

FG Plans Food Distribution, Employs Satellite To Monitor Flood

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AS the nation grapples with the ravaging deluge in many parts of the federation, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, has allayed fears of food shortages as the federal government is on ground to buy up food items from areas of surplus to ameliorate hunger in flood affected communities.



Adesina revealed that in order to manage the flood situation in places where farmlands are under water, a team of experts from the **International Water Management Institute (IWMI)**, Colombo, Sri Lanka is already in the country for that assignment.

The Minister, who returned from on the spot assessment of Niger and Kwara States, in the first instance, said though there are challenges of feeding facing people in flooded areas, there would not be any need to be pushed into panic buying. He said, "there is a robust system to address the challenges arising from the floods, especially for emergency relief, food and shelter for displaced populations."

The visit to affected areas continues in the coming days, he said, as emergency supplies would be monitored especially through the state governments, which resources have been augmented by the recent release of N17.6 billion to help rehabilitate the victims.

The Minister said the Water Institute would employ satellite imaging to assess the flood pattern, inundation level and the time it will take for flood recession; areas flooded, how long it will take to recede, the suitability of those areas for crop production. That information, Adesina said, will help to guide our flood recovery food production.

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