



MARCH 2025

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Esteemed Readers,

As we wrap up the first quarter of the year, the month of March gave us an opportunity to reflect on the progress and challenges in the agricultural and environmental sectors. It has been a month filled with dynamic activities, reinforcing our commitment to driving meaningful impact in these crucial areas.

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*Investing in women is
investing in a sustainable
future*

#IWD'25



Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities the next quarter holds and remain dedicated to advancing sustainable solutions. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to this journey with you.

Thank you for being a part of our community

EERC Team

News & Updates

IWD @ EERC: Celebrating Women in
Agriculture and Environmental Sustainability

International Women's Day

Accelerating action for gender equality
& inclusive future



March is dedicated to celebrating the contributions and resilience of women from all walks of life. At the Environmental and Economic Resource Centre (EERC), we recognize and honor the invaluable role of women in the agricultural and environmental sectors. Women across the globe have continuously demonstrated selflessness and dedication in advancing sustainability, food security, and climate resilience despite the systemic barriers they often face.

On March 8, International Women's Day, we join the global call for accelerated action toward gender equality. As we are still in the aura of celebration and continuous efforts to creating inclusive opportunities that empower women contribute, increasing women's involvement in the farming and ecological sectors drives economic growth and contributes to a more sustainable and equitable future.

At EERC, we are dedicated to promoting inclusive agriculture by equipping women with the skills,

resources, and opportunities they need to thrive; supporting policies that empower women farmers and environmentalists; and amplifying women's voices in sustainability and environmental decision-making. Our efforts aim to increase women's participation in agriculture and environmental sustainability, fostering economic growth and a more equitable future for all.

As we commemorate this momentous occasion, we honor the achievements, courage, and determination of women who continue to break barriers, challenge stereotypes, and push boundaries for a sustainable world. Let us commit to accelerating action for gender equality, knowing that when women thrive, the world flourishes.

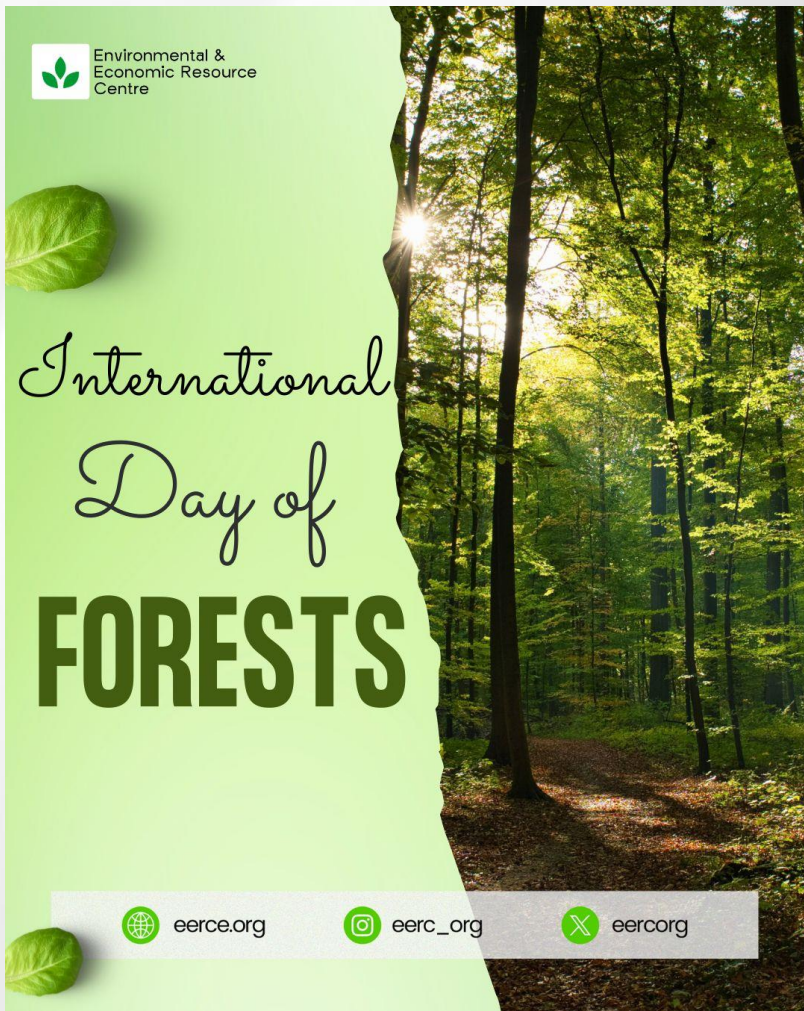
Happy International Women's Day from all of us at EERC!

Here's a video we curated to mark the celebration

[Watch](#)

News & Updates

International Day of Forests 2025: Celebrating Forests and Foods



The International Day of Forests, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012, is celebrated annually on March 21st. This day highlights the importance of forests and the urgent need to protect and restore them. This year's theme, "Forests and Foods," emphasizes the critical role of forests in food security, nutrition, and livelihoods. Forests are more than just collections of trees; they are thriving ecosystems that provide a wealth of edible resources. Many foods we consume today—fruits, nuts, seeds, mushrooms, honey, medicinal plants, coffee, cocoa, and spices—originate from forest

ecosystems. Beyond providing food, forests support biodiversity, housing countless plant and animal species that to global food chains. Indigenous communities, in particular, depend on forests for daily sustenance and traditional food practices. By preserving forests, we safeguard diverse food sources essential for human well-being.

At EERC, we are committed to protecting these critical ecosystems through sustainable forest management. In 2024, EERC made significant strides by planting 30,000 trees in Gombe State, restoring 30 hectares of land across four communities in Northeast Nigeria to protect livelihoods and reduce disaster risks. This intervention, along with biogas training, has improved women's livelihoods and reduced dependence on firewood, curbing deforestation.

Earlier this year, EERC participated in the Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS) 6th annual conference, sharing insights on our climate change mitigation efforts. Our presentation addressed the impact of deforestation on climate change and food security, showcasing integrated solutions such as agroforestry and green cooking initiatives in Adamawa and Gombe states.

Inspired by our work on EERC's Building Climate Resilience and Carbon Market Opportunities in Northeast Nigeria, EERC's volunteer, Simon Paulina implemented a personal project, the Sustainable Green Future in 2024. Focused on environmental conservation through tree planting and sustainable farming, Paulina planted over 100 economic trees across communities in Adamawa State, contributing to reforestation and climate resilience.

As we mark the International Day of Forests 2025, it is crucial to recognize that forests are more than just carbon sinks—they are nature's pantry, providing food, livelihoods, and ecological balance to people across the world. By taking small but meaningful actions, you can help protect and restore forests.

Here are some ways you can take action and contribute to the protection of forests:



1

Plant and nurture a tree—even better, start a garden:

Plant a tree in your community or start a small garden with native plants to enhance local

2

Support reforestation projects:

Donate to or volunteer with organizations that focus on tree planting and forest conservation.

Look out for EERC volunteer opportunities at eerce.org

3

Advocate for stronger environmental policies:

Support policies and laws that protect forests and hold companies accountable for unsustainable logging

4

Support sustainable agriculture

Many forests are destroyed for agricultural expansion. Choose sustainably sourced food products, support local farmers who use eco-friendly practices, and reduce food waste.

5

Educate and inspire others

Share information about the importance of forests and how people can help.

By taking these steps, you can contribute to the protection and restoration of forests, ensuring a greener and healthier planet for all.

Happy International Day of Forests

News & Updates

World Water Day 2025: Global Water Security at Risk as SDG 6 Progress Stalls



In commemoration of World Water Day which is celebrated annually on March 22, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in line with its tradition released the 2025 United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR), titled "Mountains and Glaciers: Water Towers." The report highlights the crucial role of mountain water sources while assessing global water management and progress toward Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which declares achieving clean water and sanitation for all.

SDG 6 focuses on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. It includes targets related to drinking water, sanitation, hygiene, water quality, integrated water resources management (IWRM), and water-related ecosystems.

The report's findings paint a concerning picture, indicating that progress toward SDG 6 is significantly slow and impacted by persistent challenges in water quality, sanitation, and resource management, as well as the increasing vulnerabilities posed by climate change—particularly in mountainous regions.

Key Findings of the UN WWDR 2025

According to the WWDR, *global freshwater withdrawals increased by 14% between 2000 and 2021. This rise is primarily driven by urbanization and economic expansion rather than population growth, with agriculture leading as the dominant consumer of freshwater, accounting for 72% of global withdrawals, followed by industry (15%) and domestic use (13%).* Despite increasing demand, one-quarter of the world's population faces extreme water stress annually, while nearly 4 billion people experience severe water scarcity for at least part of the year.



According to UNESCO, while there have been some advancements in some targets of the SDG 6, such as safe drinking water, water quality, water-use efficiency, and participatory water and sanitation management, significant acceleration is needed. Transboundary water cooperation and water-related ecosystems have stagnated, while access to sanitation and hygiene has made moderate progress but still requires greater efforts. Notably, the report highlights a concerning regression in international cooperation on water and sanitation, posing further challenges to achieving global water security.

SDG 6.1's target of ensuring universal access to safe drinking water, appears to be falling short of its objective. As of 2022, 2.2 billion people still lacked access to safely managed drinking water. Rural areas are disproportionately affected, with Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America experiencing the largest urban-rural gaps in water service coverage. The sanitation situation (target 6.2) is even more dire, with 3.5 billion people globally lacking access to safely managed sanitation. In Sub-Saharan Africa, only 24% of the population has proper sanitation services. Similar challenges persist in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Central and Southern Asia, where only around 50% of the population has access to adequate sanitation services.

In relation to SDG 6.3, which focuses on water quality, the report identifies a significant data gap in tracking wastewater treatment. However, a 2023 assessment revealed that 56% of

91,000 water bodies across 120 countries had good water quality with low-income nations contributing only 3% of the global water quality data. Progress on SDG 6.4, which addresses water-use efficiency, varies across nations. Efficiency remains low in 58% of countries, with agriculture-dependent economies using less than \$3 per cubic meter, compared to over \$50 in industrialized nations. Water stress has increased globally, reaching 18.6% in 2021.

An assessment of SDG 6.5 which focuses on transboundary water cooperation shows that only 46 out of 153 nations with shared transboundary rivers, lakes, and aquifers have operational agreements covering over 90% of their transboundary waters. Meanwhile, SDG 6.6, which focuses on protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems—including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers, and lakes—shows that these critical ecosystems are increasingly degraded due to pollution, land conversion, and climate change. Mountain ecosystems, vital for sustaining water supplies, are among the most affected, further exacerbating water shortages.

International cooperation on water and sanitation (SDG 6.a) remains inconsistent. While Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the water sector rose to \$9.1 billion in 2021, it declined to a historic low of 3.2% of total ODA in 2022, reflecting shifting global priorities. Although over 90% of countries report having legal provisions for participatory water management, assessment of SDG 6.b which focuses on participatory management, reveals that less than one-third of these countries have effective community engagement processes in place.

The WWDR further provides insight into water security challenges across regions, with the Sub-Saharan Africa facing severe water scarcity and sanitation challenges, worsened by rapid population growth and widespread poverty. Degraded mountain ecosystems further threaten water availability, necessitating urgent interventions in sustainable land and water management.

The WWDR 2025 exposes the fragile state of global water security and the slow recorded progress toward SDG 6, compounded by climate-induced challenges, necessitating immediate and decisive action. With nearly half the global population facing water stress, urgent interventions to protect mountain water sources, improve water management practices, and foster international cooperation are critical to securing water for future generations.

News & Updates

2025 Climate Forecast: Adapting to Changing Weather Patterns

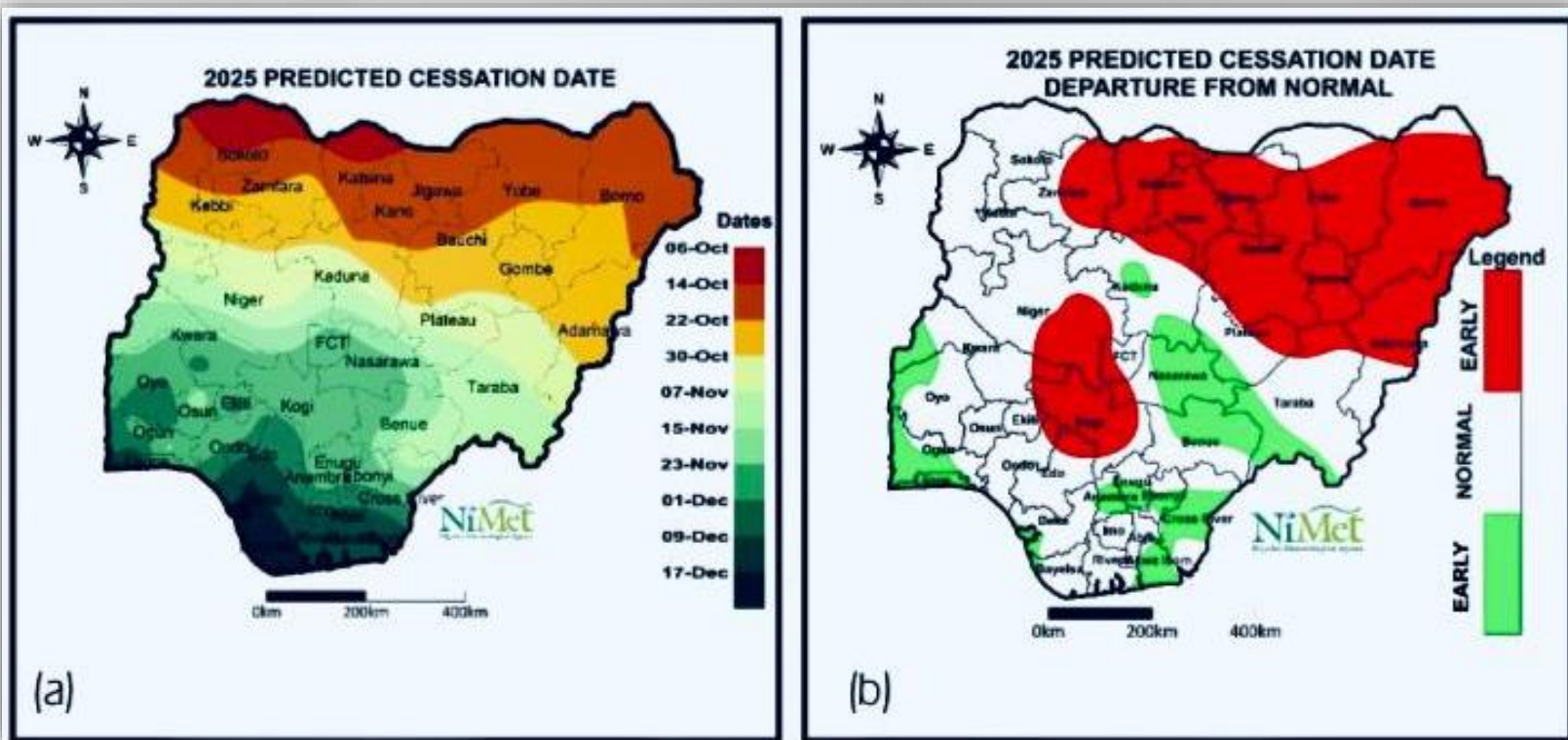
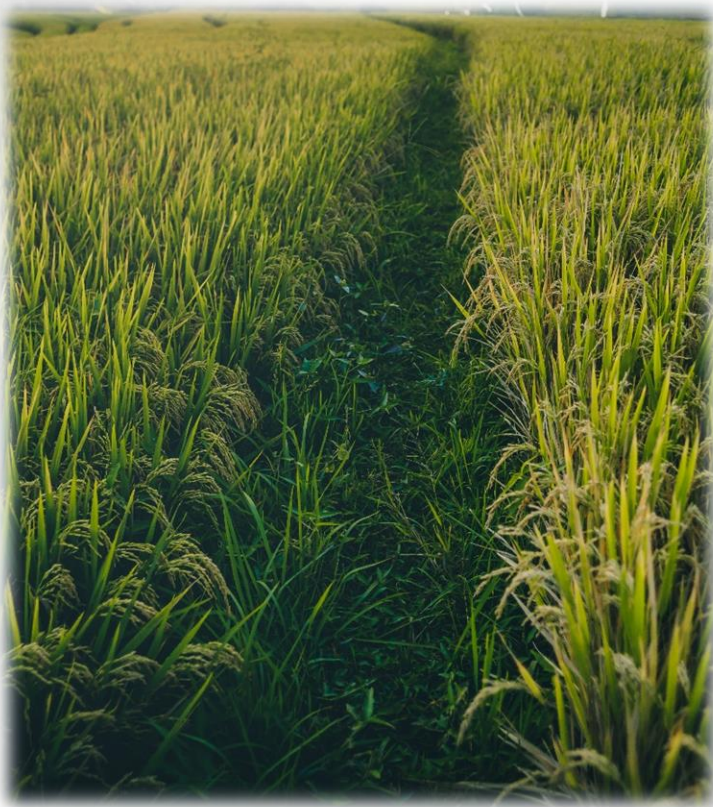


Photo Source: NiMet's 2024 SCP

As climate change intensifies extreme weather events globally, integrating meteorological data into agricultural and environmental planning has become essential. The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) released its 2025 Seasonal Climate Prediction (SCP) in February, offering crucial insights into weather patterns, including the onset and cessation of the rainy season, dry spells, temperature variations, and socio-economic implications across Nigeria.

According to the SCP, Southern states such as Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Anambra, and parts of Lagos will experience early rainfall, whereas central and northern states, including Plateau, Kaduna, and Benue, will have a delayed onset of rains. In the north, rainfall cessation is expected earlier than usual, while some southern states may witness prolonged rainfall periods. In terms of temperature, Nigeria is expected to experience above-average temperatures, especially in the early months of 2025. While April might be cooler than usual in some areas, January, February, March, and May will witness higher-than-normal temperatures. The northern states will experience prolonged dry spells lasting up to 21 days, whereas the southern regions will see moderate dry spells. These conditions present significant challenges for agriculture, water availability, and human health, increasing the risks of disease outbreaks such as meningitis in the north and malaria in the humid southern regions.

The 2025 SCP warns that the agricultural sector is particularly vulnerable to these climatic changes. Delayed rainfall onset in the north and below-average precipitation in certain areas could negatively impact crop production. Farmers are therefore advised to adopt climate-resilient agricultural practices, including the use of drought-tolerant and early-maturing crops, as well as soil moisture conservation techniques such as mulching and rainwater harvesting.



Recommended Adaptive Strategies

Here are some adaptive measures farmers should implement in response to the 2025 seasonal climate predictions:

Crop Production

- Align planting schedules with NiMet's predicted rainfall onset dates to minimize crop failures.
- Use of drought-tolerant and early-maturing crops are recommended for areas facing delayed rains.
- Melon and sweet potatoes can be planted cautiously in North Central Nigeria before the rainy season begins.
- Seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides should be procured early in the southern regions due to the expected early rainfall.
- Fertilizer application should be strategically timed to avoid nutrient loss in regions prone to excessive rainfall
- Intensify pest monitoring, especially for army worms, to prevent infestations.

Livestock Farming

- Ventilate poultry farms with regulated temperatures to prevent heat stress.
- Reduce stocking densities during high-heat periods and provide birds with sufficient clean drinking water with multivitamins.
- Construct climate-smart poultry housing such as elevated structures for improved ventilation.
- Prioritize rearing breeds with shorter hair and lighter coats to enhance heat resistance.
- Adopt heat stress mitigation strategies such as water sprinkling on livestock to improve fertility rates.
- Schedule feeding time to early morning or late evening to avoid excessive heat exposure.

Aquaculture

- Dredge ponds to increase depth and regulate water temperature.
- Plant shade trees like plantains and bananas around ponds to control heat levels.
- Ensure regular pond cleaning to minimize eutrophication and maintain water quality.
- Avoid pond construction in flood-prone areas to reduce potential losses.
- Implement aeration and continuous water changes in concrete and plastic fish farms to prevent oxygen depletion.
- Reduce stocking densities and adjust feeding times to early morning and late evening to minimize heat stress on fish.

The 2025 SCP presents farmers the opportunity to adopt proactive measures and adjust their planting schedules in response to the predictions in order to mitigate the negative effects of extreme weather conditions.

Stakeholders, including policymakers, agricultural extension officers, and environmental actors, are encouraged to collaborate to implement sustainable climate adaptation strategies to enhance food security and economic resilience in Nigeria.

Resources

Unlock Investment Opportunities in Nigeria's Seed Sector with CBSE Investment Guides



Access to quality tools and resources is fundamental to enhancing agricultural productivity and ensuring food security. In line with this, the Environmental and Economic Resource Centre (EERC), in collaboration with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), developed Investment Guides for Community-Based Seed Entrepreneurs (CBSEs) under the Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity. This initiative, supported by USAID, aims to empower seed farmers, agro-dealers, extension workers, and researchers in the production of key value chains, including maize, rice, millet, sorghum, cowpea, groundnut, and soybean.

These guides provide essential insights on cost and returns analysis, equipping seed producers with practical strategies to enhance decision-making, increase productivity, and contribute to a more resilient seed sector.

If you are an investor, agripreneur, or development partner looking to drive sustainable growth in Nigeria's agricultural sector, these investment guides are invaluable tools you want to explore for scaling seed production and closing the seed supply gap.

Access the investment guides [here](#).

Upcoming Events



April 22, 2025 - International Mother Earth Day 2025

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 22 April as International Mother Earth Day through a resolution adopted in 2009. The Day aims to raise global public awareness of the challenges to the well-being of the planet and all the life it supports; promote harmony with nature and the Earth, to achieve a just balance among the economic, social, and environmental needs of the present and future generations of humanity.

This year's International Mother Earth Day theme is **"Our Power, Our Planet."**



April 28, 2025 - World Day for Safety and Health at work

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is an annual international campaign to promote safe, healthy and decent work. It is held on 28 April and has been observed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2003.

This year's World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2025 focuses on "Revolutionizing health and safety: the role of AI and digitalization at work".

About Us

Environmental and Economic Resource Centre (EERC) is a non-profit, scientific research organization focusing on sustainable practices and development in agriculture, environment, and natural resources in Africa.

EERC is based in Nigeria with regional office in Malawi. We work in partnership with governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector to develop scalable agricultural and environmental management practices with real impact on poverty reduction, food security, ecosystem health, conservation, and livelihood development.

Our Mission

Our mission is to promote quality research, build and develop human capacity through trainings, and project implementations for livelihood development and sustainable environment.

Our Vision

Catalyze and develop inclusive agriculture, sustainable livelihoods, natural resource conservation, and environmental management in Africa through research and capacity building, and to support African countries on a pathway to sustainable development.



Environmental &
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Centre

Contact Us

info@eerce.org

newsletter@eerce.org