Nigeria moves from nationwide consultation to a national CSA policy draft

Climate-smart agriculture policy and pluralistic extension

Scope • National; consultations across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones

Partners • NIFAAS, CAADP-XP4, AFAAS, SAA, FARA, the CSA working group and public, private and farmer stakeholders

The starting situation

Nigeria had no national climate-smart agriculture policy, and extension policy left little room for private advisory providers, limiting farmers' access to new technologies.

How partners contributed

In 2022, NIFAAS convened more than 300 stakeholders in Abuja, Ilorin, Abeokuta, Gombe, Zaria, Port Harcourt and Umudike to discuss CSA technologies, innovations and management practices. A three-day regional dialogue on CSA, cross-border trade, markets and foresight used panels, group work and a world café, guided by SAA, FARA and the CSA working group. In 2023, with CAADP-XP4 funding and AFAAS technical support, NIFAAS reviewed national extension policies, benchmarked them against other African countries and consulted state Agricultural Development Programmes, agribusinesses, farmer organisations and development partners.

What changed

Nigeria produced its first national CSA policy draft and six policy briefs reflecting the six geopolitical zones. The regional dialogue generated a policy brief and infographics. The extension review identified missing incentives for private advisory services, weak coordination and limited use of digital platforms. NIFAAS and partners drafted policy amendments and guidelines for private-led advisory services. The Pluralistic Extension and Advisory Services Policy launched during the 6th Africa-wide Agricultural Extension Week in Abuja in 2023, and sustainable farming approaches were included in Nigeria's newly passed extension policy in 2024.

Evidence and source

The policy draft, briefs and records are archived in the NIFAAS database. State governments and agribusinesses have shown interest in piloting joint public–private extension models. Formal federal adoption of the CSA policy draft remains the next step.

Source record • SS19

Sustainability and lessons

The process connected broad consultation to policy drafting and institutional milestones. Formal adoption, financing and implementation arrangements will determine whether the CSA draft shapes services and investment. Pilot public–private models can test coordination, incentives and digital approaches while federal adoption is pursued.