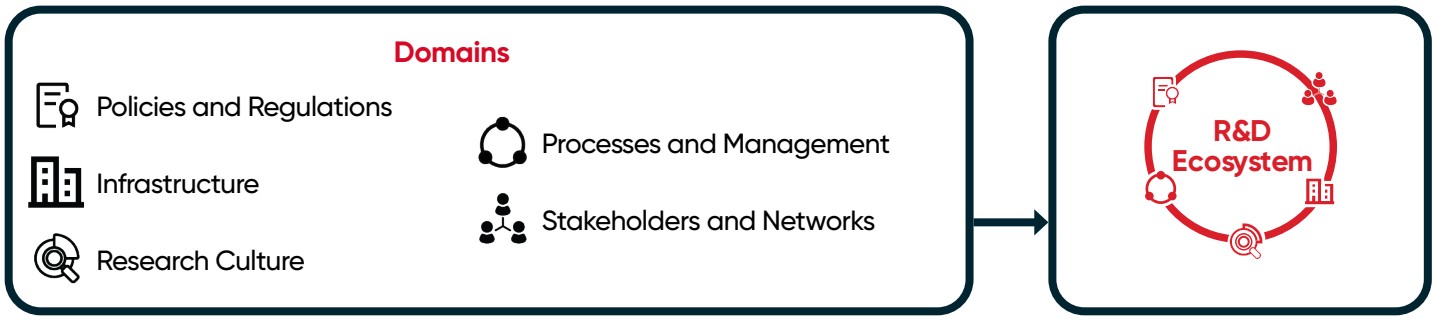
West African Research & Development Ecosystem Scorecards

Expert Perceptions on Regenerative Agriculture in Nigeria



R&D expenditure (% of GDP): 0.28%[1] | R&D expenditure in agriculture (% of agriculture GDP): 0.5%[2] | Researchers in forestry and agroforestry (% of total FTEs of agricultural researchers): 0.4%[3]

[1]World Bank databank (last year data 2019): accessed on 28 November 2025. https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/GB.XPD.RSDV.GD.ZS?locations=NG; [2]ASTI dataset (2016): accessed on 28 November 2025. https://www.asti.cgiar.org/data-graphics; [3]ASTI dataset (2021): accessed on 28 November 2025. https://www.asti.cgiar.org/data-graphics

Experts consider that agricultural policy -to some extent- prioritises and promotes R&D in regenerative agriculture (RA). National procurement and import policies slightly support R&D in RA, however public policy poorly supports product certification schemes that stimulate consumer markets for RA products. To some extent, government bodies coordinate towards a common R&D agenda. Diverse stakeholders can poorly participate in RA policy processes, nevertheless civil society is deemed to influence these to some extent. Regulatory barriers hinder innovation to some extent and intellectual property regulations acknowledge the need to protect farmers' knowledge to a small extent. A public investment agenda for R&D in RA is to a small extent delivered on. Transparent budget processes as well as financial instruments to support RA input procurement are weakly developed.

Research institutions are slightly able to maintain physical infrastructure (i.e., labs, equipment etc.) independently and moderately able to employ well-trained staff for R&D in RA. Yet, physical as well as ICT infrastructure for R&D in RA are poor and not well spread across the country. Likewise, innovation hubs for processing and product improvement are weakly developed. While farmers can access RA demonstration farms reasonably well, coverage by extension agents is inadequate.

Civil society and community actors are poorly recognised as legitimate stakeholders in planning and implementation of R&D in RA and inform these agendas to a small extent. While national platforms moderately-well enable knowledge sharing between various actors, local stakeholders are inadequately involved in joint sensemaking of new RA evidence. Whereas university curricula are moderately well-developed, regional/national capacity-building efforts to strengthen the RA human resource base are poor. R&D priorities adjust to a small extent when new needs/evidence emerges, as poor institutional coordination across actors holds back information flows. Certification schemes for regenerative agriculture (RA) consumer products are poorly established.

Experts consider that the private sector is important in promoting RA practices and R&D in the country. Nationally, formal mechanisms fairly well enable collaboration between public and private sector actors, yet moderate barriers to interaction between stakeholders remain. R&D actors are to some extent able to engage in global networks or knowledge platforms. However, these are poorly able to sustain themselves and dependent on continued external support, as national political leadership weakly motivates strategic action by RA R&D networks. Researchers disseminate RA research findings to relevant stakeholders moderately well.

RA research culture is characterised by researchers adhering moderately well to ethical standards. Research leadership, and incentives to engage in interdisciplinary collaborations are moderately well-developed, however are poorly incentivised to deliver world class research.

KEY

= 0% - 20% | = 21% - 40% | = 41% - 60% | = 61% - 80% | = 81% - 100%

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Indicator	Score	Rank
RA a priority in national agricultural policies /strategies	43.75%	2
Intra-Government coordination to jointly advance the RA R&D agenda	41.75%	3
Deliver on a public investment agenda for RA R&D	39.25%	2
Use of financial instruments to incentivise procurement of RA inputs	31.50%	3
Supportive national procurement and import policies for RA R&D	33.75%	3
(Diverse) Stakeholders able to participate in RA policymaking processes	38.00%	3
Accountable and transparent budget allocation, release and spending processes to support RA R&D	29.25%	3
Progress towards development of a national RA R&D strategy or policy	39.00%	3
Public policy support for RA product certification to stimulate market maturation	36.25%	2
Regulatory barriers affect innovation in R&D	46.50%	3
Advocacy efforts from civil society and farmers associations influence RA policies	42.00%	3
IP regulations recognise farmers' traditional knowledge as a subject that may need legal protection	31.25%	3

INFRASTRUCTURE

Indicator	Score	Rank
Physical infrastructure for RA R&D	25.75%	3
Innovation hubs or incubation centres support RA processing and product development	30.50%	3
Research institutions and universities able to independently maintain physical infrastructure for RA R&D	39.00%	3
Research institutions and universities able to employ well-trained staff to maintain physical infrastructure for RA R&D	43.75%	3
ICT infrastructure for RA R&D	34.25%	2
Demonstration farms and training centres accessible for farmers and researchers in RA	42.00%	3
Coverage of extension agents or officers to transmit RA knowledge to farmers	31.75%	3
Geographic spread of physical infrastructure to support R&D in RA	30.25%	2

PROCESSES AND MANAGEMENT

Indicator	Score	Rank
(Diverse) local stakeholder voices inform RA R&D agendas	35.00%	3
Community and civil society actors recognised as legitimate stakeholders in RA R&D planning and implementation	36.00%	3
National platforms enable knowledge-sharing, discussing and debating issues in RA R&D among diverse stakeholders	48.50%	2
Established certification schemes for RA consumer products	32.25%	3
Established processes for coordinating across institutions involved in RA R&D to enable synergy, facilitate information flow and avoid duplication	37.50%	3
Regional/national capacity-building strategies or initiatives to strengthen the human resource base for RA R&D	36.75%	3
University curricula to train the next generation of RA R&D researchers, scientists and practitioners	44.75%	3
RA R&D priorities updated in a coordinated manner in response to emerging evidence or needs	36.75%	3
(Diverse) local stakeholders involved in joint sensemaking of RA research results?	35.00%	3

STAKEHOLDERS AND NETWORKS

Indicator	Score	Rank
Barriers to interaction and communication among stakeholders within the RA R&D ecosystem	42.50%	3
National political leadership motivates strategic action by RA R&D networks	34.25%	3
National RA R&D actors able to engage in global networks, alliances, or knowledge platforms	43.50%	3
Formal mechanisms or frameworks enabling collaboration between public institutions and private-sector actors in RA R&D	43.50%	3
Importance of the private sector in promoting RA R&D	73.25%	1
RA research findings disseminated by researchers to relevant stakeholders	44.25%	3
Networks or platforms on RA R&D able to sustain themselves, without external support	33.25%	2

RESEARCH CULTURE

Indicator	Score	Rank
RA researchers incentivised to deliver world class research	32.75%	3
Leadership in research institutions/university champions RA R&D	51.00%	3
RA researchers adhere to ethical principles in fieldwork	59.50%	3
RA R&D systems promote interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers	54.25%	3

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