



efforts to revitalize the sector by implementing policies that will empower rural farmers as well as protect and strengthen industries.

**Investment Policies and Climate/Institutions:** With over 70% of the population dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, the Kano state government has been concentrating resources in the direction of agriculture with a view to rehabilitating the dwindling sector. The Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) has been working towards enhancing farmers by linking them to various sources of capital as well as conducting various development programs. The Commercial Agriculture Development Project (CADP), supported by the World Bank is aimed at assisting 10,000 participating small and medium scale commercial farmers to access improved technology, finance, and infrastructure and output markets in Kano. With the assistance of PrOpCom, an organization funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), Kano State approved the Rice Investment policy in July 2010. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the government provides adequate infrastructure and a business friendly environment, while the private sector exploits this opportunity by increasing its investment in the rice value chain. Data shows that due to this policy, government public investment in the rice sub-sector has increased by about #804 million.

## **FINDINGS**

### **Public Access to budget documents**

Kano state scores 17 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. The Quarterly Reports and Mid-Year Review are publicly available on request. Citizens have only access to budget execution documents that can serve as a basis to monitor how the government spends public funds. The remaining reports are produced for internal use only while only the Citizen's Budget is not produced.

### **Public participation in the budget**

Citizens and CSOs in Kano state have limited spaces to be involved in the budget process with a score of 27 out of 100. During the **budget formulation** stage, the Kano State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development holds some consultations to solicit inputs for the State Draft Estimates. The Kano House of Assembly opens all committee hearings on **budget approval** process to citizens and publishes detailed reports on these hearings. The Kano state government holds meetings during the **budget execution** process to solicit inputs on how to improve and releases a report. The **auditing** process has no open space for public scrutiny.

### **Public access to procurement information**

With a score of 10 out of 100, citizens have almost no access to procurement information in Kano state. Tenders in Kano state are publicly opened with a significant delay after the bidding process is closed.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

CIRDDOC recommends the following to improve budget transparency, public participation in the budget process, and transparency in the procurement process:

### **Budget Transparency**

The governor can increase budget transparency in Kano state by timely publishing online the following documents that are already produced:

- Major Highlights of Budget of Economic Consolidation and Fiscal Discipline
- State Budget Appropriation Law
- Overview of Budget Implementation Reports

The Kano State Directorate of Budget & Economic Planning should do the following:

- partner with CSOs in the state to develop a Citizen's Budget.
- produce and publish the Quarterly Reports on time and a Mid-Year Review.

### **Public Participation**

To effectively take advantage of knowledge of CSOs and citizens, the government in Kano state should do the following:

- open the budget formulation process to all constituencies; ensure that all citizens use effective mechanisms to solicit the public's inputs on what should be included in the State Draft Estimates; and clearly articulate what the government expects to do with these inputs.
- publish a list of beneficiaries of projects, subsidies, social plans and other targeted spending from MDAs.
- expand on the practical mechanisms for the public to provide inputs on how the budget is being implemented.

Similarly, the Kano State House of Assembly should do the following:

- open the committee hearings on the Auditor General's Report.

Lastly, the Auditor General should do the following:

- establish practical mechanisms for the public to submit inputs on what should be audited.

## **Procurement Process**

To improve the entire procurement processes, the following should be done:

- the government should introduce a bill regulating the procurement process; establish a new Due Process Office with the authority to regulate all the procurement processes in the state the necessary resources to fulfill its duty and establish a procurement complaint board that manages an alternative dispute resolution mechanism.
- the Due Process Office should publish all procurement decisions along with their justifications and for all community projects.

## **Access to Information**

To improve access to information in the state, the government should do the following:

1. Domesticate the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 2011.
2. Establish Freedom of Information (FOI) Agency in the state.