

Independent Dialogue - Nigeria

ENABLING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
THROUGH THE AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN IN NIGERIA



A First of a Series of Independent Dialogues in Nigeria that Promotes Youth Inclusion in
Agriculture

17th March 2021

CONCEPT NOTE & AGENDA

Independent Convenors:

Unyime-Abasi Essien

Deputy Regional Director (Africa) | [SDGs Clubs Initiative \(Club 17 Africa\)](#)

Host: #HabitatThursday

Gabriel U. Aniabi

Development Consultant

Founder, GoBeyond Enterprises (A Social Enterprise for social good/impact)

Agripreneur

National Convenor:

Mrs Olusola Idowu

Chair National Committee on Food and Nutrition

Perm. Sec. Fed. Ministry of Budget and Planning

In Partnership with:

African Youth Commission

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Introduction

Population growth remains a constant and unchanged factor driving global food scarcity, particularly where there is no complimenting increase in agricultural produce outputs.

Despite oil, agriculture remains the base of the Nigerian economy, providing the main source of livelihood for most Nigerians¹. In 2017, farming alone accounted for about 68% of rural income in Africa and about half of the rural income in South Asia. Agriculture remains the largest sector in Nigeria contributing an average of 24% to the nation's GDP between 2013 - 2019. The sector also employs more than 36% of the country's labour force. While the Nigerian agricultural sector is mainly focused on crop production, which accounts for 90% of output, the value chain across the sector remains highly untapped. For example, analysis from the cocoa barometer suggests that in the production of a bar of chocolate, a marginal 6.6% of the value addition is in the production, while the remaining is in the processing, marketing and retail segments of the value chain².

The value chain concept is an efficient optimization of all the linkages between the producer and final consumer through a strategic partnership among inter-dependent businesses that collaborate to progressively create value for the final consumer. Agric-food Value Chains are designed to increase competitive advantage through collaboration in a venture that links producers, processors, marketers, food service companies, retailers and supporting groups such as shippers, research groups and suppliers³.

Agricultural value chains encompass the flow of products, knowledge and information between smallholder farmers up to consumers and within the value chain help producers to prevent losses. Typically, value chain finance systems would allow borrowers to benefit from higher lending at better terms and obtain loans that reflect the cash flow pattern consistent with their producing, processing or trading activities. Such interventions are growing in popularity with donors as a means of promoting economic growth and poverty reduction.

Notably, food is a common thread linking all 17 SDGs, given the interconnected economic, social and environmental dimensions of food systems. Many food systems are already falling short of the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development even as poverty and hunger remain entrenched.

About the Food Systems Summit Dialogues

Food brings us together as families, communities and nations. It underpins our culture, our economy, and our relationship with the natural world. The world's food systems touch every aspect of human existence - making them not just essential but also valuable and important instruments of change.

In 2019, the UN Secretary-General called for a Food Systems Summit and engagement process to unleash the power of food and deliver progress on all 17 UN Sustainable Development

¹ FAO in Nigeria: "Nigeria at a glance"

² Transforming Nigeria's Agric Value Chain www.pwc.com/ng

³ Sourced and adapted from Government of Alberta, Agriculture and Rural Development

Goals (SDGs). In preparing for the Summit a diverse range of stakeholders - from youth activists to indigenous leaders, smallholder farmers to scientists and CEOs- are invited to identify the most powerful ways to make food systems stronger and more equitable; ultimately driving progress in all of the SDGs.

Preparations for the Summit are underway. In the months before the Summit, the people of every country are invited to engage. After all, each of us plays a role in our food systems, and we all have a responsibility to ensure that they function well. By coming together to tackle this vital issue, we can all contribute to a world in which no one is hungry, no one is poor, and no one is left behind. As every one of us continues to adjust to the impacts of COVID-19, the Summit is an opportunity to focus on the fragilities in food systems that are being exposed by the crisis - and to regenerate these systems in ways that respond better to people's needs.

Problem Statement

Nigeria focuses mostly on food production, thus neglecting the processing and manufacturing segments including technology know-how in the value chain. The chain reaction that arises from shortages of resources, lack of financing for small scale farmers and inefficient transport systems, limits the development of food production along the value and supply chain.

The level of inherent inefficiencies in the Nigerian Agricultural Value Chain has equally hindered the ability of the sector to be at its premium performance.

About 80% of smallholder farmers and a few commercial processors plagued by inadequate inputs, obsolete technology and poor financing⁴. Perhaps, it seems like a norm in Nigeria that attention is mostly focused on primary production; huge crop turnover/harvest, large flock management, enormous plantations etc. for instance, cocoa beans are exported unprocessed and are transformed into varied products such as beverages, chocolate bars and candies which are in turn imported into the country and sold at high prices⁵.

Effective packaging adds value to produce, enables traceability, enhances standardization, and provides feedback thereby gaining the confidence of customers. However, packaging and standardization have been one of the pitfalls for growth in Nigeria agribusiness as well as its value chain. Technology application in the value chain reportedly has an undertone impact yet.

The sustained efficiency in the agricultural industry is dependent on the principle of specialized diversification through the value chain where each of the producers, processors, marketers and researchers focuses on this enterprise as one's output is another's input and ensuring quality and timely delivery of resources to the next link.

Rationale

Agricultural value chains hold considerable promise in reducing poverty and promoting inclusive growth when the poor and other marginal groups participate in them. Under the right conditions, value chains can move smallholder farmers from subsistence into commercial agriculture.

⁴ Mgbenka, R.N., and E.N, Mbah (2016) "A Review of Smallholder Farming in Nigeria: Need For Transformation" International Journal of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development Studies, Vol.3, No.2, pp.43-54,

⁵ Agriculture Nigeria www.agriculturenigeria.com

As value chains differ considerably across countries and products, more research is needed to identify the optimal strategies enabling smallholder farmers to gain a greater share of their value and assume fewer risks. If agricultural value chains are to offer pro-poor opportunities for growth, then those markets in which smallholders can have a 'comparative advantage' need to be identified and the producers actively assisted.

Addressing gaps such as unmet market demand or seeking opportunities for vertical and horizontal integration, greater specialization, and the expansion of services to take care of the fundamental short-term and longer-term challenges facing the sustainability of food systems in Nigeria requires insightful, integrated and inclusive contribution and partnership of all stakeholders to thinker timely response, interventions and strategies to birth sustainable food systems in Nigeria.

Objectives

- ✓ Enhanced capacity of farmers, agri-food enterprises and value chain stakeholders as key drivers of food systems.
- ✓ Expanding on the established multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral food governance policies and legislation at sub-national and national levels.
- ✓ Forge collective solutions to ensure that food systems transformation delivers on social good and expectations to ameliorate hunger and poverty.
- ✓ Emphasize the application of tech as building blocks for an open-ended opportunity to sectoral players.
- ✓ Create a connection to ease information sharing amongst the various agricultural value chain stakeholders.

Topics

General Overview

- Understanding the Agribusiness Value Chain in Nigeria (in relation to the 5 Action Tracks)

Breakout Sessions

Action Track #1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

Action Track #2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns

Action Track #3: Boost nature positive production

Action Track #4: Advance equitable livelihoods

Action Track #5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

Link to action tracks for more information: www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/action-tracks

Independent Convenors

- **Unyime-Abasi Essien**
- **Gabriel U. Aniabi**

Guest Speakers

- **Mrs Olusola Idowu** –National Convenor, Food Summit Systems Dialogues (Nigeria)
- **Michelle Fox** - Chef & Business Development Manager, FoodBayTV
- **Hart Jansson** –President, Malnutrition Matters
- **Ms Natalie S. Mukundane**–Executive Chairperson, African Youth Commission
- **Fisayo A. Fakayode** – Human Rights Lawyer/ ESCR Expert, AI Nigeria
- **Henry O. Etta** – Executive Director, Farming World
- **Oluwafemi Ogundoro** – Founder/CEO, FoodBayTV
- **John Nsikak** –Head, Enterprise Innovation Hub (NSE)
- **Kefilwe F. Moalosi** – Food & Nutrition Specialist, AUDA-NEPAD

Facilitators

Action Track 1 Facilitators

- **Dr Oghenefego Ofili** - Nutritionist & Founder, Teo-Inspiro International
- **Ben Usang** - Executive Director, African Dignity Foundation

Action Track 2 Facilitators

- **Michelle Fox** –Chef & Business Development Manager, FoodBayTV
- **Tosin Adeniyi** –Humanitarian Logistician

Action Track 3 Facilitators

- **Ms Inyene Akpan** – Agripreneur
- **Alhaji Azeez Musibau** – Agri Consultant

Action Track 4 Facilitators

- **Ekanikpong Ben** – Elkanis & Partners (Agritech)
- **Ndim-Ejor Ndifon** – Agri Consultant

Action Track 5 Facilitators

- **Eze Nwakanma** – Head of Agricultural Value Chain Finance (AVCFIS), NIRSAL Microfinance Bank
- **Jennifer Agbaji** - Executive Director, The Basilea Vulnerable Persons Rights Initiative/ African Youth Commission (AYC) Commissioner for Gender, Agric. & Rural Economy.

Dialogue Date : 17th March 2021

Dialogue Time: 10 :00AM – 1:00 NOON (WAT)

Dialogue Venue: Zoom Virtual Session

Dialogue Participants: Private Sector, Farmers, government, Civil Society, Consumers, development partners and institutions.

Follow this link to register: <https://tinyurl.com/y4x5zz2z>

For more info:

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AGENDA

TIME (WAT)	AGENDA ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
10:00 - 10:30 AM	Item 1:Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of the Dialogue • Overview of the UN Food Systems Summit • Objectives of the FSSD • Introduction of Guest Speakers • Opening Remarks: Mrs. Olusola Idowu, Permanent Secretary, Budget & National Planning • Remarks from Guest Speakers 	Convenors/ National Convenor/ Guest Speakers
10:30 - 10:35 AM	Item 2: Briefing Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Discussion Topics • Introduction of Facilitators 	Curator
10:35 - 11:35AM	Item 3:Breakout Session (60MIN) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all? • How do we shift to sustainable consumption patterns among youth? • How do we boost nature-positive production? • What will it take to advance equitable livelihoods? • How do we build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress locally? 	Curator/ Facilitators/ All Participants
11:35 - 12:00	Item 4:Summary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of breakout sessions by Facilitators • Q&A 	Facilitators/ All participants
12:00 - 12:30	Next Steps Closing	Convenors