

Country: Nigeria

Committee: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Agenda Item: Ensuring sustainable food production and distribution to accommodate the increasing world population.



Nigeria, or officially the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is a country located in the west of the African continent. The capital of the country is Abuja. The name of the country comes from the Niger River. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

FAO opened its office in Nigeria in 1978 and has therefore been operational for over 40 years in the country. Over 70 percent works in the agricultural sector. Nigeria agriculture to the economy because it farms. But despite the contribution to the economy, Nigeria's agricultural sector faces many challenges which impact on its productivity. These include; poor land tenure system, low level of irrigation farming, climate change and land degradation. These challenges have stifled agricultural productivity affecting the sector's contribution to the country's GDP as well as increased food imports due population rise hence declining levels of food sufficiency. The Government has implemented several initiatives and programmes to address the situation including the Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP), Nigeria–Africa Trade and Investment Promotion Programme, Presidential Economic Diversification Initiative, Economic and Export Promotion Incentives and the Zero Reject Initiative, Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+); Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP); Action Against Desertification (AAD) Programme, among others.

All these efforts aim to increase agricultural productivity in order to provide sufficient quantities of food to meet domestic demand as well as an abundance of commodity crops for export in the international market. Besides, they aim at reversing forest loss and degradation; promoting sustainable management of natural resources; rehabilitation of degraded lands and reducing erosion and climate vulnerable. As for the agricultural sector, despite the rapid development of the oil industry in the 1970s, agriculture accounts for 42 percent of the Gross

Domestic Product (GDP). 80% of the population lives on agriculture. When Nigeria gained its independence in 1960, it was a significant exporter of agricultural products, but today it is an importer of many products. In terms of climate, it has two seasons: "dry" and "rainy". The period from the end of October to May 15 is called the "dry season". It does not rain at all during this period. Crops are planted in mid-May. Harvest continues until December.