



TARABA STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
OFFICIAL GAZETTE

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**TARABA STATE REGULATION FOR THE APPROVAL AND OVERSIGHT OF
LARGE-SCALE AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENTS (FRILIA REGULATION)**

PREAMBLE

IN EXERCISE OF THE POWERS conferred upon the Taraba Investment Promotion Agency (TIPA) under Sections 5, 6 and 12 of the Taraba State Investment Promotion Agency Law, 2021, AND IN FURTHERANCE of the provisions of the Taraba State FRILIA Executive Order No. 6 of 2023, AND BY VIRTUE of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS ARE HEREBY MADE:

PART I — PRELIMINARY

1. CITATION AND COMMENCEMENT

1. These Regulations may be cited as the **Taraba State Large-Scale Agricultural Investment Approval Regulations, 2025**.
 2. These Regulations shall come into force on the 1st day of October 2025.
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2. INTERPRETATION

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

- **“Agency”** means the Taraba Investment Promotion Agency (TIPA).
 - **“Stakeholder”** means any person, group, community, or institution with an interest in a proposed agricultural investment.
 - **“FRILIA Principles”** means the Framework for Responsible and Inclusive Land-Intensive Agriculture adopted by Taraba State.
 - **“Large-scale agricultural investment”** means any agricultural enterprise exceeding the threshold defined by the Agency.
 - **“ESIA”** means an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment conducted in accordance with applicable laws.
 - **“FRILIA Toolkits”** means the approved toolkits issued by the Taraba State FRILIA Technical Committee and endorsed by the Taraba State FRILIA Steering Committee.
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3. APPLICATION AND SCOPE

1. These Regulations apply to—
 - (a) all individuals, companies, or entities seeking to undertake large-scale agricultural investments in Taraba State;
 - (b) all transactions involving land, water rights, or natural resource use for agricultural purposes;
 - (c) all phases of project development from conception to decommissioning.
 2. Nothing in these Regulations shall derogate from any existing law.
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PART II — ADMINISTRATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

4. ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

THE TARABA INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCY (TIPA) SHALL—

- (a) administer, supervise, and enforce these Regulations;
 - (b) coordinate all investment-related processes;
 - (c) ensure compliance with FRILIA principles and toolkits.
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5. FRILIA TOOLKITS

THE FOLLOWING TOOLKITS ARE HEREBY INCORPORATED INTO THE INVESTMENT APPROVAL PROCESS—

1. Stakeholder Engagement Toolkit
2. Environmental and Social Risk Management Toolkit
3. Land Access, Easement and Resettlement Toolkit
4. Valuation and Compensation Toolkit
5. Global Memorandum of Understanding (GMoU) Toolkit
6. Grievance Redress Mechanism Toolkit
7. Community Needs Assessment and Development Toolkit
8. Out-Growers and Food Security Toolkit

COMPLIANCE WITH THESE TOOLKITS SHALL BE MANDATORY.

6. STAGES OF THE INVESTMENT APPROVAL PROCESS

The investment approval process shall consist of **six (6) stages**, as follows—

STAGE 1 — PRELIMINARY APPLICATION AND DUE DILIGENCE

The investor shall submit—

- (a) completed application form (Schedule 1);
- (b) corporate registration documents;
- (c) audited financial statements;
- (d) project concept note;
- (e) any additional information required by TIPA.

TIPA shall—

- conduct screening using the FRILIA Screening Toolkit;
 - verify corporate standing and financial viability;
 - review investment track record;
 - initiate preliminary community engagement.
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STAGE 2 — SITE IDENTIFICATION AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

TIPA SHALL—

- (a) coordinate site identification;
 - (b) notify relevant Local Government Authorities;
 - (c) facilitate initial community consultations;
 - (d) arrange site visits.
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STAGE 3 — DECISION TO PROCEED OR WITHDRAW

If either the investor or the community declines to proceed, the process terminates. If both agree, deeper engagement begins, including development of a Community Engagement Plan.

STAGE 4 — MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

TIPA shall conduct deeper due diligence.

The investor and community shall negotiate a NON-BINDING MoU outlining—

- (a) land requirements;
 - (b) benefit-sharing intentions;
 - (c) ESIA commitments;
 - (d) consultation processes.
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STAGE 5 — FEASIBILITY STUDY, BUSINESS PLAN AND ESIA

The investor shall submit—

- (a) feasibility study;
- (b) business plan;
- (c) ESIA report.

The responsible environmental authority shall issue a decision within the prescribed period.

The Community Engagement Plan shall be finalized.

STAGE 6 — FINAL AGREEMENTS

Final agreements may include—

1. Land Lease Agreement
2. Out-Grower Contracts
3. Community Impact and Benefit Agreement
4. Community Engagement Plan
5. Environmental and Social Compliance Plan
6. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
7. Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

TIPA shall confirm full compliance with FRILIA principles before granting approval.

PART III — MONITORING, GRIEVANCES AND ENFORCEMENT

7. INVESTMENT SCREENING

TIPA shall conduct continuous screening using the FRILIA Screening Toolkit.

8. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

Every investor shall establish a Grievance Redress Mechanism consistent with the FRILIA GRM Toolkit.

9. OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

ANY PERSON WHO—

- (a) provides false or misleading information to the Agency;
- (b) fails to comply with any condition of approval issued under these Regulations;
- (c) undertakes any large-scale agricultural investment without prior approval; or
- (d) otherwise contravenes any provision of these Regulations,

COMMITTS AN OFFENCE AND SHALL BE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO—

- (i) A FINE OF ₦5,000,000 (FIVE MILLION NAIRA); OR
- (ii) IMPRISONMENT FOR A TERM OF TWO (2) YEARS; OR
- (iii) BOTH SUCH FINE AND IMPRISONMENT.

THE AGENCY MAY, IN ADDITION—

- (iv) suspend or revoke any approval granted under these Regulations;
- (v) disqualify the offender from participating in future investment processes for a period not exceeding five (5) years.

10. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of these Regulations is held invalid, the remainder shall not be affected.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

APPLICATION FORM FOR LARGE-SCALE AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT APPROVAL

(Section 6, Stage 1)

A. APPLICANT INFORMATION

B. CORPORATE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

C. PROJECT INFORMATION

D. DECLARATION

SCHEDULE 2

FEES AND CHARGES

(Section 6)

1. APPLICATION FEES

2. APPROVAL FEES

3. ANNUAL REGULATORY FEES

4. OTHER CHARGES

SCHEDULE 3

REPORTING TEMPLATES

(Section 6)

A. QUARTERLY PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

B. ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

C. GRIEVANCE REDRESS REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
TARABA INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCY