



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands Delegation Concludes Strategic Visit to Kano, Kaduna, and Jigawa States, Nigeria.

Abuja, Nigeria – April 27, 2026

A delegation from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (IGG/FNS), alongside CARE, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Farm Radio International (FRI), Diamond Development Initiative (DDI), Forward in Action for Education, Poverty And Malnutrition (FAcE-PaM), Development Exchange Center (DEC), BopInc, East-West Seed Knowledge Transfer Foundation (EWS-KT), and the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), has successfully concluded a five (5) day mission to Nigeria, reinforcing partnerships and advancing efforts to improve food and nutrition security across key states.

The delegation, led by the Senior Policy Advisor Food Security and Nutrition of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Marijke de Graaf, visited Abuja, Kano, Kaduna, and Jigawa States. The mission was conducted in close collaboration with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Abuja (EKN) and key implementing partners.

During the visit, the delegation met with His Excellency Malam Umar A. Namadi, FCA, Executive Governor of Jigawa State, where discussions focused on scaling nutrition-sensitive interventions and strengthening policy support for food systems transformation. The Governor emphasized his administration's commitment to improving child welfare and empowering women through strategic partnerships.

"We see this initiative as addressing two critical needs: ensuring our children are healthy and satisfied, while also empowering women with the right knowledge and skills," he said. *"We are committed to working with you and providing the necessary support to ensure the development of our children and the well-being of our communities,"* the Governor reassured.

During the mission, the delegation engaged with government officials, development partners, and community stakeholders, gaining firsthand insights into program implementation, progress, and impact supported by the Netherlands. Major programs visited include CAlyzing Strengthened policy aCtion for heAlthy Diets and resilience (CASCADE) project implemented by CARE/GAIN and the the DEcent LIVelihoods for small scale producers delivered through Economic & Resilient food systems in Nigeria (DELIVER Nigeria) project, and Enhancing Access to Safe and Nutritious Diets (ENSAND) project implemented by GAIN, as well as the Soil Values program coordinated by IFDC.

Field visits to farming communities, primary healthcare centers, and nutrition hubs provided opportunities to observe innovative approaches to improving dietary diversity, strengthening local food systems, and empowering women and smallholder farmers. Reflecting on the visit, Marijke emphasized the importance of community-driven approaches:

"What we have seen across the states is a strong sense of ownership by communities. These programs are not only improving nutrition outcomes but are also building resilience and creating sustainable livelihoods, particularly for women and children."

Key highlights of the visit included engagements with smallholder farmers participating in the DELIVER Nigeria Project and the HortiNigeria Program, implemented through an IFDC-led consortium comprising EWS-KT, Wageningen University & Research, and KIT Royal Tropical Institute in Zaria, Kaduna State. The visit also featured



demonstrations of sustainable vegetable production techniques at the EWS-KT office in Zaria, interactions with women's groups and nutrition participants in Jigawa under the CASCADE Program, as well as demonstrations of home gardening and food preparation practices in Gezawa, Kano State, under the ENSAND Program.

In Abuja, strategic discussions with partners and stakeholders centered on expanding the Food and Nutrition Security operations, enhancing coordination between centrally managed and country-led programs, and exploring future phases of the ongoing portfolio.

The CEO of CARE Netherlands, Inge Kauer, remarked, *"I am proud to see the multi-sectoral approach taken by Nigeria in addressing nutrition outcomes, as well as continued efforts on gender transformative approaches and women's empowerment. The visit was a unique opportunity to visit several food systems-related programs in Kano, Kaduna, and Jigawa States."*

Similarly, the GAIN Country Director added: *"Seeing the direct benefits of improved nutrition practices and fortified food systems reinforces the need to scale these interventions across more communities."*

The visit reaffirms the Netherlands' commitment to supporting Nigeria's efforts to address food insecurity and malnutrition through sustainable, inclusive, and evidence-based programs.

Click [here](#) to access photos from the mission:

For media information, please contact:

EKN: Jessica Odudu, jessica.odudu@minbuza.nl

CARE: Habeeb Sulaiman, Communication and Advocacy Lead, Habeeb.Sulaiman@care.org, +234 806 026 5951

GAIN: Victor Ekeleme, Senior Associate, Communications vekeleme@gainhealth.org +234 703 449 5081

IFDC: Haoua Ango Sawadogo HAngoSawadogo@ifdc.org

EWS-KT: Elijah Mwashayenyi, Head of Knowledge Transfer in Africa, elijah.mwashayenyi@eastwestseed.com, +263 78 566 3082