



National Alliance Against Hunger in Nigeria

1) What went wrong in your country which prevented the most vulnerable and the poor to improve their access to safe and healthy food?

We have critically examined Nigeria's country strategy and pro-poor policies and have found out that in Nigeria, a comprehensive strategy was adopted to achieve the set targets, with the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President coordinating the strategy. Virtually all the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in the country have adopted the MDGs document with a view to help in realising its objectives.

However, with only 6 years left, there is a lot of concern over whether the Millennium Development Goals will be met by the target year of 2015. Among people that have expressed this concern is Dr Otive Igbuzor, who - in a Publication in Nigeria Daily Trust dated Monday 15th December 2008 - said that "Budget has a great potential to bring about changes in the life of the people if the process and the content of the budget meets the wishes of the people". Closely related to this concern is the comment further made by Dr Otive that "the attainment of vision 2020 is unlikely", the reason being if the target set by Government in next twelve years is not "met by GDP growth rate 13-15% annually".



Over the years Nigeria's inability to attain the desired Food Security can be attributed to dearth of farm power. With the present low tractor density (About 30,000 Units of Tractors and Implements)¹ it is impossible to mechanise farm operations on the available 79 Million hectares of fertile Agricultural land in Nigeria. It is against this background that Federal Government of Nigeria approved the purchase of 10,000 units of Tractors for Nigeria. The major constraint faced by Nigeria Farmers is the difficulty in acquiring these tractors because of the high cost.

The above situation has been largely responsible for preventing the most vulnerable and the poor to improve their access to safe and healthy food.

2) Did you see any improvement in addressing hunger and malnutrition problems since the High level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy held last June at FAO headquarters, Rome?

Nigeria has adopted the declaration made at the High-Level conference World Food Security. This has been put forward by the 7-Point Agenda of Nigeria's President Musa Umar Yaradua with overall objectives to:

1. Significantly improve Nigeria's Agricultural Productivity.
2. Expand and Improve Large Scale Production Improve/Storage and Processing.
3. Deliver over 50% of the Nations Foreign Exchange through Agricultural exports.

Contact: Mr. Raymond Enoch, e-mail: ceednigeria@yahoo.com and/or Mr. Otive Igbuzor, e-mail: Otive.Igbuzor@actionaid.org

¹ Source: Nigeria's Leadership News Papers Wednesday 24th December 2008