

# REPORT OF THE PAWED WEE ADVOCACY COALITION VISIT TO THE PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCE

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## Introduction

PAWED is a Nigerian CSO advocacy and communications coalition that advance evidence, policies and programs that further women's economic empowerment vanguard organizations such as Women's Empowerment Collectives. The PAWED project works at the national level and in selected states in each of the 6 geopolitical zones to increase the salience of in Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) amongst policy makers in Nigeria. Lapo as a potential advocacy partner will conduct advocacy around the annual budgets in Edo State. LAPO will also bring together a coalition of 10 women led women's economic cooperatives and WEE focused NGOs to conduct advocacy visits and provide strategic support to the groups to continue to follow up with the government MDAs on promises made to increase WEE in the 2022 budget. The overarching goal of this partnership is to expand the decisional space for WEE programming at state level by catalysing state governments to increase commitment to WEE programming through evidence-based advocacy conducted by indigenous CSOs and supported by a leading locally based CSO partner

## Objective

The Objective of the advocacy visit were to advocate for increased in the number of projects and budgetary allocation to women's economic empowerment interventions in 2022 budget in the state and to increase the knowledge of effective policies, programs and strategies to advance women's economic empowerment within the ministry agriculture with a primary focus on women's empowerment collectives

## Overview

Prior to conducting the advocacy visit one planning meeting was held to strategize, discuss and harmonize the advocacy issues and identify the advocacy target. Also, letter was Sent to the identify advocacy target the commissioner for Agriculture and natural resources and the permanent secretary of the ministry. The aim of the planning meeting was to generate evidence of gaps in government WEE intervention performance, develop advocacy messages to catalyse improved performance, and to conduct advocacy visit to strategic advocacy targets who will advance salience of WEE.



The PAWED WEE Advocacy Coalition in Edo state was led by Dr Ayobami Honestus Obadiora the project director LAPO-PAWED, four women economic collective namely Market Women Association, Women for Agriculture, Lady mechanic, LAPO Rural Development Initiative (LARDI) and one gender-based NGO the National Association of Women Entrepreneur (NAWE). The ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources delegation was led by the permanent secretary of the Ministry Mr. Peter Aikhuomobhogbe, director of Finance and account, Director of rural services, Director of animal and human services and the director of produce department. A total number of eighteen participant were present during the advocacy visit. Six from the ministry of agricultural and twelve from the PAWED WEE Advocacy Coalition in Edo state

### Presentation of advocacy ask

Presentation of the advocacy ask was done by the project director LAPO-PAWED Dr Ayobami Honestus Obadiora on behalf of the PAWED WEE Advocacy Coalition in Edo state.



The advocacy asks were to increased the number of projects and budgetary allocation to women's economic empowerment interventions in 2022 proposed budget in the state and to increase the knowledge of government official on effective policies, programs and strategies to advance women's economic empowerment within the ministry agriculture with a primary focus on women's empowerment collectives





### Feedback

Responding to issues raised by the PAWED WEE Advocacy Coalition in Edo state the permanent secretary Mr. Peter Aikhuomobhogbe noted that the state government is doing a lot to empower women economically.



He stated that the state government is currently harmonizing all women economic Empowerment program in the state. However, the ministry of Agriculture and natural resources is committed to:

- Working with the ministry for Budget and economic planning and the state house of assembly to ensure increased budgetary allocation for women economic Empowerment for the ministry in the proposed 2022 budget and to ensure more women economic Empowerment program and activities is captured in the ministry 2022 proposed state budget
- Partners with Lapo-PAWED to Review all women economic Empowerment policy intervention to ensure more women are captured in the implementation of the policy intervention
- The ministry of Agriculture and natural resources will partner with the ministry of finance, social development and gender issues to build capacity of women in agriculture on how to access funding

### Recommendation

- Conduct meeting to review advocacy impact and develop strategies for tracking delivery of commitments
- PAWED WEE Advocacy Coalition to review all women economic empowerment policy intervention of the ministry of agriculture and natural resources