



CONCEPT NOTE

US-NIGERIA ROUNDTABLE ON FOOD SECURITY AND SAFETY

Date: October 6-7, 2024

1.0 Introduction:

This multi-stakeholder roundtable on food security and safety in Nigeria is convened under 'Collaborative Approach to Enhance Food Production and Quality to Improve Food Security in West Africa' project. It will gather key representatives from government, policy institutions, research and academia, professional associations, diplomatic corps, development and donor partners, civil society organizations, the media and the private sector with the theme: Experiential Learning and Business Opportunities in Food Security and Safety: The Nigerian and US Experiences.

The thematic areas:

- Agricultural Mechanization for Food and Raw Materials Production
- Securing the Future in Food Security and Safety
- Good Agricultural Practices/Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) to secure International Markets.
- Post-harvest loss Management through Value Addition, Preservation and Storage. Promoting Investment and Entrepreneurship in Agro-Food Value Chain (Rice, Maize, Cowpea/Soybeans, Sorghum, Cassava/Yam)
- Financing and Funding Opportunities for Medium and large-scale Agribusinesses
- Food Safety Policy and Legislation Landscape.

2.0 Problem Statement:

Food insecurity and malnutrition are major global issues, especially in Nigeria. Despite being a major agricultural producer in the continent of Africa, Nigeria with massive expanse of arable land and varied climate that can support large scale agricultural endeavours and businesses, still faces challenges in achieving food security. Natural issues such as climate change, flood, erosion, desertification and self-inflicted challenges of corruption, fraud, inadequate infrastructure, post-harvest losses, lack of access to markets, food fraud, and contamination all contribute to food insecurity and safety concerns in the country and among trading partners.

Nigeria is at the precipice of not being able to feed its growing population with growing insecurity, governance challenge and seeming lack of vision to embark on massive upheaval projects that could bring economic and industrial relief to take its pride of place in the committee of nations, especially as a true giant of Africa. The number of food-insecure Nigerians soared from 66.2 million in Q1 2023 to 100 million in Q1 2024, with 18.6 million facing acute hunger and 43.7 million employing crisis-level coping strategies. Nigeria faces an unprecedented hunger crisis necessitating urgent humanitarian and social protection interventions. This food insecurity issue calls for collaborative efforts and aggressive measures to address this socioeconomic problem facing Nigeria.

3.0 Objectives:

The major objective of this proposal is intended to harness expertise amongst traditional key collaborators in the triple helix (Government/International Organisations, Academia/Research Institutions and Industry/Entrepreneurs) in a US-NIGERIA Roundtable on Food Security and Safety is organized by Pan African Association of Small & Medium Industries (PAOSMI), Raw Material Research & Development Council (RMRDC), Delaware State University, Kentucky State University, Center for Global Food Security and Defense (CEGFSD) at the University of Maryland Eastern-Shore, University of Calabar.

The specific objectives of the US-NIG Roundtable are as follows:

1. Improve agricultural productivity and sustainability to ensure a steady food supply.
2. Promote Good Agricultural Practices/Good Processing Practices to increase domestic and international markets
3. Enhance food processing and storage facilities to reduce post-harvest losses.
4. Strengthen food safety regulations and enforcement to prevent contamination and fraud.
5. Increase access to nutritious and affordable food for all segments of the population.
6. Promote public awareness and education on proper food handling and consumption practices.
7. Encourage and facilitate the sourcing for national and international funds to support relevant projects and programs.

4.0 Organizers/Collaborators & Partners:

- v Pan African Association of Small and Medium Industries (PAOSMI)
- v Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC)
- v African University of Science and Technology (AUST)
- v Delaware State University (DSU), USA,
- v Kentucky State University (KSU), USA
- v Center for Global Food Security and Defense (CEGFSD) at the University of Maryland Eastern-Shore,
- v University of Calabar.
- v Central State University (CSU), USA
- v University of Nigeria (UNN), Nigeria and
- v Alabama A&M University (AAMU), USA

5.0 Methodology/Strategies:

The strategy involves the adoption of the triple Helix model approach and seriously engaging key stakeholders and actors in the food value chain, a sustainable and safe manners that will:

1. Promote sustainable agricultural practices such as agroecology and climate-smart agriculture.
2. Invest in infrastructure development for improved transportation and storage facilities for food products.
3. Implement food safety standards and regulations at all stages of the food supply chain.
4. Support smallholder farmers through capacity building, access to credit, and market linkages.
5. Conduct regular monitoring and surveillance of food products to ensure compliance with safety standards.

6.0 Stakeholder Invitee Participants from the Tripple Helix Concept

S/N	GOVT/AGENCIES	ACADEMIA/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS	INDUSTRY/ENTREPRENEUR	DEV PARTNERS
1	Ministry of Science, Innovation and Technology (FMIST) -RMRDC -NABDA -SHSTCO	GOVT UNIVERSITY -UNN -UNICAL -UNILAG -ABU -UNIAGRIC (UAM)/LAFIA UNIPORT	Manufacturers Association of Nigeria- (MAN) -Relevant Sectors	USAID
2	Ministry of Agriland Natural Resources (MANR) -ARCN -Seed Council -QUARANTINE	STATE UNIVERSITIES -UNI ABUJA -EBONYI STATE UNIVERSITY -ESUT	DANGOTE -Relevant Companies -NESLE -FLOUR MILLS	GAIN
3	Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment -SON -NINAS -NIPC -NEPC	PRIVATE UNIVERSITY -BAZE UNIV -CANANLAND UNIV -HALLMARK UNIV -GREGORY UNIV, -UTURU	-NACCIMA -Agric related -Processing and value addition	UNDP
4	Ministry of Health -NAFDAC -Food Safety Dept -Nat Food Safety Mgt Committe	RESEARCH INSTITUTES -Root Crop Research Int, Umudike -Coca Res Institute, Ibadan -Inst of Agri Res, Zaria	NASSI NASME Commodity NESG FACAN	
5	Ministry of Environment -NESREA -NNNN -NNNN		APEX FARMERS -NAMFACOS) -COMAFAS	
6	STATE GOVERNMENTS -Benue Niger -Enugu -Abia -Kano/Kaduna -Ogun/Ondo -Bayelsa -Taraba			

7.0 Expected Outcomes:

The expected outcomes will include a far-reaching communique to be published in two or three dailies with major policy issues for:

1. Increased food production and availability in local market with nutrition lens.
2. Improve Good Agricultural Practices/Good Processing Practices to expand domestic and international markets
3. Reduced post-harvest losses and improved food supply and quality.
4. Enhanced consumer confidence in the safety and integrity of food products.
5. Improved nutrition and health outcomes among the population.
6. Strengthened resilience of the food system to external shocks and challenges.

8.0 Conclusion:

Addressing food security and safety in Nigeria requires a collaborative efforts/multi-stakeholder approach that involves the state and federal government, private sector, civil society, and local communities. By implementing effective strategies and policies, Nigeria can work towards ensuring that all its citizens have access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food, ultimately contributing to sustainable development and poverty reduction. The best approach to address these food insecurity and malnutrition crises is to build collaboration and partnership with institutions/agencies that have a shared interest on issues.