

BOSG distributes 150 new tractors to 27 LGCs

STATE Commissioner, Borno State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dr. [Hajiya] Asabe Vilita Bashir has Tuesday launched the distribution of 150 tractors newly purchased by the State Government for all the 27 Local Government Areas of the state improving agricultural mechanism of the rural farmers during the 2008 farming season.

Launching the distribution of the tractors at Borno State Agricultural Mechanization Authority (BOSAMA), the Commissioner disclosed that the tractors will be made available on hire basis to farmers at a subsidized cost of N7000 per day against N35,000 being charged by private operators at the open market in the state.

Dr. Asabe Bashir warned the operators of the brand new tractors to desist from any shoddy deal and over work with the machines. While urging them to ensure proper and regular maintenance of the tractors.

Out of the 200 tractors the state government had purchased, she said 40 tractors would be placed on general pool for emergency purposes.

The Commissioner added that over 80 per cent of Borno citizens are engage into farming and also explained that, government is aimed at encouraging agricultural mechanization across the state to boost food production.

Similarly, she said 28.5 metric tons of fertilizer have been allocated to the state by the federal government out of which about 19 metric tons had already been delivered to the state.

Earlier in his welcome address, the General Manager of the Agency, Alhaji Yahya Dankoli assured that the agency will ensure a successful distribution of the tractors and bumper harvest in the forthcoming cropping season.

He said over 200 tractor drivers and mechanics have also been retrained and deployed to the 3 Zonal Agricultural Offices to ensure prompt and effective delivery of the tractors to the rural farmers.