

STAKEHOLDERS FORUM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOMATO VALUE CHAIN IN NIGERIA CONFERENCE HALL 1, LTV EVENT CENTRE, AGIDINGBI- LAGOS, ON 14TH OF NOVEMBER, 2012.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM

The forum was aimed at bringing together all the relevant stakeholders on the Tomato industry in Nigeria with a view to sharing experiences and addressing some of the critical issues impeding the development of the tomato enhanced value chain.

The Forum was led by Mr. Joe Onyebu the Chairman, Tomato Group of Manufacturers Association of Nigeria,(MAN). The keynote address titled “Prospects and Challenges of Developing Tomato Varieties for Production and Processing in Nigeria” was presented by Dr. Adenike Olusolape Olufolaji, Executive Director, National Institute for Horticultural Research, (NIHORT) Ibadan.

The Chief Host was the Director-General/CEO of the Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC), Engr. (Prof.) A.P. Onwualu.

Participants that attended the Forum included the Major tomato stake-holders in Nigeria.

The following papers were presented:

1. Tomato production in Nigeria: Issues and Prospects, by Director, Kano State Agricultural Development Programme (ADP).
2. Addressing the Challenges of Tomato Processing and Packaging in Nigeria, by the Managing Director, Perfect Integrated Foods Ltd, Arigidi-Akoko, Ondo state.

3. Prospects and challenges of Marketing Tomato in Kano State, Nigeria, by Dr. A.M. Yaro, Kano State Tomato Marketers Association.

Observation

-There is absence of sufficient data on tomato production in the country.

-Tomato yield per hectare in Nigeria is low, estimated at an average of 20-40 tons per ha/annum.

-Indigenous technology is required to boost production and preservation of tomato in Nigeria.

-Greenhouses to boost production can be established with local materials at lower costs.

-Irrigation should be encouraged in the arid states of the country as tomato grows better under irrigation farming.

-Increase in processing will enhance production and reduce post-harvest losses.

-Research should be encouraged to develop new hybrid tomato seed varieties for all the ecological zones of Nigeria.

-For sustainability in research, processing and packaging there is need for a tomato fund to be established for this sub-sector.

-There should be a Presidential Initiative on Tomato, similar to that of Cassava, Rice and Cocoa.

- Nigerian producers and marketers are often in stiff competition with imported fresh tomatoes from Ghana and other neighboring countries.

-There is low tariff regime on import of tomato products.

-There should be a follow-up forum to narrow down and closely look at issues raised by this forum.

Photographs of the participants at the Forum



From right DG RMRDC, MD Perfect Integrated Foods, Chairman Tomato Group of MAN, ED NIHORT, Dr.(Mrs) Olufolaji conferring with a Guest

ED NIHORT and Alh. Balarabe Shehu of Kano state ADP



From right DG RMRDC Prof. A.P. Onwualu, Mr. Joe Onyebu Chairman Tomato Group Cross section of participants at the Forum.

of MAN, ED NIHORT, Dr. Mrs. Olufolaji and MD Perfect Integrated Foods Ltd. Arigidi

Resolutions

In view of the need for further action/strategies to enhance the development of tomato along its value chain, the forum made the following resolutions:

1. Intervention by government in the development of tomato value chain is critical, as similar interventions on cassava and rice is currently yielding results.
2. To boost local production, agricultural inputs such as pesticides, fertilizers, seeds and herbicides

should be made readily available to farmers at affordable prices.

3. To make local production competitive, there is the need to raise the tariff on importation of tomato products to a minimum of 40% import duty.
4. RMRDC should strengthen its collaboration with NIHORT, Ibadan to promote and carry-out R&D on new hybrid tomato seeds for all ecological zones.
5. RMRDC should conduct more studies on tomato production and processing in Nigeria to assist investors with comprehensive data.
6. Entrepreneurs should be encouraged to patronize the Alvan Blanch mobile semi-processing plant for tomato, which has a capacity of four (4) tons per day.
7. There should be a smaller roundtable follow-up forum next year to closely look at issues raised at this meeting.