



FEED THE FUTURE NIGERIA AGRICULTURAL POLICY PROJECT

Quarterly Report

First Quarter – October 1- December 31, 2015

Submission Date: January 31, 2016

Revised in response to USAID/Nigeria comments: April 15, 2016

Associate Cooperative Agreement Number: AID-620-LA-15-00001

Activity Start Date and End Date: July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020

AOR Name: Xavier Preciado

Submitted by: Dr. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie, Principal Investigator

Michigan State University

Morrill Hall of Agriculture

446 W Circle Dr Room 211b

East Lansing MI 48824 US

Tel: 517-432-5418

1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

Program Name:	Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project
Activity Start Date And End Date:	July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2020
Name of Prime Implementing Partner:	Michigan State University
[Contract/Agreement] Number:	AID-620-LA-15-00001
Name of Subcontractors/Subawardees:	International Food Policy Research Institute
Major Counterpart Organizations	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Geographic Coverage (cities and or countries)	Nigeria
Reporting Period:	October 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015

1.1 Program Description/Introduction

USAID’s Feed the Future activities facilitate the attainment of the goals under the Nigerian Agriculture Transformation Agenda (ATA) (or other agenda for agriculture expressed by the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN). In order to achieve the outcomes outlined in these strategies there is a need for the FGN, Nigerian institutions, and other key stakeholders in the policy process to:

- Strengthen Information and Knowledge Management Systems: Generate adequate data to inform policy dialogue, formulation and implementation. As research generates knowledge which is necessary for policy formulation, the challenge is for national institutions to determine and develop organizational practices, principles, and approaches on how knowledge can be created, harnessed, shared, tracked, and distributed among government agencies, research communities, and the public.
- Identify and fill key knowledge gaps: Nigeria’s agriculture is predominantly a smallholder activity and therefore suffers from many constraints such as limited use of improved technologies for production, processing, storage, and transportation. These constraints are exacerbated and compounded in the Nigerian context by the extensive ecological diversity, which generates substantial knowledge gaps in production processes and marketing outlets.
- Strengthen strategic planning through promoting participation: A planning process requires the formulation of strategies, which involve a time-bound prioritization and selectivity, with the participation of all stakeholders. Stakeholders in Nigerian agriculture have expressed frustration with the lack of adequate consultation on the process determining what is to be done and in the making of strategic choices.
- Build networks: Investigate options for creating linkages among key stakeholders. A multi-disciplinary approach is necessary to address the production, processing and marketing constraints.

The project is implemented by Michigan State University (MSU) in partnership with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The Associate Cooperative Agreement between USAID/Nigeria and

MSU is a five year project running from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020. The budget over the life of the project is US\$ 12.5 million.

The major expected outcomes of the project, categorized by objective, are:

1. Strengthened national capacity for greater evidence based policy processes in agriculture exhibited by increased capacity of Nigerian analysts to undertake and make widely available relevant evidence-based policy analysis.
2. An informed policy dialogue promoted and fostered among all stakeholders in the agricultural sector by means of an inclusive, transparent, and sustainable process at the country level, building blocks for a well-integrated and developed national policy system.
3. Improved federal and state governments' ability to plan and implement effective policy analyses and programs, as well as improved demand to absorb policy research in their policy process.

This progress report summarizes the key activities undertaken by the Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project for the first quarter of fiscal year 2016.

1.2 Summary of Results to Date

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2015	Annual Target	Q1 Oct- Dec	Annual Performance Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target Y/N
1) Number of policy research and best practice papers generated.	0	7	0	0.0	Y
2) Number of stakeholder learning forums (national or global) held where findings/best practices are presented.	0	10	2	20.0	Y
3) Number of participants attending project organized events.	0	200	83	41.5	Y
4) Number of formal, informal or ad hoc meetings held with key government or private sector partners where project outputs and findings are discussed.	0	60	12	20	Y
5) Number of agricultural and nutritional enabling environment policies completing the following processes/steps of development as a result of USG assistance in each case: 1. Analysis 2. Stakeholder consult/public debate 3. Drafting or revision 4. Approval (legislative or regulatory) 5. Full and effective implementation	0	7	0	0.0	Y
6) Number of collaborative research teams involving local partners formed and undertaking policy research and analysis.	0	10	4	40.0	Y
7) Number of technical training courses offered to build technical skills and capacity for policy analysis.	0	16	1	6.3	Y
8) Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term technical training in agricultural sector productivity or food security policy analysis training. FTF 4.5.2(7)	0	100	42	42.0	Y
9) Number of individuals who have received USG supported long-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training FTF 4.5.2(6)	0	0	0	0	Y
10) Number of Nigerian graduate students who have received support for skill enhancement training in the US through the project.	0	3	0	0.0	Y
11) Number of organizations/entities assisted to participate in various roundtable and stakeholder meetings, seminars and conferences focused on agricultural policy issues.	0	10	0	0.0	Y

*Note: The Results Performance Column depicts level of achievement expressed as a percentage of Actual versus Planned.
/a The M.E.P. for the project was submitted to USAID Nigeria on October 27, 2015 so were not finalized within this quarter.*

2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

2.1 Progress Narrative

This brief narrative (1 or 2 pages) should highlight key achievements and whether the program is on/off

This narrative will highlight progress made on the Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project Year 1 work plan which was approved by USAID/Nigeria on November 2, 2015. The work plan is broken down into three main components: 1) A Strategy for Enhancing National Agriculture and Food Security Capacity; 2) Policy Driven Collaborative Research and Analysis; and 3) Strengthening evidence-based policy process and promoting impact.

Component 1) A Strategy for Enhancing National Agriculture and Food Security Capacity

Formulation and Operation of the National Advisory Committee

In order to facilitate further the involvement of key national stakeholders in the decision-making process as well as the implementation process for the project, a National Advisory Committee (NAC) will be created (and in line with the revised proposal submitted to USAID-Nigeria on April 29, 2015). The central goal of the NAC would be to provide strategic guidance and advice on program activities, including in particular research priorities for each year of the project, towards achieving the overall goal of strengthening the national capacity for evidence-based agricultural policy process in the country. It is envisioned that the NAC will meet formally at least once a year to review progress of various aspects of the project and provide further advice and guidance where appropriate. Having said that, the Management Team fully understands that engaging properly the Advisory Committee in the implementation process is crucial for successful implementation and thus we are committed to make a huge effort in that direction by having regular consultations with NAC members during the life of the program and not only during the formal meeting of the NAC at least once a year.

During this quarter, the management team prepared a note with the ToR for the NAC which was subsequently submitted to USAID/Nigeria for feedback and comments on November 18, 2015.

Following the receipt of initial feedback from USAID/Nigeria on the draft ToR for the NAC on November 25, 2015 the project management team revised the note and re-submitted to USAID/Nigeria along with detailed comments on Dec. 4, 2015. Once the project management team receives the final approval of USAID/Nigeria of the revised ToR and comments submitted, they will contact the proposed members of the Committee to join the NAC in the next quarter.

Dissemination/Outreach

Initial planning for the Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project launch event began this quarter with a target date to hold the event on January 26, 2016. These plans were postponed in November 2015 at the request of USAID/Nigeria as they expressed interest in signing an MOU between the United States Government and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development at this event. The procedure for the preparation of the MOU and the protocol for the United States Ambassador to be in attendance would take approximately 3 weeks after the United States Ambassador was to meet with the Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, which is tentatively planned for early-January 2016. As a result, the Project's launch event has been postponed until a date is scheduled by USAID/Nigeria. A draft agenda for the planned launch event was shared with USAID/Nigeria on

December 14, 2015 with a follow up meeting at USAID/Nigeria HQs (with skype participation by team members at MSU) on December 16th.

Component 2) Policy Driven Collaborative Research and Analysis

Formalizing Institutional Partnerships

Dr. Mavrotas from IFPRI had further discussions with faculty members of ABU (during the visit to ABU in November 2015 for the seminar and training course organized there) regarding the process to follow for the planned signing agreement between IFPRI and Ahmadu Bello University in 2016, taking of course into account feedback and advice to be received from USAID/Nigeria on this in 2016 (and in view of USAID/Nigeria's advice in December 2015 that MoUs will not be signed between the project and stakeholders and that once the launch takes place and the official MOU between the US Government and FMARD is signed, the team can develop implementation agreements between the project and stakeholders if needed).

University of Ibadan:

In November 2005, MSU and University of Ibadan presented its executed memorandum of understanding to the University Community. The MOU strengthens the framework under which the MSU conducts policy driven collaborative research and analysis with Faculty and Students of University of Ibadan. It will support implementation of the MOU envisaged between the US Government and the FMARD. 55 Persons attended the presentation; The Acting Vice Chancellor (substantive Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academics) of the University of Ibadan led 51 other persons comprising some Principal Officers (Bursar, Librarian and Registrar), Faculty and Students of the University of Ibadan. Attending on behalf of MSU were Prof. Duncan Boughton, Dr. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie and Dr. Oyinkan Tasie.

Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology/Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture:

In November 2015, Prof Duncan Boughton and Dr. Oyinkan Tasie, visited the Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology (OYSCATECH) to further interact with Senior Management (led by Prof. G Adewale – Provost OYSCATECH), Faculty and Students of the College. Initial discussions with OYSCATECH were facilitated by the Oyo State Government through its Ministry of Agriculture. The OYSCATECH is a tertiary institution established and primarily funded by the Oyo State Government though largely regulated by the Federal Government through the National Board for Technical Education. Salaries and fringe benefits of Faculty and Staff of the College are covered through funding from the State Government. Further, infrastructural development, equipment and teaching aids for the college are also dependent on funding received from the Oyo State Government. The Oyo State Government has a strong focus on enhancing agricultural productivity of the state and has given the College full mandate complement its drive towards this initiative. The College has over 2000 students and graduates about 700 students annually – approximately 660 obtaining Ordinary National Diploma's (OND) & 40 Higher National Diploma's (HND). However, as acknowledged by the Permanent Secretary of the Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture, and reiterated during interactions with Faculty, Staff and Students of the College, there is a strong demand for capacity building. This is important given that the State Government is increasingly dependent on the College to contribute to enhancing its agricultural policy considered necessary to address issues of unemployment, poverty and food security. Hence MSU seeks to establish a formal partnership through which capacity at the college could be enhanced for the benefit of the State, particularly that of the Ministry of Agriculture. Thus in the future, the Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project team will work to interact more with staff of the college of agriculture and possibly organize trainings at that institution as well.

Policy Driven Collaborative Research and Analysis

Climate Change and Agricultural Resilience in Nigeria

A research team composed of two MSU faculty (Dr. Laura Schmitt-Olabisi (an ecologist) and Dr. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie (an agricultural economist) and a faculty member at University of Ibadan (Dr. Adeola Olajide) was established in the last quarter. In line with the work plan, the literature review on the experiences in other parts of the world that have had to cope with the impact of rapid climate change on their agricultural systems.

The second activity is the proposed stakeholder consultation workshop. The stakeholder consultation on climate change brings together various stakeholders (researchers, farmers, private sector, extension workers) to brainstorm and discuss various issues surrounding the experience of climate change, coping mechanisms and likely strategies to assist with dealing with climate change and its effects. This approach is designed to feed into the participatory approach to systems dynamics modelling that will be used to identify the perceptions and drivers of climate change in Nigeria as well and facilitate the development of a framework to analyze farmer and household responses to climate change.

The team began compiling a list of potential participants for the stakeholder consultation and the team was working towards having a stakeholder consultation on climate change and agricultural resilience in Abuja in January, 2016 alongside the launch of the project. In line with the postponement of the launch the team is revising the organization of the stakeholder consultation workshop.

In the next quarter, the compilation of the literature review will continue and the climate change consultation conducted. Based on the findings from the literature review and the climate change consultation, the research agenda will be further developed and fine-tuned.

Exploring how the implications of climate change on cropping systems interact with the broader food system in Nigeria (particularly poultry and/or, fish and/or livestock production)

A draft summary report based on the scoping activity that was conducted in July 2015 on the structure and organization of the poultry value chain in Nigeria was written and a summary of the relationship between various actors described. This was based on field visits to small, medium and large scale poultry producers, poultry retailers and processors and several field mills. Given that poultry production in Nigeria is predominantly done in South Western Nigeria, the scoping activity was held in Ibadan, Oyo State.

In the next quarter, the sampling frame to inform the collection of data for the stacked surveys planned for 2016 will be worked on further. Due to limited information on village and ward lists at various government offices (when the survey team explored this in the first quarter), the survey team has had to organize for the necessary listing of various sub state unites to facilitate the development of the sample frame. It is expected that this will be completed in the next quarter.

The compilation of a list of grain markets (particularly maize which is a key input to poultry feed) was done and some field visits to some grain markets in several states in the North were organized. These visits (supported by phone calls as well) were conducted to get a better understanding of the general set up and challenges faced by traders and maize farmers in the presence of the expanding demand for maize alongside climate change. This will inform the selection of grain markets for a potential survey of this group of actors in the poultry value chain.

Potential for the generation and diffusion of modern and improved seed varieties

We have made progress in gathering information on Nigeria that informs us about the level of rice varietal technologies and the challenges in transferring foreign varieties without local adaptations; all of which can affect the effectiveness of seed systems and seed distribution support. The literature review has been on-going, with a focus on the past and current nature of rice varietal technology transfers in Nigeria

as well as other developing countries that can offer a comparable perspective for Nigeria. A literature review is also ongoing regarding how rice seed systems evolved alongside the Green Revolution in Asia in order to obtain insights into how the genetic advancement of varieties and seed systems interacted closely there. This can offer some insights into the importance of pursuing such interactions in Nigeria.

The project is on track in terms of (1) overall project progress for the year and (2) the current reporting period (quarter). There has been informal involvement on the project by a rice breeder, Dr. Maji Alhassan Tswako, of the National Cereal Research Institute, regarding the process of transfers of foreign varieties of rice seed into Nigeria for release and cross-breeding purposes. An extension of involvement of Nigerian professors is under way. When approaching Nigerian professors for possible collaboration, it was learned that our prior knowledge of Nigeria and the amount of knowledge the project can offer about other countries are important for encouraging Nigerian professors to work with us. In this sense, the presence of the project office in Abuja (see IFPRI Abuja Office) is a key instrument as Nigerian professors can see the project's commitment to Nigeria.

In the next quarter, the interactions with Nigerian researchers and students will be increased to refine the research questions as well as the methodologies that will be pursued in this study as well as in the medium-term for seed research. More information related to the indicators of the levels of varietal technologies, such as the extent of varietal transfers from abroad to local breeding facilities will be collected in collaboration with Nigerian researchers and students. Information on the rice seed systems outside Nigeria will also continue to be collected, which will be used for informing the Nigerian rice seed sector stakeholders.

Potential for expanding and improving irrigation systems

The processing of secondary data which started in the past quarter is ongoing. The data on simulated daily rainfall in 2010 and 2012 across Nigeria, compiled from NOAA, has been processed for each of 500 enumeration areas (EAs) used in the two rounds of LSMS data. The data on 500 or so estimated drainage basins in Nigeria based on the literature has been combined with the LSMS data points. Each drainage basin has been assigned a directionality (downstream or upstream) based on the location of the major irrigation dams. This information has been used to classify EAs in LSMS data into downstream or upstream EAs, which will be used to assess the differential short-term effects of rainfall shocks as well as other market shocks on household welfare. In addition, other key climatic data including the estimated daily drought index of the corresponding period is currently being combined with the LSMS data points, which will be used to add the effect of drought into above analysis. In addition, a review of key literature has been conducted, which has also guided the empirical approaches. A few notable papers on India and Africa South of Sahara indicated that the majority of beneficiaries of dams were located downstream, rather than in the vicinity of dams, while those in the vicinity of dams did not benefit substantially and sometimes experienced greater risks in agricultural production.

The project is on track in terms of both (1) overall project progress for the year, and (2) the current reporting period (quarter). A professor at the University of Ibadan, Ms. Adetola Adeoti, has been approached about possible involvement as part of the research team for this study and the broad research questions to be addressed by this study has been shared with her. Professor Adeoti has collaborated with the IFPRI-Nigeria program in the past. In addition, Mr Olufemi Popoola, a graduate student working for Professor Adeoti, has been nominated to work with the research team on this irrigation research.

In the next quarter, a more rigorous data analysis will be initiated using the compiled data. A more specific research hypothesis that is testable given the existing data will also be developed. A discussion with the research team on the household welfare impacts is expected to shed light on specific Nigerian context. In addition, a discussion of longer-term research questions will be discussed with the research

team, which will cover the period beyond 2016, in order to assess our needs for the collection of new data.

Potential for modernizing food processing through agro-industrial clustering

A planned trip to ABU to establish a research team, which includes a Nigerian professor collaborator and student, for this study was to coincide with the launch event that was scheduled for January 26, 2016 and subsequently postponed by USAID/Nigeria. A trip independent of the launch event was considered, but due to the recent security concerns in Zaria regarding local religious groups and the military, a decision was made to postpone this trip until the end of the next quarter.

In the next quarter, correspondence with ABU research counterparts will be undertaken in preparation for a trip to establish a work plan, timeline, roles and responsibilities, among team members in order to launch the rice mill surveys and interviews. The scheduling of this trip is intended to coincide with the new date for the project launch event.

Land governance and investment - implications for sustainable and more effective land tenure administration systems

A design of the draft survey instrument for the mid-line survey of the impact evaluation of the Systematic Land Tenure Regularization (SLTR) program has been completed and will be circulated to all stakeholders. The survey instrument for the planned mid-line study is streamlined to continue to have a gender-disaggregated households with the desired baseline of potential gender comparisons within a given households – i.e., instead of comparing project outcomes of male-headed versus female-headed households, during the quarter, the design of the survey instrument was being done to mitigate such misrepresentations by introducing tailored modules that will capture gender-differentiated program outcomes of “husbands versus wives”, “sons versus daughters” and “brothers or male siblings versus sisters or female siblings” within the same baseline – i.e., same respective beneficiary and non-beneficiary households of the program.

In consultation with the SLTR project implementing agency arm (GEMS3 Nigeria), work on the ground and verification of listed program beneficiaries (treatment) and non-beneficiary (control) households has been in progress. As a result of this process, a database of 6752 number of households at the various level of the implementation phases (both GIS and beneficiary background data) has been acquired and matching exercise is in progress to match the 6752 program beneficiary households with the 2000 treatment households where detailed baseline data is collected from.

In the next quarter, scoping field work to assess the required flexibility in the proposed SLTR impact evaluation design to reflect realities during the implementation of the pilot SLTR program in Ondo state (e.g., assess if there are any issues of contamination of program subjects and if so, the level of contamination and determine the required action to cope with such potential contamination issues) will be conducted. In addition, recruitment and training of field personnel to conduct the mid-line survey for impact evaluation of the SLTR program will be completed.

Additionally, three conference abstracts: 1) Drivers of perceived tenure insecurity and demand for formalization of land rights in Nigeria; 2) Land inheritance and intra-household bargaining power: perception and practice of inheritance in Nigeria; 3) Effective Land Administration Services Delivery in Nigeria a Pre-requisite to Economic Development, were submitted to the World Bank conference on land and poverty – to be held March 14 – 17, 2016 in Washington DC, USA. As part of the WB conference, together with the presidential technical committee for land reforms in Nigeria and the DFID GEMS3 program in Nigeria, there is a tentative plan to organize a side event (stakeholder consultation meeting) on “lessons learnt from the on-going SLTR program in Nigeria”.

Drivers of public agricultural expenditures in Nigeria

The project is on track, both in terms of overall progress in the year, as well as in this reporting period. This quarter, training on the qualitative data analysis software—Nvivo—was completed through QSR International online training. Systematic qualitative analysis of the transcripts of key informant interviews with government officials in 3 states (Cross River, Niger, and Ondo) and 3 local governments (Akamkpa, Wushishi, and Odigbo) was started. The commencement of this analysis is important to help uncover some preliminary findings at the subnational level. A significant portion of the time this quarter was also devoted to further revisions of the study methodology due to some unresolved challenges with the theoretical framework. Analysis of the subnational data (already collected) has highlighted some gaps in the data that can be filled by appropriate adaptation of the federal level instrument. Furthermore, work began on revising/further developing the interview instrument that would be used to administer key informant interviews at the federal level next quarter. A potential list of actors to be interviewed at the federal level (government officials, donors, domestic and international interest groups/NGOs, and international organizations) is also being developed.

Next quarter, especially the first two months, will be devoted to qualitative analysis of the empirical material. Preliminary findings at the subnational level will be presented at a seminar at the IFPRI-Abuja office. Another important component of the work will be to finalize the interview instrument and list of interviewees for the federal level fieldwork in Abuja, and then conduct the interviews. This component will be very intense in terms of engagement with NGOs, academia, donor agencies, government, etc. In addition, a local collaborator will be identified to form a research team.

Additionally, the Nigeria Agriculture Public Expenditure Review, prepared by Dr. Tewodaj Mogues and Prof. Aderigbe Olomola with World Bank funding), drafted an action plan which was conveyed to the FMARD Budget department in October 2014 for FMARD's review, finalization and adoption. In this quarter, the World Bank has made a key decision regarding implementation to provide FMARD's Department of Finance and Accounts with support in making revisions, finalizing, and implementing the Action Plan resulting from the Agriculture Public Expenditure Review.

Political Economy of Policymaking in Nigeria: Applying the Kaleidoscope Model

In November 2015, there was a workshop in Washington DC among project collaborators on revisiting the hypotheses for the Kaleidoscope Model (KM) based on in-country fieldwork thus far. One hypothesis was deemed not very useful (pressing vs. chosen problems) while many others were amended. The toolkit on policy process methodology that accompanies the KM was refined to include policy chronologies, policy system actor inventories, policy system mapping, stakeholder inventories, sectoral policy implementation mapping, circle of influence graphics, and a summary table of KM hypotheses that can be used to confirm validation or rejection of the hypotheses. In addition, the policy system mapping clearly highlights when women's groups are integrated into the broader food security policy environment or the more specific policy domain policy process (e.g. input subsidies, micronutrients, land, etc.).

In the next quarter, the team lead will collaborate with other colleagues to plan an initial elite survey with Nigerian experts on land tenure issues during their visit to Washington, DC in March 2016 for the annual land conference hosted by the World Bank. This will provide a useful basis for understanding the major land constraints and stakeholders in this arena, as well as facilitate contacts for subsequent fieldwork in Nigeria.

Component 3) Strengthening evidence-based policy process and promoting impact

Capacity Building – Training Courses

- An “Introduction to STATA” training course was held at Ahmadu Bello University on November 12-13, 2015 for 42 members of the faculty and graduate student body (with a very substantial number of female researchers participated in the course). The training course covered a basic introduction to the use of STATA for data storage, data cleaning, and statistical analysis. A survey was sent to all participants after the training course and the feedback showed that while most participants had never used STATA prior to this training course, most found it relevant to their work and planned to use STATA in the future. In addition, the overall feedback on the training was positive with most participants asking for additional courses. The most common response on ways we could improve the training course was by extending the number of days of training. The team that conducted the course do not believe that extending the number of days of training is necessary, but believe that there can be improvements to the management of the time allocated to the course. From this initial training, the lessons learned that could improve the time management in the course include: 1) providing a trial version of STATA for all participants, so that all participants are using the same version; 2) reducing the number of participants or increasing the number of trainers as the small team of three members was not able to quickly provide support to 42 participants without disrupting the flow of the course; 3) have multiple USB drives per trainer ready with activity files that are prepared for each section of the training in order to quickly bring a participant up to the section that is being taught should they arrive late or have an issue with their files and to combat the issue of virus, which infected many of the participants’ computers. These steps will improve the time management of the existing training course structure and allow for the training course to cover more information.
- In addition, consultations with FMARD and the Knowledge Management Adviser (Francis Neuman) continued from last quarter regarding capacity building needs within the Ministry and on courses to be organized for FMARD staff in 2016. From these preliminary discussions with FMARD possible course areas of interest from FMARD at this stage for training courses in the near future include training on research study/field work for middle officers, agricultural data harmonization courses, training on policy formulation; training course on report writing, and on results-based Monitoring and Evaluation systems as well as possible training course on capacity building for project management among others. Feedback from the Ministry is still pending on that front in view of the delay with the appointment of the new leadership of FMARD during this quarter.
- The IFPRI Abuja Office hosted two interns during this quarter as part of the Project: a PhD candidate (Ms. Adeola Phillips) and a Masters candidate (Mr. Abiola Agbeniga) at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. During their one month stay, the two interns were provided with guidance on their dissertation proposals by Dr. George Mavrotas and other researchers at the IFPRI Abuja Office), were given access to existing literature on the subject of their research, and were taught STATA and other tools that would help assist them in the analysis of their data. The above interns are expected to return in mid-2016 for further guidance as they work to finalize their dissertations.
- The Project facilitated (admin support only by the IFPRI Abuja Office) the participation of Nigerian officials on an agricultural mechanization study tour in Bangladesh funded by another project (CRP2). Three officials, Engineer Abdullahi Garba Abubakar (Deputy Director of Engineering & Mechanization Division, FMARD), Engineer Aliyu Abdullahi Musa (Director of Agricultural Engineering, Kaduna State Ministry of Agriculture, Nigeria), and Dr. Akeem Oyeyemi Lawal (Department Head, Agricultural Engineering Department, National Agricultural Extension & Research Liaison Services, FMARD) participated in the study tour to Bangladesh

(November 3–7, 2015) and visited government institutions in charge of mechanization policies, national research institutions in charge of mechanization research, as well as a few tractor importers, manufacturers, dealers, and farmers. The purpose of the study tour was to demonstrate the factors behind the rapid growth of mechanization in Bangladesh, particularly by the small (lower horsepower) tractors. The three officials wrote a brief trip report. Informal interactions with the participants indicated that the observations in Bangladesh may be taken into account when designing the government’s Agricultural Equipment Hiring Enterprises.

Capacity Building of Nigerian Students

For the first year, 2 students from University of Ibadan (UI) and 1 student from ABU are meant to participate in training at MSU. During the planning phase, the two Nigerian professors from UI were selected. Each Nigerian faculty member has selected a student who will participate in the training program for year 1. The graduate students for year one were selected from the already existing research teams and had to meet the general program requirements of being graduate students of high academic standing working on a Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project research team and demonstrating a commitment to the goals of the project¹.

A draft document of the process for selection of students from year 2 onwards was developed by the project management team. This will be discussed with various stakeholders in the next quarter and consequently finalized. In the next quarter, collaborators at ABU will finalize the selection of one MSc student, ideally working on a research team as was the case for the two students from University of Ibadan. Also in the next quarter, the project will begin to interact with the students and professors coming to MSU regarding preparations necessary for the trip including securing the relevant visas.

2.2 M& E Plan Update

The monitoring and evaluation plan (MEP) was submitted to USAID/Nigeria on October 26, 2015 and comments on the MEP were received from USAID/Nigeria on November 18, 2015. Revisions to the MEP plan were made taking into account USAID/Nigeria’s comments and the MEP was resubmitted to USAID/Nigeria on December 4, 2015. The Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project is currently still waiting for approval of the MEP.

Concurrently, a stakeholder baseline survey instrument has been developed and will be submitted by early-January to the Institutional Review Board of both IFPRI and MSU for approval. The implementation of this baseline survey has been postponed to February from the initial targeted start in January due to the recent changes in leadership at FMARD which may result in changes to key stakeholders and the overall agricultural plan.

3. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES

3.1 Gender Equality and Female Empowerment

The Nigeria Agriculture Policy Project research teams are composed with particular attention to gender balance and organized training courses make deliberate attempt to ensure that there is equal participation

¹ Full details of the selection process for students can be found in the guideline document developed by the Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project management team and has been completed at the time of this quarterly report revision.

of both males and females. Similarly in the case of organized seminars as our experience with the seminar at ABU in November 2015 has demonstrated. For example the four Nigerian researchers involved in the climate change and value chain research teams include a male and female Nigerian faculty and a male and female graduate student. Research teams continue to consider gender as a critical issue in the development of their research questions. Another example is related to the research work being conducted on land governance issues as part of the project: The survey instrument for the planned mid-line study is streamlined to continue to have a gender-disaggregated households with the desired baseline of potential gender comparisons with-in a given households – please see relevant paragraph under this research topic in this report for further details.

3.2 Youth Development

Although the topic is not strictly part of the research topics of relevance to policy relevant research currently being conducted by the Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project researchers in Year 1 of the Project, George Mavrotas is currently leading policy relevant research on the overall nexus between youth employment and agricultural transformation in Nigeria (currently a policy area of paramount importance for Nigeria) at the IFPRI Abuja Office and a number of policy relevant research papers are expected to be available for dissemination in due course (and which will strengthen further the expected research output to be emanated from the Project).

3.3 Local Capacity Development

Please see relevant discussion in the report (under capacity building component) of the consultation process with FMARD regarding tentative suggestions from their side on possible training courses to be organized in 2016. The training course organized in Ahmadu Bello University in November 2015 falls under this category too with details provided in the relevant paragraph under Capacity Building Component in this report (as this is also the case with the discussion of the two Interns (see local researchers) at the IFPRI Abuja Office this quarter. Finally, George Mavrotas was involved in the preparations of the Knowledge Management Framework for the Agricultural Sector with the relevant Knowledge Management Advisor at FMARD this quarter (see through various discussions and policy advice in this area).

4. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

Discuss government, regional organizations, NGOs, private sector, academia, other donors, etc.

The Nigeria Agriculture Policy Project has not been able to formally publicize its activities because of the publicity embargo but has continued to engage actively with stakeholders, particularly government officials and students and faculty in academic institutions in Nigeria. 42% of the annual target on the number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term technical training in agricultural sector productivity or food security policy analysis training. FTF 4.5.2(7) was achieved in the first quarter alone. Similar achievements were reached in the formation of research teams (40%) and the number of participants attending project organized events (83 participants i.e. 41.5% of the target for the whole year, attended the seminar delivered at Ahmadu Bello University in November 2015). In the first quarter alone, 20% of the annual target on the number of stakeholder learning forums (national or global) held where findings/best practices are presented was achieved despite the limitations on publicity.

5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Staff Developments

- The Project recruited a Communications Specialist, Ms. Elisabeth Douglas, who started on December 1, 2015 and a Communications Assistant, Ms. Bisola Oyediran, through the Nigeria Youth Service Corp (NYSC), who started on November 30, 2015, both based in the IFPRI Abuja Office. In view of the above two appointments, the creation of the *Policy Communications Unit* was made possible in December 2015 (and in line with the final revised proposal submitted to USAID/Nigeria in April 2015); this is expected to support substantially policy communications-related activities for the life of the Project.
- In addition, a Country Program Manager (Mr. John Mazunda) was recruited to start on January 4, 2016 (replacing Mr. Ian Masias); he will be based at the IFPRI Abuja Office.
- The search for an Associate Research Fellow (to be based in the Abuja Office) continued this quarter with a short-list of candidates to be interviewed in early-January 2016.
- At the end of this quarter, the staff at the IFPRI Abuja Office includes: a Senior Research Fellow & Program Leader (Chief of Party), a Country Program Manager, a Research Analyst, 3 Senior Research Assistants, 2 Program Assistants, a Communications Specialist, a Communications Assistant, and a driver.

6. Lessons Learned

There are several cases where the project has had to adapt to the prevailing circumstances. One example is with the organized visits to the college of agriculture in Oyo state once the project team learned about its role in the state policy process. The initial interaction has been positive and encouraging and we expect to build on this going forward.

Another example is the need to adjust project activities in light of the publicity restrictions on the project. We had to move from a planned biannual publication to just one publication in year 1 because of our inability to do any publicity including a call for papers. Another set of lessons emanating from this quarter is related to the training course the project organized at Ahmadu Bello University in November 2015; key lessons in this case include the need to (a) provide a trial version of STATA for all participants, so that everyone uses the same version of the software; (b) reduce the number of participants or increase the number of trainers as the small team of three members was not able to quickly provide support to 42 participants without disrupting the flow of the course; and (c) have multiple USB drives per trainer ready with activity files that are prepared for each section of the training in order to quickly bring a participant up to speed on a section that is being taught should they arrive late or have an issue with their files and to combat the issue of viruses. These lessons will be taken into account in designing future training courses as part of the Project.

7. Planned activities for next quarter/upcoming events

The project management team is currently avoiding any media interaction until after the project is officially launched and/or we receive information from USAID/Nigeria on this important matter.

8. What does USAID not know that it needs to?

The embargo on publicity for the project is causing significant hardship on the project and while we recognize the importance of institutional protocol, it would be helpful if the publicity restrictions could be addressed.

9. How implementing partner has addressed AOR comments from the last quarterly report.

No issues were raised with the previous quarterly report.

ANNEX A: PROGRESS SUMMARY

NOTE: Revisions to the MEP plan were made taking into account USAID/Nigeria's comments and the MEP was resubmitted to USAID/Nigeria on December 4, 2015. The Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project on January 18, 2016 received approval of the MEP.

Achieved progress versus planned for the period disaggregated by gender, geographic area and other relevant factors (use table below).

Table 1(a): PMP Indicator progress - USAID Standard Indicators and Project Custom Indicators

[Strategic Objective]											
Indicator	Data Source	Baseline data		FY 2016		Quarterly Status – FY 2015				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Intermediate Result (IR):											
1.1. Increased agricultural competitiveness											
1.2 Improved business environment											
3.2 Improved responsiveness of targeted government institutions											
3.3 Increased capacity for civic advocacy, monitoring, and engagement											
Sub-IR: 1.3 Improved agricultural policy environment											
1. Number of policy research and best practice papers generated	Project records	NA	NA	7	0	0				0.0	
2. Number of stakeholder learning forums (national or global) held where findings/best practices are Presented	Project records	NA	NA	10	2	2				20.0	
3. Number of participants attending project organized events	Project records	NA	NA	200	83	83				41.5	

4.	Number of formal , informal or ad hoc meetings held with key government or private sector partners, where project outputs and findings are discussed	Project records	NA	NA	60	10	12				20	
5.	Number of agricultural and nutritional enabling environment policies completing the following processes/steps of development as a result of USG assistance in each case: 1. Analysis 2. Stakeholder consultation/public debate 3. Drafting or revision 4. Approval (legislative 5. Full and effective	Project records	NA	NA	7	0	0				0.0	
6.	Number of collaborative research teams involving local partners formed and undertaking policy research and analysis	Project records	NA	NA	10	4	4				40.0	
7.	Number of technical training courses offered to build technical skills and capacity for policy analysis	Project records	NA	NA	16	1	1				6.3	
8.	Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term technical training in agricultural sector productivity or food security policy analysis training	Project records	NA	NA	100	42	42				42.0	
9.	Number of individuals who have received USG supported long-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	Project records	NA	NA	0	0	0				NA	

10. Number of Nigerian graduate students who have received support for skill enhancement training in the US through the project	Project records	NA	NA	3	0	0				0.0	
11. Number of organizations/entities assisted to participate in various roundtable and stakeholder meetings, seminars and conferences focused on agricultural policy issues	Project records	NA	NA	10	0	0				0.0	
12. Index (or scorecard) of quality of agriculture and food security policy processes in Nigeria, as measured by stakeholder evaluation to capture level of satisfaction and confidence	Baseline, mid-term and end-line	NA	NA	NA							
13. Index (or scorecard) of quality of the institutional architecture for agriculture and food security policy processes in Nigeria, as measured by stakeholder evaluation survey to capture level of satisfaction and confidence	Baseline, mid-term and end-line	NA	NA	NA							

ANNEX B: Stakeholder Consultation Meetings Attended by Team Members

- October 1, 2015: Presentation by Dr. George Mavrotas (IFPRI Chief of Party) in Washington DC on the Work plan for Year 1 to all IFPRI senior researchers based in DC and contributing to the project.
- October 15, 2015: Meeting of Dr. Mavrotas with Francis Neuman, Knowledge Management Adviser to HMA, to discuss training on policy analysis/statistics at FMARD as part of the Capacity Development Plans for 2016.
- October 26, 2015: A short discussion with the leadership of FMARD at the Growth Enhancement Scheme (GES) meeting (by Dr. George Mavrotas) following an invitation by the Ministry - with no handouts or pamphlet disseminated in view of the USAID publicity constraints prior to the planned Launch event in Abuja in early 2016.
- October 27, 2015: A presentation on “Youth Employment and Agricultural Transformation: with a case study on Nigeria” by Dr. George Mavrotas to the Agricultural Donor Working Group.
- October 28: Meeting between Dr. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie and Dr. Laura Schmitt-Olabisi (an ecologist at MSU involved in the project) was held in East Lansing, Michigan on the objectives of the program and on the nature of operation of the research teams relevant to research being led by MSU.
- November 3, 2015: Meeting with Professor Eric Eboh, APRNet President/Chief Job Creation Officer for Delta State, on aligning the Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project’s work plan and objectives with APRNet’s work plan for 2016 (attended by Dr. Mavrotas and Mr. Ian Masias).
- November 9, 2015: A discussion of the Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project at FMARD (by Dr. George Mavrotas) following an invitation by the Ministry – with no handouts or pamphlet disseminated in view of the USAID publicity constraints prior to the planned Launch event in Abuja in early 2016.
- November 11, 2015: A presentation on “Youth Employment and Agricultural Transformation: The Nexus, with reflections on Nigeria” by Dr. George Mavrotas to the faculty and students of Ahmadu Bello University attended by 83 participants.
- November 12, 2015: An informal discussion of the Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project with the faculty of Ahmadu Bello University (by Dr. George Mavrotas)- with no handouts or pamphlet disseminated in view of the USAID publicity constraints prior to the planned Launch event in Abuja in early 2016.
- November 23, 2015: Brief comments and introductory remarks by Dr. Mavrotas on the Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project and the IFPRI Abuja Office to the Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and the leadership of FMARD as part of meeting with the HMA organized by the Agricultural Donor Working Group.
- November 23, 2015: Meeting with Francis Neuman on the assessment of the Knowledge Management Framework for FMARD (attended by Dr. Mavrotas and Mr. Ian Masias).
- November 24, 2015: Brief exposition during interactive consultation with Principal Officers (Acting Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Bursar and Librarian), Faculty and Students (both primarily of Agriculture) of the University of Ibadan. The team was represented by Prof. Duncan Boughton, Dr. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie and Dr. Oyinkan Tasie.
- November 25, 2015: Stakeholder consultation on needs assessment of the Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology (OYSCATECH) relevant to capacity building of Faculty of the College necessary for enhancing the Oyo State governments’ ability to plan and implement effective agricultural policies and programs. Consultation was with the management team (Provost, Registrar, Librarian) and 25 Faculty of the OYSCATECH. The team was represented by Prof. Duncan Boughton and Dr. Oyinkan Tasie.
- November 25, 2015: Meeting/Interactive session with selected students of the OYSCATECH on several issues relevant to determining their complimentary role in capacity enhancement of the College and employability options within the agricultural sector post studentship of the College. 23 Students attended. The team was represented by Prof. Duncan Boughton and Dr. Oyinkan Tasie.

- December 3, 2015: Meeting with Mohamed A.M. Ahmed, Policy Economist, Monitoring and Analyzing Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP) to discuss the current on-going “Determinants of public expenditures in agriculture in Nigeria” research and previous public expenditure research done by the Nigeria Strategy Support Program (attended by Dr. Mavrotas and Mr. Ian Masias).
- December 8, 2015: Dr. George Mavrotas (IFPRI Chief of Party) and Dr. Suresh Babu (IFPRI’s Head of Capacity Strengthening) participated in the National Workshop for the reform of the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN).
- December 15, 2015: Meeting with El Haj Adama Toure, Senior Agricultural Economist, World Bank and Sheu Salau, Agricultural Economist, World Bank on value chain analysis of multiple commodities work by the World Bank Office (attended by Dr. Mavrotas and Mr. Ian Masias).
- December 22, 2015: FMARD meeting of Dr. Mavrotas with Dr. Tony Bello, Senior Advisor to the HMA on Agribusiness regarding the need for the Ministry to recruit a senior advisor on M&E issues in 2016.
- December 23, 2015: Meeting of Dr. Mavrotas at the IFPRI Abuja Office with the Acting President of APRNet, Dr. Anthony Onoja and the APRNet management team regarding the partnership of APRNet with IFPRI in the context of the new phase of Nssp-IFPRI Office in Abuja and the Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project.
- December 29, 2015: Meeting of Dr. Mavrotas with Dr. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie at the IFPRI Abuja Office regarding implementation activities.

In the next quarter, currently planned meetings include:

- Meeting between Dr. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie at University of Ibadan with various stakeholders including faculty and students at University of Ibadan to discuss further details of the program on January 6-10
- Meeting between Dr. S. Liverpool-Tasie with the Head of Department of the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Ibadan to brief him about the program
- Meeting between Dr. S. Liverpool-Tasie and the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture University of Ibadan.
- Meeting between Dr. S. Liverpool-Tasie, Dr. G. Mavrotas and Representatives of ARCN
- Meeting between Dr. S. Liverpool-Tasie, Dr. G. Mavrotas and Francis Neuman of FMARD on Knowledge Management Issues and capacity building
- Meeting between Dr. S. Liverpool-Tasie, Dr. G. Mavrotas and John Mazunda with representatives of the USAID Monitoring and Evaluation Monetary System (MEMS II)
- Meeting between Dr. S. Liverpool-Tasie and colleagues at IFPRI Abuja on project activities
- A follow up meeting of Dr. G. Mavrotas with Francis Neuman of FMARD on Knowledge Management issues and capacity building plans at the Ministry.
- A visit to Ibadan organized by Dr. S. Liverpool-Tasie for Dr. G. Mavrotas to meet with faculty working on the project and to plan training activities.
- Planned training course to be organized by the IFPRI team on Introduction to Stata at the Ibadan University in line with planned activities for the next quarter.
- Planned Launch event in Abuja once the new date for the event is confirmed by USAID/Nigeria (most likely within February 2016).