



Voices For Food Security

About VFS and Our Charter of Demands

Voices for Food Security (VFS) campaign

The *Voice for Food Security* (VFS) Campaign is a national lobby platform by an amalgamation of small-scale farmers' organizations, Civil Society Organizations and networks across Nigeria. Its major objective is to mobilize all stakeholders to work together to achieve food security for Nigeria.

The campaign is meant to empower small-scale farmers from being passive spectators, to demand right to consultation on government policies and programmes as well insists on service effectiveness in the agric sector as a way of ensuring value for money and overcoming the food insecurity. Campaigners are also seeking recognition for women the contributions of women on the farm, enabling legislation to protect the interest of small-scale farmers, enact, popularize and implement a Right to Food Act among others.

The VFS campaign is the first such initiative that is devoid of any imprint of the northern NGOs despite the huge support being given by Oxfam International and ActionAid within their respective frameworks of the Economic Justice and HungerFREE campaigns.

Why Campaign for Food Security

The campaign becomes imperative as another chapter in the efforts to pressure the Nigerian authorities to give appropriate support to agriculture particularly by focusing on small-scale farmers. As the world continues to reel in an economic recession, an important component of which is a food crisis, the question has been how to respond to this crisis. Despite abundant land resources, it is estimated that 53.6 million Nigerians go to bed hungry everyday. Reflecting its poor performance, Nigeria is ranked 154 on the UNDP Human Development Index behind South Africa (125) Ghana (142), and Kenya (144). Women form about 60-80 % of farmers, but get little assistance from government and have restricted access to land. Nigeria continues to import a lot of the food that its citizens can produce.

Our demands

Nigerian government

- Greater public investment in agriculture in favour of small scale farmers with the commitments in the 2003 AU Maputo Declaration of a minimum of 10% of national budgets for agriculture, as the irreducible minimum benchmark
- Sixty (60%) percent of the intervention facilities at federal and state levels be earmarked for SSFs as opposed to the current 20%.
- Marginalised groups – particularly women – should be given special consideration in any new agricultural policy and sustainable economic development. Given the central role of women in agricultural production in Nigeria
- Access to land rights should be secured for women farmers as a major step towards empowering them to lead the efforts to ensure food security.
- Government should set up a National Agency for Small-Scale Agricultural Development which should immediately undertake a national survey of small-scale agric, needs and capacity assessment of small-scale agriculture and design a national response strategy and development plan for small-scale agriculture.

International donors

- Live up to their commitments to poor African farmers in terms of investment and enabling policy framework, rather than one which forces liberalisation of local markets and support for large-scale agricultural projects instead of small-scale community farmers, which have undermined African agriculture.
- Greater investment and action to overcome climate change which is becoming one of the biggest long-term challenges facing Africa, with desertification and drought devastating many rural areas resulting in degradation of farm lands and impacting on small scale farmers.

Managed by:

ASSFON, CBD-NGO Forum, CISCOPE, FIF, NANTS, ActionAid PAP Partners, Activista

Supported by:

Oxfam International (Oxfam Novib and Oxfam GB-Economic Justice Campaign), and ActionAid Nigeria (HungerFREE Campaign)

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