HEDA Holds a UN Food System Independent Dialogue on ‘Enhancing Agro-Meteorological Information Services Delivery for Resilient Food Systems in Nigeria: Challenges, Prospects and Partnerships’ held on Thursday, 22nd April 2021 via Zoom.’

HEDA Resource Centre in partnership with the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) convened a United Nations Food Systems Independent Dialogue on Thursday, 22nd April 2021 with support from the National Convenor, Mrs. Olusola Idowu. The dialogue was conceived as a forum for deliberating on the challenges and opportunities for stakeholders at both the national and sub-national levels in agro-meteorological information service delivery. It aimed at highlighting the critical role of agro-meteorological information services and how it can be optimized to reduce the vulnerability of especially small-scale women, men and youth farmers to climate change.

Figure 1: Cross-Section of guests at the dialogue

Guests at the event include:

Prof. Mansur Bako Matazu - The Director-General/CEO of NiMet (represented by Mr Haruna Zakari, GM AgroMet, NiMet); Mrs Olusola Idowu – The National Convener, UN Food Systems Summit Dialogue; Hon. Maigari Abdullahi Dakingari - The Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture, Kebbi State; Hadiza Yaro - Business Development Manager for East-West Seeds, Nigeria; Ayoola Kassim - Channels TV; Mr Constant Tchona, the Country Director, Oxfam; Mr Naphtali J Dachor - The Permanent Secretary, Nasarawa State Ministry of Agriculture. Participants at the dialogue were other CSOs, youths, smallholder farmers, scientists, private sector leads and the media.
The key recommendation of the dialogue was ‘there needs to be a synergy between NiMet and other government MDAs, especially at the state and local level, to ensure that the information provided reaches the last mile farmer and to improve the quality of information received from NiMet.’

**Lagos State Government Unveils a 5-Year Agricultural and Food systems Roadmap (2021 - 2025) … as HEDA’s Ogbonge Women Shine at the Event**

The Lagos state government on the 22nd of April 2021 launched a 5-Year Agricultural and Food systems Roadmap (2021 - 2025) for the state at the Intercontinental Hotel in Lagos. The roadmap is posed to encourage public and private sectors’ investment in agricultural value chains to give Lagos comparative advantages in the sector and enhance the State’s self-sufficiency in food production from the current 18 per cent up to 40 per cent over the next 60 months. The aim of the roadmap is to reform, transform and maximise the potential of the agriculture sector to reduce Lagos dependency on other states for food. The strategy will be achieved through three thematic pillars including growing the upstream sector by leveraging on technology, growing the midstream and downstream sector (Processing – packaging and improving private sector participation with policies that encourage investment in the sector.

![Image of Ogbonge Women with the Honorable Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms Abisola Olusanya (Middle)](image)

*Figure 2: Ogbonge Women with the Honorable Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms Abisola Olusanya (Middle)*

The Ogbonge Women Multipurpose Society were specially invited over many farmer groups in the state. The women farmers were given 15 slots at the physical event, were they shone in their gele chanting ‘No Woman, No Food’. The Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms. Abisola Olusanya, who invited the women commended them for their coordination and promised to work with them closely to achieve the goals in the roadmap. HEDA will continue to work with farmer groups to increase their voices and their influence in the agriculture sector.