

CHAPTER 7

- : THE LEGISLATIVE MASTERPLAN FOR AGRICULTURE AND VALUE-CHAIN
- : DEVELOPMENT IN THE SECTOR

Bills and relevant areas of intervention to boost agriculture employment and diversification of the economy:

- I. The Fertilizer Bill
- II. Commercial Agriculture Credit Guarantee Scheme
- III. The Food Security Bill
- VI. The Climate Change Bill
- V. Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Act Amendment bill

THE COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME BILL

The bill provides a regulatory framework for the agricultural credit fund which shall promote commercial agriculture in Nigeria, ensure credit support for production, storage and processing of target commodities, develop market and agricultural enterprise.

For the Senate, it is time to walk the talk. It is not acceptable that the contribution of formal lenders to credit availability to small farmers is put at 3% as opposed to 54% obtaining loans from Esusu Cooperatives. This scenario cannot lead to a virile agricultural sector on which diversification can be built on.

This bill therefore seeks to amend the existing act to provide the missing gap in the operation of the scheme which has

been in existence without really living up to its role as a key driver for credit and capital necessary for growth and development of the agriculture sector.

This objective of the bill is linked with the need for us to put in place the necessary legislative frameworks that will set the stage for our people to acquire agricultural loans for fishery, poultry, piggery, livestock rearing, and Agro-allied manufacturing and support services with ease and within terms that are not too difficult to meet. There is no gainsaying the fact that it will be untenable to expect our farmers to borrow at the commercial lending rates today and survival.

If we are sincerely intending that farming becomes a lucrative business venture in Nigeria we must be ready to provide real farmers loans at single digit. This bill seeks to enable us do this. Distinguished colleagues, invited guests, the idea of the great prospect of our economy through agriculture continues to dominate economic discussion in our country but not so much has happened to move it from its subsistence character into a commercial business from where the Nigerian economy could create millions of jobs. Without a doubt, this role of credit in making this a reality cannot be overemphasized.



THE NATIONAL FERTILIZER BILL

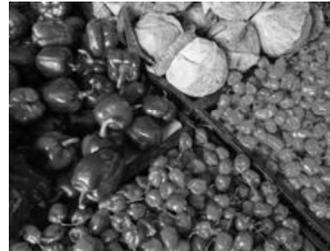
This Act repeals the National Fertilizer Board Act Cap N39 LFN 2004, The Fertilizer (Control) Act Cap F25 LFN 2004, and enacts The National Fertilizer Quality Control and Other Related Matters Act, 2014, to provide an improved regulatory framework for the manufacture, importation, sale and distribution of fertilizer in Nigeria.

This Bill prescribes the conditions for obtaining the necessary licences for the manufacture, importation or distribution of fertilizer in Nigeria. It would go a long way in curbing the menace of adulterated fertilizer. It would also afford some protection to farmers against fertilizer adulteration.

THE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY BILL

The Bill establishes the Food Security Agency to be charged with formulating strategies and implementation of policies towards food security and facilitating the realization of the right to food. The bill provides for every person's right to food, right to be free from hunger and to have adequate food of an acceptable quality.

The agency will, through State Food Security Committees, implement food distribution programmes and provide subsidy on food. It is the boldest move by the country to enunciate and practicalize freedom from hunger and the right to adequate food of acceptable quality.



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