Understanding Policy Coordination for Enhanced Agric Advisory Services in Post COVID -19 Nigeria*

By

Ifidon S. Ohiomoba Agric Extension Specialist

*Presentation @ the 2020 NIFAAS Symposium held Virtually

What it is

- Policy statement of rules or guidelines for a given course of actions to attain a certain goal
- Coordination Uniting sets of action such that adjustment made to one does not adversely affect or change the courses of action in others
- Policy coordination a framework for carrying out set of decisions in a given subject matter, or level of operation or governance so that adjustments made to one results in minimal or no adverse impact on other courses of action (Peters, 2015)

Why Policy Coordination

Investment here needful to:

- Avoid duplications & reduce costs esp in a plural advisory services delivery system.
- Effectively respond to changing needs of diversified populace.
- Align properly with COVID-19 protocols
- Remove/minimize contradictions e.g. response to killing of farmers in Borno is indicative of poor policy coordination

Why Policy Coordination

Investment here needful to:

- Break down "silos" and enhance integrated development.
- Minimize political intrigues in managing development
- Enhance service delivery to clients
- Improve strategic outreach to populace

Mechanisms for Enhancing Policy Coordination

- Adequate policy support to advance policy coordination
- Proper and effective alignment of institutions, their roles and responsibilities
- Build networks of actors and practitioners for interaction, information and knowledge sharing.
- Strengthen collaboration (*creating common understanding of issues to advance*) and partnerships (*cooperation to advance mutually reinforcing interest*)
- REFIMLS; a key tool in coordination of AEAS in Nigeria

Challenges to Policy Coordination

- Specialization; with many public institutions and complimentary mandates which Works better in "silos" than in integrated system.
- Science and technology more profiting with less coordination
- Relatively expensive to manage coordination
- Competitiveness adversely affects coordination

Way Forward

- Principal institutions: FMARD/ FDAE/ NAERLS/ ADPs /PESP must work and network in a mutually reinforcing manner.
- Strengthen FDAE capacity for policy coordination to advance EAS in Nigeria.
- Strengthen accountability to mandate with clear roles & responsibility for partners.
- Create suitable policy environment for EAS
- Strengthen Quality Control & Assurance NIAE
- Adequate funding

Thank You *E seun Daalu Nagode Uzokan*