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NSIA Hands Over Presidential Fertiliser Initiative to MOFI for Sustainable Growth

Buhari Abba

The Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) has officially commenced the handover of the Presidential Fertiliser Initiative (PFI) to the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI), marking the end of nearly ten years of a programme that has transformed Nigeria's fertiliser sector.

The transition was announced at a stakeholders' roundtable held over the weekend in Abuja, which brought together government officials, fertiliser producers, regulators, and other key actors in the agriculture value chain.

The event underscored the shift in operational control from NSIA to MOFI, with the latter set to take full management by November 2025 through its subsidiary, MOFI Management Company Limited (ManCo).

Launched in 2016 to tackle challenges in the fertiliser supply chain — including Nigeria's heavy reliance on imports, inflated prices, and limited availability for farmers — the PFI has recorded significant milestones under NSIA's stewardship.

From just four operational blending plants at inception, the initiative has expanded to over 90 plants nationwide as of July 2025. More than 128 million bags of high-quality NPK fertiliser have been distributed to farmers across Nigeria, according to official data.

NSIA Hands Over Presidential Fertilizer Initiative to MOFI for Sustainable Growth

Aminu Umar-Sadiq, NSIA Managing Director and CEO, described the handover as a moment to celebrate "nearly a decade of positive impact, strategic partnership, growth, and reform." He added, "The PFI stands as a model of successful collaboration between public institutions and the private sector."

The programme has also boosted employment, generating over 100,000 direct and indirect jobs since 2016. Despite global disruptions — including the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and foreign exchange volatility — the initiative has remained resilient.

Umar-Sadiq emphasised that NSIA's involvement was always designed to be temporary. "Our goal was to prove the viability of the business model, revive a dormant industry, make blending plants financially sustainable, and eventually hand over the sector to stakeholders," he said.

He further explained the ongoing two-year transition plan, saying, "Last year, NSIA led while MOFI followed. This year, MOFI leads and we support. By November, MOFI will fully take charge."

Highlighting a key challenge ahead, Umar-Sadiq urged stricter enforcement against fertiliser adulteration and misuse of raw materials. "The next phase must prioritise quality control, with serious consequences for those who attempt to undermine the system," he warned.

Armstrong Ume Takang, MOFI CEO, described the transition as the start of "PFI 3.0," focusing on sustainability, traceability, and enhanced private-sector participation. He acknowledged the programme's success in expanding domestic blending capacity and improving farmers' access to quality fertilisers but cautioned against complacency.

Takang pointed out the persistent problem of fertiliser adulteration and the diversion of raw materials into unofficial markets. He revealed plans to introduce a robust traceability system that will track fertilizer from the point of import or production to blending plants and ultimately to farmers.

"The challenge of food insecurity is complex, but access to affordable, quality fertiliser remains a critical part of the solution," he said. "Our responsibility is to drive down costs through economies of scale and local production while ensuring fertiliser quality."

As MOFI assumes full control, Takang said stakeholders must focus on improving distribution efficiency, raising input quality, and reaching underserved rural communities. "Farmers are the last mile. We must guarantee they receive the right quality and quantity of fertiliser at affordable prices, free from contaminants," he stressed.

Jigawa Farmers Raise Alarm Over Flood of Substandard Fertilisers in Markets

Jigawa State chapter of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) has sounded the alarm over an influx of substandard fertilisers flooding markets across the state.

The association's chairman, Engr Auwal Garba Ibrahim, disclosed this on Thursday during a briefing with journalists on the outcome of the state executive meeting.

Engr Ibrahim explained that the association had engaged the Consumer Protection Council (CPC) on the matter. The council, he said, assured that it would take stringent measures to identify and sanction unscrupulous producers and sellers of inferior fertilisers undermining farmers' productivity.

He appealed to farmers in the state to report any suspicious activities relating to the sale of fake or low-quality fertilisers to the union and relevant authorities, warning that such practices threaten national food security.

Speaking further, the chairman welcomed the recent Supreme Court ruling affirming Dr. Faruku Mudi as the substantive national president of AFAN,

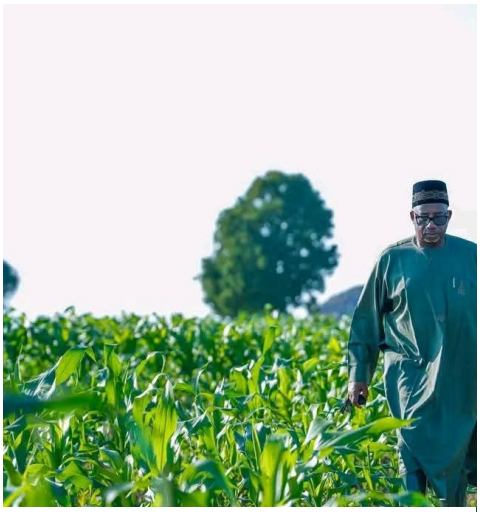
Gov. Bala Urges Bauchi Youth to Embrace Farming

Bauchi State Governor, Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, has called on youths in the state to take advantage of its vast fertile land to venture into farming.

The governor made the call over the weekend while inspecting crops at his private farm in Bauchi, where he assessed the progress of cultivation for the season.

Expressing satisfaction with the growth and yield so far, Mohammed said agriculture remains the backbone of the economy and a key tool for tackling unemployment.

"Agriculture is vital for ensuring food security, creating jobs, and driving economic growth," he said. "Our youths must take advantage of the fertile land we have and invest their energy in productive farming."



Bauchi State Govnor, Bala Muhammad in a Farm

He reiterated his administration's commitment to supporting farmers with policies, infrastructure, and initiatives aimed at boosting productivity and ensuring a sustainable agricultural future for the state.

"We will continue to back our farmers through favourable policies, improved infrastructure, and targeted programmes that will enhance production and improve livelihoods," the governor added.

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Africa's Largest Shea Butter Processing Plant Opens in Niger, Targets 400MT Daily Output

The largest shea butter processing plant in Africa has been inaugurated in Niger State with an annual production capacity of 30,000 metric tons.

The facility, located at Kudu in Mokwa Local Government Area, was established by Salid Agriculture Nigeria Limited. Its Chief Executive Officer, Ali Saidu, said the firm plans to scale production to 400 metric tons per day and build a state-of-the-art shea butter refinery.

"Our next phase of growth involves expanding capacity to 400MT daily to meet rising global demand and position ourselves as a leading supplier of high-quality shea products," Saidu said.

He added that the company, which pioneered the world's first dedicated Shea Portland, is committed to securing sustainable raw material sources, preserving biodiversity, and empowering rural communities, particularly women, through structured cooperatives. Salid Agriculture is working with GIZ and DFID under the PROPCOM MAIKAIFI project to organise local shea nut pickers into recognised groups for grassroots employment.



Africa's Largest Shea Butter Processing Plant Opens in Niger, Targets 400MT Daily Output

Governor Muhammad Umar Bago, who commissioned the plant, described it as a milestone that would position Niger State as a global hub for shea production.

He announced the signing of a □2 billion Memorandum of Understanding between Niger Foods and the company to create jobs for women and youth in shea nut harvesting and supply.

"This plant marks a new era where Niger State adds value to its natural resources, creates jobs, and drives economic prosperity in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu," the governor said, urging the host community to safeguard the investment.

Bago said Niger offers a secure and enabling environment for investors and had allocated 10,000 hectares for shea tree cultivation to ensure steady raw material supply.

Executive Director of Salid Agriculture, Daniel Alabi, said the facility is "a symbol of perseverance and commitment" aimed at raising production standards to compete in global markets. He noted the company's corporate social responsibility efforts, including a 90km rural electrification project serving 70 communities, support for girl-child education, and environmental protection initiatives.

NEXIM Bank Managing Director, Abba Bello, whose institution funded the project, said Nigeria produces 60% of the world's shea nuts but previously lacked large-scale processing plants. He revealed plans to establish four more such facilities nationwide, with two in Niger State.

The state's Commissioner for Industry, Trade, and Investment, Alhaji Aminu Takuma, said the project reflects successful public-private collaboration under the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone initiative.

The Etsu Nupe and Chairman of the Niger State Council of Traditional Rulers, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar, commended the governor's agricultural vision but cautioned against indiscriminate tree felling, urging communities to protect the investment for long-term benefits.

Kano, PACE Launch Climate Policy, Target 5.5m Tree Planting for Sustainability

By Muhammad Shamsuddeen Abubakar

The Kano State Government has launched a new Climate Change Policy in partnership with the Partnership for Agile Governance and Climate Change (PACE), with a target to plant 5.5 million trees across the state in a bid to promote environmental sustainability and build climate resilience.

Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf, who unveiled the policy at the weekend, described it as a "major milestone" in positioning Kano as a leading state in climate governance.

Represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Ibrahim Farouk, the governor said the policy serves as a strategic roadmap with clear priorities, including clean energy transition, sustainable land use, green spaces, and stronger community resilience.

"It is accompanied by a Climate Change Action Plan that turns the government's political will into practical steps for implementation across all sectors," he said.

The governor noted that the afforestation campaign will help curb land degradation, improve air quality, beautify urban areas, and conserve biodiversity. He also announced the inauguration of the Kano State Climate Change Steering Committee, Secretariat, and Technical Working Groups to oversee and monitor implementation.

He added that the administration is also pursuing green energy initiatives such as the installation of solar power in public facilities to cut energy costs, improve safety, and enhance efficiency in service delivery.

Commissioner for Environment and Climate Change, Dahiru Hashim, described the launch as "symbolic and historic," stressing the urgency of addressing the climate crisis.

"This policy provides a clear framework for climate mitigation and adaptation across key sectors such as agriculture, health, transport and energy. It is an inclusive document shaped by expert advice, youth perspectives, and community voices," he said.

William Robinson, Head of Governance and Stability at the British High Commission, commended Kano for taking a proactive stance on climate change, noting that the policy shows a deep understanding of the urgent challenges ahead.

He reaffirmed the UK's commitment to supporting Kano in strengthening climate governance, unlocking climate finance, and promoting innovative initiatives such as the Waste to Wealth Programme.



Kano, PACE Launch Climate Policy, Target 5.5m Tree Planting for Sustainability

Jigawa Invests 1.2bn in Second Phase of Workers' Farm Support Scheme to Boost Food Security



Jigawa State Govnor, Umar Namadi

Zulaiha Sani Haruna

The Jigawa State Government has flagged off the second phase of its Workers' Agricultural Support Programme, committing over ☐1.2 billion to assist 5,750 civil servants with farming inputs for the 2025 rainy season.

Speaking at the launch in Dutse, Deputy Governor Aminu Usman said the initiative was designed to encourage civil servants to engage in farming, boost food production, and reduce dependence on salaries.

Under the scheme, workers on grade levels 5 to 7 will receive inputs worth ☐250,000, while those on levels 8 to 14 will get ☐500,000. Beneficiaries will repay the support through monthly salary deductions over an 18-month period.

The packages include fertiliser, improved seeds, and pesticides, with each hectare's inputs valued at ☐162,000 — comprising two bags each of NPK and urea fertiliser.

Usman said the intervention was in response to inflation, high costs of inputs, and limited resources that have hindered food security among workers.

In the first phase, the state spent over ☐3.3 billion to support 8,828 civil servants during the 2024 farming season.

Labour union representatives described the scheme as a "game changer," noting it would help curb corruption, promote self-reliance, and improve workers' socio-economic well-being.

Last week, the government also commenced the sale of fertiliser to farmers at a 50% subsidy as part of wider efforts to boost agricultural productivity and strengthen food security.

With more than ☐4.5 billion invested in two years, Jigawa is positioning agriculture as both a driver of economic growth and a tool to combat food insecurity.

FG, States, Private Sector Partner to Boost Food Security, Rice Production in Nasarawa

The Federal Government says it is working with state governments and private sector players to strengthen the country's food security and boost rice production.

Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Abubakar Kyari, stated this at the weekend during a visit to the Jangwa Rice Farm in Ayarkeke, Awe Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

Kyari said President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration is committed to transforming the agricultural sector to meet Nigeria's growing food needs, noting that ongoing policies are designed to close the nation's food demand gap and promote sustainable food systems.

"The Federal Government will work closely with states and private sector partners to strengthen Nigeria's food security architecture. This can only be achieved through increased investments in food production," he said.

The minister, who addressed farmers on the farm, assured them of continued government support, especially for young people. "The youths are the promise of tomorrow. When we invest in them today, we are securing the future of our nation," he added, pledging to return after harvest to assess the impact of the initiative.

According to him, the intervention would encourage more states to invest in agriculture, reduce rice imports, boost local production, and strengthen the rice value chain.

Governor Abdullahi Sule, who accompanied the minister, said Nasarawa remains one of the country's top rice producers and the largest producer of sesame.

He said the initiative has provided opportunities for youth and women to engage in farming while also reducing crime in the state.



Rice Farmer In his farm in Nassarawa

The Jangwa Rice Farm, one of the governor's legacy agricultural projects, covers 1,300 hectares divided into three segments—Block A (250ha), Block B (350ha), and Segment C (700ha). It operates as a model for youth and women's participation in commercial agriculture, using high-quality Faro 45 and Faro 61 seeds sourced from Olam, which also serves as the main off-taker of the paddy.

Saudi Firm Partners Jigawa to Boost Mechanised Farming, Target 10-Ton Yield per Hectare



Bilateral Agreement With Jigawa State Government

By Halima Ginsau, Dutse

A Saudi Arabia-based agricultural company, Al-Yaseen Agricultural Company, has pledged to support Jigawa State's drive to achieve a yield of 10 tons per hectare through mechanised and irrigation-based farming.

The team leader of the delegation, Dr. Shu'aibu Abubakar, made the commitment when he led officials of the company on a courtesy visit to Governor Umar Namadi at the Government House, Dutse, on Tuesday.

Dr. Abubakar commended the state government's proactive agricultural policies, describing them as unmatched in Nigeria.

"We have witnessed unprecedented efforts by the Jigawa State Government in promoting technology-driven agriculture—efforts we have not seen replicated in any other state," he said.

He said during a one-day field visit, the delegation interacted with farmers across the state, who spoke highly of government support in the provision of inputs, irrigation facilities, and technical assistance.

Dr. Abubakar assured the governor that the company was ready to partner with the state to expand mechanisation and improve yields, noting that Jigawa's agricultural transformation plan aligned with Al-Yaseen's expertise in irrigation farming.

Governor Namadi, in his remarks, said agriculture remained the backbone of Jigawa's economy, employing about 90 percent of the population and contributing 46 percent to the state's GDP.

He explained that the state had already improved yields from 2.5 to 4.5 tons per hectare and was determined to reach 8 to 10 tons through ongoing reforms. These include expansion of irrigation, distribution of improved seeds, agronomic training, and a network of over 1,700 extension workers.

Namadi said Jigawa's shallow water table made irrigation feasible even in arid areas, with water accessible at 70–80 metres. He disclosed plans to revamp 10 strategic dams and develop over 18,000 hectares of untapped land, especially in the Hadejia Valley.

"We have the land, the resources, and with your expertise in irrigation, I am confident we can achieve our targets," he told the delegation.

The partnership is expected to open new opportunities for farmers and boost food production in the state.

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News

Kogi, Lagos Seal Food Partnership to Boost Farmers' Income, Strengthen Supply Chain

Buhari Abba

The Kogi State Government says its newly signed "Food for Lagos" partnership with Lagos State will open fresh income streams for farmers and strengthen the state's role in Nigeria's food supply chain.

Commissioner for Information and Communications, Kingsley Fanwo, in a statement on Thursday, said the agreement is part of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's push to transform agriculture and improve rural livelihoods.

He noted that barely two weeks after signing the deal, the governor had already set in motion measures to boost production, improve infrastructure, and attract major investments into the sector.

"The governor didn't just go there to sign papers. He rolled up his sleeves to make the partnership work. With his efforts, Kogi farmers will earn more from their produce," Fanwo said.

He explained that the Ministry of Agriculture has mapped out high-yield areas for specific crops to maximise the state's comparative advantage. Kogi, already a leading cassava producer in West Africa, is also targeting dominance in other key crops.



Kogi State Governor, Usman Ododo

Fanwo described Ododo as a leader who placed agriculture at the heart of his development plan from the start, citing ongoing projects like RAAMP, which is opening up rural roads for market access, and ACReSAL, which is directing investments into farming communities.

He added that improved security in rural areas has further encouraged farming activities, while youth and women from across the state are taking part in the agricultural revival.

Calling the initiative a "game-changer," Fanwo said the Food for Lagos Project would not only help feed Nigeria's largest city but also create wealth and strengthen Kogi's economy.

The Lagos State Government signed the agreement with Kogi, Niger, Taraba, and Ogun states on July 23 during the launch of its ☐500 billion "Produce for Lagos" initiative, aimed at stabilising food supply and tackling rising food prices.

Jigawa, NBRDA to Partner on Agriculture, Biotechnology

Governor Umar Namadi of Jigawa State has pledged to collaborate with the National Biotechnology Research and Development Agency (NBRDA) on agriculture and biotechnology to foster the state's socio-economic development.

Namadi made the pledge during a visit to the agency's headquarters in Abuja.

The governor said biotechnology research and development was key to the socio-economic growth of any nation.



L-R: Cahirman National Biotechnology Research and Development Agency (NBRDA), Jigawa State Govnor Umar

He requested improved seeds for Jigawa, noting that as an agrarian state, its farmers required cutting-edge science and technology to boost productivity.

He disclosed that agriculture had the second-highest budget in the state, after education.

"No fewer than 80 to 90 per cent of our people are farmers, and for any government to succeed in Jigawa State, it must take agriculture seriously.

"Anybody that wants to grow the sector in Jigawa must prioritise improved seeds," he said.

The governor stressed that it was essential for the nation's farmers to have access to high-quality, high-yielding seeds.

He added that for Nigeria to overcome its food production challenges, finding alternatives to chemical fertilisers was imperative.

Namadi, who expressed delight at learning about NBRDA's activities, said he would facilitate a presentation by the agency at one of the Governors' Forum meetings.

He identified other areas of collaboration to include enhancing soil fertility and training extension workers.

Other areas of interest, he said, were fisheries, livestock production, clean energy, and biogas.

Earlier, NBRDA Director-General Mustapha led the governor through a presentation on the agency's operations.

Mustapha said the agency had four strategic departments: agricultural biotechnology, industrial, environmental, and medical.

He noted that agriculture in Nigeria had not delivered on expectations due to a lack of quality seeds, pests and diseases, climate change, and post-harvest losses.

"These challenges have hampered agricultural growth," he said.

He explained that the agency had made significant progress, focusing on improving crop yield, enhancing soil resilience, and managing soil fertility.

"We also offer climate-smart agriculture," Mustapha told the governor.

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Propcom+ Engages Stakeholders To Boost Agric Budgeting In Northern Nigeria

A programme, Propcom+, funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), has engaged stakeholders in northern states to strengthen advocacy for increased and more effective agricultural budgeting at the subnational level.

At a two-day training held in Kano, Yunusa Hamza, policy facilitator (North), Propcom+ FCDO explained that the initiative seeks to empower farmers' groups, civil society organisations (CSOs), women's associations, media and persons with disabilities to constructively engage government authorities on agriculture budget planning and implementation.

He stressed the need for stronger citizen engagement and civil society participation in agricultural budgeting processes to drive transparency, improve service delivery, and boost inclusive development in Nigeria's Northern states.

Hamza noted that agricultural allocations remain grossly inadequate, urging stakeholders to leverage evidence-based advocacy to push for improved investments.

"We are looking forward to a situation where civil society actors can have a stronger voice in engaging the government constructively. Our aim is not to criticise for the sake of it, but to reference what government is already doing and advocate for more support where necessary."



Group Picture After The Function

He emphasised that the budget is the most powerful accountability tool after the constitution and urged participants to understand its processes, structure, and implementation pathways.

Hamza noted that misallocation, mismanagement, and poor prioritisation of agriculture funds have hampered efficient service delivery, calling for deeper involvement of stakeholders, including agribusinesses, agro-allied platforms, and CSOs, in the monitoring and tracking agricultural budget implementation.

He further explained that the initiative also aimed at establishing Propcom+'s position in relation to government agricultural service delivery, strengthening market-enabling platforms to support policy implementation and climate-resilient agriculture.

"Facilitating partnerships between state actors, LGAs, the private sector, and civil society. Providing a roadmap for policy, planning, and budget advocacy. Promoting informal practices and norms that improve agricultural market systems and transparency".

During the training, participants critically examined their respective state agriculture and livestock budgets, focusing on both allocations and actual releases.

They also highlighted key gaps and pinpointed advocacy priorities, while mapping out relevant stakeholders to ensure more effective budget implementation at the state level.

The executive director of Civic Impact for Sustainable Development Foundation, Yusuf Goje, highlighted the need for inclusive advocacy to ensure adequate budgetary allocations and timely releases, stressing that public agricultural investments must deliver value for money and directly benefit intended beneficiaries, particularly smallholder farmers.

Focusing on Kaduna State, Goje revealed that his organisation will prioritise advocacy for increased investment in livestock development, an area often overlooked in favour of crop farming.

He underscored the need for balanced support that considers both government interventions and private sector sustainability, especially in the supply of agricultural inputs.

The training brought together stakeholders from the programme's focal states of Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Gombe, and Adamawa.

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