



Communique issued at the 2021 National Cassava Summit with the theme:

"Catalysing and Scaling Private Sector-Led Cassava Seed Development in Nigeria."

Venue: Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Abuja. FCT.

Date: 04 November 2021

The 2021 National Cassava Summit was held in Abuja with 132 participants in attendance while 79 participated virtually. The Summit Participants were drawn from organizations such as the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Foundation for partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND), Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), African Development Bank (AfDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Nigeria Agribusiness Group (NABG), National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC), National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), IITA GoSeed, Umudike Seeds, and Sahel Consulting. Others were Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND), University of Agriculture Makurdi (UAM), Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), Winrock International, Nigeria Cassava Growers Association (NCGA), Psaltry International, Commercial and Foundation Seed Growers and the media. Commissioners of Agriculture from Benue, Delta and Ogun States were also in attendance.

The Summit discussed the state of cassava sector with particular emphasis on how to catalyse and scale private sector-led cassava seed development and reflected on the progress made in the last five years and made the following resolutions and conclusions.

1. There has been significant progress made in the cassava subsector in the last five years cutting across research, development, new investments, and farmer productivity. However, more needs to be done to realise the full potential of the crop.
2. The Summit recognised the gap in seeds demand and supply, and appreciated the progress made by the Building an Economically Sustainable Integrated Cassava Seeds System, Phase 2 (BASICS-II) in creating the BASICS Model for efficient development and delivery of the cassava seed system and called on the public and private sector actors to adopt the model.
3. The Summit reviewed with great concern the approach where donor projects and government were offering cassava seeds to farmers free of charge and in an unsustainable manner. Such interventions distort the seed markets and frustrates the already made gains in creating a sustainable seed ecosystem that guarantees job and wealth creation.
4. The Summit acknowledged the efforts made by NASC in the sanitization of the seeds system and encouraged NASC to rev up the de-centralisation of certification and increase regulation to ensure the constant supply of seeds.
5. To achieve the full genetic potential of cassava seeds, the Summit recommended the use of the Six Steps to Cassava Weed Management and Best Planting Practices, and the use of other good agricultural practices.



6. It was agreed that the government should provide an enabling environment and offer incentives to catalyse private sector investments both for new entrants and existing actors in the seed sector.
7. The Summit recognised that the country was not lacking in policies but noted that what was needed was the political will to implement those policies.
8. To attract youth into the agricultural space, the Summit recommended mechanisation and the use of digital tools such as AKILIMO, Cassava Seed Tracker, IITA Herbicides Calculator. It was agreed that the government should provide the enabling environment for the private sector to invest in the seed sector. This includes specific policies to drive production, marketing and utilization of cassava and its derivatives. Such policies should be formulated using the bottom-up approach carrying every stakeholder along in the process.
9. It was also agreed that the sensitization of existing policies and regulation should be intensified among the stakeholders.
10. The summit identified the need to ramp-up investments in Research and Development and extension services, to ensure the adequate dissemination of research outcomes.
11. It was agreed that a database of actors in the cassava value chain is highly important to promote market linkages and address the periodic glut in the market.
12. The Summit appreciated the work done by IITA, PIND, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and BASICS-II in organising the summit and being at the forefront of cassava development.

Date: 04 November 2021




Signed

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Signed

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