Farmers Voice NG

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1,000 Nomadic Children Benefit From Bauchi Vacation Courses

Amina Khalid Muhammad

No fewer than 1,000 nomadic children across 20 local government areas of Bauchi State have benefitted from the Nomadic Vacation Courses organised by the Bauchi State Agency for Nomadic Education (BASANE).

The Executive Secretary of BASANE, Alhaji Ahmad Abdullahi Bello, disclosed this at a send-forth held at Government Girls Secondary School, Yana, in Shira Local Government Area.

Bello said the programme was designed to expand access to quality education for nomadic communities and ensure that their children enjoy the same opportunities as their peers in rural and urban areas.

He said the courses focused on English and Mathematics, subjects he described as the foundation for careers in science, engineering, and the social sciences.

The executive secretary commended parents, traditional leaders, local authorities, and other stakeholders for their support, noting that the performance and enthusiasm of the students, particularly the girls, were encouraging.

He urged parents to encourage their daughters to pursue education to completion and acquire careers that would contribute to national development.

Bello reaffirmed the agency's commitment to identifying underserved communities in need of nomadic schools, describing the programme as a beacon of hope for inclusive education in the state.



Women In farm

Also speaking, Alhaji Babangida Abdullahi Ishaq, represented by his Special Adviser on Students and Education, Umar Sarki Dango, said Shira Local Government Council would continue to prioritise education in line with the policies of Gov. Bala Muhammad.

He said emphasis would be placed on reducing the number of out-of-school children, especially girls.

In the same vein, Babangida Umar Isawa, Financial Consultant to the Chairman of Giade Local Government Council, said the council would make significant investments in girl-child education to promote gender equality.

The Chairman of Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore in Shira LGA, Alhaji Muhammadu Ore, lauded BASANE for restoring hope among nomadic communities through education and healthcare initiatives.

He assured that the association would continue to support the programme.

The Principal of Government Girls Secondary School, Yana, Malama Salina Bala, said the programme also included training on menstrual hygiene, which equipped the girls with vital knowledge on personal health.

She commended the students for their eagerness to learn and their impressive grasp of the lessons taught.

One of the beneficiaries, Rukayya Sale of Tudun Wada Primary School, who won the award for best performance, attributed her success to focus, dedication and commitment.

She advised her peers to embrace education, describing it as the most powerful tool for personal and community development.

Flood wreaks havoc in Potiskum after heavy downpour

A torrential downpour on Friday has wreaked havoc in Potiskum, Yobe State, washing away several houses across different parts of the town.

The rainfall, which began late Thursday night and continued into early Friday morning, left many residents displaced after their homes were either damaged or completely destroyed.

The worst-hit areas were neighbourhoods close to the waterways, where the impacts were severe as most structures collapsed.

These include Arikime, Ramin Kasa, Tandari, Nahuta, Boriya, Rugar Fulani, and Unguwar Kuwait.

Other affected communities are Old Prison, Filin Nashe, Unguwar Makafi/Majema, Unguwar Jaji Bakin Kwari, Afghanistan, Tsangaya Bakin Kwari, Karofi, Bayan Garejin Danjuma, and areas behind Fudiyya Potiskum.

Residents in these areas are frequently affected by flooding due to the absence of proper drainage systems. As a result, rainwater has no outlet, causing widespread damage.

As of the time of filing this report, information was sketchy and there were no confirmed fatalities. However, dozens of homes were destroyed.

In one of the affected areas where a building collapsed on a woman, she miraculously survived.

Six Dead, Three Missing in Fresh Sokoto Boat Mishap

The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) has confirmed another fatal boat mishap in the Faji community of Sabon Birni Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

NIWA's Area Manager in Sokoto, Bala Bello, told journalists on Sunday that six people had died, 19 survivors were rescued, and three people were still missing in the incident.

Mr. Bello, who said the mishap occurred on August 22, attributed it to negligence, canoe overloading, and violations of safety rules.

He explained that a team of inspectors comprising officials from NIWA, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), and the Red Cross Society had visited the affected community.



Boat with passenger

Mr. Bello said the team confirmed the casualty figures, while search and rescue operations were ongoing to locate the three missing persons.

The Area Manager reiterated that NIWA had been engaging with riverine communities on safety measures, guidelines, the use of life jackets, and other considerations regarding water transportation.

The Sokoto State Government had earlier confirmed the death of four passengers, 41 survivors, and five missing persons in a separate boat mishap on August 17 at Kojiyo village in Goronyo Local Government Area of the state.

The incident reportedly occurred along the Sokoto Rima River when the boat conveying the passengers capsized.

Farmer's Voice NG Editor

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China, FUNAAB to Boost Agricultural Research, Food Security Collaboration

The National Secretary of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria, Alhaji Bello Aliyu Gotomo, has said open grazing will not end soon in the country due to the huge financial burden of establishing ranches.

Gotomo stated this in Enugu on Tuesday during the inauguration of MACBAN's South East chapter.

He explained that while pastoralists are aware of the benefits of ranching, the challenges of sustaining feed and water supply in confined spaces make an immediate switch unrealistic.

According to him, recent efforts such as the creation of the Federal Ministry of Livestock Development and the launch of a pasture development campaign in Gwari Area Council of the FCT offer hope for a more sustainable livestock sector.

"Our major role in MACBAN is to liaise with authorities, traditional rulers and communities to ensure peaceful coexistence and encourage our members to adopt modern livestock production methods," Gotomo said.

He acknowledged that although some states have enacted anti-open grazing laws, enforcement remains difficult because pastoralism is deeply rooted in tradition.



Herdsmen in a farm

"Ranching is capital intensive. You can't ask local herders to abandon their way of life overnight, just like you can't expect farmers to suddenly switch to mechanised farming," he added.

Gotomo further noted that population growth and infrastructural expansion have reduced available grazing reserves, stressing that MACBAN was already encouraging gradual adoption of modern livestock practices.

"With the new livestock ministry and support from states, we are working to address the challenges of feed and water by promoting commercial feed production during dry seasons," he said.

He added that the association was also working to regulate cattle movement, promote education among pastoralist children, and strengthen peaceful coexistence.

"Livestock farming is an age-old Nigerian enterprise and a huge national resource. Just as we provide infrastructure for aviation, we should also support livestock production across the country," Gotomo stated.

FG Projects ₦74bn Growth in Livestock Sector by 2035

The Federal Government says Nigeria's livestock sector has the potential to grow into a ₦74 billion economy by the year 2035, if fully harnessed.

Special Assistant to the Minister of Livestock Development, Sale Momale, disclosed this on Friday in Abuja.

He spoke at a workshop on the promotion of peaceful coexistence among farming and pastoral communities, organised under the Strengthening Peace and Resilience in Nigeria programme, funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in collaboration with the ministry.

Mr Momale said mass mobilisation of citizens, creation of investment opportunities across the value chain, and the promotion of peace and harmony are central to the ministry's strategies.

He stressed the vital role of the media in advancing government policies and sensitising the public, noting that the workshop provided a platform for idea-sharing and messaging to build a robust livestock industry.

Mr Momale explained that despite vast untapped opportunities, the sector still grapples with insecurity, herder-farmer conflicts, and misconceptions. He said capacity-building of producers and value chain actors remains the ministry's focus to drive growth, create jobs, and enhance productivity.

Also speaking, Advocacy and Coalition Lead at the SPRiNG programme, Damian Ihekoronye, urged the media to integrate conflict sensitivity in reporting agricultural issues.

He said the ministry's partnership with SPRiNG would modernise livestock management, reduce conflicts, and transform the sector into a viable contributor to Nigeria's economy.



Diary farm in Mubi, Adamawa

US Strengthens Agricultural Ties with Nigeria, Backs Modern Fish Farming



farmland in in Yamidi, Jigawa state

US Strengthens Agricultural Ties with Nigeria, Backs Modern Fish Farming

Muhammad Shamsuddeen Abubakar

The United States has intensified its agricultural partnership with Nigeria, supporting initiatives to modernise fish farming and promote American soybean exports in the country.

The development was highlighted at the graduation ceremony of the inaugural Next Gen Leaders for Aquaculture Innovation Programme in Abuja, organised by the US Mission in Nigeria in collaboration with the American Soybean Association's World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (ASA WISHH) and local agribusiness, SejFarms Consult.

The five-month programme trained ten young Nigerians in modern aquaculture practices, including the use of soy-based feed, aimed at building a resilient and sustainable fish farming sector.

Speaking at the event, Chris Bielecki, the US Mission's agricultural counsellor, said agriculture remained at the core of the US-Nigeria commercial and investment partnership. He emphasised that the adoption of innovative practices, such as soy inclusion in feed, would contribute to long-term food security and economic stability in Nigeria.

Soymeal has increasingly become a key input in global aquaculture as producers seek cost-effective and scalable protein sources. Nigeria's fish farming industry, which has expanded rapidly over the past decade, is viewed as a promising market for US soy exports.

During the ceremony, ASA WISHH and SejFarms renewed their three-year collaboration with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to enhance fish production capacity and youth participation in aquaculture.

Sejiro Michael Oke-Tojinu, managing director of SejFarms, described the agreement as a platform to expand technical training. He said, "This MOU with the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health demonstrates that we are strengthening our commitment to encourage the growth of Nigerian aquaculture and create new opportunities for young people to be trained in aquaculture, including high-quality feeds."

US soybean producers, increasingly targeting overseas markets, welcomed the partnership. Jamie Beyer, an ASA director and Minnesota soybean farmer, credited the US Foreign Agricultural Service for leveraging resources to expand US-Nigeria agricultural trade.

Nancy Kavazanjian, a Wisconsin soybean grower and member of ASA WISHH's trade delegation to Nigeria, described the programme as evidence of soy's potential to strengthen Nigeria's fish farming value chain.

Bilateral agricultural trade between the US and Nigeria reached $429 million in 2024, with forecasts suggesting the figure could more than double in 2025.

The momentum is partly driven by Nigeria's structural food deficit and rising urban demand for affordable protein.

For Nigerian policymakers, aquaculture is becoming a strategic industry. Domestic demand for fish exceeds 3 million tonnes annually, while local production falls below half, forcing reliance on imports. Expanding fish farming capacity and developing inputs such as feed are considered essential for reducing import dependency and creating jobs.

Industry analysts note that partnerships with global suppliers like the US soy sector could accelerate the transition to more intensive fish farming systems, though challenges such as infrastructure gaps, limited access to finance for smallholders, and international feed price volatility persist.

Oke-Tojinu added, "Aquaculture is not only about food, but also about creating livelihoods for Nigeria's next generation. With the right partnerships, the sector can become a cornerstone of our economy."

Experts Urge Support for Smallholder Farmers Over Industrial Farming

Zulaiha Sani Haruna

Some agricultural experts and environmental activists have called on government at all levels to prioritise support for smallholder farmers to achieve food security in the country.

The call was made in Abuja on Wednesday at a stakeholders' workshop on the Implications of Industrial Animal Farming in Nigeria, organised by the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF).

The African Regional Director of the World Animal Protection (WAP), Mr. Tennyson Williams, said industrial farming emitted high levels of carbon dioxide, which contribute to climate change.

He noted that smallholder farmers already produce 70 per cent of Nigeria's food and should be empowered to guarantee food sovereignty.

"Why don't we invest in them to be more self-reliant? We believe it is possible to put food sovereignty in the hands of Nigerians," Williams said.

Programme Manager at HOMEF, Mrs. Joyce Brown, stressed the need for environmental impact assessments before allowing industrial animal farming. She warned that unchecked expansion of the sector posed health, social and environmental risks.

On his part, Programme Manager at HEDA Resource Centre, Mr. Mayowa Shobo, said the presence of multinational food companies threatened local communities and increased vulnerability to environmental hazards.

Also, Assistant Executive Director of Environmental Rights Action (ERA), Mrs. Marrian Bassey-Olsson, said stakeholders were not against investments but insisted that due process, including environmental assessments, must be followed to protect citizens' rights to safe food and a healthy environment

Nigeria launches 2025–2030 Youth Manifesto in Agriculture



Minister of Agriculture, Abubakar Kyari

Vice-President Kashim Shettima says the Federal Government is committed to transforming Nigeria's agricultural sector to stimulate economic growth and make the nation a source of pride.

Shettima stated this on Saturday at Ijaiye in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State during the groundbreaking of the Oyo State Agribusiness Industrial Hub.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the Vice-President was represented by the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Sen. Abubakar Kyari.

He said the groundbreaking of the Agro-Industrial Hub under the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) programme marked a decisive step in the collective quest to build a resilient, self-sufficient, and prosperous Nigeria.

Shettima described the SAPZ initiative as one of the cornerstones of the Renewed Hope Agenda championed by President Bola Tinubu.

"A vision rooted in restoring Nigeria's dignity, unlocking our vast potentials, and creating opportunities for every citizen.

"This initiative is not just an infrastructural project; it is a bold declaration that Nigeria's future lies in transforming our abundant agricultural resources into value-added products that fuel industries, generate employment, and uplift our farmers.

"It is a product of strategic partnership between the Federal Government, state governments, and esteemed international development partners, especially the African Development Bank (AfDB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).

"This collaborative effort underscores our shared belief that sustainable agricultural development is achievable only through unity, innovation, and shared responsibility.

"It clearly indicates that Nigeria is committed to leveraging global expertise, capital, and best practices to achieve sustainable growth and social inclusion," he said.

The Vice-President added that with the groundbreaking of the initiative, the country was laying the foundation for agro-industrial hubs that will empower agro-processors and farmers, stimulate local economies, and make Nigeria a competitive player in global markets.

"Today, as we break ground, we are planting the seeds of a new Nigeria where agriculture is the driver of industrialisation, innovation, and inclusive prosperity.

"Accordingly, we are expanding the development benefits of SAPZ across the 36 states in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB), onboarding 27 more states in phases starting with 10 states by the first quarter of 2026.

"This is sequel to financing procedures between the Federal Government and the financing partners," he said.

Shettima also acknowledged the visionary leadership of Gov. Seyi Makinde, whose unwavering commitment to the development of Oyo State set the stage for the historic occasion.

He further commended the President of AfDB, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, describing him as a truly continental champion, especially of the SAPZ initiative.

The Vice-President noted Adesina's unwavering advocacy, visionary leadership, and dedication to transforming Africa's agricultural landscape.

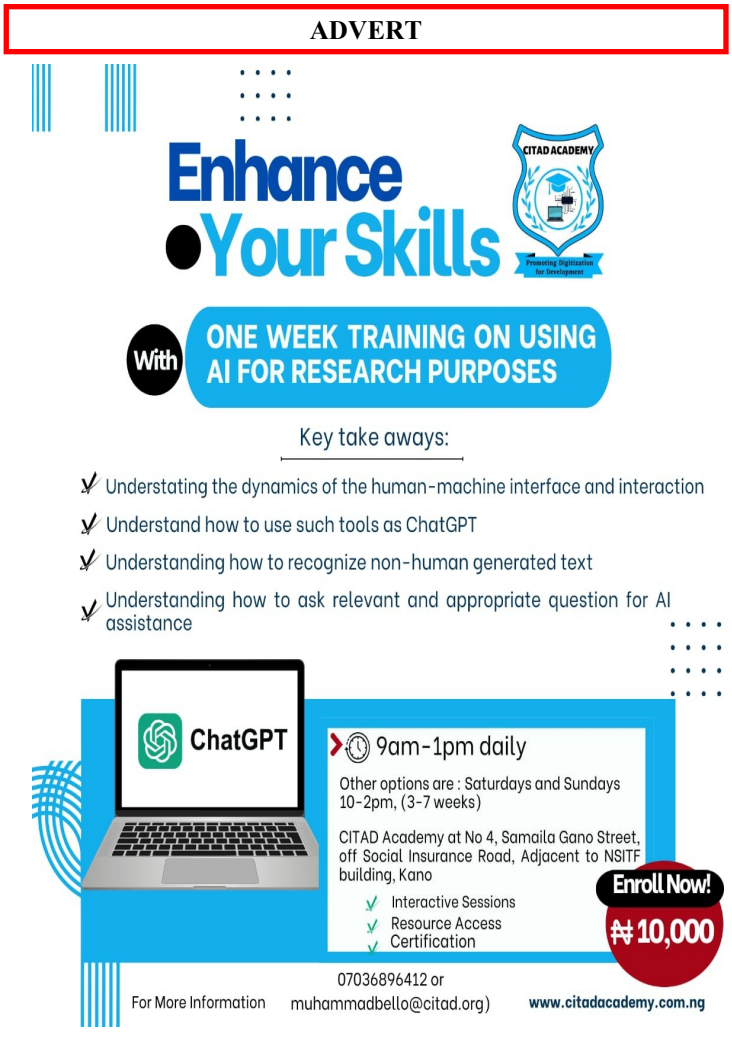
According to him, the AfDB president has been instrumental in positioning Nigeria's SAPZ as a flagship project with the potential to redefine Africa's economic future.

He reaffirmed President Bola Tinubu's unwavering commitment to the transformative journey under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

In his address, Gov. Makinde said his administration was building a future where agriculture would not only boost the local economy but remain a major source of revenue for the state.

The governor noted that a resilient economy could not be built unless the agricultural sector was developed, adding that the Ijaiye Agro-Industrial Hub was the third one established by his administration, following those in Fashola and Eruwa.

ADVERT



FirstBank Pledges Support for Nigeria's Agribusiness

Sadiya Ahmad Musa

First Bank of Nigeria Ltd. has applauded the Federal Government's efforts to boost Nigeria's agriculture agenda and achieve food sovereignty.
The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of First Bank Nigeria Ltd., Mr. Olusegun Alebiosu, stated this at the bank's 2025 Agric & Export Expo held on Tuesday in Lagos.
The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the FirstBank 2025 Agric & Export Expo, themed "The Fundamentals of Building an Export-Driven Economy," is aimed at promoting non-oil exports.
Alebiosu commended the Federal Government's drive toward achieving food sovereignty and reaffirmed the bank's commitment to fostering the growth of Nigeria's agricultural sector.
"It is with great honour and a deep sense of responsibility that I welcome you to the 2025 edition of the FirstBank Agric & Export Expo.

"Over the years, this gathering has grown into a defining platform, a testament to FirstBank's unwavering commitment to advancing Nigeria's economic priorities.
"The expo reflects our shared vision for a stronger, more resilient economy anchored on food security, agribusiness, solid minerals, and most critically, the expansion of non-oil exports," he said.



Team of Governors and First Bank Agent

Alebiosu noted that agriculture, once overlooked, was now taking a central place in Nigeria's development agenda.

"We commend the Federal Government's commitment to elevating the sector and reaffirm our role as a steadfast partner in this journey. "This year's theme—The Fundamentals of Building an Export-Driven Economy—could not be timelier.
"As a nation, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment in our economic journey, one that demands bold diversification beyond oil and the harnessing of vast opportunities in our non-oil sectors," he said.

He described the expo as a beacon for collaboration, innovation, and sustainable growth.
"Our history is deeply connected to agriculture and the non-oil sectors.
"For more than a century, we have played a defining role in financing industries vital not only to Nigeria's economic progress, but also to the development of sub-Saharan Africa.
"Our portfolio spans the full spectrum of agribusiness, from primary production to processing and export.
"Across the country, our dedicated teams deliver sector-focused, client-friendly financial solutions tailored to the distinct needs of agricultural and solid minerals enterprises, ensuring they have the resources to thrive and compete globally," Alebiosu added.

On his part, the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Sen. Abubakar Kyari, represented by his Special Adviser, Mr. Ibrahim Alkali, commended the bank's commitment to agriculture.

"The fundamentals of building a non-oil export-driven economy is not merely an intellectual discussion, it is a survival strategy for our nation.

"Nigeria must no longer live at the mercy of oil marketers, but on the strength of our productivity, creativity, and resilience.
"FirstBank has long been a pioneer in agricultural financing.
"Its agricultural portfolio has grown by N11.6 billion in recent years, supporting farmers, processors, and exporters.

"Through the Commercial Agriculture Credit Scheme, FirstBank has financed more enterprises than any other bank, accounting for over 23 per cent of all participation, with dedicated agricultural finance teams," Kyari said.
In his goodwill message, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State commended the bank while calling for more financing in the agriculture sector.
"We must move away from dependence and build a resilient economy anchored on productivity, value addition, and competitiveness in the non-oil sector.
"For over 130 years, FirstBank has stood as a part of Nigeria's economic story by promoting exports. "You are not only reaffirming your commitments and culture, but also signaling to farmers, processors, and exporters that they have a reliable partner in building a truly export-driven economy.
"For this, I commend the Managing Director and management of FirstBank for their leadership role in promoting agro-exports.

"We must aggressively position agricultural products, ensure competitiveness, secure our market share, and drive investment into agribusiness," Sanwo-Olu said.

Also, Governor Mohammed Bago of Niger State commended the bank for aligning with President Bola Tinubu's Transformation Agenda in the agriculture sector.

"People must be able to feed themselves, and President Tinubu has made this a fundamental principle of his government, so we have scaled in.
"There is a need for us to tell our stories ourselves. On behalf of the government and people of Niger State, I thank FirstBank for this exhibition," Bago said.

The expo featured exhibitors across various agricultural value chains as well as farmers' associations.

Climate change poses new risks to Africa's agriculture – experts

Buhari Abba

Climate change is intensifying risks to food production in West and Central Africa and requires urgent policy action, agricultural experts said on Thursday at a regional workshop in Abuja.

The two-day meeting, convened to revitalise the West and Central Africa Community of Practice on foresight analysis, brought together researchers, policymakers and development partners to address the future of agriculture under worsening climate pressures.

"Climate change is propelling additional challenges to the agriculture and food system in the region," said Dr. Alcade Segnon, a scientist at the Alliance of Biodiversity and International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). "If enough actions are not taken, the challenge will be worse, with more impact, so there is a need to implement policies now."


Farm Land

Segnon said foresight analysis would help countries prepare for climate-related uncertainties alongside other pressures such as population growth and environmental degradation.

Dr. Abubakar Dabban, executive secretary of the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN), said new tools and methodologies were essential for long-term planning. "This workshop represents another milestone in our collaborative journey," he said. "It will help us move beyond reactive measures to proactively identify risks and build resilience."

Moumini Savadogo, executive director of the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), said foresight analysis would allow governments and researchers to anticipate risks and strengthen regional cooperation.

CORAF, which operates across 23 countries, aims to expand training and integrate more researchers into the community of practice to improve food security in the region.

ADVERT



B & H Tea Company Commences Processing in Taraba, Creates Jobs for Youths

Mu'azu Malami

The newly established B & H Tea Company in Ngoruje Town, Taraba State, has commenced operations in tea processing, offering relief and job opportunities to residents of the surrounding communities.

Although the company is yet to begin packaging its products, the processing stage is already in full swing, providing direct employment to dozens of youths and indirect opportunities for farmers and traders in the area.

The Manager of the company, Alhaji Musa Abba, told the Farmers Voice NG that plans are underway to expand operations into packaging, branding, and distribution in the near future.

"Our customers across Nigeria are increasing due to the quality of our processing. Recently, we also signed an agreement with Cameroonian partners who are interested in purchasing our products," Abba said.

He explained that the expansion drive would further enhance the value chain and create more employment opportunities for the people of Taraba and beyond.

On staff welfare, Abba assured that the company is committed to improving working conditions and providing health support for its employees.

"The wellbeing of our workers remains a top priority," he stressed.

With tea processing already active and expansion plans in place, B & H Tea Company is positioning itself as a major contributor to job creation and agricultural development in the region.



Tea farm in Ganawuri, Plateau state

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