

CATALYZING AND SCALING OF PRIVATE SECTOR-LED CASSAVA SEED DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA



REPORT OF THE 2021 NATIONAL CASSAVA SUMMIT, ABUJA

04 November 2021

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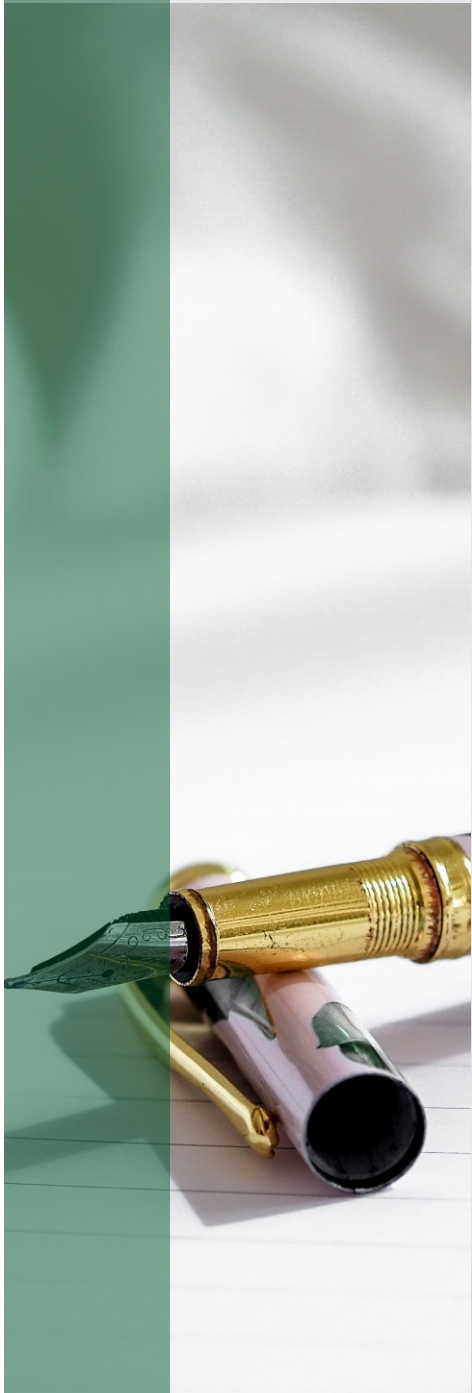
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PIND CATALYZING AND SCALING OF
PRIVATE SECTOR-LED CASSAVA SEED
DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA



NOVEMBER 2021



The 2021 National Cassava Summit was a remarkable success because of the team spirit and professionalism exhibited by everyone involved, from conceptualization, planning, and execution.

We sincerely thank the leadership and staff of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND).

We appreciate the wonderful contributions of our project partners - National Agricultural Seed Council (NASC), National Root Crop Research Institute (NRCRI) Umudike, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), IITA GoSeeds, Umudike Seeds, and Sahel Consulting. Immense gratitude also goes to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

The valuable support of the Nigeria Agri Business Group, (NABG), the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND), University of Agriculture, Markurdi, McCarthy, Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), and Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) did not go unnoticed. Winrock International, the National Cassava Growers Association (NCGA), Soul Tree Commercial, and Foundation Seed Growers, the media, and several other individuals and organizations all brought their expertise and resources to make the Summit a successful one. Thank you.

We are indeed grateful, and hopeful that the Summit will inspire positive actions towards catalyzing and scaling of private sector-led cassava seed development in Nigeria.

Prof Lateef Sanni
Project Manager,
BASICS-II

Dr. Dara Akala
Executive Director
PIND

The 2021 National Cassava Summit held at the Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Federal Capital Territory - Abuja, Nigeria, on 4 November 2021: under the theme "Catalyzing and Scaling of Private Sector-Led Cassava Seed Development in Nigeria".

The Summit, which was organized by IITA-BASICS-II project in collaboration with PIND and FMARD brought together more than 132 national and international participants representing the public, private and international development sectors. Many others from around the world joined via zoom.

The Summit aimed to:

- Identify and engage on the policy reforms required to galvanize the cassava seed sector to raise productivity and drive industrial growth projections;
- Promote impactful and economically sustainable seed models;
- Build the capacity of public and market actors and other key stakeholders for effective seed system coordination and competitiveness; and
- Unveil opportunities in the cassava seed sector for private capital investment.

In separate opening remarks, the outgoing Executive Director, PIND, Dr. Dara Akala, spoke on the need for the private sector to lead the way in building a commercially sustainable seed system that would trigger the desired development in the cassava sub-

sector. Prof. Lateef Sanni, Project Manager, BASICS-II project, urged governments at all levels to provide an enabling environment for the cassava seed sector to thrive.

Forward-looking goodwill messages from six partner organizations highlighted the relevance of the Summit and established a positive atmosphere for deliberations. Dr. Kenton Dashiell, Deputy Director-General, Partnership for Delivery (P4D), IITA, spoke about the Summit's aim to develop a seed system driven by the private sector and the need to transform cassava from a low to high yielding crop. Touching on the importance of cassava to Nigeria's economy, Lawrence Kent, Senior Program Officer, Agriculture Development Programme, BMGF, Seattle, called for an increase in access to improved cassava seeds for farmers. Audu Grema, Senior Program Officer, Agriculture, BMGF, Nigeria, explored opportunities in improved variety of cassava seeds from the local context and spoke about how technology can contribute to an increase in cassava production in Nigeria.

Patrick Habamenshi, Officer-in-Charge, IFAD, Nigeria, reflected on the importance of partnerships and underscored the importance of effective private sector engagement. Tabi Karikari, Agriculture and Natural Resources Management Officer, AFDB, stated the need to work with the private sector stakeholders in closing the financial gap in cassava seed production. He looked forward to deliberations around mechanized farming that will get cassava production to an

industrial scale in Nigeria. The last goodwill message was by Prof Suleiman Elias Bogoro, Director General, TETFUND, represented by Professor S.O Ogoro. He spotlighted the role of root and tuber crops research in increasing cassava production and extolled partnerships with higher institutions and research institutions explored by TETFUND. He joined the rest in their goodwill messages to congratulate all participants.

The keynote address by Chief (Dr) Alfred Dixon, Director, Development and Delivery, IITA shaped deliberations at the Summit. Some of the main messages from the keynote address are:

- High momentum to scale out proven technologies and innovations that would ameliorate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the vulnerable populations in Africa;
- Remarkable progress in private sector participation in the cassava value chain with new investment across the country;
- Request for specific varieties of cassava is contributing to a huge demand for improved cassava seeds and planting materials;
- Cassava seed development portrays a bright future for the country; and
- Stakeholders should produce cassava in an economically sustainable manner.

Following the keynote address, participants addressed several critical issues in three plenary sessions and one breakout session for smaller groups. The

first session under the title, "Where we are" (Emerging Seed Initiatives in the Cassava Subsector in Nigeria) was facilitated by Dr. Olusegun Ojo, Director-General, NASC. The session focused on various emerging seed initiatives in Nigeria like the digital seed certification, Cassava Seed Tracker, and the CBN 5 Star Cassava Project among others. Other initiatives discussed included those by the BASICS-II project, PIND, NASC, and NRCRI. Participants identified unsustainable donor and government subsidies and offering cassava seeds to farmers free of charge, a low number of certification officers, and seed entrepreneurs as some of the main issues affecting seed initiatives. They urged stakeholders to harmonize initiatives, work towards a reduction in the cost of seed and increase awareness of high-quality cassava seed variety among farmers.

To foster experience sharing among stakeholders on different seed models, the second session under the theme, "Sharing Experience on How Cassava Seed Models Work" was facilitated by Chyka Okarter, Value Chain Advisor, Agric Extension & Advisory Services, Winrock International, Abuja.

Dynamic conversations on how to bridge the gap of about 29 million metric tons in Nigeria's cassava production and the increase in demand for cassava as food, and raw materials led to a more in-depth examination of seed models. Participants shared plant-spacing models for increasing seed production, the success story of the digital tools like AKILIMO that is helping farmers in making informed decisions on planting and harvesting, and

how poor quality cassava seed will lead to poor yield. Several participants called for continuous agronomic practices training for cassava seed entrepreneurs, increased access to credit and inputs for farmers and seed entrepreneurs, and improved cassava seed certification system.

Following the second plenary session on cassava seed models, participants were invited to a breakout session to further discuss and collaborate in three smaller groups under the overarching theme- "Where are we going"?

The group discussions focused on the following thematic areas:

Policy Reform

- Technology Development and Deployment in the Cassava Sector
- Cassava Sector Coordination

Professor Gbolagade Ayoola, President, Farm and Infrastructure Foundation (FIF), represented by Towolawe Oluwole, moderated the group discussion during the breakout session on policy reform for seed development in Nigeria. Participants spoke about existing gaps in policy formulation and implementation and highlighted weak stakeholder engagement, legislative barriers, and lack of policies on cassava production. They established that advocacy to government at different levels and sensitization for farmers are essential for policy development and subsequently called for systems strengthening and capacity development for government agencies on policy implementation and monitoring.

The technology development and deployment group identified poor investment in research by the government, lack of awareness among farmers and extension workers without

digital skills as some of the main problems stunting technology development in Nigeria. Mercy Diebiru-Ojo, Managing Director, IITA, GoSeed moderated the session as participants explored the role of different stakeholders. There was a widespread call for the scaling up of successful cassava initiatives like BASICS-II, behaviour change among farmers, adoption of new technology and investment in research and dissemination of findings.

Dr. Emmanuel Ijewere, Vice President, NABG facilitated the group discussion on cassava sector coordination where participants urged stakeholders to work together towards achieving industrialization. Issues in coordination were discussed in the context of land usage and ownership, cassava seed subsidies by the government, seed coordination, and poor funding. Some participants maintained that government subsidies and demonstration farms are important for the promotion and adoption of improved variety among farmers, especially in rural areas.

Participants returned to a Plenary Feedback from Breakout Session after the lunch break to listen to the summary of deliberations from the different groups. Effiong Essien, Program Director, PIND gave credit to all participants for their contributions and insights. The central theme that emerged is the need for stakeholders to collaborate to align goals and tackle challenges around cassava policy reforms, technology development, and cassava sector coordination.

The role of policies in fostering an enabling environment in the cassava value chain was the focus of the third plenary session under

the theme - Key Policies for Enabling Environment. Richard -Mark Mbaram Esq., Coordinator, SAPZ Strategic Delivery Team (FG, AfDB, IFAD & IsDB); Co-Chair Communications Sub-Committee, UN Food Systems Summit Dialogue (UNFSSD), Nigeria moderated the final session on the policy ecosystem in Nigeria. Participants explored existing policies and enabling environment for seed development at the national and sub-national levels and concluded that transiting cassava into an economic crop requires strategic policies, enabling environment, private sector investment, and increased awareness among value chain actors.

An invaluable part of the Summit's experience was the enriching and restorative Networking Break for participants to connect after the plenary and breakout sessions. Participants returned to the hall refreshed and recharged to receive the presentation of the communique.

Ndidi Nwuneli, Co-founder of Sahel Consulting, Agriculture and Nutrition, AACE Foods, and Founder, Nourishing Africa, presented the communiqué and cited it as a main achievement of the Summit. Below are some of the main resolutions and conclusions at the Summit:

- Seed quantity: The Summit recognized the gaps in seed demand and supply and appreciated the progress made by the BASICS -II project in the efficient development and delivery of the cassava seed system and called on the public and private sector actors to adopt the model;
- Seed quality: The Summit acknowledged efforts made by NASC in the sanitization of the seed system and encouraged NASC to rev up the decentralization of certification and increased regulation to ensure the constant supply of seeds;
- Framework conditions - The Summit recognized that the country was not lacking in policies, but noted that what was needed was the political will to implement those policies. It was agreed that the sensitization of existing policies and regulations should be intensified amongst the stakeholders; and
- Finances: The Summit identified the need to ramp up investments in research and development and extension services to ensure that adequate dissemination of research outcomes.

The Summit discussed the state of the cassava sector with particular emphasis on how to catalyze and scale private sector-led cassava seed development and reflected on the progress made in the last five years. The deliberations were enriched with contributions from a diversity of participants including representatives from the private and public sectors, independent professionals, seed entrepreneurs, academics, and young leaders taking part in the cassava seed reforms. Beyond exploring key themes, the National Cassava Summit remains an important networking and peer learning event for stakeholders in the cassava subsector. The Summit came to a conclusion with the vote of thanks by Prof. Sanni.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

REPORT OF THE 2021 NATIONAL CASSAVA SUMMIT, ABUJA

AFDB	African Development Bank
BASICS-II	Building an Economically Sustainable Integrated Cassava Seed System, Phase 2
BMGF	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSEs	Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs
FGN	Federal Government of Nigeria
FIF	Farm and Infrastructure Foundation
FMARD	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
GAP	Good Agronomic Practices
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NABG	Nigeria Agri Business Group
NAQS	Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service
NASC	National Agricultural seed Council
NCGA	Nigeria Cassava Growers Association
NEPC	Nigeria Export Promotion Council
NEPC	Nigerian Export Promotion Council
NIPC	Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission
NRCRI	National Root Crops Research Institute
NRCRI	National Root Crop Research Institute
PIND	Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta
PIND	Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta
TETFUND	Tertiary Education Trust Fund
UNFSSD	UN Food Systems Summit Dialogue

OPENING CEREMONY

1.1 OPENING REMARKS

REPORT OF THE 2021 NATIONAL CASSAVA SUMMIT, ABUJA



■ Dr. Dara Akala,
Executive Director, PIND

To mark the official opening of the 2021 Annual Cassava Summit, Dr. Dara Akala, outgoing Executive Director, PIND offered the first opening remarks to welcome participants to the one-day Summit. He mentioned PIND's economic development and peace-building objectives in the Niger Delta of Nigeria, highlighted the economic potential of improved variety of cassava, and the need to accelerate action towards building an integrated commercially sustainable seed system by scaling of private sector-led cassava seed development in Nigeria. He urged everyone to participate actively in preferring solutions to the challenges in the sector. "The private sector is the cornerstone of development and should be enabled to champion these innovative approaches in the cassava sector", he said.

Prof Lateef Sanni, Project Manager, BASICS-II gave the second opening remarks with enthusiasm and equally welcomed all participants to the Summit.

He acknowledged the collaboration, partnerships between BASICS-II and its partners which led to the gathering of different stakeholders at Summit. He explained that the BASICS-II model is successfully running in eight States in Nigeria and stated the need to scale out the model in the entire 36 states of Nigeria. He urged participants to engage in discussions, and exchange ideas to produce robust sustainable actions in the cassava sector.

Participants received goodwill messages from representatives of partner organizations. The positive feedback, congratulations, and motivations did not gloss over the need to transform cassava production for food security, wealth creation, and economic prosperity in Nigeria

Dr. Kenton Dashiell, Deputy Director-General, P4D, IITA, congratulated the organizers of the Summit and appreciated the audio-visual quality of the live streaming, saying it made him feel as if he was participating in person. He stated that the Summit's mission is to change cassava from a low-yielding, low input subsistence crop into a high yielding, highly profitable, and industrial crop.

Lawrence Kent, Senior Program Officer, Agriculture Development Programme, BMGF, Seattle, participated online and spoke about the importance of cassava to food security. He stated that awareness around improved cassava seed is low and that more farmers need increased access to improved seeds. He expressed his desire for a sustainable seed system driven by the private sector.

Udu Grema, Senior Program Officer, Agriculture, BMGF, Nigeria, said "cassava is the gold God has given Nigeria" and that IITA has the technology and partnerships to leapfrog cassava production. BMGF Nigeria, among other agriculture initiatives, has been supporting research and development in cassava.

Patrick Habamenshi, Officer-in-Charge, IFAD, Nigeria, expressed his pleasure to deliver a goodwill message at the Summit.

He was excited about the different partnerships and innovations geared toward improving cassava seed production but reminded participants that there is still so much to do. "We are just scratching the surface here in Nigeria when it comes to cassava," he said, "and it is important that we are starting the discussion where it matters most, the seed and engaging the private sector."

Mr. Tabi Karikari, Agriculture and Natural Resources Management Officer, AFDB, related the objectives of the AfDB to the Summit and highlighted the achievements of the AfDB funded Technology for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT). The Summit, according to him, is an important event because of the growing need to work with the private sector to fill the financial gap. He looked forward to sessions on mechanization that can get cassava production industrial scale.

Prof Suleiman Elias Bogoro, Director General, TETFUND, represented by Professor S.O Ogoro, stated that the "new paradigm" in TETFUND is content development. To improve productivity in root and tuber crops, he announced that Michael Okpara University, Umudike will receive up to N1 billion over the next five years for research and development. In addition to this, the Federal Government of Nigeria will open a new National Research and Development Foundation soon. The professor promised that TETFUND would continue to involve the stakeholders in its activities.

1.3 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The keynote address delivered was by Chief (Dr) Alfred Dixon, Director, Development and Delivery, IITA. He said, the Summit was held during COVID 19 pandemic recovery and a high momentum to scale out proven technologies and innovations that would reduce the impact of the pandemic on the vulnerable populations in Africa. He stated other challenges, including climate change, pests and diseases, low productivity, and an informal seed system that constrain the dissemination of improved varieties of cassava seed.

He recalled the main objectives of the 2016 annual cassava summit under the theme, "Towards a \$5 Billion Per Annum Cassava Industry" and he asked the participants rhetorically about to what extent were we able to achieve those objectives, what do we need to continue doing, and what needs to be changed? Nigeria is the largest producer of cassava globally with remarkable progress in

private sector participation and investments across the country, and per hectare yield and production have not changed much. Chief Dixon described the state of cassava in Nigeria as a mixed bag.

The Summit will showcase success stories of cassava seed initiatives such as BASICS-II, the Commercial Seed Entrepreneur model of PIND, and several others that are enabling more efficient dissemination and adoption of new cassava seed varieties that are:

- Improving productivity
- Increasing incomes for cassava growers and seed entrepreneurs
- Contributing to inclusive agricultural transformation

He concluded that improving cassava seed development portrays a bright future for the country and urged stakeholders to produce cassava in an economically sustainable manner.



Audience standing for National Anthem during the National Cassava Summit event



First Plenary Session: Panelists

“Where We Are”

(Emerging Seed Initiatives in the Cassava Subsector in Nigeria)

The purpose of the first Plenary Session was to discuss emerging seed initiatives, and models in the cassava sub-sector in Nigeria with some of the leading actors. Dr. Olusegun Ojo, Director General, NASC, moderated the session.

Panellists: 1st Plenary Session - “Where We Are” (Emerging Seed Initiatives in the Cassava Subsector in Nigeria)

- Prof. Ukpabi Joseph Ukpabi, Executive Director, NRCRI
- Dr. Godwin Atser, BASICS-II/Project Manager, GIZ-GIAE Cassava & Maize Value Chain Project, P4D, IITA
- James Elekwachi, Economic Development Program Manager, PIND
- Dr. Khalid Ishiak, Director, Seed Certification and Quality Control Department, NASC
- Dr. Godwin Asumugba, Director, Head of Department, NRCRI

- Cassava is a popular household food supply in Nigeria, hence, the need to ensure its sustainability;
- Nigeria is the highest producer of cassava, but performing poorly in terms of processing and export value as most of the country's cassava derivatives are imported;
- About 60% of cassava planted in Nigeria are old low-yielding varieties;
- There is a continuous need for investments in new technologies and innovations to produce, package, and distribute good quality cassava seeds;
- The new improved cassava seed varieties can yield 20 to 40 tons per hectare;
- The government currently subsidizes the whole cassava seed system likely to be unsustainable due to the challenges with the budgetary system and the country's dwindling resources;
- The number of cassava seed entrepreneurs put in place is not enough for the large number of cassava farmers in the South-East and the South-South;
- Cassava seed entrepreneurs are not organized into groups or registered associations;
- There is a low number of certification officers.

Some of the initiatives in the cassava seed sector are:

- The digital seed certification
- The third-party certification
- The Cassava Seed Tracker
- The Six Steps to Cassava Weed Management Tool Kit that have been integrated into the curriculum
- The Green Innovative Centres by the German Government
- CBN Five Star Cassava Project

Successful seed models in the cassava sub-sector in Nigeria include:

BASICS-II project: aims to transform the cassava seed sector by promoting the dissemination of improved, disease-free varieties thereby creating a community of seed entrepreneurs across the cassava value chain;

PIND: using a systemic approach to the supply side, where you have the commercial seed entrepreneurs who can supply seed directly to farmers.

NASC: tackling issues around adulteration, faking with tracking teams and, the seed tracker capable tracking; certified seeds until they get to the certified seed producers and the farmers; and

NRCRI: ramping seed multiplication with the cassava seed entrepreneurs especially and putting in place business-oriented farmers

Main Decisions and Conclusion

- Improve awareness about the adoption of high-quality seeds
- Harmonize different cassava initiatives, and models in the seed sector for high productivity
- Linkup the producers and the end-users, especially agro industrialists
- Bring down the cost of certification
- NASC should ensure that commercial seed entrepreneurs are certified ,endorsed
- Strengthen seed systems and innovations along the seed value chain



Second Plenary Session: Panelists

Sharing Experience on How Cassava Seed Models Work

The 2nd Plenary Session was for experience sharing among stakeholders on different seed models to learn from each other. Stakeholders shared their models, strategies, success stories, and their approach to challenges. Chyka Okarter, Value Chain Advisor, agric Extension & Advisory Services, Winrock International, Abuja, moderated the session.

Panellists: 2nd Plenary Session

Sharing Experience on How Cassava Seed Models Work

- Yemisi Iranloye, Managing Director, Psaltry International, Oyo State
- Ajibola Johnson, IFAD VCDP Beneficiary
- Blessing Ngufan Chichi, Benue Women Farm, Benue State
- George Ajobor, Cassava Seed Entrepreneur, Delta State
- Dr. Christine Kreye, Agronomist African Cassava Agronomy Initiative, IITA

Main Issues and Deliberations

- Significant increase in the demand for quality stems due to increase in demand for cassava as food number of factories needing cassava as raw materials;
 - A gap of about 28.3 million metric tons in cassava production. How will Nigeria bridge this gap?;
 - Processors want good quality cassava variety with high starch content;
- It is profitable to produce cassava with high-quality variety seed. A Cassava Seed Entrepreneur (CSE) in Delta State went into cassava production in 2015 on 40 hectares of farmland using locally sourced cassava seed. The project failed due to the low yield on the farm. The adoption of quality cassava seed following IITA subsequently improved his farm yield.

Experience shared included:

- Plant spacing in stem production is less than that of root production. This style produces more stems but reduced root yield. Roots are considered additional gains for stem production. Stem production also yields tubers but not as much as the production of tubers alone;
 - KILIMO is a suite of digital decision support tools that have reached more than 100,000 farmers. AKILIMO gives advice and decision support on scheduled planting and harvesting, cassava-maize intercropping, and weed management. It helps farmers in making informed decisions and increases profit; and
- Increase the number of CSEs;
 - NASC should improve the certification process, make it more effective;
 - Provide continuous training on agronomic practices for the CSEs.
 - Facilitate access to credits and inputs for farmers and CSEs



Participants taking note at the National Cassava Summit event



Participants during the breakout at the National Cassava Summit event

BREAKOUT SESSION

WHERE WE ARE GOING

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Brain storming sessions at the National Cassava Summit event

4.1 Policy Reform

Despite a series of policies in place, there are still gaps to be filled either in policy formulation or implementation. Professor Gbolagade. Ayoola, President, FIF, represented by Towolawe Oluwole moderated the group discussion during the breakout session on policy reform for seed development in Nigeria.

Main Issues and Deliberations

- The majority of cassava policy documents are under legislative review;
- One of the main reasons for policy failures is the constant change of administrations before the policies see the light;
- Monitoring and evaluation of the policies by government agencies and stakeholders can be difficult. Several existing policies lack implementation strategies as well as monitoring and evaluation plan;
- There is weak policy engagement with stakeholders geared towards funding the cassava sector;

- Collaboration between the NCGA and CBN) on the implementation of the 5-star cassava project was reported;
- Many farmers are not educated and that will require reaching out to them on policy issues in the local languages they understand; and
- The private sector will not be interested in investing in the cassava subsector if there is no guarantee of return on investment.

Main Decisions and Conclusion

- Conduct consistent advocacy to governments at different levels, for policy development and implementation in the cassava subsector;
- Strengthen the capacity of in policy implementation and M&E;
- Develop a system for off-taking cassava produce;

BREAKOUT SESSION

WHERE WE ARE GOING

REPORT OF THE 2021 NATIONAL CASSAVA SUMMIT, ABUJA

- Governments should ensure an enabling environment for the private sector and extend incentives to them;
- Synergy among government and private sector stakeholders must improve;
- Farmers should join cooperatives to access credit like the CBN funds as the government agency will not do business with individuals directly but only through a bank or cooperative;
- Policies for catalyzing cassava seed production should include unemployed youth and women, mechanization, research and development, and access to finance;
- Stakeholders should strengthen systems and farmers' associations so that they can access loans on their own; and Reduce the high cost of quality cassava seed to meet local demands.

4.2 Technology Development and Deployment in the Cassava Sector

Nigeria has so much potential in cassava production and developing ways for tackling low yields. Dr. Mercy Diebiru-Ojo, Managing Director, IITA, GoSeed, moderated the group discussion on the next steps in technology development.

Main Issues and Deliberations

- The Government is investing in research and technology and increasing funding to cassava research institutes;
- More actors are using the digital C - Tracker and the Cassava Business Connector technology. The applications undergo continuous improvements;
- Destruction of cassava crops by cattle is one of the main problems facing farmers in southwest Nigeria. Cassava variety that is resistant to animals is not available;
- Taking seeds from one farmer to the other is a common practice and with several risks;
- BASICS I and II projects have increased farmers' awareness about high-quality seed and profitmaking, especially in project's pilot states;

Main Decisions and Conclusion

- Nigeria must develop technology that will improve production, monitoring, market (pricing) information, and reduce cassava diseases;
- Nigeria should learn about new technology for cassava production from countries like Thailand and Brazil with advanced technology for cassava industrialization;
- Private sector players should develop business models across the cassava value chain;
- Deploy new technologies for cassava production like;
 - Remote satellite imaging adoption to enhance crop growth;
 - Digital database of cassava stakeholders' across the cassava value chain for improving GAP training, funding, market linkage, etc;
 - Technology for conducting checks on soil for cassava production;
- Train extension officers on how to use technology, other digital tools that can provide accurate data;
- Large-scale cassava farmers must adopt agriculture insurance to manage loss from animal destruction;
- Scale out successful initiatives in the cassava sector;
- State Governments should be allowed to recruit extension services workers;
- Government should prioritize research and technology development, ensure effective dissemination of research findings;
- Reduce bad social cassava farming practices with awareness creation;
- Promote the adoption of insurance to mitigate losses caused by the destruction of crops by animals;
- Experts will be discussing the role of technology in promoting the production of cassava seed next "Seed Connect" summit.

4.3 Cassava Sector Coordination Main Issues and Deliberations

- Land usage and ownership differs from one state to another;
- Government subsidies on cassava can encourage adoption of quality cassava seed;
- Under seed coordination, there is competition between the traditional and improved seed. The villagers don't see the need to pay for cassava seed;
- There is poor funding for seed multiplication; researchers;
- Extension workers are key to propagation of an improved variety of cassava seed; and;
- More farmers are likely to start using improved cassava variety and after trying it out, or after seeing high yield at demonstration farms;

Main Decisions and Conclusion

- The land usage and ownership issues require advocacy at different levels;

- Farmers must face agriculture as a business;
- The private sector stakeholders must develop ideas and business models for cassava production;
- Government should develop lands and make them accessible for smallholder cassava farmers;
- Enforce the law and regulations in seed dealerships;
- Farmers must acquire knowledge that goes with adopting improved varieties to help in the seed production – good agronomic practices and Six Steps;
- Government should subsidize land the way they help estate developers, others. There is a need to make a case for cassava producers on land subsidy;
- Stakeholders should work together towards achieving industrialization in cassava.



Cross section of breakout session at the National Cassava Summit event



Participants during the breakout at the National Cassava Summit event

The moderator, Effiong Essien, Program Director, PIND, presented a summary of the key points that came through from the robust conversations across each of the group discussions -. Policy Reform, Technology Development, and Cassava Sector Coordination. Below are the highlights of deliberations and conclusions:

5.1 Policy Reforms

Highlights of Main Issues and Conclusions

- Policy implementation failures have been a characteristic of the cassava sector and agriculture as a whole;
- Rather than policy informing the sector, the sector should inform the policy, and both ways could help;
- Intensify sensitization on existing policies and regulations among the stakeholders;
- Government must create an enabling environment for the cassava sector;
- The private sector stakeholders should not excessively rely on the government;
- Policymakers and stakeholders must work together to develop policies that work for everybody.

5.2 Technology Development and Deployment in the Cassava Sector Highlights of Main Issues and Conclusions

- Technological approaches needed to improve productivity and income for the players;
- Identifying actions needed to eliminate fragmentation and improve coordinated investments within the sector;
- Research and policies should address limitations to technology development and the business opportunities in the cassava sector for profitability and contribution to the Nigerian economy.

5.3 Cassava Sector Coordination Highlights of Main Issues and Conclusions

- Stakeholders should strengthen private sector investment;
- Government should increase opportunities for access to land by opening new spaces deforesting and allocating to farmers;
- Government should fund research and collect relevant data for planning;
- CBN to make facilities available to support farmers and the private sector players; and
- Implement mechanical agriculture to attract and sustain youth participation in cassava production.



Third Plenary Session: Panelists

Key Policies for Enabling Environment

Moderated by Richard -Mark Mbaram Esq, Coordinator, SAPZ Strategic Delivery Team, (FG, AfDB, IFAD & IsDB); Co-Chair, Communications Sub-Committee, UN Food Systems Summit Dialogue, (UNFSSD), the session focused on policies that are fostering enabling environment for cassava value chain development.

Panelists: 3rd Plenary Session Key Policies for Enabling Environment

- Dr. Perpetua Iyere- Usiahon, Chief Agricultural Officer, (CAO) FDA, FMARD
- Dr. Olasupo Musa A., Assistant Director, Development Finance Department, CBN
- Mr. Olusegun Awolowo, Executive Director/CEO, Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC)
- Dr. Vincent Isegbe, director General, Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Services (NAQS)

Main Issues and Deliberations

- FMARD is creating an enabling environment for seed development at the national level through some of the following activities:
 - Setting up NASC as a regulatory body;
 - Ensuring certification of seeds;
 - Conducting sensitization for farmers on Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) and policies;
- At the Sub-national level, Ogun State is putting forward policies that are creating enabling environment for cassava seed development:
 - The State recently reviewed its 1989 agriculture policy;
 - Framework for Inclusive and Responsive Land Administration (FRILAR) was signed into law in the State in May 2020;
 - To increase productivity and loan repayment, the State promulgated a law that makes it compulsory for farmers who are accessing state loans to participate in a training program;
 - The state developed an integrated rural development policy to promote farming in rural communities

- CBN 5 Star Cassava Project is creating opportunities in cassava seed development and job creation:
- In April 2020, CBN established the 5 Star Cassava Project to support the farmers to cultivate up to 5 hectares of land;
 - CBN has funded the cultivation of over 100,000 hectares of cassava under the project;
 - CBN conducts surveys and other engagements to get feedback about their policies and programs to improve.

Main Decisions and Conclusion

- Government should develop strategic policies that will create enabling environment for private sector investment;
- Reliable information about cassava value chain players is important for policy development; and
- Deliberations at the sessions on cassava seed development would be incorporated in the National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Plan (a new policy that will replace the Agricultural Promotion Policy).



Group pictures of panalists of the 3rd plenary session at the Summit



Stakeholders networking during a breakout session at the Summit

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNIQUE

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Ndidi Nwuneli, the co-founder of Sahel Consulting, Agriculture and Nutrition, AACE Foods, and Founder, Nourishing Africa, presented the communique. The Summit discussed the state of the cassava sector with an emphasis on how to catalyze and scale private sector-led cassava seed development and reflected on the progress made in the last five years. The Summit 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 realize the full potential of the crop.
2. The Summit recognized the gap in seed demand and supply and appreciated the progress made by 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 frustrate 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-centralization 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 catalyze private sector investments both for new entrants and existing actors in the seed sector.
7. The Summit recognized 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 mechanization 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 the 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 regulations 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, FMARD, and BASICS-II in organizing the Summit and being at the forefront of cassava development.

CATALYSING AND SCALING PRIVATE SECTOR LED CASSAVA SEED DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA.

Programme of Events:		
Time	Activity	Responsibility
9.00 - 9.45am	Arrival and Registration	All
9.45am – 10.00am	Opening Ceremony Opening Remarks	<p>Dr Dara Akala <i>Executive Director, Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND).</i></p> <p>Prof Lateef Sanni <i>Project Manager, Building an Economically Sustainable Integrated Cassava Seed System, phase 2 (BASICS-II). International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)</i></p>
9.00 - 9.45am	Goodwill Messages	<p>Kenton Dashiell <i>Deputy Director General, Partnerships for Delivery (P4D) International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)</i></p> <p>Lawrence Kent <i>Senior Programme Officer Agricultural Development Program Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. (BMGF). Seattle.</i></p> <p>Audu Grema <i>Senior Program Officer, Agriculture Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) Nigeria.</i></p> <p>Patrick Habamenshi <i>Officer-In-Charge International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Nigeria.</i></p>

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Programme of Events:		
Time	Activity	Responsibility
		<p>Mr. Tabi Karikari <i>Agriculture and Natural Resources Management Officer.</i> <i>African development Bank (AfDB)</i></p> <p>Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro <i>Director General</i> <i>Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND)</i></p> <p>Dr. Olasupo Musa A. <i>Assistant Director,</i> <i>Development Finance Department. Central Bank Nigeria (CBN)</i></p>
	Keynote Address	<p>Chief Dr. Alfred Dixon <i>Director, Development and Deliver),</i> <i>International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)</i></p>
10:40am – 11am	Group Photograph and Tea Break	
11:00am – 11:50pm	<p>1st Plenary Session - “Where we are” (Emerging Seed Initiatives in the Cassava Subsector in Nigeria)</p> <p>Panellists: Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) 5-Star Cassava Project</p>	<p>Prof. Ukpabi Joseph Ukpabi <i>Executive Director, National Root Crops Research Institute. (NRCRI)</i></p>

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Programme of Events:

Time	Activity	Responsibility
	<p>Assured Healthy Roots: BASICS Model to the rescue.</p> <p>Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND)</p> <p>Cassava Support Program</p> <p>IFAD/NRCRI Seed Support</p>	<p>Dr Godwin Atser <i>BAISCS-II/Project Manager, GIZ-GIAE Cassava & Maize Value Chain Project. Partnerships for Delivery (P4D). International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)</i></p> <p>James Elekwachi <i>Economic Development Program Manager, Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND)</i></p> <p>Dr Khalid Ishiak <i>Director, Seed Certification and Quality Control Department. National Agricultural Seed Council (NASC).</i></p> <p>Dr. Godwin Asumugha <i>Director/Head of Department National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI)</i></p>
Moderator: Dr Olusegun Ojo; DG, National Agricultural Seed Council (NASC)		
11:50 – 12:40pm	<p>2nd Plenary Session – Sharing Experience on How Cassava Seed Models Work</p> <p>Psaltry International</p>	<p>Yemisi Iranloye Managing Director, Psaltry international, Ado-Awaye, Oyo State</p>

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Programme of Events:		
Time	Activity	Responsibility
	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Value Chain Development Program (VCDP)	Ajibola Johnson <i>IFAD VCDP Beneficiary</i>
	BASICS-II Seed Women (Benue State)	Blessing Ngufan Chichi <i>Benue Women Farm. Benue State.</i>
	Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) Seed Producer	George Ajobor <i>Cassava Seed Entrepreneur (Delta State)</i>
	Use and uptake of AKILIMO	Dr. Christine Kreye <i>Agronomist African Cassava Agronomy Initiative International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)</i>
Moderator: Folusho Olaniyan OON, Chairman, Agriculture and Agro Allied Committee, Institute of Directors, Nigeria. Chairman Psaltry International Company.		
Break - out Session – “Where we are going”		
12:40 – 1:30pm	Policy Reform	Prof. G. B. Ayoola <i>President, Farm and Infrastructure Foundation</i>
	Technology Development and Deployment in the Cassava Sector	Dr. Mercy Diebiru-Ojo <i>Managing Director, IITA GoSeed</i>
	Cassava Sector Coordination	Dr. Emmanuel Ijewere <i>Vice President Nigeria Agribusiness Group (NABG)</i>

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Programme of Events:		
Time	Activity	Responsibility
1:30 – 2:30pm	Lunch	
2:30 – 2:50pm	Plenary - Feed Back from Breakout Session	Moderator: Effiong Essien <i>Program Director, PIND</i>
2:50 – 3:40pm	<p>3rd Plenary Session – (key policies for enabling environment)</p> <p>Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD)</p> <p>Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)</p> <p>Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC)</p> <p>Acting Executive Secretary, NIPC</p> <p>Director General, Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS)</p>	<p>Dr Perpetua Iyere -Usiahon <i>Chief Agricultural Officer (CAO) FDA, FMARD</i></p> <p>Dr. Olasupo Musa A. <i>Assistant Director, Development Finance Department. Central Bank Nigeria (CBN)</i></p> <p>Mr. Olusegun Awolowo <i>Executive Director/CEO. Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC)</i></p> <p>Mr. Emeka Offor <i>Acting Executive Secretary Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC)</i></p> <p>Dr. Vincent Isegebe <i>Director General, Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Services (NAQS)</i></p>
<p>Moderator: Richard-Mark Mbaram Esq., Coordinator, SAPZ Strategic Delivery Team (FG, AfDB, IFAD & IsDB); Co-Chair Communications Sub-Committee, UN Food Systems Summit Dialogue (UNFSSD), Nigeria</p>		

AGENDA

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Programme of Events:		
Time	Activity	Responsibility
3:40 – 4:00pm	Networking Break	
4:00 – 4:20pm	Communiqué Presentation	Ndidi Nwuneli , <i>Co-Founder, Sahel Consulting Agriculture & Nutrition, AACE Foods and Founder, Nourishing Africa</i>
4:20 – 4:30pm	Vote of thanks	Sanni Lateef <i>Project Manager, Building an Economically Sustainable Integrated Cassava Seed System, phase 2 (BASICS-II). International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)</i>
4:30 – 6:00pm	Departure	All

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