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HOW AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN NIGERIA ARE CONTRIBUTING TO CLIMATE ACTION

Nigeria's wide range of climate variations create a conducive environment for agriculture. The agricultural sector is involved in food and cash crop farming, vegetables farming, fishing, poultry, animal husbandry and lumbering.

Some cooperative societies are into various aspects of agriculture. Some of these cooperative societies export their farm yields while some sell to local off-takers.

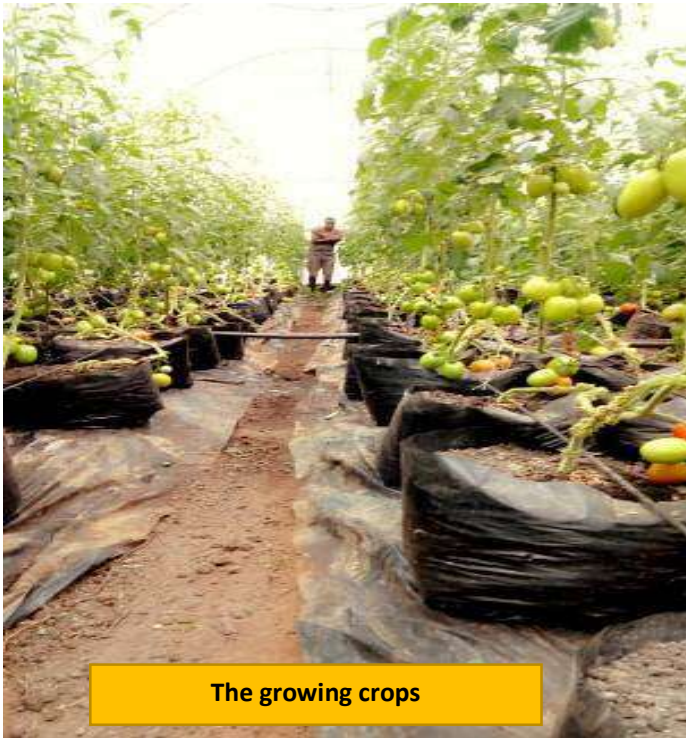
Some cooperative societies engage in environmental practices in their agricultural pursuit. Some of the environmentally-friendly methods are listed below:

A. GREEN HOUSE FARM established by Ministry of Defence Cooperative Multipurpose Society



Ministry of Defence Staff Cooperative Multipurpose Society (MOD), is one of the largest cooperative societies in Nigeria with membership spread across all the 36 States of the Federation and Abuja.

The Cooperative has a number of investments, but prominent amongst them is the establishment of a **GREEN HOUSE FARM** situated at Erin Ilasa, Iyesi-Ota, Ogun State.



The growing crops

The Cooperative society identified the need to establish a farm which would:

- grow high quality crops;
- be able to cultivate crops all year round;
- have maximum utilization of limited land resource;
- support the environment through less use of insecticides, pesticides, fertilizers;
- provide employment opportunity and source of family income to members; and
- ensure management of limited resources

Crops such as bell pepper, hot pepper, green pepper and Tomatoes are planted in the green house. These crops are first planted in the nursery with the use of planting trays before crops are transplanted into the soil under the Greenhouse kit.





B. FISHERY AND POULTRY FARM

Environmentally-friendly agricultural practice in Nigeria by a Cooperative society.



In this synchronized agric practice, the fish ponds are constructed unlike the orthodox open sea fishery while metal cages are built for the rearing of the birds.



This is environmentally friendly being that the fish and birds are reared in a controlled environment. Furthermore, the food and waste of the birds do not pollute the environment, rather, they serve as feed for the fish.

C. FISH PROCESSING

This was established by the Catfish Women Farmers Cooperative Society. The Cooperative society engages in rearing and processing of catfish.

The fishes are reared in specialized ponds for the purpose of processing, which involves drying and smoking through purpose-built machines. The fishes are dried using an eco-friendly fish smoking machine. The machine does not emit smoke, thereby causing air pollution and does not give the dried fishes smoky

odour. This fish smoking process is being used to erode the traditional method of smoking fishes.



Fishes beings fed in a controlled environment



Workers sorting the fishes



Fish-smoking machine



Smoked fish in the machine

Conclusion

The environmentally-friendly methods used by cooperatives have contributed immensely to reducing the effect of human activities on the environment and

make agricultural produce available for most months in the year. This has equally contributed to food security.