



EDO STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.....2023

ESTABLISHMENT, ADOPTION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF FRAMEWORK FOR RESPONSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE LAND-INTENSIVE AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENTS (FRILIA) ORDER

Whereas:

- A. The Edo State Government (EDSG), in a bid to improve the investment climate, intends to develop a Framework for Responsible and Inclusive Land-Intensive Agricultural Investments (FRILIA). The framework ensures that land acquisition and resettlement for large-scale agribusiness investment are undertaken in line with established international good practices and guarantee shared benefits between private investors and surrounding communities.
- B. The government of Edo State aims to deepen agribusiness reforms, including a win-win approach to stakeholders on land and investment.
- C. FRILIA as a framework aims to improve access to large-scale investment, gainful employment on large-scale farms, sufficient income, and protection from the volatility of agricultural labour and product markets. The framework is designed to ensure adherence to principles that cover overarching investment, recognition and protection of land rights, state land acquisition and resettlement, and environmental and social responsibility.
- D. To achieve the Government's objective of creating and enabling a responsible and inclusive business operating environment for large-scale agribusiness investments in Edo State,

I, Godwin Nogheghase Obaseki, Governor of Edo State of Nigeria in the exercise of the authority vested on me by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and the Laws of Edo State, and by virtue of all other powers enabling me in that behalf do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. Government Policy on Agri-business Investment:

It shall be the government's policy to accelerate large-scale agribusiness investments based on international best practices of land principles and guidelines, aimed at improving the business enabling environment for the state's economic development.

2. Objectives of FRILIA:

FRILIA will address critical challenges in agricultural value chains, financial sector regulatory reforms, and land reforms to facilitate investment opportunities in both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.

3. Bridging the Gap and Ensuring Sustainability:

FRILIA shall specifically bridge the gap between investors and host communities by laying down investment procedures to ensure a win-win approach for all stakeholders. It will also prioritise environmental and social sustainability management.

4. Implementation and Collaboration:

To ensure the implementation and operationalization of FRILIA in line with the Business Enabling Reform Action Plan (BERAP), the Government, Departments, and Agencies shall collaborate to remove obstacles to agribusiness investment opportunities.

5. Adoption of FRILIA Principles

Adherence to Core Principles:

- (a) The investment plan shall consistently support the government's policy objective.
- (b) The investment process shall be conducted transparently, avoiding or minimizing land acquisitions requiring resettlement. Inclusive investment and production models will be considered, with consultation and participation of affected communities. Gender equality and empowerment of women and youth will be fostered. Investments shall be monitored to meet set standards.
- (c) Acknowledge and uphold land rights, ensuring protection against unjust land dispossession. A strong grievance resolution system shall be established, considering legal recourse, community, and traditional conflict resolution mechanisms.
- (d) Ensure fairness and transparency in land acquisition and resettlement, disclosing and consistently applying compensation standards. Addressing economic and social impacts with adequate compensation and supplementary livelihood improvement or restoration.
- (e) Ensure environmental and social sustainability, conducting independent assessments before approving investments, protecting the safety and rights of the community, individuals, and workers without discrimination.

6. Establishment, Composition, Powers, and Functions of the FRILIA Steering Committee

- (1) There is hereby established a Steering Committee (Committee) responsible for the coordination of the establishment, adoption and implementation of the Edo State Framework for Responsible and Inclusive land-intensive Agricultural Investments (FRILIA):

- (2) **Composition**

The Governor shall be the Chairperson of the Committee, and the members shall include:

- (a) Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security;
- (b) Commissioner for Business, Trade and Cooperatives;
- (c) Commissioner for Finance;
- (d) Commissioner for Justice;
- (e) Commissioner for Local Government Affairs;
- (f) Commissioner for Physical Planning, Housing, Regional and Urban Development;
- (g) Commissioner for Social Development and Gender Affairs;

- (h) Chairman Edo State Board of Internal Revenue;
- (i) Managing Director of Edo State Investment Promotion Office (ESIPD);
- (j) Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security as the secretary to the Steering Committee.

(3) Functions and Powers:

- (a) Ensuring agribusiness investments align with FRILIA principles and international best practices.
- (b) Promoting transparency, inclusive production models, safeguard measures, and monitoring of impact.
- (c) Approving adoption of FRILIA, toolkits, guidelines, and policies.
- (d) Co-opting individuals or committees as necessary.
- (e) Meeting quarterly to review progress, challenges, and other relevant issues.

7. Establishment, Composition, Powers, and Functions of the FRILIA Technical Committee

- (1) There is hereby established a Technical Committee for FRILIA.

(2) Composition

The Managing Director of Edo State Investment Promotion Office shall be the Chairperson of the Technical Committee, other members are as follows:

- (a) Edo Geographic Information Service;
- (b) Ministry of Business, Trade, and Cooperatives;
- (c) Ministry of Finance;
- (d) Ministry of Environment and Sustainability;
- (e) Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security;
- (f) Ministry of Justice;
- (g) Ministry of Local Government Affairs;
- (h) Ministry of Physical Planning, Housing, Regional and Urban Development;
- (i) Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs;
- (j) Office of the Surveyor General;
- (k) Edo State Agricultural Development Project;
- (l) Fadama Project;
- (m) Representative from the Private Sector;
- (n) Representative from a Civil Society Organization with expertise in Land investment;
- (o) Farm Settlement and Peasant Farmers Development;
- (p) Edo State Forestry Commission
- (q) Edo State Board of Internal Revenue;
- (r) SABER Programme Manager;
- (s) Agribusiness Officers; and
- (t) Director of Agriculture Services (who shall serve as the Secretary of the Technical Committee).

(3) Functions and Powers:

- (a) Developing FRILIA;
- (b) Preparing a land investment strategy and implementation plan;
- (c) Developing toolkits, guidelines and policies for land-intensive agricultural projects;
- (d) Integrating sustainable land use practices, environmental conservation, and social inclusion;
- (e) Conducting risk assessments and advising on agribusiness policy;
- (f) Monitoring compliance with regulations and fostering collaboration with stakeholders;
- (g) Facilitating dialogues with key stakeholders including private sector and civil society representatives, monitoring progress, and providing quarterly reports to the Steering Committee;
- (a) Perform such other functions as the Steering Committee may occasionally deem necessary to achieve its function.
- (b) The Technical Committee shall operate with a commitment to promoting sustainable development, social equity, and environmental stewardship in all land-based investment activities within Edo State

8. **Establishment of a Grievance Redress Mechanism**

- (1) A Grievance Redress Committee is hereby Constituted to address grievances, concerns, and disputes related to land-based investments under the FRILIA framework. Upholding principles of transparency, impartiality, and expeditious resolution and meticulously addressing grievances, concerns, and disputes within its defined mandate.

- (2) Composition of the Grievance Redress Committee:

The Honourable Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Ministry of Justice shall be the Chairman of the Committee, and the members shall include:

- (a) **Secretary of the Committee**
Permanent Secretary Ministry of Environment and Sustainability;
- (b) **Legal Representative**
A senior director from the Ministry of Justice;
- (c) **Community Representative**
Acknowledged Community leader;
- (d) **Industry Expert:**
A reputable farmer;
- (e) **Mediation Specialist**
A representative from the Multi-Door Courthouse or Citizens Mediation Centre (MOJ);
- (f) **Environmental Expert**
A representative from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainability;
- (g) **Liaison officer**
To be appointed by the committee;
- (h) **Gender and Inclusivity Representative**
A representative from the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues.

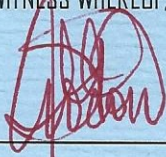
This diverse composition ensures a multi-dimensional and fair approach to addressing grievances, fostering transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in Edo State's governance framework.

9. Development and Adoption of FRILIA Toolkits, Guidelines, Policies or its Equivalent

The Technical Committee is empowered to develop toolkits, guidelines, policies, or equivalent for approval by the Steering Committee. These tools will assist investors in developing land-intensive agricultural projects in Edo State, ensuring compliance with FRILIA principles and international best practices. The toolkit, guidelines, policies or equivalent will cover various aspects such as stakeholder engagement, environmental and social impact assessment and risk management, land access, easement, and involuntary resettlement management, gender equality, and the empowerment of women and youth, valuation and compensation, Global Memorandum of Understanding, community needs assessment and development, out-growers, and food security. Additionally, it will enable investors and responsible MDAs to consult with communities, including local land rights holders, effectively.

10. This order shall be implemented consistently with the applicable Laws of Edo State.
11. This order is not intended to and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the Government of Edo State, its Ministries, Departments, Agencies, or anybody, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.
12. That all Ministries, Agencies, and Departments of the Edo State Government and all persons dealing with same shall give all necessary support and facilitate the process leading to the issuance of this Order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and official seal the 29th day of December 2023.



GODWIN NONGHEGHASE OBASEKI
GOVERNOR OF EDO STATE