

- **REMARKS FOR WORKSHOP ON ADVANCING SATELLITE-BASED CROP MONITORING TO INCREASE RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF GLOBAL FOOD INSECURITY**

- **Date: 2 July 2024**

- **BY TOFIQ BRAIMAH, FAO**

- Distinguished Government Representatives,
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentleman,
- Civil society, media and academia,
- Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

- Allow me to stand on existing protocol.

- It is an honor to be here to represent the Food and Agriculture Organization at such a timely and important workshop. I send greetings from the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Mohamed Fall and my Country Representative for FAO, Mr. Koffy Kouacou.

- Allow me to just say a few words on why this is such an important discussion for the United Nations.

- Nigeria continues to experience a number of challenges that are security, economic and humanitarian in nature, and exacerbated by dynamics of climate and conflict. Left unresolved and unmanaged, violent conflicts will continue to undermine the enormous potential in the country for the over 200 million Nigerians living in the country.

- According to the Cadre Harmonise for Identification of Risk Areas and Vulnerable Population in the Sahel and West Africa from 2024 which assessed Food and Nutrition Insecurity (FNI) Analysis for Current Period (March to May 2024) and Projected Period (June to August 2024) For Twenty Six (26) CH Participating States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

- Generally, the period witnessed heightened challenges to food and nutrition insecurity occasioned by sporadic attacks by Non State Armed Groups (NSAGs) in the forms of abductions and violent killings, banditry, kidnappings, herder/farmers conflicts and communal civil unrest. This situation is severely affecting agricultural livelihoods and optimal market functionality, escalating the already high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition in several states. Country-wide, the continuing rise in inflation and naira-dollar exchange rate volatility, had its toll on staple food and basic non-food items and services, impacting negatively on cost of living, food production, processing and distribution, despite dwindling resources and waning purchasing power of several HHs. As the lean season approaches, spikes in prices of food is anticipated, with more HHs who depend solely on market purchases of staples to meet their food needs encountering tougher food consumption challenges. Nonetheless, more populations in insecurity burdened areas may resort to crisis and emergency coping strategies to survive in the absence of sustained humanitarian assistance.

- The overall results revealed that during the current period (March to May 2024) about 24.9 Million (12.5%) of the analyzed populations are in the critical (Crisis to Emergency) Phases of FNI. With projection into the lean season, FNI situation is expected to worsen and potentially increase the number of vulnerable populations to 31.8 Million (15.9%), unless prompt and targeted humanitarian interventions such as food assistance, cash transfers and support for livelihood resilience strengthening in worse-affected areas are put in place to mitigate escalations.
- It is against this backdrop that this workshop is timely, as Nigeria continued to face a number of challenges that undermine its food security and its food systems. We are convinced that advances in satellite-based crop monitoring will lead to an increased resilience in the face of food insecurity in Nigeria and express our gratitude to the colleagues from UNCTAD and the government of Nigeria for supporting this initiative.
- Thank you.