**NIGERIAN COVID – 19 ACTION AND RECOVERY ECONOMIC STIMLUS (NG-CARES)**

**FADAMA CARES COORDINATION OFFICE, MAKURDI, BENUE STATE**

**Introduction**

Results Area 2 aims to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security of the poor and vulnerable households and facilitate the safe functioning of food supply chains. The main impacts of the pandemic on food security and food supply chains include:

1. Increase in price of major food commodities due to reduced availability;
2. Disruptions to the input delivery networks have reduced availability of farm inputs and increased prices;
3. Disruptions to food supply chains have created a wedge between smallholder poor farmers and the markets, leading to low farm gate prices received by farmers, increased food loss and waste at the farm-level and high food prices to consumers; there is reduced supply of on-farm labor due to movement restrictions, social distancing and fear of morbidity.

This improved variety of seeds and chemicals for improved agricultural activities has gone a long way in meeting the target of the NG-CARES programme in Benue state.

Benue state which is an agrarian state with about 75% of its population involved in agricultural activities was adversely affected by the covid-19 pandemic. The NG-CARES programme which is an intervention aimed at cushioning the effect of the pandemic on the populace or poor and vulnerable households of the state, has recorded a lot of success in the state as the beneficiaries from the various DLIs have their sources of live hood revived and have gotten their lives back on track.

**Activities**

* Sensitization was carried out across the 23 LGAs of the state with advocacy visits to the community leaders and other stakeholders within the communities. A total of 21,470 people were sensitized and mobilized for the programme.
* The first phase of the programme targeted 3,450 beneficiaries in both DLI 2.1 and 2.3 respectively. DLI 2.1 has 1,380 beneficiaries in 500 rice farmers, 450 cassava farmers, 30 maize farmers, 220 soybeans farmers, 140 poultry farmers and 20 fish farmers in six (6) enterprises with 630 males and 750 females, . DLI 2.3 recorded a total of 2,070 beneficiaries with 898 males and 1, 172 females in 30 rice threshers, 30 rice reapers, 10 maize planters, 300 rice milling, 470 cassava processing, 140 tomato processing, 370 pig farmers, 610 goat farmers, 110 sheep farmers in nine (9) enterprises. Inputs ranging from seeds, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides for crop production maize, soybeans, rice and cassava cuttings were also given to the Benue farmers for cultivation on a land mass of 0.5 hectares.