

**EKITI STATE FOOD SECURITY
LAW, 2021.**

NO. 15 OF 2021

EKITI STATE OF NIGERIA

**A LAW TO ENSURE FOOD SECURITY BY MAKING PROVISIONS FOR
ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE BY POLITICAL AND
CAREER OFFICE HOLDERS (OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “OWN A FARM
PROJECT”) AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS, 2021.**

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EKITI STATE OF NIGERIA

Commencement []

ENACTED BY THE EKITI STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY as follows:

PART I

Establishment of Own a Farm Project.

1. (1) There is established a farming project in Ekiti State to be known as the Own a farm Project (in this bill referred to as “the Project).
- (2) All Political Office Holders to be appointed or elected shall actively be involved in the Project.
- (3) Public workers shall be encouraged to be involved in the Project.
- (4) All residents of Ekiti State shall be encouraged to participate in the project.

Objectives.

2. The Objectives of the project shall be to:
 - (a) To ensure food security and prevent Post-COVID 19 food crisis or any other unforeseen situation.
 - (b) To make agricultural and agro-allied activities attractive.
 - (c) To provide wealth creation opportunity through commercial small scale agricultural operations.
 - (d) To increase internally generated revenue streams of the state through boosting agricultural activities.
 - (e) To make farming a veritable succour against loss of job or retirement.
 - (f) To attract Agric-Based Organizations to Ekiti State, such as suppliers of input and off takers.

- (g) To discourage kidnapping, banditry and other unlawful activities by putting into use, all abandoned forests which shall become occupied by participating actors, if intended beneficiaries take to farming.
- (h) To provide a readymade agriculture produce for market hence, facilitating commodity trade for the new Ekiti State International Cargo Airport under construction.
- (i) To support the state government's drive towards industrialization, through agriculture.
- (j) To make compulsory and create a transitory pathway for political office holders and career officers to actively participate in agriculture and agro-allied activities.
- (k) To give way to modern and mechanized farming in the state.
- (l) To serve as a gradual retirement plan for political office holders and career officers as pre-investment venture.

PART II

Establishment of Compliance and Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee.

- 3. (1) There shall be established the Compliance and Project Management, Monitoring Committee whose members shall be drawn from –
 - (a) Ministry of Agriculture,
 - (b) Ministry of Lands,
 - (c) Judiciary; and
 - (d) House of Assembly.
- (2) There shall be “Farming and Food Security Form” to be filled by political office holders and career officers when letters of appointment are issued.
- (3) The form will be attached, filled and returned with acceptance letter of such political appointee.

Power and Functions of the Committee.

- 4. (1) The Committee shall have power to –
 - (a) mandate every political office holder and career officer to own a farm.
 - (b) Make rules for regulating the establishment and management of farms.
- (2) The Committee shall perform the following functions –

- (a) Advise the Governor in the exercise of his power with respect to issuance of farming and food security forms to all political office holders and career officer;
- (b) Evaluate the activities of the projects and advise the government and all relevant agencies on the appropriate ways to improve farming and food security in the State;
- (c) Shall ensure that the right crop varieties are planted for food security; and
- (d) Make request for funds and dispense such funds as stipulated.

Quorum.

5. The quorum shall be simple majority at any sittings of the committee.

Promotion of Agricultural Produce.

6. By this law, mandate is hereby given to Fountain Agricultural Marketing Agency (FAMA) to -
 - (a) ensure that farm products are purchased at appropriate market prices for further trade.
 - (b) promote agricultural products for farm business to thrive.

Trade Commodities & Exports

7.
 - (1) The State government shall provide opportunities for export of trade commodities for economic development of the State.
 - (2) The “Own a farm” project shall be commercially oriented and shall be directed towards economic development of the State and increase internal generated revenue through export opportunities.

Credit Facilities for Farmers.

8. Financial farmers shall have access to financial credit through direct loans, loan guarantees to cultivate and sustain their agricultural operations.

Rural Development.

9. The Rural Development shall cover farmlands and programmes to foster rural economic growth through rural business and community development including farm business, housing, and infrastructural improvement that support the intended activities actioned under this Law.

Conferences, Trainings and Seminars on Agriculture.

10. (1) Farmers shall be exposed to local and international trainings and innovations to improve agricultural produce.
- (2) The Ministry of Agriculture or any of its Agencies shall partner with the Agric Based Organizations to organize agricultural conferences, seminars and trainings for both political office holders and career officers.
- (3) Government shall encourage the production of high quality food products by utilizing the latest agricultural technologies as well as developing national standards for markets and products.
- (4) It shall be the responsibility of the Compliance/Project Management, Monitoring Committee established under this Law and the Ministry of Agriculture or any of its Agencies saddled with such function to ensure that the right crop varieties are planted for food security.

Sustenance of ecological system.

11. There shall be organized programmes that will help farmers and rural communities to be stewards of forest resources and preserve the natural system.

Energy.

12. The Ministry of Agriculture shall encourage the growing and processing of crops for biofuel and support participating actors and business owners to install renewable energy systems.

Specialty Crops.

13. (1) Preference shall be given to the production of “specialty crops”.
- (2) This shall include marketing, local food programmes, funding for research and infrastructure.
- (3) The Ministry of Agriculture shall when necessary ensure access to fortified varieties including Vitamin A fortified cassava, Maize and yellow fleshed potatoes from research institutes.

Farm Security.

14. For the safety of farmers and farm produce, the following machinery shall be put in place -
 - (a) government shall strengthen farm security to forestall invasion of farmlands, destruction of agricultural products, kidnapping and banditry;
 - (b) without prejudice to subsection (a) above, the State and Local Governments shall employ the services of other supporting state actors

such as Security Network Agency (Amotekun), Ekiti State Peace Corps or Vigilante.

- (c) Non state actors like registered local hunters shall also be engaged.

Duration of the Project.

15. The duration shall be for a period of every two years and renewable once for updates based on the new realities or innovation.

PART III

Obligations of the State Government.

16. The State Government shall -
- (a) subsidize land clearing to make farming easier;
 - (b) acquire modern farm equipments for easy access by the allottees through leasing or rental services;
 - (c) ensure adequate food storage system such as warehouses and silos to prevent glut;
 - (d) support allottees with grants and loans;
 - (e) encourage private crop insurance companies to provide insurance cover for farming business;
 - (f) ensure that the Agro-Allied Cargo Airport is utilized to the advantage of Ekiti farmers and the allottees.

Funding.

17. The project shall be funded from the following sources -
- (a) budgetary allocation from the State and local governments;
 - (b) foreign loans and grants;
 - (c) Community contributions;
 - (d) Funds from farmers and allottees.

PART IV

Interpretation.

18. In this law, unless the context otherwise requires:

“**Farming**” means activity or business of growing crops and raising livestock. It also include any form of cultivation of crops, animal farming, aquaculture, inland fishing and any other agricultural or pastoral pursuit.

“**Farm**” is any land used for agriculture purpose.

“Food Security” means all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious *food* that meets their *food* preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

“Political Office Holder” means appointed and elected government officials at executive, legislative and judiciary arms of government such as Governors, Deputy Governors, Commissioners, Special Advisers, Directors-General and the entire cabinet of the state. It also includes elected representatives of the people at both state and National Assemblies such as Senators, House of Representative members, House of Assembly members, Chairmen of Local Governments, Councilors and Supervisors.

“Career Officers” includes Permanent Secretary, Executive Secretary, General Manager, Director General, Director, Deputy Director and Assistant-Director and other career officers in the public service.

“Plot of Land” means a marked out piece of land.

“Acre” means an area of land that is 43,560 square feet.

“Hectare” means a land measuring 100m x 100m or 328ft x 328ft.

“House of Assembly” means Ekiti State House of Assembly.

“National Assembly” means the Senate of the Federal Republic and House of Representatives .

“Specialty crops” include fruits, vegetables, nuts and organic produce.

Citation.

19. This Law may be cited as Ekiti State Food Security Law, 2021.