The Government of Nigeria received, during the period 2011-2016, a total of $US 51 Million (IDA-45 M + GFRP (Spain)-6 M) to increase the productivity of Fish (Aquaculture), Rice, Yam and Poultry value chains. The main activities supported were:

i. Research and development infrastructural construction and rehabilitation and equipment procurement;

ii. Training of young scientists and extension agents;

iii. Technologies and innovation (T&I) generation;

iv. T&I dissemination for broad adoption.

Major Research & Development; Infrastructural construction & equipment, operational cost (2012 - 2016)

$US 7.68 Million

Major Renewal of research-development personnel (2012 - 2016)

$US 6.86 Million

31 Young Scientists Trained

Technologies dissemination between 2012 - 2016

$US 11.05 Million

310,000 farmers adopted T&I on 420,100 ha

Major Research & Development activities between 2012 - 2016

12 Technologies and Innovations Released

$US 23.99 Million
The International Potato Centre (CIP) has indicated its readiness to partner with the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) in “Food Baskets Project”.

The Regional Director of the Centre, Adiel Nkongu Mbabu disclosed this while on a courtesy call on the Project Coordination Office in Abuja.

According to Adiel Mbabu, he is leading a team to WAAPP office to familiarise with the activities of the Project and to seek possible areas of collaboration especially in WAAPP- Nigeria priorities commodities, while indicating the Centre’s readiness to work with WAAPP- Nigeria in developing nutritious food, through their Food Basket Project.

He added that the collaboration will alongside include strategies to build methodology on scaling up agricultural productivity in the country.

Responding, Acting National Project Coordinator WAAPP- Nigeria James Ocheme Apochi informed the team that WAAPP- Nigeria remains the special purpose Vehicle that is driving the Agricultural Change Mantra.

This he added that WAAPP- Nigeria with its objectives of Generating, Dissemination and Adoption of Technologies has been able to increased Agricultural Productivity especially among the low income farmers through making available to them improved seeds and seedlings.

James Ocheme Apochi stated that WAAPP being a brainchild of ECOWAS countries with its Headquarters in Dakar, Senegal and domiciled under the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN) of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMR&RD), has Aquaculture as the core mandate for Nigeria and also focus on other priority commodity such as sorghum, maize, rice, cassava and yam.
The West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP), a World Bank sponsored programme under the auspices of ECOWAS and coordinated at regional level by CORAF/WECARD has so far mobilized $400 million to help grow agriculture in Nigeria with plans to commit another $200 million to the nation’s livestock development. This was revealed by the WAAPP Task team leader in Nigeria for the World Bank, Shehu Salau, at the 2016 second Wrap-up meeting of Support Missions of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) held from 14 to 16 November, 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria.

According to the WAAPP Task team leader in Nigeria, “The portfolio in Nigeria is about $400 million, but the World Bank has an engagement to scale up the support with a $200 million staple crop processing zone project and about $200 million livestock project.”

He noted that, the World Bank and its partner CORAF/WECARD had prioritized agriculture and energy in the African economy because Africa is largely agrarian and the Bank stands worthy to push investment to support the government to achieve these objectives.

The National Project Coordinator of WAAPP-Nigeria, Dr James Apochi recalled that WAAPP intervention reaches 1.8m households beneficiaries with a spillover effect of one beneficiary reaching seven indirect beneficiaries.

WAAPP-Nigeria has distributed thirty-six million improved fingerlings to farmers in the last three years. The coordination unit has produced more than 10,000 tons of improved foundation and certified seeds of maize, rice and sorghum with 1.3 millions tones of cutting cassava and more than 2 million of yam seeds.

Dr James Apochi also explained that programme supported short time training for up to 200 research staff of allied institutions, adding that seventeen research projects were currently being sponsored by WAAPP in Nigeria.
Makhtar Diop, The World Bank Vice president for Africa visited WAAPP Nigeria

Markhtar Diop, the World Bank vice president for Africa has challenged African countries to expedite measures towards boosting the agricultural sector as a panacea to the lingering unemployment in the continent. Makhtar Diop made the disclosure while on a visit to Nigeria from 15 to 16 March, 2016 where he met with direct beneficiaries of World Bank funded including WAAPP-Nigeria project.

Answering questions from media, the World Bank vice president for Africa stated that the World Bank is ever ready to support the agricultural sector so long as it will increase yield and add value income to the farmer, as the time has come for farming as business.

The country Director Rachid Benmessoud and the visiting vice president also interacted with beneficiaries of World Bank funded project including WAAPP-Nigeria. “WAAPP-NIGERIA has a core mandate in aquaculture in which it has introduced new technologies such as new breed of fingerlings that has yielded much income to the farmers in the adopted village” said James Ocheme Apochi, WAAPP-NIGERIA acting National Program Coordinator.

This year, WAAPP-Nigeria in conjunction with the University of Ibadan has distributed 25 million fish fingerlings to catfish farmers. The catfish distribution is the third phase of the entrepreneurship training program organised by WAAPP and the Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries Management of University of Ibadan.

In Niger State, the National Centre of Specialization (NCoS) on aquaculture is undertaking comprehensive demand-driven research activities which have already yielded six technologies that are currently being disseminated. These include an improved smoking kiln, solar dryer and cooling boxes. Others are retail table, all male Tilapia, and clupeid for feed meal.

The role of the WAAPP in Nigeria also involves the identification of innovations in selected priority commodity value chains and the promotion of their adoption by agro-ventures. The priority commodity crops within WAAPP’s operational mandate include aquaculture, cassava, yam, rice, as well as maize and sorghum.

Over the years, the program has generated about 40 machines in the major crop specializations across Nigeria; tested over 60 tractors; and has also carried out the trai-
ning of fabricators, processors and youths in various agricultural mechanization modules, while fast-tracking job creation in the process. In order to support this, WAAPP Nigeria is currently assisting about 600,000 Nigerian farmers to scale up their production and productive capacity.

Many improved technologies in WAAPP’s priority commodity crops, such as improved seeds, post-harvest technologies, value addition, fruit fly control, climate smart agriculture, as well as banana and plantain production, are being disseminated in 29 state governments in Nigeria. These technologies are also being widely adapted by end-users.
The West African Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) coordinated by the West and Central African Council for agricultural research and development (CORAF/WECARD) has distributed over 25 million fingerlings to farmers across Nigeria.

WAAP also provided processing equipment, including detachable smoking klin, solar tent dryer and fish cooling boxes to support the fish value chain.

Acting National Project Coordinator of WAAPP-Nigeria, James Apochi disclosed this at the weekend in Abuja during an interaction with members of Agricultural Correspondents Association of Nigeria (ACAN).

He explained that the project had succeeded in funding core research areas in fingerlings production, fish feed and post-harvest processing. Adding that WAAP encouraged integrated development of agricultural research into technology generation, dissemination and adoption continuum throughout the sub-region.

“It is worthy of note that WAAPP-NIGERIA has so far distributed over 25 million to farmers across the country,” he said.

Apochi who declared that aquaculture was the priority commodity for WAAPP-NIGERIA, noted that the project had interventions in other commodities as derived from the study of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

“It may interest you that WAAPP has recorded many success stories, aquaculture is the priority commodity for WAAPP-NIGERIA Nigeria, however WAAPP is working on other commodities which were derived from a study carried out by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and CORAF in 2006, and includes roots and tubers, livestock, poultry, rice, sorghum and maize.
About WAAPP

The West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP) involves 13 countries. The 10-years program was designed to make agriculture more productive, sustainable and profitable for smallholder farmers in West Africa. Started in 2007, WAAPP also aims to improve the conditions of life of consumers through the provision of agricultural products at competitive prices, build a critical mass of researchers for sound, efficient and collaborative research programs and finally to ensure that technologies generated nationally are available regionally. The WAAPP was established at the initiative of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as a response to the renewed commitment by African countries to implement the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP). Participating countries fund the USD 500 million program through a loan system obtained from the World Bank. At the regional level, the program is coordinated by CORAF. More than two hundred technologies were released and adopted by almost 4.5 million producers and processors on about 4.8 million hectares. These technologies are available on www.mita.coraf.org. WAAPP financed master degree and Ph.D. studies for 1021 youths. This represents 72% of men and 28% women. These young researchers are expected to replace most the agriculture researchers going on retirement. The nine national centers of specializations of countries participating in the program benefitted from the renovation of their infrastructure and new research laboratories were constructed. Two of the centers have been upgraded in regional centers of specialization. This includes the Dry Cereals Center based in Senegal and The Roots and Tuber center based in Ghana. By increasing the primary crops yields between 30% for dry cereals and 150% for rice, fruit, and tubers, the program has had a considerable impact on food security and caloric intake. Caloric consumption rose from 2,777 kcals to 2,964 kcals and the "hunger period" reduced by 28 to 55% according to the commodity. WAAPP has also increased by 34% the economic situation of farmers as well as transformed communities.

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