

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PROVIDE A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE INTEGRATED FARM SETTLEMENT AND AGRO-INPUT CENTRES IN NIGERIA; FOR THE CREATION OF FARM SETTLEMENTS, JOB CREATION, AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS AND REMEDIES AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsor by Hon. Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe

[] Commencement

BE IT ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

1 PART I - PRELIMINARY

2 1. The National Policy on Integrated Farm Settlement and Agro-
3 input of Nigeria seeks:

National Policy
on Integrated
Farm Settlement
and Agro-Input
Centres

4 (a) to ensure food security, job creation, availability, accessibility
5 and affordability of agricultural inputs as well as serve as singular access
6 point for input and market for small scale farmers;

7 (b) to stimulate agriculture in commercial quantity through private
8 sector participation and market development;

9 (c) to ensure improved productivity, expanded large-scale
10 production and improved storage, processing capacity as well as the
11 required market infrastructure to achieve food stability;

12 (d) to implement the value chain in production, storage, processing
13 and marketing; import substitution, substantial food security, promotion of
14 modern agricultural practices, natural resources conservation, final
15 successful execution of the value chain for crops, livestock and fisheries,
16 advising federal government on key development challenges facing the
17 agricultural sector.

Integrated Farm
Settlement Centres
Initiative

- 1 2. The Integrated Farm Settlement Centre shall focus and be guided
2 by the following development initiatives such as:
- 3 (a) establishment of one Integrated Farm Settlement and Agro-Input
4 Centres;
- 5 (b) enhancement of fertilizers and agricultural remedies;
- 6 (c) rehabilitation of dilapidated irrigation infrastructure;
- 7 (d) registration of specialized cooperatives in production, credit
8 processing and marketing;
- 9 (e) development of Agro-industrial parks one in each geopolitical
10 zone;
- 11 (f) establishment and sustainability of storage and conditioning
12 centres;
- 13 (g) implementation of "Buyer of Last Resort" scheme;
- 14 (h) liaise and support the relevant agencies of government and the
15 private sector on the sustenance of farmland cadastral survey for agricultural
16 land certification and registry;
- 17 (i) be involved in the training of extension workers annually;
- 18 (j) generate and develop improved seeds, brood stocks and
19 fingerlings for sale and distribution to farmers;
- 20 (k) support the development of abattoirs and livestock product market
21 infrastructure;
- 22 (l) establish artificial insemination and embryo transfer for enhanced
23 diary productivity;
- 24 (m) rehabilitate and concession out to private sector, state owned
25 poultry production farms;
- 26 (n) support the establishment of feeder road building programme,
27 rural water supply, rural market programme, food security and storage
28 programme, small farmer credit programme, food market information centre
29 and the good pastures in grazing reserves;
- 30 (o) proactively support the value chain for livestock production,

1 storage, processing, transportation and marketing; and

2 (p) work hand in hand with other agricultural institutions such as
3 the Agricultural Research Institutes, Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative
4 Bank and the River Basin Development Authorities and other organizations
5 with bias in agricultural development.

6 3.-(1) There shall be established a body to be known as the
7 Integrated Farm and Agro-Input Centres (in this Act referred to as "The
8 Farm Centres" which shall have the functions and powers conferred on it by
9 under this Act.

Establishment
of the Integrated
Farm and Agro-
Input Centres

10 (2) The Farm Centres shall:

11 (a) be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common
12 seal;

13 (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and

14 (c) have its headquarters in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory and
15 shall have zonal offices in the six geopolitical zones of the Country.

16 4. The functions of the Farm Settlement Centres shall be:

Functions of the
Farm Centres

17 (a) to ensure that all resources within its limits are targeted towards
18 the realization of the federal government's policy on integrated farm
19 settlement and agro-input for job creation, food production, storage,
20 processing, marketing of crops, livestock and fisheries through active
21 participation of the private sector in agricultural development;

22 (b) to strengthen agricultural research and development capacity
23 for improved crops and seed varieties, breeding stock and fingerlings;

24 (c) to establish a comprehensive market information system;

25 (d) to establish a guaranteed minimum price on selected
26 commodities to protect farmers from product price fluctuations;

27 (e) to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture in enhancing
28 the national strategic food reserve programme by constructing specialized
29 warehouses and the establishment of conditioning and processing centers;

30 (f) to promote massive market infrastructural development in

- 1 partnership with State Governments;
- 2 (g) to facilitate land clearing and development activities for factory
- 3 driven commercial farming in selected commodities;
- 4 (h) to promote the private sector driven initiative on the establishment
- 5 of Agro-Industrial Parks and other agro-industries and farm service centers;
- 6 (k) to encourage the establishment of a private sector warehousing
- 7 programme to complement government storage programmes;
- 8 (l) to promote large scale factory driven agriculture in identified
- 9 areas of crops, livestock and fisheries; and
- 10 (m) to carry out any function as the Board may deem necessary in
- 11 discharging the mandate of the Farm Centres.
- 12 **5.-(1)** There shall be established for the Farm Centres a Governing
- 13 Board with a maximum of 13 members consisting of:
- 14 (i) The Chairman;
- 15 (ii) Permanent Secretaries of the Federal Ministries.
- 16 (a) Agriculture and Rural Development;
- 17 (b) Commerce;
- 18 (c) Water Resources;
- 19 (d) Finance and Economic Development.
- 20 (iii) One representative of Central Bank of Nigeria;
- 21 (iv) One representative of the National Centre for Agricultural
- 22 Mechanization.
- 23 (e) Five representatives from the Agricultural Research Council of
- 24 Nigeria;
- 25 (vi) Two representatives of the Organized Cooperative Society or the
- 26 Private Sector with bias in Agricultural development; and
- 27 (vii) The Executive Secretary.
- 28 (2) The Members of the Board shall be appointed by the President,
- 29 Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and subject to
- 30 confirmation by the Senate.

Establishment
of the Governing
Board

1 6.-(1) The Chairman and members under Section 3(1) shall hold
2 office for a term of four years, and may be reappointed for a further term of
3 four years and no more. Terms of Office
and Conditions
of Service etc.

4 7.-(1) There shall be for the Integrated Farm and Agro-Input
5 Centres, an Executive Secretary who shall be appointed by the President on
6 the recommendation of the Minister. Appointment of
Executive
Secretary

7 (2) The Executive Secretary shall:

8 (a) be the Secretary to the Board;

9 (b) hold office on such terms and conditions as to emoluments and
10 other conditions of service as approved by the President;

11 (c) subject to the general directions of the Farm Centres, be
12 responsible for keeping the books and proper records of proceedings of the
13 Farm Centres.

14 8.-(1) (a) The Centres may also determine the number, nature and
15 categories of other officers and employees required to assist the Executive
16 Secretary in the discharge of his functions; Staff of the
Centres

17 (b) The salary and allowances payable to and other terms and
18 conditions of service of the Secretary and other employees of the Centres
19 shall be such as are applicable to similar service in the Public Services of the
20 Federation;

21 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-section (b) of this
22 section, employees of the Centres may be appointed by way of transfer or
23 secondment from the public service of the Federation or any of the States in
24 Nigeria.

25 (2) The Centres shall have powers to appoint such number of other
26 persons as he deems necessary as staff of the Centres.

27 (3) The employment of the Centre's staff, including the Executive
28 Secretary, shall be subject to such terms and conditions as may from time to
29 time be stipulated by the Board and contained in the respective staffs
30 employment contracts.

Conditions of
Services of the
Centres

1 9.-(1) The Centres shall develop and implement appropriate
2 conditions of service for its staff with particular regard to the issues of
3 remuneration, pensions scheme, hazard benefits and other fringe service
4 benefits, sufficient for the Centres to attract and retain quality and high caliber
5 manpower.

6 (2) The Board shall consider and, in consultation with the National
7 Salaries, Income and Wages Commission determine and review from time to
8 time, the remunerations and allowances, payable to the Centre's staff.

9 (3) The conflict of interest provisions contained in the Second
10 Schedule to this Act shall apply to all employees of the Centres.

11 PART II - INTEGRATED FARM AND AGRO-INPUT

12 FACILITATION COMMITTEES

Integrated Farm
and Agro-input
Facilitation
Committees

13 10.-(1) There is hereby established for the Integrated Farm and Agro-
14 input Centres three Facilitation Committees which includes the Arable Crops
15 Committee, Tree Crops Committee and the Livestock and Fisheries
16 Committee (in this Act referred to as the "Committees").

17 (2) The Committees shall always meet at the headquarters of the
18 Centres in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

Membership
of the Committees

19 11.-(1) The Committees shall consist of the following members-

20 (a) two farmers nominated by the Commodity Farmers to represent
21 each geo-political zone in such a way that the nominees shall be spread among
22 the various crops under the Committees across the country;

23 (b) one representative from the:

24 (i) Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; (ii)
25 Federal Ministry of Commerce;

26 (iii) Federal Ministry of Water Resources;

27 (iv) Federal Ministry of Finance and Economic Development; (v)
28 Central Bank of Nigeria; and

29 (vi) a Secretary.

30 (2) Members of the Committees shall be appointed by the President.

1 (3) The Members shall serve a four years term and a second term of
2 four years subject to the discretion of the President based on the
3 recommendation from the Associations of the Members.

4 (4) The Committee and its secretariat staff shall stand dissolved if
5 the interest of the farmers is no longer protected by an overwhelming
6 resolutions monitored by the Federal Government Officials.

7 12. The functions of the National Committees shall be to:

Functions of the
Facilitation
Committees

8 (a) promote the production and distribution of farm inputs to
9 farmers and Farmers Association at subsidized rates, which shall not be less
10 than 50% subsidy;

11 (b) procure inputs not available in Nigeria and distribute at
12 subsidized rates, which shall not be less than 50% of cost;

13 (c) promote agricultural research of specific crops using the three
14 centres of excellence for Agricultural Research and also any of the existing
15 Research Institutes, Universities or Polytechnics and any other research
16 institutions that may be used to accomplish the largest objectives in the
17 process of development in the country;

18 (d) promote and facilitate the development of infrastructures that
19 may be necessary for agricultural production, movement of agricultural
20 inputs within the country and this shall be done in linkage with the
21 Agricultural Liaising Marketing Agency;

22 (e) provide and facilitate market information either directly to
23 farmers and associations or to Agricultural Liaising Marketing Agency;

24 (f) promote and facilitate processing and preservation of
25 agricultural produce in linkage with Agricultural Liaising Agency;

26 (g) be buyers of the last resort;

27 (h) be in linkage with Agricultural Liaising Marketing Agency in
28 facilitating and providing storage for agricultural produce under the buyer
29 of the last resort;

30 (i) serve as channels of credit delivery from Agricultural

1 Development Fund to large scale and medium scale farmers when the need
2 arises;

3 (j) promote and facilitate Commodity Farmers Associations which
4 shall assist in channelling of delivery of inputs to farmers and channelling of
5 output delivery from farms to the Agricultural Agencies and Agricultural
6 Liaison Marketing Agency;

7 (k) appraise and approve projects from farmers Associations and
8 present to the Centres;

9 (l) recognize the agricultural seasons of the various zones of Nigeria
10 and shall tailor their activities of inputs and outputs to and from farmers strictly
11 in accordance with the agricultural seasons of each zone in Nigeria.

Establishment
of State Facilitation
Committees

12 **13.-(1)** There is hereby established in each state of the federation
13 including the Federal Capital Territory State facilitation Committees which
14 shall consist of:

15 (a) three farmers selected from each senatorial Zone of the state
16 chapters of the Commodity Farmers Associations;

17 (b) one representative each of:

18 (i) Federal Ministry of Agriculture;

19 (ii) State Ministry of Agriculture;

20 (iii) State Ministry of Commerce; and

21 (iv) a Secretary who shall an active farmer.

22 (2) The conditions attached to the tenure of service at the National
23 Committee established by section 18 of this Act shall apply to the State
24 Committees.

25 (3) The State Committees shall be subordinate to the National
26 Committee and shall be responsible to the general directives of the National
27 Committee and the secretariat of the State Committees shall have local
28 language advantage to be able to communicate with the farmers who they
29 operate and interact on daily basis. The State Committees may be dissolved
30 with an overwhelming % vote of no confidence of the farmers associations

1 under the Committee, otherwise the Committee shall enjoy the same tenure
2 as the National Committee.

3 14.-(1) There shall be established for the Farm Centres the Local
4 Government Facilitation Committees. Establishment of
the Local
Government
Facilitation
Committees

5 (2) The Local Government Facilitation Committees shall consist
6 of-

7 (a) one vibrant farmer to be elected from one Council Ward
8 Farmers Association;

9 (b) one representative of the Department of Agriculture and Rural
10 Development of the Local Government Council;

11 (c) one representative of the State Produce Marketing Department;

12 (d) three prominent Traditional Rulers of the Local Government
13 Council.

14 (3) The Members of the Committee shall be on part time basis and
15 shall be paid sitting allowance to the determined by the National Facilitation
16 Committee.

17 15.-(1) The Local Government Council through its Department of Local Government
Facilitation
Committee and
workshop
18 Local Government Agriculture and Rural Development shall act as
19 facilitators, direct data source committee facilitation of information and
20 physical inputs to farmers and shall act as facilitators between and
21 workshops the State Committee and the Marketing Liaising Bodies for
22 output and service delivery.

23 (2) There shall be quarterly workshops or seminars for farmers
24 where information about new application of inputs or new techniques of
25 production or processing shall be disseminated and such activities shall be
26 directly funded by the Agencies from the funds of the Centres.

27 (3) The Local Government Committee shall carry out all
28 instructions and directives form the State Committees of the Farm Centres.

29 16.-(1) There shall be farm Inspectors at each Council Ward who Farm Inspectors
30 shall be Farm Inspectors, in charge of between 30 to 50 farmers depending

1 on the size of the farms and terrain of the farm location.

2 (2) Farm Inspectors shall be graduates from Universities,
3 Polytechnics and other tertiary institutions or Youth Corps Members to be
4 recruited by the Centres.

Duties of the
Farm Inspectors

5 17.-(1) The Farm Inspectors shall maintain records on each farmer
6 who shall give adequate information as to the quality and effectiveness of
7 inputs Monitors. provided; actual and estimated outputs, and detailed census of
8 farmers hectares of farmlands of crops under the particular Agency which the
9 monitor is serving.

10 (2) The Farm Inspector shall take part in all workshops and seminars
11 conducted as may be directed by the Local Government, State or National
12 Committees of the Centres.

13 (3) The Farm Inspector shall report directly to the Local Government
14 Committee and the Local Government Committee shall report to the State
15 Committee which shall thereafter report to the National Facilitation
16 Committee of the Centre in Abuja.

Affiliation with
the Research
Centres

17 18.-(1) From the commencement of this Act, The Centres shall be
18 affiliated with the three Agricultural Research Centres of International
19 Standard to cope with the increasing international agricultural research in
20 Biotechnology and Genetically modified applications. The Centres shall be:

21 (a) a Centre of Agricultural Research Excellence for Arable Crops to
22 be cited in the Agricultural Research Centre, Samaru, Zaria;

23 (b) a Centre for Agricultural Research Excellence for Tree Crops to be
24 cited in Moor Plantation, Ibadan; and

25 (c) a Centre for Agricultural Research Excellence on Livestock and
26 fishing to be cited in Abia State.

Establishment
of the Agricultural
Commodities
Board

27 19.-(1) The Agricultural Commodities Board shall be managed by the
28 Chairman and twelve other members as follows:

29 (a) one person representing each of the Agricultural Commodity
30 Agency;

- 1 (b) one person from each of the Geo-political zones who shall be an
 2 expert in local and international marketing ideas of agricultural
 3 commodities;
- 4 (c) one representative of Manufacturer's Association of Nigeria;
 5 (d) one representative of Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and
 6 Industry;
- 7 (e) one person representing Small and Medium Scale processors;
 8 (f) one member from Ministry of Commerce;
 9 (g) one member from the Ministry of Finance and Economic
 10 Development;
- 11 (h) one member from the Central Bank of Nigeria;
 12 (i) one member from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and
 13 (j) one member from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
 14 Development.
- 15 (2) All the activities of the Agricultural Liaison Marketing Agency
 16 shall be funded by the Centres.
- 17 20.-(1) The Board which shall be:
- 18 (a) providing information about local and foreign markets for
 19 particular agricultural commodities;
- 20 (b) liaising with the Agricultural Commodities Board with respect
 21 to the goods they may have at warehouses and silos and at other storage
 22 points for local and foreign markets;
- 23 (c) linking private marketing companies with local and foreign
 24 buyers;
- 25 (d) linking up with our foreign missions in bracing up, to provide
 26 foreign markets information;
- 27 (e) linking and liaising with the leaders of Commodity Farmers
 28 Associations, providing information about markets for agricultural
 29 products;
- 30 (f) conducting seminars, workshops and trade missions for

Functions of the
 Agricultural
 Commodities
 Board

1 personnel in the Agencies, Leaders of Farmers Associations and the Private
2 Companies dealing in agricultural commodities;

3 (g) providing information about processing of agricultural products
4 and facilitating their sales after processing;

5 (h) facilitating and, or providing information for the establishment of
6 processing plants of our agricultural production;

7 (i) facilitating interaction between lending institutions and
8 agricultural production processors;

9 (j) liaising with Nigerian foreign embassies and high commissions
10 through the ministry of Foreign Affairs in finding markets for Nigerian
11 Agricultural Products; and

12 (k) doing all other things that shall enhance the marketing or
13 processing of our agricultural products for both local and foreign markets;

14 (2) The activities of the Agencies shall be funded from the
15 Commission.

16 **21.**-(1) The Centres shall encourage and facilitate registration and
17 operation of sound Farmers Commodity Associations and such Associations
18 shall operate within the following three apexes:

19 (a) Arable Crops Apex Farmers Association;

20 (b) Tree Crops Apex Farmers Association; and

21 (c) Livestock and Fishing Apex Farmers Association.

22 (2) The Apexes shall be built on the representativeness of the
23 Commodity Farmers Associations under their Non-governmental
24 Organization's Constitutions and they shall function as such.

25 (3) They shall function in linkage with the Agencies and Agricultural
26 Marketing Liaison Agency as spelt out in the functions of the Committees and
27 shall receive international and National grants including token grants from the
28 Centre for the purpose of strengthening the Farmers Associations.

29 (4) The usage of such grants shall be monitored by staff from the
30 Centre and the Agricultural Agencies.

1 22.-(1) There shall be established for the Centres a fund for
2 financing the short and medium term projects targeted at developing the
3 agricultural sector and from which all expenditures incurred by the Centres
4 shall be defrayed.

Funding the
Fram Centres

5 (2) The sources of the fund shall come from the Federal
6 Government, State and Local Government and International Donor
7 Agencies.

8 (3) (a) 20% of the 1.68 % of the Federation Account as the Natural
9 Resource Fund;

10 (b) 35% of the Agricultural Development Fund;

11 (c) 25% of the 100% of all levies on agricultural exports per
12 annum;

13 (d) 2% levy on profit of Oil and Gas companies; and

14 (e) 10% appropriation from annual capital budget of the Federal
15 Government.

16 23. The Fund shall be for the development of the establishment of
17 Integrated Farm Settlements and Agro-input Centres, development and
18 expansion of agricultural remedies and farm feeds, and shall be used for the:

Application of
the Centre's Fund

19 (a) the pilot projects of the Integrated Farm Settlements and Agro-
20 inputs Centres one in each zone;

21 (b) enhancement of national strategic food reserve programme by
22 constructing specialized warehouse and the establishment of conditioning
23 and processing centres;

24 (c) promotion of massive market infrastructural development in
25 partnership with state governments;

26 (d) enhancement of storage, processing and the small-scale
27 processors, processing facilities

28 (d) provide support in form of grant to Agricultural Research and
29 Training, Market Information System and Agricultural Extension Services
30 in Nigeria's various Research Institutes, Universities and Ministries;

1 (e) provide funds for on-lending to farmers and corporate bodies on
2 appropriate soft terms through appropriate finance houses, farmers groups and
3 institutions;

4 (f) provide grants for the development of Commodities, Storage
5 Processing and general agro based industrial ventures;

6 (g) assist Multi-Commodity Development and Marketing Companies
7 in the major task of creating conducive production and marketing
8 opportunities for farmers within and outside the country; and

9 (h) provide farm support to the agricultural sector and the mop-up-
10 excess commodities during glut in conjunction with the appropriate organs of
11 government.

Engagement of
Consultants

12 24. The Centres may appoint or engage consultants required to assist
13 in the discharge of its functions on such terms and conditions as may be
14 determined by regulation.

Application of
the Pension
Reform Act, 2004

15 25.-(1) Service in the Centres is pensionable under the pension
16 Application of the Pension Reform Act, 2004 and accordingly, officers and
17 other persons employed in Centres shall be entitled to pension in respect of
18 their service in the Centres as prescribed in that Act.

19 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-section (1) of this section,
20 nothing in this Act shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office, on
21 terms which preclude the grant of a pension or other retirement benefits in of
22 that office.

Annual Estimates
and Account

23 26.-(1) The Centres shall submit to the Minister, not later than 31st of
24 October in each financial year, an estimate of its expenditure and income
25 (including payments to the Agricultural Development Fund) during the
26 succeeding financial year.

27 (2) The Centres shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant
28 records and prepare an annual statement of accounts in such form as may be
29 prescribed by the Auditor-General for the Federation.

1 27.-(1) The accounts of the Centres shall be audited by the Auditor- Audit
2 Audit. General for the Federation at such intervals as may be specified by
3 him.

4 (2) The Auditor-General or any other person authorized by him in
5 connection with the audit of the accounts of the Centres shall have the same
6 rights and privileged and authority in connection with the audit of the
7 Government accounts and, in particular, shall have the right to demand the
8 production of books, accounts connected vouchers and other documents and
9 papers and inspection of office of the Centres.

10 (3) The account of the Centres as certified by the Auditor-General
11 of the Federation or any other person appointed by him in this behalf
12 together with the audit report thereon shall be submitted to the President
13 who shall lay same before the National Assembly.

14 28.-(1) The Centres shall prepare once every year in such form and Annual Report
15 time as may be prescribed by the President an annual report giving a
16 summary of its activities including information relating to the proceedings
17 and policies during the previous years as may be prescribed by the President.

18 (2) A copy of the report shall be forwarded to the President who
19 will cause such report to be laid as soon as possible before the National
20 Assembly.

21 29. The Centres may, accept any gift of land, money or other Power to accept
22 property, on such terms and conditions as may be specified by the persons gifts
23 making the gift:

24 Provided that, the Centres shall not accept any gift if the conditions
25 attached are inconsistent with its functions and the terms of any existing
26 laws.

27 30.-(1) For the purpose of carrying out the functions conferred on Power to obtain
28 the Centres under this Act, the Executive Secretary or any other officer of the information
29 Centres authorized in that behalf:

30 (a) shall have right of access to all the records of any institution to

1 which this Act applies; and

2 (b) may, by notice in writing served on any person in charge of any
3 institution, require that person to furnish information on such matters as may
4 be specified in the notice.

5 (2) It shall be the duty of any person required to furnish information
6 pursuant to sub-section (1) of this section, to comply with the notice as stated
7 therein.

8 (3) In this Act, reference to an institution, is a reference to the
9 University or any other degree-awarding institution in Nigeria recognized for
10 that purpose by the Centres.

Power to make
staff regulations

11 **31.-(1)** Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Centres shall make
12 staff regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of the staff and
13 such regulations may provide for:

14 (a) the appointment, promotion, termination, dismissal and discipline
15 control of the staff of the Centres;

16 (b) appeals by those staff aggrieved against dismissal or other
17 disciplinary measures.

18 (2) Until such regulations are made under sub-section (1) of this
19 section, any instrument relating to the conditions of service of the officers in
20 the civil service of the federation shall be applicable, with necessary
21 modifications to the staff of the Centres under this Act.

22 (3) Staff regulations made under subsection (1) of this section, shall
23 not have effect, unless they are approved by the Minister.

24 (4) When approved by the Minister, the Centres shall bring the
25 content of such staff regulations to the notice of the staff in such a manner as
26 may be determined by the management.

Power of the
Minister to make
Regulations

27 **32.-(1)** The Minister may make regulations generally for the carrying
28 into effect of the provisions of this Act in relation to effective and efficient
29 discharge of the object of the Centres.

30 (2) The Minister shall cause such regulations to be published in the

1 Official Federal Gazette.

2 **33.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires-

Interpretation

3 "Board" means the Governing Board of the Centres established under
4 section 2 of this Act;

5 "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Board;

6 "Facilitation Committees" includes the National, State and Local
7 Government Facilitation Committees of the Centres;

8 "Centres" means the Integrated Farm and Agro-input Centres;

9 "Associations" means the Farmers Association established under this Act;

10 "Facilitation Agencies" includes the Arable, Tree and Livestock and Fishing
11 Agencies established under this Act;

12 "Fund" means the Integrated Farm Settlement and Agro-input Fund
13 establishment for the Centres under section 25 of this Act;

14 "Member" means any member of the Board and includes the Chairman;

15 "Minister" means the Minister in-charge of Agricultural Development
16 matters;

17 "Research Centres" includes the Agricultural Research Institutes assigned
18 to undertake agricultural and institutional excellence.

19 **34.** This Bill may be cited as the Integrated Farm Settlement
20 Centres Bill, 2017.

Citation

21 SCHEDULE

22 SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD, ETC.

23 **1.** Subject to this Act and Section 27 of the Interpretations Act
24 (which provides for decisions of a statutory body to be taken by a majority of
25 its members and for the person presiding at any meeting, when a vote is
26 ordered, to have a second or casting vote), the Board may make standing
27 orders regulating its proceedings or that of any of its committees.

28 **2.** At every meeting of the Board, the Chairman shall preside and
29 in his absence the members present at that meeting shall appoint one of them
30 to preside at that meeting.

1 3. The quorum at a meeting of the Board shall be not less than two-
2 thirds of the total number of members of the Board at the date of the meeting.

3 4. The Board shall for the purpose of this Act, meet not less than four
4 times in each year and also the Board shall meet whenever it is summoned by
5 the Chairman, and if required to do so, by notice given to him by not less than
6 four other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Board to be held within
7 14 days from the date on which the notice is given.

8 5. Where the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on a
9 particular matter, the Board may co-opt him to the Board for such period as it
10 thinks fits, but a person, who is a member by virtue of this paragraph shall not
11 be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board and shall not count towards a
12 quorum.

13 6. Subject to its standing orders, the Board may appoint such
14 number of standing or ad-hoc committees as it thinks fit to consider and report
15 on any matter with which the Board is concerned.

16 7. A committee appointed under this paragraph shall-

17 (a) Consist of such number of person (not necessarily member of the
18 Board as may be determined by the Board), and a person other than a member
19 of the Board shall hold office in the committee in accordance with the terms of
20 his appointment; and

21 (b) Be presided over by a member of the Board.

22 8. The quorum of any committee set up by the board shall be as may
23 be determined by the board.

24 9. A decision of a committee of the Board shall be of no effect until it
25 is confirmed by the Board.

26 10. The fixing of the seal of the Board shall be authenticated by the
27 signature of the Chairman or any other person generally or specifically
28 authorized by the Board to act for that purpose and that of the Executive
29 Secretary.

30 11. Any contract or instrument which, if made by a person not being a

1 body corporate, would not be required to be seal may be made or executed
2 on behalf of the Board by the Executive Secretary or by any other person
3 generally or specially authorized by Board to act for that purpose.

4 12. Any document purporting to be a contract, instrument or other
5 document duly signed or seal on behalf of the Board shall be received in
6 evidence and small unless the contrary is proved, be presumed without
7 further proof to have been signed or sealed.

8 *Proceedings of the Board*

9 13. The validity of any proceeding of the Board or of any of its
10 committees shall not be affected by:

11 (a) Any vacancy in the membership of the Board, or committee;

12 (b) Any defect in the appointment of a member of the Board or
13 committee; or (c) Reason that any person not entitled to do so took part in the
14 proceedings of the Board or committee.

15 *Committees*

16 14. A member of the Board or a committee who has a personal
17 interest in any contract of arrangement entered into or proposed to be
18 considered by the board or committee shall forthwith disclose his interest to
19 the Board or committee and shall not vote on any question relating to the
20 contract or arrangement

21 15. No member of the Board shall be personally liable for any act
22 or omission done or made in good faith while engaged in the business of the
23 Board.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to provide for the establishment of the Integrated Farm Settlement and Agro-input Centres which shall be responsible for the registration of Agricultural Facilitation Committees; Establishment and Registration of Farmers Association; stimulating food production through private sector participation and market development; ensure sustainable access, availability and affordability of quality food to all Nigerians and to be a significant net provider of food to the global community.

