



ICRISAT in

# Nigeria



## Country Overview

Although Nigeria depends heavily on the oil industry for its revenues, it is predominantly an agrarian society. According to the FAO, approximately 70% of the population engages in agricultural production at a subsistence level.

Nigeria's agricultural sector faces many challenges such as a poor land tenure system, low levels of irrigation farming, climate change and land degradation. Low technology, high production cost and poor distribution of inputs, limited financing, high post-harvest losses and poor access to markets are some other challenges.

ICRISAT is recognized in Nigeria for leading sorghum, millet and groundnut value chain development, climate smart agricultural activities including the bio-reclamation of degraded lands and livestock utilization of crop residue.



## Partnerships

ICRISAT's key partners in Nigeria include the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN), Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR) Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Centre for Dryland Agriculture (CDA), Bayero University Kano, State-based Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs) and the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC). Civil society partners include SASAKAWA Africa Association and Women Farmers Advancement Network.

ICRISAT partners with the African Development Bank (AfDB) on its Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones to provide world-class infrastructure to help develop competitive value chains and transform rural areas into economic zones. ICRISAT contributes to two of AfDB's High 5s, namely, Feed Africa and Improve the Quality of Life of the People of Africa.



## Milestones

- **1976-85:** The Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development project funded by **USAID** catalyzed the adoption of several sorghum and pearl millet varieties in Nigeria.
- **1988:** Through the Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR) **2 sorghum** varieties and **2 hybrids** were released.
- **2001:** IAR released **SAMNUT 21, SAMNUT 22 and SAMNUT 23** - high yielding, early-maturing, rosette-resistant groundnut varieties.
- **2012:** ICRISAT developed sorghum and groundnut value chains and through the CGIAR Fund for Grain Legumes, has leveraged legumes to help combat hunger, poverty and environmental degradation.
- **2014:** Scaling of groundnut seed production, remote sensing for agriculture transformation (development of sorghum and pearl millet hybrids, and commercialization/industrialization of sorghum under the **ISABELA** project funded by **USAID, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, GIZ, and the Government of Nigeria**)
- **2015:** The **Agricultural Transformation Agenda Support Program Phase 1 (ATASP-1)** was launched by the Government of Nigeria to develop commodity value chains for staple crops like sorghum to ensure sustainable growth in rural income.
- **2016-2020:** In three years, the Sorghum and Millets Compact of the **Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT)** funded by the African Development Fund, produced more than **2700 tons** of different class of seed of sorghum and millet.  
The **Tropical Legumes project, which won the Africa Food Prize 2021**, has revived groundnut cultivation. The adoption rate of improved groundnut varieties increased from **8%** at baseline to **57%**.
- **2019:** The **Accelerated Variety and Seed System for Cereals and Legumes (AVISA)** project was launched to consolidate the previous efforts of the Tropical Legumes Project. Nigeria has reported **21%** productivity gains from a package of improved practices in pearl millet.
- **2021-2022:** **Feed the Future** funded by USAID is focused on promoting yield increasing technologies, diversifying home consumption of food and linking farmers to markets in North-East Nigeria.

## Ongoing Projects

**2022-2027: USAID funded SERVIR West Africa.** A program that uses geospatial and digital tools to assist governments in making informed decisions in four areas 1) food security and agriculture 2) water and hydro-climatic disasters 3) weather and climate and land cover 4) land use change and ecosystem services.

**The Integrated Seed System Development and Technical Backstopping to Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Projects** are respectively funded by **Wageningen University, Netherlands, and the Islamic Development Bank.**



## Key Outcomes



In Nigeria, a total of **23 varieties** were released leading to greater food security

- **11** Sorghum varieties
- **06** Pearl millet varieties
- **06** Groundnut varieties

**Seed distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic:** Close to **2 tons** of improved seed of sorghum, millet and cowpea were distributed to **1,282 farmers** to plant 233 ha through the CGIAR Fund for a Resilient Post-COVID Food System. **8,258 farmers** also received **48,149 kg** of seeds through ICRISAT initiatives with other partners.



**Digital tech for government innovation:** A fully automated system for plot level monitoring agCelerant developed with technical support from ICRISAT orchestrates financial and technical support for **15 million** farmers in Nigeria.