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KASU Marching to Excellence: Embracing Emerging Technologies, Upskilling/Reskilling

FROM POLICY TO PLOUGH: HOW KASU FARMS REFLECTS KADUNA STATE'S AGRICULTURAL REFORM DRIVE



KASU Farms Ltd outputs from recent production cycles

“The farm’s geographic footprint aligns with achieving a competitive agricultural development that reflects the state’s diverse agro-ecological realities.”

For decades, Nigeria’s agricultural policies have often struggled to make the difficult journey from paper to productive soil.

Yet, across Kaduna State today, there are signs that agriculture is being deliberately repositioned, not merely as subsistence activity, but as a structured economic enterprise under the administration of Governor Uba Sani. This shift is becoming more evident, with institutions increasingly serving as platforms for translating reform into results. One such example is KASU Farms Ltd.

Conceived as a commercial agricultural venture, KASU Farms Ltd represents more than a university owned farm. It reflects a growing recognition that agriculture must sit at the intersection of policy, enterprise, research, and youth development. In this sense, the farm mirrors Kaduna State’s broader agricultural reform agenda, which prioritises diversification, value-chain development, innovation, and sustainability.

The structure of KASU Farms is instructive. Its integrated production system spans arable crops such as grains, roots, and tubers; vegetable cultivation; poultry and other monogastric livestock; ruminant production supported by pasture development; and fisheries. This diversified model is not accidental. It aligns with reform thinking that encourages mixed farming systems capable of absorbing climate shocks, market fluctuations, and seasonal uncertainties, realities that continue to confront Nigerian agriculture.

Beyond production, KASU Farms performs a strategic human capital function. By engaging students on a part-time basis and providing stipends, the farm bridges theory and practice, exposing young people to agriculture as a viable economic pursuit rather than a last resort.



This approach resonates with Kaduna State’s emphasis on youth inclusion and skills acquisition, recognising that the future of agriculture depends on a new generation equipped with both knowledge and enterprise mindset.

Perhaps the strongest external validation of this institutional readiness came in 2025 when Kaduna State University emerged as the only state university in Nigeria to win a ₦1 billion competitive grant for commercial agriculture under the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund). The selection process was rigorous, focusing on innovation capacity, entrepreneurial foundations, functional infrastructure, and readiness for large-scale agricultural transformation.

KASU’s success in securing the grant speaks to an institutional culture that has embraced reform, accountability, and innovation: qualities increasingly encouraged within Kaduna State’s governance framework. Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Abdullahi Ibrahim Musa, rightly described the award as evidence that institutional reforms are yielding tangible results, not just for the university but for the wider Kaduna State community.

The grant is expected to strengthen commercial agricultural ventures, establish agribusiness incubation hubs, and deepen research industry linkages aimed at food security, youth employment, and sustainable economic growth. In practical terms, KASU Farms Ltd provides a ready operational platform for translating these ambitions into measurable outcomes going forward with the next phase of activities in 2026.



Operational records from KASU Farms indicate that production has moved beyond experimentation into market-facing output.

“In the last quarter of 2025 alone, KASU Farms recorded the harvest and sale of 148 kilograms of fish, 450 kilograms of poultry across two production cycles, over 540 kilograms of tomatoes, as well as the processing and sale of two cows,” the farm’s internal production data shows.

While modest in scale, these figures are significant within the context of an institution-led agricultural enterprise still consolidating its systems. They point to a functioning operation, one responding to market demand, managing production cycles, and translating policy intent into measurable output.

Challenges remain in the area of Infrastructure gaps, particularly in irrigation, storage, and processing, which continue to limit scale and efficiency. Community extension services, while planned, are still evolving. Yet these constraints are not unique to KASU Farms; they mirror the broader structural issues facing Nigeria’s agricultural sector. More importantly, they highlight areas where sustained policy support, strategic partnerships, and targeted investment can deepen impact.



What makes KASU Farms significant is not that it has solved all these problems, but that it represents a work in progress and an enterprise that is learning, producing, and adapting within a reform-driven policy environment. It demonstrates that when governance creates the right incentives and institutions embrace change, agriculture can move decisively from aspiration to action.

As Kaduna State continues its agricultural reform journey, initiatives like KASU Farms remind us that development is rarely instantaneous. It is incremental, practical, and grounded. Moving agriculture from policy to plough requires exactly this kind of deliberate alignment between government vision and institutional execution.

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