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The Need to Cultivate Our Farmers' Futures

An Assessment of Nigeria's GESS Programme

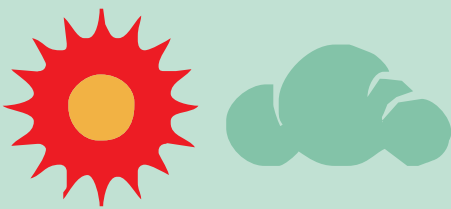




The Public Financing of Agriculture (PFA) project being implemented by ActionAid Nigeria aims to strengthen the capacity of farmer federations and women's organisations, enabling them to engage directly with government agencies and institutions for effective and efficient agriculture budget allocations and utilisation that favours smallholder women farmers.

The ratings and assessment in this booklet are informed by the smallholder farmers' community Scorecards of Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GESS) of the Federal And State government of Nigeria in seven states and Federal Capital Territory





Importance of Smallholder Farmers and Agriculture in Nigeria



90%

Of the nation's food is produced by smallholder farmers.

70%

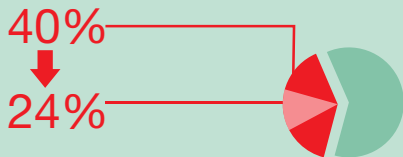


Of Nigeria's population are employed in the Agricultural sector.



60%

At least 60% of those employed in the Agricultural sector are women.



Agriculture used to be the largest single contributor to Nigeria's GDP at 40% but has dropped to 24% according to the 2010 rebased series.

6.5%

There is a 6.5% growth in the annual demand for food in Nigeria.



3.7%

Unfortunately, the 3.7% growth rate of food production cannot meet the prevailing 6.5% growth in demand for food in Nigeria.

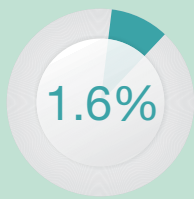
Federal Government's Commitment to the Maputo Declaration by Average Annual Budgetary Allocation to Agriculture (2011 -2015)

10%

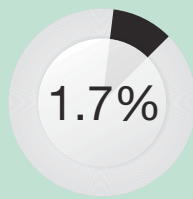
During the period under review, the Federal Government did not meet the target of 10% for budgetary allocation to Agriculture as set out by the Maputo declaration. The maximum allocation to Agriculture by the Federal government was 1.9% in 2011 fiscal year.



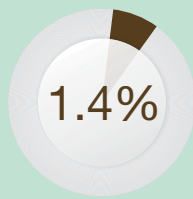
2011



2012



2013

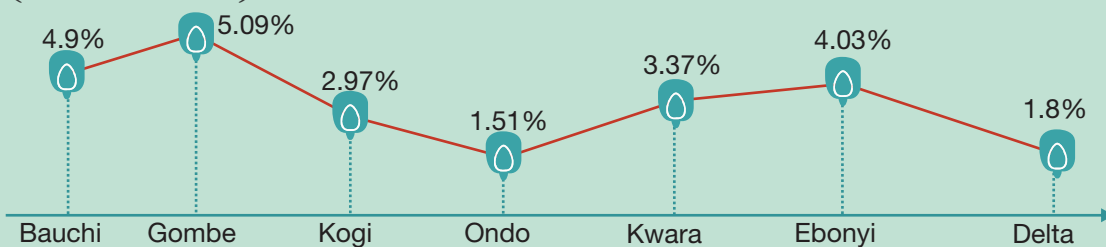


2014



2015

State Government's commitment to the Maputo Declaration by Average Annual Budgetary Allocation to Agriculture (2012 -2014)



10%

No State government met the 10% target set in the Maputo declaration during the period under review.

5.6%

is the maximum budgetary allocation any State Government made to Agriculture in any year between 2012 and 2014. The highest average budgetary allocation to Agriculture was made by Gombe State at 5.09%





One of the key drivers of producing this report is the disconnect between the more than N100 billion allocated towards the purchase of fertilisers within the last 3 decades (1977-2010) by Nigerian governments and the lack of benefit to smallholder farmers.

89%

of subsidised fertilisers never got to farmers between 1977-2010

11%

of fertilisers got to farmers

Despite this huge amount spent on fertilisers, preliminary reports indicate that only 11% of subsidised fertilisers purchased actually got to farmers.

GESS Programme

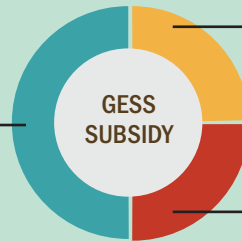
Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GESS) is a programme of the Federal and State governments, designed to ensure that subsidised fertiliser and seeds get to the actual smallholder farmers, rather than providing a general subsidy to all farmers.

Subsidy provided under the Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GESS) is collaboratively funded by the Federal and State governments while the smallholder farmers are required to pay the balance for the agricultural inputs like fertilisers, seeds/cuttings etc.



50%

Farmers pay only 50% for agricultural inputs as a result of the subsidy



25%

Federal Government subsidises 25% of costs

25%

State governments subsidises the balance 25% of costs.



Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GESS) utilises the Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM) for farmers to redeem their subsidised Agricultural inputs.



GESS Objectives

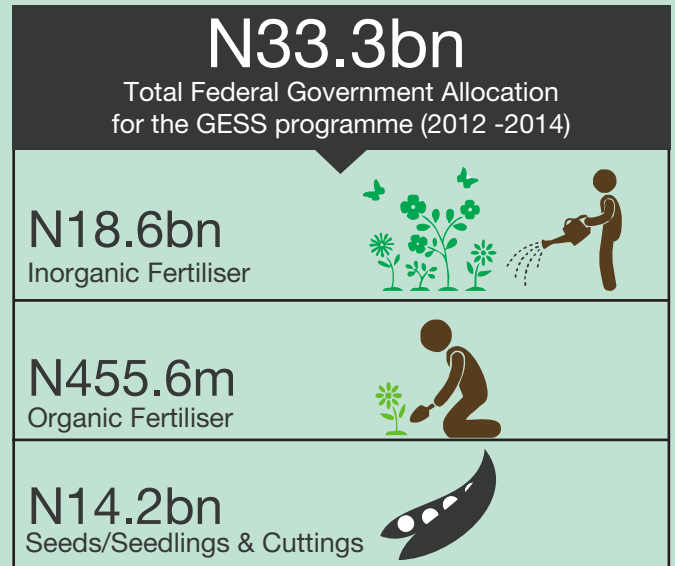
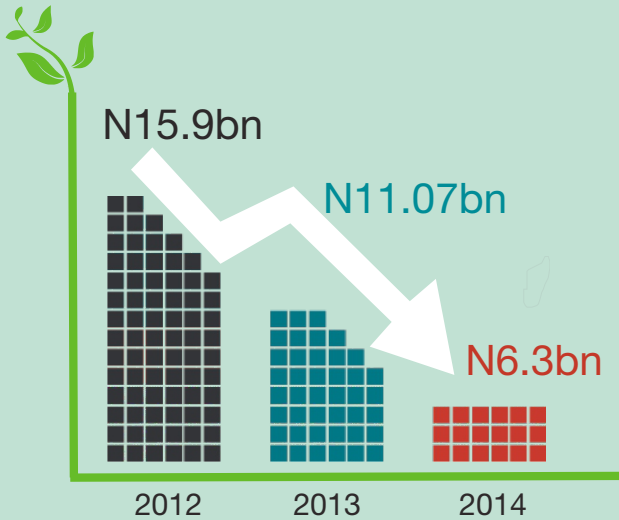
1. Reach 5m Resource-constrained Smallholder Farmers Annually with Extension Services
2. Provide 20million Farmers with 4 Bags (50 Kg each) of Fertilisers by 2015
3. Encourage Organic and Inorganic Fertiliser Usage Among Smallholder Farmers
4. Increase the Average Household Income of a Farmer from N50,000 to N116,500 P.A.
5. Improve the National Yield on Tubers and Cereals by an Incremental 600,000 Metric Tons



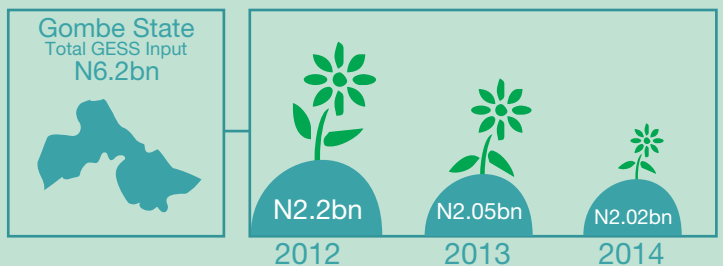
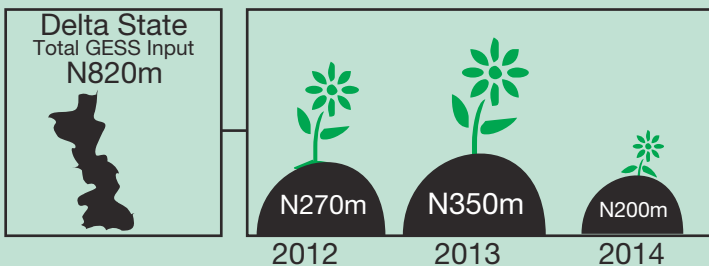
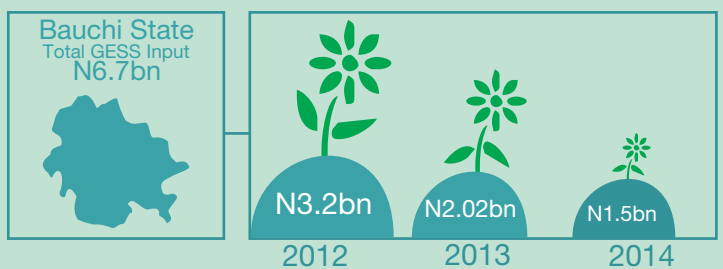
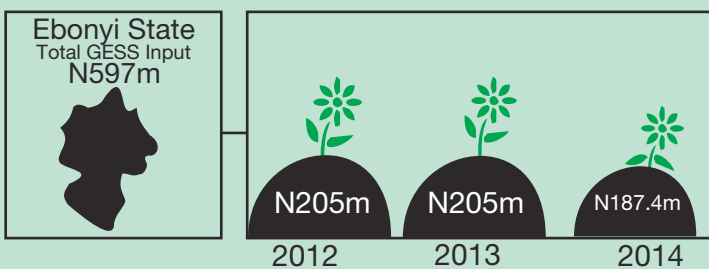


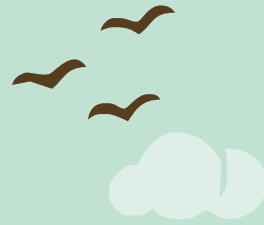
Federal Government Allocation Breakdown for the GESS Programme

The Federal Government allocation for the GESS programme saw a steady decline from N15.9 billion in 2012 to N11.07 billion in 2013 and finally N6.3 billion in 2014

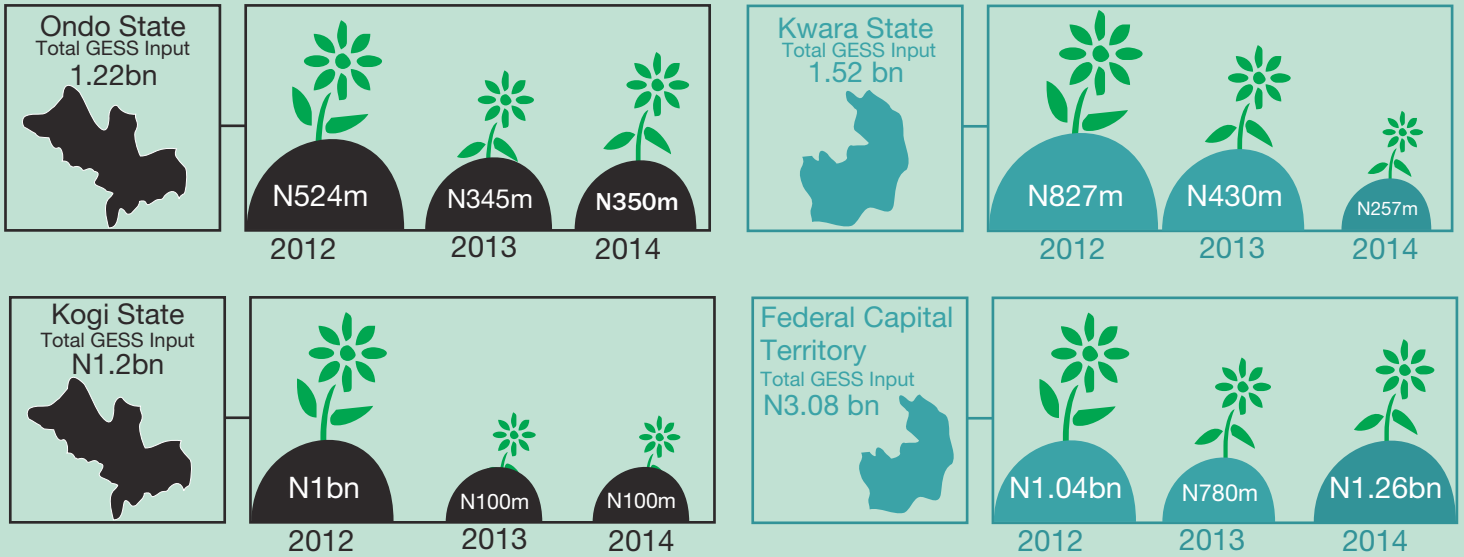


State Allocation for the GESS Programme across 7 States and the Federal Capital Territory (2012-2014)

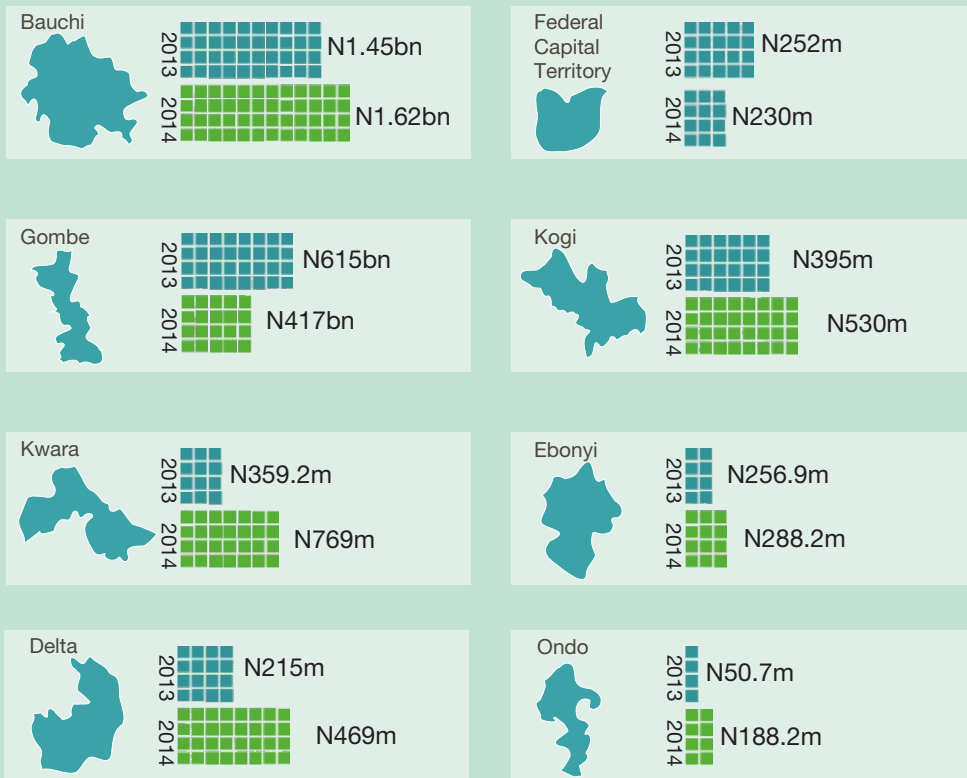




State Allocation for the GESS Programme across 7 States and the Federal Capital Territory (2012-2014)



Amount Spent on Agric-Input (Fertiliser Procurement) in 2014 Compared to 2013



Notes

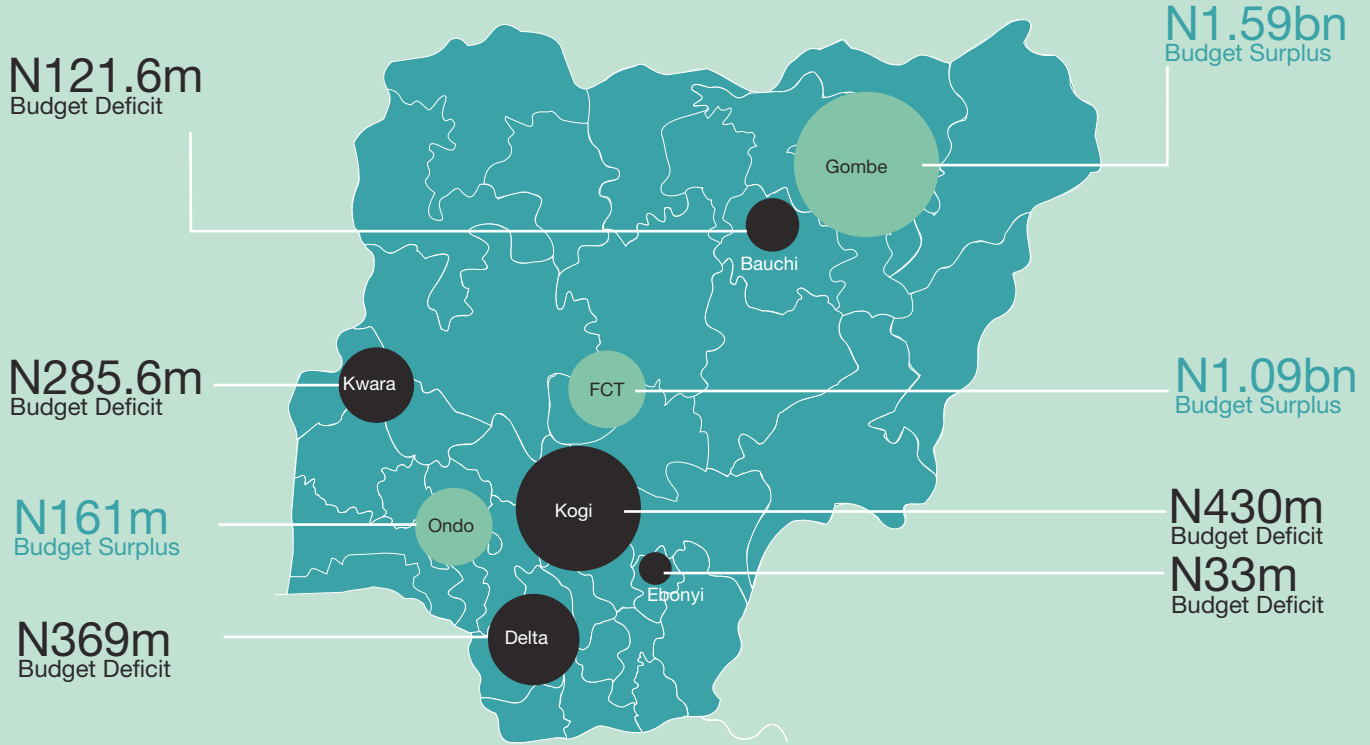
Bauchi state consistently spent the highest amount on subsidising fertiliser procurement in 2013 and again in 2014.

Although Ondo state had the lowest amount of allocation for subsidising fertiliser purchase, it showed the most remarkable improvement from N50.7 million spent in 2013 to N188.2 million in 2014; a 73.05% increase in its expenditure.

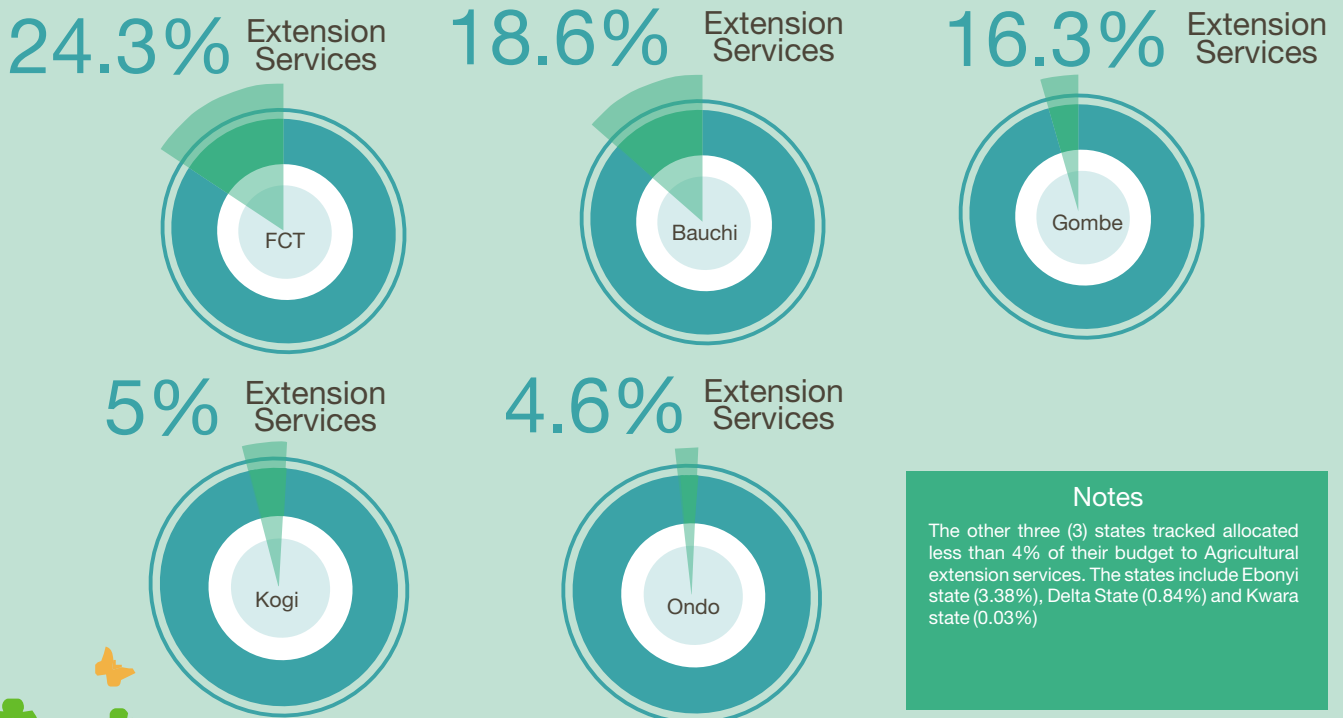




Amount Allocated vs Actual Amount Spent on Fertilisers



Percentage of Agriculture Budget Spent on Extension Services in 2014

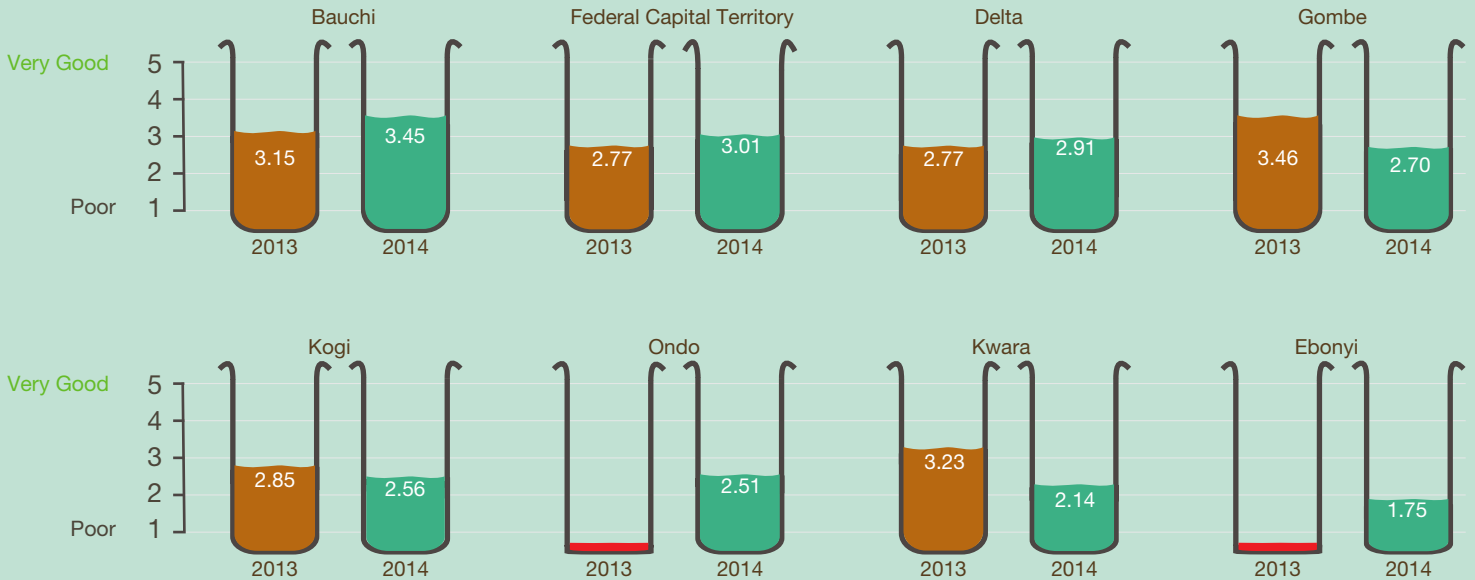


Notes
The other three (3) states tracked allocated less than 4% of their budget to Agricultural extension services. The states include Ebonyi state (3.38%), Delta State (0.84%) and Kwara state (0.03%)

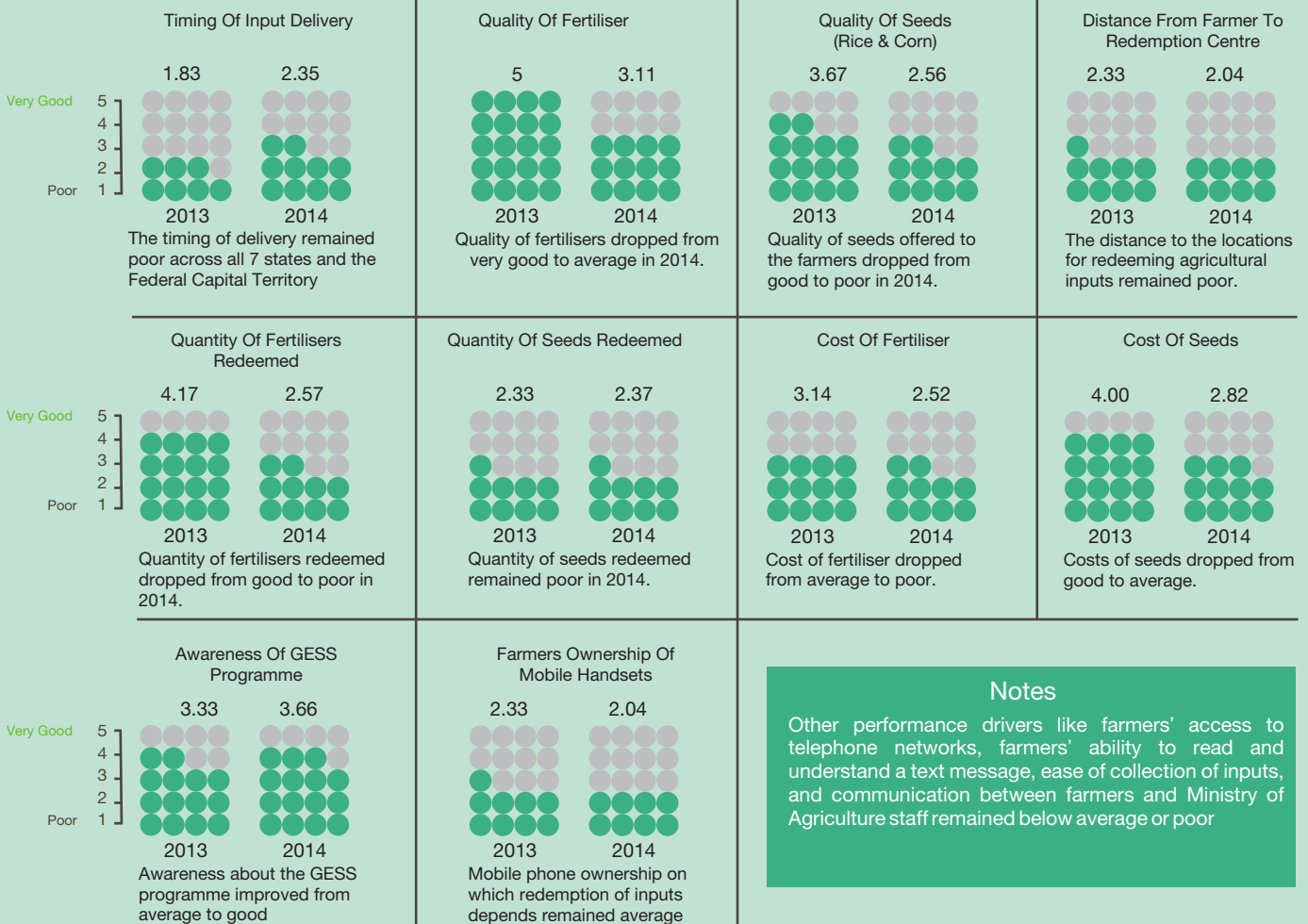




Community Scorecards of the GESS Programme from the Perspective of Smallholder Farmers by State

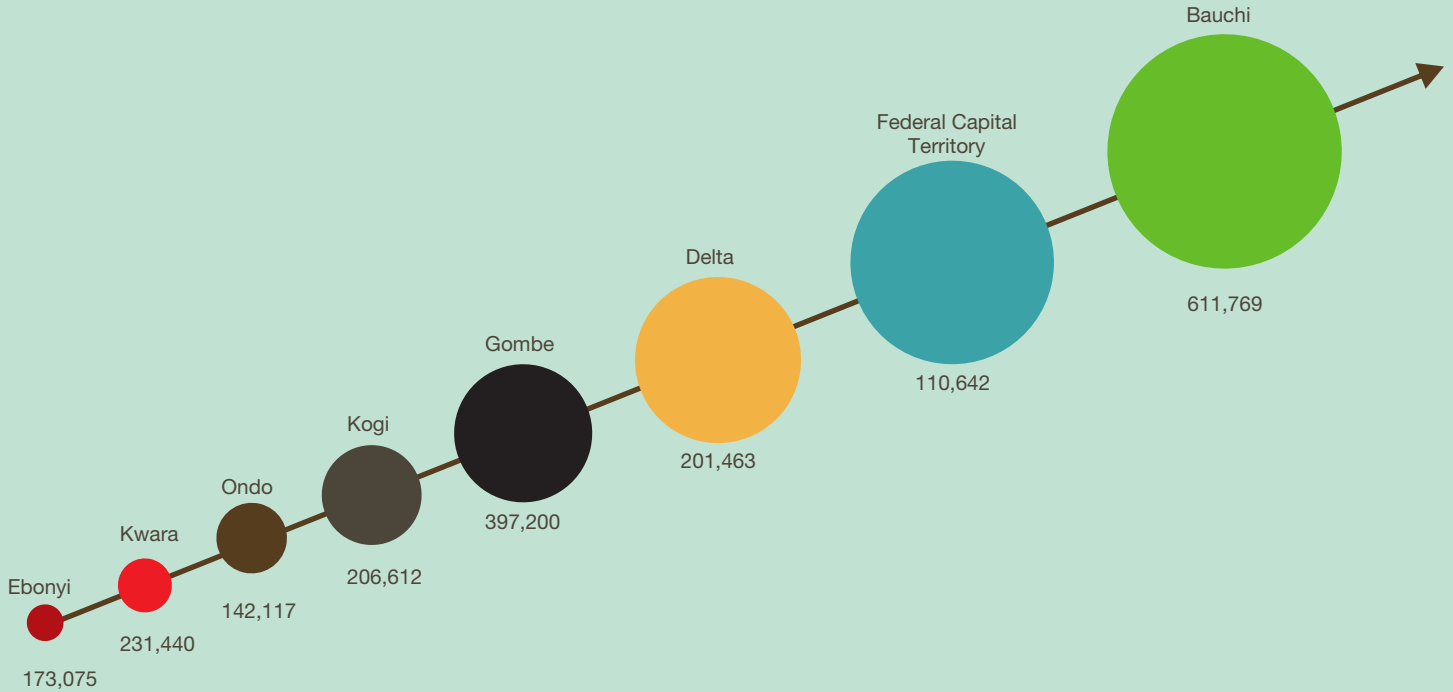


Key Performance Drivers of the GESS Programme as Rated by Smallholder Farmers

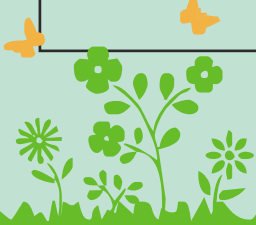
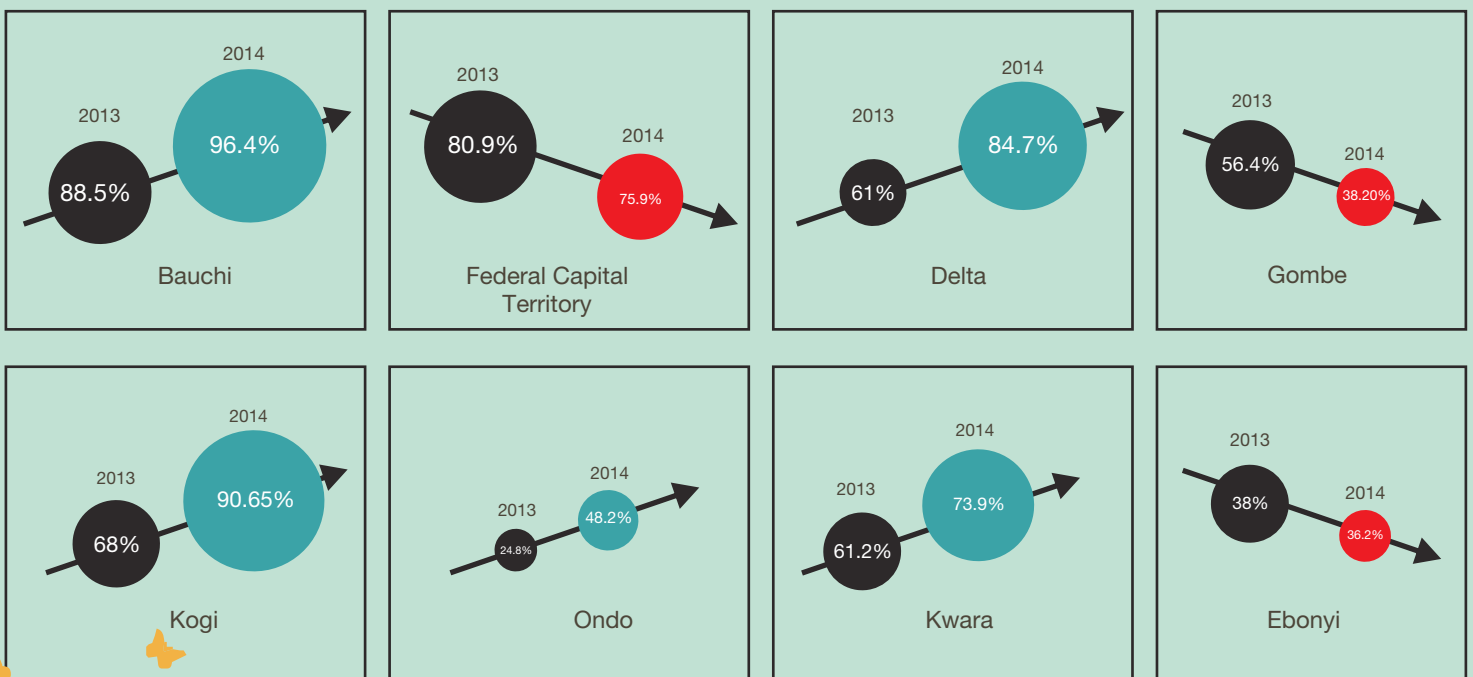




Number of Registered Smallholder Farmers Under the GESS Programme for each State in 2014



Percentage of Registered Farmers that Benefitted from the GESS Programme in States





Did the GESS Programme Meet its Objectives?



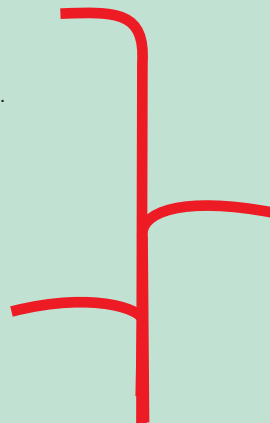
Reach 5m Resource Constrained Smallholder Farmers Annually with Extension Services

For both 2013 and 2014, this objective was not met.



Encourage Organic and Inorganic Fertiliser Usage Among Smallholder Farmers

Though more smallholder farmers are aware of the importance of using fertilisers, the process of disseminating information to them still needs improvement.



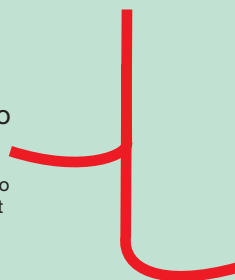
Provide 20million Farmers with 4 Bags (50 Kg Each) Of Fertilisers by 2015

It is highly unlikely that 20million farmers were reached. However, from complaints from the farmers, they clearly did not receive up to 4 bags of fertilisers.



Increase the Average Household Income Of a Farmer from N50,000 to N116,500 P.A.

From complaints about not having enough money to purchase resources needed, it is highly unlikely that this objective was met.



Improve the National Yield on Tubers and Cereals by An Incremental 600,000 Metric Tons

As with all other objectives, it is also unlikely that this objective was fully met.

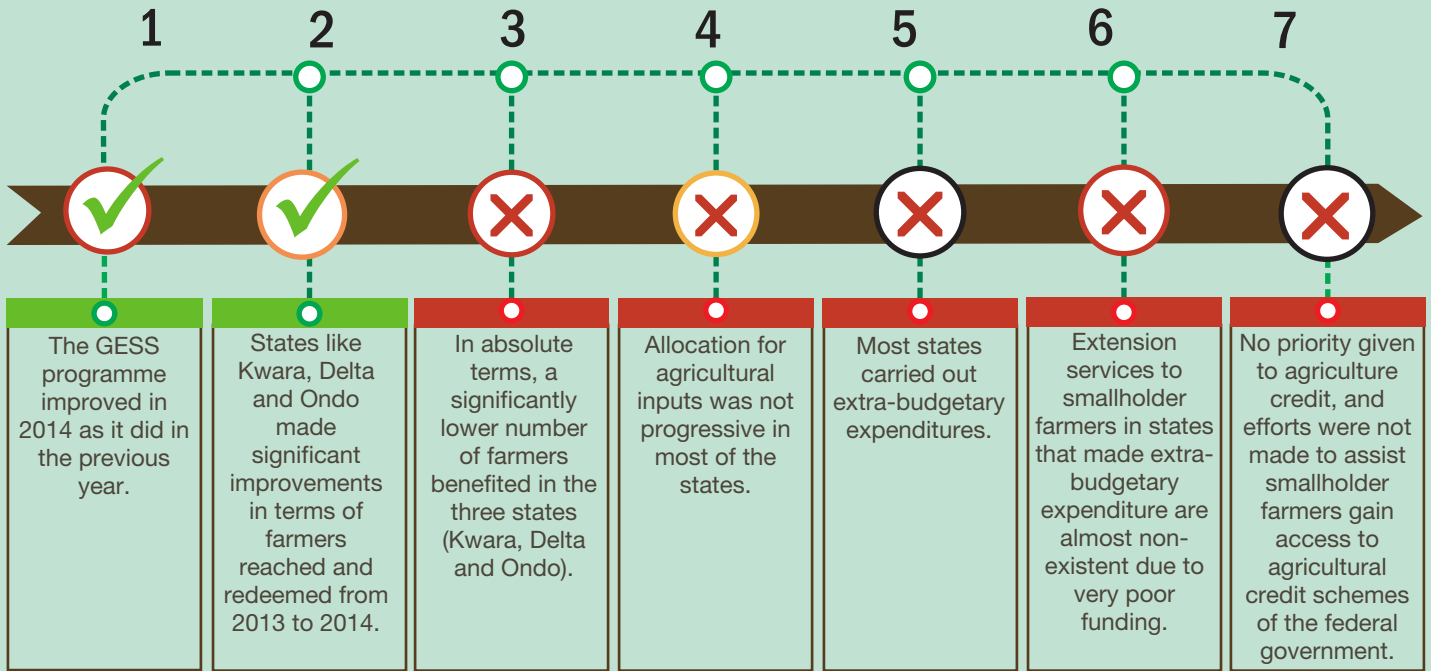
Notes

To deal with the challenge of network the Federal Government successfully piloted a Token Administration Platform (TAP) in Sokoto State and the Federal Capital Territory in 2014 with 500,000 farmers. TAP is a technology that enables farmers whether online or offline to be able to redeem their inputs. However, TAP is yet to be scaled up to other states of the federation. Also, 80 one-stop shop agro-input centres were constructed in 2010 and 2011 in various parts of the country at the local government level. The aim of the centres was to ensure quality of inputs, easy access, affordability, improved farm practices, and for them to be managed by private operators. Unfortunately, most of these centres are moribund or performing way below capacity after six years of their establishment, all because of none involvement of critical stakeholders, poor or lack of infrastructure, poor visibility and awareness creation.

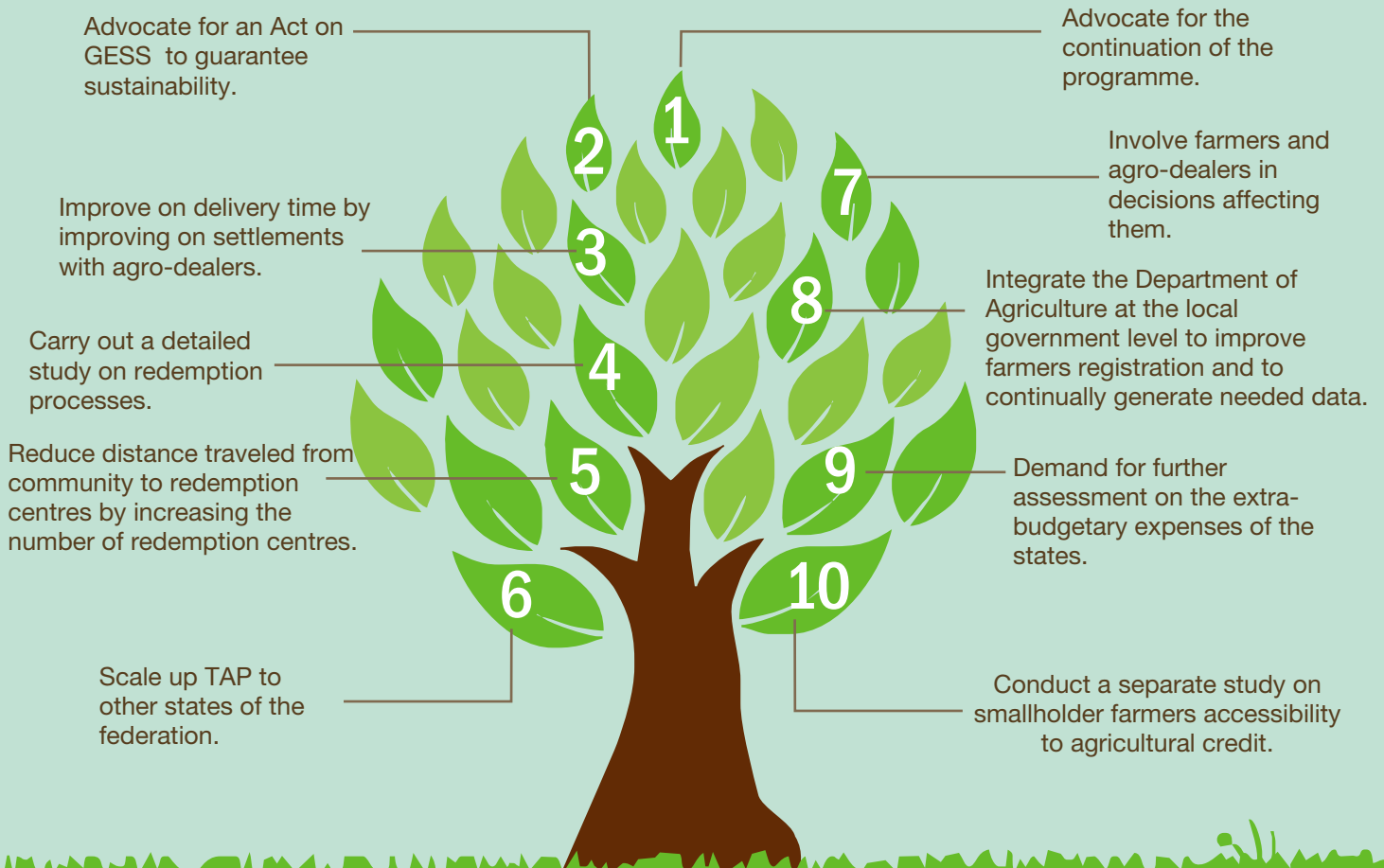




Conclusions




Recommendations






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