

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT BOARD, TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR TRANSFORMING THE CURRENT AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM TO A CONTEMPORARY FARMING SYSTEM, THEREBY PROMOTING NATIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENSURING FOOD SECURITY FOR THE NATION; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Esosa Iyawe

[] Commencement

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

1 **1.**-(1) There is established a National Agriculture Improvement
2 Board (in this Bill, referred to as "the Board").

Establishment
of the National
Agriculture
Improvement
Board

3 (2) The Board shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession
4 and a common seal; it shall sue and be sued in its corporate name; and may
5 acquire, hold and dispose of properties, movable or immovable, to carry out
6 its objectives under this Bill.

7 **2.** The Board shall be responsible for-

Objectives of the
Board

8 (a) developing programmes and projects for modern system of
9 farming in Nigeria;

10 (b) liaising with states and local governments of the federation to
11 provide a framework for transforming the current agricultural system to a
12 modern system of farming;

13 (c) promoting and supporting optimum utilisation of Nigeria's
14 rural land resources for accelerated production of food;

15 (d) expanding productive capacity in agriculture and regaining
16 export capability in Agriculture;

17 (e) facilitating appropriate cost-effective mechanisation of
18 agriculture; and

	1	(f) performing any other responsibility conferred on the Board by the
	2	federal government from time to time.
Composition of the Governing Council	3	3. The Governing Council shall consist of-
	4	(a) a Chairman, who shall be a person with proven integrity with not
	5	less than fifteen (15) years of experience in agriculture;
	6	(b) a representative of the-
	7	(i) Federal Ministry responsible for Agriculture,
	8	(ii) Federal Ministry responsible for Science and Technology,
	9	(iii) a representative of the Federal Universities of Agriculture to be
	10	appointed in rotation,
	11	(iv) Agricultural Research Institutes of Nigeria, and
	12	(v) National Biosafety Development Agency;
	13	(c) one representative of the six geo-political zones of Nigeria; and
	14	(d) the Secretary.
Tenure of Office of Members of the Governing Council	15	4.-(1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, a member of the Council
	16	shall hold office for a term of three (3) years and may be re-appointed for
	17	another term of three (3) years and no more.
	18	(2) The Council may meet to conduct business as exigency demands
	19	in line with the supplementary provisions contained in the Schedule to this Bill,
	20	which shall affect the proceedings of the Board and other matters.
Resignation, Cessation or removal from membership of the Council	21	5.-(1) A member of the Council other than the ex-officio may resign
	22	the appointment by notice in writing addressed to the Chairman of the Council.
	23	(2) A member of the Council shall cease to be a member if the
	24	member-
	25	(a) lacks the physical or mental capacity to perform his functions;
	26	(b) becomes of unsound mind;
	27	(c) becomes bankrupt; and
	28	(d) is convicted of a felony, misconduct or any offence involving
	29	dishonesty.
	30	(3) Where the Council is satisfied that the continued presence on the

1 authority of any member is not in the interest of the nation or the interest of
2 the Board it may recommend to the President that the member concerned be
3 removed from his office; and if the President, after making such inquiries as
4 he considers necessary, approves of the recommendation he may in writing
5 declare the office of the member vacant.

6 (4) Where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Council, it
7 shall be filled by the appointment of a successor to hold office for the
8 remainder of the term of office of the predecessor so that the successor shall
9 represent the same interest.

10 6.-(1) The appointment of the staff of the Board shall be governed,
11 by the general terms and conditions of service as the Board may, after
12 consultation with the Federal Civil Service Commission, determine.

Staff
Appointment

13 (2) The Board may, subject to the provisions of this Act, make staff
14 regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of the staff of the
15 Board and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, such
16 regulations may provide for-

17 (a) the appointment, promotion, termination, dismissal and
18 disciplinary control of the staff of the Board; and

19 (b) appeals by such staff against dismissal or other disciplinary
20 measures, and until such regulations are made any instrument relating to the
21 conditions of service of officers in the civil service of the Federation shall be
22 applicable, with such modifications as may be necessary, to the staff of the
23 Board.

24 7.-(1) There shall be established for the Board a number of
25 Departments, Divisions or Units as the Board may, with the approval of the
26 Minister, deem necessary.

Department of
the Board

27 (2) Subject to the approval of the Minister, the Board may create
28 additional departments, divisions and units as it may deem necessary to
29 achieve the objective of the Board.

Fund for the Board	1	8. -(1) The Board shall manage and apply its Fund under the general
	2	guidelines made by the Board, particularly on-
	3	(a) general operations of the Board;
	4	(b) cost of payment of allowances to the cost of administration of the
	5	Board;
	6	(c) payment of salaries and other allowances for the staff of the Board;
	7	(d) maintenance of any property vested in the Board; and
	8	(e) payment of the Board fees payable for procurement and
	9	consultancy for the benefits of the Board.
	10	(2) The Board shall manage and apply its Fund under the general
	11	guidelines made by the Board, particularly on-
	12	(a) general operations of the Board;
	13	(b) cost of payment of allowances to the cost of administration of the
	14	Board;
	15	(c) payment of salaries and other allowances for the staff of the Board;
	16	(d) maintenance of any property vested in the Board; and
	17	(e) payment of the Board fees payable for procurement and
	18	consultancy for the benefits of the Board.
Power to borrow and invest	19	9. -(1) The Council may, with the consent of the President, borrow, on
	20	such terms and conditions as the Board may determine, such sums of money as
	21	the Board may require in the exercise of the functions conferred on it under this
	22	Act.
	23	(2) The Council may, subject to the provisions of this Act and the
	24	conditions of any trust created in respect of any property, invest all or any of its
	25	funds in accordance with the general guidelines approved by the Federal
	26	Government.
	27	(3) The Board may invest such surplus funds in any security as it may
	28	determine from time to time.
Annual Budget of the Board	29	10. The Board shall not later than 30th September each year or other
	30	date stipulated by law or policy, submit to the Minister, an estimate of

1 expenditure or income of the Board as approved by the Minister, for the next
2 fiscal year, for incorporation into the National budget.

3 **11.**-(1) The Chairman shall submit a quarterly and annual report of
4 the Reports and Audit activities of the Board to the Minister.

Reports and
Audit

5 (2) The Council shall keep proper accounts of the Board in respect
6 of each year and shall cause its accounts to be audited not later than six
7 months after the end of each year by auditors appointed and in accordance
8 with guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General for the Federation.

9 **12.**-(1) A suit shall not be filed against any member of the Board, or
10 any other officer or employee of the Board for any act done in pursuance or
11 execution of this Bill or any other law in respect of any alleged neglect or
12 default in the implementation of this Bill or such law or enactment, duty or
13 authority, shall lie in any court unless-

Limitation of suits
against the Board

14 (a) it is commenced within three months after the act, neglect, or
15 default complained of; or

16 (b) in the case of a continuation of damage or injury within six
17 months after ceasing.

18 (2) A suit shall not commence against a member or employee of the
19 Board before the expiration of one month after written notice of intention to
20 start the suit has been served upon the Board.

21 (3) The notice referred to in sub-clause (2) of this Clause shall
22 clearly state the cause of action, the particulars of the claim, the name and
23 place of abode of the intending plaintiff and the reliefs.

24 **13.** Every member, agent or employee of the Board shall be
25 indemnified from the Fund of the Board against any liability incurred in
26 defending any proceeding brought against the persons under this Bill, in the
27 person's capacity as a member agent or employee of the Board.

Indemnity of
members etc.

28 **14.** In this Act-

29 "Board" means the National Agriculture Improvement Board established
30 under clause 1 of this Bill;

Interpretation

1 "Council" means the Governing Council of the Board established by clause 3
2 of this Bill;

3 "Department" means the department established under clause 7 of the Bill;

4 "Member" means a member of the Council and includes the chairman.

Citation

5 **15.** This Bill may be cited as the National Agriculture Improvement
6 Board (Establishment) Bill, 2025.

7 SCHEDULE

8 *Clause 4(2)*

9 SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE CENTRE

10 *Proceedings of the Board*

11 1.-(1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill and other applicable laws,
12 the Council may make standing orders regulating its proceedings.

13 (2) The Council shall meet whenever summoned by the Chairman, or
14 if required to do so, by at least three members of the Council and shall meet a
15 minimum of 4 times a year.

16 (3) The Chairman shall preside over the meetings of the Board, and in
17 his absence, the members of the Council shall appoint a member, from among
18 themselves, to act as the Chairmen for that meeting.

19 *Committees*

20 2.-(1) The Council may appoint committees or sub-committees to
21 carry out, on its behalf, such functions that the Committee shall legitimately
22 carry out.

23 (2) The decision of the sub-committee appointed under paragraph
24 2(1) shall have no effect until the Main Committee approves it.

25 *Miscellaneous*

26 3.-(1) The Secretary of the Council shall be the custodian of the seal of
27 the Board.

28 (2) Fixing the common seal of the Council shall be authenticated by
29 the signature of the Chairman of the Council or some other persons authorised
30 to do so.

1 (3) Any contract or instrument, which, if made or executed by a
2 person not being a Body corporate, shall not be required to be made under
3 seal, shall be executed on behalf of the Board by the Chairman of the
4 Council or any other person authorised to do so.

5 (4) Where the Council desires to obtain an expert opinion from a
6 person not being a member of the Council, the Council may co-opt such
7 person for such period the Council may determine, but the co-opted person
8 shall not have the right to vote or to count in forming a quorum.

9 (5) The validity of any proceeding of the Council or of a committee
10 shall not be adversely affected by any vacancy in the membership of the
11 Council or Committee or by any defect in the appointment of a member of
12 the Council.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish the National Agriculture Improvement Board, to provide a framework for transforming the current agricultural system to a contemporary farming system, thereby promoting national economic growth and ensuring food security for the nation.