

National Implementation of Food Systems Transformation Pathways in Nigeria

Federal and Zonal Review Meetings' Report

(PHOTOGRAPH)

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Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms.....	iii
Foreword.....	v
Acknowledgement.....	vi
Executive Summary	vii
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Purpose and Objectives of the Review.....	1
1.3 Scope of the Review	2
1.4 Participants.....	3
1.4.1 Federal Level	3
1.4.2 Zonal Level	3
1.5 Collaboration & Partnership	4
2.0 Review Methods.....	4
3.0 Plenary Presentations.....	5
Paper I: Overview of The Food Systems Transformation Pathways in Nigeria	5
Paper II: Enhancing Multisectoral Collaboration for Food Systems Transformation	7
Paper III: Financing and Resource Mobilization for Food Systems Transformation in Nigeria...	8
Paper IV: Empowering Youth for Food Systems Transformation in Nigeria: Building Sustainable Future through Food Systems Innovation.....	10
Paper V: Financing and Resource Mobilization for Food Systems Transformation at Subnational Levels in Nigeria.....	11
4.0 Key Findings Based on Discussion of Presentations	11
4.1 Federal Level Review Findings	12
4.2 Zonal Level Review Findings	15
4.2.1 Northeast and Northwest	15
4.2.2 North-Central and South West.....	16
4.2.3 South East and South South.....	18
5.0 Challenges Identified	22

5.1 Federal Level.....	22
5.2 Zonal Level.....	23
5.2.1 North East and North West	23
5.2.2 North Central and South West.....	25
5.2.3 South South and South East.....	27
6.0 Recommendations	30
6.1 Federal Level.....	30
6.2 Zonal Level.....	31
6.2.1 North East & North West.....	31
6.2.2 North Central and South West.....	32
6.2.3 South East and South South.....	33
7.0 Plan for 2025.....	36
7.1 Federal level	36
7.2 Zonal Level.....	36
7.2.1 North East & North West.....	36
7.2.2 North Central and South West.....	37
7.2.3 South East and South South.....	37
8.0 Conclusion.....	38
Annex I: Next Steps for Implementation and Coordination	39

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADP	Agricultural Development Project
AGRA	Sustainably Growing Africa's Food Systems
CAFS	Community Action for Food Security
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CS-SUN	Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
FAO	Food Agriculture Organization
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FMAFS	Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security
FMBEP	Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning
FME	Federal Ministry of Education
FMIC	Federal Ministry of Information & Culture
FMITI	Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade & Investment
FMOAV	Federal Ministry of Aviation
FSTP	Food Systems Transformation Pathways
FUTO	Federal University of Technology, Owerri
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GIZ	Global Project Sustainable Agricultural Systems and Policy
GRATE	Ginger Recovery Advancement and Transformation for Economic Empowerment Initiative
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IMSU	Imo State University
KPI	Key Performance Index
LGAs	Local Government Areas
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MIYCN	Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition
MNCHW	Maternal New-born and Child Health Week
MOH	Ministry of Health
MSC	Multi-stakeholder collaboration
NAERLS	National Agricultural Extension research and Liaison Services
NAGS-AP	National Agricultural Growth Scheme Agro-Pocket
NALDA	National Agricultural Land Development Authority
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NiMet	Nigerian Meteorological Agency

NSA	National Security Adviser
NTA	Nigerian Television Authority
OFSP	Orange flesh sweet potatoes
PHL	Post Harvest Losses
R&D	Research and Development
RAAMP	Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project
SAPZ	Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone
SCFN	State Committee on Food and Nutrition
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHEP	Small Holder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion
SMBEP	State Ministry of Budget & Economic Planning
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNIC	United Nations Information Centre
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VLOM	Village Level Mechanics
WASHCOM	Water Sanitation and Hygiene Committee
WFP	World Food Programme

Foreword

Acknowledgement

Executive Summary

Food systems involve complex challenges, which call for a systemic, multi-level, and multi-stakeholder participatory approach for addressing interrelated issues across economic, social, and environmental dimensions. The transformation of food systems relate to the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, concerning the need for the change to be intentional and profound, and based on factual understandings and societal agreements aimed at achieving outcomes at scale. Therefore, multi-stakeholder collaboration needs to be an essential pillar of the food systems approach and the transition to sustainable food systems.

The review meetings at federal and zonal levels in Nigeria focused on sharing experiences and insights on National Food Systems Transformation Pathways implementation efforts, with the participation and support of government, development partners, academia, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders. The meetings were to accelerate progress and foster a collaborative environment conducive to knowledge sharing and mutual learning, driving tangible progress in implementing solutions that transform food systems and yield real results in Nigeria. The objectives of the review meetings were to discuss the status of the implementation of the strategy for food systems, and for ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) at federal and state levels to make presentations and give updates on the activities implemented for the National Food Systems Transformation Pathways (FSTP) in Nigeria.

The meetings included presentations by resource persons on specific topics, to enhance efforts targeted towards implementing Food Systems Transformation Pathways, and progress by MDAs in 2024. The meetings also reviewed key achievements, lessons learned, challenges, and gaps, with resolutions/recommendations implementation and coordination in 2025.

Some of the recommendations include that projects/programmes should be tied to budgetary provisions and not only development partners' support, focus on the National Food Systems Transformation Implementation Strategy with roles and responsibilities assigned to all stakeholders for accountability purposes, identify capacities required for important interventions at all levels, stimulate sub-national commitment, and collaborate with the private sector. The outcome of the reviews at federal and zonal levels are summarized as follows:

- i. Collaboration between government, stakeholders, and beneficiaries adds credibility and provides access to valuable expertise and resources.
- ii. Improvement in the resilience of the local communities and the indigenous peoples to address shocks and climate change issues.
- iii. Students were interested in learning about school gardens and school staff were ready to collaborate with the government.
- iv. There are plans to scale up advocacy, resource mobilization, and monitoring and evaluations.
- v. Strengthening state coordination meetings of all implementing MDAs is crucial.
- vi. Youths must be encouraged to go into farming and MDAs should leverage on innovations and technology.
- vii. Stimulation of sub-national commitments is key, while collaboration with the private sector is important.
- viii. There is need to strengthen accountability and transparency in utilized funds.
- ix. The government should provide subsidies in agriculture and infrastructure through public/private partnerships.
- x. Strengthening policy frameworks and ensuring alignment with international commitments is necessary.
- xi. Investments in food systems transformation must be increased, focusing on research, infrastructure, and capacity building.
- xii. Stronger public-private partnerships must be fostered to leverage resources and expertise.
- xiii. Advocacy should be made to state governments to provide budgetary allocation and timely release of funds for food systems.
- xiv. Both print and electronic media should be used to provide adequate information to citizens of states on food systems.
- xv. Adequate funding should be provided for data generation on food systems, to enhance informed decision-making and policy formulation.

- xvi. Institutional strengthening should be supported through the provision of technical assistance, infrastructure, and equipment, along with organizing trainings and workshops on sustainable agriculture, food systems transformation, and nutrition.
- xvii. The capacity of state and local governments must be built to lead food systems initiatives.
- xviii. Strengthening collaboration among ministries, with strong advocacy efforts led by the Ministry of Economic Planning remains an important focus.

In conclusion, the meetings brought together stakeholders from government, partners, academia, and civil society to review achievements, challenges, lessons, and gaps. Resolutions were made with renewed vigour to strengthen efforts to ensure the transformation of food systems in Nigeria; including scaling up various current activities and increasing coverage.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Food systems are faced with complex challenges, which call for a systemic, multi-level, and multi-stakeholder participatory approach for addressing interrelated issues across economic, social, and environmental dimensions. In recognition of this need to address multi-faceted food systems challenges, Nigeria actively participated in the processes of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), including the development of the National Food Systems Transformation Pathways for Nigeria. The transformation of food systems relates to the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, concerning the need for the change to be intentional and profound, based on factual understandings and societal agreements that aim at achieving outcomes at scale. Multi-stakeholder collaboration especially needs to be an essential pillar of the food systems approach and the transition to sustainable food systems. The Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning has therefore continued to regularly convene stakeholders and review their activities to ensure alignment towards food systems transformation efforts. This report presents the findings from the 2024 food systems transformation progress review.

The review of progress in food systems transformation efforts provides a systematic approach to evaluating achievements and identifying areas that require further attention and improvement. It fosters collaboration and explores strategies for planning and coordinating future collaborative efforts among participating MDAs and stakeholders, emphasizing the need for continued cooperation and the setting of shared vision and goals. The review was conducted through meetings at federal and zonal levels. The meetings focused on sharing experiences and insights on food systems transformation efforts across ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs), with the engagement of partners, academia, and other stakeholders.

1.2 Purpose and Objectives of the Review

The food systems implementation review meetings were to assess the progress and effectiveness of current strategies in improving our food systems. These meetings provides an opportunity to

identify challenges, share lessons learned, and ensure alignment between national and sub-national efforts.

The core objectives of the biannual review meetings on the implementation of the National Food Systems Transformation Pathways were to:

- i. Access the extent to which the goals and milestones outlined in the Terms of Reference of the National Food Systems Transformation Pathways have been achieved;
- ii. Identify gaps and the way forward on implementation of the Implementation Strategy for the National Food Systems Transformation Pathways;
- iii. Foster transparency and ensure that all stakeholders are held accountable for their roles and responsibilities; and
- iv. Encourage interstate engagement, collaboration and experience sharing.

The expected impact of the meetings was to accelerate progress and foster a collaborative environment conducive to knowledge sharing and mutual learning, driving tangible progress in implementing solutions that transform food systems and yield real results in Nigeria at both federal and sub-national levels.

I.3 Scope of the Review

The review on food systems implementation at national and sub-national perspectives encompassed the assessment of policies, strategies, and interventions aimed at ensuring food security, nutrition, and sustainable agricultural development. At the federal level, the focus included evaluating the alignment of food systems policies and the coordination of resources and initiatives across sectors. At the sub-national levels (zonal, state, and local government areas), the review examined local adaptations, governance structures, resource allocation, and the effectiveness of interventions in addressing regional food security challenges, promoting local agricultural production, and improving access to nutritious food. The review also explored collaboration between various government tiers, partners and the private sector in food systems implementation.

I.4 Participants

The stakeholders involved in the review meetings at federal and zonal levels included policymakers, representatives of line MDAs, development partners, cooperative societies/associations, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

I.4.1 Federal Level

The review meeting at the federal level involved 55 participants, 44% female and 56% male. The participants were from MDAs (71%), development partners (13%), academia (11%), private sector (4%) and CSOs (2%). In attendance were the Federal Ministries of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS); Budget and Economic Planning (FMBEP); Environment (FMEnv); Education (FME); Information, Culture & Orientation (FMIC); Industry, Trade & Investment (FMITI); Health & Social Welfare (FMOHSW), Humanitarian & Poverty Alleviation (FMHAPA), Marine and Blue Economy (FMMBE), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), Science, Technology & Innovation (FMSTI), Water Resources (FMWR), Women Affairs (FMWA), and Youth & Sports Development (FMYSD). The development partners were GIZ's Global Programme Sustainable Agricultural Systems and Policies – (AgSys) Nigeria, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Food Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

I.4.2 Zonal Level

Representatives attended the zonal review meetings from the Ministry of Planning and Budget; Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Education; and other stakeholders including development partners, private sector, community-based organizations (CBOs), and civil society organizations (CSOs) etc.

The review meeting for the North-Central and South West zones had 64 participants from Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ondo and Ekiti States (South-West) and Niger, Nasarawa, Plateau, Kogi, and Kwara States and FCT (North Central).

The South East and South South zonal meeting had in attendance four States from the South-South (Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Delta, Rivers) and three states from the South East (Enugu, Abia, Imo).

The North East and North West zonal meeting had 98 participants with representatives from all six states in the North East (Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States) and representatives from Kebbi, Kaduna, Katsina, Jigawa, Sokoto and Zamfara States in the North West.

I.5 Collaboration & Partnership

Collaboration and partnership among stakeholders were essential to the success of the food systems review meetings due to the diverse voices from government, private sector, civil society, and local communities, to foster a more inclusive and holistic approach to addressing food systems challenges. These meetings highlighted the importance of shared responsibility, where each stakeholder played a key role in driving sustainable solutions and ensuring that national food systems are equitable, resilient, and aligned with broader development goals. The partners that supported the organization of the review meetings included GAIN, FAO, AGRA, IFAD, GIZ, and CARE.

2.0 Review Methods

The review process during the meeting at federal and zonal levels was structured to facilitate active participation and collaborative problem-solving. Each session began with opening addresses and goodwill messages, followed by a series of structured presentations. The presentations provided background information, context, and key objectives of each meeting and served as a foundation for the subsequent discussions. Presentations were made by MDAs at the federal, and by each state at the zonal review meetings.

Following the presentations, participants engaged in focused group work, where they brainstormed ideas, analysed challenges, and explored potential solutions. Each group was tasked with addressing specific aspects of a topic, allowing for diverse perspectives and in-depth exploration of issues.

After the group work, each session transitioned into plenary discussions, where each group presented their findings and recommendations. These plenary discussions encouraged further dialogue, clarification, and refinement of ideas. Challenges such as resource constraints,

coordination gaps, and policy implementation hurdles were identified throughout the process. Recommendations were also proffered. Key recommendations included strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration, enhancing capacity building, improving data collection and monitoring mechanisms, and advocating for policy changes to support sustainable nutrition interventions. The process was dynamic and inclusive, ensuring that all participants had the opportunity to contribute, reflect, and shape the direction of the discussions.

3.0 Plenary Presentations

The plenary presentations provided invaluable insights, thoughtful discussions, and a broadening of understanding of food systems. The presentations were made at the federal and zonal review meetings. This report summarizes the key points and findings from the sessions.

Paper I: Overview of The Food Systems Transformation Pathways in Nigeria - Dr. Sanjo Faniran, Director, Social Development and National Convener

The paper discusses the justification for food systems transformation in Nigeria, including the need for sustainable food systems, and achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs). It further emphasized goals of the National Food Systems Transformation Pathways, recommendations for six clusters of necessary actions, and delineation of roles from federal to LGA levels with mobilization and active participation of food systems actors at state and federal level. The presentation further highlighted the inauguration of a zonal steering committee on the implementation of the National Food Systems Transformation Pathways.

The Federal Government commenced implementation of some priority actions in 2022, including:

- Regularly collecting and disseminating (through radio and other platforms) information about weather patterns and soil properties and best practices for crops, livestock, aquaculture, and poultry production, through NiMet and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.
- Mobilizing states to establish farm settlements/estates made up of groups of smallholder producers, including women and youths, and use estates to increase input supply, machinery hiring, extension and other services, and market access.

- Promoting Operation Feed Yourself through local government areas (LGAs) to help households to access information and inputs that will encourage them to produce food around their houses to feed their families

An implementation strategy to guide implementation of the FSTP was developed through multi-stakeholder consultations, and it enumerated key action plans for 2023, such as:

- Dissemination of weather information through radio and other platforms for better planning of agricultural activities.
- Establishment and revitalization of farm estates by sub-national governments to encourage youth and women.
- Promotion of homestead gardens,
- Mentoring and training new and emerging farmers
- Advocacy to Nigeria Governors' Forum for their support and buy-in for the FSTP
- Identification of regional opportunities.

The presentation additionally stated the following achievements of the FSTP Task Team:

- Integrated food systems with nutrition policy by expanding the States' Committee on Food and Nutrition;
- Conducted implementation and monitoring of action plans in all 36 states of Nigeria plus the federal capital territory (FCT) in December 2023 and presented the results to the Planning Commissioners of the 36 States during a retreat;
- Engaged with Honourable Ministers of food systems-relevant MDAs to facilitate implementation of Food Systems Transformation Pathways (FSTP).

Dr. Faniran reiterated the importance of State Governors in achieving the FSTP at sub-national levels, and the consequent development of the following Terms of Reference for States:

- Expand the State Committee on Food and Nutrition to accommodate other relevant stakeholders including microprocessors, All Farmers Association, CSOs, academia etc.
- Downscale weather information to all farmers in the state through the State Television Authority and Radio Stations, and leading climate-smart and technology-enabled food systems;
- Promote "School Gardens for Improved Nutrition" in support of the Homegrown School Feeding system in state schools, beginning with pilots;
- Promote agri-food systems education in schools including debates;

- v. Promote of homestead/backyard garden in the state, tagged Operation Feed Yourself;
- vi. Map and engage youth in food systems, and capacity building;
- vii. Prioritize farm estates with enabling environment or revitalize moribund farm estates in the state to attract youth, women, and other vulnerable groups into agriculture and other aspects of the food value chain.

The presentation concluded that food systems transformation is non-negotiable for the socio-economic development of Nigeria. Therefore, MDAs were encouraged to use the data in the report of the National Food Consumption and Micronutrient Survey launched on 30th April 2024 to identify gaps and required food systems interventions on dietary diversity, animal protein deficiency, micronutrient deficiencies, iron deficiency, inflammation, and malaria that contribute to anaemia.

Paper II: Enhancing Multisectoral Collaboration for Food Systems Transformation - Prof Kola M. Anigo, University of Abuja, Nigeria

A multisector collaboration is a partnership that results when government, non-profit, private, and public organizations, community groups, and individual community members come together to solve problems that affect the whole community. It is any collaborative arrangement among stakeholders from two or more different spheres of society (public sector, private sector and/or civil society). It involves pooling resources together and sharing risks and responsibilities in order to solve a common issue, handle a conflict, elaborate a shared vision, realize a common objective, manage a common resource and/or ensure the protection, production or delivery of an outcome of collective and/or public interest.

Multisector collaborations can solve systemic problems associated with food systems, because it draws on the resources of all sectors: business, government, and nonprofit. It can contribute to joint sense-making of everyone's position in the system, to bring stakeholder views together and to explore what emerges in terms of a common perspective. Inclusiveness, which is a call to reach out to and engage communities that are often forgotten, and to bring them into the dialogue, is a key principle of food systems transformation.

Food systems involve complex challenges, the scale and nature of which call for systemic, multi-level and multi-stakeholder participatory approaches across economic, social and environmental dimensions. Multi-stakeholder collaboration (MSC) therefore forms an essential pillar of the food

systems approach and plays important roles in transiting to sustainable food systems. Engaging stakeholders across sectors and food systems stage, at both local and national levels, is necessary for building a joint vision towards collective action plans. Establishing sustainable food systems requires multisectoral coordination and collaboration to address all challenges simultaneously. Food systems cannot be isolated from the transport, energy, health, and other systems. Therefore, programmes and initiatives must always consider the coordination among agencies handling the different systems.

A collaborative framework for food systems transformation requires addressing significant gaps in capacity and the need for more, dedicated human resources, particularly at sub-national levels. Education, training, and work experience are usually sector-specific, hence the requirement for additional capacity-building, tailored according to the roles that different stakeholders play. There is also a need for incentives to improve performance and technical support to government and providers in the field; strengthening capacity in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and functional capacities for multisector governance is likewise crucial.

Participatory monitoring, evaluation, and learning involve looking at the communication between stakeholders, reviewing progress made concerning commitments, analysing changes in participating organizations and the degree of their participation, exploring opportunities to foster mutual accountability, promoting learning, and redesigning or adjusting the initiative/partnership to better align with updated objectives

The paper concluded by emphasizing that a well-facilitated, high-level, multi-stakeholder steering committee strengthens collaboration and coordination on multi-sector programming, and the inclusion of civil society and the private sector can extend the reach of nutrition efforts. Accelerating action and integrating food systems priority considerations into programmes by acting across several sectors is important to improve food and nutrition outcomes.

Paper III: Financing and Resource Mobilization for Food Systems Transformation in Nigeria - Ibrahim Isiaka, National Nutrition and Food Systems Specialist, FAO Nigeria.

The paper explored key strategies and approaches for mobilizing financial resources to support the transformation of Nigeria's food systems. The urgent need for financing arises from current challenges such as acute food insecurity affecting 31.8 million Nigerians, rising food prices, post-

harvest losses, and physical insecurity. Yet, despite the importance of investments for transformation of food systems and to ensure sustainable food security, significant funding gaps exist.

Key areas for investment include:

- Sustainable agricultural practices: Investment in climate-resilient agriculture and support of smallholder farmers with access to finance, technology, and training.
- Infrastructure development: Enhancing storage, transport, and market infrastructure to reduce post-harvest losses and investing in digital platforms for better market access and efficiency.
- Nutrition and food security programmes: Scaling up nutrition-sensitive interventions and strengthening social safety nets and food assistance programmes.

Innovative resource mobilization approaches to address the funding gaps are:

- Blended finance: Combine public and private sector funds to reduce risk and attract investment. An example is green bonds for sustainable agriculture projects.
- Impact investing: Attract investors seeking both financial returns and social impact with a focus on areas like agribusinesses that improve livelihoods and food security.
- Philanthropy and social impact funds: Engage foundations and social impact funds targeting food security and nutrition. For example, mobilizing resources for community-based nutrition programmes

These resource mobilization approaches require:

- Multi-stakeholder approach: Collaboration is key and government, private sector, civil society, and international partners must work together.
- Capacity building: Strengthening institutions and capacities for better financial management and resource mobilization.
- Call to action: Innovation, collaboration, and resource mobilization must occur at an unprecedented scale to transform Nigeria's food systems.

In conclusion, adopting a comprehensive approach to financing, including public, private, and innovative strategies, can overcome the challenges facing Nigeria's food systems. there is a need to work together to ensure that every Nigerian has access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food.

Paper IV: Empowering Youth for Food Systems Transformation in Nigeria: Building Sustainable Future through Food Systems Innovation - Azeez Salawu, Founder, Community Action for Food Security & Youth Lead, Nigeria Food Systems Task Team

Nigeria's food systems are undergoing significant transformations to achieve sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity. With their energy, creativity, and innovation, young people are pivotal to driving this transformation. A strategic approach is therefore being undertaken to place young people at the centre of food systems transformation in Nigeria, focusing on mapping their activities, providing capacity-building sessions, connecting them with state technical committees, and highlighting their innovations.

The approach includes the following:

- Mapping the activities of young people in food systems
- Integration of youth in State Technical Committees
- Development of compendium of youth in food systems
- Capacity building
- Spotlight youth innovations

The major questions for young people in the mapping exercise included role in the food systems, business/project details, challenges faced, support needed, innovations and success stories, and future aspirations. The means of dissemination of the online mapping link utilizes platforms such as social media campaigns, email newsletters, webinars, and virtual events, partnerships with educational institutions, agricultural fairs and conferences, local radio, and community announcements

The capacity-building sessions were tailored to specific value chains – crop production, livestock, aquaculture, food processing, policy advocacy, and were conducted across geo-political zones

The activity of connecting young people to state technical committees involves representation on state technical committees related to food systems, establishing mentorship programmes where experienced members of the committees can guide young people, and scheduling regular meetings and workshops where young people can present their ideas and progress.

The spotlighting of young people's innovations involves organizing annual awards to recognize and celebrate young innovators in the food systems sector; establishing regional innovation hubs where young people can collaborate, access resources, and showcase their innovations; and

featuring young innovators in local and national media to highlight their contributions and success stories. Other programmes, projects, and activities include youth-led agribusiness incubators, access to finance initiatives, research and development (R&D), networking platforms, and policy advocacy.

Focusing on these areas, the initiative can effectively place young people at the heart of Nigeria's food systems transformation, harnessing their energy, creativity, and innovation to drive sustainable and inclusive growth. This comprehensive approach will ensure that the next generation is involved and leads the way in creating resilient and vibrant food systems in Nigeria.

Paper V: Financing and Resource Mobilization for Food Systems Transformation at Subnational Levels in Nigeria - Joyce Akpata, Head of Policy and Advocacy, GAIN

There is an annual financing gap of USD 2 billion needed to address food systems and malnutrition issues. Critical gaps in road infrastructure, irrigation facilities, market infrastructure, and nutrition services, require substantial investment to transform food systems effectively. Overcoming these challenges is crucial for achieving sustainable food systems and ensuring food security, particularly at the subnational level. Creative approaches and innovative financing mechanisms are necessary to access alternative funding sources to bridge this gap.

Multi-stakeholder collaboration, exploration of public-private partnerships, leveraging of international aid, and utilizing local resources more efficiently, are important. These strategic approaches will mobilize resources, improve infrastructure, and ultimately enhance the livelihoods and nutritional status of vulnerable populations in Nigeria.

4.0 Key Findings Based on Discussion of Presentations

The federal-level discussions focused on national policies and strategies, while the zonal-level meetings emphasized regional concerns and solutions. Together, these findings offer a good picture of the current state and efforts on the food systems transformation pathways implementation and the way forward; highlighting key insights, emerging trends, and actionable recommendations to strengthen and transform food systems for greater sustainability, equity, and resilience.

4.1 Federal Level Review Findings

The key lessons learned and achievements at the federal level included the following:

- Students are interested in learning about school gardens and school staff are ready to collaborate with the government
- Improvement in the resilience of local communities and indigenous people is necessary to address issues of shocks and climate change.
- Economic instability is imposing a lot of setbacks and increase in the cost of production of food products, affecting the upscale of interventions.
- Effective collaboration with stakeholders aids coordination
- Early relief planning improves successful interventions
- Farmers actively participated in discussions and practical demonstrations, showing interest and a willingness to learn.
- Effective use of demonstrations and visual aids e.g. pictures and videos were well-received by farmers, helping them to better understand the material and retain information.
- Collaboration between government, stakeholders, and beneficiaries adds credibility and provides access to valuable expertise and resources.
- Use of local language ensured that training content was accessible and understood by participants, regardless of literacy levels

The achievements recorded in respect of each project implemented by MDAs during the reporting period of January to July 2024 are presented as follows:

MDAs	Feedback
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	- Promotion of home gardening and nutrition knowledge transfer and practice at the state and local government levels, targeted at low-income households, vulnerable, pregnant/breastfeeding women, adolescent girls, youths, and the disabled, with 77 women reached, spread across 17 LGAs
Federal Ministry of Marine & Blue Economy	- National Policy on Food Safety and Quality and its Implementation Plan 2023 document reviewed and validated .

MDAs	Feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of an effective food safety public awareness structure through the establishment of a national information and communication system dedicated to food safety programmes and activities. - National Aquaculture Biosecurity Guidelines with Standard Operating Procedure reviewed and validated to increase fish food safety for consumer safety and increase market access of Nigerian fish both for local and export markets - Institutional assessment report of the fisheries and aquaculture value chain with identification of challenges and recommendations for institutional improvement - Trial fish farms for the cultivation of fish species established
Federal Ministry of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported school farms and gardens with planted vegetables and harvests given to the school kitchen for students' feeding. This provided hands-on experiences that reinforced academic concepts in agriculture and developed practical skills in farming and gardening
Federal Ministry of Environment, Department of Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engaged local communities in the local adaptation of measures on climate change, involving capacity building for indigenous people in the north central zone with 35 beneficiaries
Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Documented the number of local cassava processors and their major challenges and areas of intervention needs in Akwa-Ibom, Abia, Enugu, Anambra, Kogi, Edo, Benue, Osun, Ogun, Ekiti, Oyo, Lagos States. Data collected is being cleaned for collation and analysis
Federal Ministry of Health & Social Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The general public was educated and sensitized on the dangers of consuming excess salt and the health implications

MDAs	Feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training of Trainers and dissemination of unified food safety training manuals. This was to increase the knowledge of regulations, and NGOs on the food safety database with 45 beneficiaries - Sensitization of the general public on the basics of good food safety practices
Federal Ministry of Information & National Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote awareness of improved food quality and safety through electronic and print media by airing audio/visual news on food safety and hygiene in English and various local languages in the 36 states and FCT - Awareness campaign on healthy living, good dietary habits, and food quality and safety, through newspaper publications, TV and radio talk shows in the 36 states, and FCT - Public awareness campaign on food fortification, healthy living, good dietary habits and food quality and safety - Collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture on facilitated tour for the reactivation of state farms in each geopolitical zone
Federal Ministry of Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large volume of cargo (318,349MT) conveyed by rail, of which over 50% are agricultural products and farm implements to contribute to reduction in food wastages and loss of harvested agricultural products
Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology (FMIST)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deployment of innovative technologies for the evaluation and preservation of foodstuff to enhance food safety - Farmers and other relevant stakeholders (100) sensitized on the proper handling and application of pesticides
Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The conduct of training on Water Safety Plan, and capacity building of Water Sanitation and Hygiene Committees (WASHCOMs) and Village Level Mechanics (VLOM) at the community level on WASH facility management and rural communities including farm estate

MDAs	Feedback
National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency relief intervention for disaster-affected persons; assisted 61,669 households affected by various disasters with food and non-food items across the country - Ginger Recovery Advancement and Transformation for Economic Empowerment (GRATE) Initiative supported 5,000 affected farmers to recover from ginger pest epidemics for increased productivity - Federal Government palliative of 42,000MT of assorted food commodities from the National Strategic Reserve to vulnerable Nigerians in all the 774 LGAs in the 36 states and FCT - Scale-up of the quantity of the staple food in the Emergency Food Basket (EFB) from 35.8kg to 80.8kg - Activation of Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to coordinate resources for immediate response and post disaster recovery
Standards Organisation of Nigeria – SON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewed and disseminated existing legislation on fortification to cover staples food and promote household level – cereal, root crops and legumes not presently covered, and industrially processed rice, noodles, etc. - Sensitisation workshop on forceful ripening of fruits, adulterated palm oil, and grains

4.2 Zonal Level Review Findings

The key achievements recorded by zones are as follows:

4.2.1 Northeast and Northwest

- Constitution of the State Steering Committee on Food Systems Transformation for Improved Nutrition chaired by Honourable Commissioner for Planning and Budget;
- Provision of agricultural services, such as distribution of improved variety of seeds;
- Capacity building/training of farmers and extension workers;

- Establishment solar powered irrigation scheme (solar powered water pumps) for irrigation;
- Empowerment programme for women and youths;
- Expansion of the State Steering Committee on Food Systems Transformation to include other stakeholders such as farmers' associations, private sectors, youth and women groups;

4.2.2 North-Central and South West

- Agricultural extension officers would be used in all states and capacity building would be initiated for them.
- Meetings of stakeholders were held to update relevant MDAs about food systems activities, which led to synergy among stakeholders within Kwara State.
- States were encouraged to start the implementation of the Food Systems Transformation Pathways; and
- Outline of activities for the next six months should be followed up.

Kwara

The state has undertaken several initiatives to transform its food systems. Key activities include:

- School and home gardens: The state has incorporated over 300 schools into the FSTP, promoting the establishment of school gardens.
- There is encouragement of home gardening across Kwara to enhance local food production and nutrition.
- Farm estates: The establishment of 21 farm estates aims to boost agricultural productivity and create employment opportunities. These estates provide farmers with access to land, modern equipment, and technical support.
- Support to farmers: The state government has provided farmers with fertilizers, improved seedlings, and agro-chemicals to enhance crop yields and promote sustainable farming practices.
- State Food and Nutrition Policy: Kwara State has developed a comprehensive policy to address food and nutrition challenges. The policy focuses on coordinating food and

nutrition activities, promoting nutrition-sensitive agriculture, and ensuring food security for all residents.

- vi. Kwara Agricultural Transformation Plan 2020-2030: This plan identifies opportunities and challenges in agriculture within the state, aiming to enhance access to market value chains and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Osun

The Key Achievements of Osun State on food systems transformation are:

- i. Distributed agricultural inputs: Over 10,000 farmers benefited from fertilizers, herbicides, and vegetable seeds.
- ii. Cashew seedlings distribution: 50,000 cashew seedlings distributed, promoting cashew farming and value chain development.
- iii. Cassava cuttings distribution: Supplied improved cassava cuttings to 8,000 farmers and schools, increasing cassava production.
- iv. Osun Broilers Outgrowers Production Scheme (OBOPS): 500 poultry farmers supported with chicks, feeds, and veterinary drugs, boosting poultry production.
- v. Empowerment of pig farmers: 800 pig farmers received piglets, feeds, drugs, and equipment, increasing pork production.
- vi. Procurement of tractors: Farmers' groups provided with tractors for mechanized farming, enhancing agricultural efficiency.
- vii. School garden initiative: Significant increase in the number of secondary schools with functional gardens and about 50,000 students benefited from agricultural education and hands-on skills.
- viii. Domestication of National Food Safety Policy: Successfully adapted and implemented food safety guidelines at the state level and strengthened food safety standards and reduced foodborne diseases.

- ix. Appointment of Food Safety Desk Officers: Officers appointed across all 30 LGAs to monitor and enforce food safety standards in restaurants, schools, hospitals, and workplaces.
- x. Development of Osun Gender-Responsive Agricultural Policy: Finalized a policy framework promoting gender inclusion in agriculture and ensured equitable access and participation for women and men in agricultural projects.
- xi. Expanded youth and women participation in agriculture: Involvement of Osun State Youth Council and Women in Agriculture groups in policy decisions and project implementation.
- xii. Successful Collaboration with Stakeholders: Partnered with UNICEF, USAID, Obafemi Awolowo University, and local farmers' groups for project execution and capacity building.
- xiii. Strengthened Food and Nutrition Policy integration: Mainstreamed State Committee on Food and Nutrition into the State Steering Committee on Food Systems Transformation for better coordination.
- xiv. Community engagement and support: Community leaders actively involved in project awareness campaigns, helping reach rural communities.
- xv. Improved agricultural mechanization: increased access to tractors and modern farming equipment for farmers.

4.2.3 South East and South South

Cross-Rivers

- i. Establishment of functional school gardens;
- ii. Establishment of homestead gardens;
- iii. Promote cultivation of bio-fortified food crops and utilization as industrial raw materials;
- iv. Scale up smart agricultural practices that have less environmental impact;
- v. USAID Feed the Future extension activities;
- vi. MOH meat/food hygiene and safety programme

- vii. On-going plans to host a state coordination meeting of all implementing MDAs/capacity building;
- viii. Plans to scale up advocacy, resource mobilization, and monitoring and evaluations.

Rivers

- i. Inauguration of the Local Government Committee on Food and Nutrition;
- ii. Celebration of World Breastfeeding Week;
- iii. 5-day comprehensive training of health workers on breastfeeding counselling;
- iv. 8-day training of health workers on maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN) MNCHW Round I;
- v. Commemoration of World Food Day (food demonstration in health centres);
- vi. Quarterly review of nutrition data (3 quarters) & review of the SCFN activities;
- vii. Provision of multiple micronutrient supplements for pregnant and lactating mothers;
- viii. Availability of budget line for food systems transformation;
- ix. Ongoing efforts to revive moribund fish farms by constructing major access road to make it the most viable in West Africa;
- x. Resuscitation of abandoned Songhai Farm project to boost food production and supply in the State;
- xi. Provision of smoke kilns to rural processors and advocacy for safer handling of fish products;
- xii. Provision of cassava grinding machines;
- xiii. School deworming programme;
- xiv. Promotion of school garden;
- xv. Training on bio-fortified foods; and
- xvi. Promotion of homestead garden (backyard farming)

Delta

- i. Developed a soil and climatic map of Delta State indicating physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil;
- ii. Carried out the water depth and altitude map of Delta State;
- iii. Created an enabling environment for implementation of FST pathways through a budget line at the Ministry of Economic Planning; and

Radio sensitization programme on the establishment of homestead gardens. Abia

- i. Production, processing, storage, and other market infrastructures development;

- ii. Poultry production facilities development;
- iii. Processing mill infrastructure development;
- iv. Rural market and storage facilities development;
- v. Orientation training on nutrition for 2,364 incubatees and about 141 incubators;
- vi. Establishment of homestead garden in 10 incubation centres across 10 communities;
- vii. Establishment of school gardens in 14 primary schools across 14 communities;
- viii. Mobilization and awareness creation on benefits of bio-fortified crops (orange fleshed sweet potato and pro-vitamin A cassava) and distribution of orange flesh sweet potatoes (OFSP) vines to 20 project beneficiaries and other community members(80);
- ix. Training of 30 beneficiaries on production of bio-fortified crops; and
- x. Provision of inputs and linkage of 5 beneficiaries to producers (input supplier) of improved/certified planting materials for bio-fortified crops among others.

Enugu

- i. Capacity building for 30 women on dietary diversity;
- ii. World Breastfeeding Week celebration;
- iii. Availability of budgetary provision for the food systems implementation plan;
- iv. Expansion of the State Steering Committee on Food Systems Transformation;
- v. Establishment of smart school farms in all LGAs in 260 schools (two pilot integrated smart schools already functional);
- vi. Constitution of the State Steering Committee on Food Systems Transformation for Improved Nutrition; and
- vii. Availability of budgetary provision for the food systems implementation plan.

Imo

- i. Expansion of Technical Committee to include community based organisations (CBOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and CS-SUNN;
- ii. Harvest Plus and GAIN supported commercialization of bio-fortified crops and trained processors on processing of bio-fortified crops for universities, including Imo State University and Federal University of Technology Owerri, as well as the Imo State Agricultural Development Programme (ADP);
- iii. Provision of cassava stems and maize for farmers and most households in the state;

- iv. Institutionalization of school farm programme in all primary and secondary schools in the state;
- v. Formation of young farmers club in the rural communities;
- vi. Introduction of early maturing food crops in flood prone areas of the state;
- vii. Introduction of home-grown backyard farms among others.

Akwa Ibom

- i. Establishment of integrated farm (Songhai model) reactivation.
- ii. Youth for Agriculture and Food Security Initiative: This programme aims to empower young people by developing agro-processing facilities, adding value to agricultural produce, and creating employment opportunities.
- iii. Youth Engagement and Innovation for Sustainability: The state has organized events to engage youth in sustainable agricultural practices, fostering innovation and ensuring the longevity of food systems.
- iv. Agricultural extension services: Training programmes for agricultural extension workers and supervisors have been implemented to enhance their capacity in promoting sustainable farming practices.
- v. Agro-processing facilities: The state government is developing agro-processing facilities to add value to agricultural products, reduce post-harvest losses, and create jobs.
- vi. Food Systems Transformation Pathways: Akwa Ibom is aligning with Nigeria's national food systems transformation strategy, focusing on sustainable agriculture, improved nutrition, and climate resilience.
- vii. Integrated nutrition programmes: The state is implementing nutrition-sensitive programmes to address malnutrition and promote healthy diets among vulnerable populations.

Anambra

- i. Established and inaugurated a Steering Committee on Food Systems
- ii. Created budget line for food systems;
- iii. Capacity building training for youth on off-season farming and homestead garden;
- iv. Created access to finance for actors in food systems;

- v. Currently building a market hub in communities to create easy access to farm produce at affordable prices and also mitigate post-harvest losses;
- vi. Promoting and practicing school gardens; and
- vii. Healthy living programme pioneered by the First Lady promoting hygiene.

5.0 Challenges Identified

5.1 Federal Level

The presentations elicited the following comments and observations:

- i. MDAs should be specific about the number of beneficiaries, types of technical assistance required, specific timeline for achieving specific activities, specific budget and funding required;
- ii. There is a need to scale up development in rural areas to prevent open defecation;
- iii. The need for data in the activities carried out was emphasized;
- iv. The donor agencies involved in the activities of various MDAs should be listed;
- v. Sources of funding should be indicated by all MDAs;
- vi. The Ministry of Education should focus on components of the Food Systems other than food production;
- vii. Farmers should be taught how to develop parent seedlings locally rather than distribute inputs yearly which is unsustainable;
- viii. There should be collaboration between the public and private sectors in achieving food systems objectives, especially private food banks
- ix. The issue of incentives is very critical in luring the youths into farming;
- x. Activities done at the Federal level should be cascaded to the state level so that it can get to the grassroots;
- xi. Planned projects/programmes should be tied to government budgetary provision and not development partners alone;
- xii. There is a need for roles and responsibilities to be assigned to all stakeholders at both the federal and state levels for accountability purposes;
- xiii. Challenges should bring out capacities required in interventions needed at all levels; and

5.2 Zonal Level

5.2.1 North East and North West

The following observations and comments were made at the workshop to drive food systems transformation in the zones:

- i. It was observed that all the states in the region focused mainly on agriculture as the driver of Food Systems Transformation;
- ii. States must begin to take the issue of storage facilities serious to prevent post-harvest losses;
- iii. States must encourage climate smart agriculture especially for drought resistant crops;
- iv. States must strengthen value chains and agro-processing;
- v. States must improve nutrition in their respective states; and
- vi. Youths must be encouraged to go into farming and MDAs should leverage on innovations and technology.

The food systems actions challenges identified at the state level in each zone are stated:

Kano struggles with post-harvest losses and limited access to finance. However, the state governor's direct support and initiatives aim to address this challenge. The state has used its own resources and complements it with the support from partners to distribute agrochemical, farm inputs and combine harvesters to assist farmers, also there are ongoing talks to bolster capacity of youth farmers in the State.

Kaduna State is focused on creating an enabling environment for food systems transformation with strong government buy-in for policy implementation. The state faces challenges in linking production to processing and market, due to inadequate knowledge in modern farming techniques, but efforts are underway to enhance food processing and market linkages.

Kebbi State faced erosion, and the state government constructed 43 feeder roads in rural areas to link farmers to the nearby markets, 30,000 farmers benefited from multipurpose threshers and reapers. These efforts also aimed to strengthen cooperation among stakeholders and to improve synergies.

Katsina faces challenges especially in the communities that were displaced by banditry and kidnappings. The state is now making efforts to return them to their various communities and support them to revive their farms. The state also engages all stakeholders and partners for

support, focusing on sweet potato production and requiring intervention for orange flesh potatoes and biofortified crops.

Jigawa State emphasis is on promoting climate-resilient agriculture, pest control management system and climate information services to ensure sustainable food production, Challenges includes poor road infrastructure, and a lack of storage facilities and partner support. These gaps are being addressed through stakeholders' partnership engagement.

Sokoto State faces problems such as non-release of funds and lack of synergy among relevant stakeholders. To achieve food transformation in the state, insecurity should be tackled and the government must ensure adequate funding.

Zamfara State is also battling with banditry and kidnappings, environmental degradation and inadequate knowledge of modern farming. All these challenges require government intervention for solutions to achieve food transformation. The State procured and distributed assorted fertilizers to farmers and installed solar panel water pumps for irrigation. There was further provision of farm inputs and seeds.

Bauchi State is faced with inadequate technical skilled manpower at the MDAs, inadequate budgetary allocations and inadequate private Sector participation. To address some of these challenges, the State introduced Small Holder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP); established a National Agricultural Growth Scheme Agro-Pocket (NAGS-AP); purchase of 45 Nos 75Hp tractors; and establishment of a Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP-II) These initiatives aim at increasing productivity and access to markets of agro-products within the state.

Borno State is one of the most affected states in the North-East by Boko Haram militants. The state faces unique challenges due to prolonged insecurity and recent natural disaster of flooding and soil erosion. Despite these challenges, the state government sees an opportunity in the implementation of the Food Systems Transformation Pathways. The government started with the development of a long-term perspective strategic plan (25 years' development plan), anchored by the delivery support unit, termed as 'Short and Medium Sectors' Development Strategy' in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders. For food systems, the state embarked on mega farms, through farm input supply support; establishment of 20Ha solar powered irrigation scheme; resuscitation of 50 Ha Ngulayi (Mobbar) irrigation scheme with 90kw solar-powered water pump fully reticulated with pipe canals; provision of 500 tube wells, assorted seeds, and

agrochemicals to 1,000 dry season farmers; and resuscitation of the 5Ha fully automated green house at the industrial hub in partnership with North Star Agric Tech to address inflation trend of seasonal vegetables in dry, off-season periods.

Gombe State: The state is faced with climate change and environmental degradation and weak institutional capacity to implement food systems actions. For the Food Systems Pathways interventions, the state supports the establishment of home gardens; development of agricultural policy; agricultural empowerment packages to vulnerable households in 3 LGAs; Distribution of inputs to maize and sorghum farmers; tractors and extension services.

Taraba State: Just like other states in the North-East, the state is dealing with issues of insecurity, inadequate funding and inadequate modern farming equipment. However, the state government in collaboration with the development partners embarked on establishment of youth empowerment farm with 2,000 hectares for cultivation; procurement and distribution of assorted fertilizers to farmers at subsidized rate; procurement and distribution of 2,950 million (59,000 bundles) of cassava stems (TME 419) to farmers; Keying into Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ II); purchase and distribution of fishing gears and accessories; procurement and vaccination of 2000 bottles of anthrax spore vaccines.

Yobe State: The is one of the states in the North-East faced with Boko Haram insurgency, the state is also dealing with inadequate infrastructure, rising cost of fuel, and weak coordination. To address these issues, several actions have been implemented including procurement of 100 tractors; distribution of threshers, power tillers/mini plough machines; and installation of solar powered water pumps to improve irrigation farming and to boost agricultural production. In addition, 5 dams were constructed; 3 grazing reserves – one in each senatorial district – were created for livestock development; establishment of veterinary clinics in each LGAs; rehabilitation of Bambori diary facility to meet modern milk production standards; and the establishment of a grain reserve to ease hardship of food shortage.

5.2.2 North Central and South West

- i. Need to strengthen collaboration among ministries, with strong advocacy efforts led by the Ministry of Economic Planning
- ii. Little time was given to states presentations which is the primary reason for the meeting;
- iii. The presentations show lack of synergy among stakeholders within their State;

- iv. Activities of FSTP are grossly underreported;
- v. Succession plan to be put in place to ensure smooth continuity of FSTP in all states;
- vi. Budgetary provisions and releases of funds for FSTP must be ensured;
- vii. Different power point templates to be adopted for FSTP presentations in the States and zonal levels.
- viii. Need for more assistance from Federal Government, especially for school gardening
- ix. Need for improvement on the presentation from different states; for example the need for FCT to add pictorial evidence to their presentation
- x. How to identify the number of youths interested in agriculture and how to sustain their interests
- xi. Need to identify financial institutions where youths can access funds
- xii. How to make the youth involvement in farming apolitical
- xiii. Need to involve youths in all aspects of food systems to ensure sustainability
- xiv. Each state should include women and youths in food systems
- xv. The Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Transportation in each state should be involved in food systems
- xvi. Processing mechanisms should be included to avoid loss of food
- xvii. The activities of security agents on roads should be included in the challenges of food systems
- xviii. There should be coordination between all MDAs involved in food systems transformation
- xix. Each state should come up with their KPIs (key performance indices)
- xx. All relevant MDAs should have a nutrition department
- xxi. State Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning should provide budget for food systems in their states.

Osun State

Challenges Identified in Osun State's food systems transformation

- i. Limited support from international organizations and NGOs: There was insufficient engagement from international agencies and NGOs, reducing technical and financial support.

- ii. Inconsistent participation of the private sector: The private sector's involvement in agricultural projects was minimal, leading to a funding gap and lack of industry-driven solutions.
- iii. Delays in logistical arrangements during project execution: Challenges in coordinating stakeholders and mobilizing resources led to delays in project implementation.
- iv. Insufficient outreach to hard-to-reach communities: Some rural and remote communities had limited access to project benefits due to poor infrastructure and awareness gaps.
- v. Inadequate training for beneficiaries: Many farmers and project beneficiaries lacked training on how to effectively use distributed resources (e.g., fertilizers, seedlings, and equipment).

5.2.3 South South and South East

Akwa Ibom

- i. Struggles with insufficient support from development partners. However, ongoing discussions with these partners aim to bridge this gap. The state has established agencies specifically tasked with constructing rural roads, and there are ongoing talks to bolster capacity.

Cross River

- i. The state faces challenges in linking production to processing and market due to inadequate partner support, but efforts are underway to enhance food processing and market linkages.
- ii. Very few partners implementing food and nutrition interventions;
- iii. Poor coverage of existing programmes; and
- iv. Poor awareness of the Food Systems Transformation Agenda.

Anambra

- i. Deals with insecurity and erosion but sees an opportunity in strengthening cooperation among stakeholders to leverage synergies.

Delta

- i. Faces challenges from other committees, undermining the role of the food systems committee.
- ii. The state engages all stakeholders and partners for support, focusing on sweet potato production and requiring intervention for orange flesh potatoes and biofortified crops.

Imo

- i. Encounters inadequate capacity
- ii. Poor road infrastructure,
- iii. Lack of storage facilities, partner support, and irrigation practices. These gaps are being addressed through partner engagement.
- iv. Perceived fear of the Food Systems Transformation Committee usurping or taking over the responsibilities of the State Committee on Food and Nutrition is one of the major challenges being faced.

Abia State

- i. Non coverage of some parts of the state in intervention programmes thus resulting in inequitable distribution of food;
- ii. Most farmers still indulge in unsustainable production practices thus low productivity and causing land degradation;
- iii. Most of the farmers in the state are small-scale farmers and producers, they have limited access to markets due to lack of infrastructure, transportation, and storage facilities which limits their ability to earn a fair income from their crops;
- iv. Poor hygiene and sanitation practices in our homes, especially the rural poor, resulting in people getting sick every day from consumption of contaminated food;
- v. Due to the inability of the government to provide and subsidize agricultural inputs, the farmers suffer in the hands of input suppliers who either sell substandard products to them or sell at exorbitant prices, making it difficult for the farmers to make profit from their businesses; and
- vi. Unfavourable government policies may affect farmers/producers adversely, resulting in decreased food production and income.
- vii. Faces problems such as a lack of synergy among MDAs, particularly the Ministry of Education.

- viii. Continuous tillage, leading to soil degradation.
- ix. Moribund farm estates.
- x. The state's 2025 budget aims to revamp cocoa plantations and enhance coordination among MDAs. to restore productivity and sustainability.

Rivers State

- i. Dealing with a capacity gap and inadequate staff, which requires government buy-in for solutions.
- ii. Herders-farmers clashes and inter-community boundary disputes need urgent attention. Capacity building on local government autonomy and food systems transformation is essential, with states empowered to conduct these training sessions.
- iii. Environmental degradation necessitates remediation efforts, and the federal government should implement deliberate policies for land reclamation and environmental cleanup.
- iv. There's also a need to review ownership structures and address political instability to create a conducive environment for development.
- v. Lack of sustained advocacy to the government to increase funding and release funds for food and nutrition activities;
- vi. Lack of funding;
- vii. Lack of relevant policymakers due to retirement or redeployment;
- viii. Poor commitment by stakeholders;
- ix. Non availability of logistics for activities;
- x. Lack of manpower; and
- xi. Unclear roles and responsibilities among actors.

Enugu

- i. Insufficient partners supporting nutrition activities in the state;
- ii. Lack of Political will at all levels;
- iii. Inadequate funding from Government for Nutrition programmes;
- iv. Inadequate training and retraining of nutrition health workers; and
- v. Lack of project vehicles.

Akwa Ibom

- i. Inadequate support from development partners;
- ii. Inadequate infrastructure;

- iii. Limited access to quality farm input;
- iv. Limited access to credit; and
- v. Low productivity due to pests.

Anambra

- i. Insecurity; and
- ii. Unwillingness of the indigenes to embark on agriculture

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Federal Level

The following were the resolutions reached at the end of the review meeting:

- i. Technical Working Group members (TWG) should interface with each other;
- ii. Reported projects/programmes should be tied to budgetary provisions and not only development partners; this will also enable us to know the type of advocacy that may be required;
- iii. Focus on implementation of strategy with roles and responsibilities assigned to all stakeholders at both the federal and state levels for accountability purposes;
- iv. Challenges should bring out capacities required in interventions needed at all levels;
- v. Stimulation of the sub-national is key, while collaboration with the private sector is important;
- vi. To encourage Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and states to have a harmonized digital register, the process can be supported by development partners;
- vii. Strengthen advocacy efforts by engaging the Nigerian Governors' Forum to enable states to take ownership of the Food Systems Pathways;
- viii. Strengthen efforts on media engagement through media (e.g., NTA, Radio Nigeria);
- ix. Every government programme on food systems should include women, children, and people living with disability;
- x. Strengthen efforts on regulation and enforcement of standards and build the capacity of regulators;
- xi. There should be deliberate efforts to scale up the school and homestead gardens;

- xii. Strengthen the effort of FMAFS in collaboration with the National Security Adviser (NSA) to protect farmers;
- xiii. Strengthen accountability and transparency in utilized and unutilized funds;
- xiv. Provide infrastructure through public/private partnership; and
- xv. The government should provide subsidies in agriculture.
- xvi. Strengthen policy frameworks and ensure alignment with international commitments.
- xvii. Increase investment in food systems transformation, focusing on research, infrastructure, and capacity building.
- xviii. Foster stronger public-private partnerships to leverage resources and expertise.
- xix. Improve monitoring, evaluation, and data collection to track progress and identify gaps.

6.2 Zonal Level

6.2.1 North East & North West

- i. Advocacy should be made to state governments to provide budgetary allocation and timely release of funds for food systems;
- ii. Both print and electronic media should be used to provide adequate information to citizens of the States on Food System
- iii. Youths should be recognized as innovators, properly mentored, and integrated into the State Technical Working Committee on Food Systems Transformation to strengthen their capacity and overcome challenges;
- iv. Technical capacity building/training should be developed for states in the regions with similar comparative advantages;
- v. Capacity building initiatives for youth at local government areas should be incorporated in the states' action plan to integrate local farmers to modern practices of farming, fishing and agro-processing;
- vi. Adequate funding should be provided for data generation on food systems to enhance informed decision-making and policy formulation;
- vii. Leverage green bond initiatives to mitigate the impact of climate change on food systems;

- viii. States to encourage active participation of home-grown gardens and community farming;
- ix. Cooperative farming should be considered and promoted as a viable approach to food sustainability and access to finance.
- x. Chief Executives of concerned MDAs should demonstrate stronger political will and commitment to advancing the Food Systems Transformation agenda;
- xi. States should embrace solar water pump for sustainable irrigation; and
- xii. Institutional strengthening should be supported through the provision of technical assistance, infrastructure, and equipment, along with organizing training and workshops on sustainable agriculture through food systems transformation, and nutrition.

6.2.2 North Central and South West

To enhance the implementation of the Food Systems Transformation Pathway in North Central and Southwest Nigeria requires addressing several critical areas as follows:

- i. **Diversified Financial Sources:** Secure funding from a mix of public, private, and international sources to ensure sustainability. This includes leveraging donor support and private sector investments.
- ii. **Investment in Infrastructure:** Allocate funds to develop and maintain essential infrastructure such as roads, storage facilities, and processing plants to support the agricultural value chain.
- iii. **Inclusive Policy Development:** Involve all relevant stakeholders—including government agencies, farmers, private sector entities, and civil society organizations—in the policymaking process to ensure that policies are comprehensive and widely supported.
- iv. **Public-Private Partnerships:** Encourage collaborations between the public and private sectors to pool resources and expertise, fostering innovation and efficient service delivery.
- v. **Efficient Supply Chains:** Develop and implement efficient supply chain systems to reduce post-harvest losses and ensure timely delivery of inputs and products. This includes improving transportation networks and storage facilities.

- vi. **Market Access:** Enhance market linkages to connect farmers with consumers, ensuring fair prices and reducing intermediaries.
- vii. **Capacity Building:** Provide training programmes for farmers and stakeholders on sustainable agricultural practices, financial literacy, and the use of technology to improve productivity.
- viii. **Extension Services:** Strengthen agricultural extension services to disseminate knowledge and innovations effectively to rural communities.

Addressing these areas will create a more resilient and sustainable food systems in North Central and Southwest Nigeria, aligning with the broader goals of the Food Systems Transformation Pathway.

6.2.3 South East and South South

The following General recommendations were made at the workshop to drive food systems transformation in the South East and South South zones:

- i. Youths should be recognized as innovators, properly mentored, and integrated into the State Technical Working Committee on Food Systems Transformation to strengthen their capacity and overcome challenges;
- ii. Advocacy efforts should be enhanced across states to implement recommendations related to Food Systems Transformation effectively;
- iii. Technical capacity programmes should be developed for states in the South-South and South-East regions with similar comparative advantages;
- iv. Advocacy should be made to state governments to prioritize the allocation and timely release of funds for food systems coordination. At least 10% of states budget should be allocated to food systems to ensure adequate investment in this critical area;
- v. Capacity building initiatives for youth in the South-South region should incorporate integrated farming practices, combining fishing with farming;
- vi. Adequate funding should be provided for data generation on food systems to enhance decision-making and policy formulation;
- vii. Leverage green bond initiatives to mitigate the impact of climate change on food systems;

- viii. Strategies to ensure that students benefit from the produce of school gardens should be implemented across the states to encourage active participation;
- ix. Cooperative farming should be considered and promoted as a viable approach to food sustainability and access to finance.
- x. There is need for states to mobilize resources by incorporating private sector partners into the State Committee on Food and Nutrition (SCFN) to enhance collaboration and funding opportunities.
- xi. Presentation on the use of drones to deliver essential services should be made at the Nigeria Governors' Forum and the National Economic Council to secure buy-in and support for the initiative.
- xii. Chief Executives of concerned MDAs should demonstrate stronger political will and commitment to advancing the Food Systems Transformation Agenda;
- xiii. States yet to establish Food Systems Pathways Transformation Steering Committee, involving all necessary stakeholders should do so, and strengthen institutions for efficient performance while fostering collaboration and information sharing among states; and
- xiv. Institutional capacity strengthening should be supported through the provision of technical assistance, infrastructure, and equipment, along with organizing training and workshops on sustainable agriculture, food systems transformation, and nutrition. The capacity of state and local governments to lead food systems initiatives should be built.
- xv. Enhance state-LGA coordination to ensure effective implementation of food systems programmes.
- xvi. Engage communities in food systems planning and decision-making, with a focus on inclusive participation.
- xvii. Invest in local agricultural production, infrastructure (e.g., storage, transportation), and market access.

The state specific action plan for the zones are as follows

Cross-Rivers

- i. More partners are needed;
- ii. Expansion of programmes to increase coverage and create impactful transformation through proper coordination strengthening; and

- iii. Increase sensitization across food systems actors.

Rivers

- i. Sustain advocacy to increase funding and timely release of funds;
- ii. Institute a budget-tracking mechanism and establish a fixed schedule for fund disbursement;
- iii. Ensure transparency and accountability by forming an oversight committee to monitor the release and utilisation of funds;
- iv. Task sharing and task shifting;
- v. Develop a capacity-building programme and maintain a database of trained personnel to replace retiring or redeployed staff efficiently;
- vi. Stakeholders' engagement;
- vii. Public-private partnerships; and
- viii. Implementing targeted recruitment and training programmes for nutrition professionals among others.

Delta

Proper sensitization of stakeholders to understand and differentiate the coordinating responsibilities of the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning from responsibilities of implementation.

Enugu

- i. Need to attract more partners in the state
- ii. Provide political will and support
- iii. Adequate funding by the government for food and nutrition programmes
- iv. Training nutritionists and front health workers
- v. Provision of project vehicles

7.0 Plan for 2025

7.1 Federal level

The review meeting held at the federal level approved the draft action plan, next steps implementation, and coordination presented by a representative of GAIN. The tabular steps are indicated in Annex I, which shows the activities with a description and key actions/tasks needed, timelines, expected outcomes and resources required for the implementation of the activities. The status of the level of implementation of the activities were also presented.

7.2 Zonal Level

7.2.1 North East & North West

The state specific action plan zones are as follows:

Kebbi/Sokoto/Zamfara

- Train famers/ extension services officers on how to use solar water pumps;
- Create awareness about domestic roof water harvesting system and use of rain water; and
- Train extension service officers to provide technical assistance for establishing domestic roof water harvesting system

Adamawa/Gombe/Taraba

- Organize farmers into cooperatives groups for easy access to finance and input services, land clearing, etc.
- Create food/farmers market in the state for easy accessibility;
- Youth and women empowerment in small clusters for poultry production; and
- Scale up nutrition education and early warning systems.

Borno/Bauchi/Yobe

- Capacity building for the inaugurated members of the Local Government (LG) Committee on Food Systems;
- Follow-up on the creation of departments and budget lines dedicated to food systems;
- Carry out of survey and map farmers according to farm products e.g., rice, sorghum, vegetable, etc.

7.2.2 North Central and South West

- States that are yet to constitute Steering and Technical Committees for food systems transformation to do so before the end of 2024.
- Monitoring team from Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning to monitor and evaluate activities in states, and ground-truth reports from states.
- States will be graded according to their performances.
- All participants to return to their states with lessons learnt and take the FSTP more seriously.
- States are to work on the plans drawn at the review meeting for the next six months.
- States Committee for Food and Nutrition (SCFN) should be synchronized with the FSTP towards ensuring that the citizenry get nutritious food on their tables and with the continuous supply of such food being guaranteed.
- There is need to work on advocacy to leaders for necessary support for FSTP.
- There should be synergy between all MDAs involved in the Food Systems Transformation Pathways.

7.2.3 South East and South South

Anambra / Cross River:

- a. Capacity building for the Technical Working Group (TWG).
- b. Provision of agricultural inputs.
- c. Establishment of homestead gardens for women.
- d. Development of an agricultural database for the zone, driven by data collection from key stakeholders.
- e. Advocacy focused on youth involvement.

Rivers:

- a. Building the capacity of the recently inaugurated members of the Local Government Committee on Food and Nutrition.
- b. Tracking the establishment of departments and budget allocations within MDAs.
- c. Revitalizing and enhancing the productivity of the operations at Songhai Farms.
- d. Monitoring initiatives concerning nano, micro, small, and medium-scale enterprises (4 billion naira) BOI loan facilities related to the transformation of food systems.

- e. Consistent integration and expansion of the state steering committee to foster more collaborative efforts.
- f. High-level advocacy visits to policymakers for collaborative actions toward food systems transformation enhancement.

Delta

- a. Rapid cultivation of 10 hectares of biofortified cassava.
- b. Adaptation and cultivation of orange flesh sweet potatoes.
- c. Inauguration of the State Steering Committee on Food Systems Transformation and merging with the State Committee on Food and Nutrition (SCFN), comprising 70 members, under the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning.

Abia, Imo & Enugu

- a. Advocacy and implementation of school gardens in public and private schools, and mainstreaming nutrition education into the school curriculum for primary and secondary schools, overseen by the Ministry of Education and Agriculture.
- b. Revamping moribund agricultural estates such as the Ada Rice Farm Settlement in Enugu State, Ulonna Farm Settlement in Abia State, and Ada Palm Settlement in Imo State, under the Ministry of Agriculture.
- c. Training approximately 500-1,000 women and youths, depending on the state's capacity, on good agricultural practices (GAP), conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- d. Supporting farmers with agricultural inputs and assets such as battery cages, birds, fertilizers, and drugs, provided by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- e. Advocacy and inauguration of Local Government Committees on Food and Nutrition in Imo and Abia States, under the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning.

8.0 Conclusion

The meetings brought together stakeholders from government, partners, academia, and civil societies to review achievements, challenges, and gaps with lessons and resolutions made for renewed vigour to strengthen efforts at ensuring the transformation of food systems in Nigeria, with the need to scale up all the various activities to increase coverage.

Annex I: Next Steps for Implementation and Coordination

S/N	Activity	Description of activity	Key Actions/Tasks	Responsible Parties	Supporting Organization	Timeline	Expected Outcomes	Resources Needed	Status Current status
1	Stakeholder Consultation and Advocacy	Garnering support and building consensus on food systems transformation across MDAs	Identify/profile key MDAs and stakeholders implementing food systems-related activities for targeted advocacy, also at sub-national level	Task Team	FAO/IFAD/AGRA	December 2024	Comprehensive food systems stakeholders list, buy-in, and contributions to food systems transformation among relevant MDAs	Funding, Logistics	Ongoing
2	Advocacy for Strategy Approval	Advocacy efforts to push for the approval of the revised draft strategy document for national pathways to food systems transformation.	Engage with key policymakers, particularly the Hon. Minister of Budget and Planning	Task Team, GAIN, FAO, and other development partners	FMBEP/ SMBEP	July - December	Approval of the implementation strategy and enhanced policy support	Produce Copies of the Draft Strategy	Ongoing
3	Promoting/ Establishing School Gardens	Initiatives to promote and establish school gardens in primary and secondary schools across targeted states.	School debates on food systems transformation	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Ministry of Education, CAFS, Task Team	FAO	September	Increased awareness and participation in food systems among students	Prize for winners, Logistics, Input support	Ongoing

S/N	Activity	Description of activity	Key Actions/Tasks	Responsible Parties	Supporting Organization	Timeline	Expected Outcomes	Resources Needed	Status Current status
4	Youth in Food Systems Mapping Activity	Mapping activities to identify and engage youth in food systems across various regions.	Develop a survey tool to collect young people's data, analyse for possible linkage with state Working Group, capacity building, and support	Task Team, FMBEP, CAFS, Sahel Consulting	CAFS	August-November	Comprehensive database of youth in food systems and engagement strategies	Data Collection Tools	Ongoing
5	State Implementation and Zonal Coordination	Facilitate state-level and zonal coordination for the implementation of food systems state-level initiatives	Set up state steering committees	State Government, Zonal Coordinators, Task Team	GAIN, FAO, UNICEF, IFAD, AGRA, GIZ	September	Stepdown the TOR, follow up on progress against STM	Funding, Logistics, Input support	Ongoing
6	Capacity Building Workshops	To enhance the capacity of stakeholders for strategy implementation	Strengthen collaboration, skills, stimulate implementation	Task Team, FMBEP,	GIZ, GAIN, FAO, UNICEF, IFAD, AGRA	August-December	Review process, update from TWG	Funding, Logistics	Ongoing
7	Data Collection	To collect baseline data for monitoring and evaluation	Data collection Template, cleaning, collation & analysis, Report writing	Task Team	FMBEP/SMBEP, FAO	August-December	Baseline data established	Funding, Logistics, Input support	Ongoing
8	Communication and Outreach	To raise awareness about the food systems transformation	Engage stakeholders, building ownership and participatory action, communicate activities, showcase results and achievements	Task Team, FMIC	UNIC	August-December	Increased public awareness of food systems transformation	Jingles, Radio shows	Ongoing

S/N	Activity	Description of activity	Key Actions/Tasks	Responsible Parties	Supporting Organization	Timeline	Expected Outcomes	Resources Needed	Status Current status
9	Resource Mobilization	To secure funding and resources for implementation	Identify funding opportunities	Task Team, FMBEP	FMBEP, SMBEP, GIZ, GAIN, FAO, UNICEF, IFAD, AGRA	August-December	Secured funding and resources for selected priority initiatives	Funds to support implementation	Ongoing
10	Implementation Progress Review Workshop	To review, and discuss the progress of each state's activities in alignment with the Food Systems Transformation Strategy. The workshop will take place in three locations, covering the geopolitical zones: o Southwest & North Central: Ilorin o South-South & Southeast: Cross River o Northeast & Northwest: Kano	Organize review workshops at agreed locations in collaboration with state teams	Task Team, FMBEP	GIZ, GAIN, FAO, UNICEF, IFAD, AGRA	September & December	Alignment of state priorities with national framework	Funding, Logistics, Input support	Ongoing

S/N	Activity	Description of activity	Key Actions/Tasks	Responsible Parties	Supporting Organization	Timeline	Expected Outcomes	Resources Needed	Status Current status
11	Continuation of the Establishment of Farm Estates by State Government to Support Youth and Women, and Foster Engagements in Farming and Other Food Systems Activities Across Value Chains.	Identification of suitable and existing locations for farm estates	Identification of suitable and existing locations for farm estates. Development of infrastructure for existing farm estates. Provision of technical assistance and training to farmers. Facilitation of access to finance and markets.	FMEP, FMAFS, NALDA, Task team	FAO, AGRA	All year round	Increased number of new farm estates established in the target areas Improved agricultural productivity in the target areas due to the establishment of new farm estates Adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and new technologies in target areas. Increased employment opportunities and enhanced livelihoods for the local population.	Funding, Logistics, Input support	Ongoing
12	Dissemination of Weather Information Across the Country to be Able to Advise Farmers on When to Plant, and Crops that do well in Different Soil	Development of guideline for dissemination and sensitization of farmers association	Collate existing information to develop guidelines on livestock, aquaculture, and poultry management. Develop radio jingles & bulletin on the above. Train of farmers' associations & agriculture extension workers to	FMBeP, FME, FMITI; NAERLS; FMOAV; Private Sector	NiMet & FMOA&FS	All year round	Framework developed to reach farmers on weather & soil information; agriculture extension workers trained to support farmers; farmers empowered with weather information on planting season	Funding, logistics, input support	Ongoing

S/N	Activity	Description of activity	Key Actions/Tasks	Responsible Parties	Supporting Organization	Timeline	Expected Outcomes	Resources Needed	Status Current status
	Types; Share Information on how Best to Manage Livestock, Aquaculture, and Poultry, and Provide such Information to the General Public through Radio and Other Platforms for Better Planning of Agricultural Activities.		support farmers on dissemination of weather and soil information. M&E framework for prompt feedback & problem solving to farmers by agriculture extension officer				and seeds to use; livestock, aquaculture, and poultry farmers provided with necessary information; feedback mechanism created to respond to farmers need		
13	Quarterly Review Meeting	Meeting of stakeholders at National and Sub-national levels to review implementation, challenges, and gaps and make recommendations to strengthen food systems transformation	MDAs to make a presentation on programme of activities carried out during the reporting period and progress recorded	FMBEP, MDAs, Partners, Private sector, CSO, Academia	FMBEP, Partners	Quarterly	Feedback on programme implementation, lessons learnt with recommendations to address gaps observed	Funding & logistics support, data collection template, cleaning, collation & analysis, report writing, resource persons	Ongoing