



ACReSAL DIGEST

A quarterly Newsletter of Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL). Vol. 1 No. 1



ACReSAL Critical to lifting 100m Nigerians out of poverty

The Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) project is critical to lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty.

Mr Mohammed Abdullahi, the Minister for Environment, said this at the ACReSAL technical workshop recently held in Lagos. The workshop was organised by the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Water Resources in conjunction with the World Bank to deliberate on ACReSAL Project Draft Annual Work plan prepared by the state project management units and to clear same for onward transmission to the steering committee for approval.

"The ACReSAL Project is one of the central components in President Muhammadu Buhari's strategy of ensuring environmental sustainability. "And improving community livelihoods toward lifting 100 million people out of poverty," Abdullahi said.

He said that his passion for the ACReSAL project exposed him to further understand the environment portfolio and its link with the broader society. "I am also very passionate about ACReSAL. "It is the first project that heralds my assumption of duties when

Mr President redeployed me to the Federal Ministry of Environment. "I saw the political will and desire of the three ministries of environment, agriculture and water in ensuring that targets are meant," Abdullahi said.

According to him, ACReSAL is all about sustainable land management. He said that the ministry was deliberate in inviting stakeholders from the National Parks Service and the Great Green Wall Agency to engage with the World Bank to ensure the success of the project.

The minister urged the Project Management Units



Bar. Mohammed H. Abdullahi
Hon. Minister Federal Ministry of Environment



(PMUs) from the different states to be “diplomatically independent” in their relationship with their state governors. He added that the ACReSAL project had the mandate to ensure land restoration, wetlands cultivation for the improvement of the land to make them fit for cultivation. He added that the ACReSAL would strengthen Nigeria's long-term enabling environment for an integrated climate-resilient landscape.

In her remarks, Dr. Joy Iganya Agene, Senior Environment Specialist World Bank and task team leader, Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL), said, in the world bank portfolio, ACReSAL is one of the projects that recorded fast time in effectiveness and also is one of the projects that is gender tagged 100%, this is because of the design of the project, where the project will be working with female farmers and communities.

According to Dr Joy, “the development of a realistic work plan is part of the requirements for project effectiveness, hence the workshop was at the instance of the World Bank and Nigeria

implemented under ACReSAL aligns with the project development objective.

Earlier in his remarks, the Acting National Project Coordinator, ACReSAL, Engr. Anda Ayuba Yalaks stated that the project was declared effective in June 2022 and the project team is in Lagos for a technical work plan workshop which will be approved by the federal and state steering committees. Noting that ACReSAL project is a multi sectoral and multi-institutional project with four components and is domiciled in three ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Water Resources.

Also at the technical work plan workshop was Dr. Salisu Dahiru, ACReSAL project former National Project Coordinator (NPC) and the New DG National Climate Change Council. Who provided support and guidance to the team in the area of project management, communication amongst other issues to ensure successful project effectiveness and implementation.



government to ensure that all activities to be



ACReSAL Pre-Launched to tackle environmental challenges in the North



MUHAMMADU BUHARI
PRESIDENT, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

The Federal Government of Nigeria has Launched Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) Project in Abuja.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to increase the implementation of Sustainable Landscape Management Practices in Targeted Watersheds in Northern Nigeria and strengthen Nigeria's long-term enabling environment for integrated climate-resilient Landscape management. The ACReSAL Project, is a multi-sectoral scheme, covering environment, agriculture and water, is designed by the Federal Government to combat desertification, restore degraded lands, and special ecosystem for agriculture and biodiversity conservation.

Mohammed Abdullahi, Minister of Environment, speaking at the pre-launched mission assured Nigerians that the project would be effectively implemented to tackle environmental challenges such as climate change, erosion system, biodiversity, among others. "We thank the world

bank for initiating this project, and I am assuring you that from the Ministry of Environment, we will do all the best we can to implement the project," Mr Abdullahi said.

He said that with the collaboration of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Water Resources and also the World Bank support, the objective of the project must be achieved. "We will ensure that the political will to drive this project, in accordance with the mandates and its objectives, are achieved." "We are going to make sure that various governors at the state levels deliver on the objectives of the project.

According to him, the project is very important, as it will also address the water stress system and restore the lost lands, thereby, making the lands reproductive for agriculture. The minister said that the ministry had also established a project tracker system in the office, adding that the system would enhance the achievement of the project.

In his remarks, the World Bank Country Director to Nigeria, Shubham Chaudhuri, said that the World bank would continue to support Nigeria to ensure that the objective of the project was achieved.





Mohammed H. Abdullahi, Honorable Minister Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria with **Shubham Chaudhuri**, the World Bank Country Director for Nigeria at the pre-launched event.

"The world bank team remains committed to this project, but I want to appeal to governments at all levels to ensure that the team and other people in the field are protected. "The government should ensure that all kinds of insecurity is tackled in the areas to enable people to concentrate and do the job effectively.

Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State, who spoke on behalf of other governors said that the project would benefit all the people in the states. "We are happy and grateful to have this laudable project that will curb poverty and address environmental challenges in our states."

Also speaking at the mission, Dr Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, explained that "This project will improve the livelihoods of the people; therefore, it requires careful planning, good management and commitment from everyone."

Engr. Suleiman Hussein Adamu, Minister of Water Resources, urged all the states, local governments, and other beneficiaries of the project to claim ownership of the project for sustainability. "The state governors and the people of all the states should ensure that the efforts of the world bank and the Federal Government will not be a waste. "There is a need to secure the project and ensure that its benefits are realised," Mr Adamu said.

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World Bank Practice Manager Lauds NEWMAP, Calls for effective documentation of ACRoSAL Results



SANJAY SRIVASTAVA,
World Bank Practice Manager

Sanjay Srivastava, world Bank Manager of the Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy Global Practice in Africa made this call during a crucial engagement with ACRoSAL Project Management Units (PMUs) and Federal Ministries Department and Agencies (MDAs) in Abuja. Mr. Sanjay applauded the successful implementation of the Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP), and revealed that NEWMAP exceeded its targets with referenced to the project development objectives. He advised Project implementers that ACRoSAL will be very unique in terms of results documentation; every investment must be justified and done in stages to ensure effective implementation, every investment will align and fit into the project development objectives, it will increase

agricultural development, afforestation, improve livelihoods, address water stress, restoration of degraded lands and build the capacity of communities for effective natural resources management. Mr. Sanjay further informed the Project Coordinators from the 20 partner states to commence project implementation and ensure that laid down criteria and due processes are strictly adhered to. "ACReSAL is as complex as NEWMAP, we need to show evidence-based results, he stated".

Speaking earlier, during his presentation on ACRoSAL overview, Engr. Anda Ayuba Yalaks, the Ag. National Project Coordinator, ACRoSAL, disclosed that the ACRoSAL is a Multi-sectoral (Environment, Agriculture, Water) & Multi-institutional at Multi-level (National...State...Community) project building on National and Global Good Practices (technology, institutional, implementation lessons), he stated that for a project to succeed it must have a robust institutional framework which is in place in ACRoSAL. On the issue of peace building, Engr. Anda said that it cannot be underscored as we intend to build the capacity of the community to make them understand that



when we manage the natural resources adequately, it will be utilized and enough for everybody both the farmers and cattle grazers as planned under the project component B “Community Climate Resilience”

Also in his Presentation, Dr. Godstime James from the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) noted that to bridge the gap in technology NASRDA will develop and operationalize ACReSAL Web-Based Geo-Portal data center for monitoring of project progress across the state from any location in the world.

Dr. Joy I. Agene, Senior Environment Specialist World Bank and Task Team Leader, ACReSAL,

encouraged the Project Coordinators to start implementation of the activities as captured and cleared in the work-plan such as community engagement and other low hanging fruits and follow due processes, seek approvals where it is applicable.



Standing with **Engr. Anda Ayuba Yalaks**, Ag. National Project Coordinator, ACReSAL is **Dr. Joy I. Agene**, Task Team Leader, ACReSAL





Kano Commits to ACReSAL Project



Kano State government has expressed its willingness to pay compensations and related counterpart funding for the success of the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi- Arid Landscape (ACReSAL) project. The state governor, Dr. Abdullahi Ganduje, stated this during the recent flag-off of the project's joint World Bank/FGN Hybrid Implementation Support Mission in Kano.

However, the Governor said the state performed better in the just concluded NEWMAP project and the project accorded Kano outstanding recognition, adding that they will put more efforts in ensuring that the ACReSAL project is also a success. "The outstanding performance of the Project Management Unit of

Kano-NEWMAP led to its winning the best performing state in land reclamation via Afforestation.

"It also won the best performing state in transparency and integrity and this led to the Transformation of the NEWMAP at its closure, into Watershed, Erosion and Climate Change Management Agency

(WECCMA)." he said.

Earlier in his opening remarks, the Acting National Project Coordinator, ACReSAL, Anda Yalaks, said the mission objective is to assess progress in overall implementation and deepen policy engagement with relevant sectors.

He noted that the mission would also assess disbursement readiness and deliberate on Fiduciary issues such as, procurement, financial management, contract management as well as Environmental and Social (ESF) aspects, capacity building, workshops, amongst other critical issues.

Also speaking, the Senior





Also speaking, the Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank and Task Team Leader, ACRéSAL, Dr. Joy Agene, noted that ACRéSAL project intend to restore one million hectares of degraded lands in Northern Nigeria.

Dr. Agene said the project would increase adoption of sustainable landscape management practices in targeted watersheds in Northern Nigeria with proposed financing of \$700 million and implementation period of six years. She stressed that the over \$700 million worth project is in partnership between the World Bank, Federal Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development and the Federal Ministry of Water resources.

“Beyond the restoration of land, ACRéSAL is expected to restore about one million as a mission by the President Muhammadu Buhari's administration, we also want to live behind institutions that will be able to do this on their own. So, we are happy to tell you that most of the

states that are under ACRéSAL are disbursement ready and we are good to go,” she said.

Also in his remarks, Engr. Chinedu Umolu, ACRéSAL Co Task Team Leader and Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, World Bank, thanked the Kano State Government and project management unit for wonderful hospitality and hosting. He disclosed that important milestone has been achieved in the life of ACRéSAL Project; the successful lifting of disbursement conditions that has allowed states to now access part of the project fund to kick-start actual implementation.

He said that the plane is set to take-off, it is time for all hands to be on deck. He noted that the mission is an avenue to seek clarification where necessary particularly on the issues that might hinder project implementation and clear grey areas for the success of the project. He then charged participants to be attentive, focused and get the best out of the mission.



ACReSAL Task Team Leader Seeks Cooperation of Emir of Hadejia



The Task Team Leader of the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes – ACReSAL Project, Dr. Joy Agene Iganya has solicited for the support of the Emir of Hadejia, Alh. Adamu Abubakar Maje in the implementation of the ACReSAL project to tackle various environmental challenges.

Dr. Joy made the plea when she led a team from the World Bank, ACReSAL national office and state project implementation units on a courtesy call to the Emir in his palace in Hadejia, in Jigawa State.

She called on the Emir to ask his people to be part of the watershed planning and entire project implementation. The Team Leader said they had inspected

the villages affected by the incessant flooding of the Hadejia – Jama'are river leading to loss of lives, properties and land assets, adding that the Project would work with the states affected to provide a lasting solution.

Dr. Joy assured that the project would take an integrated approach to improve the Hadejia Nguru wetland, which is a habitat for species of animals and trees and enhance its capacity for flood protection, water quality, erosion control, and recreation. She advised stakeholders to embark on more research and knowledge sharing to tackle the adverse effect of Typha grass on farming activities.

In a remark, the acting National Project Coordinator of the ACReSAL, Engr. Anda Ayuba

Yalaks said the components of project will support agriculture, water management, environmental protection and livelihood enhancement.

Also making a remark, Mr. Nagaraja Rao Harshadeep who is the World Bank's Global Lead on Technology and Catchment Management, said the project hoped to be a pioneer in terms of use of technologies at different levels of activities, stressing that the project will make a decent foundation of addressing issues of poverty, flooding and wetlands amongst the participating states by having a watershed management plan.

His remarks, the Emir of Hadejia, Alh. Adamu Abubakar Maje commended the World Bank, the federal and state governments for initiating the ACReSAL project and promised to support its implementation.



Dr. Joy Agene Iganya
Task Team Leader (ACReSAL)

World Bank/FGN courtesy visit to Deputy Governor, Kano State



ACReSAL team visit to Global Legislators Association (GLOBE Nigeria)



World Bank/ ACReSAL team Courtesy visit to Barr. Mohammed Abdullahi in his Abuja Office.



Visit to one of the proposed project site in Kano State





ACReSAL Holds a Planning Meeting with MDAs in Abuja



Engr. Anda Ayuba Yalaks
Ag. NPC, ACReSAL

Engr. Anda Ayuba Yalaks, the Acting National Project Coordinator, Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscape (ACReSAL) presided over a

meeting of the Project lead implementing Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) in Abuja to discuss implementation strategies and next steps. The Ag. NPC during his opening remarks welcome all participants and revealed that ACReSAL is a six-year multi-sectoral project, A project cutting across many sectors in Nigeria which is domiciled in the Federal Ministry of Environment and co-led by Federal Ministries of Agriculture and Water Resources.

According to the Ag. NPC, the Project

Development Objective (PDO) is to increase the implementation of sustainable landscape management practices in targeted watersheds in northern Nigeria and strengthen Nigeria's long-term enabling environment for integrated climate-resilient landscape management, and to achieve the PDO all the critical stakeholders need to work together and do things differently, adopting a climate smart approach.

He further explained that the ACReSAL project will accounts for a large part of the FGN's objective of restoring one million ha of degraded land out of the 4 million ha target set for broader landscape restoration by 2030. The project will also help reduce the vulnerability of millions of the extreme poor in northern Nigeria, strengthening their own capacity in the management of their environment.

The Ag. NPC stated that ACReSAL is officially effective and disbursement ready. The meeting deliberated on some critical issues such as the



development of quality terms of Reference (TOR), approved work and procurement plans, signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Information Flow and management, Project communication and Visibility, Environmental and

Social Safeguards Screening and scoping of all project before implementation, need for MDAs to involve younger officers in Project activities as a succession strategy amongst other of issues.

The Planning meeting which was both physical and virtual was attended by representatives of National Space Research Development Agency (NASRDA), Nigeria Integrated Water Resources Management Commission (NIWRMC), Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA), Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA), National Parks, Nigeria Meteorological Agency, Federal Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development, Water Resources, State MDAs, Federal Project Management Unit officers etc.

DG, NAGGW Pledges his Commitment to Support ACReSAL Project

Yusuf Maina-Bukar, the Director General, National Agency for the Great Green Wall made this revelation during a discussion for collaboration and synergy between ACReSAL and NAGGW at his office in Abuja when the ACReSAL team led by Dr. Joy Iganya Agene, Senior Environmental Specialist World Bank -Task Team Leader and Engr. Anda Ayuba Yalaks, Ag. National Project Coordinator paid him a courtesy visit.

According to the DG, the mission of the NAGGW is to halt and reverse land degradation, prevent depletion of biological diversity, ensure that by 2025, ecosystems are resilient to climate change and continue to provide essential services that would contribute to human welfare and poverty eradication.

The Agency, He said is saddled with the responsibility of discouraging desertification and land degradation, in eleven States in the North: Sokoto, Kebbi, Kastina, Zamfara, Kano, Jigawa,

Bauchi, Gombe, Yobe, Borno and Adamawa. He assures the team of his support especially in the area of oasis management and development, and sand dunes fixation which will be done in a manner that will make a great difference- all through the season.

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ENGINEER SULEIMAN HUSSEIN ADAMU ASSURES NECESSARY SUPPORT AND COLLABORATIONS FOR ACRReSAL PROJECT.



The minister of Water Resources stated this during a high-level discussion with the World Bank and the ACRReSAL Project Management Team at his office on ACRReSAL Project implementation status. He expressed his joy that Ministry of Water Resources will be very much involved in the project and assured the team of all the necessary support as well as collaborations with Ministries of Environment and Agriculture and Rural development towards successful implementation of

ACRReSAL project.

Dr. Joy Iganya Agene, Senior Environment Specialist, World Bank and Task Team Leader 1 ACRReSAL briefed the minister that part of the requirement for project implementation take-off is the approval of the workplan by the lead ministries, (Ministries of Environment, Water Resources and Agriculture and Rural Development). She also informed the minister that Federal Ministry of Water Resources will be playing a key role in the project; under the project component A, ministry of Water Resources would be responsible for the development of 20 strategic watershed plan.





On her part, Dr. Joy Agene said the familiarization visit is to leverage on the experience and expertise of the National Agency for the Great Green Wall as a critical stakeholder in the implementation of ACReSAL Project. She noted that land degradation is a serious challenge in the entire Northern states, not only in the eleven frontline states hence the need for the partnership with NAGGW and from the ACReSAL Project Implementation Manual (PAD) it is very obvious that NAGGW is very important to the project.

She further stated that ACReSAL need the NAGGW to achieve its objective especially the restoration of 1million ha and the NAGGW also needs ACReSAL

to achieve its mandate. She said ACReSAL has a budget designated for NAGGW and again, the Agency's technical input would be highly needed in the ongoing collaboration between ACReSAL and, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nation (FAO) on drought and desertification.

In his remarks, Engr. Anda Ayuba Yalaks, the Ag. NPC ACReSAL, noted that the visit was to have good interface with the Agency with the view to seeking ways of working together, to know what the Agency is doing, where the activity is taken place in order to upscale the target. He said that ACReSAL has made a commitment to restore 1m ha, therefore there is need for synergy to avoid duplication of function rather to add value to ongoing activities order to achieve general objectives.

The Ag. NPC disclosed that NAGGW is key to ACReSAL project in terms of landscape restoration and the ACReSAL will also support the Agency where there is a gap, in the areas of capacity strengthening etc. He noted that ACReSAL intend to develop a national portal, domiciled in the Agency for the purpose of reporting where all MDAs activities under landscape restoration will be documented.





ACReSAL Bauchi Sensitises Sites Committee Associations, Project Coordinator Calls for support and Cooperation.

In an effort to ensure smooth project implementation and strengthen the capacity of communities for sustainable natural resource use and management. The Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi Arid Landscape (ACReSAL) Bauchi State has carried out a sensitization exercise for the sites Committees Associations of the three selected benefitting communities. The sensitisation was conducted by the State Project Coordinator ACReSAL Bauchi state Dr Ibrahim Kabir MNES, FSEPH, FIICA, MISPON (Maga Yakin Cheledi) & members of the State Project Management Unit (SPMU). During the exercise, the project coordinator informed the committees that the purpose of the meeting was among others to inform them about the status of the project and the selection of their communities as part of the beneficiaries and their role as interface between their respective communities and the SPMU. The project coordinator said the meeting was to enlighten them on their responsibilities as members of the sites Committees Association to sensitize the community people about the nature and the process of the project, right from the selection, the engineering design and the implementation process. He added that they are to also serve as the doorway to the Communities urging them to cooperate with the SPMU to achieve the the project target objectives. Dr Kabir also intimated them that, not only solving the existing problems of erosion and water flooding, the project will also serve as an opportunity to leverage on changing the lives of the people in

the affected communities through social livelihood interventions. He also used the occasion to call on them, especially the leadership of the three groups that, the processes involved in the project was designed by the World Bank to ensure accountability and transparency which he said, they are part and parcel of all the success that will be recorded and the one recorded so far, charging them to be always available when their attention is needed.

In their separate responses, the community leaders Mallam Nuruddeen Yusuf Mailittafi, Muhammad Limanci and Babangida Muhammad all appreciated the project coordinator's efforts in ensuring that they are part of the benefitting communities, promising to give all the needed support and cooperation for the overall success of the project objectives and also commended the world Bank and especially His Excellency Governor Bala Mohammed for initiating the project. The three communities who are among the six communities selected to benefit from the Project are Gwallagan Mayaka, Yakubun Bauchi and Suleiman Adamu Quarters of Behind BSADP, respectively.



World Bank/ACReSAL 50x2030 Trust Fund Initiative Excites Agric Minister



The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Mohammed Mahmood Abubakar has said that the Federal Government will welcome new ideas and initiatives geared towards providing good services to the people.

The Minister disclosed this recently when the World Bank-ACReSAL Team led by Dr Joy Iganya Agene and Engr. Anda Ayaba Yalaks visited him at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Headquarters in Abuja.

Dr. Mohammed said Nigeria need Data-Smart Agriculture and that the government is ready and willing to welcome partnership

with the World Bank/ACReSAL on the 50x2030 initiative. He said that data is very important for planning and decision making, hence, the ministry and Nigeria need a harmonized data that can tell the number of small household farmers, application of fertilizers etc on yearly basis.

The Minister added that capacity building is very crucial to ensure that staff are equipped with requisite skills to produce and collect quality data. He therefore, gave his consent for the official launch of the 50x2030 initiative in Abuja in the month of April, 2023 saying it will bring the program closer to the people.



“ACReSAL is one of those projects I am really excited about, because it will bring more relief to the people of Nigeria, success of NEWMAP made us to request for ACReSAL, the project is more holistic in nature, is all about safeguarding the planet and landscape restoration” the minister stated.

Earlier, M Abul Kalam Azad, Lead-Program and Resources Mobilization, World Bank said the 50x2030 initiative is a 10-year, us\$500 million initiative that aims to increase the capacity of 50 low and lower middle-income countries to produce, analyze, interpret, and apply data to decisions in the agricultural sector that support rural development and food

security.

According to Azad, 50x2030 is implemented through a unique partnership between the world bank, food and agriculture organization of the united nations (FAO) and the international fund for agricultural development (IFAD).

He pointed out that each year, low and lower middle-income countries invest nearly one trillion dollars in agriculture, often without good evidence to inform those investments. this leads to suboptimal outcomes, causing losses in productivity, shortfalls in agricultural income and, ultimately, more hunger and poverty. the scarcity of high-quality, timely agricultural data makes it extremely difficult for policymakers to make





sound decisions to drive their country's economic growth and reduce poverty, so 50x2030 was developed to answer this need.

In her remarks, Dr. Joy Iganya Agene, Senior Environment Specialist World Bank and Task Team Leader ACReSAL said the 50x2030 initiative is a trust fund account that is link to ACReSAL considering that we have huge data-gap in Nigeria, so the initiative will help countries especially Nigeria build strong national agricultural data systems that will in turn contribute to increased agricultural productivity and sustainable food production, which are crucial to alleviating hunger. indeed, 50x2030 survey models help meet the data needs of multiple sustainable development goals, especially goal 2 (zero hunger), as

well as Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADPDN) Data Needs.

The Ag. National Project Coordinator, ACReSAL Engr. Anda Yalaks thanked the Hon. Minister for his effective leadership and effort in ensuring that Nigeria attend some level of food security and sustainability. He stated that the 50x2030 initiative is a very important input we need in ACReSAL for data production and use. He noted that the project will count on the minister's continuous support and guidance. Also at the meeting were Dr. Ernest A. Umakhihe, Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Mr oshadiya olanipekun O. Director, Agriculture Land and Climate Change Management Services (ALCCMS).



ACRESAL HOLDS A HYBRID M&E, MIS/GIS TRAINING IN KATSINA STATE



A week training workshop was held recently for Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscape (ACReSEAL) Project, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), Management Information System (MIS) / Geographic Information System (GIS) officers of the 20 partner states in attendance as well as the Federal Project Management Unit. The workshop was organized by the Federal Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Water Resources in conjunction with the World Bank to acquaint all participants on the relevance and basics of M&E/MIS/GIS tools within the Project. In her remarks, Dr. Joy I. Agene, Senior Environmental Specialist World Bank and ACReSAL Task Team Leader said as officers saddled with the responsibility to collect information, reports and reports analysis, they are expected to have an in-depth knowledge of what is expected from them. She hoped that at the end of mission member states will have understanding in terms of watershed management and its element. She acknowledged the Katsina State Government's support towards achieving success of NEWMAP

project and urged the same for ACReSAL in the state. Speaking earlier, The Ag. National Project Coordinator, Engineer Anda Ayuba Yalaks said the project has many critical areas that need proper understanding on the tools to use in monitoring and techniques to be applied during planning, assessment and reporting of the project activities. Engr. Anda called on the participants to pay more attention to acquire more knowledge on the operation of the project during the training mission. Declaring the training mission open, the Katsina State Commissioner for Environment, Alhaji Hamza Suleiman Faskari spoke on the state's Government commitment on environment related issues in the state.

