

## COMMUNIQUE AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE NBSN WEBINAR ON CASSAVA, TUESDAY 23 JUNE, 2020.

### PREAMBLE

The event, which has the theme, “*Enhancing the Cassava Value Chain as Nigeria Seeks Alternative to Oil Revenue*” featured five papers presented by experts and actors in the cassava value chain in Nigeria. More specifically, the presenters are from International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA); Psaltry International Ltd.; Bank of Industry Ltd. (BOI); and Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi (FIRO). The event reconfirmed that adequate industrialization of the cassava is the only way the country can fully benefit from the commodity as the largest producer in the world. Necessary value addition to the crop will not only bring about the desired jobs and wealth but foreign earning that will compliment dwindling revenue from oil.

Other take away from the webinar with respect to Communiqué and Recommendations include the following:

- i) Cassava, apart from being consumed locally, serves as important raw materials to processing companies with different derivatives.*
- ii) Nigeria still remains the largest producer of cassava with 59 million tonnes (20.4% world’s share) per annum.*
- iii) The cassava value chain in Nigeria is largely weak, highly fragmented and dominated by very small scale payers.*
- iv) Nigeria is yet to fully embrace industrial utilization of cassava as obtainable in countries that produce far less than Nigeria, such as Thailand, Brazil and Columbia.*
- v) Cassava is therefore a major crop that can bring desired jobs for the teeming youths and unemployed. Cassava equally remains an important avenue to source for the needed revenue in the face of drop in oil revenue due to the new reality in the world.*
- vi) Effective Pubic Private Partnership is essential for desired industrial utilization of cassava.*
- vii) There are a lot of products that have been developed and patented by Research Institutes such as FIRO, that are waiting for partnership and collaboration with private sector for commercialization.*
- viii) Out growers Programme is the most efficient scheme that can ensure adequate and quality of quality raw material to processing companies.*
- ix) Lack of regulated prices affects industrialization of cassava.*

- x) Challenges to cassava production include destruction of farmland by cattle herdsman and other insecurity issues.*
- xi) Weed management is the major cause of low yields in the country.*
- xii) Mechanization at the farm level as the only way to reduce production cost and consequent enhanced productivity.*
- xiii) Agricultural Value Chain Financing (AVCF) is the best way for agribusiness financing in developing countries. AVCF is an holistic too that meet the need of chain actors for finance, to secure sales, to buy inputs or to produce and improve efficiency.*
- xiv) The African Continental Free Trade Area which takes off in January, 2021 provides opportunities for Nigeria to increase cassava production for exportation of cassava products into other African countries.*
- xv) Consistent and good policy environment are critical to cassava production.*
- xvi) Right farm technologies and methods as panacea to improved productivity.*
- xvii) There is need to continuously improve on the agricultural rural extension services for adequate and effective dissemination of information to the rural and small holders' farmers that account for over 90% of the production. Information on right methods/technologies/practices; available loans and support; available markets; etc.*