



# INITIAL SCREENING (IS) REPORT

## NIGER CONSORTIUM-NIGERIA

Environment and Social Management System



**AGRA**  
Sustainably Growing  
Africa's Food Systems

[www.agra.org](http://www.agra.org)

# Background and context

The Nigeria country programme, due to goals and delivery mechanism does not present significant E&S risks. There are however some activities that have a likelihood to have some low level negative impact on environmental and social wellbeing. These risks are those that are associated with i) Supporting/Promoting seed companies in the multiplication and promotion of certified seed; ii) Mechanization and infrastructure at farm level; iii) use of pesticides and other agrochemicals for crop protection; iv) use of inorganic soil fertility inputs; v) recruitment and use of private-community extension agents.

Nigeria's country programme is shifting the emphasis of some of AGRA's programming from predominantly agriculture productivity to addressing challenges that hinder having sustainable food systems more broadly. The shift includes areas of work that will increase inclusivity of women and youth, scaling gains in policy and state capacity, strengthening seed systems analytics and interventions, research, increased use of evidence and analytics, the use of blended soil fertility inputs and integration of climate change adaptation in programme activities. While the overall scope of the programme on transforming smallholder agriculture does not change, there is a shift in terms of resource balancing and leveraging existing gains and partnerships. AGRA will therefore continue to pursue its support towards an Inclusive Agricultural and Food System Transformation agenda in Nigeria.

**Primary crops:** Maize, Rice, Sorghum, Soybean, and Cowpea

**Secondary:** Vegetables

# Delivery Approach:



## Grants & Financing

Provide grants and access to financing to system-level actors to strengthen downstream delivery models;



## Technical assistance

Technical assistance - Transfer expertise and skills that will increase relevant actors' capabilities to plan, design and implement programmes



## Convenings & partnerships

Develop relationships and cooperation between different actors

## Country Programme Strategic Risk Assessment

Performance Standard (PS)	Risk Area	Identified Risks	Risk Categorisation			Remarks
PS1		<b>Grant making:</b> AGRA's delivery modality, in Nigeria, is, mainly, via partner organisations. This modality presents a risk of these organisations not having the requisite level of capacity/policies/procedure/practices to manage Environmental and social risks that come with the programme activities.				As per AGRA Policy, all organisations that partner with AGRA are required to demonstrate or show evidence of E&S capacity. AGRA provides a free online training resource for partners to take on managing E&S risks in their programmes: <a href="http://www.agralearn.com">www.agralearn.com</a>  The general risk rating on PS1 is medium due to the limited available capacity in grantee organisations.
PS2	Labour and Working Conditions	<b>Occupational hazard:</b> In the introduction and promotion of new technologies there is likely to be the need to apply new technologies that require safety procedures. In the application of crop protection agrochemicals or use of machinery in farmer fields or by SMEs. The programme presents minimal risks through its interventions in this regard.				Occupational and safety hazards are to be observed as per national laws and regulations for grantees and farmers. The use of protective wear and awareness on the hazards is also part of the extension curricula.  As per national and international laws no child labour is allowed on the programme. Awareness and monitoring will be conducted regularly  Grantees are assessed for their adherence to national laws and policies during the Organisation Capacity Assessment stage of the grant making process. The results of this assessment indicate full compliance of most organisations. The risk rating of this at the strategic level is 'low'.
PS3	Resource and Pollution	<b>Improper use of inputs and chemicals:</b> there is a risk of pollution from the improper use of agriculture inputs such as fertilizers that could lead to underground water pollution and soil contamination. There is also a risk of polluting water sources due to runoff.				Resource use efficiency by utilising existing fields and not new will be prioritised. The judicious use of farm inputs is part of the programme's priority. The programme will work with relevant partners to ensure that all inputs are applied as per recommendation. No banned or prohibited inputs will be promoted by the project.
PS4	Community Health & Safety and Security	<b>Community preventive measures:</b> The siting of the project activities is on already existing infrastructure and farms. No major risks are envisaged. The project works with relevant local authorities and will follow community emergency procedures and processes, if the need arises.				
PS5	Land Acquisition & Restitution	<b>No land acquisition risks:</b> the programme will operate on existing land and infrastructure.				With regard to land set aside for communal demonstration sites, or demonstration sites that are situated on farmers's land, this needs to follow community processes that are participatory and transparent to avoid the possibility of conflict on accessing the demo-sites.
PS6	Biodiversity and Natural Resources	<b>Increased land for cultivation:</b> As the project will be promoting increased productivity of seed and crops. This may need expansion of farm lands that could lead to the destruction of biodiversity and natural resources.				The programme will operate on existing farm lands this is therefore an unlikely scenario. The programme, through its sustainable farming approach has a built-in biodiversity and landscape rehabilitation principle.  Further, through the use of certified and high yielding seed the programme is likely to achieve targeted yield increases on existing farmlands. There will not be a need to expand into new lands.
PS7	Indigenous People	No risk envisaged				The programme follows an inclusive approach through local governance and organisational structure. No displacement or denial of rights of indigenous people will be affected.
PS8	Cultural Heritage	No risk envisaged				In collaboration with communities all project sites and practices respect local cultures and customs.

**Overall Risk Rating** Low/Medium

## Introduction

As a result of its Programme interventions, AGRA recognizes the environmental and social (E&S) risks that come because of these interventions and development activities. It is in this regard that AGRA has developed an Environment and Social Management System (ESMS) to identify, manage and mitigate risks that are inherent with its work. AGRA's main instrument to achieve its mission is through the allocation of grants to implementing partners. The E&S risks, for each grant, need to be managed and reported on appropriately as per approved policy and tools. The ESMS has therefore been designed to account for and manage risks, at the strategic and at the grant levels. The project - Improving Farmers Resilience and Upscaling Productivity, Incomes, and Livelihood in Rice, Soybeans, Maize, Cowpea, and Vegetable Value Chains in Niger State (Niger Consortium) has therefore been screened to identify risks and design appropriate mitigating actions.

## Methodology

The screening process of E&S risks was undertaken through the review of the project proposal documents and related analytical project reports; and detailed focus group discussions with consortium/implementation member organisations. Project managers and project technical officers were interviewed on specific project interventions and the corresponding risks that they pose. Also interviewed were the AGRA project officers.

The screening was based on the applicable E&S performance standards as follows:

**PS. 1. Capacity to assess and manage environmental and social risks, and impacts.** Assessment criteria include, but are not limited to the following, availability of policies, procedures, internal technical capacity etc. for E&S management.

**PS. 1. Labor and working conditions risk** such compliance with occupation and safety regulations and requirements and general employee welfare issues such conditions of service, non-discrimination and equal opportunity

**PS. 4. Health and safety risks and mitigation** issues such as availability of emergency response plans, data and information on frequent disasters such as floods, wild fires, pandemics etc.

**PS. 3. Resource efficiency and pollution prevention** – assessment indicators include issues of soil contamination, pollution of water, soil or air (eg through pesticides/agrochemicals or fertilizer application), sediment loads, storm water, agriculture waste management/minimization

**PS. 4. Community health, safety, and security risks- screening** was based on the project influence on communities such as traffic in construction activities (if applicable), water contamination and so on.

**PS. 5. Land acquisition and involuntary resettlement issues and risks.** Assessment of this risk category involves processes, inclusivity, consultations put in place to ensure mitigation on [further] marginalizing communities due to displacement.

**PS. 6. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management** of Living Natural Resources risks that may arise from vegetation clearing from expansion of agriculture land and or new operational areas for SMEs

**PS. 7. Indigenous Peoples' rights and well-being risks** that may be a consequences of project activities, expansion and or encroachment that could lead to marginalization.

Cultural Heritage-whether there has been any violation of cultural heritage and interference by project activities.

# Risks Categorization

Low

Medium

High

All identified risks were classified into one of the following three categories “High”, “Medium” or “Low”, as per risk guidelines in the ESMS Manual, according to their potential adverse effects on environmental and social issues, in the project areas and beyond. Impacts and risks may potentially be adverse because of the complex nature of projects, the scale (large to very large), the sensitivity of the location(s) of the project. Other issues that will determine the risk categorization level include: risks being irreversible or unprecedented, including having adverse impact important features such as tropical forests, natural protection areas, sensitive wetlands, natural/near-natural forests, important cultural heritage sites significance on transboundary impacts, high consumption of resources, in particular soil, land or water, and in resource-scarce areas, associated with high risks to human health or safety, pollution and harmful emissions.



## Project Description

The Niger consortium works to facilitate economic recovery and growth for vulnerable households by promoting systemic change in the agriculture productivity and market systems. Project interventions work to improve farm practices by ensuring appropriate technologies and practices are mainstreamed into the primary activities of farming through the planting of climate-smart seeds, access to insurance, promotion of the VSLA model, and vegetable farming. The sources of income and nutrition of 300,000 rural women and youth will be improved through this intervention.

The Niger consortium is implemented as an integrated program that is aimed at improving the productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers in rice, soybeans, maize, cowpea, and vegetable and position them to better adapt to shocks and stresses. The sequence of activities will include:

- Improving access to agricultural inputs for 300,000 farmers through increasing input distribution networks,
- Raising farmer awareness and knowledge through extension support,
- Improving farmers access to credit,
- Improving farmer capacity to aggregate quality paddy for the market,
- Improving soil health and ensuring farmer organizations are adequately linked to off-takers and processors.

A total of 750 Community-Based Advisors (CBAs) – (Community, Public, Private Extension agents) will be trained and empowered to reach 300,000 farmers with knowledge and best practices both on productivity and market access. The consortium intends to work with micro-finance institutions to improve financial inclusion for farmers.

# Objectives

## Objective 01

**Improve agricultural productivity for 300,000 farmers in rice, maize, soybean, cowpea, and vegetable value chains.**

### Outputs

- 750 CBA identified and trained
- 750 mother demos conducted by CBAs
- 100,000 MT of organic fertilizer produced and used by SHF
- 300,000 baby demos carried out by farmers
- 8,475 MT of seed produced and used for demonstration
- 5 training modules developed for the selection and training of CBAs
- 96,000 MT of fertilizer produced and supplied to farmers

## Objective 02

**Strengthen the access of smallholder farmers to output market.**

### Outputs

- 30 SMEs trained on business development services
- Training of farmers and SMEs on produce quality enhancement, storage, processing
- Increased value addition and market competitiveness
- At least 210,000 farmers sell in structured markets
- Improved produce aggregation and off-taking
- At least 45% of surplus sold by farmers supported by the investment
- Over 200-million-naira loans (working credit for output finance leveraged as a result of the investment investments)
- Promote women-owned enterprises in processing and marketing

## Objective 03

**Objective 3: Improve the capacity of smallholders to better adapt to shock and stress.**

### Outputs

- Create access to insurance for the farmers
- 60,000 farmers engaged in cowpea and vegetable farming as an alternative income source
- 210,000 (70%) of the farmers have access to insurance cover
- 200 VSLA groups formed
- 2 resilient seed varieties for each value chain promoted

## Initial Screening Assessment

Project Basic Information	
<b>Project Title:</b>	Niger Consortium: Improving Farmers Resilience and Upscaling Productivity, Incomes, and Livelihood in Selected Value Chains in Niger State
<b>Project Location (Country/Province)</b>	Nigeria, Niger State (Include specific locations e.g., name of LGAs)

<b>Report completed by</b>	OWJAY Consulting on behalf of: Esther Ibrahim – Programme Officer		
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Telephone Number:</b>	<b>E-Mail Address:</b>
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Project Summary – Sector, Description, E&S Risks	
<b>Sector:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crop cultivation</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soil health and fertility</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seed Production</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crop protection (pesticide production &amp; use)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural machinery</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural research &amp; development</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Markets/Retail operations and distribution</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Policy and Partnerships</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gender Equality</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension Services</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agronomy</li> </ul>
<b>Project Description:</b>	<p>Specifically, Niger program aims at improving the productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers in rice, soybeans, maize, cowpea, and vegetable, in the Niger State and position them to better adapt to shocks and stresses. The sequence of activities will include improved access to agricultural inputs for 300,000 farmers through increasing input distribution networks, raising farmer awareness and knowledge through extension support, improving farmers access to credit, improving farmer capacity to aggregate quality paddy for the market, improving soil health and ensuring farmer organizations are adequately linked to off-takers and processors.</p> <p>Overall, the Niger Consortium seeks to address the following challenges; poor access to seeds and fertilizers, poor access to extension and advisory services, unavailability and/or unaffordability of mechanization services, challenges with inputs supply and distribution system, poor access to market, including the contemporary e-commerce channels, poor attention by women and youth in taking agriculture as a business; and weak dysfunctional farmer groups with capacities for reaching structured and organized markets and enhancing organic farming to resolve soil health.</p> <p>The implementing grantees/consortia members include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sasakawa African Association (SAA) - carry out extension activities for cowpea, vegetables, rice, maize, and soybean value chains in 16 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of the State</li> <li>2. Tecniseed Ltd - for the production (and distribution) of certified seed.</li> <li>3. National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS) - implement activities on market support and linkages as well as support increasing access to rural financing through the Village Saving and Loan Association</li> <li>4. National Program for Food Security (NPFS) - implement biochar technology (organic fertilizer) as a way to address the soil toxicity problem.</li> </ol>



## Project Summary – Sector, Description, E&S Risks

	<p>The project will operate on existing farmland of selected farmers and communities. This also includes land where selected SMEs are operating. No new land requirements are envisaged for this project. The average size of land of a smallholder farmer in Niger is 0.5-1.8 ha. The project targets 300,000 smallholder farmers. Therefore, the maximum land size, collectively, that the project will be working on is approximately 540,000 ha. Notably, these smallholder farms are spaced out across the geography of the project area and may not necessarily be connected by shared boundaries.</p>	
<b>Project's E&amp;S Risks:</b>	The E&S risks were summarized and presented as follows:	
	<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Identified Risk/ Issues etc.:</b>
	E&S Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The consortium (members/partners) do not (explicitly) have environmental and social management plans, no stakeholder plans, no E&amp;S monitoring systems, no grievance mechanisms,</li> <li>– The grantees have staff that have been trained in E&amp;S management. However, there are no systems in place in their organisations to manage and report on E&amp;S</li> <li>– The project grantees are implementing E&amp;S management using AGRA's policy for guidance. There are constraints with financial resources for implementation.</li> <li>– The lack of E&amp;S management plans implies limited grantees' capacity to manage the E&amp;S risks.</li> </ul>
Labour & Working Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Overdependence on external/project support on market coordination and information</li> <li>– Risks of banditry particularly during harvest time</li> <li>– The project engages persons of years 18+ though no evidence of monitoring zero-tolerance to child labour.</li> </ul>	
Resources & Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Increased vehicle mobility in transport of crop inputs result air pollution</li> <li>– Soil pollution from improper use of fertilizer, and fertilizer overload and run off due to heavy floods</li> <li>– Increased farm-land preparation and clearance may lead to soil erosion</li> <li>– Solid waste pollution and littering of samples, seeds and fertilizer, sacks used by locals</li> <li>– Noise pollution from processing plant affecting local communities during processing of crop produce</li> <li>– Soil and air pollution from pesticide use</li> </ul>	
Community Health & Safety and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The use of aerosol sprays may expose the farmers and cause air pollution. Inappropriate handling of pesticides/herbicides may lead to injuries. Thus, farmers should be trained on appropriate use agrochemicals use. Reportedly, the office facilities are yet to be installed with fire extinguishers and signages of exit doors and assemble point in case of a security emergency.</li> </ul>	
Land Acquisition & Resettlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The project activities are taking place among existing farms, no displacement of people or households</li> </ul>	
Biodiversity & Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The project activities are not near water bodies such as rivers and lakes and forests. The fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides used may affect soil pH, soil biodiversity and cause air pollution.</li> <li>– The grantees reported employing good agricultural practices to mitigate any soil and air pollution. This mitigation included utilization of bio-fertilizer, spray when less windy, use of safety gears when spraying and right constitution of the spray chemicals, standard fertilizer use and application of biochar after individual soil testing and analysis and promoted organic manure use.</li> </ul>	
Indigenous People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Project site is not an area inhabited by or important to indigenous tribal or traditional peoples e.g., forest dwellers, hunter-gathers, pastoralists and other nomadic groups.</li> </ul>	
<b>Project's E&amp;S Risks:</b>	<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Identified Risk/ Issues etc.:</b>
	Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No known existing cultural sites in the project sites</li> </ul>

	SCREENING QUESTION		REMARKS
A	<b>Project Siting (Location/Setting)</b> Does the project impact areas adjacent to or within any of the following sensitive areas?		<i>If yes, please provide details of various project components</i>
1	Legally protected area and cultural sites (e.g. forest reserve, National Park, Ramsar site, archeological site, traditional/sacred site etc.).	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	The project activities take place on land that is already being cultivated by farmers that are not in legally protected areas
2	Environmentally sensitive areas or critical habitats (such as primary forests, wetlands, mangrove, estuaries)	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	The project activities are taking place on land owned and/or cultivated by farmers.
3	Known areas of historical/cultural/ archaeological interest	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	No known existing cultural sites near the project sites.
4	Areas prone to natural disasters or places of cultural and social interest	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	The project area is affected by extended dry spells and sometimes floods. The project sites are not proximate to areas of cultural and social interest.
<b>B</b>	<b>Potential Environmental and Social Impacts</b>		
<b>B.1</b>	<b>PS 1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts</b>		<b>Remarks</b>
	Does local legislation require an Environmental (and/ or Social) Certificate? <i>If yes, please also attach copy of approved Environmental and Social Impact Assessment?</i>	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	The nature and size of the project does not require any prior environmental certificate
	Does the project/ grantee have any existing E&S management plans (including emergency response plan) in place?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	– No E&S management plan was evidenced. – E&S action are implemented on an ad hoc basis
	Does the project/grantee have a Stakeholder Engagement Plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	– No stakeholder engagement plan was evidenced. – Engagement of stakeholders is ad hoc through, project meetings/workshops and other gatherings.
	Does the project/ grantee have a Grievance Mechanism in place?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	– No grievance mechanism was evidenced

	Does the project/ grantee have an E&S monitoring plan in place?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	- No E&S monitoring system found
	Are there currently any reputational issues or negative media coverage of the project's sector in relation to E&S impacts?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	- None found.
	Does the project involve the cooperation with external agencies (eg Extension Officers) that work within the communities affected by the project?	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	- Public-private-community extension agents - Community Based Advisors (CBAs)
<b>B.2</b>	<b>PS 2 - Labour and Working Conditions</b>		<b>Remarks</b>
	Are there particular labour/ social risks associated with the project activities and its primary supply chains ?.	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	- Overly the project operational areas have security risks which include kidnapping and banditry,
	Are there measures in place to ensure the project complies with current national labour regulations? Please also consider additional national regulations in terms of forced or child labour.	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	<p><i>Please note any differences between contractors, out growers, permanent/ direct workers, migrant workers, third parties (e.g. Extension Officers)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Though no human resource policies were evidenced by the grantees, reportedly HR policy available at organization level leverage on national labour laws including guidelines on minimum wage.</li> <li>- As per the national laws, the grantees engage persons of age 18+. However, they lacked a mechanism to monitor zero-tolerance of child labour.</li> </ul>
	Are there measures are in place to ensure project complies with national occupational health and safety regulations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	<p><i>Please note any differences between contractors, out growers, permanent/ direct workers, migrant workers, third parties (e.g. Extension Officers).</i></p> <p>The national legislations on health and occupational safety include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Article 17.3.c of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution (as amended), the government ensures and protects the health, safety, and welfare of all employees.</li> <li>-Employees' Compensation Act, 2010: Provides for the payment of compensation to workers who are injured at work or suffer occupational diseases.</li> </ul> <p>The grantees have no comprehensive health insurance plans,</p> <p>The consortium is yet to invest in fire extinguishers and create awareness on fire handling</p>

	SCREENING QUESTION		REMARKS
	Does the project/ grantee have a Human Resource Policy in place?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Different partners have different HR policies aligned to country's labour laws. However, at the point of assessment no partner availed their HR policies.</li> </ul>
<b>B.3</b>	<b>PS 3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention</b>		<b>Remarks</b>
	Will the project involve any land clearance or construction activities?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>If yes, please elaborate key E&amp;S risks expected: consider dust, noise, water pollution, waste generation,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All activities are on existing agriculture land. No land clearance is envisaged on this project.</li> <li>All commercial activities will take place on existing infrastructure. No new land clearance expected</li> </ul>
	Will the project involve use, transport, storage of hazardous materials and/ or hazardous wastes? (including agrichemicals)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>If yes, please elaborate:</i></p> <p>The project will not directly be involved in the transportation and or storage of hazardous materials.</p> <p>The project will, in some cases, involve the use of agrochemicals, mostly pesticides and herbicides. The beneficiaries received training on appropriate use, storage and use of safety gears during handling and appropriate use of fertilizers.</p>
	<p>Please describe potential pollution impacts resulting from the project.</p> <p>Consider impacts on air, surface and ground water, soils, noise and vibrations, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water use from surface or groundwater bodies.</li> <li>Pollution due to poor use of agrichemicals</li> <li>Contamination of soils through poor waste management practices</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of agrochemicals including fertilizers may cause soil, water and air pollution if improperly used.</li> <li>Littering through improper disposal of used sacks, packaging bags and chemical containers.</li> <li>Noise and disturbance from processing plants affecting local communities.</li> <li>Waste from processors could pollute the environment or water if not disposed of properly.</li> </ul>
	Does the project/ grantee include resource management system or measures to address these impacts (e.g. with regard to fertilizer management, land management, inputs management and waste minimization, energy efficiency and machinery management etc.)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>If yes, please elaborate:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The grantees include good agricultural practices e.g. use of biochar technology to reduce toxicity as part of resource management.</li> </ul>

	SCREENING QUESTION		REMARKS
<b>B.4</b>	<b>PS 4 - Community Health, Safety, and Security</b>		– <b>Remarks</b>
	Are there measures in place to ensure the project complies with national community health, safety and security regulations?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The project operates within the locally established laws, procedures and practices on dealing with issues like fire or any other community safety issues.
	Are there measures in place to manage potential H&S risks of use of agrochemicals/ fertilisers?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The grantees reported to use safety gear and PPEs in the use and handling fertilizers and chemical in relation to occupational health and safety related to national protocol on use and storage of chemicals/pesticides.
	Please describe potential community health & safety impacts resulting from the project.  Consider impacts on local communities, road traffic for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Increased risk of traffic accidents due to transport requirements.</li> <li>– Storage of hazardous materials close to domestic households.</li> <li>– Noise and disturbances affecting local communities.</li> <li>– Removal of areas providing “ecosystem services”.</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>If yes, please elaborate:</i>  There are no processing industries or noise affecting local communities; there are no removal of natural resources because the project activities take place on existing farm-lands.  Agrochemical storage is at farm level. Farmers in the project are trained on appropriate use and storage; Solid waste management of seed. However, grantee do not provide health insurance.  Many interventions can be put in place such as signs and labelling, disposal training, masks/ PPE use etc.
<b>B.5</b>	<b>PS 5 - Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement</b>		
	Does the project have the potential to cause physical resettlement or economic displacement (i.e. displacement of people from homes and/or disturbance of economic activities/livelihoods/businesses)?  Consider also associated facilities, access restrictions and property value loss.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>If yes, please elaborate and describe the measures to mitigate these impacts.:</i>  N/A
	Will the project have negative impact on vulnerable groups (eg the poor, female headed households, people with physical disabilities, children etc)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>If yes, please elaborate:</i>  N/A

	SCREENING QUESTION		REMARKS
<b>B.6</b>	<b>PS 6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources</b>		
	Will the project involve any vegetation clearing?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If yes, please elaborate on scale and what habitat will be removed:</i>  The project activities take place on existing agricultural land and does not require clearing of vegetation on any new land.
	Will the project involve any agricultural soil management techniques, application of fertilizer or pest management?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If yes, please elaborate how the project will avoid negative changes to habitats and species composition:</i>  The project is promoting use of hybrid seed that is tolerant to drought and floods. The hybrid crops will require inorganic fertilizer, pesticide and herbicide application which may cause soil, air pollution including interference health concerns if not used appropriately.  The project will/is training farmers and other stakeholders such as agro-dealers to integrate recommended practices and use as well as good agronomic practices e.g. use of organic manure for integrated soil Fertility Management;
	Will the project introduce new seed varieties, hybrids, genetically modified crops (GM) or other non-native plant species that have the potential to impact the local biodiversity?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>If yes, please elaborate, including how the project will manage these impacts:</i>  The project is promoting hybrid seeds/crop varieties that are resilient and high yielding. These hybrids are locally tested and cleared and do not pose a risk to local biodiversity.
<b>B.7</b>	<b>PS 7 - Indigenous Peoples</b>		
	Is the project site in an area inhabited by or important to indigenous tribal or traditional peoples? E.g. forest dwellers, hunter-gathers, pastoralists and other nomadic groups.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Even if indigenous groups are not found at the project sites, is there still a risk that the project could affect the rights and livelihood of indigenous peoples?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>B.8</b>	<b>PS 8 - Cultural Heritage</b>		
	Are any known areas within the project area with archaeological, paleontological, historical, cultural, artistic, and religious value (e.g burial sites, buildings or monuments, sacred natural sites, ceremonial areas)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

	SCREENING QUESTION		REMARKS
<b>C</b>	<b>Climate Adaptation Screening</b>		
<b>C1</b>	<b>Location and Design of the Project</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Description of risks and adaption planning activities</b>
	Are project activities and/or particular aspects of the project likely to be affected by (a change in) climate conditions including extreme weather related events such as floods, droughts, storms, landslides?	1	<i>Provide description</i>  Yes, crop productivity in the project areas is likely to be affected by climate change. Extended dry spells have occurred in Nigeria in consecutive years leading to crop failure and loss of livestock. The project area has been affected previously.
	Will project activities be located in regions that are expected to experience particular changes in future climate conditions including extreme weather?	1	Yes, project activities are likely to be affected by changes in climate such as crop production, and postharvest processes.  Extended dry spells have occurred in Nigeria consecutive years leading to crop failure and loss of livestock  Increased land and atmospheric temperatures are also expected to affect postharvest handling of crops
	In case of construction of facilities - would the facility be impacted by any hydro-meteorological parameters (e.g., sea-level, peak river flow, reliable water level, peak wind speed etc.)?	0	No planned construction
<b>C2</b>	<b>Materials and Maintenance</b>		
	In case of operation of facilities - would weather, current and likely future climate conditions, and related extreme events likely affect the maintenance (scheduling and cost) of the facilities?	1	The extreme weather events might make many farmers change practices and choice of crops; this would increase costs of production
<b>C3</b>	<b>Performance of project outputs</b>		
	Would weather, current and likely future climate conditions or hydro-meteorological parameters (e.g. prevailing humidity level, temperature contrast between hot summer days and cold winter days, exposure to wind and humidity, extreme weather conditions) negatively affect the objectives of the project over the life of the project?	1	Extreme weather events might cause changes such as increased durations of dry spells this might reduce yields/crop failure.  Also affected could postharvest handling of crops

### Climate Adaptation Score Evaluation:

Responses when added that provide a score of 2 this ranks the Gender consortium project as a medium Risk project.

- 0 will rank a project as a low risk project.
- 1-5 (which include that no score of 2 was given to any single response) will rank a project as a medium risk project.
- 6 or more (which include providing a score of 1 in all responses or a 2 in any single response) will rank a project as a high risk project.

## Result of E&S and Climate Adaptation Screening (Low, Medium, High): Low Risk

The Niger project consortium was classified, overall, as Medium risk or Category B where no or only minor adverse environmental and social impacts or risks are arising from the implementation and operation of the project and does not require any particular protection, compensation or monitoring measures

The project classification as medium is due to the grantees relying on various internal processes to manage the project instead of creating awareness and aligning the policies to have a joint agreed E&S management system, lack of a robust stakeholder engagement system, the use of varied HR policy as well as no, lack of grievance mechanism predisposes the project consortium to miss potential feedback as well as address exhaustively issues of E&S.

The partners expressed the lack of capacities to confidently execute an E&S management system and thus the requirement would be to retrain the partners, practically train them on risk identification to orient them to sustainable mitigation strategies. This is so because climate change impacts of flooding and dry spells might make new uncertainties on the farmers and could find new practices that are not in compliance with E&S.

As part of E&S risk management and monitoring, it is recommended that AGRA support these partner organizations in the installation of E&S risk management capacities. Further, it is recommended that all documentation relating to labour, and any other categories listed above, be used to ensure full compliance to national laws and or international best practice on E&S risk management. Another key recommendation is on the need to establish and implement a Grievance Mechanism to ensure there are avenues for project stakeholders to provide their complaints/compliments.





# AGRA Nigeria

## Environmental & Social Action Plan (ESAP)

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### Niger Consortium:

Improving farmers resilience and upscaling productivity, incomes, and livelihood in rice, soybeans, maize, cowpea, and vegetable Value Chains in Niger State

### Introduction

As a result of its programme interventions, AGRA recognizes the environment and social (E&S) risks that come because of these interventions and development activities. It is in this regard that AGRA has developed an Environment and Social Management System (ESMS) to identify, manage and mitigate risks that are inherent with its work. AGRA's main instrument to achieve its mission is through the allocation of grants to implementing partners. The E&S risks, for each grant need to be managed and reported on appropriately as per approved policy and tools. The ESMS has therefore been designed to account for and manage risks, at the strategic and at the grant levels. The on-going project - *Improving Farmers Resilience and Upscaling Productivity, Incomes, and Livelihood in Rice, Soybeans, Maize, Cowpea, and Vegetable Value Chains in Niger State* have been screened of the inherent E&S risks and corresponding mitigation measures identified.

### Methodology

The screening process of E&S risks were because of the application of a risk assessment tool. The process of risk identification was through the review of the project proposal documents, related project reports; and detailed focus group discussions with consortium/implementation member organizations. Project managers and project technical officers were interviewed on specific project interventions and the corresponding risks that they pose. Also interviewed were the AGRA project officers. The corresponding mitigation actions of the identified inherent E&S risks were documented and validated among the consortium members/grantees.

The action plan draws reference from international best practice, specifically the IFC performance standard which comprise efficient techniques, methods, processes, and technologies of action plans which included:

- Specific descriptions of the identified actions and measures to be undertaken in implementation of the ESMS.
- Each action specifically addressed the gaps identified, with reference to the IFC Performance Standard 6. reference.
- Each action was assigned to an appropriate responsible person or entity.
- Each action was be linked to timeframe for completion. We considered the steps within the grant decision-making process and project design and implementation schedule.
- The actions ought to include defined elements e.g., documentation, audit to demonstrate or indicate their completion e.g., documented stakeholder engagement plan.
- The actions ought to be prioritized such that the more urgent gaps are closed sooner and obtain greater attention



IFC Performance Standard	Actions	Priority	Responsible person(s)	Timeframe for Completion	Monitoring/ Completion indicator	Assets required
<i>IFC Performance Standard No</i>	<i>Identified E&amp;S mitigation measure</i>	<i>Low/ Medium/ High</i>	<i>Responsible staff or in case of consortium applications responsible grantee</i>	<i>Timeline for implementation</i>	<i>KPI to be measured at the specified timeframe</i>	<i>Equipment, money, skills</i>
PS 1. Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development and implementation of E&amp;S risk management processes and procedures at organization level</li> <li>Develop, document, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan and include means of engagement of all relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>Install a Grievance Mechanism-use a suggestion / compliment/ complaints box; a register; hot-line or social media including emails.</li> <li>Develop a E&amp;S monitoring system.</li> <li>Develop a mechanism to monitor zero-tolerance to child labour.</li> <li>Allocate a budget for implementation of E&amp;S mitigation measures.</li> <li>Appoint a E&amp;S focal point at the consortium level.</li> </ul>	High	<p>ALL Grantees: Programme/Institution lead [Follow-up by AGRA Country Manager]</p> <p>AGRA Country Manager, support by E&amp;S Manager</p> <p>ALL Grantees: Programme Institutional Lead [Follow-up by AGRA Country Manager]</p> <p>All Grantees [Follow-up by AGRA Country Manager] E&amp;S champion at consortium/grantee level</p>	<p>End of Q3 2023</p> <p>End of Q2 2023</p> <p>End of Q3 2023</p> <p>End of Q2 2023</p>	<p>E&amp;S Policy/Standard Operating Procedures [Approved document]</p> <p>Approved Stakeholder Engagement Plan</p> <p>Installation of project suggestion boxes</p> <p>Publicizing of grievance channels for the projects (phone number, emails, mailing address etc.) E&amp;S register and monitoring plan</p>	<p>Technical assistance</p> <p>Staff time and technical assistance</p> <p>Procurement of Grievance boxes (\$200)</p> <p>Awareness materials (\$200)</p> <p>Staff time and technical assistance</p>

PS 2: Labour and Working Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff security briefing; implementation of organization security plans.</li> <li>• Grantees should avail [to AGRA] organization labour/HR policies that are in place.</li> <li>• Avail, to AGRA, some of workers contracts or the HR Policy</li> <li>• Sensitize on documented policies/procedures for inclusivity and equal opportunities for men, women and youth including migrant and non-migrant workers.</li> <li>• Ensure safe and healthy working conditions in place e.g., fire extinguishers installed, emergency exits labelled.</li> <li>• Sensitize among beneficiaries on safety and precautions while using agrochemicals e.g. right PPE/equipment to safely do their job; put in place incident records i.e. note the number / type of incidents that have taken place over the last year and lessons learned/how incidents have been addressed</li> <li>• Establish a worker grievance mechanism where beneficiaries and stakeholders could channel any risk related to labour issues.</li> <li>• Sensitize workers/beneficiaries on health and safety in line with national legislations.</li> </ul>	Medium	ALL Grantees	End of Q2	HR policies in place, security briefing/training of staff;	Staff time
			ALL Grantees	Immediate	HR policies and or related regulations or operating procedures	Staff time
			ALL Grantee [followed-up by AGRA country Manager and AGRA E&S Manager	Immediate	Training/awareness	Staff time and technical assistance
			ALL Grantees [Follow-up by AGRA Country Manager]	Immediate	Staff contracts or equivalent, HR Policy or equivalent	Staff time
			All grantees [Follow-up by AGRA Country Manager]	End of Q2 2023	OHS policies, procedures (document) HR Policy	Staff time
				End of Q2 2023	HR Policy, Training Materials	Staff time
				End of Q2 2023	HR Policy, Grievance/Feedback channels established.	Staff time

<p>PS 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrating in VBA extension training manuals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ safe use of agrochemicals,</li> <li>☞ wastes disposal [chemical bottles],</li> <li>☞ safe storage of chemicals,</li> <li>☞ interpretation of labels [caution colours] on inputs</li> <li>☞ use of manure and other organic fertilizers'</li> <li>☞ and judicious use of fertilizers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The Sasakawa African Association-SAA and (responsible for extension); NANT; Tecniseed Ltd;</p> <p>National Agricultural Extension Research &amp; Liaison Services (NAERLS)</p> <p>Community Based Advisors (CBAs);</p>	<p>During project implementation (Participatory process)</p>	<p>Training modules;</p> <p>Solid waste, chemical use management strategy;</p>	<p>Staff time and technical assistance</p>
<p>PS 4: Community Health, Safety and Security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appoint E&amp;S focal points and capacity build them community health, safety and security measures.</li> <li>Fit signage and safety measures like fire extinguishers, emergency exit points</li> <li>Collaboration with government extension officers and training on appropriate use of agrochemicals.</li> <li>Adapt best agricultural practices and technologies e.g., mulching, soil and water conservation, organic manure use; roof water harvesting.</li> <li>Measures to avoid or minimize the potential for community exposure of water-borne especially in rice growing areas.</li> <li>Include gender dynamics/GBV in the project data collection tool.</li> </ul>		<p>All Grantees</p> <p>AGRA E&amp;S Manager</p> <p>E&amp;S champion at consortium/grantee level</p>	<p>During project implementation (Participatory process)</p>	<p>Signage on:</p> <p>fire emergency exits and assembly point;</p> <p>Manuals on appropriate use agrochemicals; Purchased PPEs;</p> <p>Manuals on climate smart practices and technologies;</p> <p>Grievance mechanism;</p> <p>Gender inclusion policy/strategy;</p>	<p>Staff time and technical assistance;</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a Community Grievance Mechanism in place.</li> <li>Interventions be put in place such as signs and labelling, disposal training, masks/PPE use</li> </ul>					
PS 5: Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A- project activities do not cause any involuntary displacement</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PS 6: Bio-diversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilization of approved climate smart and improved seed varieties</li> <li>Promote the use of organic manure for integrated soil fertility management.</li> <li>Awareness creation on proper handling of agrochemicals by including a module of this in extension training.</li> <li>Promote the utilization of good agricultural practices by including modules in extension training e.g., soil and water conservation measures and agroforestry.</li> </ul>	High	Value Seed Ltd; NAERLS; IITA; SAA; NANT	Immediate	Manual on good agricultural practices.	Staff time and technical assistance;
PS 7: Indigenous Peoples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A- Assessed and no presence of Indigenous Peoples in the project area(s)</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PS 8: Culture Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no known areas within the project area with archaeological, paleontological, historical, cultural, artistic, and religious value (e.g. burial sites, buildings or monuments, sacred natural sites, ceremonial areas).</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



# AGRA

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Africa's Food Systems

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