

# TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS THROUGH FARM SETTLEMENTS, YOUTH AND WOMEN ENGAGEMENT

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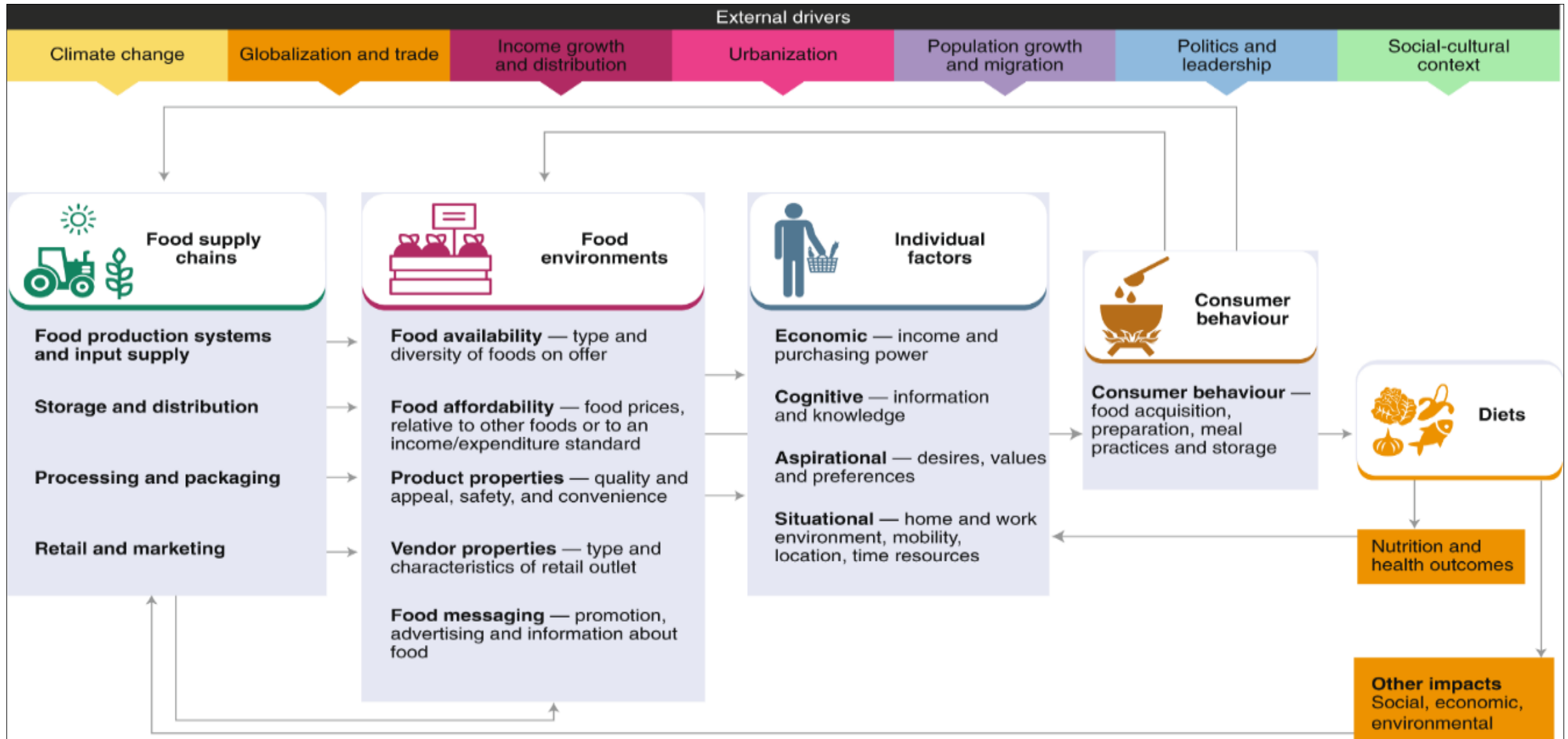
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# Introduction

- Food system encompasses all the elements and activities involved in:
  - Food production, processing, distribution, preparation, consumption and wastage;
  - Actors/stakeholders and
  - Output of these activities include social, economic and environmental outcomes
- The system provide a framework to advance access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Food system is considerable part of national economy and contribute significantly to many developmental issues
- It is recognized that none of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be achieved without improving the food systems

**Figure 1: Food Systems Framework (Adopted from Fanzo et al., 2020)**



# Introduction ...../2

- Nigeria's population of about 215million presently is projected to 450 million by 2050
- Efforts must be doubled towards food security and increased agricultural production
- Farm settlement is a government initiative for promoting rural development by providing small holder farmers resources and land for commercial farm operations
- Effort to transform traditional agriculture into a highly productive sector of the economy
- It helps to teach people to produce crops for profit through the application of modern agricultural methods.
- Farm settlement can help sustain the economic wellbeing by reducing unemployment rate, food shortage, insecurity and other social vices

# Why Youths and Women Engagement

- Empowerment of women is fundamental to economic development
- Women small holder farmers constitute 70-80 percent of the agricultural labour force in Nigeria
- But only 12% of women in Nigeria solely own or jointly own farm land compared to men at 38%
- Nigeria is one of the 7 countries in the world with the largest populations of youths
- Youths aged between 18 and 23 years accounts for about 10% of the population
- Youth equipped with essential skills can feed themselves, assist others, invest in their future and aid the nation economically.
- Youth Unemployment Rate in Nigeria increased from 40.8% in the second quarter to 53.4% in the fourth quarter of 2020

# History of Farm Settlements in Nigeria

- Farm settlements were established in the regions to increase the food production and increase average farm income.
- It was Government organized and supervised cooperative farms in which the labour force or settlers were involved
- Farmers had secured title on holdings of their own which they operated and from which they could draw an income.
- The farm settlement schemes had schools, mill stations, training laboratory, health care centres, police station, market and offices incorporated.
- These developments were to encourage the farmers in production of food crops and retrench the notion of importation of domestic staples in the region.
- The farmers (settlers) were encouraged to stay at the farm settlement for production of domestic crops.
- Assessment of the farm estates indicates majority of them have been encroached, redundant and under-utilized and
- Farm settlers have been disengaged, turning their contributions to the food security not to be realised.

# Objectives of Farm Settlement Scheme

- To provide employment and income for school leavers and arrest the wave of rural migration to the urban areas to bring about rural progress
- Increase agricultural productivity, and demonstrate modern techniques of farming
- To solve the land tenure problem, a major constraint to agricultural development especially for youths and women farmers.
- To make farming efficient, lucrative, and attractive to the youth
- To demonstrate that by careful planning, farms can be established and operated by young, educated farmers and provide a comfortable standard of living comparable to other employment.

# Objectives of Farm Settlement Scheme ...../2

- To act "as models for others to copy" and serve as "another extension method with a view to accelerating agricultural development
- To enhance a steady rise in income and the general standard of living of the people especially farming households
- Achieving food sufficiency, consumption of nutritious and healthy foods as well as encourage educated young people make a profitable career in farming.
- To link agricultural Institutes to farm settlement to enhance technology transfer
- Government builds the farm settlement as a plan for modernizing traditional agriculture.



# Challenges of Farm Settlements in Nigeria

- Land acquisition, lack of interest of the young school leavers targeted by the programme and expensive structure of the settlements
- Some settlers too young and inexperienced in farming leading to high percentage of drop-outs among the settlers
- Shortage of fund and politicking with the programme,
- Lack of understanding of the meaning and implication of the scheme
- Most settlers left the settlement due to crop failures, size of their debts and the authoritarian behaviour of the supervising government staff
- Cost of establishing a viable farm settlement then was too high
- Income level was quite low with high cost of input used by farmers due to small size of land allocation.
- Administrative bottlenecks in the selection of participants for the scheme.

# Challenges of Farm Settlements in Nigeria ...../2

- Inadequate capital as successful applicants were compelled to undergo 3-month training at their own expense.
- Interference from management authority, Bureaucracy, interference and interruption by government officials
- Educational level of the farmers, farming experience, extension contacts and security of land
- Inadequate capital, poor road networks and limitations to the number of things in which the farm settlements can be put into use.
- Poor management, inadequacy in training the farmers on the use of mechanized tools
- Lack of continuity due to different government that took the mantle of governance
- Poor accountability on the sale of farm products

# Considerations for Farm Settlement Scheme

- Schemes should be designed with the flexibility to anticipate that some settlers will leave
- Most programs have erred toward too much administration such as centralized models of settlement in contrast to greater local and community participation and responsibility.
- Every element in resettlement programs must not be provided to the settlers before they arrive
- There is need to determine the sequence of activities and the minimum level of public sector investment needed to generate a sufficient private, public and community investment response.
- The elements of a minimum public sector package include: safe water, road, relatively good land, extension, and subsistence allowances.
- Settlements will be more successful if farm sizes are adjusted to agricultural experience, the labor force and the capital available to the settler.
- Land rights must be clearly defined as ownerships or long-term leases, and settlers should be allowed to rent out their land to other settlers.

# Considerations for Farm Settlement Scheme .../2

- Some grant finance is required to provide poor settlers with the equity necessary and repay the remaining credit grants for initial subsistence with technical assistance
- Paternalistic constraints on crop choice, technology, marketing or labor market participation are either not enforceable or have adverse impacts
- There is need to examine the Socio Political and Economic Structure of the selected area.
- Research institutes should be responsible of providing developmental training, extension services, and effective agricultural research.
- Establishment of good storage facilities since large proportion of the perishable farm produce are wasted as a result of post-harvest spoilage.
- Establish special departments that will be responsible for the implementation of the policy, adequate funding and judicious utilization of such funds must be ensured.

# Guidelines For Establishment Of Farm Settlement Scheme

- To ensure the survival and continuity those that will participate need to be properly sensitized.
- Provision of good infrastructure in all the farm settlement areas
- Training and retraining of would-be participants and those who are participating in the scheme
- Any potential settler should be aged between 21 and 40 years.
- All settlers to be recruited should have at least the West African School Certificate (WASC) or its equivalent.
- All successful applicants be compelled to undergo 3-month training at the Government-owned training institution
- Each settler in the farm settlement is to be allocated land adequate enough depending on the enterprise (a minimum of 1 hectare).

## **Guidelines for Establishment of Farm Settlement Scheme .../2**

- Each settler is expected to spend 10 years on the settlement after which he/she will be entitled to re-apply for another 10 years' tenure
- Government to assist all settlers in the area of counselling, production, access to credit facilities as well as investment
- The settlement shall be cooperative in nature with all settlers as members
- Land use reform so that lands can be made available to farmers and small scale producers to use
- Farmer will be expected to obey all regulations under supervision and abide by all rules and regulations that shall be laid down.
- If work is found unsatisfactory and break the rules and regulations laid down, farmer will be dismissed immediately and place given to someone else.

# Recommended Farm Settlement Model

- To revolutionize agriculture as well as promote job creation, improve productivity and enhance food security.
- To encourage commercial agriculture along with agricultural inputs like fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides, and re-distributed to farmers.
- The farmers each get sizeable land e.g 1,000 hectares of land for a tenor of 10 years renewable lease for farming purpose only and not for any other use or resold.
- State government to provide the initial equipment for land clearing and guaranteed initial credit facilities for the farmers.

# Recommended Farm Settlement Model ...../2

- A public- private partnership arrangement is proposed between the government, community, financial institutions and farmers on the settlement
- Government to compensate the local community and further provide them with incentives, in addition to relocating them to some other lands to farm.
- The famers on the settlements are to produce raw materials for agro-allied industries, and export.
- The financing of the farms is to be supported by banks and financial institutions by way of acquiring percent equity while the state government owns some percentage equity
- A typical example of this model is The Shonga Farms Holding Nigeria Limited
  - Through its subsidiaries engages in mixed, dairy, and poultry farming
  - It produces commercial crops such as maize, rice, cassava, ginger, soya bean, milk and poultry meat.



# Measures of Farm Settlement Performance

- Effects of farm settlement organization on the attitudes and morale of the farmers and the resulting consequences on organizational effectiveness.
- Management practices impose or specify certain activities and interactions for people involved, opportunity to participate in decisions about their own welfare and working conditions.
- Food crop production which is 1 of the 2 main sources of farm settlement revenue.
- Resource use, relationship of sociopsychological variables to both resource use and profitability.
- Internal rate of return on investment to measure the efficiency of crop production

# Measures of Farm Settlement Performance ...../2

- Amendment of the National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) Act, 2004,
- To give room for the establishment of more farm settlements across the 36 states of the country and Federal Capital Territory (FCT)
- Creating opportunities in the agricultural sector that would improve economic diversification and create jobs for the teeming unemployed youths and women
- Promote agro-entrepreneurship among young people and women.
- Supply of agricultural inputs and government policy on procurement of produce from the farms
  - Agric credit guarantee scheme /insurance scheme

# Way forward

- Farm settlement can play significant role in accelerating food system development in Nigeria to provide sustainable nutrition.
- Reintroduction of farm settlements need to be adopted in all states and FCT to cultivate crop types based on agro-ecological variation.
- Farm settlements should be made attractive and secure for youths and women willing to invest and engaged in farming
- Government at national and sub-national levels to encourage regional industrialization through allocation of resources and introduction of new farm implements local farmers
- Provision of a good atmosphere conducive for cultivation of food crops in each of the geopolitical zones.

# Call to Action



- Pathway to Transformation of the food systems – Priority for 2022
- Adequate political will
- State Executives and Development planners to approve & support implementation
- State Development planners to Provide leadership
- Implement the scheme in all 36 states and FCT
- International community support
- Mobilize & release resources
- Monitor progress

# Conclusion

- Pathway towards significant transformations of the Nigeria food system requires:
  - Smart partnership and strong political will
  - Right policies, governance and business models
- This is necessary to achieve a food system that is inclusive, efficient, resilient, and sustainable to deliver quality diet and livelihood to the citizen especially youth and women

THANK YOU

