivered by the Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon. Mustapha Baba Shehuri, The Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar, delivered the Keynote Address. The Executive Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Honourable Simon Bako Lalong, delivered the opening

address, while the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Ernest A. Umakhihe, delivered the Vote of Thanks.

1.5 Goodwill messages were expressed by the President, All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) Dr. Rabiu Farouk Mudi, represented by Prince Olusegun Dasaolu, Gbong Gwom Jos, HRM, Da. Jacob Gyang Buba, CON, OFR, Country Programme Manager, IFPRI, Dr. Hyacinth Edeh, FAO Country Representative in Nigeria and ECOWAS, Dr. Fred Kafeero, Representative, Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Janet Olisa, Representative of the Honourable Minister of Water Resources, Mr. Godwin Abu, Chairman, House Committee on Agric. Colleges & Institutions, Hon. Munir Baba Dan Agudi and Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Sen. Muhammad Bima Enagi.

1.6 All the addresses and messages acknowledged stakeholders' collaborations and partnership in the formulation and implementation of agricultural policies, programmes and projects towards ensuring food security, employment generation and wealth creation in the country. A continuous synergy was therefore, stressed as a means of overcoming challenges consolidating progress in the sector.

1.7 A total of 1,422 participants attended the 45<sup>th</sup> NCARD Meeting both physically and virtually. The meeting approved 63 substantive and noted 20 information memoranda.

1.8 The Report of the 44<sup>th</sup> NCARD Meeting and Matters Arising therefrom were considered and adopted.



## **2.0 Presentation of 45<sup>th</sup> NCARD Technical Report of Officials**

### **2.1 Powering of Rural Economy for Prosperity with Agriculture and Renewable Energy (PREPARE) To Facilitate Sustainability of Infrastructure in Rural Communities across the Country**

2.1.1 The memorandum from the Federal Department of Rural Development sought approval of Council for the establishment of 'Powering Rural Economy for Prosperity with Agriculture and Renewable Energy' (PREPARE) for the sustainability of agricultural value chain development, economic diversification and addressing energy challenges of rural communities.

2.1.2 According to the memo, the programme is targeted at agrarian communities in Nigeria without access to National grid, the strategy is to equip rural communities with solar farms to enable profitable agribusinesses, and the funding structure is 50% (Federal Government), 40% (Private Sector), 5% (Financial Institutions) and 5 % (Benefiting Communities).

2.1.3 Council was invited to **note**:

- i. The inadequacies or unavailability of power as a major setback to the manufacturing and agricultural Sectors of Nigeria;
- ii. That using renewable energy to power rural communities has the potential to turn around the fortunes of households living in rural communities to prosperity;
- iii. That powering Rural Economy for Prosperity with Agriculture and Renewable Energy (PREPARE) project is conceived to empower rural communities to enable the pursuit of profitable agribusinesses and other non-farm activities;
- iv. That the project is proposed to commence pilot phase in six location with the selection of one rural community from the six geo-political zones in the country;

And **Approve**:

the implementation of Powering Rural Economy for Prosperity with Agriculture and Renewable Energy (PREPARE) project as a panacea to increase productivity in agricultural value chain and economic diversification.

**2.1.4. Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

## 2.2 Need to Increase Funding for the Promotion of Rural Non-Farm Enterprises to Enhance Economic Growth and Diversification

2.2.1 The memorandum from the Federal Department of Rural Development sought Council's approval on the need for government to make provision for more funding to programmes that support the promotion of Rural Non-Farm Enterprises for enhancement of rural livelihood and economic diversification.

2.2.2 The memo identified rural communities, which are homes to over 70% of the populace, as being crucial to the structural transformation and economic development of Nigeria. It indicated that farming activities have been significantly impacted by emerging challenges such as insecurity, COVID-19 pandemic and climate change and that the interest of youth in farming is declining due to its laborious nature.

2.2.3 The memo projected rural non-farm enterprises as a formidable measure for providing supplementary job opportunities, encouraging economic diversification, attracting additional revenues for on-farm enterprises across the value chains and contributing to reduction in restiveness.

2.2.4 The paper highlighted the economic importance of various categories of non-farm activities and the potentials of the Non-Farm Employment Support Programme of the Ministry, which has been hampered by paucity of funds. It proposed the "Rural Women and Youth Enterprise Development" with strategic actions for implementation as a means of economically empowering and diversifying micro/small cottage industries.

2.2.5 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. That emerging challenges such as insecurity, COVID-19 and climate change are hampering farming activities in rural communities;
- ii. That non-farm income generation activities possess the potentials to provide supplementary job opportunities and attract additional revenues for on-farm enterprises;
- iii. The negative impact of paucity of funds on the implementation of the Non-Farm Employment Programme in the Ministry;
- iv. The proposed skill development action plan tagged "Rural Women and Youth Enterprise Development", involving the 774 Local Government Areas with the potential of creating 10 million jobs;

And **Approve:**

The sourcing of Intervention Fund to intensify the promotion of Rural Women and Youth Enterprise Development programme in non-farm income generating activities to boost job and wealth creation in rural communities for economic diversification.

**2.2.6 Council in approving the memo, noted the Officials' observation that Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs was already handling and its advice that FMARD liaise accordingly.**

### **2.3 Establishment, Promotion and Strengthening Of Rural Micro-Finance Institutions (RMFIS) Models in Rural Communities for Economic Growth And Empowerment Of Rural Dwellers**

2.3.1 The memorandum from the Federal Department of Rural Development sought Council's approval for the establishment, promotion and strengthening of Rural Micro-Finance Institutions (RMFIs) models to encourage private investment and financing of agricultural value chains.

2.3.2 The memo indicated that most of the poor people in the country live in rural areas and decried the negative impact of poor healthcare system, educational facilities, transport infrastructure and inadequacy of formal financial institutions on the quality of lives of the rural dwellers. It emphasized that rural areas are not attractive to formal financial institutions due to several limiting factors.

2.3.3 The memo highlighted the role of access to financial services in poverty reduction, financial stability of the rural enterprises and economic development. It made a case for the establishment of RMFIs Models such as Financial Services Association (FSA), Accumulating Saving and Credits Associations (ASCAs) and Rotating Credits and Savings Association (ROSCAs). It further highlighted some features, benefits and examples of successful implementation of the models, especially under the closed IFAD-Assisted Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support (IFAD/CASP) Programme.

2.3.4` Council was invited to **note**:

- i. The hardship faced by rural dwellers which has been worsened by the inadequacy of formal financial institutions,
- ii. The potentials of RMFI Models such as FSA, ASCAs and ROSCAs to provide access to financial services and their successes in the seven (7) front-line States of Borno, Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara where the closed

- IFAD-Assisted Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support (CASP) Programme was implemented,
- iii. The benefits derivable to rural dwellers through the establishment, promotion and strengthening of RMFIs,  
And **Approve:**

The establishment, promotion and strengthening of rural micro-finance institutions (RMFIs) models, anchored by the Federal Department of Rural Development, to encourage private investment and financing of agricultural value chains and other enterprises in the rural communities of Nigeria.

**2.3.5. Council approved the memo on the basis of Officials' advice that FMARD liaise with CBN on the guidelines for establishing micro-finance banks.**

**2.4 Implementation of Closed Season for the Inland and Coastal Artisanal Fisheries of Nigeria for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Fisheries Resources to increase Fish Production**

2.4.1 The memorandum from the Federal Department of Fisheries sought Council's approval for the implementation of Closed Season for the Inland and Coastal Artisanal fisheries of Nigeria for conservation of our spawning ground and to increase production.

2.4.2 The memo posited that while a growing awareness of the importance of fish and fisheries products in human nutrition has contributed to its accelerated global demand, the current production levels and imports in Nigeria have not been able to meet the local demands, partly due to inappropriate and poor fishing management policy implementation.

2.4.3 The memo hinted that closed season implementation is an ecosystem friendly management tool with potential to increase fish production when combined with existing management measures. It cited examples of the United States of America and Ghana which use closed seasons in their current fisheries management plans.

2.4.4 The paper highlighted the objectives and implementation strategies for Closed Season Fishing Management in Nigeria which include stakeholders' identification, advocacy, sites identification, monitoring, evaluation, surveillance, enforcement and periodic catch data collection.

2.4.5 Council was invited to **note**:

- i. The urgent need to integrate Closed Season Fishing Management in Nigerian Inland and Inshore water bodies to prevent overfishing;
- ii. That fishing Closed Season or Biological Rest Period is stopping fishing, especially during the spawning period;
- iii. That fishing Closed Season is ecosystem friendly and has been successfully implemented in some countries around the world;

And **Approve**:

The strategies for attaining result-oriented and appropriate fishing management plan by integrating Closed Season into the existing management plan.

**2.4.6. Council in approving the memo, noted the Officials' observation of the provision of available required law for enforcement.**

## 2.5 **Development of FISHDAS Software for Fisheries Data Collection and Management**

2.5.1 The memorandum from the Federal Department of Fisheries sought Council's approval for the development of FISHDAS Software for Fisheries Data Collection and Management.

2.5.2 According to the memo, a mandate of Federal Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture to provide reliable fisheries data to end-users in line with global best practices, would require the Department to develop a robust data management tools in collaboration with relevant government agencies for effective services.

2.5.3 The memo emphasized the need to harness and monitor the vast fisheries resources in the country including the 853 km<sup>2</sup> inland water surface area, several industrial fishing vessels, the huge population of artisanal fisherfolks and aquaculture fish farmers.

2.5.4 It indicated that a robust software is needed for the collection, collation and effective management of these fisheries resources for optimum productivity and management of fisheries data.

2.5.5 Council was invited to **note**:

- i. The importance of effective data collection and management for decision making in the governance of Nigerian fisheries resources;
- ii. The imperativeness of good data management tool in the 21st century for the responsible exploitation of the fisheries and marine resources in the country;

And **Approve**:

The development and deployment of FISHDAS Software for fisheries data collection and management for the Federal Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

**2.5.6. Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

**2.6. Development of Cage Culture Fish Farm for Job Creation and Improved Livelihood of Youth and Women in Rural Communities**

2.6.1 The memorandum from the Federal Department of Fisheries sought the approval of Council for the development of cage culture fish farming in unexploited water bodies in Nigeria as a panacea for food insecurity and youth restiveness.

2.6.2 The memo informed that fish plays a key role in the nutrition of Nigerians. However, the country is currently experiencing a huge supply gap of 2.5 million MT (about 70%) of the required 3.6 million MT. It further pointed out that capture fisheries is faced with numerous challenges including overfishing, high cost, inadequate fishing inputs, declining wild fish yield, climate change, obnoxious fishing methods as well as illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, amongst others.

2.6.3 The paper called for a sustainable and cheaper alternative source of fish production through cage culture with emphasis on the use of cage culture for fish production as it has been successfully practised around the world with high rate of return on investment. This production system, the paper posited, has the potential to boost domestic production, reduce importation and provide additional income for fisher folks, women and youth.

2.6.4 Council was invited to **note**:

- i. The huge demand-supply gap of fish production in Nigeria;

- ii. The numerous benefits of cage culture system, which is relatively cheap and sustainable;  
And **approve:**

The promotion of cage culture system and the proposed strategies across the six (6) geopolitical zones using the underutilized water bodies as one of the aquaculture farming system for rearing culturable fish species that can boost fish production, provide job, alleviate poverty, reduce youth restiveness, reduce rural-urban migration, achieve food and nutrition security.

#### **2.6.5 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

### **2.7 Establishment of a National Elimination Programme for Bovine Tuberculosis**

2.7.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services sought Council's approval for the establishment of a National Elimination Program for Bovine Tuberculosis (NEP-bTB) in Nigeria and creation of dedicated budget line at Federal, State and LGA levels for implementation of the programme with the aim of eliminating Bovine Tuberculosis in animals by 2035.

2.7.2 According to the paper, Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) is a zoonotic disease with serious public health and socio-economic impacts in cattle and humans, to which, the year 2016 report from the World Health Organization (WHO) indicated 147,000 new cases of bTB and 12,500 deaths representing 1.4% of the tuberculosis burden globally, and therefore, the prevention and control of bTB is essential for food safety, food security, promotion of international trade for cattle, beef and beef products, milk and milk products as well as protection of human health.

2.7.3 The paper further informed Council that the estimated economic impact of bTB in Nigeria as of 2018, due to direct and indirect production losses, stood at US\$1.8 billion, while in humans, losses associated with bTB based on the value of the future years of life lost amounts to nearly US\$8 billion. It added that the recent re-prioritization of zoonotic diseases in Nigeria placed Bovine Tuberculosis as one of the top six diseases to be focused on for the next five (5) years (2022-2025). It therefore, expressed the need for an effective, coordinated and enhanced bTB surveillance, test and slaughter policy that will ensure compliance of farmers whose cattle test positive for the disease.

#### 2.7.4 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. That Human TB has been billed for global elimination by year 2035;
- ii. The global burden of bTB as reported by the WHO and the molecular evidence associating bTB and Human TB;
- iii. That bTB has been prioritized among the top 6 (six) priority zoonotic diseases in Nigeria to be focused on for the next 5 years (2022-2025);
- iv. That Disease control is on the concurrent legislative list and that a National Elimination Programme using a multi-sectoral framework is essential for the success of controlling the disease;
- v. That creation of dedicated budget line and structures need to be in place at all levels of Government to drive the programme.

#### And **Approve:**

The establishment of a National Elimination Programme for Bovine Tuberculosis (NEP-bTB) with the aim of eliminating Bovine Tuberculosis in animals by 2035 and the creation of dedicated budget line at Federal, State and LGA levels for implementation.

#### **2.7.5 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

#### **2.8 Establishment of a National Elimination Programme for Rabies (NEP-RABIES)**

2.8.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services sought Council's approval for the establishment of a National Elimination Programme for Rabies (NEP-RABIES) in Nigeria and the creation of dedicated budget line at Federal, State and LGA levels for implementation of the programme in line with the global agenda for the Control of Rabies by 2030.

2.8.2 The memo pointed out that Rabies is a highly infectious disease of all warm blooded animals which is transmitted through the bite of infected animals and man, adding that though the high fatality of the disease is 100% vaccine preventable, rabies can kill up to 100% of infected victims when post-exposure prophylaxis (treatment) is not given or delayed.



2.8.3 The memo canvassed that Nigeria has a large population of dogs, mainly free roaming, un-vaccinated and without license and thereby posing a huge risk to humans and other animals, which are kept for different purposes such as security, shepherd dogs, hunting, companionship and food in some cultures.

2.8.4 Furthermore, the paper indicated that Rabies has recently been re-prioritized as one of the top 6 (six) zoonotic diseases in Nigeria using a One Health approach, with a step of reviewing and validating the draft national strategic plan for elimination of dog-mediated human rabies in Nigeria in line with with the global agenda for eliminating Rabies by 2030.

2.8.5 Council was invited to **note** that:

- i. rabies has been billed for global elimination by year 2030 and prioritized among the top 6 (six) priority diseases in Nigeria;
- ii. the National Strategic Plan for elimination of dog- mediated human rabies is in the process of being reviewed and validated;
- iii. a national control programme using a multi-sectoral framework is essential to the success of the plan;
- iv. There is need for a dedicated budget line, staff and structures need to be put in place at all levels of Government to drive the programme;
- v. There is need to align rabies control activities at all levels with the National roadmap towards achieving Zero Rabies by 2030;
- vi. There is need for dedicated Focal Point at all levels for implementation of the programme and to constitute a multi-sectoral Technical Working Group (TWG) at all levels to drive the activities;
- vii. There is need to create a dedicated budget line at Federal, State and LGA levels for implementation of the programme;

And **Approve:**

The establishment of a National Elimination Program for Rabies (NEP-RABIES) with the aim of eliminating Dog-Mediated Human Rabies by 2030 in line with the Global Agenda.

**2.8.6 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

## 2.9 Animal Trypanosomosis and Tick-Borne Diseases (AT&TBD) Control and Eradication in Nigeria by 2030

2.9.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services sought Council's approval for the implementation of Control and Eradication Strategy for AT&TBDs by the three tiers of government in Nigeria and creation of budget lines by the 36 States of the Federation and FCT in their annual budgetary allocations specifically dedicated to the control and eradication programme in line with the ECOWAS strategy.

2.9.2 The paper informed Council that Animal Trypanosomosis is a disease of wild and domestic mammals, caused by the parasitic protozoans called 'trypanosomes', which is transmitted by '*Glossina spp*' otherwise called Tsetse flies to animals and cause economic losses in livestock resources.

2.9.3 According to the paper, it was estimated that, in Africa, 50 million cattle and 270 million small ruminants are exposed to Animal Trypanosomosis, resulting in the death of 3 million heads of cattle with losses of approximately one million tonnes of milk and 500,000 tonnes of meat each year.

2.9.4 The paper added that, in Nigeria, an estimated 30% of cattle are continuously exposed to the risk of trypanosomosis with associated annual cattle losses valued at N10.64 billion excluding losses associated with leather quality and mixed agriculture where traction power and manure play vital roles.

2.9.5 In addition, the memo stated that ticks and tick-borne diseases cause great economic and health losses in production animals, causing significant losses in the production of meat, milk, eggs, leather and in many cases, the death of the affected animals.

2.9.6 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. That Nigeria is participating in the regional project for the control of AT&TBDs in West Africa;
- ii. That AT&TBDs Control and Eradication Strategy document for Nigeria has been developed by experts, reviewed and validated by stakeholders and copies of the document have been distributed to stakeholders for implementation;

- iii. That collaboration of the three tiers of government are required for effective implementation and success of the control programme and the need for the 36 States of the Federation and FCT to create budget lines in their annual budgetary allocations specifically dedicated to the control and eradication of AT &TBDs in Nigeria;

And **Approve:**

- iv. The implementation of Control and Eradication Strategy for AT&TBDs in Nigeria in line with the ECOWAS' strategy, the active participation of the three tiers of government and their expected dedicated annual budget lines for the implementation of the programme.

### **2.9.7 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

#### **2.10 Establishment of National Hides and Skin Improvement Programme (N-Hsip)**

3.10.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services sought Council's approval for the full implementation of the Hides and Skin Improvement Services component of National Leather and Leather Products Policy at levels of government including the creation of dedicated budget line at the three (3) tiers of government to ensure effective implementation of the policy.

2.10.2 It highlighted on the use of hides and skins as useful materials for cloths, foot wears, and bags and the sector's contribution to foreign exchange, stressing that Nigeria's leather industry is the second major earner of foreign exchange after oil currently contributing about 25 per cent of the total agricultural GDP in Nigeria.

2.10.3 The paper indicated that due to the potentials of leather sub-sector in the Nigerian economy, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) approved a National Policy on Leather and Leather Products in October, 2018, which led to the setting up of a National Steering Committee of the representatives of relevant MDAs, and the development and launch of a strategic implementation plan on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

2.10.4 Council was invited to **note** that:

- i. FEC has approved a National Policy on Leather and Leather Products (NPLLP) in 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2018;

- ii. National Steering Committee has developed comprehensive implementation plans of the National Policy on Leather and Leather Products which spelt out roles and responsibilities for Federal, State, and Local Governments;
- iii. Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) was launched on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo (GCON);
- iv. Export potential of the skins & Hides and leather industry is huge, estimated to be worth around \$4.4 billion for raw hides and skins, \$14 billion in rough-tanned and finished leathers of all types and \$25 billion for footwear leather;
- v. Over the last two decades, the average Global growth in trade has been 3% for raw Hides and Skin, 10% for rough-tanned and finished leathers, and nearly 8% for footwear and leathers;
- vi. Large and growing domestic demand for animal hides and skins must be met by domestic production and regional imports and that there are extensive opportunities for the provision of veterinary, artificial insemination, breeding, and fattening services for increased Hides and Skin Production;
- vii. There is highly competitive domestic market for leather products with opportunity for Job creation and capacity building through standardization and regulation of trade in livestock and meat products;

And **Approve:**

The full implementation of the Hides and Skin Improvement Services component of National Leather and Leather Products Policy Implementation Plans at Federal, State, and Local government levels with dedicated budget lines to ensure effective implementation of the policy.

### ***2.10.5 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.***

#### **2.11 Control of Canine Reproductive Diseases and the Need for a Comprehensive Genetic Classification of Local Breeds of Dogs in Nigeria**

2.11.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services sought Council's approval for the development of a comprehensive strategy for the control of Canine Reproductive Diseases for optimal health and to conduct a comprehensive genetic mapping of the abilities of local breeds of dogs in Nigeria to determine their potentials to provide services as Explosive Detection Dogs (EDDs).

2.11.2 It informed Council that dogs have the natural ability of enhanced olfaction making them useful in sniffing out explosives, narcotics and other substances after undergoing necessary training. It indicated that currently, the breeds of EDDs being used by security agencies are mostly imported from abroad and this is at a high cost and exerting pressure on the foreign exchange.

2.11.3 The paper stressed that breeding and training of local breeds of dogs in Nigeria and deploying them for use as sniffers of narcotic substances and EDDs would reduce the pressure on foreign exchange and cost of their maintenance.

2.11.4 It also explained that though local breeds of dogs have the potentials to provide such services as EDDs and are more prolific than the exotic breeds nonetheless, their genetic abilities have not been classified.

2.11.5 Council was invited to **note**;

- i. That the breeds of EDDs being used by security agencies are mostly imported from abroad and this is at a high cost to government;
- ii. That local breeds of dogs have the potentials to provide services as Explosive Detection Dogs (EDDs) and they are more prolific than the exotic breeds;
- iii. That training and deployment of local breeds of dogs as EDDs would go a long way in improving the security situation in the country because they are affordable and cheaper to maintain;
- iv. That the abilities of our local breeds of dogs have not been clearly defined and there is need for a comprehensive strategy for the control of canine reproductive diseases to ensure optimal health and improved productivity;

And **Approve**:

- i. The development of a comprehensive strategy for the control of Canine Reproductive Diseases to ensure optimal health and improved productivity;
- ii. The Training and deployment of local breeds of dogs as EDDs considering their potentials to provide such services;
- iii. The conduct of a comprehensive genetic mapping of the abilities of local breeds of dogs in Nigeria.

**2.11.6 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

## 2.12 Re-Introduction of Feed-lot System as Compartmentalization Strategy for Disease Control and Safe Trade in Animal and Animal Products in Nigeria

2.12.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services sought Council's approval for the development of Livestock Expansion Schemes nationwide and the reintroduction of feed-lot system as compartmentalization strategy for disease control and enhancement of safe trade in animal and animal products in Nigeria.

2.12.2 It paper stated that Nigeria has the biggest market for livestock commodities in the ECOWAS corridor and the country continues to receive requests for export of animal products to other countries of the world; though these requests can only be met if the country is able to show proof of the safety of the products intended for export.

2.12.3 The paper indicated that while the development of export in live animals and animal products will contribute significantly to the overall diversification initiative of the present Administration, international trade in animal and animal products and indeed the livestock sub-sector in the country had been plagued by Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) as well as zoonotic diseases.

2.12.4 It stated the need for the establishment of specialized, protected and well-regulated livestock production facilities with a reliable feeding system that would provide safe and quality animal products free from infectious agents, residues and contaminants become pertinent.

2.12.5 The paper emphasized that fortunately, Lagos State has commenced a thriving pilot scheme through the establishment of cattle feed-lot estates with the involvement of private investors and the project will serve as a template for other States to build on.

2.12.6 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. That there is the need to designate special compartments that will adopt a reliable feeding system for beef cattle that would provide safe and quality animal products (beef) free from infectious agents, residues and contaminants;
- ii. That introduction of feed-lot system as compartmentalization strategy for disease control and safety of animal products will enable Nigeria engage more in international trade;
- iii. That Lagos State has commenced a thriving pilot scheme with the establishment of cattle feed-lot estates in collaboration with private investors;
- iv. That the project has a very bright prospect and will serve as a template for other states to build on.

- v. The introduction of feed-lot system as compartmentalization strategy for disease control and production of safe animals and animal products both for export and local consumption.

And **Approve:**

- i. The adoption of a reliable feeding system that would provide safe and quality feed free from infectious agent for beef cattle.
- ii. The identification, designation and establishment of cattle feed-lot estates across the country in collaboration with private investors.
- iii. Training of officers on Cattle Feed-lot Estates Development Project.
- iv. A memo be sent to the Federal Executive Council (FEC) for consideration and approval.

**2.12.7 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

### **2.13 Need to Re-Instate State Directors of Veterinary Services (DVSs) into Veterinary Council of Nigeria (VCN) as Members**

2.13.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services sought Council's approval to repeal the current Veterinary Surgeons Act and re-enact a new one to re-instate Directors of Veterinary Services (DVSs) of 36 States of the Federation and the FCT as statutory members of the VCN.

2.13.2 The paper explained that each of the thirty-six (36) States including the FCT, has Directors of Veterinary Services (DVSs), usually seasoned veterinarians with long years of administrative experience and wealth of knowledge, who are major actors in the implementation of all policies, programmes and regulations++ of the VCN including; registration of veterinary practising premises, annual practising license and coordination of continuing education amongst others.

2.13.3 The paper further informed Council that DVSs were members of the Veterinary Council of Nigeria (VCN), and have been effectively performing their functions in the Council until they were erroneously removed from membership of the Council during the review and amendment of the current Veterinary Surgeons Act that was done without due consultations with the Ministry and relevant stakeholder. Therefore, their

exclusion from membership of the VCN does not augur well for the smooth implementation of the mandate of the Council.

2.13.4 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. That DVSs are statutory government authority in respect of Veterinary Services in the various States of the Federation and are seasoned veterinarians with good professional and administrative experience and wealth of knowledge due to their years of service;
- ii. That DVSs had hitherto been part and parcel of the VCN membership and have been effectively performing their functions in the VCN until they were erroneously removed from membership of the Council during the amendment of the current Veterinary Surgeons Act, an exercise that was conducted without due consultations with relevant stakeholders;
- iii. That absence of the DVSs in the VCN has weakened the structure and deprived it of the wise counsel which otherwise would have been provided by the DVSs to further enrich the process of decision making by the Council;
- iv. That removal of DVSs created communication gap between the VCN and DVSs thereby hampering harmonious working relationship among the parties;
- v. That reinstating the DVSs into the VCN will help bridge the communication gap between the VCN and DVSs thereby promoting harmonious working relationship among the parties for a more effective delivery of the mandate of the Council;

And **Approve:**

- i. That the DVS's be re-instated as statutory members of the VCN with immediate effect.
- ii. That the current Veterinary Surgeons Act be repealed and re-enacted to re-instate the DVS's as statutory members of the VCN.
- iii. That a memo regarding the above goes to Federal Executive Council (FEC) for consideration and approval.

**2.13.5 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**



## 2.14 Tractors and Equipment Testing, Evaluation and Certification

2.14.1 The memorandum presented by the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization (NCAM) sought Council's approval for Tractors and Equipment Testing, Evaluation and Certification.

2.14.2 The paper stressed that Tractor and equipment testing had been harmonized by the umbrella of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It noted that already twenty nine (29) countries had come under this umbrella to formulate a standard test codes for tractors and equipment.

2.14.3 The paper also acquainted council on progress made in equipment testing including braking performance, turning area and turning circle, low temperature starting, centre of gravity location, external noise level, axle power, engine (bench test), waterproofing test and performance in a hot atmosphere.

2.14.4 The paper stated that the primary objective of carrying out tractor evaluation before importation is to make sure the end users (farmers) have value for their investment in tractor and equipment purchased for farm. It added that to ensure that standards and product quality are not compromised by importers/dealers, there is need for periodic testing of agricultural tractors and machines.

2.14.5 Council was invited to **note** that: -

- i. Tractor and agricultural equipment are still being imported without a recourse to the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization (NCAM);
- ii. State Governments, Local Governments and Private Sector operators have been importing tractors without proper certification by NCAM;
- iii. There is no legal framework backing tractor and implement testing certification and monitoring in the country;

### **Adopt and Approve:**

- I. That all States of the federation, local government and the Private Sector should make sure they patronize only tractors, implements and agricultural equipment that have been tested and certified by NCAM.
- ii. That NCAM should be empowered to ensure the enforcement of compliance by all tractor and equipment importers for testing and evaluation by NCAM.

- iii. That there should be a stronger collaboration between NCAM and SON such that NCAM should be saddled with the responsibility of certifying all agricultural machinery, equipment and tools.
- iv. That NCAM should be supported to boost its capacity to acquire and install requisite Tractor and Equipment testing facilities in the Centre; and
- v. That NCAM should be empowered to carry out Tractor and equipment monitoring in collaboration with the State Governments, Local Governments and the Private Sector.

**2.14.6 Council approved the memo on the premise of the Officials' noting, that every import duty exemption from Federal Ministry of Finance for tractor should include clearance certificate from FMARD/NCAM and that the NCAM Act should be amended to ensure compliance by States.**

## 2.15 Agribusiness as Rescue for Economic Diversification

2.15.1 The memorandum from the Federal Department of Agri-business and Marketing (ABM) sought Council's approval to strengthen Agribusiness Value Chains Development Process for food and nutrition Security, job creation and sustainable economic diversification in Nigeria.

2.15.2 The paper informed Council on the rising global population and the increasing emphasis on the impact of food security on the development of countries worldwide and that Nigeria's non-oil sector as well as the agro industry is experiencing a renaissance with the current government policies which is geared towards encouraging farmers and investors.

2.15.3 Finally, the paper stated that the investment and industrial potentials of the agricultural sector underscored the need and urgency to consciously focus and strategically explore the contents of the agribusiness sub-sector and its contribution to the nation's GDP.

2.15.4 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. That there is currently a great yearning for the diversification of the economy especially in the light of the dwindling oil revenue;
- ii. The need to leverage on Nigeria's agricultural ecosystem for diversification of the economy and to transform the country into leading Agribusiness and Agro-Allied industrial nation.

- iii. The need to strengthen cluster farming across the value chain and the capacity of clustered farmers to attain Global GAP Certification for enhancement and strengthening of export-led economy with a view to achieving the objective of Zero-Reject for Nigeria Commodities.

And **Approve.**

- (i) The establishment of Agro-Export Conditioning and Quality Improvement Centre in each of the geopolitical zone of Nigeria to meet export standard and Zero rejection.
- (ii) The establishment of National Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Development Centre (NAEDC) in each of the States of the Federation and FCT to support and promote sustainable development of viable agribusiness and entrepreneurship, agribusiness start-ups, medium scale agripreneurs and agro-allied activities.
- (iii) The upgrading of existing Community Based Commodity Market (1 No per Local Government Area) incorporating Cold Storage, Warehouse and Solar Energy facilities for stronger food safety, employment generation and to serve as supply nodes to urban /zonal export markets.

**2.15.5 Council approved the memo on the basis of the Officials' recommendation of collaboration between Federal, States and NASENI in establishing the centres.**

## 2.16 Development of *Irvingia Gabonensis* (Bush Mango)

2.16.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA) sought Council's approval for the development of Bush Mango (*Irvingia gabonensis*) Value Chain in Nigeria; provision of annual budget to promote activities of the Value Chain for local utilization and export Market.

2.16.2 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. The economic importance of *Irvingia* (Bush Mango) and its potentials for national food security and export;
- ii. The major challenges faced by the industry are dependence on supply of *Irvingia* from the wild, non-availability of improved disease free/resistant planting materials, little or low-level agronomic inputs, and poor cultural practices by farmers;
- iii. That there is a growing demand for improved planting materials for establishment of *Irvingia* plantations in Nigeria; and

- iv. That over 1,000,000 jobs will be created for Farmers, Producers, Marketers, Processors.

And **Approve:**

The establishment of Bush Mango Value Chain and its inclusion in the Annual National Budget to promote its activities for local utilization and export Market.

**2.16.3 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

**2.17 Development of Pineapple Production and Processing for Local Utilization and Export Market**

2.17.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA) sought Council's approval for the development of Pineapple Value Chain and its inclusion in the annual national Budget.

2.17.2 The paper presented justification for production, processing and marketing of Pineapple for local and export market because of its huge agricultural, economic and nutrition health potentials. It stated that the objective of the project is to produce 100 million propagules of two improved varieties 'Sugar Loaf' and 'MD2' at an affordable price over a period of 5 years in partnership with Pineapple growers in 9 producing states for large scale production of export grade and develop local capacity of youth, women on skills needed for production and post-harvest handling including processing of the crops.

2.17.3 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. That Nigeria has favourable climate and suitable soil types for the cultivation of *Pineapple* (quick win crop) for local and industrial uses, export, and is capable of creating 10million jobs along the commodity value chain;
- ii. The need to provide subsidy on processing equipment (dryer) to stimulate value addition in the beverage and confectionary industry; and
- iii. The need to increase the funding of the crop value chain activities to contribute to food security, job creation and earn foreign exchange.

And **Approve:**

The establishment of Pineapple Value Chain and its inclusion in the Annual National Budget with an ERGP sub head to enable its promotion and implementation.

**2.17.4 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

## 2.18 Promotion of Mango Value Chain In Nigeria For Export And Local Utilization

2.18.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA) sought Council's approval for the development of Mango Value Chain and also requests for its inclusion in the annual national Budget to increase export, import substitution and local utilization.

2.18.2 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. The economic importance of Mango and their potentials for export and import substitution and national food security.
- ii. That Nigeria expends huge foreign exchange (\$4.6 billion) on importation of fruit concentrate annually.
- iii. The Mango industry is beset by myriads of constraints including low productivity, huge post-harvest losses and pandemic of mango mealy bugs and other diseases.
- iv. The State Governments and FCT are required to provide contiguous land for allocation to interested commercial farmers and youths in order to benefit from job creation potentials in fruit crops production.
- v. The Ministry to promote activities of private nurseries to provide subsidized seedlings to fast-track the development of the sub-sector.
- vi. The Mango Value chain sector implementation could generate a minimum of five million direct and indirect jobs.
- vii. The work plan prepared towards achievement of 5 percent Of the world output of Mango within a period of five years;

And **Approve:**

The establishment of Mango Value Chain and its inclusion in the Annual National Budget with an ERGP sub head to enable its promotion and implementation from 2023.

**2.18.3 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

## 2.19 Strengthening Citrus Production in Nigeria for Domestic Consumption and Export

2.19.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA) sought Council's approval for the development of Citrus Value Chain and its inclusion in the annual national Budget to promote the development of the industry.

2.19.2 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. That Nigeria was hitherto the leading citrus producing Nation in Africa but second behind Egypt;
- ii. Nigeria has comparative advantage to produce and export concentrates of citrus and products;
- iii. That only about 5% of citrus produced in Nigeria are processed while 45% are consumed fresh and 50% lost to waste due to poor post-harvest handling and lack of appropriate equipment for storage and marketing;
- iv. That Nigerian green colour oranges does not meet the international golden yellow skin colour standard for export, thus can only be processed into concentrate for export;
- v. That the industry can create over 1,000,000 jobs along its value chain (farmers, producers, marketers, processors etc);
- vi. That low farm gate price and preference of farmers and middlemen to sell at urban markets than to processors has been a challenge;
- vii. There is dearth of extension personnel to strengthen production through effective dissemination of innovation to our farmers;
- viii. The high cost of small and medium scale on-farm processing equipment contributes to high post-harvest losses observed in the industry;
- ix. The need to establish Horticulture Development Fund to promote investment industry due the crops long gestation period;
- x. The need to support NIHORT in Research and Development of high yielding cultivars of fruits and training on technology adoption;
- xi. The need to support collaboration among stakeholders in the industry to enhance level of processing for value addition;
- xii. The need to develop appropriate policies and legal frame work to discourage concentrate importation and protect local industry in fresh fruits processing.

And **Approve:**

- i. The establishment of Citrus Value Chain and its inclusion in the Annual National Budget with to enable its promotion and implementation from 2023.

- ii. The need to establish Horticulture Development Fund to promote investment in the industry due the crops long gestation period, encourage Public and Private Stakeholders to support production of improved disease free/resistant varieties.

### **2.19.3 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

#### **2.20 Strengthening of Plantain and Banana Production in Nigeria for Domestic Consumption and Export**

2.20.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA) sought Council's approval for the development of Plantain and Banana Value Chain and its inclusion in the annual national Budget to promote the development of the value chain.

2.20.2 According to the paper, Nigeria is among the leading producer of Plantain and banana in Africa and an increasingly important staple crop in Nigeria due largely to its high nutritional content and variety of preparation methods. It is a major food component utilized by every household and constitutes part of national food security. The crops are ranked among the ten major staple foods in the world, and among the four most important food crops in terms of gross energy value.

2.20.3 The paper noted that production was in 20 States plus the FCT at smallholder farmers level using local and improved cultivars adaptable to each ecological zones, but majorly in the southern states of Ondo, Cross Rivers, Taraba, Osun, Akwa Ibom, Kogi, Ekiti, Ogun, Edo, Adamawa, Abia, Oyo, Delta, Kwara, Imo, Benue, Niger, Kaduna, Lagos, and Plateau and less in the Northern states.

2.20.4 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. That Plantain and banana are important horticultural crops for food, feed, industry and health in Nigeria;
- ii. That Nigeria's plantain and banana producing states covers about 493,509ha with about 3million directly involve in its cultivation;
- iii. That Plantain and banana production is a key farm enterprise, with more than 50% of the farming households producing them as the main crops.
- iv. That non-availability of improved disease free/resistant planting materials little or low level agronomic inputs, and poor cultural practices by farmers is a major challenges of the industry;
- v. The need to deploy improved technologies developed by national and international research institutions in Nigeria to farmers for increased production of the crops;

- vi. That there is a growing demand for improved planting materials for establishment of plantain/banana plantations in Nigeria;
- vii. The Dearth of extension personnel to strengthen farmers capacities on production through adoption and dissemination of innovation by smallholder farmers;
- viii. The high cost of small and medium scale on-farm processing equipment leading to post harvest losses;
- ix. That over 1,000,000 jobs will be created for farmers, producers, marketers, processors etc;

And **Approve:**

- i. The establishment of Plantain and Banana Value Chain and its inclusion in the Annual National Budget with to enable its promotion and implementation from 2023.
- ii. The need to establish Horticulture Development Fund to promote investment in the industry and encourage Public and Private Stakeholders to support production of improved disease free/resistant varieties.

**2.20.5 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

**2.21 Mushroom Value Chain Development and Commercialization in Nigeria for Local Utilization and Export**

2.21.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA) sought Council's approval for the development of Mushroom Value Chain and its inclusion in the annual national Budget to promote the development of the value chain for export and local utilization.

2.21.2 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. The economic importance of Mushroom and the potentials of Mushroom to contribute to food and nutritional security as well as export;
- ii. That Nigeria can tap into the huge global Mushroom industry market which worth \$16.7 billion to generate foreign exchange annually;
- iii. That the Mushroom industry in Nigeria is beset by constraints including low skill for production and processing activities and lack equipment for production and processing activities ad needs urgent intervention;
- iv. That the State Governments and FCT are required to provide land for allocation to interested commercial farmers and youths in order to benefit from job creation potentials in fruit crops production;



v. That the Mushroom Value chain sector implementation could generate a minimum of five million direct and indirect jobs from 2023-2027;

**And Approve:**

The establishment of Mushroom Value Chain and its inclusion in the Annual National Budget to enable its promotion and implementation from 2023.

**2.21.3 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

**2.22 Promotion of Sunflower Value Chain in Nigeria for Local Utilization and Import Substitution**

2.22.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA) sought Council's approval for the development of Sunflower Value Chain and its inclusion in the annual national budget to promote the development of the value chain for export and import Substitution.

2.22.2 The paper presented justification for promotion of Sunflower to be a full-fledged Commodity Value Chain. It described Sunflower as a Horticultural crop, which belongs to the Astericeae family, native to America where it spread to Europe and other parts of the world. It indicated that the crop has adapted to all agro-ecologies of Nigeria and is presently cultivated in the 26 States of Cross River, Benue, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kebbi, Gombe, Borno, Kano, Plateau, Zamfara, Katsina, Bauchi, and the FCT.

2.22.3 The paper enumerated the agricultural and pharmaceutical potentials of Sunflower. Products include high-quality health safe vegetable oil which is second to Olive oil, rich in Vitamin E (vital for longevity) used as fodder in livestock production.

2.22.4 The paper informed that the Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR) have developed improved Sunflower varieties which include Samsun-1, Samsun-2, Samsun-3, Samsyn-4 with 38 percent oil content; seed yield of 1,234 kg/ha and oil extraction of 1,077 lit/ha and effort is being made by IAR to improve the crop oil yield to attain 40-43% in line with international varieties.

2.22.5 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. The economic importance of Sunflower and its potentials to contribute to vegetable oil supply to achieve import substitution, local utilization and national food security.
- ii. That Nigeria expended N82 Billion on the importation of vegetable oil and fats. I 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 2021.

- iii. The State Governments and FCT are required to provide contiguous land for allocation to interested commercial farmers and youths in order to benefit from job creation potentials in fruit crops production.
- iv. That the Ministry is collaborating with the National Sunflower Producers, Processors and Marketers to promote activities of the value chain to fast track the development of the sub-sector.
- v. That the Sunflower Value chain sector development in Nigeria could generate a minimum 10 million direct and indirect jobs.
- vi. The Work Plan 2022-2026 has been prepared by FDA and is geared towards achieving import substitution and self-sufficiency in vegetable oil production and consumption in five years;

And **Approve:**

The establishment of Sunflower Value Chain and its inclusion in the Annual National Budget to enable its promotion and implementation from 2023.

**2.22.6 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

**2.23 Economic Importance of Coffee, Tea and Kola Development**

2.23.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA) sought Council's approval for the development of Coffee, Tea and Kola Value Chain and its inclusion in the annual national budget to promote the development of the value chain for export and import Substitution.

2.23.2 Council was invited to **note** that:

- i. Coffee is produced in 13 States of Nigeria namely; Taraba, Kogi, Ondo, Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Edo, Kwara, Ekiti, Adamawa, Plateau, Abia and Cross River;
- ii. Coffee and Tea and Kola are major agricultural produce of Nigeria;
- iii. Coffee occupies a significant area of land in Nigeria, covering about 270,000 hectares with an average production of 174,000 metric tons yearly while 200,000 tons of Kola nuts are produced annually;
- iv. The average Coffee production per ha on farmers field stands at between 400 – 500kg/ha, while Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) has established a variety that produces between 1,350kg – 1,500kg/ha;
- v. Farmers face a lot of problems in cultivation and marketing of coffee;

- vi. Coffee/Tea/Kolanut was endorsed by the Permanent Secretary to be promoted and be included in 2022 Budget Appropriation due to the tremendous contribution of the crops to the GDP of other African Countries;
- vii. Low yield which is attributed to several factors, some of which are sterility, self and cross incompatibilities, inefficient pollination, fruit loss due to attack by pests and diseases, untimely harvesting as a result of cryptic green colour of the pod as well as unpleasantly tall height of the trees;

And **Approve:**

The establishment of Coffee, Tea and Kola Value Chain and its inclusion in the Annual National Budget to enable its promotion and implementation from 2023.

**2.23.3 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

**2.24 Promotion of Date Palm Value Chain in Nigeria for Local Utilization and Import Substitution**

2.24.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA) sought Council's approval for the development of Date Palm Value Chain and its inclusion in the annual national budget to promote the development of the value chain for export.

2.24.2 The value chain objective is to boost production across the country using genetically enhanced varieties and strengthen capacity of staff and research institutes at federal and state levels with partnership with private sector growers. The memo outlined the benefits of Date Palm production to the country including its potential for job creation and contribution to country's GDP.

2.24.3 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. That Date Palm is important to the country's economic development;
- ii. That Date Palm production is faced with the challenges of low productivity, continued use of low yielding varieties, poor economic practices and poor and inefficient forms of Value Addition;
- iii. That the Value Chain has developed and adopted better farm management process as well as measures to attract direct investment into the Date Palm Industry;

And **Approve:**

I. That each participating State should support the Value Chain and collaborate with the Government by providing land to farmers and investors.

II. The establishment of Date Palm Value Chain and its inclusion in the Annual National Budget both at Federal and State levels to enable its promotion and implementation from 2023.

**2.24.4 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

**2.25 Promotion of Jatropha Value Chain in Nigeria for Local Utilization and Import Substitution**

2.25.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA) sought Council's approval for the development of Jatropha Value Chain and for its inclusion in the annual national budget to promote the development of the value chain for Biofuel production in Nigeria.

2.25.2 According to the paper, Jatropha has the potential for being used for cooking fuel, automobiles fuel, medicinal purposes, afforestation, production of pesticides and as purgative. It possess agricultural, economic and industrial potentials for food, renewable energy and foreign exchange earnings.

2.25.3 Council was invited to **note**:

- i. The economic importance of Jatropha and its potential to contribute to food security, green energy requirement, wealth and job creation;
- ii. That Federal Executive Council (FEC) in 2007 approved the establishment of the Biofuel Research Institute and Biofuel Energy Commission, the diversification of Nigerian energy sources from conventional to renewable Energy as well as promoting the agricultural commodities (Jatropha) during the use of gas and oil industry as well as job creation and sustainable development;
- iii. That Nigeria has the potential to generate over twenty one billion naira annually from Jatropha;
- iv. The State governments and FCT are required to provide contiguous land for allocation to interested commercial farmers and youths in order to benefit from job creation potentials in green energy crop production;

- v. That the Ministry is collaborating with the National Jatropha Producers, Processors and Academies to promote activities of the Value Chain to fast-track the development of the sub-sector;
- vi. That the Jatropha Value Chain development in the country could generate a minimum of 10 million direct jobs;
- vii. The work plan 2021-2026 has been prepared by FDA and is geared towards Jatropha to biofuel green energy requirement in Nigeria for local utilization and import substitution sufficiency in green energy production and consumption in five years.

And **Approve:**

The establishment of Jatropha Value Chain and its inclusion in the Annual National Budget both at Federal and State levels to enable its promotion and implementation from 2023.

#### **2.25.4 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

#### **2.26 Account Freezing and Payment of Counterpart Fund as Provided in the Financial Agreement of Development Partners Agricultural Projects**

2.26.1 The memorandum from FMARD Project Coordinating Unit sought for the approval of Council to address the emerging problem of account freezing, payment of counterpart funds to agricultural donor assisted projects by the government and resultant effect on delay in Project execution and payment of counterpart funds on Project implementation, results and outcomes.

2.26.2 The paper highlighted the mandates of the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) in coordination and supervision of development partner-funded projects and Programmes, review of status of on-going and closed Projects /programmes, preparation and negotiation of upcoming projects/programmes. The paper strongly indicated the complementary role of donor projects to the effort of government and contributions to Value Chain Development.

2.26.3 Council was invited to **note** that:

- i. The Projects Coordinating Unit (PCU) is mandated to coordinate and supervise all agricultural development partner-funded projects and support programmes;

- ii. The international donor assisted projects have significantly contributed to the actualization of agriculture as a business in Nigeria, agricultural infrastructural developments and improved institutional capacities;
- iii. In spite of the time-bound of projects with life span for implementation, some States have frozen the accounts of some of the project/programme and are equally not releasing their counterpart funds promptly;

And **Approve:**

- i. That States that have their accounts frozen should reactivate such accounts and create yearly budget for the projects' implementation for ease of project management, timely release of counterpart funds and the implementation of donor funded projects.
- ii. That the management teams of these programmes should liaise with their principals for ease of implementation of their Annual Work-plan and Budget (AWPB) by inauguration of Project Steering Committee.
- iii. That all tiers of Governments to regularly and timely fulfill financial obligations on Donor assisted agricultural projects as provided in the Financial Agreement especially the Counter-part fund.

**2.26.4 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

**2.27 Need to Establish Fisheries Training and Development Centres (FTDCs)**

2.27.1 The memorandum from Zamfara State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources sought the approval of Council on the need to establish Fisheries Training and Development Centers (FTDCs) for training on modern fish farming techniques and facility support programme for artisanal fishermen.

2.27.2 The paper indicated that two of the major methods of domestic fish production are the pond and artisanal systems, that the Aquaculture sub-sector is one of the most economic sectors with potentials to become a sustainable practice, and that this can supplement other commodity value chains and significantly contribute to feeding the world's growing population.

2.27.3 The paper also mentioned that Artisanal Fishery is the major source of domestic fish production in Nigeria accounting for about 70 to 80% of the total national fish output.

It presented the concept, objectives and justification of the Zamfara State Ministry of Agriculture which had several times initiated the pond system of fish production in few locations across the state, with the provision of a platform for training Youth Corps Members and students on industrial training program. However, due to inadequate material support, the practice has almost died down and intervention is therefore very necessary, the paper added.

2.27.4 Council was invited to **note**:

- i. The need to train Zamfara State artisanal fishermen on safe handling, modern processing methods, preservation and storage facilities and support them with loan facilities.

And **Approve**:

The establishment of modern Fisheries Training and Development Centers (FTDC) in at least 3 senatorial zones of the State.

**2.27.5 Council in approving the memo, noted the Officials' advice for Zamfara State Government to collaborate with relevant Federal Institutions in establishing the centres.**

**2.28 Revitalization of Zamfara State Tractor Hiring Agency (THA) and the Re-Establishment of Tractor Hiring Scheme**

2.28.1 The memorandum from Zamfara State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources sought council's consideration and approval for the revitalization of Zamfara State Tractor Hiring Agency (THA) and the re-establishment of Tractor Hiring Scheme to increase access to modern mechanization as an alternative to Animal Traction.

2.28.2 Council was invited to **note**:

- i. That a greater percentage of Zamfara famers do domesticate work bulls and other farm animals like camels and donkeys in their homes which are primarily used for Animal Traction. As a result of the consequences of cattle rustling and other insecurity challenges, a great percentage of the cattle population of Zamfara State were lost;
- ii. The urgent need for an intervention that will provide an easy alternative to Animal Traction, through which farmers can access modern mechanization and other localized mechanization methods at an affordable cost;
- iii. The need for farmers to have easy access to post-harvest handling and processing equipment to minimize post-harvest losses and improve value addition.

And **Approve:**

- i. The revitalization of the Zamfara State Tractor Hiring Agency (THA) and the establishment of Tractor Service Centers (TSC) in all the 14 LGAs where farmers will easily access Tractor services and youth farmers will be trained to provide services for income generation. This can be done through inclusion of Zamfara State in the Green Imperative Project (approved at the 43<sup>rd</sup> NCARD meeting held in 2021).
- ii. The establishment of Agro-processing and training centers (APTC) in each LGA to train youth especially women processors to provide services to farmers and generate revenue.
- iii. The Procurement of Tractors and Power Tillers to be stationed in the TSCs, (in addition to the negotiations with Transourcing Ltd.), and also procure various categories of processing machines to be stationed in the APTCs; under contractual agreements with farmers and processors for service provision, income generation and job creation.

**2.28.3 Council approved the memo on the Officials' advice that Zamfara State consider PPP approach to revitalize the Tractor Hiring and Servicing Centres.**

#### **2.29 Need for Livestock Based Intervention for the Victims of Cattle Rustling and Armed Banditry in Zamfara State**

2.29.1 The memorandum from Zamfara State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources sought Council's approval to assist the victims of cattle rustling and armed banditry in Zamfara State.

2.29.2 The paper noted that over the years, the State Government has made some tremendous efforts to put the livestock sub-sector back to track through the provision of various infrastructure and programmes geared towards sustainable livestock development prior to the occurrence of the ugly trends of banditry and cattle rustling.

2.29.3 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. The detrimental effects of banditry on Zamfara State which is a North-Western state as the most affected State in the country as indicated in various reports and research;
- ii. That the Sokoto Gudali breed of cattle is famous for its good body conformity and excellent for meat and milk production; that the Sokoto red goat is well known for its good quality hide and skin popularly known as the Moroccan leather; that the



breeding and development of both animals is becoming a thing of the past due to cattle rustling and other insecurity challenges;

- iii. That the huge gap created by these incessant losses needs urgent and promising intervention through breed upgrading and modern livestock farming techniques.

And **Approve** ;

- i. The establishment of a special Livestock Intervention Programme that will focus on the provision of improved and resilient breeds of livestock, feeds, and veterinary support to the victims of cattle rustling/banditry.
- ii. Conduct of census, assess the level of losses and support them with loan facilities to restock and resume their businesses along the livestock value chain.
- iii. The inclusion of Zamfara State in various FGN livestock intervention projects such as the National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP) and lots of others.

**2.29.4 Council approved the memo on the basis of the Officials' advice that Zamfara State key into the the National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP) and the Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support (L-PRES) project.**

### **2.30 Cassava Value Chain Development – Upstream, Midstream and Downstream**

2.32.1 The memorandum from Nasarawa State Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources sought the approval of Council for the development of the Cassava Value Chain.

2.30.2 The paper stated that the Nasarawa State is one of the leading producers of cassava in Nigeria with current production level estimated at 6,841,250 metric tonnes over an area of 221,880 hectares.

2.30.3 The paper further asserted that the State is an agrarian state with over 85% of the population engaged in agriculture and its related enterprises with potential of fertile soil suitable for the production of a wide range of crops, livestock, tree crops and aquaculture.

2.30.4 It indicated the prevailing focus to be on the development of cassava value chain because of its food security and industrial value with large scale farmers involved in its production and processing and its being consumed by over 70% of the populace.

2.30.5 Council was invited to **note**:

- i. That Nasarawa State is one the leading producers of Cassava in Nigeria and that through CMP and RTEP interventions in the State, Cassava production and processing have been stepped up;
- ii. That despite these interventions the State has witnessed cyclical glut because of the absence of heavy investment in mechanized farming and processing equipment lacking in the State;
- iii. That of the 11No cottage processing centres established in the State through RTEP intervention, there is need for revitalization to sustain the gains earlier achieved.
- iv. That Cassava is very important in meeting food security needs of the populace and creating jobs for wealth and reducing poverty.
- v. That developing cassava value chain could enhance exportation for foreign exchange earnings.

And **Approve**:

- i. Establishment of 3No High Quality Cassava Flour (HQCF) plants in the State through Public/Private investment with 3No Cassava grit/pellet demonstration in each of the Senatorial Zone of the State.
- ii. Revitalization of the 11No cottage processing centres established in the State through RTEP intervention and Equipment Support to interested large scale farms to promote commercial production of Cassava.

**2.30.6 Council, in approving the memo, considered the Officials' advice that Nasarawa State take initiative to collaborate with the private Sector.**

### 2.31 **Agriculture and Rural Development Programme/Project of Home Economics**

2.31.1 The memorandum from Nasarawa State Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources sought Council's approval on the role of Home Economics in the improvement of child nutrition and the need to train care givers at the local community level.

2.31.2 The paper canvassed the importance of home economics, which include amongst others, reduction in malnutrition among children, increase in availability of food and improving food preparation quality. It stressed the importance of providing

women with knowledge of nutrition and backyard gardening as a tool for promoting home economics, as well as teaching them improved methods for providing bio-fortified improved varieties of bread, preparation and storage methods which preserve nutrition in foods.

2.31.3 The paper further stated the importance of advocacy programmes such as workshops to impart knowledge in areas of community nutrition strategy, gender equality and women empowerment and back yard gardening of different vegetables. It highlighted some challenges faced which include poor funding, non-establishment of nutrition unit for the States and socio-cultural taboos which mitigate against dietary diversification.

#### **2.31.4 Council approved the memo.**

### **2.32 Economic Diversification: Agribusiness to the Rescue - A Call for Sustainable Implementation Strategies for Agribusiness Policies and Programmes**

2.32.1 The memorandum from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Plateau State, sought Council's approval to develop a clear and implementable strategy for Medium Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs) Agribusiness Development in Nigeria.

2.32.2 The paper noted that since the discovery of oil and Nigeria's drift to a mono-economy, the agricultural sector has been neglected over the years which has led to high unemployment, food insecurity and general security challenges in the nation. It recalled that series of government policies on agriculture, culminating in the recently launched National Agriculture Transformation and Innovation Policy as laudable and observed that what was lacking in the development of the sector are implementing strategies.

2.32.3 The paper drew the attention of Council to efforts of the Plateau State Government to create employment by identifying 48 Agricultural Value Chains, linked to Agribusiness, which by implication, means production, storage, processing and marketing of agro and agro-allied products. These Value Chains, it added, could employ 32,000 youths within 4 years, and if replicated across the country, would create 1,184,000 jobs and earnings from export within the same period if clear implementation strategies to strengthen MSMEs are being put in place.

2.32.4 Council was invited to **note** that:

- i. MSMEs in agribusinesses are unique by nature and since independence, several policies towards boosting food production have been in place however, strengthening MSME in agribusinesses have been challenging;
- ii. Policies over the years mostly targeted increased food production, increasing production without strengthening value chains increases post-harvest losses;
- iii. MSMEs in Agribusinesses in Nigeria are undoubtedly one of major employers of labour and drivers of the Nigerian Economy and that Nigeria has all it takes to be a leading world producer of many crops as exemplified with rice, cassava and yam;
- iv. Nigeria food system is uniquely driven mostly by small-holder farmers and small value chain actors should be thus viewed and promoted.

**And Approve:**

An implementable strategies to strengthen MSMEs in Agribusiness through the development of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to deliver result driven national/State-owned projects and programmes as witnessed in World Bank Funded Projects.

**2.32.5 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

**2.33 Economic Diversification: Agribusiness to the Rescue – the Plateau State Fadama Farmers Bank Approach, a Call for Adoption by other Projects for Sustainability**

2.33.1 The memorandum from Plateau State FADAMA Project Office sought Council's approval for the establishment of a department for Village Savings Loan Associations (VSLAs) for the coordination and formation of the VSLAs for all agricultural commodities with the objective of creating a farmers-owned bank in all the 774 Local Government Areas.

2.33.2 The memo indicated that FADAMA III Project which was implemented between 2009-2013 in Plateau State had a sub-component under Assets Acquisition Component 5 known as Fadama User Equity Fund (FUEF).

2.33.3 The paper stated that the design of FUEF was to ensure farmers save at least 10% of their income after every production cycle in savings accounts known as FUEF accounts thereby encouraging participating farmers to save and also promote community level capitalization, mobilize resources outside donor support, develop a

sustainable loans skills scheme and to contribute in deepening the financial sector of the economy.

2.33.4 Council was invited to **note** that:

FUEF is to improve the lives and farm practices of rural indigenes, bridge the gap in the government's rural finance efforts and improve access to credit for farmers in rural areas.

And **Approve:**

The establishment of a department for Village Savings Loan Associations (VSLAs) for the coordination and formation of the VSLAs for all agricultural commodities with the objective of creating a farmers-owned bank in all the 774 Local Government Areas.

**2.33.5 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

**2.34 Impact of Poor Agriculture Mechanisation on Food Production, Agribusiness in Nigeria Economy- A Call to Safeguard the Future by Addressing Youths Apathy Towards Agriculture**

2.34.1 The memorandum from Federal College of Animal Health and Production Technology, Vom, sought Council's approval to safeguard the future of agriculture by mitigating the dangerous trend of neglecting agriculture embraced by the youth.

2.34.2 The memo indicated that poor agricultural mechanization in the Nigerian agricultural system has negatively affected food production in the country. It linked this notion to a depiction of agriculture with pictures of hoes, cutlasses and food in a basket may have resonated in the minds of the youth as unattractive, a situation that can be seen in their trend of mass migration to urban areas where menial jobs seem to be preferred to agribusiness as career choices in schools has the agricultural sector at the bottom of the ladder.

2.34.3 Council was invited to **note**:

- i. That manual source of farm power still remains the major source of farm power in Nigeria. Few farm machineries dotting the agricultural system have very little or no impact in addressing food security and Agribusiness development in the country. A substantial amount of food produced and consumed in Nigeria still comes from subsistence farming whose population is ageing fast;
- ii. That the economy of the nation should be youth-driven and not the other way around as currently obtainable in Nigeria. As it stands now, the older

generation who are into agribusiness are doing so not because they like it, but because it is the only alternative to starvation;

- iii. That agriculture needs to be efficiently mechanized to attract, persuade and educate our youth and the general public to it which will in turn set us on the right track towards development in food production and Agribusiness;
- iv. That the best brains in Nigeria are far away from agriculture and the future of agriculture in Nigeria is at stake.

And **Approve:**

- i. The revamping the moribund Nigerian Centre for Agricultural Mechanization (NCAM) and establishment of outstations across all States of the Federation.
- ii. The need for increased rural infrastructural development to mitigate youths Rural-Urban drift and the establishment of a regulatory agency that will be responsible for the manufacture/importation, marketing/distribution and utilization / maintenance of all Agricultural machineries in Nigeria.

**2.34.4 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly, after noting the Officials' observation of the inconsistency of the prayers with the mandate of the Institution.**

#### **2.35 Commodity Value Chain Development: the Upstream and Downstream of Potato Value Chain Development in Plateau State – Notable Challenges and Prospects**

2.35.1 The memorandum from Plateau State Potato Value Chain Project Office sought Council's approval for Commodity Value Chain Development with special attention to potato.

2.35.2 It drew Council's attention to the benefits of Potato production in areas of job and wealth creation along the value chain as well as to the challenges faced in potato production, and its implication on food security.

2.35.3 The paper stated that despite Plateau State producing 90% of potatoes in Nigeria and the establishment of the outstation of the National Root Crop Research Institute (NRCRI) at Kuru-Jos, the anticipated quantum development of the crop was yet to be achieved.

2.35.4 It however, indicated that development partners such as the German Development Cooperation and the African Development Bank (AfDB) have

contributed to the development of the crop such as the recent financing of a 3 years Potato Value Chain Support Project by the AfDB.

2.35.5 The paper stressed that notwithstanding the support and investments above, potato production still faces challenges along value chain production which include among others, pest diseases, poor quality and uncertified seeds, traditional farming systems, poor storage methods and lack of modern storage facilities at the community level and aggregation centres.

2.35.6 Council was invited to **note**:

- i. That Plateau State is the main producer of potato in Nigeria;
- ii. That there is an outbreak of Potato Late Blight diseases this year, which devastated 52,000 hectares of potato field leading to an estimated over 364,000 metric tons and an economic loss of N82.2 Billion;
- iii. That food security and livelihood depending on this crop are seriously affected by the blight incidence of this year and seed stocks have degenerated leading to low yields;
- iv. That Potato is a highly valued food crop with high demand and thus have the potential to employ a lot of youths along its value chain which can significantly reduce the unemployment challenge in the country.

And **Approve**:

- i. The Need to speed up action to operationalize the Tissue Culture Laboratories in Plateau State to provide disease free and high yielding varieties of potato seed, in collaboration with the Root Crop Research Institute – Potato Station Kuru with a target in attaining a “Jos Potato Fries” for home consumption and export.
- ii. The need for the Federal Government to set aside a Potato Development Fund (PDF) under the FMARD to sustain the effort of AfDB.

**2.35.7 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

**2.36 Requesting for the Upgrade of National Root Crops Research Institute, Kuru Outstation to Full Fledge Potato Research Institute/Centre**

2.36.1 The memorandum from Plateau State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development sought Council's approval for the upgrade of the potato Station Kuru to a full fledged Research Centre.

2.36.2 The paper described Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) in terms of originality, evolution, and trends in production and productivity, and stated that Nigeria has the largest single production area in Africa, larger than all the other potato growing areas in other countries of the continent put together.

2.36.3 Council was invited to **note** that:

- i. Research activities of the Kuru Outstation of the National Root Crop Research Institute (NRCRI) have been largely responsible for the increase and expansion in potato production in the country. New frontiers of production in areas of varieties research and release, seed production, the introduction of blight tolerant and disease resistant varieties, farmer education, linkages with other local and international potato research institutions, etc.;
- ii. there is lack of adequate laboratory facilities, lack of equipment for storage of germplasm and other Biological materials conservation;
- iii. there is limited linkage and collaboration with international potato research centers, and limited authority in operations for optimal results;
- iv. there is Inadequate funding which affects varietal research and releases; and Potato production has increased over the years. However, consumption has outpaced production with diseases and pests production implication raising the price potato.

And **Approve**:

The upgrading of the Potato Research Station at Kuru in Jos, Plateau State into a full fledged Potato Research Centre.

**2.36.4 Council approved the memo with a condition that a bill be forwarded to the National Assembly for enactment of a law, even though the Officials declined the memo on the premise of the on-going Federal Government policy on rationalization of Federal Institutions.**

### 2.37 **Establishment of Feed and Animal Products Reference Laboratory**

2.37.1 The memorandum from Kwara State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development sought Council's approval to establish a Feed and Animal products Reference Laboratory.



2.37.2 The paper indicated that there are no functioning livestock feed or animal product laboratory in the country and that both foreign and local producers dump livestock feeds and animal products into the country without any form of measures by the government to determine the quality and safety in the open market.

2.37.3 Council was invited to **note**:

- i. That a reference laboratory is required in the country to ensure that livestock feeds are free from contaminations; impurities and they actually contain the nutrients as required and as advertised by manufacturers and producers;
- ii. That as a matter of national food security, there is a need to randomly and regularly test livestock feeds and animal products in the country;
- iii. That animal products (meats, milk, eggs, etc) need to be regularly tested as a means of epidemiological surveillance, to ensure that are free from harmful materials and are within the threshold of acceptable quality.

And **Approve**:

The establishment of a Feed and Animal products reference laboratory in Kwara State for the North- Central Zone and also in the other 5 geopolitical zones in the country.

#### **2.37.4 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

### **2.38 Organic Agriculture in Nigeria**

2.38.1 The memorandum from Kwara State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development sought Council's approval for the promotion, propagation, development and implementation of organic agriculture practice in the state in order to enrich the fertility of the soil.

2.38.2 The paper described organic agriculture as an agricultural system that promotes ecologically sound, socially acceptable, economically viable and technically feasible production of foods, which refrains from the use chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, etc and called for the importance of promoting its practise.

2.38.3 Council was invited to **note**:

that globally organic agriculture is being encouraged, and therefore, should be given a legitimate place within sustainable agricultural programmes.

And **Approve**:

- i. The establishment of a comprehensive organic agriculture programme and policy.
- ii. The establishment of standard authority for accreditation of organic certifying bodies and registration of organic foods and organic inputs producers.

**2.38.4 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

**2.39 Creation of Fish Farm Estates in Rural Communities in the Country/Enhancing Income of Women through Creation of Fish Processing Centres**

2.39.1 The memorandum from Kwara State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development sought Council's approval for the establishment of Fish Farm Estates in rural communities as panacea for the development of rural communities and increase quality fish production, job creation and to improve the economy/social status of rural dwellers.

2.39.2 A related and merged one on Enhancing Income Of Women Through Creation Of Fish Processing Centres requested approval for the establishment of such centres in each Senatorial District across the nation, the relevant food safety agencies like SON/NAFDAC to partner with the Ministry of Agriculture in States and support the women in value addition to fish products, seed money to identified women groups, and the provision of adequate processing equipment and tools to reduce drudgery and risk associated with fish processing.

2.39.3 Council was invited to **note**:

- i. That for greater participation in commercial fish farming in order to enhance food security for local consumption and export, efforts need to be geared towards the desire of the three tiers of the Government to open up Fish Farms Estates in all rural communities.
- ii. That for the purpose of national interest, there is need to encourage massive production of fish and its allies for export, reduced rural-urban migration and job creation;
- iii. That it has become a priority to build the capacity of women processors engaged in the fisheries industry to deal with economic, social and environmental issues associated with fish processing.
- iv. That such capacity would enhance the organizational, managerial, leadership and management capacity of women processors for increased income and urgently needs the approval of the Hon, Minister

And **Approve:**

The establishment of Fish Farm Estates/Fish Processing Centres in rural communities across the Federation for the purpose of rural development and women empowerment.

**2.39.4 Council approved the merged memoranda on Creation of Fish Farm Estates in Rural Communities in the Country from Kwara State and Enhancing Income of Women through the creation of Fish Processing Centres from Akwa-Ibom, as presented and recommended by the Officials Meeting.**

#### **2.40 Farmers Enumeration/Certification Exercise along Commodity Cropping Lines**

2.40.1 The memorandum from Kwara State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development sought Council's approval for States in the Federation to adopt the practice of digital enumeration of farmers along the commodity cropping lines and the establishment of farmers' Data Bank in the State Ministries of Agriculture for ease of reference, planning and statistical analysis to promote profitability, efficiency and sustainability in the agricultural sector.

2.40.2 The paper enumerated the role of data in planning and policy formulation by government particularly in the face of widening gap between human population and food production being an activity in which farmers are key players. It added that statistical analysis of the data would help in designing specification of food production in region based on comparative advantages and facilitate interstate trade among others.

2.40.3 Council was invited to **note** that:

- i. Precision Agriculture main objective is to ensure profitability, efficiency and sustainability using the data gathered to guide both immediate and future decision making;
- ii. Farmers would be encouraged to produce specific crop in commercial quantities;
- iii. The data when translated into actionable information can help to improve business processes and solve problems at scale and speed.

And **Approve:**

The adoption of practice of digital enumeration of farmers along the commodity cropping lines by States in the Federation and the establishment of farmers' Data Bank in the State Ministries of Agriculture for ease of reference, planning and statistical analysis to promote profitability, efficiency and sustainability in the agricultural sector.

**2.40.4 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

**2.41 Provision of Facilities at the International Control Post and Inter-State Control Post in Cross River State**

2.41.1 The memorandum from Cross- River State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources sought Council's approval for the provision of facilities at the international control post and inter-state control post in Ikom and Gakem Cross-River State.

2.41.2 The paper stated that Control Post ensures disease traceability, prevention and control of zoonotic and Trans boundary animal diseases such as Rabies, Avian Influenza(AI), New Castle disease(NCD), Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia(CBPP), Peste des Petits Ruminant(PPR), African Swine Fever(ASF), Foot and Mouth disease (FMD).

2.41.3 It indicated that functional Control Post enables Disease surveillance officers check and ensures that animals entering the State, have authorised "Movement Permit" issued by the Director of Veterinary Services of the transporting State.

2.41.4 Council was invited to **note** that:

- i. The provision of physical facilities such as a fenced area to house other buildings for animal inspection, examination and treatment of trade animals on transit, in line with global best practices, at IKOM and GAKEM (International and Inter- State border, respectively) is important;
- ii. Synergy of the Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine services with the State Department of Veterinary Services, with respect to disease prevention and control in the State, at these control posts, is important.

And **Approve:**

The provision of facilities in these two important Control Posts in Cross-River State, for effective disease surveillance, prevention and control.

**2.41.5 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

## **2.42 Need for Hazard Allowance for Agricultural Practitioners in line with Livestock and Veterinary Services**

2.42.1 The memorandum from Cross- River State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources sought Council's consideration and approval for payment of hazards allowance for agricultural practitioners.

2.42.2 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. That the issue of risk/hazard of the Agricultural occupation is NOT a subject in contention. On the international scene the agricultural profession has remained a recognized entity;
- ii. That 1921, the ILO governing body adopted a convention cited "the right of Association (Agriculture) convention, 1921" which came into force on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 1923;
- iii. That the Nigerian government ratified it in 1960 which subject her to abide by the provisions of Article 1 of the convention that classified veterinary and Livestock as classified under Agriculture in line with ILO job standard classification of occupations;

And **Approve:**

The Payment of hazards allowance for Agriculture Professionals/ Practitioners.

**2.42.3 In approving the memo, Council noted the sensitive policy related issues and directed FMARD to facilitate the process.**

## **2.43 Flood Disaster - Cross-River Pathetic Case Against Agricultural Value Chain Development Process**

2.43.1 The memorandum from Cross- River State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources sought Council's approval for support to mitigate the impact flood disaster especially on agricultural value chain development process in the State.

2.43.2 The paper the critical situation of flood in the State which pose a significant threat to the efforts of the State government in infrastructural development and Agro- Industrial strive in the State. In view of the devastating flood disaster, the paper noted the urgent need for support to Cross River State Government to recover from effects as well as post flood disaster variables in terms of funds, post-harvest losses, agro chemicals, Inputs and extension services to strengthen agricultural value chain development process for food security in the State.

2.43.3 Council was invited to **Consider** and **Approve** support to Cross- River State Government to enable the State recover from the year 2022 flood disaster especially with regards to the devastating effect on farmers and the States' agricultural value chain development process.

**2.43.4 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

**2.44 Integration and Application of the Food and Nutrition Insecurity Analysis Using Cadre Harmonize (CH) Tool**

2.44.1 The memorandum from Cross- River State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources sought Council's approval for the nationwide adoption of integration and application of the food and nutrition insecurity analysis Cadre Harmonize (CH) Tool.

2.44.2 It stated that the Cadre Harmonize is a unifying tool that helps to produce relevant, consensual, rigorous and transparent analysis of current and projected food and nutrition situation. It added that the tool is expected to serve as a framework for countries to assess food and nutrition insecurity on an objective and consensual basis.

2.44.3 The paper indicated that the primary purpose of Cadre Harmonize is to help countries prevent food crisis, quickly identify affected populations and suggest appropriate measures to improve their food and nutrition security for current and projected period.

2.44.4 The tool, as the paper explained, is an integrated analytical framework built on a technical consensus that seeks to make best use of data from all systems or methods which include food consumption surveys, nutrition surveys, Household Economy Approach (HEA) or other information provided by agricultural surveys and market monitoring.

2.44.5 The programme, the memo continued, is domiciled in the Ministry of Agriculture with participants drawn from Ministry of Health, State Planning Commission, Cross River Agricultural Development Programme (CRADP), State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), State Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

2.44.6 Council was invited to **urge**:

- i. State Governments to take complete ownership of the Cadre Harmonize (CH) process as the foreign counterpart have achieved putting the country on the right track and donor funds is not forthcoming;
- ii. State Governments to use the outcome of this analysis for policy formulation and planning;
- iii. State Governments to support the capacity building of State CH team members in order to strengthen future analysis;
- iv. State Governments to finance the conduct of surveys (FSVA, SMART, HEA, Crop Production/Price Estimate, etc.) that will provide the needed data for CH analysis prior to each analysis period. This will ensure the availability, reliability and accuracy of data needed at all levels;

And **Approve**:

The adoption, integration and application of the food and nutrition insecurity analysis Cadre Harmonize (CH) Tool by all States as well as the need for provision of adequate funds for implementation.

**2.44.7 Council considered the memo and approved it for adoption by States as it may suit their environment.**

**2.45 Reclamation of Degraded and Redundant Land Resource for Economic Growth and Establishment of Insect Larvae Production Centres in at Least Six (6) Geo-Political Zones of Nigeria**

2.45.1 The memorandum from Anambra State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources sought Council to approve the reclamation of degraded and redundant land resources, the procurement of mechanized tree harvesters and pulverizers for the State, a support for the establishment of processing center for conversion pulverized trunks into various value chain products (bio compost, insect larvae and mushroom), and the establishment of Insect Larvae Production Centres in six (6) geo-political zones of the country.

2.45.2 It stated that though palm trees have a productive lifespan of about 30 years, many in Anambra ecosystem are over 60 years, and therefore constitute encumbrance to Anambra land, as the State has over five million palm trees, most of which were planted during Dr M.I. Okpara oil palm revolution in the early 1960s.

2.45.3 The memo added that economic opportunity cost of the encumbrance on the State's limited land resource was another compelling reason to invest in their removal and conversion to other useful purposes.

2.45.4 It indicated that this utilization could be done by using Black soldier fly larva as a priority target product and a cost effective protein replacement for fish meal in livestock feed production with over 60% cost reduction.

2.45.5 The memo explained that the production of insect larvae like Black Soldier Fly larvae for low cost feed is already a common practice all over the world with global market size hitting \$303.2 million and projection of \$1.74 billion in 2028.

**2.45.6 Council considered the merit of the memo and approved accordingly.**

#### 2.46 **Regenerative Agriculture Policy**

2.46.1 The memorandum sought the approval of Council for a Regenerative Agriculture Policy. It indicated the reality of shared agro eco-system, the need for actors within the system to assume responsibility for a sustainable future, and the essence of collaborative support for regenerative agricultural policy development.

2.46.3 Council was invited to **note** that:

- i. Anambra State is about 4, 844Km<sup>2</sup>, but with seventy percent of her land mass challenged by gully erosion menace, the future of food sufficiency and food security is certainly bleak;
- ii. Health risks associated with the use of agro-chemicals necessitates the State's shift to regenerative agriculture;
- iii. Erosion affects soil health, fertility and productivity ;
- iv. Regenerative agriculture as a sustainable land management practice focused on ecological functions that can be effective in building resilience of agro-ecosystems;

And **Approve:**

Support for the development of Regenerative Agriculture Policy.

**2.46.4 Council considered the merit of the memo and approved accordingly.**



## 2.47 **Need for Utilization of Agromet Services for Sustainable Food Security and Economic Development in Nigeria**

2.47.1 The Memorandum from Nigerian Meteorological Agency sought the approval of Council for the application of weather and climate information to be made mandatory in all the agricultural value chain processes across the country and to develop location specific forecasts for all the major agricultural hubs in the country to enhance farmers' decisions in their operations.

2.47.2 Council was invited to **note** that:

- i. Global warming is contributing to climate change and is causing extreme weather events that impact negatively on food security;
- ii. Agriculture ranks among the most vulnerable sectors to extreme weather events. The estimated damage and loss inflicted on the agricultural sector in Nigeria by the 2012 flood was estimated to be N481.53 billion, representing 40.6 % of the total for the productive sectors;
- iii. Application of weather/climate information is proven to improve crop yield by up to 25-30% and Climate-smart agriculture is crucial to making the country's food systems sustainable and resilient and therefore, must be duly captured in farming operations;
- iv. NiMet is involved with partners in community (village areas) baseline survey and subsequent downscale across all the 36 states of the Federation including the 774 Local Governments and is committed to sustaining that all the time and open to partnership;
- v. There is an existing MOU between FMARD and NIMET;

And **Approve:**

Subsidiary MOU with States, FCT and other relevant stakeholders for the promotion of science-based climate-smart agriculture in order to mitigate the effects climate change and improve adaptive options.

**2.47.3 Council approved the memo on basis of Officials' observation of the need to leverage on the existing MOU between FMARD and NIMET and for the States to have subsidiary agreements with NIMET.**

## 2.48 Need for Action Based Reflection and Rethinking on Underutilized/Forgotten/Neglected Foods Commodities towards a Sustainable Food System Development in Nigeria

2.48.1 The memorandum from Ogun State Ministry of Agriculture called the attention of Council to the need for an action-base strategic activities to bring back forgotten and neglected food commodities in Nigeria.

2.48.2 The paper posited that food and nutritional security is a major social and economic problems in Africa and over 27.4 percent of Nigerian are confronted with severe food insecurity due to several factors and primarily a deviation from traditional food system and increase in forgotten food.

2.48.3 It equally described forgotten food as rich traditional varieties that have been produced and consumed for centuries but are now neglected or underutilized by agricultural ecosystem despite their nutritional, medicinal, agro-biodiversity, adaptation characteristics, economic values, and contribution to poverty reduction as well as food security.

2.48.4 The paper highlighted reasons for their neglect to include poor development, weak genetic make-up, insufficient knowledge on their agronomic requirements, belief system, high cost of production, low returns, and high processing techniques. Consequently, their neglect made governments to rarely allocate resources for their promotion and development.

2.48.5 The paper indicated that there are 121 forgotten and underutilized food crops in Nigeria and are categorized as follows; Baobab tree /Monkey-bread tree, Vegetable tallow, Desert date/soap berry tree, Shea tree, Fonio/hungry rice /Acha, African bush Mango, Breadfruit, Walnut, Locust beans and African star apple.

2.48.6 Council was invited to **note** the:

- i. Need to bring back lost food commodities to sustain our ecosystem and conserve our biodiversity in this era of changing climate and enhance advocacy for Nature Based Solutions;
- ii. Need for the development of sustainable seed systems that will enhance accessibility, availability, and affordability of high-quality seeds of forgotten foods;
- iii. Need for fund and resources mobilization for investment on forgotten foods and the need to invest in life-saving crops that are resilient and well adapted to a wider range of environment and cropping systems;

- vi. Need for more sensitization, advocacy, evidence-based policy change and R&D on forgotten crops and
- vii. Need to mitigate the danger of food shortage, degradation of our Agro-biodiversity and nutritional insecurity, aggravated by climate change, COVID 19, conflicts and increased desertification among others

And **Approve:**

The immediate transformative action to turn forgotten /neglected /underutilized foods into respected, valued and supported ingredients of healthy diets.

**2.48.7 Council noted the Officials' advice on the need to include the crops in the mandates of the relevant Research Institutes, considered the merit of the memo and approved it accordingly.**

#### 2.49 Facilitating Dry Season Farming In Kogi State

2.49.1 The memorandum Kogi State Ministry of Agriculture sought Council's approval on the need to harness agricultural comparative advantage in the State to enhance dry season farming as a complementary factor to rain fed farming.

2.49.2 The paper indicated that Kogi State is predominantly an agrarian economy driven State with large proportion of the population engage in farming activities along the value chain system. It emphasised on the dominant advantage Kogi State possessed in the production of cassava, cashew, yam, maize, and oil palm production if technically harnessed for food security in Nigeria.

2.49.3 The paper highlighted the fact that constant flooding in almost all part of the state, climate change, poor accessibility to input and other agricultural infrastructures provoke loss of farmland, destruction of sources of livelihood of farmers and caused untold hardship to the people.

2.49.4 Council was invited to **note** that:

- i. Kogi state is potentially endowed in the production of cassava, cashew, yam, maize, and oil palm;
- ii. Flooding is ravaging the state and its calamitous effects are noticeable in around the state and there is inadequate mitigating measure to ameliorate the menace;

- iii. The consequences of flooding and underutilization of agricultural potential inherent in Kogi state is leading to social vices among the youths

And **Approve:**

- i. That the government should provide interventions, support Kogi state government to enhance and facilitate dry season farming to compliment the rain fed farming.
- ii. That the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to comprehensively support agric-business initiative of the state to enable youth, men and women gainfully employed.

**2.49.5 Council approved the memo on the premise of the Officials' noting of the effort of FMARD in promoting all year round farming and urging all States to adopt it.**

#### **2.50 Nigerian Poultry Industry: Need for Urgent Intervention**

2.50.1 The memorandum from the Poultry Association of Nigeria sought Council's approval for urgent intervention in the poultry industry to forestall imminent collapse of the sub-sector.

2.50.2 The paper discussed the success story of poultry sub-sector in the commercialization of agriculture in Nigeria, its contributions to the agricultural GDP, as well as subsisting challenges of lost over 5.0 million birds principally due to Avian Influenza outbreak from 2015 – 2022, effects of smuggling and multiple taxation, high cost of poultry feeds and micro ingredients, rising cost of poultry production, and the resultant high prices of poultry and poultry products. In ter

2.50.3 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. That incentives such as subsidy on major production input (maize, soyabean and micro-ingredients) and elimination of multiple taxation can triple existing production capacities for availability of wholesome and affordable animal protein, job and wealth creation;
- ii. The local poultry industry should be protected by ways and measures that maintain and sustain the fiscal policy of ban on importation of poultry and poultry products in to the country;
- iii. The need for the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) to effect the Zero Duty Fiscal Policy on Agricultural Machinery and Equipment with regards to poultry production equipment and micro ingredients (vitamins, minerals,

enzymes etc) to significantly reduce the high cost of production in the poultry industry;

- iv. The need to put in place a sustainable poultry development policy with a clear-cut action plan and road map.

And **Approve:**

- i. That Government should urge Commercial banks to lend to agriculture (poultry industry players) at no more than 5% and on a long-term basis for maximum output and return on investments.
- ii. That Government empower the Nigeria Customs Service and the Federal Competition and Consumers Protection Commission to step up their anti-smuggling crusade, towards preventing the continuous smuggling of poultry and poultry products into the country.
- iii. That FMARD, FMFBNP and NCS collaborate on the effective implementation of the Zero Duty Fiscal Policy on Agricultural Machinery, Equipment, micro ingredients and others.
- iv. That FMARD collaborate with the States, the States Internal Revenue Boards or Agencies, FMFBNP, FIRS and Joint Tax Board (JTB) to ensure that the issue of multiple taxation on agricultural commodities, poultry feed and other poultry products are eliminated through harmonization of operations while all illegal revenue agents or tax forces at all levels should be abolished.
- v. That FMARD Departments of Animal Husbandry Services and Veterinary and Pest Control Services should collaborate in providing active and passive surveillances and other bio-security measures to forestall and control rampant animal disease outbreaks such as high pathogenic avian Influenza (HPAI).
- vi. The establishment of a National Poultry Development Fund for sustained growth of the poultry industry and payment of compensation for losses due to outbreak of dreaded poultry diseases such as (HPAI).

**2.50.4 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

## 2.51 **Need for a Budget Line for Regular Updating of Livestock Data across the States**

2.51.1 The memorandum Federal Department of Animal Husbandry Services sought Council's approval for creation of budget line for livestock data collection at the Federal and State levels to enhance regular generation, management and transmission of accurate livestock production, processing, marketing and consumption statistics.

2.51.2 The paper justified request for the cooperation of the State Ministries of Agriculture/Livestock to adopt and promote the practice of regular update of livestock data in their States.

2.51.3 The paper highlighted the importance of livestock data in evidence-based planning, policy formulation and progressive development in the country. It noted that livestock data generation, management and transmission from the farmer level to the state has not been consistent, majorly due to inadequate budgetary provision.

2.51.4 The paper further reiterated that regular generation of livestock data on production, processing and market/marketing would enhance informed policy decision, formulation and planning for development of livestock sub sector in the country.

2.51.5 Council was invited to **note**:

- i. That total compliance by all the states will ensure a reliable statistical information on the nation's livestock resources for better planning and policy formulation;
- ii. That Livestock data on production, farmers processors markets/marketers and prices generated from the States had continued to be low due to gross declined commitment to livestock data gathering at state and local government levels;
- iii. That the challenges of underfunding and declined commitment to livestock data gathering at state and local government levels have resulted in unreliable, inconsistencies and delays in reporting livestock data at the Federal level;
- iv. That regular generation of livestock data across Value Chains at sub-national levels and transmission to the FMARD would provide an efficient database that can enhance informal private investment decision;

And **Approve** :

- i. That the Federal, States and FCT create a budget line for livestock data collection and management.

- ii. That States and FCT regularly, at least quarterly, collate and share livestock data with FMARD through the established structure.

**2.51.6 Council considered and approved accordingly.**

**2.52 Establishment of National Strategic Animal Feed Reserve**

2.52.1 The memorandum Federal Department of Animal Husbandry Services sought Council's approval for the establishment of a National Strategic Animal Feed Reserve.

2.52.2 The paper presented justification that, animal feed is essential for full development and productivity of animals and accounts for over 70% of the total cost of livestock production. It added that the country's animal feed sector remains underdeveloped, largely due to inadequate availability of feed ingredients.

2.52.3. The memo ascribed the above scenario to high cost of production which has also resulted into arket dislocation, hampered access to production inputs and unaffordability, thereby barring an average farmer out of the supply chain, especially during scarcity of some feed ingredients.

2.52.4 It stated that these challenges have necessitated the need for National Strategic Feed Reserve to harness and conserve the enormous post-harvest wastes for livestock feed thereby reducing the cost of production which can be achieved through the use of Silos and Processing Facilities for ingredients.

2.52.5 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. That feed constitutes over 70% of the total input for livestock production;
- ii. That there is inadequate supply of conventional feed ingredients;
- iii. That there is abundance of non-conventional feed ingredients across the 36 states and FCT that can be harnessed, conserved and processed into nutritious animal feeds;
- iv. That the animal feed sector has the potential to engage over 20 million Nigerians across its value chain when fully developed

And **Approve:**

The establishment of a National Strategic Animal Feed Reserve under the coordination of Federal Department of Animal Husbandry Services and that State

governments should support livestock farmers in the area of feed production through harnessing of available non-conventional feed ingredients.

#### **2.52.6 Council considered and approved accordingly.**

#### **2.53 Draft Revised National Agricultural Seed Policy**

2.53.1 The memorandum from National Agricultural Seed Council requested Council to approve the 2015 Revised National Agricultural Seed Policy in view of the changes in the policy environment governing the seed industry and the recommendation to undertake the review of the policy at least once in five years.

2.53.2 The paper posited that the revised policy provides an update roadmap for NASC operations, guide for stakeholders to function effectively within the seed sub sector and roles in the implementation of the National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Policy (NATIP).

2.53.3 The paper highlighted the policy gaps identified during the five years implementation of 2015 National Seed Policy and called for Council's consideration of the request.

2.53.4 Council was invited to **note** that:

the Revised Agricultural Seed Policy:

- i. captures affixation of Seed Codex as a quality authentication tool;
- ii. includes participation of accredited third party seed inspectors in quality assurance, women and youth in businesses along the Seed Value Chain;
- iii. promotes the establishment of satellite and private seed testing laboratories in the country;
- iv. recommends the establishment of National Strategic Seed Bank (NSSB) for reserve and buffer stock; and
- v. strengthens the achievement of the mandates of the agencies.

And **Approve:**

- i. The validated Revised National Agricultural Seed Policy for endorsement to FEC
- ii. The recommendation to undertake the review of National Agricultural Seed Policy in five years interval.

#### **2.53.5 Council considered and approved the memo for endorsement to FEC.**



## 2.54 **Cattle Damage Policy and Need to Urgently Implement the Concluding Part of NAIC Recapitalization Roadmap**

2.54.1 The memorandum from the Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC) sought the approval of Council to establish Cattle Damage Policy and to urgently implement the concluding part of its recapitalization roadmap.

2.54.2 The memo highlighted the devastating effects of the incessant clashes between pastoralists and crop farmers across the nation and the need to pursue a long-lasting solution to resolve the menace. It stressed that farmers-herders clashes produce revenue loss of US\$14billion annually and is currently threatening agricultural production, national food security, peace, and unity of the nation.

2.54.3 It further stated some of the causes of farmers-herder clashes in Nigeria include population pressure, effect of climate change, degradation and desertification, institutional failure and the inability to manage the deep cultural differences between the diverse people of the nation.

2.54.4 The paper identified the Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC) insurance policy on risk minimization which complement the efforts of the Federal Governments as the needed solution. It also indicates the initiative of NAIC on signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with cattle breeders and farmers on insurance subrogation as the way to go.

2.54.5 Council was invited to **note** that:

- i. The incessant clashes between cattle herders and farmers which results in wanton loss of lives and resources;
- ii. The enormity of the resources lost to occurrence of these clashes and those not accounted for to date;
- iii. The compelling yearnings of Nigerian farmers underscored by regular and persistent requests for this onerous policy;
- iv. The need to strengthen NAIC to full recapitalization as approved during the 43<sup>rd</sup> National Council on Agriculture and Rural Development (NCARD);
- v. The insurers of the Corporation's category are mandated to be recapitalized to ₦10 billion, out of which the Corporation had single-handedly recapitalized up to ₦6 billion, leaving a balance of ₦4 billion;
- vi. That Section 12 of NAIC enabling Act provides that "the Federal Government shall pay for all losses above 200 per cent of the Corporation's premium income".

- vii. The implementation of National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) directive will enable the proposed Cattle Damage Policy;

And **Approve:**

The introduction of Cattle Damage Insurance Policy under the auspices of NAIC

**2.54.6 Council approved the memo on the basis of the Officials' advice of handling the matters administratively and expunging "the immediate implementation of the concluding part of NAIC recapitalization Roadmap of injecting ₦4 billion into the Corporation's equity capital, in line with the requirements of the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM), from the prayers.**

**2.55 Need to Sensitize Farming Communities on Adoption of Agro-Forestry Practice to Reduce Land Degradation, Mitigate Climate Change Impacts on Agriculture and Conserve the Ecosystems in Nigeria**

2.55.1 The memorandum from FCTA Agriculture and Rural Development Secretariat sought Council's approval for the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to support the FCT Administration in the area of capacity building and sensitization of its farmers on the importance of Agro-forestry to improve the livelihood of rural farmers and mitigate the effects of climate change.

2.55.2 The memo explained the concept of agro-forestry and enumerated its benefits on soil fertility, agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability as it justified for the request.

2.55.3 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. The geometrical increase in agrarian population of Federal Capital Territory occasioned by influx of people from other parts of the country;
- ii. That the resultant effect of the rising agrarian population which is obvious a decline in the agricultural' soil fertility and crop nutrition;
- iii. That the adoption of agro-forestry system adoption in the FCT will improve the soil fertility and by extension its productivity as well as reduce emissions of carbon and other GHG, thus mitigating climate change.

and **Approve:**

The request for the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to support the FCT Administration in the area of capacity building and sensitization of its farmers on the

importance of Agro-forestry to improve the livelihood of rural farmers and mitigate the effects of climate change.

**2.55.4 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

**2.56 Establishment of a Pilot Apiary in FCT through the Assistance of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**

2.56.1 The memorandum from FCTA Agriculture and Rural Development Secretariat sought Council's approval for FMARD to promote and establish more Apiaries across the nation towards job creation for youths and women.

2.56.2 According to the paper, the role of bees in agriculture, honey and other hive related production as well as its potential for job creation if properly harnessed can contribute significantly to the economy, hence the need for promotion and more apiaries nationwide.

2.56.3 Council was invited to **note**:

- i. that the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development assisted the FCT Administration in the establishment of a pilot apiary;
- ii. That FCT Administration is seeking intervention from Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the establishment of more pilot Apiaries across the six Area Councils of the Territory and donation of more modern bee-keeping equipment to boost production of honey and other hive products;

and **Approve**:

That Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development establish more pilot Apiaries across the nation towards job creation for youths and women.

**2.56.4 Council considered the memo and approved accordingly.**

## 2.57 **Clean Nigeria: Use the Toilet' Campaign under the National Programme to end Open Defecation in Nigeria by 2025**

2.57.1 The memorandum from Non-Governmental Organization, Clean Nigeria Campaign, sought Council's endorsement on the Clean Nigeria- Use the Toilet Campaign to End Open Defecation in Nigeria by 2025 through its inclusion in the Ministry's Programmes.

2.57.2 The paper described the practice of open defecation as a norm in many communities due to lack of sanitation facilities. Nigeria is ranked among countries with the highest number of people practicing open defecation with an estimated distribution of 48million. The paper highlighted reasons for the magnitude of open defecation in Nigeria to include lack of workable public sanitation facilities, substandard facilities which are often not accessible by an estimated 112 million people.

2.57.3 Council was invited to **note** that:

- i. Nigeria has the highest number of people, estimated at 48million, defecating in the open in Africa;
- ii. Since the flag-off of the campaign in 2019 with 16 LGAs certified and declared as open defecation free, additional 68 LGAs have attained ODF status, making a total of 84 LGAs that are open defecation free;
- iii. All States have launched their state level campaign to end open defecation;
- iv. There has not been a commensurate commitment of resources for the implementation of the State level Campaigns to accelerate progress;
- v. Regular stakeholder's meeting on oversight of the Campaign by the Steering Committee headed by the Vice President in which the Minister is a member;
- vi. All States have launched State level Campaign to end open defecation and despite the state level launch of the Campaign, many of the States are not committing the needed financial and human resources required to drive the campaign and accelerate progress.

and **Approve:**

That Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) should recognize the need to end open defecation in Nigeria and include the construction of sanitation facilities in all the Ministry's developmental programmes as directed in the Executive Order 009.

**2.57.4 Council noted the importance of hygiene and nutrition and approved the memo accordingly.**

## 2.58 Promotion of Freshwater Sardines (*Clupeids*) in Fish Farming and Capture Fisheries in Nigeria

2.58.1 The memorandum from National Institute for Freshwater Fisheries Research, New Bussa, Niger State, sought Council's approval for establishment of fish meal plant to up-take the clupeids directly from fishermen instead of drying, which will enable obtaining fish oil and fish meal.

2.58.2 The memo described freshwater sardines (*Clupeids*) as an important fauna of the Nigerian freshwater ecosystem commonly found around Kainji, Tiga and Jebba Lakes. The paper stated that Government is making concerted effort to translocate them to various other water bodies in the six geo-ecological zones of the country.

2.58.4 The paper recognized the need for a local source of fish meal to totally replace the 20 percent of foreign fish meal required to impact palatability, acceptability, enticing aroma and good growth performance on fish production in Nigeria through to transplant clupeids (freshwater sardines) from where they are available in a large quantity to stock waters bodies where they are not available.

2.58.5 Council was invited to **note** that:

- i. NIFFR had stocked some freshwater bodies with clupeids such as Tiga lake in Kano state, Sabke lake in Katsina State, Yamama in Kebbi State and recently Tatabu wetland in Niger State and Omi reservoir in Kogi State because of its essentiality of Clupeids;
- ii. There is need for awareness creation on and popularizing the importance of clupeids among fish farmers in six geo-political zones of Nigeria;
- iii. there is need for government's Intervention to reduce fish meal importation by ensuring clupeids are available for fish feed production in Nigeria;

And **Approve:**

The promotion of Clupeids farming and capture Fisheries in Nigeria and the establishment of Fish Meal Plant for its up-take.

**2.58.6 Council approved the memo on the basis of the Officials' enhancement of the prayer to include, that FMARD, States and NIFFR collaborate to stock Nigerian freshwater bodies with Clupeids to make it abundantly available for fish farming and improved inland waters fish production,**

## 2.59 Sensitizing the Nation on the Single Haulage (SHF) and Single Inter –State Road Sticker (SIRTS) for Agricultural Produce

2.59.1 The memorandum from Nigeria Association of Agriculture Product Dealers (NAAPD), sought Councils enhancement and enforcement of the statutory law on taxation on Agricultural Produce by bringing the relevant stakeholders into action to allow for the uptake of the programme as a matter of urgency in other to achieve Mr. President's economic drive.

2.59.2 It informed Council that the schedule of tax and levies (Approved list for collection) Act No. 21 of 1988, with amendment orders, No. 25 of 2015 specifies the list of taxes and levies to be collected by the State and the Local Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the relation to the movement of Agro and Agri-allied commodities, livestock in the country.

2.59.3 Furthermore, the paper informed Council that over the years, there has been no compliance by States, Local Government authorities and other stakeholder's on the issues of multi levies and unauthorized check points over the movement of Agro and Agro-allied products across the country with the significant implication on food security, post –harvest and revenue losses as well as unemployment, increased cost of transportation and food prices.

2.59.4 Council was invited to **note**:

- i. That Nigeria Association of Agriculture Product Dealers (NAAPD) has acquired offices in all the States of the Federation;
- ii. That the Association has trained Five (5) persons in each Local Government Area of the country;
- iii. That there will be more revenue when the programme commences for the three(3) tiers of Government and this would enhanced more organised employment in Agriculture;
- iv. That it will prevent disputes between drivers and tax collectors along our high ways and reduce operational bottle –neck on our high-way;
- v. That diversion of taxation funds on Agricultural produce will be minimised and prevent up-rising resulting from commotion between drivers and tax officials;
- vi. The programme of the Association would enhance better economy;
- vii. The need for FMARD to empower the Association with operational vehicles to enhance the movement of personnel in an effort to enforce the single taxation on Agricultural produce as promised;

And **Approve:**

The enhancement and enforcement of the statutory law on taxation on Agricultural Produce by bringing the relevant stakeholders into action to allow for the uptake of the programme as a matter of urgency in order to achieve Mr. President's economic drive.

**2.59.5 In approving the memo, Council considered the Officials' advice that the presenter make available the required relevant legislation to Council.**

## **2.60 Establishment of the National Cooperative Development Fund (NCDF)**

2.60.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Cooperatives sought Council's consideration and approval for the establishment of the National Cooperative Development Fund (NCDF).

2.60.2 The memo informed Council that Cooperatives are autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise. Currently there are approximately 140,000 registered Cooperative Societies in Nigeria with a membership of about 12 million Cooperators.

2.60.3 The paper indicated that funds are crucial for all businesses and cooperative enterprises are business entities. Unfortunately, funds for fast and sustainable growth have always been the bane of most Cooperative Societies in Nigerian. Hence the need for the establishment of the National Cooperative Development Fund (NCDF) too address the challenge of inadequate funding of cooperative activities.

2.60.4 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. that Cooperatives are strategic tool for mobilizing and empowering the citizens for self-reliant and sustainable national development action that can lead to job creation and wealth generation;
- ii. that there are over 12 million Cooperators in Nigeria operating in various sectors of the economy such as agriculture, transportation, housing, mining, commerce, services, arts and crafts;
- iii. that Cooperatives are in the nooks and crannies of the country and are suitable for grassroots mobilization for development;
- iv. that the growth, development and contribution of Cooperatives to national economic growth has been constrained by lack of funds for their businesses;

- v. that there is the need to establish a funding arrangement that enables Cooperative members to access credit based on cooperative principles and secured terms;
- vi. that the Fund when established will nationally unleash the power of Cooperatives for production of goods, services and growing the national economy;
- vii. that there will be need to put in place a structure and system to securely manage the Fund,

And **Approve:**

The establishment of a National Cooperative Development Fund (NCDF) to mobilize funds for Cooperative project development and execution.

**2.60.5 Council noted the Officials' observation of the option of crowd funding amongst other alternatives, and approved the memo.**

**2.61 Adoption of Integrated Cooperative Enterprise Centers as a Strategy for Accelerating Food Production, Mass Employment and Economy Diversification**

2.61.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Cooperatives sought Council's approval on the need to adopt Integrated Cooperative Enterprise Centres as a strategy for accelerating food production, mass employment and economy diversification.

2.61.2 The paper stated that Integrated Cooperative Enterprise Centers (ICECs) are production, processing and marketing systems largely run by citizens working as cooperatives. It highlighted that raw materials that will be used to support and run these ICECs will be supplied using the Cooperative One Village One Product (COVOP) development model.

2.61.3 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. The model is a strategic way of reducing Nigeria's endemic unemployment is by mobilizing the unemployed and underemployed people into agricultural production, processing, transportation, marketing and storage;
- ii. That unemployed citizens can be efficiently mobilized into production activities by encouraging them to form cooperatives and the government giving them appropriate support to go into productive ventures;
- iii. That the various ecological zones of Nigeria have products, commodities or enterprise that can be leveraged to create job, generate wealth and grow Nigeria's economy;



- iv. That the Cooperative One Village One Product working together with the Integrated Cooperative Enterprise Center (ICEC) can be used to create grass-roots employment, increase production of food, goods and services and grow Nigeria's economy significantly; and
- v. That the ICEC will produce world-class agricultural and non-agricultural products that meets export requirement;

and **Approve:**

- vi. The establishment of Integrated Cooperative Enterprise Centers across the country to boost the production of food, goods, and services to grow Nigeria's economy.

#### **2.61.4 Council considered and approved the memo, accordingly.**

#### **2.62 Need to adopt Cooperatives as one of the Channels for Delivering Government Assistance to Citizens and to Use Cooperatives as Intervention Exit Strategy**

2.62.1 The memorandum from Federal Department of Cooperatives sought Council's approval on the need to adopt cooperatives as one of the channels for delivering government assistance to citizens and to use cooperatives as intervention exit strategy.

2.62.2 The memo identified the need for government and development partner resources to be more efficiently and effectively utilized to ensure that all citizens once properly assisted exists poverty permanently and future resources can be expended on other citizens needing and desiring them for assistance.

2.62.3 The paper highlighted the role viable, registered and verifiable cooperatives can play in delivering at least 40% of developmental interventions and ensuring its gets to target citizens.

2.62.4 Council was invited to **note:**

- i. that development or intervention projects often do not get well managed after the exit of the sponsor/provider;
- ii. that several times citizens targeted with intervention projects relapse into poverty or lack soon after the exit of the provider;
- iii. that if the trend of project mismanagement and abandonment is not checked government and development partner resources will remain trapped in having to render poverty alleviation and humanitarian services for the same set of citizens repeatedly;

- iv. that Cooperatives can be used to ensure equitable, national and grass-roots spread of development interventions and government assistance;
- v. that the Cooperatives can be used to manage and possibly improve on the interventions provided;
- vi. that properly registered and verified Cooperatives are to be used to receive and manage intervention projects;

and **Approve:**

- vii. The use of registered and verified Cooperatives as channels for delivering at least 40% of developmental intervention and government assistance to target citizens.

**2.62. 5 Council considered and approved the memo accordingly.**

**2.63 Role of Bank of Agriculture in Strengthening Agricultural Value Chain Development Process for Food Security and Economic Development**

2.63.1 The Memorandum from Bahk of Agriculture sought Council's approval for the Federal Government of Nigeria to support the recapitalization of the bank.

2.63.2 The paper gave historical perspective of BoA and the key mandate of the bank to include collaboration with the Federal, States and Local Government as well as Non-Governmental Organization to provide agricultural and non-agricultural credits to farmers, enhance citizen's self-employment opportunities, inculcate banking habits on Nigerian, facilitate micro and macro credits for extension and modernizations, and consolidate agricultural and non-agricultural businesses I the country.

2.63.3 Council was invited to **note** that:

- i. The bank rebranded as BOA in the year 2010 and has three (3) branches in each state of the federation cited in every senatorial headquarters;
- ii. The operational performance of the banks is efficient and locations are easily accessible by customers;
- iii. Despite the functionality and relevance of the bank to farmers, it is challenged with lack of adequate funding and investments;
- iv. To make the bank sector viable and efficient, access to finance will improve value of agricultural chain connectivity and enable rural farmers to have access to credit for agro enterprise and agribusiness;

and **Approve:**

- v. The recapitalization of the bank by the Federal Government and that all funds and grants for disbursement to farmers, cooperative societies and agro-allied companies should be channelled through the bank.

**2.63.4 Council considered the memo and approved accordingly.**

**3.0 Closing**

Council considered the hosting of the Next Council Meeting and unanimously resolved that the 46<sup>th</sup> NCARD Meeting will hold in Cross-River State and the 47<sup>th</sup> edition in Ekiti State.

The 45<sup>th</sup> NCARD Communique was presented and adopted at the plenary.

The Meeting was closed by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development who was represented by the Honourable Minister of State, Hon. Mustapha Baba Shehuri, with a word of appreciation and commendation to members of Council, participants and the host State for a successful event.