



The Small Holder Women Farmers' Campaign



Using budget advocacy to improve agric services for smallholder women farmers in Nigeria

Quick Overview



- SPARK supports SWOFON's campaign for equitable access to farm inputs (**fertilizer, improved seeds**) and gender-friendly equipment (**power tillers, hand planters**)
- 3 Phases in initial Campaign Strategy, with two phases already completed
- Mass Application by over **370,000** women across **36** states and FCT.

Budgetary Problems

- Poor allocation and utilization of agriculture budget
- Untimely release of funds for critical agricultural inputs
- Non-prioritization of women-friendly farm equipment in the budget
- Limited information and participation in budget processes for smallholder women farmers



How is SWOFON engaging budgetary issues disrupting services for smallholder women farmers?

Governments are responsive to credible evidence and informed engagement

- Budget analysis and agric policy reviews
- Research: Document the impact of lockdown on women farmers
- Leverage broader coalitions to engage the fiscal governance space
- Position papers and policy recommendation
- Strategic media partnerships: leverage investigative journalists
- Targeted advocacy actions





What changes is SWOFON beginning to see?

Changes in the Budget

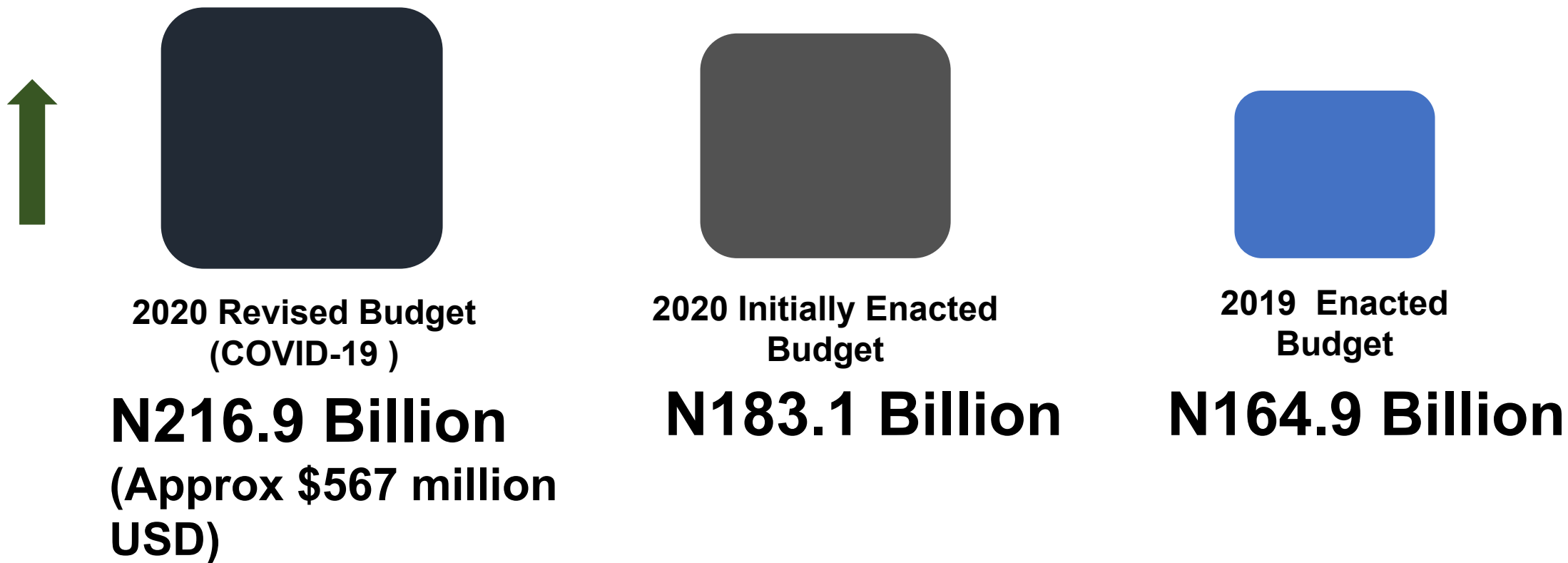
- Legislature helped prevent a massive cut of the revised 2020 agriculture budget
- New budget lines on issues of interest to women farmers
- Special fund (N17bn) to write-off Interest on Agric loans impacted by Covid-19
- SWOFON is now being increasingly invited into budget decision making spaces.



What is changing?

Progressive improvement in agricultural policies for a more responsive and women-sensitive agriculture support services

Budgetary Allocations to the Agriculture Sector is increasing despite the impact of COVID-19 on Government's Revenue



Snapshot of Federal Government's Agriculture Sector Budget – As it relates to the needs of small holder women farmers

SPARK Focus State	2020 Revised Budget COVID-19 (Amount in Naira)	2020 Initially Enacted Budget (Amount in Naira)	2019 Enacted Budget (Amount in Naira)
Nassarawa	140,000,000	150,000,000	0
Niger	274,000,000	330,000,000	0
Jigawa	140,000,000	140,000,000	0
Anambra	190,000,000	190,000,000	0
Oyo	200,000,000	200,000,000	0

Source: Budget office of the Federation

Service Delivery Improvements

- States allocated subsidized fertilizers, improved seeds, and women-friendly equipment to SWOFON
- 15 women farmers enrolled in Online Farming Program initiative of Government
- Hundreds of SWOFON women farmers received various COVID-19 relief packages
- Federal government includes SWOFON to receive allocation of Herbicides
- SCALE – to non-focal states



What We are Learning

- Evidence + Credible data = Open doors
- Targeting specific budget issues & gov't actors gives quicker results. Eg, Agric gender policy
- Media can be very useful partners to exert pressure on governments.
- Connecting campaign messages with gov't's priorities can facilitate a 'seat at the table'
- 'Change agents' in gov't can help to facilitate some response from gov't





Female OFFICIALs are proving to be strong allies