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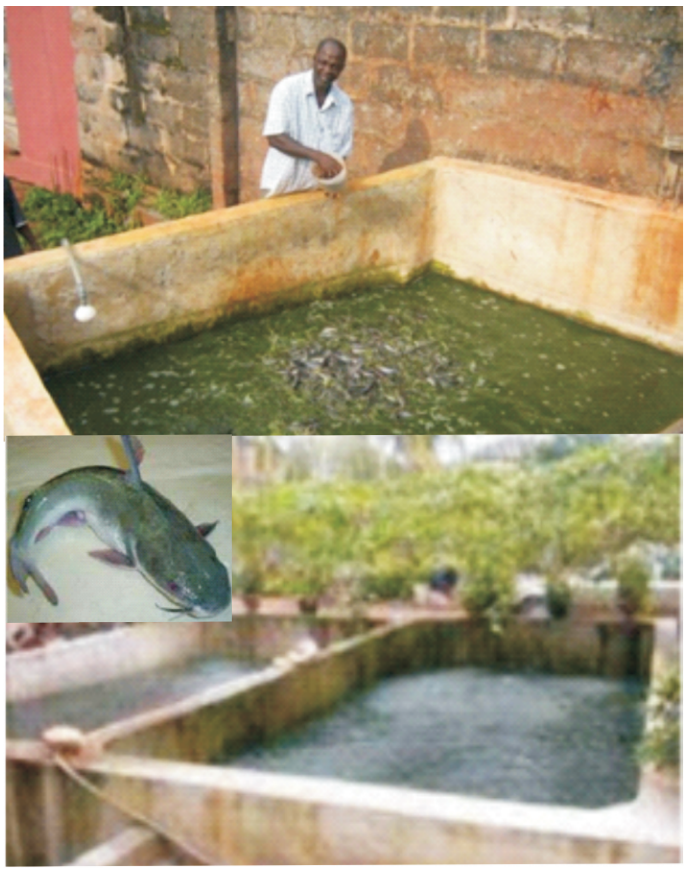
farm&food
... towards food security and sustainable livelihoods
Volume 4 Issue 6

# THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSIDERATIONS IN AQUACULTURE BUSINESS IN WEST AFRICA



## 1.0. INTRODUCTION

Aquaculture connotes the cultivation of freshwater and saltwater populations (especially fish) under controlled conditions, and can be contrasted with artisanal fishing, which is the harvesting of wild fish (online dictionary, 2014). Unlike harvesting from the wild, aquaculture requires deliberate human involvement in the life and care of the fish which is expected to result in yields that exceed those from the natural environment. Such interventions will include: stocking water (fingerlings or juveniles), fertilizing the water, feeding the fish, maintaining the water quality and other things as the case may be.

Whereas this paper essentially focuses on promoting fish farming, however, the definition of aquaculture portends also that aqua farming involves the production of aquatic organisms such as fish, crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic plants. This implies that aquaculture is not limited to fish production. In some economies, other aquatic organisms are also being cultured or cultivated for economic purposes. This paper believes that highlighting some of those other types of aquaculture can inform and motivate research into the potentials and opportunities in such areas for the benefit of the West African Region.

## 2.0. TYPES OF AQUACULTURE

### 2.1. Mari Culture

This is the type of aquaculture practiced in marine environments and in underwater habitats. Mari culture is a specialized branch of aquaculture involving the cultivation of marine organisms for food

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and other products in the open ocean, an enclosed section of the ocean, or in tanks, ponds or raceways which are filled with seawater (free Wikipedia encyclopaedia). Finish, shell fish, fish meal, nutrient agar, jewellery (cultured pearls) are examples of products gotten from Mari-culture.

### 2.2. Shrimp Farming

This involves the cultivation of small, mainly sea-dwelling crustaceans. This is an aquaculture business that exists in either a marine or freshwater environments, producing shrimps or prawns.

### 2.3. Algae Culture

This is also a form of aquaculture involving the farming of species of algae. Algae cultivated commercially and industrially can be used in the production of food ingredients such as omega-3 fatty acids, natural food colorants and dyes, foods, fertilizers, bio plastics, chemical feedstock (raw material), pharmaceuticals. Algae can also be used as a means of pollution control.

### 2.4. Oyster Farming

This is an aqua-cultural practice to raise oysters for human consumption. They are also cultivated to develop pearls.

### 2.5. Fish Farming

Fish farming is a major form of aquaculture which involves the growing of fish commercially in ponds, tanks or enclosures for food[1].

## 3.0. FISH FARMING AND ITS IMPERATIVES

Agriculture: Creating & recovering the economy through fish farming.

From economic point of view, it has been established that fish farming is cheaper and has higher returns on investment compared to poultry and livestock production[2]. It would be noted that in recent years, fish production from capture fisheries (in spite of its being expensive and risky especially in the coastal line regions) has been on the decline[3]. There is serious over exploitation of the water bodies and human activities such as waste disposal and oil activities in the water bodies are terribly endangering the aquatic lives. The dangers of wild fishing includes the risks of vessel attacks by pirates, and according to Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture, a total of 271 reported cases of attacks on vessels operating in the Nigerian territorial waters occurred between February 2009 and September, 2013[4]. Therefore, aquaculture production remains the best option to bridge the gap between the total fish

[1] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/aquaculture
[2] http://nigeriafishmaster.blogspot.com/2012/05/fish-farming-in-nigeria.html
[3] Adedeji O.B. and OkochaR.C.Constraint to Aquaculture Development in Nigeria and Way Forward, Journal of Applied Sciences Research, 7(7): 1133-1140, 2011, ISSN ISSN 1819-544X, This is a refereed journal and all articles are professionally screened and reviewed, Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine University of Ibadan, Nigeria.
[4] http://shipsandports.com.ng/nigeria-spends-n125bn-on-fish-importation-annually-adesina/

demand and total domestic production in the face of high cost of production input and unstable government policy for crop and livestock production. Besides, the demand for fish products is barely seasonal unlike other live-stocks such as poultry.

Specifically, in view of the above, it becomes needful to increase support to fish farmers with micro credit, capacity building and trainings, etc. Before now, government's emphasis and intervention on agricultural development has essentially focused on the production of crops and livestock with little recognition given to the contribution of fish to agricultural GDP like in economies such as China. But today, the potentials of the aquaculture subsector in generating employment and creating wealth is becoming obvious as aquaculture sector's development is a significant component of Nigeria's Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA).

At present, fisheries scientists and economists, natural resource managers, governments, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders are working toward increasing the production and supply of fish and the development of the aquaculture subsector of the nation's agriculture economy. NANTS is therefore spearheading the private sector initiative of promoting the aquaculture industry especially in Nigeria as a viable option for small scale farmers.

## 4.0. TYPES OF FISH FARMING

### 4.1. Backyard Fish Farming

Fish farms can be established as a small scale farm around the house just like having home gardens. This is also known as homestead farms. Since there may not be enough space for the construction of a large pond, the backyard fish farm is built in form of a small pond and sometimes bathtubs are also used. In some cases, fiberglass tanks (GRP tanks) are used among farmers in Nigeria due to its strength, durability and mobility. Aquaculture can be done according to ones needs and abilities. A farmer can start raising fish in a backyard pond using small pools, fish tanks, or aquariums.

### 4.2. Commercial Fish Farming

Commercial fish farming involves setting up large fish farms mainly for business. In this case, the farmers pay attention to the following; the choice of fish to cultivate, the volume of fish, issues of technicalities, available markets, environmental factors, finance, economics, etc. Catfish is the most common fish cultivated in Nigeria. In commercial fish farming, there are three kinds of farming systems expressed in terms of input levels;

i. **Extensive fish farming:** In this type of farming, economic and labour inputs are usually low. Natural food in the ponds plays an important role in the fish dietary requirements. Meanwhile, the system's productivity is relatively low. Fertilizer can be used to improve the fertility and fish production. This system is synonymous with low yield.

ii. **Semi-intensive fish farming:** This requires a moderate level of inputs and the fish production is increased by the use of fertilizer or supplementary feeding. In this case, there will be a higher labour and feed costs but with a higher fish yields compared to the extensive system.

iii. **Intensive fish farming**: This involves high level of inputs and stocking the ponds with as many fishes as possible to maximize profit. The fishes are mainly fed with supplementary feeds

while natural food production plays a minor role. This type of fish farming system requires adequate attention because of the management risks involved; for example, sorting must be conducted at intervals to ensure that the bigger fishes are not feeding on the small ones; and the high stocking density increases susceptibility to diseases and dissolved oxygen shortage.

Commercial fish farm setting

### 4.3. Fish Value Chain Development (Hatchery to Table Size)

The production of fish starts with the hatching of fish eggs into fries; because of the technicality of the process, not many farmers are advised to go into the hatchery business unless the necessary trainings are acquired. The Nigerian fishery industry would need to explore the potentials of fish hatchery/ breeding. In a hatchery pond, the fertilization of the eggs happens externally, and this implies the mature female is selected and induced to produce eggs. Also, a mature male is induced to release sperms on the eggs or killed to harvest the sperms so as to fertilize the eggs. The eggs develop into fries, the fries which weighs about 2-3mg has yolk at this stage to help them survive because they still need to learn how to find their own food before the yolk is fully absorbed.

After about 10 -18 days, the accessory air-breathing organ develops and this enables the fries (now weighing about 30-50mg) reach the surface of water to breathe air. These fries develop to the advanced stage which ends when the fry fills up their supra-bronchial air chamber with air and at this stage, the young fish about 50mg accept and grow well on artificial dry feeds. These fries at this stage are harvested as fingerlings and transferred to grow-out or fattening ponds. Under optimum husbandry management, about 70-80% survival can be obtained. After about one month, the fingerlings weighing about 2-5g are transferred to a real pond, fed daily and harvested when they reach 1 to 2 pounds as table size fish ready for the market and or for food.

A collection of Small scale sized fish ponds

## 5.0. THE ESSENTIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FISH FARMING BUSINESS

### 5.1. Pond Construction

The various types of ponds that can be used for such small scale fish cultivation are; earthen fish ponds, concrete fish ponds and make-shift containers such as fibre-glass, bathroom tubs and plastic containers. When constructing or placing the make shift container, the farmer must put into consideration the topography of the land which should be in such a way that the water is drained easily from the ponds. Source of water is very important and can be from stream, river, lakes, rainfall, borehole, wells and tap water.

### 5.2. Choosing the Type of Fish to Rear

For the small scale farm, the market is a critical factor to consider before going into

the production of fish; this is because some types of fish are not being consumed by some cultures and therefore, the farmer must not depend on the nearby local market. Another major factor to consider is the fingerling selection or the selection of the brood stock. Some of the characteristics to consider are the ability of the fish to grow fast, ability to reproduce in captivity, ability to accept artificial feed, resistance to disease in crowded environment and mature within months

### 5.3. The Fish Culture System to Adopt

**Mono culture system:** involves raising only one fish species and the advantage is that it is easier to give supplementary foods to the fish as there is only one specie to consider with regards to food preference e.g. only clarias species. Also the system prevents scavenging of the weaker species by the stronger ones.

**Poly-culture system:** is where more than one fish species is raised in the pond. In this system, each fish species has a certain food preference which is related to the position of feeding in the pond strata or level (e.g. bottom, mid-water and surface feeders). Carps are bottom feeders while Tilapia species are surface feeders.

**Integrated Fish Farming:** can be of two types, one is integrated cum livestock and poultry and integrated cum crop. The process of integrating fish and poultry can be to culture fish under poultry cages while the poultry droppings serve as food to the fishes[5]. The essence of integrated system is to maximize productivity using the by-products of the other components of the farm so as to meet the challenges of food shortage.

**Fish Cum Crop Production:** is the cultivation of agricultural crops (e.g. vegetables and arable crops like rice etc) and aquatic plants (like water spinach, water chestnut etc), with fish farming. The common practice in fish cum crop production in the country is in cultivation of fish with rice, and vegetables in swampy areas.

**Water Recirculation System:** is a type of cultivation system in which effluents or used water from fish rearing is partially or completely re-circulated to the system after water treatment and reconditioning. WRS has been in existence since the 50s, it is only recent that their potential to cultivate fish on a large scale was realized. The system allows rearing of fish at high densities with reduction in water usage. This is achieved by employing a water treatment unit which includes mechanical filtration, solid waste removal, biological filtration, water sterilization and aeration[6].

## 6.0. STARTING A FISH FARM WITH LITTLE CAPITAL

It has been demonstrated by NANTS team of aquaculture experts that a fish farm can be started with as low as about 120 thousand Naira. The demonstration captures the following outline as a cost/benefit analysis:

| S/N | Item | Amount |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | One plastic container (berger tank) | ₦20000 |
| 2. | Construction of stand | ₦7000 |
| 3. | 500 Fish juveniles @ N30 per one | ₦15000 |
| 4. | 12 bags of fish feed @ N5,500 per bag | ₦66000 |
| 5. | Drugs | ₦1000 |
| 6. | Miscellaneous | ₦10000 |
| | **Total** | **₦119,000** |

[5]AKINROTIMI, O. A, ABU O.M.G AND and ARANYO, A.A, Transforming Aquaculture From Subsistence to Commercial Level for Sustainable Development in Niger Delta Region Of Nigeria Journal of Agriculture and Social Research (JASR) Vol. 11, No. 2, 2011

[6]Anyanwu, P.E, Fleuren W.G and AlakijaA(2005). Water recirculation aquaculture system in Nigeria; Problems and prospects of the dutchmodel.Pp 108-111 In: Ansa, E.J. Anayanwu P.E. Ayonondu, B.W.; Erondu, E.S. and Deekoe, S.N. (eds). Proceedings of the 20th Annual Conference of the Fisheries Society of Nigeria (FISON), Port Harcourt 14th – 18th November, 2005108 – 111

With a consideration of 10% mortality of 500 fishes, a total of 450 fishes will remain and in about 5 months, the fish must have grown between 800g to 1.5kg. If the fish is sold at N500 each, the farmer should be able to make a profit of about N106, 000, all things being equal. The demonstration exposed the profitability of the fish industry. With this profit margin, the farmer can afford to purchase another tank and stock more and this can be done twice a year, making fish farming a profitable business venture. In view of the technicalities of fish farming, it is very important that farmers maintain adequate contact with trained aquaculture Extension Agents for advice and supervision and also for solving some problems that may arise in the farm.

### 6.1. Maggot Feeding

An alternative means of fish feed is maggot feeding. This can be practiced to reduce the cost incurred in fish feed purchase when culturing fish. Studies have shown that maggot meal is a good source of protein for fish. This involves the production of maggot feeds using poultry waste (dungs) poured into a 5m x 4m tank and added water. This produces maggots as the end product after some days (between 4 days and 1 week).Maggots can also be produced by covering dead animal in a sac for about a week.

### 6.2. Cautions to be Applied for Beneficial Fish Rearing

The use of a wooden pond: It has been established that wooden ponds can be used for fish production. When using a wooden pond, the interior of the wooden pond is covered with a tarpaulin which must be rubbed with palm oil, left for 3 days and washed afterwards with soap and disinfectants.

To cultivate about 100-200 fishes, an 8ft length by 4ft breadth by 3ft high wooden pond which should have stands and a slight slope (2-4cm) allowed is needed. There should also be provision for water in-let and out-let pipes for the ponds if the source of water is a pump-driven well but out-let pipes only if the pond is filled manually. This source of water should be reliable and portable. It is important to note that tap water may contain chemicals such as chlorine which can affect the fishes.

Of all the cultivated fishes, the catfish is advisable for this kind of pond because it has a low mortality rate of about 10% and the best stage to start rearing is from the juvenile stage. The water must be changed as at when due, and the sizes of the feeds must be commensurate with the sizes of the fish. Local supplement like kuli-kuli can be used at times. The farmer must familiarize self with the scent and colour of water or use aquaculture water texting kit. A fish expert must always be consulted in special cases to clarify the farmer on some confusing issues and records must always be kept.

## 7.0. FISH STORAGE AND PRESERVATION

After harvesting, fish is either eaten fresh or kept for future use and this keeping of fish can only be made possible by preservation. Preservation is a process of keeping and handling foods to prevent spoilage. For any food to be preserved properly, the food must be fresh and whole. There are several ways by which fish can be preserved and these include;

### 7.1. Chilling and Freezing

This involves keeping fish in refrigerators or freezers at low temperature of zero degree Celsius which prevents the growth of microorganisms that causes spoilage.

### 7.2. Fish Gutting

This process involves opening up the fish and removing the fish intestines and gut content to reduce bacterial spoilage and will preserve the shelf life of the fish.

### 7.3. Salting

This is the application or rubbing of salt on fish to lower the water content to the point where bacteria or microorganisms can no longer survive. This helps to prevent spoilage and in turn preserves the fish.

### 7.4. Drying and Dehydration

This method involves the removal of the water content from fish tissues until the moisture of the fish is extracted. In this process the growth of microorganisms is prevented. This can be done naturally using the heat of the sun. It is known as solar drying. Dehydration is another method in drying fish. It is done through the use of artificially heated air through the use of mechanical driers. Dehydration is used in the drying of cod fish.

### 7.5. Smoking

This method of fish preservation is very common and normally used in the rural areas to preserve fish. It involves placing the fish over fire to reduce the moisture content. This process gives the fish a desirable flavor. Many farmers use smoking kiln.

### 7.6. Pickling and Spicing

In this method, vinegar and other spices are used. The acetic acid in vinegar prevents the growth of bacteria and other organisms and preserves the fish as well as improves its taste.

### 7.7. Canning

This is the process that uses hermetically sealed containers such as bottles and cans. Here, the processes of heating the fish before and after canning kills bacteria and other microorganisms that causes spoilage.

## 8.0. FISH MARKETING IN NIGERIA

Nigeria'sdomestic fish market is estimated at $1.75 billion, the fourth largest agricultural import in the country. One of the objectives of the fish transformation plan earlier noted in this piece is to reverse the trend of being the largest importer to being the largest exporter of fish in Africa.

According to a report from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Nigeria hopes to grow the market by almost 200 per cent, which is to $5 billion from $1.75 billion. The practical idea is to increase incomes of over 20 million households and reduce import of fish into the country[7].

Fish trading is a vibrant and dynamic commercial sector in Nigeria, ripe with investment and employment opportunities. In Nigeria the markets for selling domestic fish are many, various restaurants and gardens make fresh fish pepper soup and sell to customers as a major food for relaxation. Fish is sold in various markets as it is being used in the making of different kind of dishes and well as condiments for soup. The present cost of a table size 1 kg fish is 500 naira. The price of fish changes as it passes through middlemen such that by the time it reaches the final consumers, it has become expensive.

## 9.0. DEVELOPING THE FISH VALUE CHAIN

Contemporary emphasis has been laid on the development of the fish value chain, and government believes that the adoption of new technologies is often not enough to increase farmers' productivity.

The 'value chain' involves the full range of activities required to bring a product to market and includes all the different phases of production, processing, packaging, marketing and delivery to the consumer. Some of the ways by which the value chain of fish can be developed are:

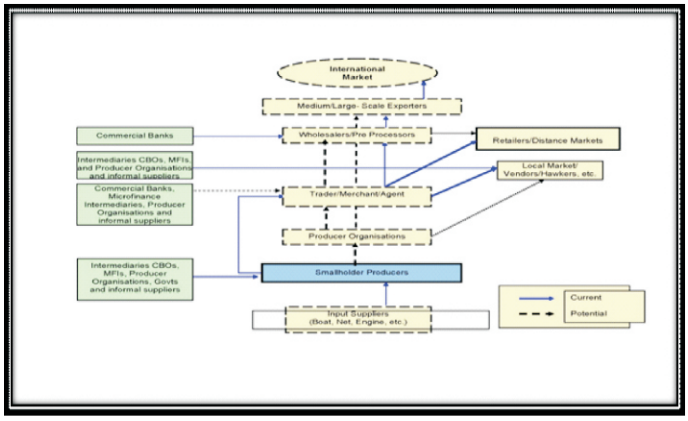
- Improving efficiency in any of the processes involved in producing, processing and trading of fish. For example, improving the method of packaging and the logistics of market can help increase sales.

- Reducing negative impacts of the value chain, such as waste, pressure on natural resources or exploitation of middle men.

[7]http://dailyindependentnig.com/2013/09/nigerias-fish-market-estimated-at-1-75b/

- Changing or adding functions, upstream or downstream, in the chain. This often leads to vertical integration in the chain; for example, using your fish in your own restaurant

- Improving coordination between actors in the chain, either horizontally (at the same node in the chain, e.g. fishers associations), or vertically (with actors in other nodes of the chain)[8].




The development of the value chain of fish will take a holistic approach as demonstrated in the chart above, involving all the players and stakeholders and then playing their roles at various points in the process. For example, the commercial bank and microfinance institutions will support the producers, wholesalers and retailers to improve efficiency as lack of access to finance is one of the major problems affecting farmers in Nigeria.

Government is making effort to improve the small holder Farmers access to inputs by the inclusion of the aquaculture subsector as part of the growth enhancement support scheme (GES). Accordingly, to the ministry of agriculture, in 2013, a total of 3.6 million juveniles, 36,000 bags of 15 kg of feed and 200 water testing kits were provided to fishermen in 10 states, at a total cost of N1.5 billion.

[8]http://www.worldfishcenter.org/our-research/research-focal-areas/improved-value-chains#.VDeRwci0rMw

## RECENT AGRICULTURAL NEWS

**AfDB Presidency: Adesina expresses gratitude to Buhari, Jonathan, others**

By NAN on June 1, 2015

The recently elected President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Akinwumi Adesina, (former Nigerian Minister of Agriculture) has said that President Muhammadu Buhari and former President Goodluck Jonathan played key roles in his election. Adesina, who was elected president of AfDB in Abidjan on Thursday, made the statement in Abeokuta on Monday during a courtesy visit to Gov. Ibikunle Amosun of Ogun. Continue reading on:
http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/2015/06/afdb-presidency-adesina-expresses-gratitude-to-buhari-jonathan-others/

**AGRIC INPUTS' SUPPLIERS THREATEN FG OVER NON-PAYMENT**

Thursday, 28 May 2015 04:00

Agricultural inputs suppliers yesterday gave the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) three days' ultimatum to pay them for the equipment they supplied under the Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GES) for 2014 or they will go on nationwide protest. The input contractors are threatening to embark on protest should the FMARD fail to pay them for inputs they supplied to the ministry under the GES. The ultimatum was contained in a statement issued by their national representatives after a meeting held in Akure, Ondo State. Read the statement signed by Mr Aluko Olufemi Emmanuel on:http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/index.php/agriculture/55786-agric-inputs-suppliers-threaten-fg-over-non-payment

**FORMER VC COUNSELS BUHARI ON AGRICULTURE..**

28 May 2015 04:00

A former vice chancellor of the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Professor Shehu Usman Abdullahi, has advised the incoming administration of Muhammadu Buhari to use agriculture in diversifying the country's economy. He stated this at a National

**COCOA HARVEST COMPOUNDS GHANA'S WOES IN BITTER MONTH FOR BONDS...**

Monday 1 st June 2015

The risk of the smallest cocoa harvest in five years is combining with power cuts and a weak oil price to cloud the prospects for Ghana's debt. Output from the world's second-biggest producer of the chocolate ingredient may drop 25 per cent from last year, according to Ecobank Transnational Inc. That's curbing revenue from the commodity that was the biggest source of Ghana's foreign exchange in the first quarter. According to Bloomberg Ghana's Eurobonds lost 1.9 per cent in May, the fourth-biggest retreat after Venezuela, Costa Rica and Gabon among 58 emerging markets. Read more on: http://www.fmard.gov.ng/newspaper_inside/1629

**OBIANO'S AGRICULTURAL REFORM NETS $745M...**

The Anambra State agricultural reform is likely to take the state to the top three position in the country, as the project has attracted about USD745million to the state through its proposed mechanized agriculture, one of the government's four pillars of development. It is anticipated that more investments would be more attracted through the programme to make the state self-sufficient and develop a large market for abundant harvest. Read more on:
http://www.fmard.gov.ng/newspaper_inside/1629

**AGRIC ATTRACTED $8BN PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN 4YRS**

Since its inception in 2011, the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA), of the federal government, has attracted over $8billion private investment commitments to the national economy. The programme had also facilitated a dedicated development finance window of 200billion fund for Agricultural finance in Nigeria (FAFIN), to provide credits for agricultural value chain actors. Continue reading on:
http://www.fmard.gov.ng/newspaper_inside/1623

**SOUTH AFRICAN FARM TO LAUNCH CARROT JUICE.....LESSONS FOR NIGERIANS**

28 May 2015 04:00

While Nigeria's over 45% local fruits keep wasting away, South African farmers are making speedy advances in adding value to their farm produce-a

Agricultural Seminar organised by the Agricultural-Veterinary Complex, ABU in collaboration with the All Famers' Association of Nigeria (AFAN), which took place at the National Agricultural Extension Research Liaison Services (NAERLS), Zaria. Professor Abdullahi said agriculture has the potentials of reducing the country's dependence on oil, hence the need for serious attention on the sector. Read more on: http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/index.php/agriculture/55787-former-vc-counsels-buhari-on-agriculture

**UN LAMENTS CHALLENGES AGAINST FARM FOR BAKASSI RETURNEES**

28 May 2015 04:00

Programme officer for United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Nigeria, Mr Julius Mensha, has said that many challenges were impacting against the Bakassi returnees from making maximum gain from the commercial farm they established for them.

He disclosed this weekend when he conducted a monitoring mission to the farm.He said they provided $42,000 through Rhema Care (an NGO) which is about N7Million to acquire and cultivate the farm but that distance was a major factor discouraging them from accessing it from their camps.For more info; please visit: http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/index.php/agriculture/55785-un-laments-challenges-against-farm-for-bakassi-returnees

**WE PLANT GRAINS NOT SEEDS-FCT FARMERS**

Thursday, 28 May 2015 04:00

Many farmers in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have complained that they still plant grains, instead of seeds, recording low yield, even when fertilisers are applied and other ethical practices adhered to. Most of the farmers who spoke to Daily Trust accused the government of depriving them of bumper harvest and better income as a result of its failure to accommodate them in the GES programme, stressing that they have been planting reserved grains from their previous year's harvest due to lack of access to improved seeds. Continue reading on: http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/index.php/agriculture/55774-we-plant-grains-not-seeds-fct-farmers

**FG MUST SUPPORT FARMERS WITH CREDIT FACILITIES**

Thursday, 28 May 2015 04:00

An entrepreneurial farmer, Peter Ododa, has said government is not doing enough to support farmers with soft loan facilities in the country. Ododa who was speaking with reporters in his banana plantation, stressed that most of the claims about government granting farmers credit facilities do not reflect the situation that has made Nigeria one of the largest consumers of their farm produce.

Greenway Farms, the largest carrot producer in South Africa, will start marketing its carrot juice in Nigeria, under a brand to be known as Rugani, from August.

The company, which produces about 40% of South Africa's carrots, recently, asked the public at the Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market to test seven variants of the juice. Read more on: http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/index.php/agriculture/55772-south-african-farm-to-launch-carrots-juice-lessons-for-nigeria

**KATSINA FARMERS NEED MANGO JUICE FACTORY**

Thursday, 28 May 2015 04:00

Kurmin Gwamma is a mango plantation located behind Funtua Motel along the Funtua - Gusau road and it has been a lucrative source of revenue to its owners for many years.There are an estimated number of 1,000 mango trees spread across the farms in the area most of which were not originally planted by the farmers but grew on their own. Daily Trust gathered from the farmers that the mango plantation has been in place for overa 100 years producing fruits yearly in commercial quantity. For more go to: http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/index.php/agriculture/55775-katsina-farmers-need-mango-juice-factory

**GES PROGRAMME UNDER THREAT, FARMERS, OTHERS ALLEGE... IT'S NOT TRUE, SAYS FG**

Thursday, 28 May 2015

Farmers and farm inputs suppliers now entertain the fear that the Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GES), launched by the federal government about

realities on ground. “Most of us find it extremely difficult to get soft loans from the government. Most of what they say is on paper. In reality, majority of the farmers who want to expand their farms find it difficult to get loan,” Ododa who is also an evangelist, stressed. Continue reading on: http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/index.php/agriculture/55776-fg-must-support-farmers-with-credit-facilities

**FACAN FLAYS FG OVER N125BN OVER UNPAID EXPORT GRANT**

Thursday, 28 May 2015

Federation of Agricultural Commodity Associations of Nigeria (FACAN) has described as unfortunate the federal government’s failure to fully implement policies of the Export Expansion Grant (EEG) as well as Negotiable Duty Credit Certification (NDCC) which were fashioned out by the Jonathan administration to boost the country’s Rice Value Chain.In a letter to outgoing President Goodluck Jonathan, dated May 11, 2015, signed by FACAN’s National President, Dr. Victor Iyama, and copied the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Dr.Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, FACAN regretted that the federal government reneged on the agreement to implement the EEG policy framework for 2014 as announced by the finance ministry. Read more on: http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/index.php/agriculture/55778-facan-flays-fg-over-n125bn-unpaid-export-grants

three years ago, may fizzle out this year due to a serious cut in the 2015 agriculture budget, unpaid debts for 2014 GES inputs supply and change in government.Investigations revealed that agriculture sector budget in 2015 was slashed from about N35 billion to a paltry sum of N5 billion as a result of dwindling oil revenue.http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/index.php/agriculture/55777-ges-programme-under-threat-farmers-others-allege-it-s-not-true-says-fg

**NADP TAKES DELIVERY OF IMPROVED SEEDS FOR NASARAWA FARMERS**

Thursday, 28 May 2015 04:00

Tonnes of newly developed varieties of maize and rice are now stocked in the stores of the Nasarawa Agricultural Development Programme (NADP) at its headquarters in Lafia, after the agency took delivery of the stock from the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP). Read more on: http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/index.php/agriculture/55779-nadp-takes-delivery-of-improved-seeds-for-nasarawa-farmers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