

## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Nigeria Rice Investment Forum, 17-18 Nov. 2014**

**Theme: Transforming Rice Production in Nigeria and West Africa for self sustainability and socio Economic Development.**

### **Dignitaries present:**

- 1.Hon. Min. for Agriculture and Rural Development: Dr Akinwumi Adesina CON
- 2.Dr. Nike Akande: 1<sup>st</sup> chairman NEPAD business group
- 3.Chief Eniola Fadayomi
- 4.Eng. Awowal Wakili
- 5.Mr Goodie Ibru, represented by Mr. Ademuyiwa Adefokpe
- 6.President, Rice farmers Association of Nigeria, Alhaji Ak wodi, represented by Mr. Tony Moneke
- 7.Hon. Minister of water resources, represented by Roy .A. foye
- 8.Country Head Africa Development Bank represented by: Dr Usman Doba
- 9.Chairman Rice Farmers Association of Nigeria RIFAN, represented by Alh. Mohammed Abubakar
- 10.Alhaji Aliko Dangote, represented by Eng. Maston Ahmed.

Goodwill messages were delivered by the dignitaries who urged participants to be attentive to the presentations so that we can achieve the aims and objectives of the program. They highlighted the fact that the main actors on rice value chain are, the producers, processors and marketers and that there is a mandate to provide irrigation all year round to create an enabling environment for the production of rice.

Hon. Mohammed Abubakar pointed that the main raw material any rice processor requires is paddy. History has it that before now, there was no good quality paddy in Nigeria, the transformation of the standard and quality of rice produced in

Nigeria is as a result of the transformation agenda of the Hon Minister of Agriculture.

In Her special address, Mrs. Fidelia Njeze stated that this forum exposes the effort made to obtain self sufficiency, and enhanced production. She also said among others that, setting of mechanized farm, building of basins and provision of viable seeds are necessary for rice value chain.

Mr Tony moneke (RIFAN) added that the target for 2015 on Rice will be achieved if Nigerian women will be cooking Nigeria rice in their homes.

The programme was declared open by the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Dr. Akinwumi Adesina CON who gave special commendations to Prof Osiname for his effort and support towards irrigation for sustainable rice farming.

He reiterated that among all the top officers he has worked with, that President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan is the best, because he is a President that does not impose work on you but also sees that you are allowed a free hand to do the desirable. It is because of his massive support that it was possible to achieve what has been accomplished so far in the efforts that has greatly changed the rice sector in the area of production and processing. The Hon. Minister stated that he had adopted many strategies towards large scale production of agricultural produce, among which is the registration of farmers to subscribe to farm inputs, provision of free raw materials and bags of fertilizer

He stated that political will is required to sustain rice production in Nigeria, and that there is need to support NEPAD in their activities to increase rice production. He added that 2012 was a turning point in Nigerian food production and processing and that 400,000 hectares of land is currently being cultivated in dry season, against 267,000,hectares of land producing 7 million metric tons. The farmers have expanded by 6 million and rice is generating about 400 billion naira, worth of business in the value chain of our economy.

## **PAPER 1**

### **The Contribution and Strengthening of Research and Development to Rice production in Nigeria and West Africa ..... An overview by Dr. L.T. Ogunremi.**

Dr. L.T. Ogunremi, in his overview, highlighted the following points as efforts that Research and Development has contributed towards the success of rice production in Nigeria

1. Rice has the highest yield expressed in food and energy. ( Juliano & Villareal, 1993)
2. Annual rice production in sub sahara Africa is estimated at 14.5 million metric tons, representing 15% of the regions cereal crop production, on over all imported rice accounts for roughly 405 of ub saharan Africa (SSA) Local rice consumption.
3. African farmers may heed to adopt best global agricultural practices such as , use of intensive higher yielding practices like improved seed, fertilizers and irrigation to overcome production deficit as witness in continent.
4. The National Cereals research Institute (NCRI) has developed and increased technologies to improve yield & quality of locally produced rice.
5. NCRI and AfricanRice are collaborating with other development partners & funding agencies in several projects to develop rice varieties with levels of tolerance to abiotic stresses for the sub region
6. NCRI is also collaborating with Academy of science to develop rice varieties referred to as supper green rice, due to their ability to withstand stress.
7. Rice demand will continue to outstrip production with the continent importing nearly 10 million tons annually.

### **PAPER 2: Bridging the quality and Quantity Assurance Gap in the Nigeria Rice Value Chain..... The AFEX Vision. Mr. Ayodeji Balogun.**

Federal government rice policy will save Nigeria \$2.5 billion annually.

AFEX provides graded, properly, stored and secured paddy rice to rice millers across the country.

### **QUESTIONS FOR AFEX**

Do you charge the farmers for keeping their product with you? To what extent is your service going to affect the price of product? By Dr. Cletus

2. Is your company making arrangement to collaborate with the F.G to use the existing silos?

3. Why is it difficult to give farmers those variety that are preferred to consumers now?

### **ANSWERS**

About 62 varieties have been released from the research institute but only 5 are in the market.

### **QUESTIONS FOR RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

1. Recently I heard that there is a variety that can withstand any land?

2. You hardly see any extension workers?

3. How cheap is the interest on the fund you secure for farmers?

4. Micheal Issac, the regional coordinator..... What is the difference between AFEX & Abuja commodity exchange?

### **ANSWERS**

We have a program to develop a variety that is flood tolerant.

Prof. Osiname suggested to farmers to shift to dry season farming in order not to lose their yield to flooding.

Government to employ more extension workers who will sensitize farmer on latest development on farmers.

## **PLENARY SESSION II**

**THEME: REMOVING THE BARRIERS TO LARGE SCALE PRODUCTION OF RICE IN NIGERIA AND WEST AFRICA.**

**PAPER 5:** Public Private partnership: A potent Avenue to grow the Rice Industry and the desired value Chain. Mr. Mukul Mathur, Country Head, Olam International.

In his paper presentation, Mr. Mukul Mathur, emphasized that Public- private partnership, is a potent avenue to grow the industry and desired value chain. He also highlighted their PROJECT FEATURES, UPDATES, HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES AS FOLLOWS:

FEATURES:

- **Developing a 10000 Ha of land in Nasarawa State**
- **Fully irrigated rice scheme**
- **Precision levelled fields**
- **Two crop cycles in a year**
- **Aerial inputs application**
- **10 MT / ha (annual yield over two crops)**
- **A nucleus model supported by an out growers scheme**

UPDATES:

- **Commenced in 2011**
- **Over N 18 billion invested so far**
- **1000 Ha planted and harvested in March 2013**

- **3000 Ha harvested in November – December 2013 – Wet Season crop**
- **3000 Ha being harvested March / April 2014- Dry Season crop**
- **4000 Ha being now**
- **6000 Ha planting by July 2016**
- **3000 farmer out growers scheme commenced in May 2014**
- **105,000 MT capacity Mill with an expansion provision to double this capacity**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **High quality paddy to ensure processed rice that can compete with imported rice**
- **Employment generation of more than 1000 at present, which can extend to more than 2000 by 2016 July**
- **A network of 4 Villages with approximately 6000 population turning out to townships in next 18 months**
- **Import substitution, food security.**
- **A prominent member in GES**
- **Out growers scheme in partnership with USAID MARKETS and The Ministry of Agriculture**
- **A key initiative under the Agricultural Transformation Agenda of the Federal Government of Nigeria. The FGN has announced the project as a SCPZ.**

#### **CHALLENGES:**

- **Roads**
- **Electricity**

- **Irrigation Infrastructure**
- **Machinery spares sourcing**

**PAPER 6: Technological Advancement required for the development of rice Industry. Engr. Ike Azogu, NPOM, FNSE, FNIAE Executive Director National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization**

Engr. Ike Azogu stated that, the potential area for rice production in Nigeria is between 4.6 and 4.9 million ha. And that this area includes five different rice ecologies. The inland valley accounts for an estimated 25% of Nigeria's rice area with yield potential ranging from 2 to 8 tonnes/ha and contributing between 43 and 45 per cent of national rice production.

While the irrigated rice ecology is the most recently developed rice environment accounting for about 18% of cultivated rice land and contributing 10-12 per cent of the national rice supply, (Singh et al, 1997). These ecologies can be fully developed to meet the national rice demand of 5 million metric tons of milled rice.

He further added that In order to increase food production and alleviate the widespread poverty in Sub-Sahara Africa (SSA), given the limited possibility for expansion of cultivable area and increase in population, there is need for a Green Revolution in the Rice Industry backed up with advanced and appropriate mechanization technologies.

He highlighted the following as the mandate of the National centre for Agricultural Mechanization;

To encourage and engage in adaptive and innovative research towards the development of indigenous machines for farming and processing techniques;

To design and develop simple and low cost equipment which can be manufactured with local materials, skills and facilities'

To standardize and certify, in collaboration with the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON), agricultural machines, equipment and engineering practices in use in Nigeria;

To bring into focus advanced technologies and equipment developed by various institutions, agencies or bodies and evaluate their suitability for adoption;

Assist in the commercialization of proven machines, equipment, tools and techniques;

To disseminate information on methods and programmes for achieving speedy agricultural mechanization, and

To provide training facilities by organizing courses and seminars specially designed to ensure sufficiently trained manpower for appropriate mechanization.

**PAPER 7: Effective Financing of the value Chain and promotion of strong value chain Linkages.** Uzoma Dozie, GMD, Diamond bank plc.

In her presentation, Mrs Dozie highlighted that,

- According to FAO, global food production needs to grow by 70% to feed 9.1bn people in 2050.
- This expansion in agricultural output will require average annual net investments of US\$83billion.
- Of the total, US\$11billion would be needed in Sub-Saharan Africa, where predominant number of farmers are small holders-estimated at close to 50 million farms
- The projected investment needs US\$20 billion going to crop production (e.g. rice)
- A further US\$50billion would be needed for downstream services to help achieve a 70% expansion in agricultural production by 2050.

She further stated that the following are enabling factors which strengthen value chain linkages; Agriculture inputs and extension services, Contract farming and out-grower schemes to build economies of scale for suppliers and for farmer competitiveness, Import and export competitiveness, Legal structures (e.g. land use and warehouse receipts), Energy and Infrastructure, Providing support services in the field of market intelligence, Government Subsidies, Improved business planning and access to technology and urged that a multi sector approach to resolution of barriers that mitigate against increased production.

### **PAPER 8: PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURE: ACCESS BANK BY CHIOMA ONUABUCHI**

In her presentation, she stated that, Nigeria's agriculture sector has enormous potential – with an opportunity to grow output by 160%, from N15.345trillion (\$99billion) today to N39.68trillion (\$256billion) by 2030. This growth potential comes from potential to increase yields to 80-100% of benchmark countries; increase acreage by 14million hectares of new agricultural land, approximately 38% of Nigeria's unused arable land of 36.9million hectares; and shift 20% of production to higher value crops. Access Bank total lending to the agricultural sector is about N16billion. The biggest lending is to the agro services and cash crops subsectors and their support is by way of participation in their Growth Enhancement Support (GES) scheme.

Access bank assists agricultural businesses to identify business opportunities and manage production, marketing, legal, financial and human resources as agricultural growth is the fastest way to create jobs in Nigeria.

### **THE NEW NIGERIA RICE POLICY: BY NIGERIA CUSTOM SERVICES MRS. DC EKEZIE**

In her statement, she stated that, until 2013 NIGERIA used to be the highest importer of rice. There has been 10% increase in rice production in the past two years.

Rice Smuggling thrives In Nigeria because of abuse of government Fiscal Policies, inadequate infrastructure, lack of Port Regulation, greed and lack of patriotism.

Federal Ministry of Finance Circular Reference No. BD/FP/TT/50/1/99 of 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 gave investors with Rice Milling Capacity and Verifiable Backward

Integration Programme 10% duty rate and 20% levy while pure Rice Traders are to pay 10% duty rate and 60% levy”

From July, 2014 when the rice policy was introduced till date, RICE MILLERS have imported 615,019.59 Metric Tonnes of rice while RICE TRADERS have imported 233,768.57 Metric Tonnes of rice.

The Service noted in the process that rather than investors with milling capacity bringing in husked brown rice for processing for value addition, they engage in the importation of wholly milled rice.

- Bona fide rice millers and small capacity millers should stop the unholy alliance with the Pure Rice Traders who lure them with money because the Service will treat such imports as smuggling and apply the necessary laws. Nigeria Customs Service will appreciate information that will lead to the arrest of smugglers of rice from the general public so that this noble policy of government will be given a chance to mature. She further added that other to sustain the current effort of this administration, that we have to

COLLECTIVELY ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF SMUGGLING OF RICE, RECOGNIZE THAT GOVERNMENT IS NOT A FARMER HENCE THE PRIVATE SECTOR MUST TAKE THE INITIATIVE FOR RICE PRODUCTION ,ACKNOWLEDGE THAT RICE POLICY IS ABOUT PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND MARKETING,TAILOR GOVERNMENT & PRIVATE SECTOR FINANCIAL POLICIES TO ENCOURAGE NIGERIANS TO TAKE TO FARMING. SHE URGED THAT, GOVERNMENT MUST ADDRESS THE LAND TENURE SYSTEM & CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IRRIGATION & ALL YEAR ROUND FARMING, FINALLY, THAT WE MUST TAKE FOOD POLICIES OF OTHER NATIONS INTO CONSIDERATIONS AT ALL TIMES AS WE FORMULATE ANY POLICY.

**FINANCING RICE FARMING IN NIGERIA: BOA EXPERIENCE Mr. B.B.T Sadiku**

**Mr. B.B.T Sadiku, IN HIS INTRODUCTORY SPEECH, HIGHLIGHTED THAT;**

- Moving the Nigerian economy away from dependence on crude oil to agriculture, is a paradigm shift well known to all in the millennial order, especially so in Nigeria and Africa.
- Studies reveal that current production of grains must double by 2050 if everyone is to have enough to eat in the future.
- This inevitably means that Agriculture, as currently practised in Nigeria & Africa must change; to become more productive, efficient and sustainable to make food cheaper and readily available.

He also gave an overview of the rice economy in Nigeria as;

- The food sub-sector of Nigerian agriculture parades a large array of staple crops:-
  - . Cereals - sorghum, maize, millet, rice, wheat,
  - • tubers - yam, cassava.
  - • legumes - groundnut, cowpeas.
  - • others - vegetables.
- Of all the staple crops, rice has risen to a position of pre-eminence.
- National demand for rice is about 5 million metric tons.
- National production is about 3 million tons.
- Deficit of 2 million metric tons to be supplemented by importations.
- The import bill for Rice stood at \$259 million USD or N22,015 billion at \$85 USD as at 2002.
- Per capita consumption is about 22kg.
- About 90% of Rice producers are small holders farmers.
- Nigeria is the largest producer of Rice in West Africa.

- Rice is grown in about 3.7 million hectares of land or 10.6% out of the 35 million of land under cultivation.
- Average yield is about 1.5 tonnes per hectare for wet season and 3.5 tons/ha for irrigated Rice.

He added that there is amply opportunity for rice farming in Nigeria, because of the following

reasons;

- The incidence of Instantaneous & compound growth rates of rice demand over its supply is an existing trend that has been increasing at a much faster rate in Nigeria than in any other African country since mid 1970s (Daramola,2005).
- Rice is cultivated in virtually all of Nigeria's agro-ecological zones. In spite of this production has not kept pace with its demand.
- Land in Nigeria that could be cultivated is roughly 80 million Ha. However, less than 10% of the 3.4 million Ha that could be irrigated are currently been used.
- Studies have shown that investment in integrated rice mills are capable of generating the Internal Rate of Return (IRR) of between 42 -50 %, also with a payback period of not more than two years.
- Rice can be planted all year round ( i.e. rain fed and in the dry season under irrigation).
- “The weighted price of local rice is cheaper than imported rice”
- Increased flow of financial resources and associated facilities to the sector; MSMEF, Credit Risk Guarantee (CRG) of NIRSAL Plc as incentives. Attributed to this, are monetary/Fiscal incentives to meet the needs of actors in the rice value chain.
- Increased investments in commercial rice milling. FAO case studies in the rice chain found that millers played the central financing role for rice in Asia and wholesalers were central in financing within the rice chain in Africa.

- Rehabilitation of associated infrastructure by FMWR; Dams & Irrigation facilities.
- Rice value chain approach to financing of rice businesses.

He also stated the BOA's Challenges as Paucity of loan able funds to cope with increasing demand by farmers, Poor pricing of locally produced rice largely because of the activities of smugglers - illegal imports, Loan diversion by applicants, Poor corporate governance in the affairs of Trade and Commodity Associations who benefitted from BOA under their groups, Few integrated rice projects in the country. And recommended that; Nigeria's vision of being able to grow its own requirement and also be able to export rice, including its other rice value added products to other nation states, can only be achieved through deliberate and concerted effort at strengthening the capacities of all value chain actors in the rice value chain.

Research development and exchange of ideas such as what is taking place now must continue, so as to discover more profitable grounds for efficiency and effectiveness in prosecuting the task before us.

## **DAY 2**

### **SUPPORTING THE RURAL FARMERS AND SMALL HOLDERS FOR JOBS AND WEALTH CREATION**

#### **PAPER 1: QUALITY AND COST FACTORS COMPETITIVENESS OF THE NIGERIA RICE INDUSTRY. Dr Chijioke Osuji**

Dr. Chijioke Osuji, in his presentation stated the Rice Transformation Agenda objectives as to,

1. Develop a vibrant rice value chain that will attract investments for locally produced rice.
2. Raise polished rice production from 2010 level of 3.3 million MT to 6 million MT to remove the shortfall between demand and production as soon as possible

3. Make locally produced rice competitive when compared to imports in terms of price and quality.
4. Promote a viable and sustainable rice value chain capable of meeting the country's rice demand.
5. Increase the total land area under rice cultivation
6. Build a network of paddy producers around rice mills to ensure regular supply of paddy.

He further said that, there is need to introduce adaptable new technologies required to improve the efficiency of rice Business Operation, that more than 75% of rice harvest in Nigeria is still threshed and winnowed manually.

He stressed that the most competitive rice products are also the most uniformly produced, processed and packaged.

## **PAPER 2: PRESENTATION BY NIGER STATE GOVERNMENT: BREAKING ALL THE BARRIERS TO LARGE SCALE PRODUCTION OF RICE IN NIGERIA**

The Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) of the Federal Government put much priority on rice value chain development to enhance rice production through adoption of improved varieties, utilization of recommended farm inputs and adoption of best management practices to increase productivity, and promoting partnership with international agencies, which included IFAD, USAID Markets II etc.

Niger State is the largest producer of rice in Nigeria and can feed the whole of Africa, if the land available is fully utilized. There is also an implement called false Bottom, it that separates the paddy from the pot, it really does perform wonder.

In achieving modest strides in rice production, research and extension in Nigeria, excellent collaboration work has been done by both national and international organization such as IFAD, IITA, WARDA, IRRI, Africa Rice and I &ART. Cooperative collaboration work with these institutions has been the bedrock for improved technologies developed for the attainment of increased rice production in Nigeria. Sustenance of this trend will ensure the country's success in its bid to meet the rice production and consumption demands.

## SECTION 2

### **THE RICE VALUE CHAIN. BY MRS OLUWASOROMIDAYO GEORGE, BATNF.PAPER 1: SUPPORTING THE RURAL FARMERS AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES IN NIGERIA**

- The representative of Mrs.George in her speech said that The British America Tobacco Nigeria Foundation focuses on sustainable agriculture, and seeks to encourage small holder farmers to adopt more productive ways of managing and earning livelihood from natural resources in a sustainable manner. She added that in order to drastically reduce poverty in Nigeria, that there is need for a collective effort by well meaning Organization and government broad scale. She highlighted these as their principal objective;
- Ensuring the prioritization of rural small holder farmers' access to information and training
- Diversification of farm and non-farm employment and agro-enterprise opportunities
- Increasing opportunities for income-earning from land conservation and rehabilitation activities
- Expanding access to know-how on environmentally sound soil fertility management strategies for application
- Facilitating the wider adoption of alternative renewable sources of energy especially solar and bio-fuels for farming and agro-processing activities.

### **2.ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DONOR-SUPPORTED INTERVENTIONS IN THE RICE VALUE CHAIN IN NIGERIA: THE USAID MARKET STORY**

In his presentation, Mr. Ononiwu stated the following areas of their intervention as, Agricultural productivity, Technology, Inputs, Agricultural finance, Association development and capacity building, Nutrition and

livelihood, Youth and gender, Government/External relations. He also highlighted their approach towards this intervention as; Sustainability, Local subcontractors, ADPs, Lead farmers – step-down training ,Demo plots, Capacity building, veraging, Farmer groups – production, organizational development, Collaboration with other donors, projects, public and private sector .

A few examples:

Motorcycle irrigation pump, Import and test foreign technology, Test it locally (IAR) for capacity and cost/benefits, Alternate wet/dry rice production, UDP = less runoff and pollution, Crop rotation: sorghum – soy; maize – soy, Dry season farming – flood loss, Late season maize production = market demand, Intercropping: cocoa, cassava.

He informed the participants, that the program objective of the USAID is to Increase smallholder income from agricultural development through enhanced private sector participation and investment, Develop producers' capacity and strengthen local organizations and associations.

He stated that they have the following as Partnerships and institutional resources

Federal and state governments, ADPs

- Input distribution companies – Notore, fertilizer companies, Syngenta, WACOT etc.
- NCAM
- Research institutes – NCRI, IITA etc.
- Millers – Ebony, Umza, Olam, MIKAP, Labana etc.
- Banks – LAPO, DEC, commercial banks etc.

## **USAID IMPACT OF PROCESS**

- Farmer yields have increased several folds. For example, the average yield of rice when MARKETS commenced was 1.7Mt per hectare but today,

MARKETS networked farmers record an average of 5.7 Mt per hectare. It has equally been noted that the gross margin per hectare increased from \$673 to \$1422 i.e. from about N111,718 to about N236,052.

- The increases in incomes of farmers have consequently increased their purchasing power, and invariably, their standard of living
- The increased yields and income have equally encouraged farmers to invest in more hectares
- Farmers have been even learnt to produce quality paddy devoid of debris. Recently, one of the integrated millers, Umza mills, informed the Minister of Agriculture at a public forum that since MARKETS intervention, the debris in farmer supplied paddy has significantly dropped as a result of the training they received.
- As MARKETS embarked on aggressive capacity building of producer groups, training members on leadership skills, group dynamics, and Nigeria Agricultural Enterprise Curriculum (NAEC), farmer groups are becoming stronger, and farmer groups are making better business decisions
- The spearheading of a Coalition of development partners is creating a forum for these agencies to harmonize their programs where they work in the same locality.
- Collaboration with agro-processors and marketers creates confidence in farmers and encourages sustainable supply of high quality produce to processors
- Market-led approach requires full commitment of all stakeholders i.e. continuous technical backstopping of farmers to meet market demand and consumer quality
- Partnerships help farmers and processors to leverage the services of key players – government, banks, input dealers, markets.

## **THEIR CHALLENGES**

- Farmers' unwillingness to buy seed preferring to recycle grain

- Timely provision/ availability of inputs
- Delays in bank disbursement of credit
- Crop insurance vis-a-vis false claim
- Managing repayment/high default
- Buy-back issues: grades, standards and measures
- Availability of processors with vision to appreciate the benefits of working with producers

### **Opportunities**

- Employment creation: Okada riders return to farm
- Wealth creation: shift from subsistence to commercial mindset
- Development of service markets: e.g. spray men; tractor and reaper hire
- Development of seed industry

### **Target Commodities**

- Rice
- Cassava
- Sorghum
- Cocoa
- Aquaculture

Maize

Soybean

### **3.ASSISTANCE TO RICE VALUE CHAIN BY JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA)**

Mr Hiroshi Kodama, Senior Representative, JICA Nigeria, in his presentation stated the following reasons as why JICA is supporting Nigeria.

- Can food exporting countries feed growing population in Africa?
- Nigeria has big potential for growth of food production.
- Nigeria has so many idle FADAMA areas. In these areas, rice can be cultivated.
- Japan has rich experience in rice farming and RVC construction and assistance mainly to Asian countries through JICA.
- JICA has comparative advantage in assistance to RVC.

He continued by highlighting some areas that they have been of assistance to Nigeria in rice production by saying that, In December 2012, 10 trainees from each of Niger and Nasarawa were trained on rice cultivation in Uganda, In January 2013, 5 trainees from each of two states were trained on rice cultivation in Uganda. In September 2014, a rice cultivation expert in Uganda came to Nigeria and conducted training to extensionists and farmers in Niger and Nasarawa. Trainees in Uganda conducted cultivation trials and urged farmers to adopt improved technologies.

In his presentation, he also said that JICA has conducted Rice Post Harvest Processing and Marketing Pilot Project in Nasarawa and Niger State (RIPMAPP) from Sep 2011 to Aug 2015 with FMARD, ADP and NAMDA, where small millers, parboilers, traders, and farmers will be the Beneficiaries and that ,Under the project, high quality domestic rice will be produced by small scale processors. (Introduction of improved technologies, and conducting TOT and the training to beneficiaries) He further stated that RIPMAPP will be completed in August of 2015. FMARD will disseminate improved technologies to other states than Niger and Nasarawa.

#### **QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS.**

One of the participants commented that, the government must as a matter of urgency, provide grants to small farmers for rice production to thrive.

Mr. Tony Muoneke lamented that most of the farmers apply for loans and get it when the farming season has ended, he further said that he has not seen one Nigerian bank that has provided loan to farmers, he said there is a gap between Agric officers in the bank and farmers.

Another participant also said, no Access bank has a central market, therefore, how can farmers access them

There was a suggestion that Union Bank can still do more by repackaging their mandate.

One of the farmers asked that, his mill can only Dry six bags of rice per day, how can he get the right machines to dry his rice and suggested that the value chains should see how to improve the rice processing and get it better.

Mr Romanus Onye asked the USAID if there is any way that they are helping to establish farmers market and that there is also a disconnection between the ADP and the farmers. in his reply, Mr. Ononiwu of the USAID disagreed with the statement that there is a disconnection between farmers and ADP, he further commended the Federal ministry of Agriculture for his agriculture transformation, which is taking agriculture high. He added that the USAID is working in 15 states due to their limited resources, that they train farmers to start from the market, he continued that, there are no sufficient paddy in Nigeria, and that the USAID is a private sector and that for several years, they have encouraged production and due to the fact that Nigerians prefer foreign rice to home made, that they have to fill the gap

## COMMUNIQUE

Prof. Osinaeme in his communiqué presentation, congratulated the organizers of the forum for bringing many practitioners together, he further expressed his shock

to know that the American Tobacco is working on rice and said that this is indeed an eye opening event and also expressed his gratitude. He said , Nigeria has the ability to produce rice even though we are not there now. And government concentrates on the large scale farmers, while the private sectors are on the small scale farmers leaving the fact that our small scale farmers give us 65% of the rice we eat everyday.

He agreed with USAID that we don't have enough seed to go round even though there is improvement in production from 800,000 MT to 1.9 MT.

He emphasized that seeds are still one step behind, that they still depend on the government, unlike the fertilizer company, seed company has not gone far.

He highlighted the following as challenges

Land Development; he said land development is very expensive but that as part of government intervention, there is a passing towards that.

Low interest from the bankers; he said he observed that there's reluctant on the side of bankers, and hopes that they will follow it up.

Irrigation; he said it's very important because the yield is two or three times higher , he added that lowland rice is better than upland just as irrigated rice is an added advantage, with it u can have two crops in a year.

He congratulated the NEPAD Forum and urged that we should do whatever we can to move forward.

He thanked everyone for the attendants.

The farewell Remark was said by Mr. Dosumu Oluw;le, NEPAD Bussiness group Nigeria