Farmers Voice NG

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Expert Cautions Against Excessive Use of Chemical Fertilisers



Chemical fertilizer application

An agronomist, Dr. Rashida Bala, has cautioned farmers against the continuous misuse of chemical fertilisers without proper knowledge of soil types, to avoid long-term damage to farmlands.

She gave the warning in an interview on Friday in Bauchi.

Bala urged farmers to begin a gradual transition from chemical to organic fertilisers.

She warned that chemical fertilisers, when washed into water sources by rain, contaminate the environment and endanger livestock and communities.

The crop scientist said integrating organic inputs is key to sustaining soil fertility and producing healthy food for consumption.

"Many farmers opt for chemical fertilisers due to their quick results, but these substances pose serious health risks to humans and animals, and degrade the soil over time," she said.

According to Bala, the transition to organic farming requires patience, as it provides long-term health benefits to both humans and the environment.

She urged governments at all levels to train farmers in techniques that will enable them to convert waste and fruit residues into organic fertilisers.

This, she said, would reduce reliance on harmful chemicals and empower farmers to produce safe farm inputs.

Bala also enjoined farmers to study the nutritional needs of their crops and embrace the use of locally sourced organic alternatives.

Stakeholders Urge Traditional Rulers to Grant Women Farmers Access to Farmlands

Some stakeholders in the agriculture sector have urged traditional rulers to end harmful traditional practices that limit women's access to farmlands in rural communities.

They made the call during the Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) Stakeholders' Policy Dialogue meeting, supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), held in Enugu on Thursday.

The programme was titled "Gender Action Learning System (GALS) Policy Dialogue with Relevant Stakeholders for the Institutionalization and Scaling Up of the GALS Programme in Enugu State."

The GALS methodology is a tool developed by IFAD to promote women's empowerment through gender transformation.

Mr. Patrick Ubru, the State Commissioner for Agriculture and Agro-Industrialization, emphasized the need for traditional rulers to make land available to women and youths to encourage their participation in agriculture.

Ubru, who was represented by the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Mr. Victor Ngwu, also called on traditional leaders to address harmful cultural practices that adversely affect women and introduce necessary reforms.

Kaduna Flags Off Fertilizer Distribution to 100,000 Farmers

Kaduna State Governor, Uba Sani, has inaugurated a multi-stakeholder committee to oversee the distribution of over 300 truckloads of fertilizer to 100,000 farmers across the state.

Commissioner of Agriculture in the state, Murtala Dabo, who disclosed this in Kaduna, said the fertiliser distribution and monitoring will be coordinated by both state and local government committees ''to ensure credibility, transparency, and local ownership.''

Dabo further explained that membership of the committees will be ''drawn from public and private sector representatives, civil society organisations, traditional and religious leaders, labour unions, security agencies, and anti-corruption bodies.''

The Commissioner added that "this holistic approach reflects Kaduna State's unwavering commitment to inclusive agricultural transformation, rural development, and sustainable food systems.''



Kaduna Flags Off Fertilizer Distribution to 100,000 Farmers

He added that each beneficiary will receive two bags of free fertilizer under the smallholder farmer category, adding that ''in a second category, commercial farmers will benefit from a targeted input subsidy programme.''

The commissioner however explained that the fertilizer will be made available to commercial farmers at a 40% subsidised rate.

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FGN/IFAD-VCDP Distributes Farm Inputs to 330 Farmers in Kogi

One of the sessions includes a visit to CDA's Climate-Smart Agriculture Learning Site at its Training and Research Farm.

Speaking at the event, the Director of the Centre, Professor Sanusi Gaya Mohammed, said: "Our goal at CDA is to empower local communities—especially women—with knowledge and tools that ensure sustainable use of natural resources."

He added, "We are committed to short- and long-term training that closes manpower gaps and strengthens food systems through research and innovation."

Professor Mohammed also said the training is part of efforts to address environmental degradation and food insecurity in areas affected by climate change.

According to CDA, the focus on women reflects their key role in agriculture and the disproportionate impact food insecurity has on them.



FGN/IFAD-VCDP Distributes Farm Inputs to 330 Farmers in Kogi

MACBAN, AFAN Join Dialogue to Ease Farmer-Herder Tensions in Kwara

Agency Report

The Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) and the All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) in Ilorin on Saturday participated in a one-day dialogue and peace-building process.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the dialogue was organized by a non-governmental organization (NGO), Search for Common Ground.

The theme of the engagement was "Dialogue Between Herders and Farming Communities in Kwara."

The dialogue aimed to foster trust, understanding, and cooperation between farmers and herders, ultimately promoting peaceful coexistence and economic development.

Speaking at the event, the Kwara State Commissioner for Livestock, Mrs. Olohuntoyosi Thomas, emphasized that dialogue between farmers and herders is essential for preventing and resolving conflicts.

According to her, dialogue is the primary tool for addressing grievances and finding mutually beneficial solutions.

Thomas, represented by the Director of Livestock Services at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Alhaji Muhammed Umar, called for improved understanding between the two groups.

She noted that cooperation and collaboration could lead to joint initiatives and shared benefits.

"Dialogue can lead to economic benefits for both farmers and herders, such as increased access to markets and resources," she said.

The commissioner added that the state government had engaged a consultant to conduct a study on grazing zones for herders, noting that some of these areas had been encroached upon by structural developments and farms.

She said the study aims to ensure safe passage for herders while exploring the possibility of creating alternative grazing zones.

Also speaking, Malam Makanjuola Umar, a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, noted that both farmers and herders depend on natural resources and engage in agriculture — farmers through crop cultivation and herders through livestock rearing.

He described them as economic partners contributing to national development.

"In spite of their differences, farmers and herders often share common goals and interests, and can work together to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

"However, challenges still exist, such as conflicts over grazing rights, inadequate veterinary services, destruction of farmlands, and cattle rustling," Umar said.

On his part, the Kwara State AFAN representative, Malam Saeed Atonto, expressed concern over the role of underage herders, noting that their inability to control cattle often results in crop destruction.

He appealed to herders and their guardians to support poor farmers, saying, "We are brothers and we need to be united."

The Chairman of MACBAN, Alhaji Garba Shehu, stated that some aggrieved farmers imposed excessive fines on herders when cattle invaded their farms, sometimes demanding millions of naira in compensation.

He urged farmers to be more considerate in their demands as stakeholders in the same agricultural sector.

Earlier, the Kwara State Media Coordinator for Search for Common Ground, Hajia Fatima Mohammed-Lawal, said the initiative aimed to shift conflict management from violence to trust and collaboration.

She described the theme as timely, stressing that dialogue could play a vital role in promoting peace between herders and farmers in Nigeria.



MACBAN, AFAN Join Dialogue to Ease Farmer-Herder Tensions in Kwara

"The dialogue also provides a platform for both parties to express their concerns and grievances, helping to identify and address underlying issues," she said.

Tinubu Appoints Babangida as Chairman, Bank of Agriculture

President Bola Tinubu has approved the appointment of Muhammad Babangida, son of former military President Ibrahim Babangida, as the new Chairman of the Bank of Agriculture (BOA).

The appointment was announced on Friday through a statement issued by the President's Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, Mr. Bayo Onanuga. Babangida's appointment is part of a broader list of new appointments to key federal agencies.

Muhammad Babangida holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a Master's degree in Public Relations and Business Communication from the European University in Montreux, Switzerland. He is also an alumnus of Harvard Business School's executive programme on corporate governance, which he completed in 2002.

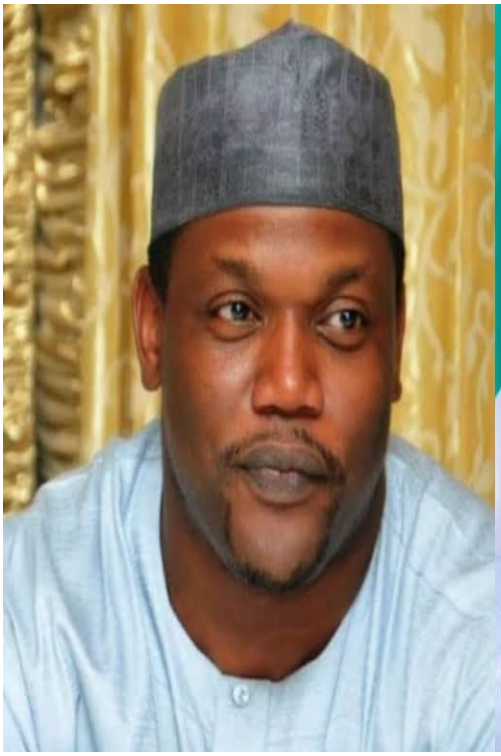
The President also appointed Lydia Kalat Musa from Kaduna State as Chairman of the Oil and Gas Free Zone Authority (OGFZA), while Jamilu Wada Aliyu from Kano State is to serve as Chairman of the National Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC).

Others include Hon. Yahuza Ado Inuwa (Kano State), appointed Chairman of the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON), and Sanusi Musa, SAN (Kano State), appointed Chairman of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR)

Also on the list is Professor Al-Mustapha Alhaji Aliyu (Sokoto State), who will serve as Director-General of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA)

Further appointments include Sanusi Garba Rikiji as Director-General of the Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiations (NOTN); Tomi Somefun as Managing Director of the National Hydro-Electric Power Areas Development Commission (HYPPADEC); and Abdulmumini Aminu-Zaria as Executive Director of the Nigerian Integrated Water Resources Management Commission (NIWRMC).

The appointments, according to the Presidency, are in line with President Tinubu's commitment to strengthening key institutions for national development.



Muhammad Ibrahim Babangida



President Bola Ahmed Tinubu

AATF: No Food Shortage if Farmers Adopt TELA Maize

The African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) has stated that Nigeria is not at imminent risk of food shortages—so long as farmers adopt improved, climate-resilient, and pest-resistant seed varieties such as TELA Maize.

This assurance was given by Mr. Olawale Ojo, Hybrid Seed Market Development Manager at AATF, during a media tour of demonstration farms in Jaji, Kaduna State, where TELA Maize has been thriving under real farming conditions.

"Our goal at AATF is to ensure food security," Ojo said. "Seed technology alone contributes up to 30 percent of a crop's potential yield. Without improved seeds, food security will always be threatened. That's why we're encouraging the use of technologies like TELA Maize."

According to him, the TELA Maize variety is genetically engineered to resist drought and pests—two major threats to Nigeria's food production. He said the seed is readily available nationwide through licensed distributors and urged farmers to test the seed on their farms and judge the results for themselves.

Kaduna farmers who have adopted the TELA variety are already attesting to its benefits.

Malam Sabitu Abdullahi, a farmer from Danmarke in Jaji, Igabi Local Government Area, described TELA Maize as a game-changer. "It's the best I've seen in terms of early maturity and yield. We harvest within 70 days," he said.

FG, L-PRES Push Climate-Smart Innovations for Livestock Sector



L-PRES Launches Plan to Sustain Livestock Projects in 20 States

The Federal Government, in collaboration with the Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (L-PRES) and other stakeholders, has adopted climate-smart technologies to improve pasture management and enhance food security.

The Minister of Livestock Development, Mr. Idi Maiha, stated this at a stakeholders' workshop on "Technologies for Sustainable Pasture Production and Management in Nigeria," organised by L-PRES on Thursday in Abuja.

Maiha, who was represented by his Special Assistant on Livestock Entrepreneurship, Mr. Ishaq Bello, described the initiative as timely, forward-thinking, and crucial to the future of livestock productivity, food security, and peaceful coexistence.

He said the pursuit of sustainable pasture management was not merely an agricultural activity, but also a pathway to environmental sustainability, social stability, and economic resilience.

"As we confront pressing challenges—ranging from overgrazing and climate stress to rising tensions over scarce pasture resources—it has become evident that innovation and collaboration must be our most potent tools," he said.

The minister noted that the workshop, which brought together both local and international stakeholders, marked a bold step towards tangible progress and enduring partnerships to uplift pastoral communities and strengthen Nigeria's livestock sector.

"This forum highlights the importance of global partnerships, including collaborations with esteemed institutions and government agencies in Israel, to harness climate-smart technologies and digital innovations," he added.

"The participation of local and international stakeholders—ranging from farmers and researchers to policymakers and development partners—reaffirms our shared commitment to transforming rangeland management in Nigeria's arid and semi-arid zones."

Earlier, the National Project Coordinator of L-PRES, Dr. Sanusi Abubakar, described the workshop as a high-level forum focused on advancing sustainable pasture production and management in the country.

Abubakar said the forum aimed to explore innovative, climate-smart, and technology-driven solutions to restore and sustainably manage Nigeria's pasture ecosystems.

He noted that pasturelands—considered the backbone of livestock production—were increasingly under threat from overgrazing, land degradation, and climate change.

"These challenges not only reduce productivity but also fuel conflicts over scarce natural resources," he said.

Abubakar explained that L-PRES is a six-year, \$500 million World Bank-funded initiative designed to improve livestock productivity, commercialisation, and resilience.

"Our work is anchored on three components: institutional and innovation system strengthening, livestock value chain enhancement, and crisis prevention and conflict mitigation," he said.

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Agency Report

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Ubru, who was represented by the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Mr. Victor Ngwu, also called on traditional leaders to address harmful cultural practices that adversely affect women and introduce necessary reforms.

He explained that the state government had introduced a Land Bank, through which it acquires land from communities and allocates it to interested women, youths, and investors.

"We have also created a Farm Estate Initiative, where each ward is expected to donate 200 hectares of land to the government for development, and one hectare each will be given to 200 farmers within the community.

"The state is aware of the challenges women face in accessing farmland. That is why we are taking these bold steps to ensure our women become successful farmers," he said.

Commending the impact GALS has had on families and communities, Ubru pledged continued support for the programme.

A farmer, Mrs. Nnenna Ejim, also urged communities and the state government to allocate 50 percent of farmlands to women and 30 percent to youths.

Also speaking, the Traditional Ruler of Mbu-Akpoti in the Isi-Uzo Council Area, Igwe Sunday Agbo, expressed excitement about the programme, stating that it would help to correct gender disparity in the country.

The royal father, however, encouraged women to channel their advocacy through political reforms that enable them to participate in law-making processes capable of overriding harmful traditional practices.

He added that, over time, all the harmful traditional practices affecting women in communities would be addressed, noting that wealthy women could purchase their own land instead of depending on family land.

Earlier, Mr. Humphrey Ubanyi, the Rural Institution, Gender, and Youth Mainstreaming Officer for VCDP in Enugu, said the GALS policy dialogue was convened due to the significant successes recorded in GALS-related activities.

He explained that the programme, designed by IFAD and implemented by VCDP, aims to teach individuals, households, and communities how to live better and address unequal power relations among men, women, youths, and people with disabilities.

According to him, the programme was introduced in the state in 2021 and has since yielded tremendous results, as confirmed by testimonies from beneficiaries.

"In 2023, we were able to extend the GALS methodology to all the participating Local Government Areas involved in our intervention.

"Through this programme, women now participate in household decision-making, own assets, and have control over their income, while men assist their wives with household chores to reduce their workload.

"It has also helped reconcile couples and restore harmony in broken families.

"Today's meeting is for stakeholders to understand the benefits of GALS and institutionalize it to sustain its achievements beyond the lifespan of the VCDP in Enugu State," he said.

He also commended the State Programme Coordinator of VCDP, Enugu, Dr. Edward Isiwu, for supporting the Rural Institution, Gender, and Youth Mainstreaming (RIGYMO) department.



Gombe Farmers Want Government's Subsidized Fertilizers Distributed

Some farmers in Gombe State have decried the delay in the distribution of subsidised fertilisers, 22 days after the commodity was flagged off for sale by Governor Inuwa Yahaya.

Governor Yahaya, on June 26, launched the sale of subsidised fertilisers for the 2025 wet farming season.

At the flag-off, the governor stated that the state government had procured 10,000 tonnes—equivalent to 200,000 bags—of NPK 20:10:10 fertiliser, and announced that they would be sold to farmers at a subsidised rate of ₦27,000 per bag.

Speaking on Saturday in Gombe, farmers from Akko, Yamaltu Deba, Billiri, Nafada, Funakaye, and Kwami Local Government Areas said they were yet to access the commodity.

Malam Abdullahi Sunusi, a farmer from Auwaru in Akko LGA, said he had been forced to abandon the cultivation of fertiliser-dependent crops like maize and rice because he could not access government-supplied fertilisers.

"With the high cost of fertilisers in the market, farmers in rural areas cannot cultivate the usual farmland without support," Sunusi said.

"It is frustrating that, as of July, farmers are yet to receive any support from the state government, despite the commodity being flagged off by Governor Yahaya three weeks ago," he lamented.

Zakari Hinna, the head of farmers in the Hinna community in Yamaltu/Deba LGA, said farmers in his area were yet to access the fertiliser for purchase.

Hinna noted that with the rising cost of fertilisers, it was becoming increasingly difficult for smallholder farmers—who depend solely on farming—to continue their routine work.



Gombe Farmers Want Government's Subsidized Fertilizers Distributed

He urged the relevant authorities to expedite the distribution process so that farmers could benefit from the initiative, in line with the governor's intention.

He added that the high cost of fertilisers would negatively impact the government's food security efforts and called for more support to boost production and promote self-sufficiency.

Mr. Abubakar Babayo, the head of farmers in Difa community, Yamaltu Deba LGA, said over 50 per cent of farmers in his area had abandoned the cultivation of rice and maize due to the high cost of fertilisers.

Babayo noted that cultivating rice and maize was no longer sustainable and warned that this situation could have dire consequences for Nigeria's food security.

"Since we have not received fertilisers despite the flag-off three weeks ago—and with the added impact of climate change—many have abandoned rice and maize because they cannot afford fertilisers," he said.

Mrs. Maria Joshua, a farmer from Popandi Tal in Billiri LGA, said the inconsistency in rainfall patterns made any delay in fertiliser distribution potentially devastating for farmers.

She explained that the late distribution of fertilisers would affect those who cultivated crops that relied on the government's subsidised supply.

She appealed to the Gombe State Government to urgently address the delay, stressing that the cost of fertilisers was now beyond what most rural farmers could afford.

Other farmers expressed similar concerns, lamenting that the continued delay could affect harvests during this year's wet farming season.

Reacting to the complaints, Mr. Barnabas Malle, Gombe State Commissioner for Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperative Society, urged farmers to be patient, noting that the delay was being addressed on the governor's directive.

Malle attributed the delay to transportation issues due to the large volume of fertiliser procured.

He said the process of moving the fertilisers from the storage facilities was slow, but added that efforts were being made to ensure that farmers could access the product soon.

"Each LGA will get between 22 and 25 trucks, but as of Thursday, some had received only two to four trucks; so the process is a bit slow," he said.

EDITORIAL

The Time to Act is Now

This is a call not just for seasonal firefighting but for a fundamental shift in mindset and governance. Flood disasters, though natural, are worsened by human negligence and policy inertia. As climate patterns become more erratic, the imperative for forward-thinking policies and resilient infrastructure becomes even more urgent.

Legislators must step up and enact enforceable laws that mandate yearly budgetary allocations for flood mitigation and provide strict oversight to prevent mismanagement of such funds. Environmental protection agencies should be empowered and adequately funded to enforce anti-deforestation laws and regulate land use in floodplains.

Academic and research institutions have a role to play too. It is time to deepen local research on climate adaptation, flood-resistant crop varieties, and innovative land management techniques tailored to Nigeria's diverse ecological zones. The knowledge generated must be translated into practical solutions accessible to rural farmers.

Technology can be an ally in this fight. Early warning systems must be modernized and made accessible to even the most remote communities via radio, SMS alerts, and community town criers. Mobile apps can help farmers get real-time weather updates and advice on best farming practices during extreme weather events.

The media must continue to shine the spotlight on both the risks and the solutions. Reporting should go beyond statistics of disaster and displacement, and amplify stories of communities that have successfully adopted best practices. By showcasing what works, we inspire others to act before the floods come knocking.

As citizens, we must hold leaders at all levels accountable. We must demand transparency in how disaster funds are spent and insist that the cycle of promises without performance ends now.

The coming weeks are crucial. The rains will not wait for bureaucracy to catch up. If we fail to act decisively today, we will be forced to pay a heavier price tomorrow — in ruined harvests, shattered livelihoods, and deeper food insecurity.

Farmers Voice stands firm in its belief that disaster preparedness is not an annual ritual but an investment in the nation's stability, prosperity, and food sovereignty. Let us all rise to ensure that this year, when the floods come, we will be ready not with excuses and regrets, but with resilient communities, protected farmlands, and secured futures.



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