

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PROVIDE A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES, STRENGTHEN INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY FOR FOOD SECURITY AND REVENUE GENERATION IN NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Dalyop Chollom Fom

[] Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria-

- 1 **1.** The objectives of this Act are to-
- 2 (a) ensure effective implementation of the National Agricultural
- 3 Extension Policy and Strategy;
- 4 (b) establish legal framework for a sustainable agricultural
- 5 extension service in Nigeria;
- 6 (c) put in place a sustainable, harmonized, pluralistic, demand-
- 7 driven, E-agricultural extension system to ensure effective and efficient
- 8 extension service delivery along the agricultural value chain;
- 9 (d) strengthen the linkages among research, extension, farmers and
- 10 the public and private sector;
- 11 (e) promote human resource development, career progression,
- 12 and professionalism in agricultural extension;
- 13 (f) promote and support a robust information, communication and
- 14 knowledge management system for agricultural extension service;
- 15 (g) encourage women and youth to actively participate and invest
- 16 in agriculture;
- 17 (h) strengthen the agricultural extension research institutions for
- 18 effective service delivery;

Objectives

| | | |
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| | 1 | (i) promote quality assurance and control in agricultural extension |
| | 2 | services; and |
| | 3 | (j) address cross-cutting and emerging issues that are relevant to |
| | 4 | extension and agricultural development. |
| Application | 5 | 2. This Act shall apply throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria. |
| | 6 | PART II - MANAGEMENT OF EXTENSION SERVICES |
| Roles of stakeholders | 7 | 3. For the purpose of ensuring synergy and avoiding duplication, |
| | 8 | confusion and conflict in effective Agricultural service delivery, the |
| | 9 | responsibilities of key Ministries, extra-Ministerial Departments and Agencies |
| | 10 | of government and other stakeholders in agricultural extension system in |
| | 11 | Nigeria shall be as stipulated in a Regulation made pursuant to this Act. |
| Establishment of National Technical Committee on Agricultural Extension Services | 12 | 4.-(1) There shall be established a National Technical Committee on |
| | 13 | Agricultural Extension Services which shall facilitate collaboration among the |
| | 14 | relevant stakeholders to effectively manage the Agricultural Extension |
| | 15 | Services system. |
| | 16 | (2) The National Technical Committee on Agricultural Extension |
| | 17 | Services pursuant to Section 4 (a) above shall comprise of the following |
| | 18 | members: |
| | 19 | (i) Permanent Secretary FMA & FS (Chairman); |
| | 20 | (ii) Director of FDA; |
| | 21 | (iii) Director of FDAE (Secretariat/Membership); |
| | 22 | I(iv) Chairman of ADPs Association; |
| | 23 | (v) Two Representatives of Agric (NGOs (I-NGO and NGO); |
| | 24 | (vi) Representative of Farmers Association (Farmers' group); |
| | 25 | (vii) Two Representatives of NARIs (one each for Research and |
| | 26 | Extension, NAERLS); |
| | 27 | (viii) Representative of Private Sector (off-takers, input dealers, |
| | 28 | processors); |
| | 29 | (ix) Representative of Development Finance Institutions (BOA, |
| | 30 | NADB,); |

- 1 (x) Representative of NADF;
- 2 (xi) Representative of FMWR;
- 3 (xii) Representative of FM of Environment;
- 4 (xiii) Representative of NITDA;
- 5 (xiv) Executive Secretary of ARCN;
- 6 (xv) Two Ex-Officio adoptees;
- 7 (xvi) Representative of FMBEP;
- 8 (xvii) Representatives of the Six Agro-Ecological Zones selected
- 9 from the Zonal REFILS:
- 10 (a) The tenure of the Committee shall be a single term of four years;
- 11 (b) The Roles and functions of the Committee shall include:
- 12 (i) Develop and review agricultural extension plans and strategies
- 13 for effective extension service delivery nationwide in collaboration with
- 14 state ADPs and FDAE.
- 15 (ii) Formulate evidence-based decision-making to promote
- 16 effective and sustainable agricultural extension practices in Nigeria;
- 17 (iii) Partner, interface, and collaborate with FMBEP, development
- 18 financial Institutions, and donor agencies to source funds to support
- 19 extension service;
- 20 (iv) Collaborate and coordinate stakeholders and actors in
- 21 Agriculture Extension Service delivery to ensure a professional, holistic,
- 22 and integrated approach to extension services;
- 23 (v) Promote, identify, coordinate, and support research needs and
- 24 priorities in agricultural extension;
- 25 (vi) Assess and identify training needs and modules to guide
- 26 capacity-building initiatives for Agricultural extension personnel at all
- 27 levels;
- 28 (vii) Review and align the progress and implementation of national
- 29 agricultural extension programs and projects annually;
- 30 (viii) Identify and address emerging issues and challenges related

- 1 to agricultural extension and development;
- 2 (ix) Advocate for adequate and sustainable funding and resources for
3 agricultural extension services from both public and private sources;
- 4 (x) Promote quality assurance and control in agricultural extension
5 services and ensure compliance with relevant standards and regulations;
- 6 (xi) Promote the creation of innovation hubs and startups in
7 agricultural extension, disseminate best practices and lessons learned, and
8 promote agro-industrial investment;
- 9 (xii) Promote scholarship for deserving students studying agricultural
10 extension in tertiary Institutions to increase students' enrolment in agricultural
11 extension.
- 12 (c) Determination/ Replacement:
- 13 (i) Membership of the committee may be determined based on tenure
14 completion, death, incapacitation or conviction of criminal offense,
15 withdrawal, resignation, etc.
- 16 (ii) Members may be replaced from the group or interests they
17 represent upon tenure completion or determination;
- 18 **5.-(1)** The National Technical Committee on Agricultural Extension
19 Services shall establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit for the purpose of
20 effective monitoring and evaluation of agricultural extension services.
- 21 (2) The National Technical Committee on Agricultural Extension
22 Services shall put in place an appropriate legal and institutional framework to
23 enable the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit established under subsection (1) of
24 this section to provide a mechanism or system of ensuring accountability and
25 learning outcomes for an efficient and sustainable extension system.
- 26 (3) The legal and institutional framework put in place pursuant to
27 subsection (2) of this section shall provide-
- 28 (a) agreed outcomes to monitor and evaluate;
- 29 (b) selected result based indicators to monitor outcomes;
- 30 (c) set baselines and collect data; and

1 (d) select results targets and monitor results, using evaluation to
2 support results based management.

3 (4) Any data collected pursuant to this section shall be-

4 (a) responsive to gender, youth and People with Special Needs
5 (PWSN); and

6 (b) utilised for effective extension service delivery.

7 (5) The FDAE and the Agricultural Development Programmes
8 (ADPs) shall provide-

9 (a) the needed logistics and tools to ensure the effective
10 performance of the responsibilities of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit;
11 and

12 (b) vital and relevant Agricultural Extension field data to be fed
13 into the Information, Communication, and Knowledge Management
14 system, as may be necessary.

15 **6.** A Monitoring and Evaluation Unit shall employ qualified
16 officers and develop their capacity to collect, analyse, interpret, store,
17 retrieve and disseminate relevant data for effective extension service
18 delivery.

Officers in the
Monitoring and
Evaluation Unit

19 **7.-(1)** The National Technical Committee on Agricultural
20 Extension Services and relevant stakeholders shall put in place adequate
21 measures, funding and infrastructural development, to strengthen the
22 activities of the institutions for effective service delivery.

Agricultural
extension research
institution

23 (2) The relevant institutions in the National Agricultural Research
24 and Extension System (NARES) and other stakeholders, including input
25 dealers, financial institutions, off-takers, insurance and agro allied
26 industries, shall actively participate in REFIMLS.

27 **8.** The National Technical Committee on Agricultural Extension
28 Services in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, shall-

Capacity building

29 (a) equip agricultural extension service providers both in public
30 and private organisations with requisite technical knowledge and skills for

- 1 sustainable Agricultural Extension Services;
- 2 (b) regularly build professional capacity in relation to knowledge,
3 attitudes and skills of extension service providers both in public and private
4 organisations;
- 5 (c) support improved technical capacity of agricultural students in
6 primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions through counselling
7 and exposure;
- 8 (d) develop a career structure for agricultural extension personnel and
9 provide professional and hazard allowance; and
- 10 (e) establish and ensure minimum competencies for extension
11 practice by service providers.
- 12 **9.-(1)** The National Technical Committee on Agricultural Extension
13 Services in collaboration with relevant Stakeholders in the Agricultural
14 extension value chain shall-
- 15 (a) utilize and expand digital services, including the use of apps to
16 provide real-time market and agricultural information, supports the aspirations
17 of farmers and agricultural small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
- 18 (b) Identify relevant and affordable digital technologies for women
19 and youth-led agribusinesses to assist women and youth to employ innovations
20 and technologies in their agricultural SMEs and farms.
- 21 (c) expand the e-extension legal framework to incorporate a national
22 information, communication, and knowledge management system;
- 23 (d) promote the National Farmers' Helpline, Farm Broadcasts and
24 other services; and
- 25 (e) share information on agricultural and related activities
26 electronically and manually.
- 27 (2) Farmers and other value chain actors shall be trained in the
28 management, methodologies and utilization of the various innovations and
29 technologies related to the cross-cutting issues in agricultural extension.

- 1 **10.** The National Technical Committee on Agricultural Extension Participation of
2 Services and stakeholders at all levels of agricultural extension value chain women and youth
3 shall-
- 4 (a) create a platform to ensure the participation of women, youth
5 and People With Special Needs;
- 6 (b) provide friendly tools, approaches, training and budget that are
7 responsive to women, youth and PWSN; and
- 8 (c) promote the use of gender disaggregated data in collaboration
9 with relevant stakeholders.
- 10 **11.** The National Technical Committee on Agricultural Extension Collaboration of
11 Services shall in collaboration with relevant stakeholders- stakeholders
- 12 (a) provide enabling environment at all levels to enable effective
13 participation of public and private extension service providers;
- 14 (b) create platforms for effective interaction, collaboration and
15 coordination to achieve synergy
- 16 (c) develop and maintain a data base of public and private
17 extension service providers at all levels;
- 18 (d) strengthen the agricultural extension service structures and
19 promote effective synergy with all stakeholders including private sector,
20 donors, FBOs and NGOs for a harmonized and effective extension system;
21 and
- 22 (e) mainstream all bilateral and multilateral development partner-
23 supported extension initiatives and interventions into the national
24 agricultural extension system to avoid duplication and ensure effective
25 collaboration and build synergy at all levels.
- 26 **12.**-(1) For the purpose of extension services delivery to farmers in State Agricultural
27 their areas of jurisdiction, the States' Agricultural Development Development
28 Programmes (ADPs) shall benefit from the extension funds. Programmes
- 29 (2) To benefit from the extension funds, a State ADP shall-
- 30 (a) be established in accordance to the state's law and regulations;

1 (b) have an approved workplan of extension services for which the
2 funds sought are to be expended; and

3 (c) acquire a functional knowledge management and Development
4 Communication or Media Unit;

5 (3) Due process shall be a prerequisite for access to extension funds
6 from the National Agricultural Development Fund.

7 (4) Any State ADP that violates any existing law or guidelines relating
8 to Agricultural Extension Services shall not be eligible to access the National
9 Agriculture Development Fund.

10 PART IV - MISCELLANEOUS

Power to make
Regulations

11 13.-(1) The Minister may make such regulations as are necessary for
12 the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

13 (2) Regulations made under subsection (1) of this section may
14 provide for the-

15 (a) classification, nature and scope of Agricultural Extension
16 Services;

17 (b) availability of land, seed crops and other services;

18 (c) criteria and procedure for disbursement of Agricultural Extension
19 Development Fund;

20 (d) provision of incentives, recognition and awards for performing
21 extension services provider across the nation;

22 (e) digital agricultural extension services, technological
23 advancement and global improvement of agricultural extension services;

24 (f) prequalification of States or other organs of extension delivery
25 system for benefiting from National Agricultural Development Fund to ensure
26 that the funds are being used effectively and efficiently to promote agricultural
27 development in Nigeria;

28 (h) requirement for States institutionalise Agricultural Development
29 Programme (ADP) that is inclusive of all stakeholders;

30 (i) roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the Agricultural

1 Extension Services;

2 (j) duration of Agricultural Extension Programme; and

3 (k) any other matter connected with the implementation of the
4 provisions of this Act.

5 (3) Any person, who contravenes any regulation made pursuant to
6 this Act commits an offence infraction and liable to administrative sanction
7 as may be prescribed in the regulations.

8 **14.** Section of the National Agricultural Development Fund
9 Act,, is amended into specifically allocate part of the
10 generated fund as extension fund for the effective implementation of
11 Agricultural Extension services in Nigeria.

Consequential
Amendment

12 **15.** In this Bill-

Interpretation

13 "Agricultural Extension" includes the offer technical advice on agriculture
14 to farmers, supplies of necessary inputs and services to support agricultural
15 production to farmers and the provision of information or new ideas
16 developed by agricultural research stations to farmers in order to reduce
17 constraints such as low productivity, poor marketing and distribution
18 infrastructures, sustainable irrigation, storage, inadequate access to funds or
19 credit, and inadequate database among others.

20 **16.** This Bill may be cited as the Agricultural Extension Services
21 Revitalization Bill, 2024.

Short title

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to provide a legal framework for a sustainable agricultural extension services, strengthen investment in agriculture and increased agricultural productivity for food security and revenue generation in Nigeria.