

Cassava Value Chain Pilot Project

PIND's value chain projects focus on poverty reduction by applying a market development approach. Each project seeks to create more accessible and inclusive market systems, thereby increasing the economic opportunities for large numbers of the poor and providing a path for them to escape poverty.

Cassava in Nigeria

Nigeria is the largest cassava producer in the world, averaging an annual production of about 35 million metric tons (mt) over the last five years. About one-third of the total national output comes from the Niger Delta region where many people depend on cassava as a main source of food and income.

Cassava production and processing is a diverse and widespread activity in the Niger Delta, involving small, medium and large-scale producers and processors. It provides employment and income for over 80% of the rural poor. About 70% of cassava farmers in the region are women and they are almost entirely responsible for the processing and marketing aspects of production. Cassava thus has tremendous potential to improve the lives of low income, rural farmers, processors, and their families and increase food security within the region.



Site visits were conducted with different stakeholders along the cassava value chain as part of PIND's scoping study.

Value Chain Analysis

To better understand the systemic constraints inhibiting growth in the cassava sector, PIND performed a value chain analysis. Data collected during this analysis identified the following constraints:

- Weak linkages between market actors which delay harvested cassava from reaching processors within an adequate time before spoiling
- Insufficient input supply
- Weak cassava farm extension services
- Lack of farmers' access to credit for operating and expanding enterprises
- Low efficiency of cassava processing equipment
- Lack of commercial orientation of farmers and processors

To overcome those constraints and develop a more competitive and sustainable cassava value chain PIND's pilot project interventions will focus on:

- Improving the coordination between value chain actors to increase the supply of cassava from farmers to processors. This will ensure the right raw material is delivered to processing plants in the most efficient and cost effective manner.



Harvested cassava being moved from the farm to the markets.

- Strengthening the capacity of cassava processors so they can improve production and productivity
- Promoting the use of improved high yielding, disease resistant cassava varieties, good agronomic practices by enabling better extension services for farmers, and improving the capacity of nurseries to provide consistent cassava varieties aligned with the types desired by processing companies and end market users
- Increasing the capacity of processors to increase production, specifically for High Quality Cassava Flour (HQCF)
- Strengthening advocacy bodies to create a more conducive regulatory environment for growth in the sector



The PIND economic development team consulted with various actors in the cassava market to gather essential data that informed the pilot project.

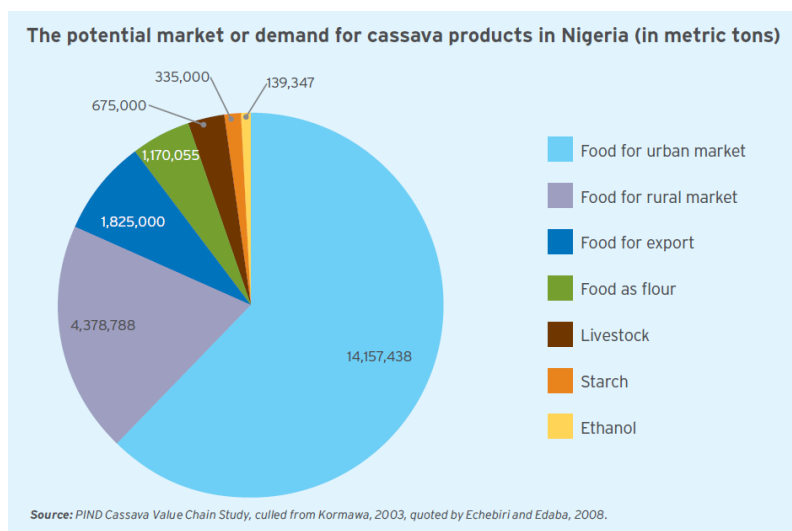
Opportunities for Growth

The overall vision for pro-poor growth in the cassava market is based on improving the interaction between farmers and processors that can lead to increased production. An increase in the quantity and quality of cassava produced should lead to increased profitability, generating more income for those involved in the sector and creating more jobs.

Scoping Study

In May 2012, PIND concluded a scoping study to further examine the most strategic approach to intervening in the cassava sector. The study further:

- Identified market failures and issues impeding competitiveness
- Identified companies and institutions that if changes were made, could drive improvements in the value chain
- Identified potential partners to work with on the project
- Identified potential interventions that could result in increased incomes, and job creation



Findings from the scoping study identified two strategic intervention areas PIND will focus on with its pilot project - increasing High Quality Cassava Flour (HQCF) production and increasing cassava starch production through partnerships with private sector companies. The current supply for HQCF and cassava starch is currently meeting less than 20% of demand. PIND's cassava project will seek to capitalize on this opportunity to close the supply gap, thereby increasing the market size and profitability of the sector.

Contact

For more information on the Cassava project please contact PIND at <http://pindfoundation.net/contact-us/>.

