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KOGI L-PRES

MAIDEN EDITION JULY / 2024

NEWSLETTER

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF KOGI STATE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTIVITY AND RESILIENCE SUPPORT PROJECT

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SET TO BENEFIT
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PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE (PDO)



To improve productivity,
commercialization, and resilience
of targeted livestock production
systems in Nigeria.



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**EMPOWERING WOMEN
& YOUTHS FOR A SHARED
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FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Maiden Edition of the Kogi State Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (Kogi L-PRES) Newsletter!

This publication marks the beginning of a new chapter in our collective efforts to transform the livestock sector in Kogi State and, by extension, Nigeria.

No doubt, the livestock sector has always been a cornerstone of our agricultural industry, providing not only a vital source of nutrition but also a means of livelihood for millions of Nigerians. Despite its potential, the sector has faced numerous challenges, including low productivity, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to finance, and poor veterinary services. These challenges have hindered the sector's ability to contribute fully to economic growth and food security.

In response to these challenges, the Kogi Government recently received 500,000 doses of anthrax vaccines from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. This significant boost underscores the commitment to improving livestock health and productivity across the state.

The creation of the Ministry of Livestock Development by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is a testament to the renewed focus on addressing these challenges. The ministry is tasked with the formidable responsibility of repositioning the livestock sector, addressing herder-farmer conflicts, and bolstering the livestock and dairy industries. This strategic move aligns with the objectives of the L-PRES project, which aims to enhance productivity, commercialization, and resilience in the livestock sector through targeted interventions.

In this first edition of our newsletter, we are excited to share updates on the progress of the L-PRES project in Kogi State. We highlight the significant milestone of profiling over 51,000 livestock farmers who are set to benefit from the various initiatives under the L-PRES project. This profiling exercise is crucial as it ensures that support is directed to the right beneficiaries and lays a solid foundation for the project's success.

We are also pleased to report on the exemplary leadership of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, who is championing the establishment of a Livestock Service Centre (LSC) in the state. This centre will serve as a hub for veterinary services, farmers training, and the dis-

A New Dawn for Livestock Development in Kogi State



semination of best practices in animal husbandry. It represents a significant step forward in our efforts to improve the support and services available to livestock farmers in Kogi State.

Furthermore, the L-PRES project is actively empowering women and youth in the state through the ongoing support to profiled women and youth entrepreneurs in the poultry value chain.

In addition, the provision of solar-powered boreholes in livestock markets is addressing one of the fundamental challenges faced by farmers – access to clean water. These boreholes not only ensure a reliable water supply for livestock but also promote environmental sustainability through the use of renewable energy.

As we embark on this journey, we are committed to maintaining transparency, fostering collaboration, and ensuring that all stakeholders are well-informed and actively engaged.

The Kogi L-PRES Newsletter will also serve as a platform to share knowledge, best practices, and success stories, that will foster a sense of community and collective progress.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our partners, stakeholders, and the hardworking farmers who are at the heart of this project. Together, we are poised to transform the livestock sector, driving sustainable economic growth and enhancing the livelihoods of our people.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to sharing more updates with you in the coming months!

Enjoy reading!

Dr. Olufemi Bolarin
State Project Coordinator, Kogi L-PRES

ANIMAL CARE TIPS

by Dr. Khalid Muhammad

Effective animal care is essential for maintaining the health, productivity, and well-being of livestock. This guide provides comprehensive tips and best practices to help farmers and livestock managers ensure optimal care for their animals. Key areas covered include veterinary care, vaccination, medications, parasite control, hygiene and biosecurity, quarantine measures, nutrition, hydration, record-keeping, and hoof care. By following these guidelines, you can create a healthier and more productive environment for your livestock, minimizing disease risks and enhancing overall animal welfare.

Veterinary Care: Establish a relationship with a veterinary organization or a veterinarian for regular check-ups, health monitoring, emergency care, and the reporting of sick animals.

Vaccination: Implement routine vaccination programs to prevent outbreaks of diseases such as PPR, CBPP, FMD, NCD, and others.

Medications: Ensure routine prophylactic treatment and where necessary curative treatment should be carried out by a Veterinarian.

Parasite Control: Regularly monitor and control endoparasites and ectoparasites through routine deworming, application of ectoparasiticides, and fumigation exercises.

Hygiene/Biosecurity: Maintain clean environmental conditions, ensure proper waste disposal, and regularly use disinfectants to prevent disease introduction and transmission.

Quarantine: Quarantine newly introduced animals and isolate those showing signs of illness to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

Nutrition: Provide high-quality and adequately balanced feed that meets the nutritional requirements of the livestock.

Hydration: Ensure livestock have access to clean water at all times.

Record Keeping: Maintain accurate records of livestock health and related activities to track health trends and manage care effectively.

Hoof Care: Regularly trim and care for hooves to prevent lameness and other hoof-related issues.

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo Champions *the* Establishment *of* Livestock Service Centre *in* Kogi State

by PHILOMENA BAIYERE



In a significant move to bolster the livestock sector, Kogi State Governor, Alh. Ahmed Usman Ododo has commenced the process for the establishment of a state-of-the-art Livestock Service Centre in Osara, Kogi State.

This initiative is aimed at revolutionizing livestock farming, enhance productivity, and provide much-needed support to livestock farmers across the state. Also, the Livestock Service Centre will serve as a comprehensive hub for various livestock-related services, including veterinary care, breeding programmes, and farmers training.

It is expected to be equipped with modern facilities, staffed by experts and also address some of the challenges faced by livestock farmers such as disease management, low productivity, and inadequate access to quality feed and veterinary services.

This move was announced by Governor Ododo through the State Project Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin, while emphasizing the importance of the livestock sector to Kogi State's economy and the livelihood of its people.

"The move for the establishment of Livestock Service Centre is a testament to our commitment to supporting our farmers and improving the agricultural sector".

He further states that "Livestock farming is a critical component of our economy, and by providing these essential services, we aim to enhance the productivity and resilience of our farmers".

According to the coordinator, the centre will feature a range of services tailored towards meeting the needs of livestock farmers. This includes a meat processing facility, milk collection centre, milk processing facility, stockyard, quarantine area, veterinary clinic, waste processing plant, water

processing plant, feed mill factory, trailer park, poultry/monogastric area, business area for live birds, business area for cattle, goats, and rams, worship centre, recreation area, research/seminar area and conference centre, school, power house, security post, fire service and administrative building.

Additionally, the centre will of-

fer training programmes to equip farmers with modern farming techniques and best practices in animal husbandry.

One of the key highlights of the centre is its focus on innovation and technology. While chronicling the key features, Dr Bolarin said "the facility will incorporate advanced technologies for disease

diagnosis, livestock monitoring, and data management which will enable farmers to access real-time information and make informed decisions that will ultimately lead to improved herd health and increased productivity".

Farmers across Kogi State have welcomed the initiative with enthusiasm. Many see it as a

game-changer that will address longstanding issues and pave the way for sustainable growth in the livestock sector.

"This centre will be a lifeline for us. With access to quality veterinary care, better breeding practices, and training, we can significantly improve our livestock operations and increase our income," said a

local farmer.

As the project progresses, the government is committed to working closely with stakeholders, including farmers, industry experts, and development partners, to ensure the success and sustainability of the Livestock Service Centre.



Kogi Government Receives 500,000 Doses of Anthrax Spore Vaccines

by BLESSING ADEBAYO

The

Kogi State Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security has received a significant boost to its animal health services with the delivery of 500,000 doses of Anthrax spore vaccines from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security through the Live-stock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (L-PRES).

The vaccines were delivered by the National Project Coordinator (NPC), Mr. Abubakar Sanusi.

Mr. Sanusi, welcomed by the State Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Timothy Ojomah, emphasized that the delivery is part of L-PRES's ongoing efforts to enhance animal health services in Kogi State.

He highlighted the critical role of vaccination in preventing the spread of anthrax and safeguarding livestock, ultimately supporting the livelihoods of farmers and boosting the local economy.

Hon. Timothy Ojomah expressed profound appreciation for the delivery, while recognizing the impact

such support has on the state's agricultural sector.

He noted that the provision of these vaccines is timely and essential for preventing anthrax outbreaks, which pose a significant threat to livestock and public health.

The Commissioner requested continued and expanded support from L-PRES to sustain and advance the state's animal health initiatives.

He outlined the need for ongoing collaboration and resource allocation to ensure the robustness of Kogi State's veterinary services.

In addition to the vaccine delivery, the visit of the National Project Coordinator included the inspection of the completed Cold Chain Storage Facility and Laboratory within the ministry's complex.

These state-of-the-art facilities are critical for the effective storage and analysis of vaccines and other veterinary supplies, ensuring their potency and safety for use.

The Cold Chain Storage Facility is equipped with advanced refrigeration systems designed to maintain vaccines at optimal temperatures, while the Laboratory is fit for conducting necessary analyses. While the Laboratory is fitted with modern diagnostic equipment to support comprehensive animal health assessments.



NPC L-PRES, Mr. Abubakar Sanusi second from right presenting doses of Anthrax Spore Vaccines to the State Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Timothy Ojomah.



Kogi L-PRES Animal Health Specialist, Dr. Khalid Muhammad inspecting Anthrax Spore Vaccines in cold boxes.



Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Timothy Ojomah in a handsake with NPC L-PRES, Mr. Abubakar Sanusi.

This initiative aligns with the broader objectives of the L-PRES project, which focuses on strengthening national livestock institutions, enhancing

value chain performance, and implementing crisis prevention and management strategies.

The delivery of the anthrax vaccines and the inspection of the new

facilities represent significant steps in bolstering the resilience and productivity of livestock in Kogi State.



NPC L-PRES, Mr. Abubakar Sanusi officially handing over the delivery letter of Anthrax Spore Vaccines to the Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Timothy Ojomah. Standing with them are Special Adviser to the Governor on Agriculture, Hon. Otaru Abdulkabir (far right) Kogi L-RES Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin (second from left) and Managing Director, Agricultural Development Project (ADP), Dr. Bello Salim Ogirima.



NPC L-PRES, Mr. Abubakar Sanusi during an official visit to the Office of the Hon. Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security. With him from (right) Kogi L-PRES Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin and (left) National Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Aliyu Ahmed.



From L-R: Technical Operations Officer NCO, Tayo Okewoye, National Project Administrative Specialist, Mr. Ellu Daniel, Special Assistant to the NPC, Mr. Tunde Atanda and National Store Officer, Mr. John Adeyi.



National Project Coordinator (NPC) L-PRES, Mr. Abubakar Sanusi.



Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Timothy Ojomah



National Project Coordinator (NPC) inspecting the Cold-Chain Facility within the complex of Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Lokoja.



Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Timothy Ojomah, Kogi L-PRES Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin and NPC L-PRES, Mr. Abubakar Sanusi shortly after inspection of the Cold Chain Facility and Lab within Ministry of Agriculture complex.



National Project Coordinator (NPC) Mr. Abubakar Sanusi inspecting the Solar-Powered Facility, with him are Commissioner for Agriculture, Hon. Timothy Ojomah and Kogi L-PRES Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin.



NPC L-PRES Expresses Satisfaction with Level of Preparation by Kogi Govt for the Proposed LSC

●Commissioned Newly Completed Projects

by ISRAEL ANOZE

The National Project Coordinator of Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support (L-PRES), Mr. Abubakar Sanusi has expressed satisfaction with the level of preparation on the side of Kogi State Government for the proposed site for Livestock Service Centre.

Mr. Abubakar made the remark shortly after an assessment tour of the proposed site at the Confluence University of Science and Technology Osara.

The National Project Coordinator said he was impressed with the Leadership quality of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Hon. Timothy Ojomah and the State L-PRES team, saying the introduction of mechanised farming in the State is in line with the renewed hope agenda.

He said the Livestock Service Centre when completed will improve productivity and commercialisation of livestock value chain.

“Livestock Service Centre is like a mini complex having a lot of livestock activities going on. We have veterinary clinic, processing facilities, abattoir, market for selling livestock, training of livestock farmers.”

“We have provisions to establish 5 Livestock Service Centres and we want to assess the States, Kogi has shown interest that they want to establish the Centre, making it 12 States that have shown interest. We are here in Kogi on assessment and

report back,” he added.

While urging the people of the State to embrace race the Project, Mr. Abubakar added that the L-PRES project will reduce the menace of farmers herders clashes.

The Kogi State L-PRES Project Coordinator, Dr Olufemi Bolarin said about \$31.2million has been earmarked for the development of Livestock Service Centre.

“The Kogi Livestock Service Centre will significantly contribute to the economic development of Kogi State by creating jobs, enhancing productivity and fostering sustainable practices. This project will not only boost livestock sector but also catalyze broader economic growth and development in the region.”

According to him, the Centre when completed will be a premier hub for livestock innovation and development, noting that the Centre is strategically positioned to enhance market access, support industrial synergy, and foster academic excellence.

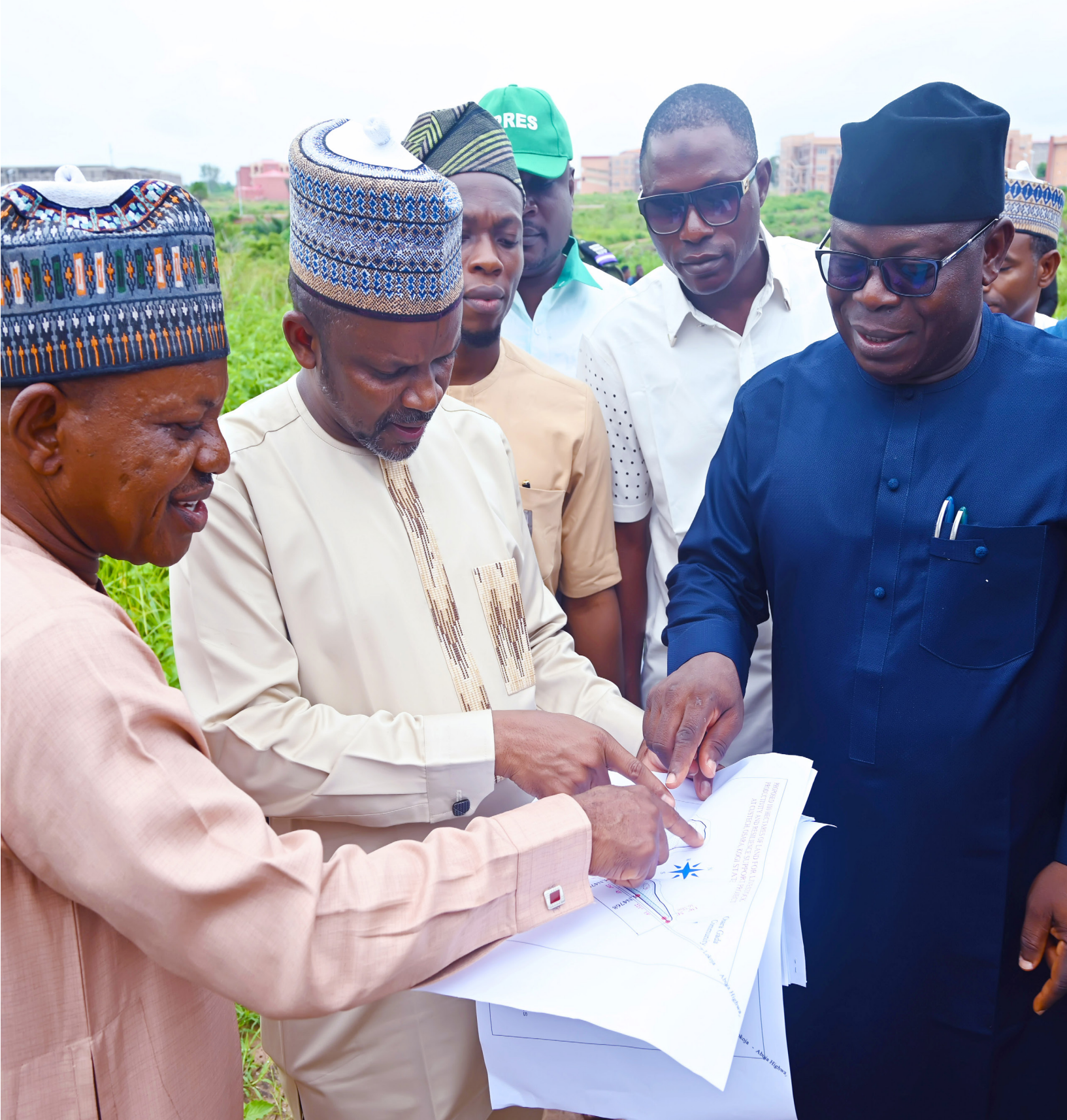
Kogi Livestock Service Centre will deliver comprehensive livestock services that drive economic growth and development in Kogi State by leveraging strategic market proximity, industrial collaboration, and academic expertise.

“We are committed to providing unparalleled technical assistance, facilitating market access, and promoting sustainable livestock practices, contributing to the overall advancement of Nigeria’s livestock sector” he stated.

Earlier, the Kogi State Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security Hon. Timothy Ojoma said the present administration remains committed in ensuring food security in the State.

While expressing optimism that Kogi State will be among the State’s that will get approval for the establishment of Livestock Service Centre, Ojomah argued that the State is safe for investment.

On his part, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdulrahman Asipita Salawu expressed delight over the location of the Centre in the In-



From R-L: Prof. Abdulrahman Salawu explaining the proposed (LSC) Site Plan to the L-PRES NPC, Mr. Abubakar Sanusi.

stitution, saying it was coming at the right time that the National Universities Commission approved Faculty of Agriculture programme for the School.

Prof. Salawu promised maxi-

mum support from the University to the project, assuring of the prudent management of any resources provided.

The NPC and his team also commissioned a solar powered borehole

at the Livestock Market in Zango, Adavi Local Government Area and Farmer Field School at the School of Engineering, Kogi State Polytechnic Itakpe.



Dr. Olufemi Bolarin, Kogi L-PRES Project Coordinator (standing) giving his opening remarks at CUSTECH, Osara.



Prof. Abdulrahman Salawu, VC CUSTECH Osara (standing) giving his opening remarks.



A large crowd gathered to welcome the NPC L-PRES Mr. Sanusi at the Livestock Market Adavi, during the commissioning of the borehole.



Cross section of NCO members during the visit to CUSTECH, Osara.



From R-L: Prof. Abdulrahman Salawu, VC CUSTECH, Hon. Timothy Ojomah, Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security and Mr. Abubakar Sanusi, the National Project Coordinator L-PRES during the presentation of gift by the Vice Chancellor.



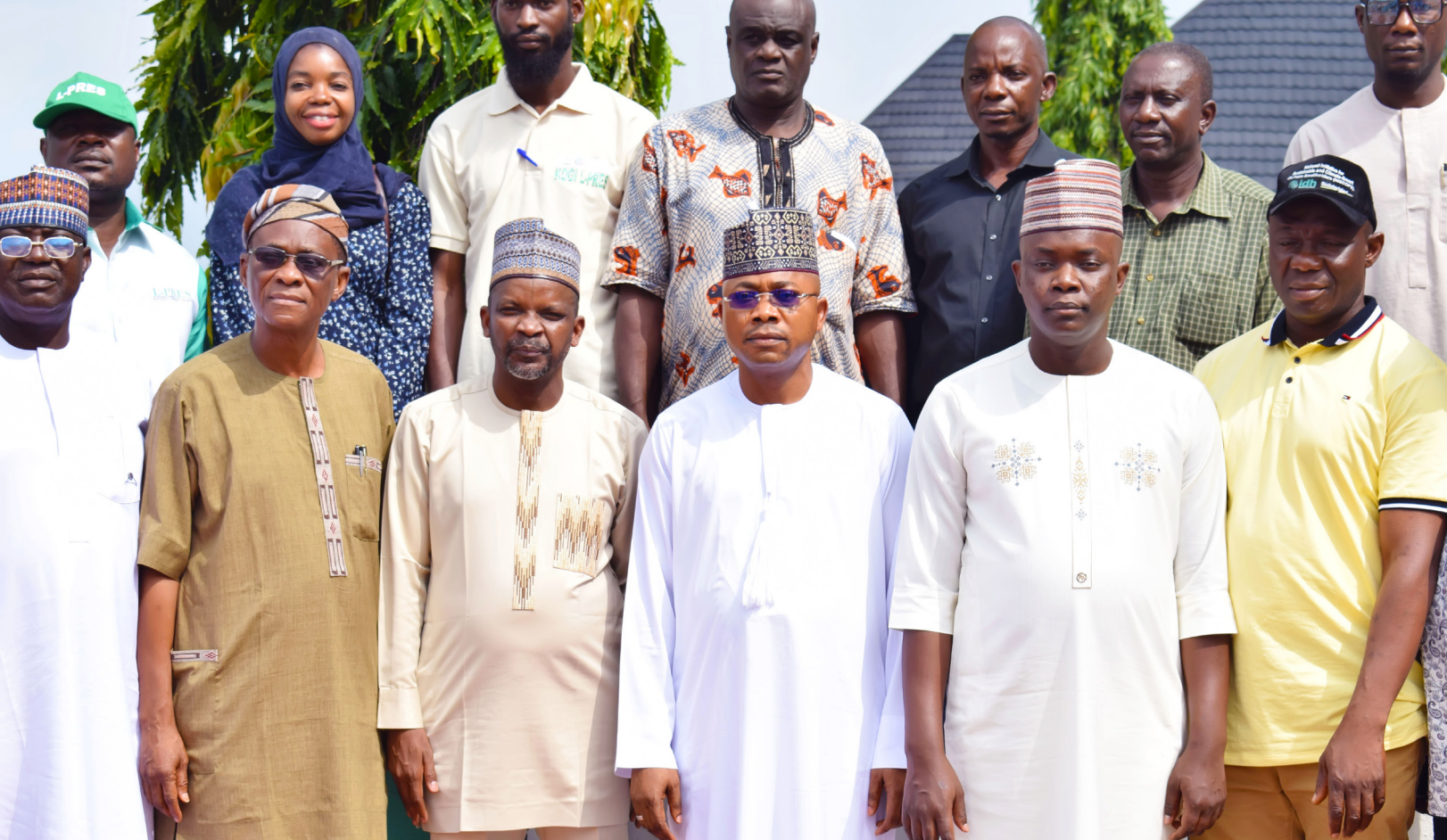
National Project Coordinator, Mr. Abubakar Sanusi, commissioning 10,000ltrs Solar Powered Borehole at Livestock Market in Adavi.



National Project Coordinator, Mr. Abubakar Sanusi, commissioning Farmer Field School, Itakpe.



Farmer Field School, Itakpe.



His Excellency, Ahmed Usman Ododo, Governor of Kogi State, third from right; Chief of Staff, Alhaji Ali Bello; Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Timothy Ojomah; National Project Coordinator L-PRES, Mr. Abubakar Sanusi, third from left; State Project Coordinator L-PRES, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin; Managing Director, Agricultural Development Project (ADP), Dr. Bello Salim Ogirima; and other NCO and SCO members shortly after the meeting with the Governor.

Gov. Ododo Woos More Support For Kogi L-PRES Project

by BLESSING ADEBAYO

Kogi State Governor, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo has solicited more support for the success of Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (L-PRES) in the State.

Governor Ododo was speaking when he received a delegation from L-PRES National Coordinating Office led by its National Project Coordinator, Mr. Abubakar Sanusi, who were in the State for Assessment Tour of the Projects.

The Governor, who was happy with the activities of the World Bank project in the State, said youths and women will soon be empowered to boost poultry farming in the State.

He commended the State Project Coordinator of L-PRES and his management team for implementing the project in line with international standards, assuring of his support in a bid to boost food security in the State.

Gov. Ododo, who launched a compendium of the Project in the State told his guest that the State is ready to provide the needed support for the proposed establishment of Livestock Service Centre which is expected to be located at the Confluence University of Science and Technology Osara.

“Livestock Service Centre is a project my administration is not toying with. Myself standing before you, I was born as a farmer. The economic crisis Nigeria is facing today is because we abandoned agriculture.

He described the L-PRES Project as a people orientated programme and appealed to the National Coordinator to ensure that the Livestock Service



Gov. Ahmed Usman Ododo (seated) and the NPC L-PRES Mr. Abubakar Sanusi.



Gov. Ahmed Usman Ododo (standing) and the NPC L-PRES Mr. Abubakar Sanusi.



Gov. Ahmed Usman Ododo during the launch of Kogi L-PRES Compendium.

Centre is established in the State. In his remarks, the Commissioner for Agriculture and Food

Security, Hon. Timothy Ojomah informed the Governor that the Federal Government through L-PRES had

donated 500, 000 Anthrax Spore Vaccines to enhance animal health.

According to him, the team were in the State on assessment visit and to commission projects and applauded the Governor for his commitment to the resuscitation of Agriculture in the State.

Also speaking, the L-PRES National Project Coordinator, Mr. Abubakar Sanusi noted that the visit was to ascertain the level of preparedness of the State for the establishment of the Livestock Service Centre.

“Your Excellency, let me start by appreciating your effort in the Agriculture sector generally, not only Livestock. The Agriculture Mechanisation going on in Kogi is second to none. We know how you are going on with your mechanisation farming, touching the lives of the real farmers by having a database, giving inputs and provision of tractors, we have all this information.

He noted that in the area of profiling of livestock farmers, Kogi L-PRES ranked the best among the States where the project is being executed.

The National Project Coordinator appealed to Governor Ododo to provide more support especially in the area of counterpart funding and provision of logistics for the administration of the Anthrax Spore Vaccines.

The Chief of Staff to the Governor, Alh. Ali Bello, State Project Coordinator of L-PRES, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin, Special Adviser to the Governor on Agriculture, Hon. Oturu Abdulkabir and the Managing Director of Kogi ADP, George Bello were present at the meeting.

“

Livestock Service Centre is a project my administration is not toying with. Myself standing before you, I was born as a farmer. The economic crisis Nigeria is facing today is because we abandoned agriculture.

Gov. Ahmed Usman Ododo

HOW L-PRES DEVELOP ENTER ALONG LIVESTOCK

RICHARD ALABI

KOGI IS OPENING PRISE VALUE CHAINS

Livestock Productivity and Resilience Project (L-PRES) is a six Year Project with Development Objective (PDO) to improve livestock productivity, resilience and commercialization of selected value chains and to strengthen the country's capacity to respond to an eligible crisis or emergency. It is worthy to note that Livestock is vital to Nigeria's economy and poverty alleviation. Research has it that livestock's employs 30 percent of the rural population but accounts only for less than 10 percent of the Agricultural Gross Domestic Product, (GDP) and 2-3 percent of the National GDP , which highlights the sub-sector under-development. Livestock provides increased significant economic stability to rural households in the form of cash buffers, as capital reserves, and creates a hedge against inflation.

Livestock Productivity and Resilience Project (L-PRES) is a strategic input to the country’s long-term approach of developing and transforming its livestock subsector.

L-PRES is expected to reduce the impact of Coronavirus pandemic since most of the mechanisms through which the Coronavirus has affected the livestock sector and are the same factors that this project will address.

In May 2024, Governor of Kogi State, Ahmed Usman Ododo, inaugurated a Steering and Technical Committee to oversee the Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support (L-PRES) Project.

The Governor at the inauguration ceremony urged the committees, along with the management and staff of Kogi State L-PRES, to strictly adhere to guidelines that align with international best practices.

“The Project is expected to add value to livestock farming in the state, aiming to improve productivity, commercialisation and resilience,” he said.

“Apart from thousands of employment opportunities that would be generated by the project, the L-PRES project will enhance food security, a key priority of this administration.”

At the ceremony, the State Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security and Chairman of the State Steering Committee, Hon. Timothy Ojoma, emphasized the need for collaboration among the Technical and Steering Committees and the Project Implementation Unit to ensure the successful implementation of the Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (Kogi L-PRES) in the state.

During the launch, the State Project Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin, set the ball rolling as he described the project as a catalyst for the state’s transformation, resilience, and inclusive growth through its key components, including strengthening national livestock institutions, en-

hancing value chain performance, and crisis prevention and management.

Under the watch of Dr. Olufemi Bolarin, the Kogi Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (Kogi L-PRES) has been dedicated to transforming the livestock sector in Kogi State by fostering enterprise development along the livestock value chains.

This initiative is pivotal in ensuring sustainable growth, enhancing productivity, and improving the livelihoods of those engaged in the livestock industry. This comprehensive approach is designed to create sustainable growth, boost productivity, and improve the livelihoods of those involved in the livestock industry.

Central to the Kogi L-PRES Project’s strategy is a robust capacity-building program designed to elevate the skills and knowledge of livestock farmers and stakeholders.

To meet the designed goal of this program, the project has successfully trained over 300 extension agents in modern animal husbandry practices, feed management techniques, veterinary care, and business management.

By equipping farmers with these essential skills, the project aims to boost productivity and ensure that farmers can operate with greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Additionally, the establishment of farmer field schools in Anyigba, Itakpe, and Kabba has provided a practical and hands-on learning environment for farmers. These schools serve as centers of excellence where farmers can learn and adopt best practices in livestock management.

In addition to capacity building, the Kogi L-PRES Project places significant emphasis on improving access to finance and essential resources. Collaborating with participating financial institutions, the project facilitates credit access



for livestock farmers and entrepreneurs, which is crucial for their growth and success.

Infrastructure development is another critical component of the

Kogi L-PRES Project’s approach. The project focuses on the construction and rehabilitation of key infrastructure such as livestock markets, abattoirs, and processing facilities.

Notably, the project has rehabilitated the cold-chain facility and laboratory at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, enhancing institutional capacity and support for

the livestock sector. Moreover, the provision of solar-powered borehole at three livestock markets in Adavi, Egbe and Anyigba ensures uninterrupted water supply and promotes

sustainability.

Arguably, in June 2024, Kogi L-PRES Project under Dr Bolarin distributed Pasture Seeds and Fodder Choppers to 510 farmers to boost livestock production in the state.

This is in line with both the Kogi State and the Federal Government commitment to end the perennial clashes between pastoralists and farmers following the introduction of Ministry of Livestock Development.

Experts have traced the current inflation in the prices of food stuffs in the Country to farmer herders crisis.

Buttressing why this initiative will boost food production in Kogi State, and for it to have immense benefits to Nigeria as a nation, Dr Bolarin said “The end result of this is to curb farmers/herder conflicts in our State. The distribution of Pasture Seeds and Fodder Choppers to farmers is coming at a time where our nation is faced with the issues of farmers/herder crisis.

“When there is food, agricultural commodities face what we call inelastic supply price curve. So when they are more in the market, the price will automatically drop. There will be more produce in the market at a low price.”

42 percent of Nigeria’s population own at least one type of livestock, 30 percent of the population are living directly from livestock production, while an estimated five million people are productively engaged in upstream segments of the livestock value chain.

“However, one of the challenges increasingly affecting the sector is the continuous decrease of limited natural resources, especially pasture; which has also become a significant source of the farmers – herders crisis in Nigeria. It is in recognition of the sector and the need to address its challenges that the L-PRES project was launched”.

The creation of market linkag-

es and access is a fundamental aspect of the project’s efforts. The Kogi L-PRES Project is working to connect livestock producers with reliable and profitable markets through partnerships with agribusinesses.

Additionally, the project promotes the use of digital platforms for market information and transactions, helping farmers access viable market opportunities and achieve better economic returns.

Recognizing the vital roles of women and youth in the livestock sector, the Kogi L-PRES Project has developed special programs to empower these groups. These initiatives provide women and youth with the skills, resources, and opportunities they need to succeed as livestock entrepreneurs. By focusing on these key demographic groups, the project not only enhances the value chain but also promotes socio-economic development and gender equality.

Sustainability and environmental stewardship are also integral to the project’s approach. The Kogi L-PRES Project promotes environmentally friendly farming practices, effective waste management solutions, and the sustainable use of natural resources. By embedding sustainability into its enterprise development efforts, the project ensures that the livestock sector grows in a way that supports long-term resilience and environmental responsibility.

Through these strategic actions, the Kogi L-PRES Project is success



fully fostering the development of enterprises along the livestock value chains in Kogi State.

The project's efforts in capacity building, infrastructure improvement, financial support, market access, and sustainability are driving a profound transformation in the livestock sector. This transformation

not only stimulates economic growth but also enhances the livelihoods of farmers and contributes to the overall development of the state.

The achievements of the Kogi L-PRES Project are a testament to the dedication and collaboration of all stakeholders. Together, they are paving the way for a resilient, pro-

ductive, and sustainable livestock industry in Kogi State, setting a benchmark for future agricultural and economic development initiatives. Keep believing in Kogi State L-PRES for a sustainable food security in our Country.

“

When there is food, agricultural commodities face what we call inelastic supply price curve. So when they are more in the market, the price will automatically drop. There will be more produce in the market at a low price.



Kogi L-PRES Rehabilitates Cold-Chain Storage Facility and Laboratory in Lokoja

by ISRAEL ANOZE

The Kogi Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (L-PRES) has completed the rehabilitation of a Cold Chain Storage facility and a state-of-the-art laboratory in Lokoja, with both facilities now ready for commissioning.

The newly rehabilitated Cold Chain Storage facility features advanced refrigeration and monitoring systems designed to ensure the safe storage of vaccines and other essential livestock health products.

Complementing the Cold Chain Storage facility is a cutting-edge laboratory equipped with modern diagnostic tools. This laboratory will enable comprehensive testing and analysis of livestock diseases, increase and improve the capacity of veterinary professionals to promptly diagnose and address health issues in livestock, thereby reducing mortality rates and improving overall herd health.

The State Project Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin while highlighting the significance of these rehabilitations, said the readiness of the Cold Chain Storage facility and the laboratory for commissioning underscores the project commitment to strengthening livestock health services in Kogi State adding that the initiative aligns with our broader objectives of improving livestock productivity and resilience, contributing to food security, and driving economic growth in the state.”

Dr. Bolarin during a chat with editorial crew in Lokoja the Kogi State capital said, as the Kogi L-PRES initiative continues to advance its mission of transforming the livestock sector in Kogi State through strategic interventions and comprehensive support systems, the newly rehabilitated facilities are expected to have a far-reaching impact and that thousands of livestock farmers stand to benefit which will contribute to



the overall development of the agricultural sector in the state.

“The commissioning ceremony for the Cold Chain Storage facility and laboratory is scheduled to take place soon, marking the official commencement of their operation and service to the community.” He added

Conclusively, Dr Bolarin said that the facility is a crucial development that is poised to significantly enhance and maintain the potency and efficacy of vaccines, which will contribute to improved livestock health and bolster agricultural productivity in Kogi State.

Over 51,000 Profiled Livestock Farmers in Kogi Set to Benefit from L-PRES Project

by ADEBAYO BLESSING

The Implementation of the L-PRES Project commenced with the comprehensive profiling and mapping of livestock farmers. This critical step was undertaken to identify, assess, and categorize individuals or groups poised to benefit from the project's wide-ranging interventions.

Under the dynamic leadership of State Project Coordinator Dr. Olufemi Bolarin, the State Project Implementation Unit (PIU) has achieved unprecedented progress. As a result, over 51,000 livestock farmers in the State have been meticulously profiled and are now set to benefit from the substantial \$500 million World Bank intervention fund. This fund is specifically designed to empower livestock farmers across the country, providing them with the necessary resources and support to thrive.

The successful implementation of the Kogi L-PRES Project hinges on the continued dedication and collaboration of all stakeholders involved. With the unwavering commitment of the Kogi State government, the support of the World Bank, and the active participation of livestock farmers, the project is poised to achieve its goals and create lasting positive impacts on the agricultural landscape of Kogi State.

The Livestock Productivity and

Resilience Support Project (L-PRES) is a transformative six-year initiative with a clear Development Objective (PDO): to enhance livestock productivity, resilience, and commercialization of selected value chains while strengthening Nigeria's capacity to respond to eligible crisis or emergencies.

The vision of the L-PRES Project is to foster a thriving livestock industry in Kogi State, contributing significantly to food security, economic growth, and social stability. By enhancing household food security, the project aims to create sustainable improvements in the livelihoods of livestock farmers.



Kogi L-PRES team while profiling butchers at Felele Abattior, Lokoja

Kogi L-PRES Distributes Pasture Seeds, Fodder Choppers to Farmers

by OMOJO AKUH

In a bid to achieve its vision of making Kogi State the Livestock Farming hub of Nigeria, the State Coordinating Office of Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support (L-PRES) has distributed 210 pasture seeds and 30 fodder choppers to farmers.

The items were distributed on June 28th 2024, at a colourful event held at the State Secretariat of L-PRES, Lokoja.

The State Project Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin while speaking during the distribution of the items, stated that the move was also part of effort of the State to curtail Farmers-Herders crisis.

He pointed out that Livestock farming is important to the socio-economic development of Nigeria, saying its development must be the priority of all in a bid to enhance food security, especially in the livestock farming subsector.

According to him, “The end result of this move is to curb farmers-herder conflicts in our state.” The distribution of pasture seeds and fodder choppers to 210 and 30 farmers, respectively, is coming at a time when our nation is faced with the issue of the farmer-herder crisis.

“We can all see the prices of food items in the market. It is a result of farmer-herders crisis. By the time we minimise it, it will enhance food

security. It is a known fact that if farmers are free to go to their farms, there will be an increase in productivity and there will be food on our table.”

The L-PRES State Coordinator added that the items if properly utilized, will enhance production of healthy livestock products for the State and the country at large.

“These fodder choppers are more than just tools. They represent an investment in farmers’ success. Over time, they will erase the need for open grazing as feed availability for livestock will be met. It will significantly reduce the time and effort required for feed preparation, allowing farmers to dedicate more resources to animal care and farm management.”

Additionally, “the Brachiaria grass provides a high-quality, nutritious feed source that will contribute to healthier livestock and, ultimately, increased beef and dairy yields,” Dr. Bolarin added.

While also commending Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo for his commitment to ensuring food security in Kogi State, he warned beneficiaries not to sell the items given to them.

The State Project Coordinator concluded that the Coordinating Office is working with Agro-Rangers, a unit in the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps to arrest those who sell the items.

In his address, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Food Security, Hon Timothy Ojomah, represented by the acting Permanent Secretary, Jonah Enehe congratulated the beneficiaries and charged Livestock farmers to work harder towards making Kogi State take the lead in Livestock production in the country.

According to the Commissioner, the commitment of the State Government has been clearly demonstrated through the pay-



Fodder Choppers on display during the event

ment of counterpart fund that enabled the State to access funds for the project.

On his part, the State Chairman All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Salihu Adobayin lauded the effort of Kogi L-PRES in boosting livestock farming in

the State.

Responding on behalf of the beneficiaries, Abubakar Bello a livestock farmer from Ajaokuta Local Government said the items have brought relief as it will enhance livestock farming in Kogi State.



We can all see the prices of food items in the market. It is a result of farmer-herders crisis. By the time we minimise it, it will enhance food security. It is a known fact that if farmers are free to go to their farms, there will be an increase in productivity and there will be food on our table



Presentation of Pasture Seeds to Farmers by Kogi State Chairman All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Salihu Adobayin



Kogi State Project Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin presenting Fodder Chopper Machine to beneficiaries



Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Mr Jonah Enehe presenting Fodder Chopper Machine to beneficiaries. Far Right is Director Animal Husbandry Mrs Hassanat Audu and the State Project Coordinator L-PRES Dr. Olufemi Boalrin



Cross section of beneficiaries and critical stakeholders with Project Implementation Unit members



Parts of the mandate of the committee is identifying the grazing routes, areas that animals will take to drink water and the farmlands.

Kogi L-PRES inaugurates committee on conflict prevention, resolution

by ALABI RICHARD

To ensure peaceful coexistence between farmers and herders, the Kogi State governor, Alhaji Usman Ahmed Ododo, has inaugurated a 17-member Conflict Prevention and Resolution Committee.

Governor Ododo, who inaugurated the committee in Lokoja, charged them to check, regulate and monitor the movements of herdsman and their livestock along the stock routes to prevent farmer-herder clashes.

The governor, while speaking at the inauguration ceremony organised by the Kogi Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project, Kogi L-PRES, listed the terms of reference of the committee to include guiding the project on tracing and

demarcating stock routes and grazing reserves.

Represented by Dr Olufemi Bolarin, Kogi L-PRES Project Coordinator, Ododo, added that the committee's assignment further includes enlightening farmers and herders on the importance of each other to society and peaceful coexistence.

Similarly, the committee is to encourage disputing parties to resolve their differences amicably by facilitating settlements of disputes be-

tween farmers and herders, as well as determining compensation for any party who suffers losses.

The committee was further charged by the governor to enlighten farmers on the need to evacuate farm produce within a period as well as to access compensation in respect of loss or damage to farm produce or livestock.

The committee's function, Governor Ododo added, is to also ensure that farmers do not encroach on any existing tract leading to a stream, river or watercourse to water livestock.

"This committee is the nucleus that will enlighten and communicate with the farmers as well as the herders. Mind you, we are going to have a launch of the National Animal Traceability and Identification very soon, sponsored by the Federal Government in Kogi State.

"This is just a step in the process of peacebuilding. The committee

should be alive to their duties and know their functions as spelt out by adopting a template that will reduce crises," he stated.

The Kogi State Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security, Timothy Ojomah, said solving conflict between farmers and herders is key to sustainable food security.

He described the inauguration as timely, saying it was coming at a time when the state was investing heavily in the agriculture sector.

He charged the committee to take their job seriously, stressing that a lot of confidence has been reposed in them.

Ojomah, who is the chairman of the committee, said: "Parts of the mandate of the committee is identifying the grazing routes, areas that animals will take to drink water and the farmlands."

In his presentation titled "Dialogue in Pursuit of Peace between Farmers-Herders Communities,"

Dr Olughenro Olajuyigbe, Director of Emergency and Risk Alert, said to reduce farmers-herders clashes, the state must adopt a workable strategy.

He suggested the adoption of anonymous mechanisms, hearing the perspectives of farmers, groups setting up local government platforms and conflict diaries, among others, as ways of nipping conflict in the bud.

Olughenro called for the need to establish a national peace dialogue committee, establish an inclusive security architecture and strengthen the capacities of security agencies to be able to curtail conflicts arising from farmers and herders in the country.

He listed historical, cultural, ecological, economic, political, vulnerability, weaponisation and radicalisation to violent extremism as some reasons for farmer-herder conflicts in Nigeria.

Govenor Ododo promises unwavering support, as he inaugurates SSC and STC for Kogi L-PRES

by ISRAEL ANOZE



Members of the State Steering and Technical Committee shortly after the inauguration

Kogi State Governor, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo has promised his unwavering support in championing agriculture de-

velopment and improved livelihood for the citizens of the State.

The Governor also promised to prioritize all world Bank projects in the State, assured no stone would be left unturned in providing peace and security towards making food available to the people of the State.

Governor Ododo gave the assur-

ances in Lokoja at the inauguration of the State Steering Committee (SSC) and State Technical Committee (STC) of the Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (Kogi L-PRES).

Represented by his Technical Adviser on Multilateral and Donor Funded Projects, Dr. Abdullahi San

ni Ozomata, the Governor urged the Committees as well as management and Staff of Kogi L-PRES to follow the guidelines strictly in line with international best practices.

Speaking in a message to the colourful occasion, Governor Odo do charged the Committee and the Project Implementation Unit to ensure that L-PRES work for the State particularly the masses.

According to him, the Project is expected to add value to livestock farming in the State, saying the objective of the project is to improve productivity, commercialization and resilience.

He noted that with the three focus value chains of the project in the state which include; Sheep and Goat, Cattle and Poultry farming, the fortunes of Livestock farmers in the State are set to change for better.

The Governor added that apart from thousands of employment generation of the project, the L-PRES project will enhance food security which is one of the thematic agenda of his administration.

In his remarks, Commissioner of Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Timothy Ojoma, who expressed delight that the Kogi State is among the States where the Project is being implemented, emphasized the need for synergy among the Technical and Steering Committees as well as the Project Implementation Unit.

He cautioned the State Coordinating Office against acts that will hamper on the effective and efficient implementation of the projects.

The Commissioner, who also doubles as the Chairman of the State Steering Committee, reiterated the significance of the committees in advancing the state's agricultural agenda.

He therefore charged the committee members to embrace their roles with dedication and a sense of duty to the people of Kogi State.

On his part, the State Commissioner for Water Resources, Engineer Yahaya Farouk, pledged the readiness of the ministry to provide the necessary support needed to the success of the project in the state.

Earlier, the State Project Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin in his speech described the project as a catalyst for transformation, resilience, and inclusive growth for the state through its three key components namely: strengthening national livestock institutions, enhancing value chain performance, and crisis prevention and management.



Hon. Timothy Ojoma, Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security

He further states that “As we embark on this journey together, I urge each member of the State Steering Committee to embrace their role with utmost seriousness and diligence”. Your leadership, vision, and collaborative spirit will be instrumental in driving the project forward and ensuring its effective implementation at the grassroots level.

“It is imperative that we work hand in hand with all relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, private sector partners, civil society organizations, and local communities, to build strong synergies and maximize the impact of our interventions. By fostering partnerships and leveraging resources, we can

overcome obstacles, seize opportunities, and create lasting change in the lives of our people”, Dr. Bolarin added.

According to Dr. Bolarin, the Project has been properly designed to address critical challenges and unlock the full potential of the state's livestock sector.

“I have full confidence in the capabilities of this esteemed committee to lead us towards a brighter future for the livestock sector and the people of Kogi State. Let us unite our strengths, inspire each other, and chart a course towards prosperity, sustainability, and resilience for generations to come”, he concluded.

Kogi L-PRES Trains Extension Agents on GAHPs

by DANIEL OKPANACHI



Cross section of Livestock Extension Agents

In a bid to advance agricultural practices and livestock management, the Kogi State Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (L-PRES) trains Extension Agents on Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHPs). impacts on the agricultural landscape of Kogi State.

The training started with Extension Agents in Kogi West and was held at Kabba, the headquarters of the District.

The State Project Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin, in his opening address, emphasized the critical role of GAHPs in ensuring both animal welfare and the sustainability of agricultural endeavours.

He said, “The primary objective of the training is to equip extension agents with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and implement GAHPs effectively.”

The Coordinator elaborated on

the importance of the training, stating, by improving expertise in this field, we aim to elevate the standards of animal welfare, boost productivity, and improve the efficiency of our agricultural sector. He added “as extension agents, your role is pivotal in bridging the gap between research-backed practices and the farmers on the ground.”

Throughout the program, participants engaged in interactive sessions, asking questions and sharing their experiences. The training also focused on practical aspects of GAHPs, ensuring that extension agents could effectively disseminate this knowledge to livestock farmers across the state.

The extension agents were encouraged to serve as valuable resources in their communities, providing guidance and facilitating the adoption of best practices among livestock farmers. The expected out-

comes include healthier livestock, improved yields, and sustainable agricultural development in Kogi State.

The resource persons, Prof. R.Y. Olobatoke and Mr. Ayigun Ade, both from the College of Agriculture Kabba, led the training sessions. Their expertise and insights were instrumental in providing a comprehensive understanding of GAHPs, ensuring that the extension agents received high-quality and practical knowledge. Their contributions were highly appreciated by the participants, who benefited greatly from their extensive experience and dedication to advancing livestock management practices.

As Kogi L-PRES continues to play a vital role in transforming the livestock sector, the training has been extended to other locations such as Isanlu, Lokoja Okene, Ayingba, Ankpa and Idah.

Boosting Nigeria's Livestock Sector for Sustainable Growth

by ADENIYI OLONINISI



Nigeria's livestock sector represents a significant yet underutilized component of the country's agricultural industry. With a population of over 200 million people, the demand for animal protein is high, creating a substantial market for livestock products. However, the sector faces numerous challenges that hinder its potential to contribute to sustainable economic growth. Addressing these challenges and leveraging opportunities can transform Nigeria's live-

stock sector into a robust driver of economic development.

The sector comprises cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, and pigs, providing employment for millions and contributing to food security. Despite its importance, the sector remains largely subsistence-based, characterized by low productivity and inefficiency. Traditional practices, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to finance, and poor veterinary services are some of the critical issues impeding growth.

By addressing these challenges and implementing the outlined strategies, Nigeria's livestock sector can significantly contribute to sustainable economic growth. Improved productivity and efficiency will lead to higher income for farmers, increased food security, and the creation of employment opportunities. Additionally, a robust livestock sector can stimulate the development of related industries, such as feed production, veterinary pharmaceuticals, and meat processing, further driving economic growth.

With the creation of Ministry of Livestock Development by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu the ministry will be faced with herculean task in repositioning the sector. The President announced the new ministry on Tuesday 9th July, 2024 during the inauguration of the presidential committee on livestock reforms. The Ministry is expected to address herders and farmers' clashes and bolster livestock and dairy industries.

Nigeria's livestock sector holds immense potential for contributing to sustainable economic growth. By tackling the existing challenges and leveraging opportunities, the sector can be transformed into a dynamic and efficient industry. The Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (L-PRES) will therefore play a crucial role in this transformation, ensuring that Nigeria can boost its livestock sector, ensuring food security, increased income for farmers, and overall economic development.

L-PRES Social Safeguards Specialist Tasks Kogi Women on Embracing Livestock Farming

by ADEBAYO BLESSING



Mariam Adamu, Social Safeguard Specialist (NCO)

The National Social Safeguard Specialist of Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project, L-PRES, Mariam Ademu has tasked women in Kogi State to embrace livestock farming as a way of ensuring that they are self reliant.

Mariam who made this statement during her visit to Lokoja, the State Capital, noted that women have a lot of stake in the L-PRES project.

According to her the level of unemployment in the country is alarm-

ing and the only way out is to embrace Agriculture which she noted is the mainstay of the Nation's economy.

She noted that under the L-PRES project, provisions have been made for women especially in poultry, sheep and goats as well as other value chains.

The Social Safeguard Specialist charged Women in the State to take advantage of the opportunity to make them self reliant and contribute meaningfully via livestock farming.

Mariam added that as part of effort to ensure seamless engagement of women, members of the Project Implementation Unit of Kogi L-PRES have been adequately trained on Gender Based Violence.

She maintained that the World Bank, which is sponsoring the L-PRES Project has zero tolerance for gender Based Violence, urging the women to key into the Project as they are critical stakeholders in the Agriculture sector.

Agric Commissioner Pledges Support to Kogi L-PRES Project

by ADEBAYO BLESSING

Kogi State Commissioner of Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Timothy Ojomah says the State Government is committed to the success of the Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project L-PRES.

Hon. Ojomah stated this in an exclusive interview with Kogi L-PRES Communication team in Lokoja.

The Commissioner noted that the State Government had demonstrated its one hundred percent commitment with earlier payment of the counterpart Fund under the immediate past administration of Alh. Yahaya Bello.

He said the incumbent Governor, has also demonstrated what he called “the Political Will” needed for the project to impact positively on the lives of the citizens of the State.

According to him, apart from improving livestock farming in the State and nation at large, the L-PRES project has been designed in a way that it will reduce the rate of farmers herders clashes.

In his words “I want to appreciate the Leader of Kogi State, His Excellency Former Governor Yahaya Bello for his foresight in approving this project during his tenure in office. Also, the State Governor, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo has demonstrated the political will that is needed for this project and this is commendable.”

While tasking the management and Staff of Kogi L-PRES coordinating office to execute the project



Hon. Timothy Ojomah, Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security

in line with international standard, Hon. Ojomah assured of the support of his Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

The Commissioner advised live-

stock farmers in the State to be up and doing by doubling the effort to boost livestock farming and business in the State.

I want to appreciate the Leader of Kogi State, His Excellency Former Governor Yahaya Bello for his foresight in approving this project during his tenure in office. Also, the State Governor, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo has demonstrated the political will that is needed for this project and this is commendable

Kogi L-PRES Completes Solar-Powered Boreholes in 3 Communities

by ADEBAYO BLESSING

The The Kogi Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (L-PRES) has successfully completed the drilling and installation of solar-powered boreholes with stanchion water tanks in three livestock markets across the State.

The benefitting communities are; Adavi, Anyigba in Dekina and Egbe in Yagba West Local Government Areas.

Water is key in any Livestock Market and this intervention addresses the critical water needs of these markets, significantly benefiting both the livestock and the surrounding communities.

Farmers at these markets, who were elated by the installation of the borehole by the L-PRES, have expressed their appreciation for the intervention which they described as timely.

In his remarks, Amodu Buba, the Chairman of Kara Livestock Market in Egbe, said, "We are happy and lucky because the borehole has a lot of water." According to him, the provision of the borehole is a welcomed development that will comfortably serve both the market and the community.

On his part, Aminu Musa, the PRO of the Adavi Livestock Market, also expressed his happiness with the intervention while thanking the State Government and Kogi L-PRES for the laudable project. According to Musa, with the borehole, the water challenge of the Livestock farmers as well as the people of the community, has become a thing of the past.

Similarly, at in Anyigba in Dekina Local Government Area, the Financial Secretary of the Livestock Market, Anabe Stephen, described the provision of the borehole as a step in the right direction, saying it was a demonstration that L-PRES is ready and committed to improving livestock farming.

This achievement demonstrates the commitment of the Kogi L-PRES project to improving infrastructure and supporting the resilience of local farmers and livestock.

The successful completion and installation of these boreholes mark a significant step towards sustainable development and improved livelihoods in the area.



Alh. Aminu Musa, the PRO of the Adavi Livestock Market



Completed Solar-Powered Borehole in Adavi Livestock Market



Completed Solar-Powered Borehole in Anyigba Livestock Market



Adavi Livestock Market showing completed Kogi L-PRES Solar-Powered Borehole



Anyigba Livestock Market showing Kogi L-PRES team on inspection of the newly completed Solar-Powered-Borehole



Children within the community fetching water from the newly completed Solar-Powered Borehole at Kara Livestock Market, Egbe



Kogi L-PRES newly completed Solar-Powered Borehole at Kara Livestock Market, Egbe



Pictorial Collection of KOGI L-PRES Activities



Opening of the Orientation Workshop for Kogi L-PRES PIU Members.



SPC, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin giving a remark during the opening of the Workshop for PIU members.



State Project Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin and Lead Coordinating Consultant, Dr. Oyesola Oyeibanji paying close attention to one of the presentations.



Group Task during the Orientation Workshop.



Cross section of PIU members during the Orientation Workshop.



From L-R: GBV Specialist, National Coordinating Office, Mrs. Mariam Adamu, now National Social Safeguard Specialist, National Project Auditor, Mr. Paul Eze and Director Animal Husbandry, Kogi State Ministry of Agriculture Mrs. Hassanat Audu.



Technical Adviser to the Governor on Multilateral and Donor-Funded Project, Dr. Abdullahi Ozomata, giving a speech during his visit.



Lead Coordinating Consultant, Dr. Oyesola Oyeibanji.



Lead Coordinating Consultant, Pst. Ajuwon Sola during one of his presentations.



Mrs Philomena Baiyere, HR/Admin Officer.



Mr. Emmanuel Awuya, Project Accountant.



National Project Auditor, L-PRES, Mr. Paul Eze.



Director, Animal Husbandry, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Mrs. Hassanat Audu.



From L-R: Director Animal Husbandry, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Mrs. Hassanat Audu, National Project Auditor, Mr. Paul Eze, National GBV Specialist, now National Social Safeguard Specialist Mrs. Mariam Adamu, Lead Coordinating Consultant, Dr. Oyesola Oyeibanji, State Project Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin and erstwhile HPMFU, Mrs. Memunat Ogirima, during the Orientation Workshop for PIU members.



Sitting from right: State Project Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin, erstwhile HPMFU, Mrs. Memunat Ogirima, Lead Coordinating Consultant Dr. Oyesola Oyeibanji and Director Animal Husbandry, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Mrs. Hassanat Audu. Standing are members of the NCO and PIU members during the Orientation Workshop.



Cross section of PIU members and amongst others



Sitting from left: National Project Auditor, Mr. Paul Eze, Director Animal Husbandry, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Mrs. Hassanat Audu, Lead Coordinating Consultant Pst. Ajuwon Sola, State Project Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin, Lead Coordinating Consultant Dr. Oyesola Oyeibanji and National GBV Specialist now National Safeguard Specialist Mrs. Mariam Adamu and PIU members.



State Project Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin giving his opening speech during the inauguration of State Steering and Technical Committee



From R-L: Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Timothy Ojomah, State Project Coordinator, L-PRES, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin and Technical Adviser to the Governor on Multilateral and Donor-Funded Project, Dr. Abdullahi Ozomata during the inauguration of SSC and STC for Kogi L-PRES.



From L-R: Commissioner for Water Resource, Engr. Yahaya M.D Farouk, Technical Adviser to the Governor on Multilateral and Donor-Funded Project, Dr. Abdullahi Ozomata, State Project Coordinator, L-PRES, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin and Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Timothy Ojomah during the inauguration of SSC and STC for Kogi L-PRES.



Commissioner for Water Resource, Engr. Yahaya M.D Farouk, giving a speech during the inauguration of State Steering and Technical Committee.



Erstwhile Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Hajia Lami Lawal during the inauguration of SSC and STC for Kogi L-PRES.



Managing Director, Kogi State Agricultural Development Project (ADP), Dr. Bello Salim Ogirima, giving a speech during the inauguration of State Steering and Technical Committee



State Project Coordinator, L-PRES, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin having a close conversation with Technical Adviser to the Governor on Multilateral and Donor-Funded Project, Dr. Abdullahi Ozomata.



Erstwhile HPF MU, Mrs. Memunat Ogirima during the inauguration of SSC and STC for Kogi L-PRES.



HR/Admin Officer Kogi L-PRES, Mrs. Philomena Baiyere and Mr. Daniel Okpanachi, Extension Service Officer, Kogi L-PRES.



Group photograph of State Steering Committee (SSC) and State Technical Committee (STC) members.



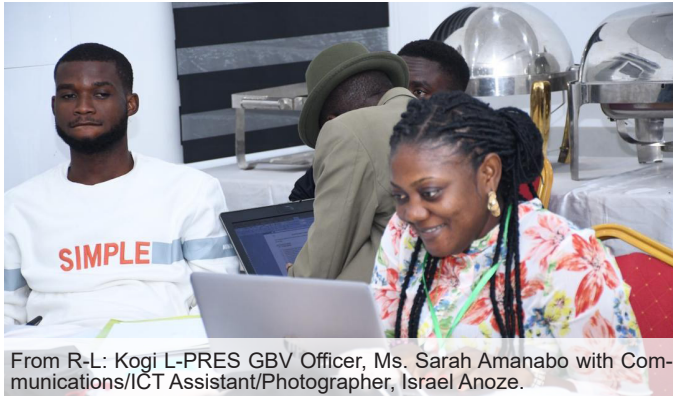
State Project Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin giving his opening speech during the opening of Strategic Communication and Stakeholders Engagement Training.



Training session led by Mrs. Aishat Onusi with PIU members.



Close shot of some of the PIU members and Lead Facilitator Mrs. Aishat Onusi during the training.



From R-L: Kogi L-PRES GBV Officer, Ms. Sarah Amanabo with Communications/ICT Assistant/Photographer, Israel Anozo.



Group Photograph of PIU members with resource persons.



Kogi L-PRES Project Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin (middle) with Lead Facilitators, Mrs. Aishat Onusi of Four Icons Premium Ltd, (right) and Mr. Sanni Momoh also of Four Icons Premium Ltd (left).



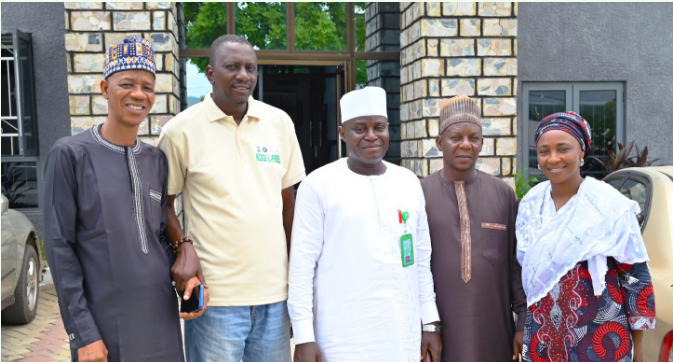
From L-R: Lead Facilitator, Mr. Sanni Momoh of Four Icons Premium Ltd, Kogi L-PRES Project Coordinator, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin, Mrs. Aishat Onusi, HR/Admin Officer, Mrs Philomena Baiyere and Communications/ICT Officer Mr. Richard Alabi.



PIU members and support staff pose for a photograph with their certificates of completion on Strategic Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Training.



FAMILIARIZATION: Visit of the newly appointed HPMFU, Mal. Abdullaziz Aliu. Accompanying him are his entourage and PIU members.



HPMFU, Mal. Abdullaziz Aliu, 3rd from left, Kogi L-PRES Project Accountant 2nd from left and others on the entourage of the HPMFU



State Project Coordinator L-PRES, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin making his way to the venue of the Inauguration of Conflict Prevention and Resolution Committee in Kogi State with his is Public Analyst on Conflict Dr. Olugbenro Olajuyigbe.



Director Animal Husbandry, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Mrs. Hassanat Audu, Barr. Tunji Bello and Commander, Agro Rangers NSCDC Kogi State Command, Commander Boyode Emmanuel



From L-R: Director Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Dr. Shaibu Hussein and Kogi State Fulani Representative, Yahaya Suleiman Mogauri



State Project Coordinator L-PRES, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin and Public Analyst on Conflict, Dr. Olugbenro Olajuyigbe during Inauguration of Conflict Prevention and Resolution Committee in Kogi State



From L-R: Extension Service Officer Kogi L-PRES, Mr. Daniel Okpanachi, Director PRS, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Mr. Abraham Ahmed, HR/Admin Officer Kogi L-PRES, Mrs Philomena Baiyere and Cross section of participants during the inauguration of of Conflict Prevention and Resolution Committee in Kogi State.



Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Timothy Ojomah, State Project Coordinator, L-PRES, Dr. Olufemi Bolarin and the representative of Attah of Igala Land.



Caretaker Chairman of Lokoja LGA, Comrade Abdullahi Adamu (middle), Director of Local Government Administration (DLG) Alh. Aliyu Musa Omuwa (right) and Dr. Khalid Muhammad (left) during the distribution of Registration Form for the Kogi L-PRES Support for Profiled Women and Youth Entrepreneurs in the Poultry Value-Chain in Lokoja.



Registration of Profiled Women and Youth Entrepreneurs in the Poultry Value-Chain in Bassa LGA.



Registration of Profiled Women and Youth Entrepreneurs in the Poultry Value-Chain in Okene LGA



Registration of Profiled Women and Youth Entrepreneurs in the Poultry Value-Chain in Yagba East LGA



Registration of Profiled Women and Youth Entrepreneurs in the Poultry Value-Chain in Dekina LGA.



Registration of Profiled Women and Youth Entrepreneurs in the Poultry Value-Chain in Ankpa LGA.



Registration of Profiled Women and Youth Entrepreneurs in the Poultry Value-Chain in Kabba/Bunu LGA.



Registration of Profiled Women and Youth Entrepreneurs in the Poultry Value-Chain in Adavi LGA.

Kogi L-PRES Establishes Farmer Field Schools

by DANIEL OKPANACHI

In a significant leap towards enhancing livestock farming in Kogi State, the Kogi Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (Kogi L-PRES) has established three Modern Demonstration Farms, set to function as Farmer Field Schools for small ruminants.

Strategically located in Itakpe, Kabba, and Anyigba, these new facilities are designed to use a participatory extension approach. This method empowers farmers with the essential skills to boost production, improve market access, sell at competitive prices, collaborate effectively with peers, and make informed and beneficial decisions.

This flexible model adapts to various contexts by leveraging local knowledge, skills, and abilities. It provides small-scale livestock farmers with comprehensive support, including training on advanced production techniques, proper nutrition, marketing strategies, and business management

Plans are already underway to extend this successful model to other value chains before the end of 2024. As part of livestock extension services, the Farmer Field Schools will



Farmer Field School, Anyigba

provide training and support needed by livestock farmers to improve animal husbandry practices, productivity, and overall livelihoods.

The initiative will also promote sustainable livestock production, enhance animal health and well-being, and increase farmers' income

and resilience through extensive education.

With these advancements, Kogi L-PRES is setting a new benchmark for livestock farming, ensuring Kogi State remains at the forefront of agricultural innovation and development.

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Inspection of Farmer Field School Project by Kogi L-PRES Monitoring Team



Farmer Field School, Itakpe



Farmer Field School, Kabba



Photo Credit: International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

From Poultry To Prosperity: Empowering Women & Youths for a Shared Prosperous Kogi State

by SARAH AMANABO

*Who fed me from her gentle breast,
And hush'd me in her arms to rest,
And on my cheek sweet kisses prest?
My Mother.*

Culled from 'My Mother' by Ann Taylor.

As nostalgic as the remembrance of this poem was, the ethereal feel of the occasion when His Excellency, Ahmed Usman Ododo, the Governor of Kogi State, made history with a groundbreaking initiative of empowering 500 women and youths in the poultry value chain. This impactful initiative, made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Kogi

State Government and the World Bank through its Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support (L-PRES) in Kogi State, is not just about raising chickens; it is about igniting the entrepreneurial spirit of our women and youths in Kogi State and paving the way for a brighter future for the Kogi State livestock sector. This initiative has undoubtedly further strengthened gender equality and bridged the gap toward the economic sufficiency of women, youths, and persons with special abilities.

According to the World Bank, gender equality is not just a moral imperative but a smart economic decision, as closing the gender gap in labor force by encouraging more women to participate in economic activities could add up to \$12 trillion to the global annual GDP by 2025.

Currently, 70% of women entrepreneurs in developing countries like Nigeria, has reported difficulty accessing the capital needed to grow their businesses, hence we can only imagine the economic recalibration that this initiative will fuel in our communities.

A Beacon of Hope Ignites in Kogi State

Kogi State, under the visionary leadership of His Excellency, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, is making history as this unearths the potential of our women and youths while cultivating communal success, through this empowerment to go beyond their kitchen farms to creating sustainable poultry enterprise. We look forward to the transformation of our shared realities that has been birthed through the equipping of our brimming youths, as they have been given wings to fly and take charge of

their destinies.

A Catalyst for Change: Empowering Women, Strengthening Communities

This initiative recognizes the crucial role women play in Kogi's socio-economic fabric. By empowering women to become self-sufficient poultry entrepreneurs, The Governor, through the L-PRES project funded by the World Bank, has created a ripple effect of positive change. Not only will it generate income for these women and their families, but it will also foster a sense of independence and accomplishment. As these women become successful business owners, they serve as role models and social possibility maps, inspiring others to break free from limitations and pursue their dreams.

From Chicks to Prosperity: Building a Sustainable Future

The poultry value chain holds immense potential for Kogi State. By fostering a skilled and empowered workforce, through the support of



women and youths as has been done, L-PRES has laid the road map for a sustainable and thriving poultry industry. Increased local production that will be enhanced by this initiative will not only enhance food security but also create job opportunities throughout the value chain, from feed production to processing and marketing. This economic chain of events will benefit not just the participants but the entire state.

A Call to Action: Be a Part of the Change

The Kogi State Government and the L PRES World Bank Project has laid the foundation for change in the socio-economic realities of women and youths in the Poultry Value Chain through this support, but the story doesn't end there. All stakeholders need to get on board the project by creating the enabling environment in our little ways to see that this thrives. We can support these budding entrepreneurs by seeking out locally produced poultry products, we can spread the word about this empowering program, inspiring others to take charge of their futures. By joining hands, we can turn the promise of this initiative into a reality, ensuring a brighter future for Kogi State and its people.

Governor Ododo's Inspiring Words

In his address, Governor Ododo expressed his unwavering commitment to the success of these women and youth, for Kogi L-PRES and to the Livestock Sector in Kogi State. According to him, job creation and a resilient livestock sector are key considerations of his government and this is only the beginning of many more initiatives that will be Kickstarted through the L-PRES project.

The Road Ahead: A Future Filled with Opportunity

As these 500 women and youths embark on their entrepreneurial journeys, we celebrate their courage and determination. We stand with them, ready to witness the success stories that they will write with their adventures; it won't just be stories of poultry; but of hope, resilience, and the unwavering human spirit.

The Crucial Role of Monitoring and Evaluation in Project Delivery

by OMOJO AKUH

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) are fundamental components in the implementation of projects, serving as essential tools to track progress, identify issues, and measure outcomes. By systematically collecting and analyzing data, M&E ensures that projects are successful and achieve their intended impact. Within the context of the Kogi Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (Kogi L-PRES), the M&E system is instrumental in driving effective project management and fostering continuous improvement.

Understanding M&E Systems

An M&E system is designed to assess the development and progress of a project, providing critical insights for stakeholders. It involves a structured process that uses data and metrics to uncover potential issues in the implementation process, allowing for timely interventions and adjustments. The M&E system of Kogi L-PRES is driven by a set of objectively verifiable indicators, forming the backbone of all information entering the system. These indicators ensure that data collected is reliable, accurate, and relevant to the project's goals.

Key Functions of the Kogi L-PRES M&E System

The Kogi L-PRES M&E system is meticulously designed to keep counterparts and stakeholders informed about the project's status. It establishes a robust platform that caters to different types of users, allowing them to access existing data and gen-



erate comprehensive reports. *The primary functions of the Kogi L-PRES M&E system include:*

1. Generating Project-Specific Information:

- The system provides detailed information on project progress, processes, and performance. This data is crucial for monitoring how well the project is meeting its objectives and identifying areas that require attention.

2. Analyzing and Aggregating Data:

- Data generated at various levels is analyzed and aggregated to track

progress, assess process quality, and evaluate project sustainability. This comprehensive analysis helps in understanding the overall impact of the project and ensuring that it remains on track.

3. Documenting and Disseminating Feedback:

- The M&E system documents feedback and key lessons learned throughout the project lifecycle. This information is disseminated to relevant users and stakeholders, fostering a culture of transparency and continuous improvement.

The Impact of M&E on the Project

The implementation of a robust M&E system in the Kogi L-PRES Project has profound implications for its success. By generating project-specific information, analyzing data, and disseminating feedback, the M&E system ensures that the project remains aligned with its goals and delivers tangible benefits to the livestock sector in Kogi State. The continuous feedback loop created by M&E not only enhances project performance but also contributes to the sustainability and resilience of the livestock value chain.

Moreover, the M&E system supports the overall development objectives of the L-PRES Project by promoting transparency, accountability, and data-driven decision-making. It empowers stakeholders with the information they need to advocate for policy changes, secure additional funding,

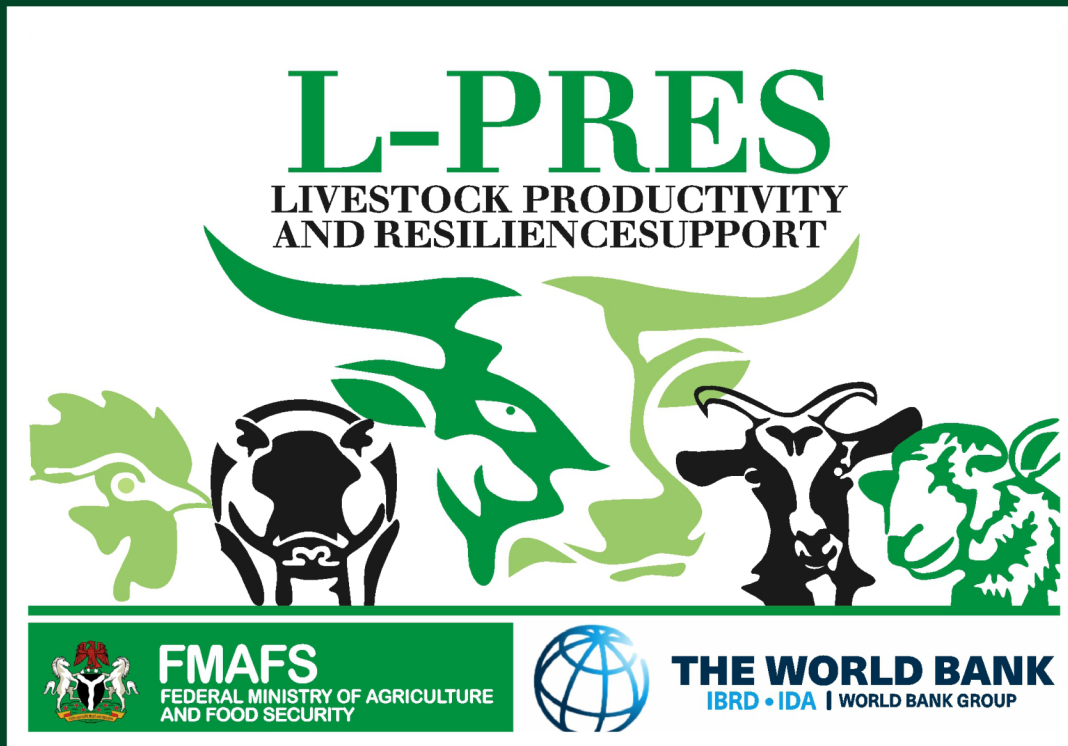
and scale successful interventions. Ultimately, the M&E system is a critical driver of the L-PRES Project's mission to create a sustainable, productive, and resilient livestock sector in Kogi State.

In conclusion, the role of M&E in project delivery cannot be overemphasized. It is a cornerstone of effective project management, enabling continuous improvement and ensuring that projects achieve their desired outcomes. The Kogi L-PRES M&E system exemplifies how a well-designed M&E framework can transform project implementation, drive accountability, and foster sustainable development.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q	What does the acronym “L-PRES” stand for?
A	“L-PRES” stands for Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project.
Q	What does the L-PRES Project aim to achieve?
A	The L-PRES Project aims to improve productivity, commercialization, and resilience of targeted livestock production systems in Nigeria.
Q	Which value chains is the Kogi L-PRES project supporting?
A	The Kogi L-PRES project supports the cattle, poultry, sheep, and goat value chains.
Q	Is L-PRES a grant-based project?
A	No. L-PRES is credit-based, and borrowers are expected to pay back the loans.
Q	Do farmers have to pay to be profiled?
A	No. Profiling is free and open to all livestock farmers in the state.
Q	Is L-PRES disbursing money directly to farmers?
A	No. Credit will be disbursed through participating financial institutions (PFIs).



KOGI STATE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTIVITY AND RESILIENCE SUPPORT PROJECT

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