



4th NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT FORUM

FINAL REPORT

UNLOCKING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE IN THE NIGER DELTA FOR REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS

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Contents

Acronyms.....	ii
Executive summary.....	iii
I. Introduction.....	1
Background to NDDF Calabar	1
How is this forum different?	2
II. Investment opportunities in local Agricultural commodity value chains.....	4
Background paper on local Agricultural commodity value chains.....	4
Challenges in local Agricultural commodity value chains.....	4
Opportunities in local Agricultural commodity value chains.....	4
Investment opportunities in the Aquaculture value chain.....	4
Investment opportunities in the Cassava value chain.....	8
Investment opportunities in the Cocoa value chain.....	9
Investment opportunities in the Poultry value chain.....	11
Investment opportunities in the Rice value chain.....	15
Investment opportunities in the Palm oil value chain.....	17
III. Government Policy and Programs at the State level.....	20
Agricultural land development and mechanization.....	20
State-Led Infrastructural Support to Agricultural Production and Processing.....	23
IV. Opportunities for Women and Youth in Agriculture.....	26
Accelerating and Increasing Opportunities for Women in Agribusiness.....	26
Opportunities for Promoting Agro-entrepreneurship for the Youth in the Niger Delta.....	29
V. Impacts of conflicts and insecurity on investments in Agriculture.....	32
The Current State of Agricultural Investment in the Niger Delta and its Effect on Conflict Dynamics in the Niger Delta.....	32
Using Investments in Agriculture to mitigate Conflicts and address Human Security Issues in the Niger Delta.....	35
VI. Conclusions and Recommendations.....	38
Conclusions.....	38
Recommendations.....	40
Appendix.....	44
Program of events.....	44

ACCRONYMS

ALF	Abia Liberation Farm
ADP	Agricultural Development Program
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ACBF	African Community Bridge Foundation
AU	African Union
ATA	Agricultural Transformation Agenda
BRACED	Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo, Delta
BMOs	Business Membership Organizations
COO	Certificate of Occupancy
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CRIN	Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria
CRBC	Cross River Broadcasting Corporation
DFID	Department for International Development
DAI	Development Alternatives Incorporated
DOC	Day Old Chicks
EDC	Entrepreneurial Development Center
GES	Growth Enhancement Scheme
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immune Virus
IPP	Independent Power Project
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LGA	Local Government Area
MDA	Ministries, Departments & Agencies

MD	Managing Director
MSME	Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
MFI	Micro Finance Institutions
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NDDC	Niger Delta Development Commission
NDDF	Niger Delta Development Forum
NDPI	Niger Delta Partnership Initiatives
NIFOR	Nigeria Institute for Oil Palm Research
NSRP	Nigeria Stability Reconciliation Program
NCAM	National Center for Agricultural Mechanization
NTA	Nigeria Television Authority
OPGAN	Oil Palm Growers Association of Nigeria
PIND	Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta
SCPZ	Staple Crops Processing Zone
SMEDAN	Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria
USD	United States Dollars
UUFFA	United Uffoma Fish Farmers Association
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Executive Summary

The Niger Delta Development Forum (NDDF) is a unique advocacy platform that informs and influences promotion of non-oil pro-poor policies, programs and interventions as well as leverage and advice on how resources from the public, private and development organizations can be effectively and efficiently utilized to promote inclusive and equitable economic growth.

The forum convenes government officials, policy makers, civil society representatives, academics, the private sector, business leaders, entrepreneurs and other interested observers to engage in an open, constructive and interactive policy dialogue, and roundtable discussions on critical development issues. NDDF's philosophy is hinged on policy analysis, dialogue, partnerships, use of evidence and a strong commitment to influence duty bearers who have the power and authority to make desired changes.

The NDDF 2014 in Calabar is the fourth iteration, following the initial ones in Port Harcourt, 2012, Benin City in 2013 and Washington DC in October 2014.

The objectives of the NDDF 2014 were to:

1. Identify investment opportunities in selected local agricultural value chains in each state of the Niger Delta
2. Attract private sector investors to invest in local agricultural value chains that presents income and employment generation opportunities
3. Proffer practical recommendations and action points that can improve investment climate and opportunities in agriculture in the Niger Delta
4. Identify specific niches and opportunities to attract more women and youth profitably in agriculture

Four specific sub-themes provided the framework that guided the entire discussions that happened both in the plenary and panel sessions. The sub-themes were:

1. Investment opportunities in local agricultural commodity value chain
2. Impacts of conflicts and insecurity on investments in Agriculture
3. Opportunities for Women and Youth in Agriculture
4. Government perspectives on Agricultural investments

A total of 724 participants (comprising 235 females and 471 males) attended from the nine states in the Niger Delta over the 2 day period. With participants from all the targeted groups, including investors from the United States, the forum laid a good foundation for new partnerships, shared learning and collection by all the various stakeholders that participated. Having a large number of actual farmers in attendance brought out the realities of investing in the discussions.

At the end of all the plenary and panel session deliberations, it was concluded that:

1. There are many investment opportunities, and much investment happening, in all the major areas of the agricultural commodity value chains such as Cassava, Oil Palm, Rice, Cocoa, Aquaculture and Poultry. In addition, support for local investment in agribusiness is available through the Government (Agricultural Transformation Agenda), Research Institutes, and from donors such as USAID and DFID.

2. There was a consensus that addressing the major constraints and common problems facing agriculture sector in the Niger Delta region requires all stakeholders to work together. A business environment in which large multi-national corporations and MSMEs can thrive is the product of a symbiotic relationship between all relevant stakeholders which includes public sector agencies, business membership organizations, large corporations, multi- and bi-lateral organizations, financial institutions and MSMEs themselves.
3. Common challenges which hinder the optimal performance of virtually all the agricultural entrepreneurs include:
 - Poor access to reliable information on investment opportunities,
 - Inadequate access to land and necessary inputs for production,
 - Poor economic infrastructure, especially erratic power supply,
 - Lack of access to credit, High lending rates, and stringent collateral requirements,
 - Lack of access to markets both within and outside the Niger Delta,
 - Weak supporting services to drive investment and business linkages,
 - Increasing agitation and conflicts that disrupt market systems.
4. State governments have various schemes and avenues that interested youth and investors can access and acquire lands for agricultural purposes through their State Ministries of Agriculture. Government laws and policies related to land tend to drive benefit capture and advantage to those in power rather than those who need it.
5. There are many opportunities for women and youth in agriculture in the processing function of agricultural value chains. Value added activities such as rice milling, parboiling, fish smoking, packaging, small scale processing and marketing are areas that provide entry points.
6. Major challenges hindering more youth leveraging opportunities in agriculture were:
 - Access to finance as banks are not keen on agricultural lending especially to the youths
 - Access to land for large scale primary production
 - Lack of opportunity for career moves in the agricultural sector
 - Lack of access to information
7. Government programs put in place to ameliorate agricultural enterprises financial challenges through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) such as the Agricultural finance, Micro finance, MSME development fund, Infrastructure finance and Capacity building programs are not well known to and are rarely accessed by agribusinesses.
8. There must be sustainable peace in the region as agriculture will not thrive in an environment characterized by conflict and tension. It is therefore our collective responsibility and benefit to ensure that the current fragile peace in the region is sustained by working together.

In conclusion, it is hoped that new knowledge acquired from this people-centered debate will be utilized by all stakeholders for unlocking investment opportunities in agriculture in the Niger Delta for Regional Competitiveness. Participants left the forum with high expectations and a desire to work together on solutions to address some of the challenges discussed at the forum.

Recommendations

Five sets of key recommendations emanated from the panel sessions that can guide improved support to increased investment in agriculture in the Niger Delta:

1. Programs and government must increase information flow on opportunities and markets, including business models and profitability,
 - For investors to identify lucrative businesses to invest their resources
 - For supporting institutions – such as those who provide equipment and input suppliers (feed companies, seed companies, agrochemical) financial institutions, logistics and transport companies, insurance – on how they can increase their profitability by supporting value chain actors.
2. Improving the competitiveness of Nigerian value chains by increasing efficiency and productivity of value chain actors through:
 - Research institutions playing an active role in engaging with the private sector to conduct action research that addresses the needs of the private sector and also sharing research findings to the relevant end users and not working in isolation.
 - Development programs to strengthen the supply and engagement of service providers to the agricultural sector by demonstrating the value proposition of partnering with farmers to provide:
 - i. Management and training to improve knowledge and practices of agribusinesses.
 - ii. Farm mechanization for land preparation and for large scale production.
 - iii. Input supply for production and processing.
 - Strengthening Business Membership Organizations so they can promote and protect their members' interests and position themselves as advocates for change in the market place.
 - Targeting more effective access to finance for women and youth as well as development interventions working closely with financial institutions to develop tailored products that can be accessed by more farmers while at the same time, banks are able to have more customers (farmers) buying their financial products.
 - Better linkages between businesses at different functional levels of the value chain to increase value chain efficiency.
3. Government policies and investments to promote and incentivize private investments are required in supporting:
 - Land distribution at the state level to reach targeted audiences

- Strategic Investments in developing economic infrastructure such as roads, industrial zones, and access to power
 - Incentives to big businesses to invest in local agricultural commodities
4. Strengthening opportunities for women and youth in participating in value added activities such as rice milling, parboiling, fish smoking, packaging, small scale processing and marketing which have been identified as areas that provides easy entry points in the value chains.
 5. Approaches to understanding the conflict economy as it relates to accessing land for agricultural development should be addressed by responsible government agencies by providing access to relevant information on how to access land and farm mechanization services at the state level to investors.

It is hoped that the consortium of partners that collaborated together to organize this year's forum will incorporate these recommendations in the design and implementation of their various programs and interventions in the Niger Delta region. Business membership organizations, cooperatives and associations will find this report useful as an advocacy tool for engaging duty bearers and the MDAs in their respective states in addressing the systemic constraints hindering the flow of investment in agriculture.

Finally, as the country and by extension states in the Niger Delta region are about to experience change in political leadership, it is worthy to note that the conclusions and recommendations put forward through NDDF Calabar 2014 have identified very specific actions and how the incoming government can (1). attract and unlock investment opportunities in local agricultural value chain commodities; (2). attract more women and youth into agriculture; (3). design and implement conflict-sensitive programs, policies and interventions (4). promote and implement targeted agricultural land development and mechanization programs and (5). collaborate closely with the private sector to invest more in providing economic infrastructural support for agricultural production and processing.

The NDDF partners and its informal network are determined and committed to working together to shape policies, programs and people centered interventions that will make agriculture in the Niger Delta investment attractive and competitive in the short, medium and long term. The full report, including photos, videos, and complete paper presentations as shared during NDDF Calabar 2014 can be found on the Forum's webpage at www.nddfforum.org.

1. Introduction

The Niger Delta Development Forum (NDDF) promotes models, approaches and strategies through its annual outreach forum on topical issues that has a wider positive impact in improving the social and economic well being of men, women and youth living in the Niger Delta. Based on the conclusions and solutions proffered at the end of the forum, follow on action plans are developed to implement recommendations with like minded partner organizations that are feasible and can be accomplished within a given time frame.



Photo 1: Banner showing organizers of NDDF Calabar

Background NDDF Calabar 2014

Agriculture as a business in the Niger Delta is diversified and investments opportunities also abounds. To achieve the region's growth potential through agriculture, accelerated and increased investments are needed in Crop production (Cassava, Oil Palm, Rice, Cocoa, Aquaculture and Poultry), food processing and preservation, livestock and fisheries production, agricultural inputs supplies and machinery, commodity trading and transportation, development and fabrication of appropriate small-scale mechanized technologies for on-farm processing and secondary processing of agricultural produce.

Taking full advantage of these investments opportunities will require investment-driven strategic partnerships with the private sector as well as investment drives to unlock potential of our States in agriculture. Policy makers and duty bearers in Niger Delta states need to overcome some major challenges associated with infrastructure, barriers to doing business, conflicts and security risks, low skill levels and access to appropriate technology. The un-competitiveness status of agriculture in the Niger Delta is compounded by an unproductive agricultural model, poor market access and limited social safety nets in the rural areas.

The NDDF Calabar 2014 was poised to stimulate results oriented discussions and actions to reposition the Niger Delta region to attract the much desired investments under the theme ***Unlocking Investment Opportunities in Agriculture in the Niger Delta for Regional Competitiveness***. This forum brought together leaders from government, civil society, development community and business membership organizations/trade associations and resource poor farmers for an issue-based interaction that will explore how to collectively shape policies, programs and partnerships that will make agriculture in the Niger Delta investment attractive and competitive in the next 2 - 5 years.

NDDF Calabar 2014 had a total of 724 participants (comprising 235 females and 471 males) in attendance drawn from the nine states in the Niger Delta over the 2 day period. The

participants included farmers, trade associations, women's groups, youth groups, policy makers in government, private sector, development organizations and civil society groups.

How is this Forum different?

The focus of NDDF Calabar 2014 on unlocking investment opportunities in Agriculture is germane because it aligned with the Federal Government of Nigeria's Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) and the Vision 20:20:20. The timing of this forum is also appropriate because it coincided with the declaration of 2014 to be the Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa by African Union (AU) Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

During the two-day meeting in Calabar, participants had the opportunity to consolidate active commitments toward new priorities, strategies and targets for achieving results and impacts, with special focus on sustained, all Niger Delta agriculture-led growth, propelled by stronger private sector investment and public-private partnerships.

The Forum also provided an opportunity for participants to build cross-regional initiatives and alliances as well as provide concrete answers to germane questions (listed below) that will help to unlock the Investment opportunities in Agriculture in the Niger Delta for the benefit of all Niger Deltans.

1. How can government and business leaders promote cross-regional initiatives and alliances to unlock underemployed economic resources for the benefit of all Niger Deltans?
2. What role can government, business, Civil Society and youth play in mitigating violent conflicts?
3. How are national challenges perceived and addressed in the region?
4. How can a better understanding of the dynamics of navigating today's fast-changing agricultural environment be coordinated in a collaborative manner?
5. What are the investment options that incorporate poor people into the value chain of the enterprises either as suppliers, employees and/or consumers?
6. What immediate action needs to be taken to unlock investment opportunities in the identified agricultural value chains?

As part of efforts to raise awareness before the Forum, two pre-forum media chats were held on Cross River Broadcasting Corporation (CRBC) Agricultural Landscape program, a weekly news magazine program on agriculture in Cross River state and Good Morning Cross River, a daily breakfast TV show. Through these mediums, over 700,000 TV viewers were sensitized about the benefits of participating in NDDF Calabar. In addition, a pre-forum social media chat conference was held with four young agricultural entrepreneurs for two hours on Twitter that generated over 2 million social impressions and reached just shy of 200,000 Twitter accounts. Furthermore, jingles were advertized on NTA Calabar, NTA Uyo and CRBC five days prior the forum.

A live radio transmission of the opening ceremony was done by WAZOBIA FM/Nigerian Info FM and a complete video coverage by CRBC was also done. Selected print media organizations were also on ground to cover the forum and these were the Nation, Punch, and the Guardian,

among others. For those unable to attend the Forum in-person, live tweets from the plenary and panel sessions were shared on Twitter and FaceBook using the hashtag #NDDF2014.

Before the commencement of the technical sessions, an e-polling exercise was conducted and 136 members of the audience participated. The results of the e-polling exercise are as follows:

- Basic breakdown of participants: 67% males and 33% females
- 58% of the respondents were from Cross Rivers state
- In terms of employment status: 43% were farmers, 16% were self-employed while NGO representatives were 13%.
- 50% of the respondents agreed that the current state of agricultural investment in the Niger Delta was fair.
- When asked what the respondents saw as the most important challenge facing agricultural investment opportunities in the Niger Delta, 44% voted lack of access to finance, while 3% leaned towards unfavorable agricultural policies is the most important challenge.
- With respect to what immediate actions need to be taken by government to unlock investment opportunities in various agricultural value chains, 59% supported the promotion of partnerships and collaboration with all stakeholders, and another 44% were in support of increasing mass awareness of opportunities in agriculture via TV, radio, social media, newspaper etc. as the best way to attract more women and youth into agriculture.

The forum had a total of four (4) plenary and twelve (12) panel sessions over the two-day period. These were complemented with an opening address from Mr. Sam Daibo, PIND's Executive Director, who restated the mission of PIND in relation to the development of the Niger Delta and the strategic role of NDDF Calabar 2014. This was followed by a welcome address by the Executive Governor of Cross River State, represented by Mr. James Aniyom, the Honorable Commissioner for Agriculture & Natural Resources, who reminded all participants of the great roles that agriculture had played as the component of Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the past. The keynote address by the Honorable Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Dr. Akinwumi Adesina was represented by Dr. Tony Bello, Senior Technical Adviser on Agribusiness to the Honorable Minister.

2. Investments opportunities in Local Agricultural Commodity Value Chains

Background Paper on: Investment Opportunities in Local Agricultural Commodity Value Chains delivered by Kayode Faleti, Senior Program Manager, Southern Regional Office, USAID/MARKETS II Project

The paper set the tone for discussions in the Forum by providing a general overview of the agricultural sector in the Nigerian economy. According to Mr. Faleti, in the early 1960s, agriculture was the main stay of the Nigerian economy. However, the advent of oil, over-dependence on it and the neglect of other sectors of the economy, particularly agriculture, has had negative consequences on the economic well-being of Nigerians.

Oil is still the dominant factor in the Nigerian economy, while agriculture remains the largest employer of labor. Though agriculture employs about 60% of Nigerians, its total contribution to national export stands at a paltry 0.2%. Oil which contributes about 99% of exports employs just 4% of the labor force. The correlation is an indication that something is wrong somewhere, and the need to diversify the Nigerian economy, and more importantly, support agriculture.

To achieve the growth potential of the Nigerian economy through agriculture, Mr. Faleti suggested that accelerated and increased investments are needed in crop, livestock and fisheries production, food processing and preservation, agricultural inputs, finance, commodity trading and transportation, among others.

Challenges

- Inadequate access to land
- Low level of skills
- Inadequate access to necessary inputs of production and services
- Lack of access to appropriate technology
- Inadequate access to finance, markets and information
- Poor infrastructure.

Opportunities

There are abundant investment opportunities in all the major areas of the agricultural commodity value chains as stated above, and support for agribusiness is available through the Government (Agricultural Transformation Agenda), research institutes and from donors such as USAID and DFID, among others.

Panel Session: Investment Opportunities in the Aquaculture Value Chain

Lead Presenter: Dr. (Mrs.) Onome A Davies, Senior Lecturer, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Environment, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt

Moderator: William Grant, Global Practice Leader, DAI Europe, London, UK

Panelists: Mr. Chris Okwechime (UUFFA), farmer and vice Chairman, UUFFA
Mr. Tope J. Banjo, Senior Brand Manager, Grand Cereals Limited, Jos.
Mr. Rotimi Omodehin (MD/CEO Timmod Investments Ltd.)
Mr. Aighobani Ferguson, Head Agric. Finance, LAPO, Benin City
Engr. B. Otu-Bassey, Program Mgr., Cross River State ADP, Calabar

Highlight from lead presentation

Dr. Onome Davies presented a history of aquaculture in the Niger Delta that started with government investment in 1962 with the Brackish Water Aquaculture Station. Since then, though miscellaneous government programs continued to invest, there was little private sector uptake for 40 years, until the early 2000s. During this time, the Capture Fisheries sector has dwindled in comparison to Aquaculture. The growth rate of Aquaculture adoption in the region is estimated to be 20% over the past decade, but some of the local markets are becoming saturated.

Issues that continue to hinder the growth of Aquaculture in the Niger Delta include:

- Low productivity – Farmers have a high feed conversion ratio and high mortality among fish. The juveniles and fingerlings are not developing properly due to low PH and the degree of acidity in the water which hampers their growth. Low fecundity therefore becomes a major problem.
- Adding value and processing of fisheries also remains a challenge because most fish farmers depend on the sale of live fish. The challenges of smoking are exacerbated by over reliance on traditional methods which are inefficient and do not meet international/market standards.
- Access to markets remains a serious constraint. Most of the farmers lack knowledge of where to sell their products, especially since the market within Niger Delta is getting saturated.
- Lack of access to funding is also a widespread constraint. Most of the commercial banks give out high interest loans, which are not conducive to aquaculture production, a serious constraint to small-scale farmers.
- Most farmers are not able to receive the training they need and those who have been trained need continued access to trainings. Additionally poor funding for research and extension services deprives fish farmers of the support they need. Corruption is one of the major reasons for the poor funding.
- Non-existent and erratic power supply affects productivity. Poor power affects the ability of farmers to pump fresh water to enhance water quality management and increase productivity at all levels.

Dr. Davies made it clear that all the challenges listed above are opportunities for investment.

The areas that are ripe for investment include:

- Feed (especially feed for organic aquaculture): Important to note that foreign feed is expensive and that affects production. There is a market for quality feed that can increase the profitability of fish farmers.
- Good buffers that are also organic can help support quality fish production.
- Fish processing in terms of smoking, canning and fillets must be addressed. There are better processing techniques and they must be adopted. Some of the processing requires preservation and storage using cold refrigeration.
- Development of market linkages that include exporting outside the region.
- Farmers need training on good Aquaculture practices. This training can be enhanced through the promotion of research and extension services. The trainers and trainees need updated instructions, which can be driven by the private sector. The Federal Government should provide finance for research and training.

Panel presentations and discussions

Key Issues discussed

- The United Ufoma Fish Farm Association (UUFFA) has the largest cluster of catfish farms in West Africa. The chairman presented the benefits of joining cooperatives or associations. Despite being a risky proposition that requires patience, desire and zeal, participation in a cooperative/association makes it easier for farmers to be profitable and scale their businesses. UUFFA farmers currently have a combined revenue turnover of N2million Naira daily.
- Partnerships with organizations like PIND and the private sector, especially Feed Companies, provide opportunities for training and exposure to better fish farming techniques. With trainings, farmers are better placed to enhance their productivity and reap the benefits of Aquaculture.
- Businesses fail because of lack of information, lack of partnerships, lack of finance and misuse of inputs/funds. Farmers spend significant sums of money on feed, while misusing it. More importantly, many farmers are unaware that locally (Nigerian) made feeds exist and have as wholesome nutritional content as imported feed. Many companies in the Private Sector (feed companies, smoking companies, and hatcheries), are willing to partner with farmers because their success depends on the success of farmers. Companies are willing to provide other services such as insurance schemes and links to markets to support the profitability of the fish famers. Farmers should start taking advantage of these opportunities.
- The State Government is unable to provide an adequate number of well trained extension officers, one of the major functions of the government. While the ideal ratio of extension officers to farmers should be 1:800, it is currently 1:4,000 in Cross River state, for example. Collaboration with donor agencies, NGOs, and the Private Sector has assisted in addressing this challenge to some degree.
- The private sector is skeptical of the Government and prefers to work directly with cooperatives or associations. According to farmers and representatives from the private sector, extension officers require updated training and should be incentivized to do their work by going out into the field to work with the farmers rather than sitting in their offices.

- Fish farmers face problems with surpluses and post harvest losses. Post harvest losses are high, due to weak market linkages and inadequate smoking facilities. More markets are needed in addition to processing and other opportunities.
- Value addition is very important and processing through smoking is ideal. Freezing is not a profitable option due to poor infrastructure. Good quality value-added fish products require well raised fish, with an adequate protein for processing and profitability. This is a vital lesson for those who wish to export outside the state, region or country.
- There are international standards, which must be followed strictly when processing for export. For example, the use of antibiotics is prohibited and smoking techniques that promote carcinogens should be avoided.
- Finance remains a major concern, but there are opportunities available. Lending institutions like LAPO have begun lending programs for farmers. The program is responsive to farmers' concerns; they currently lend at an interest rate of 2.2% per month charged at a flat rate. They do not provide grants, but their lending scheme does not require a collateral as it is character based. However, it was noted that while many organizations claim to help farmers, they provide a less than enthusiastic reception in their offices compared to what is said during their presentations.
- Consumption of catfish is in competition with other proteins, like meat, but is less expensive than beef or chicken, so consumption is growing. It is best to add value through smoking because it can last longer than fresh fish.
- There is a serious need to keep records at different levels. Farmers should track the growth of their business. There should also be a database that can help researchers track the progress of Aquaculture with specific data.
- A deep gap exists between researchers and farmers. Farmers don't know about the researchers, and many researchers make little effort to get their findings into the hands of farmers.

Recommendations on the way forward

- Fish farmers should form associations, groups and cooperatives because working together as a group provides discounts and other benefits, not to mention potential lobbying power.
- A better system for improving farmer knowledge attitudes and practices will enhance their productivity. This may include government extension workers as well as private businesses who have a vested interest in fish farmers becoming more productive. Farmers can provide input through surveys. Extension officers should have a program work plan that will be given to the end users, to enhance accountability; farmers will know when the officers will provide trainings and monitor their effectiveness.
- Business proposals to lending institutions like the Bank of Agriculture should always be market driven. Farmers must study the market, and understand their niche and its potential profitability before entering Aquaculture.
- Fish farming is gender friendly at every point in the value chain; many women are small-scale farmers, but even more are fish smokers. The participation of women along the aquaculture value chain must increase and be encouraged; more women cooperatives are needed to support women fish farmers.
- Gender responsive research and education is needed, specifically extension services that target women.

- Cooperatives and associations should register with their Governments in case there are opportunities. For instance, the Cross Rivers government through the Growth Enhancement Scheme (GES) program is giving 2000 famers 500g of juveniles and 5 bags of feed to farmers to encourage Aquaculture.
- Fish processing is difficult and tedious for most women however affordable kilns exist that are suitable for women fish farmers especially those in cooperatives. It is important to start small and build up.
- Farmers must increase their productivity to enhance their competitiveness. The cost of production must be low while maintaining international standards.
- Smoked fish must meet international standards. They must be Benzo parene free, which means wood smoked fish cannot be exported. Wiping the smoke residue off the fish will not get rid of the chemicals. Smoking kilns that will provide the right taste while adhering to global standards are available.
- The development of high quality feed and organic buffers, can improve feed conversion ratios and enhance water quality.
- There is a serious need for investment and market linkages that drive production, large number of processors and wholesale buyers.
- Farmers must always employ the right technologies, especially as they go to scale.

Panel session: Investment opportunities in the Cassava Value Chain

Lead Presenter: Ogo Ibok, CEO SENSE Agric Limited Lagos

Moderator: Olatunde Oderinde, Deputy Team Leader, GEMS: Wholesale and Retail Sector, Abuja

Panel: Mr. Ohunyon John, Farmer Ekpoma, Edo state
Mr. Peter Idaewor, MD/CEO Idaewor Farms
Mr. Wole Ilori, Head Technical and Sales, HARVESTFIELD Industries Limited
Mr. Ajayi David, Regional Manager, Bank of Agric, South-South
Mr. O.B. Adeniyani, Acting Program Manager, Ondo State ADP, Akure

The lead paper presenter and the discussion by the panel exposed the following points /recommendations:

- Lack of requisite skills, information and training affect the capacity of the farmers to focus on specific activities in the production chain. This impacts negatively on the cassava value chain, and should be addressed;
Proper linkages to markets, affect cassava production from farming to storage. This needs to be addressed through awareness building, collaborations and network;
- There are many investment opportunities in the cassava value chain. However, there is the need to conduct proper feasibility studies and business plans before launching into the venture. There are few medium/large scale cassava processors in the Niger Delta with capacities to absorb cassava roots. Efforts should be made to encourage investment in this area. Also, persistent poor packaging and branding hampers export potentials of cassava products.
 - Another problem encountered in cassava processing is with limited availability of efficient and reliable equipment, which could be addressed through proper consultation on purchase and leasing of locally fabricated or internationally sourced machinery;
In cassava farming, access to land is still rated as a major challenge. However, this could be tackled through options of periodic land rental/lease by famers as against outright ownership;
- Many improved varieties of cassava have been developed by IITA and other Research Institutes. Efforts should be made to make these varieties available to farmers.
- Liberalization of extension service is key to the success and sustainability of the agricultural sector as total reliance on government cannot be sustained. Extension services should be encouraged and as an opportunity in the cultivation and production chain.

Panel session: Investment Opportunities in the Cocoa Value Chain

Lead presenter: Dr Peter Aikpokpodion Senior Special Assistant on Cocoa to the Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Abuja

Moderator: Mr. Robo Adhuze, CEO Center for Cocoa Development Initiative, Akure

Panellist: Mr. Daniel Okey, CRACCU, Ikom, Cross River State
Mr. Benjamin Eze, Harvest Field Nigeria Limited
Dr. Farouk Kurawa, Agric. Finance Director, USAID-MARKETS II Project, Abuja

Highlights from lead presentation

The lead paper presented the background, context and data on the current production status, prospects and potential of cocoa as a cash crop in the Niger Delta. Dr. Aikpokpodion’s presentation explained why the Niger Delta, though having great potential for growing cocoa as export crop, lacked regional competitiveness. Dr Aikpokpodion stated although Nigeria is the 4th largest producer of cocoa in the world, after Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana and Indonesia, producing 250,000 - 300,000 metric tons annually, making cocoa the largest non-oil foreign exchange earning commodity in 2013, the country was tapping less than 3% of its possible potential.

Photo 2: Cross section of participants at the Cocoa VC Panel session



This is because of a possible 3,000,000 hectares of suitable land, only 650 hectares is currently under cultivation (less than 25%). The gap between Nigeria and the other West African countries that depend heavily on cocoa export was huge. For example, Cote d’Ivoire produced 1.7 million metric tons while Ghana produced 1.2 million metric tons. He disclosed that Nigeria had only 300,000 smallholder and individual farmers cultivating on an average of 2.5

hectares of arable land each with yields of about 450 kg/hectare in about 22 States mostly in the southwest states and the Niger Delta. 97% of cocoa in Nigeria is produced in seven of the 22 producing States including Ondo, Cross River, Osun, Ogun, Edo, Ekiti and Oyo States.

The International Cocoa Organization forecasts cocoa to grow in both production and grindings with higher earnings. The reason the demand for cocoa would continue to grow is the health benefits the crop has. Cocoa is the largest source of antioxidants in the world. Antioxidants take care of free radicals, which are deleterious to the body physiology, and helps exclude them from the metabolic process.

Apart from the low production volume, the other significant challenge was that Nigeria only takes its cocoa from “farm gate to factory gate”. Yet the greater profit is to be in value addition and retail end. Countries, which were once big exporters, are now net importers such as Brazil

and Malaysia. The highest return to the dollar was in the retail aspect (with up to 42% margin or 42 cents to the US\$1) in which Nigeria does not participate.

According to Dr. Aikpokpodion, areas of investment opportunities in cocoa value chain include large scale commercial plantations, crop diversification, value addition, vertically integrated cocoa value chain (regarded as the best opportunity). These investments can leverage on existing high manpower pool due to high youth population and government policy that support private sector investment.

Key issues discussed by panel members

- Eight new varieties of cocoa (CRIN TC 1 – 8), which yields in quicker time (with maturity period of 2-3 years), have been developed in Nigeria and introduced to the farmers. .
- Cocoa remains the single largest foreign exchange earners for Ghana and Cote D’voire.
- China has now taken over Europe in the consumption ratio of cocoa hence the market is there in China for cocoa export.
- Cocoa is the largest antioxidant in the health system, which fights free radicals in the human body.
- Nigeria has about 3 million hectare of land suitable for cocoa cultivation in 22 states in five of the six geo-political zones of the country
- There are considerable benefits as cocoa farmers move up the value chain. The farmers obtain 3% of 100 cents, moving up the value chain gives higher values of 20% for manufacturers and 43% for retail/supermarkets.
- Investment opportunities abound in large-scale commercial plantation.
- Crop diversification (cocoa-based agro system for food crops and other fruit trees) will help promote higher income and youth participation.
- Challenges include the fact that there is no cocoa processing factory in the Niger Delta for cocoa beans processing.
- Vertical integrated cocoa value chain business is more preferable.
- The state should support the private sector led investment in cocoa production.
- Cocoa has to be of good quality and volume to make good returns.

Recommendations on Cocoa value chain:

- Nigeria has 3 million hectare of land available for cocoa cultivation, but at the moment it is grossly underutilized while contributing only 4-5% of total global output. Cocoa has the potential to generate as much income as oil palm in the Niger Delta. Four states -- Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Delta, Edo -- have 1.647 million hectares of land suitable for Cocoa, however, the four combined have only achieved a total of 35.04% capacity utilization and contributes 33.3% to the national output. Efforts should be made to increase cocoa production in these states.
- The return on investment on cocoa value chain is 42% for every dollar spent in retail. Nigeria is only getting 3% because we only focus on cultivation with little value addition, which include processing cocoa into secondary products (cocoa butter, liquor and cake), whereas the main gain comes from tertiary products like chocolate and other confectionary. Therefore, more attention should be given to value addition. Investment

in Cocoa for maximum profit margins must go beyond primary production to include processing and value addition;

- Financing from government programs to support cocoa farmers is dwindling whereas there are many other sources of prospective financing for small holder farmers for cocoa cropping, which should be explored;
- There are many investment opportunities in the cocoa value chain; most preferred is the vertically integrated cocoa value chain business. Other opportunities include agro inputs such as chemicals and pesticides, breeding of high yield varieties and capacity building for entrepreneurs to produce high value products. The private sector should be supported to take advantage of these opportunities;
- Training for farmer groups help improve every aspect of crop management, production and yield outputs. The current efforts of Donor Agencies program in this area is encouraging and should continue;
- There are new cocoa varieties that begin to yield just after two years as against the current 5-7 years. However, the commercial yields kicks in about 4 – 5 years with outputs of between 2-3 tonnes/hectare up to 5-6 tones/hectare in 5-6 years. Efforts should be made to make these new varieties available to farmers.

Panel session: Investment Opportunities in the Poultry Value Chain

Lead Presenter: Mr. Akpolu Ebitari Sylvanus, Senior Manager, Okunwan Nigeria Limited. Yenagoa.

Moderator: Mr. Zigha Ayibakuro, MD/CEO ZAL, Yenagoa

Panelists Mr. Ebie Sylvanus John, MD Akpowaiwai Agro Resources, Yenagoa
Mr. Austin Dalyop, GM Sales and Marketing, Premier Feed Mills Ltd., Calabar
Mrs. Ebi Austin, Ogionwo, MD Crystabel MFB Yenagoa
David Ogonodi, Director of Industry, Ministry of Trade and Investment
Bayelsa State, Yenagoa

Highlights from lead presentation

Speaking particularly on the investment opportunities in poultry for the Niger Delta region, Mr. Akpolu Ebitari Sylvanus listed seven (7) major umbrella areas for the creation of value chain commodities as follows:

1. Broilers – effective meat producers

- In 2011, chicken meat market volume in the Niger Delta alone was well over 43,000 metric tons (PIND, 2012).
- Market value was estimated at about N32 billion (about \$200 million).
- Over 75% of this supply came from the South West while another 5% were illegally imported (smuggled) frozen chicken.

2. Layers – efficient eggs producers

- Market in excess of 58,000 metric tons of eggs annually in the Niger Delta alone (PIND, 2012).
- Demand is in excess of 38 million crates annually.
- Market value estimated at over N27.2b (about \$ 170.2m).

3. Commercial Hatchery Business

- Over 200 million Day Old Chicks (DOCs) are demanded annually nationwide; over 40 million in the Niger Delta.
- The monetary value of this trade in the Niger Delta is put in excess of N6.4 billion (about \$40 million) annually.
- About 85% of this demand is met by few large hatcheries in the South West.
- An estimated 75% of DOCs pass to farmers in the Niger Delta through distributors. Thus the farmers in the Niger Delta pay higher for day old chicks.

4. Commercial Feed Production

- All livestock depend and survive on feeds.
- Over 70% of the cost of production of poultry and many other livestock is feed cost.
- As recently as 2000, demand for commercial feed was well over 4 million metric tons, and has been growing steadily annually.
- About 40% of farmers in the Niger Delta depend on their own feed, 60% depend on commercial feed.
- Most feed ingredients are readily available in the entire Niger Delta throughout the year and also relatively cheap.
- At least 2 out of the 10 large branded feed companies are in the Niger Delta (with others having depots and major distributors in the region).

5. Animal Health and Welfare (laboratories, vet. drugs, clinics etc)

- Provides employment for community health workers, sanitary inspectors, animal welfare officers etc.
- Products distribution outlets: Requires no special equipment and complex skills (except for professional veterinary practices).
- Harnessing this item on the value chain can provide employment for youths and women.

6. Equipment Production

- Provide business for engineers, iron mills, technicians, welders, fabricators, plastic companies, carpenters, wood mills, transporters etc.
- Products are in demand all-year round.
- Provide employments and enhance skills development and craftsmanship.
- Highly profitable and grow the local economy.

7. Processing, Storage, Packaging and Marketing – Multi-disciplinary employment for workers in the various:

- Processing plants
- Branding and Packaging plants
- Cold rooms
- Warehouses
- Distribution stores (distributors)
- Marketers
- Others like Plant operators, Security personnel, transporters

Challenges to maximizing opportunities in the Poultry Value Chain

- High cost of inputs e.g. feed, DOCs, drugs etc
- Lack of quality day old chicks
- High cost of equipment
- Lack of capital
- Lack of laboratories, vaccine failures, inadequate veterinary personnel and service providers etc
- Low level of awareness, due to poor extension services
- Inadequate institutional services and support
- Cost of licenses, permits, insurance and certification
- Activities of smugglers, middle men etc

Recommendations on poultry value chain:

Mr. Sylvanus concluded his presentation by emphasizing that in order to achieve phenomenal value chain investment opportunities in poultry, there is a huge need to build up high-level synergy and collaborations between key players, stakeholders, developmental partners and actors in the poultry industry which include the following:

- Government (Federal, States and local governments)
- Niger Delta focused MDA and institutions e.g. NDDC, Ministry of the Niger Delta etc.
- The oil and gas companies, oil industry service companies
- Organized private sector
- Financial institutions
- Input and equipment companies
- Agro-allied companies
- Multi nationals
- Research institutions
- Non Governmental Organizations.
- The farmers

Issues discussed in the panel session:

- As a livestock based farming, poultry farming requires more of the presence of the managers and operators as against mere influx of investable funds because finance alone will only start the business but will not sustain it.

- It is recommended for interested poultry farmers to start small so that they can easily assess progress before scaling up. Astute attendance to details and working based on tested and proven methods and processes are key requirements.
- For poultry farmers to effectively grow their business and sustain the growth, they need to start looking at outsourcing some of the things they do to expert professionals and/or companies while they develop and focus on their own competitive advantage. The cost expended in the outsourcing and contracting will be recouped in improved performance, overall output of the farm and income generated.
- In order to take advantage of value chain opportunities to generate businesses, employment and investments in the poultry farming, focus and specialization in specific value chain function is crucial as against the traditional generalist approach.
- While small scale poultry farmers are encouraged to build capacity and acquire knowledge of the entire poultry farm management, records have shown that self-help efforts in producing farm feeds is usually not effective as most farmers do not have the technical and scientific know-how of feeds productions.
- Government has been deploying several infrastructural and institutional efforts in partnership with investors, donors and private organizations. Small-scale poultry farmers, especially in cooperatives, should work towards accessing the loads of information and support available at various government MDA.
- Research institutes are required to support the farmers, investors and other stakeholders by providing research evidence that can improve performance and improvement of poultry farming in the Niger Delta.
- Access to finance is very crucial and remains a top request from farmers. However, financial institutions, including microfinance banks, are faced with the challenge of dishonest and incompetent customers. Farmers are encouraged to conduct credible feasibility studies and develop bankable business plans before they can be supported. Farmers need to also evolve as serious minded business people by conducting the requisite business registration or organize and registered in cooperatives.

Government in partnership with several financial institutions have provided funding targeted at women SMEs and entrepreneurs which are largely only attempted by men. Women need to build their capacity in the area of business management and entrepreneurship and meet the requisite criteria in order to access the funds.

Panel session: Investment Opportunities in Rice Value Chain
Lead Presenter: Professor Geraldine Ugwuonah, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus
Moderator: Mr. Emeka Ile, Director Business Development, USAID MARKETS II Project

Panel Members Fleance Modi, Bansara, Ogoja LGA, Cross River State
Dr. Godwin Abu, Director, MIKAP Nigeria Ltd. Producers of MIVA Rice
Alhaji Lawal Rausu, National President, Input/Agro dealers
Dr. Bulus J. Autah, Bank of Agriculture, Kaduna.
Pius O. Asikhia, Program Manager, Edo State ADP, Benin City

Highlights from lead presentation

Professor Geraldine Ugwuonah highlighted the constraints in the rice value chain which include low yield in rice production and poor quality of rice grains from the processing plants. In addition, there are production constraints, lack of knowledge of improved packaging practices, lack of technical assistance e.g. extension services, unavailability of easy to use and handy farming equipment, and rudimentary production methods that are labor intensive.

At the processing end, old low capacity mills, poor harvesting and post-harvest processes, inefficient milling techniques, poor marketing systems and standards in term of packaging, grading, sorting and polishing. The other constraints are inconsistent government policies on rice production and challenges with importation of machinery. Dr. Ugwuonah also listed the environmental constraints faced in rice production including some that had already been mentioned during the state-led infrastructure support for agriculture panel session.

Professor Geraldine Ugwuonah emphasized that there have been Interventions by donor and government agencies with special reference to USAID Market I and Market II Projects and these intervention programs have succeeded in removing some of the constraints associated with production. Nigeria is now producing 4 metric tons per hectare which is an improvement over 1.5 metric tons. Farmers are now aware, cultivate, and process high yield varieties and forming groups to take productive actions.

Key issues discussed in the panel session:

- Niger Delta is not on the map as a rice producing region although states within the region have comparative advantage in rice production. There was a consensus that this has to change if the region must be agriculturally competitive.
- Rice is very profitable and can be grown all year round.
- There are clear constraints all along the rice value chain. These should serve as opportunities for investment especially since there is a serious demand for rice in Nigeria, and financing is available for every point along the value chain.
- Seed remains a serious challenge for rice farmers. Supporting seed out grower schemes is the best way to address this challenge. It also provides opportunities for investors to become seed producers and marketers.
- Simple and adaptive technology is vital to increasing yield and profit in rice production and attracting youth since planting can be tedious work.

- Synergy among all the actors in rice production is needed; Forums like the NDDF are useful but it needs to go further by having participants working closely together to achieve optimum rice production.
- There is no developed marketing system for grain and seeds.
- There is a huge investment window at any function along the value chain; there are plenty of investment opportunities. There is need for investment in irrigation, fertilizers and direct processing
- The problem has become rice paddy supply; mills are able to absorb everything that is produced in each State and it is not enough. Opportunities abound in paddy production and processing.
- The demand for rice is at 5 million metric tons, production is currently 3 million metrics tons. A gap of 600,000 still needs to be filled.

Recommendations on rice value chain:

- Niger Delta has good arable land that supports rice cultivation, swampy and near natural sources of water. It is therefore possible to have more than one cycle of rice production in the year. One farmer in the audience attested to doing this and has had success especially in terms of irrigation.
- Seed production: a researcher /firm working in Ebonyi State has succeeded in producing seeds and they have out-growers working with them. This is replicable in other states of the region
- Create out-growers schemes and support the farmers with good quality seeds, finance, training so they can produce. Farmers are looking for high quality seeds. There is a big gap between where it is produced and where it is needed.
- Everyone along the value chain should start thinking of specialization and value addition rather than becoming a 'jack of all trades'.
- Input dealers are located in towns not villages. Making sure the inputs are close to the farmers remains a challenge. There is therefore a need to build an efficient input distribution system that covers the villagers and communities where the farmers are located. The inputs supply market is not saturated, and so represents a huge opportunity for investment. Promotional activities are needed for inputs.
- In terms of farm equipment, there are simple and easy to use machines, for example UDP applicator technology. There are also opportunities to import or fabricate this machine locally.
- There are financing packages at all levels and the Bank of Agriculture is willing to finance all aspects of the rice value chain.
- Cross River State has huge potential in rice production, if done properly, they can feed the region. There are serious challenges and much need to be done to address the challenges. There is a lot of land including wetlands and they remain untouched.
- National Center for Agricultural Mechanization should certify all the equipment imported into the country and they have technology that farmers need. The information on available equipment and technologies needs to be better disseminated
- Governments at all levels need to create an environment that is welcoming to investors.



4th NDDF Day 1 Photos

Panel session:	Investment Opportunities in Palm Oil Value Chain
Lead Presenter:	Dr Ikuenobe, NIFOR, Benin City
Moderator:	James Elekwachi, Market Development Projects Manager, PIND Foundation
Panel Members	Igwe Hilary Uche, President Oil Palm Growers Association of Nigeria (OPGAN) Mr. D.O Nwachukwu, Chairman, Umuagwo Palm oil association, Imo State Dr Ikuenobe, NIFOR Hon. Remy Chukwunyere, Director General, Imo State Directorate of Employment, Owerri, Imo state

Highlights from lead presentation:

Dr. Ikuenobe asserted that there is an obsession for crude oil, which is driving conflict in Nigeria and has caused palm oil to become neglected, whereas palm oil could become another source of income for the country. There are opportunities for men, women and youth across the value chain as everybody can participate.

On financial income from palm oil, Dr. Ikuenobe stated that, planting improved palm oil seedlings on one hectare of land can yield an average of 4 tons of fresh fruits a year. A 15% rate of extraction can produce 160 litres of oil per ton of fresh fruit bunches and it can potentially earn an individual between N100, 000 – N200, 000 per hectare. If you extracted at higher rates then you can earn between N600, 000 – N1million per hectare. This is exclusive of the kernels. This is the level at which most farmers stop. Yet there are other prospects along the palm oil value chain from the cultivation and oil extraction to fractionation and up to high industrial level use.

The palm oil industry in the old eastern region by 1963, provided employment for up to 3.7 million people. Currently about 5 million people are engaged in the palm oil across the industry in Nigeria from cultivation to processing. The industry has a high capacity to create employment and create wealth from planting materials to milling and marketing, and does not require high skills levels to participate.

In Cross River state, sourcing and marketing palm kernel is dominated by the youths. Dr Ikuenobe said that palm oil industry was worth N250 billion today in Nigeria and globally more than US\$50 billion, however, the problem with the industry was still unsophisticated in Nigeria with the dominance of small, inefficient levels of production. He reiterated that the Niger Delta offers the best place for palm oil cultivation, which means that virtually all the large plantations of palm oil in Nigeria are situated in the Niger Delta as well as 84% of the small holders. Thus, the industry can be harnessed to create further employment and engagement for the teeming population.

He cited the example of wealth created from palm oil by the Okomu Oil Palm Plantation based on their 2012 annual report. He explained that Okomu Oil Palm Plantation recorded a turnover of about N6.4 billion from palm oil alone with costs and salaries to employees of about N2.5

billion while the company earned N3.9 billion with N500 million going to the Federal Government, leaving Okomu Oil Palm Plantation a net profit of N3.4 billion. He said there was revenue through taxes to the state government as well as direct employment to 3,000 people and the individual investing public earned N7 per share.

There is a high demand for palm oil in Nigeria but there is equally a high supply gap. With a population growth rate of about 3% annually and demand growth rate of 5% annually, the industry growth rate is just about 1% annually. With the global average of palm oil consumption of 17kg per person, Nigeria requires about 3 million tonnes of palm oil annually but the present level of production is just about 1.3 million tonnes per annum. This means there is a huge supply gap, which is met mostly through smuggling and importation while there was also growing demands for noodles and frying oils.

According to Dr Ikuenobe, the key challenges of the industry include:

- Land tenure
- Low productivity particularly amongst the small holders
- Highly capital intensive
- Poor quality of palm oil produced
- Inconsistent policies on tariffs for CPOs and;
- Imported refined oils.

There are opportunities to grow the industry which include:

- Need for a lot of re-planting
- Invest in downstream processing
- The traditional system of processing needs to be improved on in order to generate high quality oil for industrial markets which they are presently excluded from.

These opportunities will anchor on a very vibrant system of small holder groups and the large estates to attain all year round production; bring vast groups to improved planting; enhance the quality of oils produced by the small holders; improve the area under cultivation; and diversify the value chain.

Key issues raised at the panel session:

- Palm oil cultivation and processing is generally cumbersome and capital intensive.
- Small holder farmers domination of the industry is responsible for most of the challenges of the industry, including inability to re-plant old trees and poor management of cultivation and production process, continuing use of traditional system of processing which yields low quality oils, and inability to afford the improved variety of palm oil seeds.
- Small holder farmers domination also means that they are unable to compete due to the capital intensive nature of the industry.
- Traditional farming systems and practices has not enabled the farmers achieve the goal of year round cultivation of palm oil.
- The improved variety of seed is very expensive for the individual farmer to purchase.

- NIFOR, for example, produces 10 million seeds of improved variety of the palm oil plant with which farmers can get up to 25% rates of extraction as well as fabricate simple technology machines, which can achieve between 15 – 18% extraction rates.
- Government support to the palm oil industry has been mostly through the ADPs and other programs. However, this has been grossly inadequate and does not reach a large majority of the farmers.
- There is a growing tendency to form new cooperatives and the use of low appropriate technology. Organizations such as PIND have contributed to this change.
- Government funding and support is neither not widely available nor easily accessible. A couple of state governments are trying to address this through microfinance banks but the results are yet to be assessed.
- Extension services remain a key requirement for maximization of the potential of palm oil industry.
- The work done by PIND has fostered the growth of cooperatives among oil palm farmers in the Niger Delta States and these groupings are also affording their members access to steps of improving harvesting and processing with simple technologies.

Recommendations from this session:

- Palm oil value chain has not been diversified and optimized in the Niger Delta. There remains huge untapped potential, which PIND's activities have highlighted as well as areas of quick interventions, which can help scale up results rapidly. All these should be advertised and other contributors invited to make further inputs.
- NIFOR must take steps to reverse the situation where there is less than 50% uptake of its 10 million seed annual production by farmers.
- NIFOR should also take steps to make its research outcomes and technologies more widely available through new cooperatives, which are forming under the drive to consolidate advantage and economies of scale by the facilitated pooling of resources. In the meantime, NIFOR should educate farmers and other stakeholders about their experimental outstations and the purpose for which they serve.
- Government involvement is needed to regulate the agriculture financing market in order to avoid excessive rates on loans.
- Information and education is key to gaining and retaining the interest of youth in the area of palm oil industry.

3. Government Policy and programs at state level

Panel session: Agricultural Land Development and Mechanization

Moderator: William Grant, Global Practice Leader, DAI Europe, London, UK

Panel: Hon. Remy Chukwunyere, Director General, Imo State Directorate for Employment.

Dr. (Mrs.) Martina Ubi, Director of Agricultural Services, Min of Agric Cross Rivers
Permanent Secretary, Min of Agric, Abia state

This session examined the various land programs available in three states: Abia, Cross River and Imo. The status of privatizations, availability and access to land for youth and small enterprises, investments and agricultural programs to promote mechanization services across the Niger Delta were also discussed.

Key Issues Discussed

Cross River State

There are three types of land ownership in Cross River state; communal land ownership, land tenure system, and agricultural land owned by government. The type of ownership that is most prevalent is communal land ownership and farmers find it difficult to access this type of land. Access to land for large and small farmers/government programs in Cross River State can be obtained for agricultural purposes from the government.

At the local government level, there are lands acquired by the government and these are not being used. Both small and large Investors can obtain land from the state government. Investors who come in to the state looking for land for agricultural purposes are directed to the desired sites and negotiation can either be done from the community or the government. In the case of government land Certificate of Occupancy (COO) is usually issued.

Imo State

Agro-Services Centers oversee farms of not less than 3-5 hectares (in some places the size of the land can be as much as 20 hectares) of land set aside for agricultural purposes managed by the Imo State Agricultural Development Program. When the Imo State Directorate for Employment, for example, trains young agro-entrepreneurs they are allocated part of the land on lease for them to farm on. This is a strategy the Imo State government is using to reduce the difficulty in acquiring land for agriculture.

Imo State, not being a riverine area, has a lot of arable land and thus is a good place for agricultural investments and for development of agri-businesses. When any entrepreneur wishes to do big business, there is a lot of land available. To this end, the Imo State Directorate for Employment has over 20 hectares of land for agricultural purposes and it also partners with Imo State Polytechnic, with ready access to land. Imo State is also in the process of replicating Songhai Farms, to focus on training youth for agricultural entrepreneurship.

Abia State

In terms of the government policy on agricultural land development / access to land, a number of programs are designed to encourage agribusinesses particularly for the youth. One example is the Abia Liberation Farm (ALF) program, which is aimed at developing a minimum of 10,000 hectares of land with associated training centers. Designed to be in all local government areas within the state, the government has already commenced with four Abia Liberation Farms in four Local Government Areas (LGAs). In these farms the government acquired land and is using the associated training centers to train youth and to develop cassava plantations. In the pilot 4 LGAs, 200 people have already been trained.

Privatization projects

Information flow about privatization of land is very fragmented. The three panelists presented more information on the status of privatizations in their states.

Cross River

The state government has set up an agency called Cross River Agriculture & Rural Empowerment Scheme (CRARES) which negotiates with private investors. The agency already has 2,000 farmers registered with them under the out-growers scheme. In one example, the agency is already negotiating with Wilmar, which is into rice and oil palm production, to see how the out-growers can be involved. At the end the agreement government provide land, Wilmar provides the out-growers inputs and farm management practices and the farmers provide the labor. Wilmar is interested in the out growers using their own varieties.

Cross River has government owned oil palm estates that are being privatized to companies who buy into them for agricultural purposes. In addition, government is making land available to local communities near the large estates for smallholder farmers to use as out growers to the estates.

The big issue surrounding access to land is for the youth and the women, since traditionally women have no access to land. In order to resolve this challenge, Cross River state government, in collaboration with the federal government, has acquired 5,000 hectares of land in Obubra LGA, to be developed by the Federal government, for allocation to 2,000 women and youths who have been registered to take part in a cassava cultivation development program.

Cross River has other land which have been given to other private farmers who produce other crops. There are companies such as Alluvia, which on entry required 2,000 hectares of land for rice production. Another company coming into the state requires 5,000 hectares on a contiguous land at Bansara in Ogoja. This project targets youths involved in agriculture.

The government has transparent selection criteria for investors (whether Nigerian or foreign) in government sponsored privatization programs.

Imo State.

The present administration has brought in an investor to take over Adapalm, now called Imo Palm Plantation, in order to revive its ailing fortunes. The Plantation at the time was no longer processing oil palm rather they were cutting bunches and selling them off. However, the

investor upon arrival refurbished the mill and resumed palm processing. The same process has been replicated with the Avutu poultry farm which was once moribund.

Abia.

The state government has several oil palm plantations out of which the Ohambele Oil Palm was privatized. However this process has witnessed the change of several investors due to the existing liabilities in the company. There is also Ulonna North & South Oil Mill, which the state government has entered into agreement with Green Energy to manage. Honeywell has shown interest in investing in the company.

Initiatives in Mechanization

Access to appropriate mechanization for land preparation, harvesting, processing, remains a problem for most small farmers. The government has many programs for access to tractors, but they are not reaching large numbers of farmers. Mechanization systems are available for small farmers and for large aggregated land, which is already cleared.

In **Imo State** the ADPs have tractors for farmers to use. While there are many tractors available, farmers do not have information that these resources are there, or know how to access them. PIND has introduced mechanical motorized harvesters to the palm oil producers as well as more efficient palm oil processing equipment, which was developed by Nigeria Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR).

In **Abia State**, the government has partnered with a company from Italy to introduce mechanical cassava harvesters (tractor-operated and battery-powered) for both small and large farmers. Additionally, there is a plan at an advanced stage of the partnership to procure 18 tractors to sell at subsidized rates to farmers.

Recommendations from this session:

- Stakeholders must engage state governments over their policies and plans to improve access to arable land for farmers, women and youths for agriculture as inability to acquire land impedes agribusiness.
- Although Cross River has 1.8 million hectares of arable land, government should rather lease land to foreign investors than outright sales as this represents better value for the government and the people of the state in the long term -- land values tend to appreciate overtime and prices can increase with renewal of lease.
- Low availability of mechanization services to small holder farmers must be tackled by introducing commercially driven supply to make land development feasible and the Niger Delta more productive and competitive.
- All the states of the Niger Delta should make the criteria for qualification clear and unambiguous to prospective investors.
- A clear strategy to involve youth in the current inflow of investors in Cross River State should be pursued so that opportunities for them to become empowered and gainfully employed in the agriculture sector are not lost.

Panel Session: **State-Led Infrastructural Support to Agricultural Production and Processing**

Lead presenter: Prof. Johnson Ekpere, International Development Consultant

Moderator: Dr. Dara Akala, Programs Director, PIND Foundation, Abuja

Panelists: Professor Johnson Ekpere – International Development Consultant
Dr. Tony Bello – Senior. Technical Adviser, Agribusiness, Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development, Abuja
Dr. (Mrs.) Martina Ubi – Director Agric Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Calabar
Dr. Alfred Mulade – Special Assistant to the Executive Director Projects, NDDC, Port Harcourt

Highlight from lead presentation

Professor Johnson Ekpere started by defining agricultural infrastructure as the wide range of public services that create an enabling environment which enhances production, procurement, processing, marketing etc. in the agriculture sector. He added that the agriculture infrastructure broadly includes; research, transportation (roads, waterways etc.), storage, institutions (markets, banks, regulatory agencies etc.), communication information technology, energy and social infrastructure of human resources among others. He went on to classify agricultural infrastructure as follows:

- Import Based: seed and planting material etc., agro-chemicals, farm machinery and equipment etc.
- Resource Based: water and irrigation, land and labor, manpower, farm energy etc.
- Physical Facility: roads and transportation, storage, processing (building and equipment), preservation etc.
- Institutional: agricultural research and extension, financial services (banks, credit etc), markets, information communication technology

He argued that since the provision of infrastructure for agricultural production and processing require huge capital investments, it should therefore be state-led and private sector supported. He concluded that several initiatives, policies and programs have been developed but the primary challenge is with implementation and therefore, the relevant stakeholders must begin to find solutions to implementation.

Issues discussed at this panel session:

The current state of infrastructure in the region

- Though infrastructure means different things to different stakeholders, there's consensus that the following physical infrastructure are critical for unlocking investment opportunities in agriculture: electricity, access roads, farm roads and logistics, among others.
- In a survey administered to 75 agribusinesses, infrastructure was rated as the top most challenge and constraint in growing the agricultural sector in Nigeria, followed by finance and then security of supplies.
- The current type and quality of infrastructure in place for agricultural development in

the region can at best be described as inadequate, if not poor.

What are States are doing to address the infrastructure challenge?

- Some of the States have demonstrated considerable effort in providing an enabling environment for the private sector to operate productively and profitably in the sector.
- State Governments are already going into partnerships with the private sector investors to establish large scale farms, which guarantee access to land, especially the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy. These large estates focusing on specific crops also enable the investors/large farmers to jointly develop the infrastructure.
- Rural electricity, rural roads and feeder roads and market stalls have been developed in some of the States but are still largely inadequate. The development and maintenance of the roads connecting towns and cities within a State is the responsibility of the State government. However, the LGAs have responsibility for rural roads connecting the farmlands to the towns. So, the LGAs also need to be mobilized to be more effective in this regard as this would greatly support the evacuation of farm produce.
- In order to address the infrastructure challenges faced by the private sector, the Federal Government has designed and implemented the Staple Crop Processing Zones (SCPZs). This was a key strategy to attract private sector food processing companies to regions of high crop production to add value to agricultural produce. Master Plans were developed for 6 out of 14 SCPZs. About \$1billion USD have also been secured from the World Bank and African Development Bank to develop needed infrastructure to support the SCPZs. When completed the SCPZs are expected to add \$4 - 9 billion to the GDP and create over 280,000 quality jobs.

Recommendations from this session:

- Fund allocation to States should be scaled up, for them to be able to sufficiently and sustainably meet up with the infrastructural demands and provisions at the state level through a cost-share of 25% by States, 25% by Federal Government and 50% by private sector as stipulated.
- Private sector has been investing reasonably but with much emphasis on capacity as against infrastructure. There needs to be a scale up in infrastructural investments.
- State Governments need to explore opportunities in establishing independent power projects (IPPs) to complement their rural electrification schemes, which have been grossly inadequate especially to provide the requisite energy for agriculture.
- To address some fundamental challenges of infrastructure as well as other components of agricultural development, the Federal and State Governments must prioritize the establishment of adaptive research centers for agriculture in the region.
- There's been appreciable progress in connecting the towns and to some extent rural settlements, with good roads but not to the farm gates. State and Local Governments

need to be mobilized to provide linkages to major roads through a comprehensive feeder road network.

- Farmers and agribusiness operators especially organized in groups and cooperatives need to work towards accessing, aligning with and utilizing the extensive information and several other resources available at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- Federal and State specialized agencies like NDDC must undertake smart investments in the development of economic infrastructure to catalyze agricultural production and processing in the region.



4th NDDF Day 2 Photos

4. Opportunities for Women and Youth in Agriculture

Panel session: Accelerating and Increasing Opportunities for Women in Agribusiness

Lead presenter: Chief Bassey Archibong, Director Household Economy, USAID/MARKETS II Project

Moderator: Ms. Constance Okeke, International Project Manager, Public Finance for Agriculture, ActionAid Nigeria

Panelists: Tammie Kammonke, Executive Director, POWER, Cross River state
Erica Phillips, Director Business Development, African Community Bridge Foundation, Abuja
Mosunmola Cynthia Umoru, CEO Farmshoppe
Mr. Roy Ndoma-Egba, Special Adviser to Cross River State Governor on International Development Cooperation

Highlights from lead presentation

The background paper presentation by Chief Bassey Archibong of USAID/Markets II Project served as the launch pad for a vibrant and participatory conversation on women in agribusiness with important contributions from the panelists. Key issues of concern raised in his presentation identified challenges such as limited access to land, extension services and finance as well as lack of participation in commercial agriculture for improved livelihood and increased investment opportunities due to unfavorable policies. It is not all about challenges, however, there are also opportunities in the processing function of agricultural value chain. Value added activities such as rice milling, parboiling, and fish smoking, product bulking, packaging, small-scale processing, and marketing are areas to enter if land and inputs remain a serious challenge.



Photo 3: Panelists at Accelerating and increasing opportunities for Women in Agribusiness

Opportunities exist for women to engage in agribusiness namely, Micro finance Institutions, prefer women groups (processors, traders), women can be supported to leverage on MFI for non-farm activities (processing, marketing). There is need for continuous and consistent advocacy to policy makers to address constraints which inhibit female farmers' entry into productive value chains.

Ms. Okeke, the moderator, opened the session by sharing with the audience that issues relevant to women have been discussed throughout the day leading up to this panel discussion. In spite of the survey showing only 35% of the attendees were women, they still deserve to assume their rightful place in agriculture. Women make tremendous contribution to business in Nigeria and the Niger Delta, especially in agriculture. Their contributions are typically

underrepresented. 60-90% of women participate in agricultural activities, yet there are still many challenges facing women smallholder farmers and those in related agribusinesses.

Key Focus of panelist organizations:

- Project AWAKE, an initiative of POWER to empower 4,000 women farmers by partnering with 400 cooperatives in Cross Rivers. POWER only partners with cooperatives. Economic empowerment for participating cooperatives is facilitated through the reduction of hunger and poverty and promotion of gender equity. The Project provides enterprise development, training, bank linkages, and extension services in order to increase the number of women owned agribusinesses in Cross River State.
- Cross River State according to Mr. Roy Ndoma-Egba is leveraging on development assistance to support women who are involved in economic activities. They provide support for vulnerable women who are disadvantaged by circumstances beyond their control especially those living with or are affected by HIV/AIDS and internally displaced people. The State provides economic empowerment services to those who are extremely poor through income generating activities. Empowering women in agriculture is a key focus and there have been pilot projects in 3 LGAs where women cooperatives have been supported to be involved in agriculture. The pilot project now has expanded to 6 LGAs.
- African Community Bridge Foundation (ACBF) collaborates with the Central Bank of Nigeria and State Governments in the North Central Zone of Nigeria to manage CBN Entrepreneurial Development Centers (EDC). Every quarter, 3,000 to 4,000 individuals benefit from programs at the centers and 60-70% are young women. A very important point is that investment goes where the profit is. Investors will be attracted to women and youth running profitable businesses. ACBF intends to build synergy with the EDC located in Calabar to better serve youth in the Niger Delta.
- Women and youth can participate meaningfully in the agriculture sector, the CEO of Farmshoppe stated. Ms. Mosunmola Cynthia Umoru started her business 10 years ago and shared that robust participation is possible if they strategically position themselves across the value chain to demonstrate financial management competency.

The panel discussion centered on two critical questions and attempts were made to respond to the questions as presented below:

1. What needs to be in place so that opportunities for investment for women are not missed?

Responses:

- a. Interventions must identify structures that tends to increase the burdens of women in their communities and dismantle those structures. Paying attention to the traditional values and norms that exist within the communities so that they don't become obstacles. For example, in some communities, women need permission from men to participate in certain (economic) projects.

- b. In order to access finance, women should form cooperatives to build the social collateral needed to get funds. Traditional lending institutions are more comfortable lending to cooperatives.
 - c. It is also important for women to think of different ways to make money instead of clustering around certain types of businesses. Women are capable of setting up and running businesses that are not traditionally female oriented.
 - d. Emphasis on no-cost and low-cost technologies first – integrated pest management, integrated soil fertility management, and improved seeds, are some examples.
 - e. Deliberate increase in number of women participating in agribusiness training. Make training more accessible to women taking into account the following constraints - time, location and conditions for attendance.
 - f. Ensure equity in agricultural campaign support and recruit more female extension agents, for increased information dissemination and facilitation of knowledge sharing.
2. What is the policy framework developed by State Governments to enable easy access to finance for women, especially small holder farmers?

Reponses:

- a. Some State Governments have developed partnership with the Bank of Agriculture that is open to women and youth and the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) to drive the program. They also have a partnership with the Central Bank of Nigeria.
- b. State Governments in some areas of the Niger Delta also encourage women who are engaged in traditional occupations, e.g. hair dressing, to shift to agriculture.
- c. Cross River State also works with organizations like POWER on women economic empowerment projects.
- Stakeholders, big companies, and Banks should look at value chain in the region's economy and figure out how women farmers and producers can add value in tandem with the opportunities available through the Agricultural Transformation Agenda e.g. Cassava and Rice, agro related processing and marketing.

Other contributions made by the panelist were as follows:

- A conscious effort must be made to support women who can't access the web and use technology. Without technology, the agricultural sector in the Niger Delta will remain backwards. Under FADAMA, there is a farmer information

centre in Calabar where farmers can call-in for information, a good example of a low-technology initiative that is working.

- Developing products that meet global standards and can compete globally should be a goal. Agribusinesses in the Niger Delta needs to grow beyond the local.
- Monitoring the implementation of established agricultural policy is needed in order to coordinate all agriculture development efforts at every level of Government. In some states there is need to revise agricultural policy to meet current realities. Cross Rivers is planning a sector wide approach in partnership with IFAD. There are 2 key social safety net programs: conditional cash transfer and helping those in extreme poverty build businesses.
- The Federal Ministry is doing what it can to help restore cocoa production. A new hybrid that matures faster has been developed and there are farmer business field schools to ensure that Nigeria remains competitive. Women should be supported to engage in nursery development and other aspects of Cocoa development where they do not have access to land for Cocoa farming.

Panel Session: **Opportunities for Promoting Agro-entrepreneurship for the Youth in the Niger Delta**

Moderator: Emeka Ile, Director Business Development, USAID MARKETS II Project

Panel Members: Hon. Remy Chukwunyere, Director General, Imo state Directorate of Employment, Owerri, Imo state
Ferdinand Dappa, Team Leader, YOULEAD, CUSO International, Calabar , Cross River state
Mosunmola Cynthia Umoru, CEO Farmshoppe, Lagos.
Nosa Confidence, President Edo State Cooperative Farmers Agency
Enwongo-Abasi Okon, Manager, Capacity Building and Enterprise Development Micro finance and Enterprise Development Agency, Calabar

Chief Bassey Archibong who presented the background paper on opportunities for women and youth in agriculture reiterated the following:

- The notion that youth do not want to go into agriculture based on the perspective that youths do not like farming might be wrong. Rather we have to tackle the challenges, which debar youth from being able to engage in agribusiness and production with programs and policies, which help them, overcome major challenges in a consistent and continuous manner.
- There are major challenges which debar young people from engaging in agriculture and agribusiness: no access to finance, as banks are not keen on agricultural lending especially to the youths; access to land for large scale primary production; and lack of opportunity for career moves in the agriculture extension/public sector.

- The youths must not leave these issues to other actors including government; they must “bring something to the table.”

Key Issues Discussed in the Panel session

- There is need to promote agro-entrepreneurship for young people since there are several opportunities within primary production and the agri-business areas. There is a role for government, the private sector and other players in making this happen.
- There are several value chains in which young agro-entrepreneurs can profitably participate in, including agro-forestry, aquaculture, cocoa, food processing, etc.
- A youth who wishes to become an agro-entrepreneur can participate in any or all of the segments of the agriculture value chain. Apart from primary production or farming,

Photo 4: A Youth participant asking questions at the panel session on opportunities for Youth in Agriculture



in processing, packaging, logistics, distribution. The panel

emphasized the need for youth to always explore the effective use of technology towards understanding and exploiting market opportunities that exist.

- It was observed that the majority of the present crop of farmers are aging and have concentrated mostly on tedious farming with low mechanization. The youths must position themselves and be prepared to replace them. To do this, youths

must begin to see the business in agriculture.

- Cross River State is establishing entrepreneurial clubs in various LGAs in the state to promote, amongst other things, agro-entrepreneurship. Youths need to take advantage of such schemes.
- Young people are excited about network marketing which is trending now. This strategy may become applied to local agricultural products and the agri-business.

Recommendations from this session:

- Young people should position themselves to take advantage of the enormous opportunities in the agriculture value chain.

- Young agro-entrepreneurs should not aim to do everything by themselves; they should explore the option of becoming part of a larger group and/or outsource some aspects of their work to empower others.
- Young people can be incentivized through training and skills building so they understand and take advantage of opportunities in agriculture. The main drivers should be training, skills building, access to finance, government support and quick turn over.
- Youths must seek out opportunities for learning and gaining skills/opportunities from various sources such as the internet and from model farms like the 56 hectare farm set-up in Odukpani LGA in Cross Rivers state which specializes in training/set-up of youths in agriculture.
- Create a mechanism or platform for successful young entrepreneurs in agro business sector to share experiences, demonstrate what is possible, mentor and inspire other interested youth.

5. Impacts of conflicts and insecurity on investments in Agriculture

Panel session: The Current State of Agricultural Investment in the Niger Delta and its Effect on Conflict Dynamics in the Niger Delta.

Lead Presenter: Dr Achimota Dickson, Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa state

Moderator: Nkasi Wodu, Peace Building Program Office, PIND

Panelist: Dr Achimota Dickson, Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa state

Dr. Adaba Ibim, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State

Mr. Theophilus Agada, Economic Development and Market Development Advisor, Mercy Corp, Abuja

Dr. Ephraim Okon, BRACED Commission, Port Harcourt

Highlight from lead presentation

The Lead Presenter, Dr Achimota Dickson asserted that investments in agriculture should normally generate the greatest amount of employment. This implied that any economy without a developed agriculture sector could not be called developed and sustainable. With respect to the Niger Delta region, Dr. Dickson gave an overview of the agricultural investments, which the various state governments in the Niger Delta were supposed to have made. He said on paper that various state governments have very robust claims of investments in agriculture whereas in reality what we see is a different picture.

In terms of Niger Delta state governments, agricultural investments and the conflict nexus, the Dr. Dickson said so much importance is attached to crude oil

production to the detriment of investment in agriculture. He buttressed this point by highlighting the statistical contribution of crude oil and agriculture to GDP. The sectorial contribution of Crude oil rose steadily from an infinitesimal 0.3% (1960), 7.1% (1970), 22.0% (1980), 12.8% (1990), 47.5% (2000) to 40.6% (2002) while that of Agriculture nosedived from an appreciable 64.1% (1960), 47.6% (1970), 30.8% (1980), 39.0% (1990), 35.7% (2000) to 28.4% (2002). He opined that agricultural investments can be used to reduce the current hunger and starvation, anger, high youth unemployment and conflicts in the Niger Delta States.



Photo 5: A female participant sharing her experience at the Impacts of conflict and insecurity on Agricultural investments session

According to him, conflicts emerged from the following issues:

- A lot of the agricultural projects claimed to be established by the governments of the states in the Niger Delta region are mere political statements for image launderings (political gains) and not realities. As a result this creates deep seethed feelings for the people of the state when they are not positively affected by the gains of the so called projects.
- Budgetary provisions for agricultural investments by government actors are just on paper and not implemented. Consequently, the resources are diverted to other avenues or embezzled, thereby cheating people of the gains of agricultural investments. For instance the employment opportunities and entrepreneurship opportunities that would have been generated by such investments are denied the people, resulting in structural violence.
- Land portions compulsorily acquired for agricultural investment by governments spawn and spore new conflicts. These lands are often acquired without due consultations with the people and without adequate compensation from the government.
- Suitable investment climate in the form of provision of farm inputs for local farmers is absent or abysmal. Even where the inputs are provided, they are not shared according to the needs of farmers and sometimes are hoarded by agricultural extension officers so that they can be sold for a higher price. Issues like this fuel conflicts among farmers and within farmer associations.
- Marketing Boards which could buy over excess agricultural produce and buffer farmers toward the vagaries of market fluctuations are absent.

Genuine efforts are not made to attract foreign investors in agriculture. In most states, there are very little agricultural investment or infrastructure. Most of the states in the region still view agriculture as a parochial vocation that exists mainly for subsistence. As long as this mind-set prevails, little effort will be made to create an enabling environment that will attract both foreign and local investment opportunities to the sector.

- Opportunities for employment or training in the agricultural sector are cornered by political appointees and influential people alone. They exclude those that actually need these opportunities in the sector. These exclusionary tendencies and nepotism creates

ill feelings and conflicts between the people and government actors who they see as only acting in their own selfish interests.

- State and local government authorities in the Niger Delta area tend to shift responsibilities to the oil companies in spite of the fact they took oath to work for their constituencies.

Dr. Dickson concluded that though agricultural investments expectedly should have positive impact on the Niger Delta states, the actions and inactions of the state governments have generated negative impacts and the conflict circle is continuous in the Niger Delta states. He outlined benefit capture, corruption and absence of insurance for small farm holders as debilitating problems. He counseled the citizens to constructively engage government/duty bearers to do what they ought to do or cry out.

Key issues discussed by the panel:

- When government support and/or investment is not given across board, it leads to jealousies and conflicts.
- The prevalence of conflict in the region negatively affects investors coming into the regional economy.
- Agriculture investments for employment or training are cornered by political appointees and influential people alone thereby excluding the actual beneficiaries of the investments.
- Access to land for agricultural purposes and investments has been a source of conflict from the beginning. The current land use regime creates room for compulsory acquisition of Lands by state governments without adequate compensation.
- The prevalence of Land grabbing by state governments in the region for infrastructural projects or for foreign investments leaves farmers with less farmlands for agricultural purposes.
- Government laws and policies related to land tends to drive benefit capture and advantage to those in power rather than those who need it.
- Lack of access to high yield seeds and crops causes marginalization and disenfranchise farmers, especially youth.
- The absence of insurance for small farm holders is a critical challenge as seen in the past incidence of flooding in some Niger Delta States in 2013.
- Weak selection of participants for training programs ensures that even well designed interventions fail and increase the tensions and feelings of exclusion for many people.

Recommendations from the session:

- Systematic agricultural investment can be used to improve regional unemployment, youth restiveness and some of key conflicts drivers/triggers.
- Equitable distribution of resources and other opportunities must be spread for the citizens to discourage exclusion which aggravate people and lays foundation for conflict flaring.
- Agricultural investments programmes should be developed with conflict sensitive principles to ensure that these programmes are not responsible for fuelling deep rooted conflicts in the region.

- Land acquisition by governments should be carried out with due consultation and also with a view on its impacts on agriculture.
- State government must be engaged through robust advocacy efforts to ensure duty bearers are accountable to the people and compel government to operate policies that benefit the many rather than the few privilege persons.

Panel session: Using Investments in Agriculture to mitigate Conflicts and address Human Security Issues in the Niger Delta

Lead Paper Presenter: Dr Adaba Ibim: University of Port Harcourt

Moderator: Nkasi Wodu, Program Officer, Peace Building, PIND Foundation

Panel Members: Dr. Dickson Achimota Niger Delta University Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State

Dr. Adaba Ibim: University of Port Harcourt

Mr. Theophilus Agada Mercy Corps Nigeria

Dr. Ephraim Okon BRACED Commission, Port Harcourt

Highlights from lead presentation:

Conflict is present and exacerbating human security issues such as oil bunkering, pipeline vandalism, criminality especially robbery kidnapping, and gender based violence particularly rape. According to Dr. Adaba Ibim, investments must be done in a manner that does not bring about its own conflict. She discussed some basic steps to prevent such conflict, which includes research and development, finding out what the local communities need, and what the issues are. She also emphasized awareness creation and engagement; communities must know why the investment is coming and how they can cash in on the opportunities. Respecting everyone's basic human right is also a requirement, impinging on someone else's human right can lead to conflict.

Additionally investments must be empowering for the communities, it must recognize that the actual people within the community must benefit. It could be in the form of grants to youths since loans could be a burden. Loans can be given out to those who own commercial farms and the like.

Providing education and trainings are also useful, community members can get funds to hold events and conferences from international donors. Exhibitions can also be held to provide information on building agribusinesses that meet international standards. In the end, all these interventions will create jobs, an enabling environment, and bring peace and human security to the region.

Key Issues Discussed at the panel session:

- Viewing conflict through a conflict lens, conflicts in the Niger Delta started when agriculture was abandoned for oil production. However the benefits of oil are not being equitably shared.

- Investors should adopt a conflict sensitive approach even though it involves a lot of skills, finance and work; there are many examples of Governments policies and various investments exacerbating tensions rather than mitigating them. Many Government youth empowerment schemes have not been fair, inclusive or transparent therefore the net impact of the program is usually negative.
- In a recent study only 10% of respondents believe that current empowerment programs in the region reduce involvement in militancy. Thus, these programs are not good in terms of promoting human security.

Agricultural investments should be gender responsive, the issue of gender should be part of the design from the beginning. However when discussing gender, it should be more than just including more women, it requires looking deeper at issues within the community. For example in some areas, only 6% of women farmers can access credit and men own more land compared to women.

- Agricultural Projects should be targeted at the right beneficiaries; investments, programs and schemes should be based on the reality in the communities. Market assessments should be carried out before programs are developed and there should be proper planning in addition to constant monitoring and evaluation.
- Communities should also take some responsibility not rely solely on the Government, there must be a reorientation and looking inward on how agriculture can change their lives.
- Environmental pollution and degradation remains a serious challenge, people cannot afford the cleanup, and thus the investment in agriculture must start now.
- More Civil Society Organizations should be involved in the promotion of agriculture; most are working on other issues that have more funding like HIV/AIDS.

Recommendations:

- Agricultural investment programs should target providing employment/entrepreneurship opportunities for young people as a way to reduce the risk of conflict in the region.
- Agricultural Investment programs should adopt a conflict sensitive approach even though it involves a lot of skills, finance and work. The implementation of these programs should be fair, inclusive and transparent to ensure that it has a positive impact.

- Government and investors should strengthen the various agricultural value chains because it offers opportunities for engaging youths and women in employment thereby reducing the tendency for them to be engaged in conflict.
- Agricultural programs should be designed to support young people in owning their own farms and teaching them the skills to manage it properly. There isn't enough Business Management Organization in the Niger Delta, there should be a mapping of these Organizations and support should be provided for them.
- Agricultural investment Programmes should be targeted at the right beneficiaries; and implementation of such programs should ensure that the intended beneficiaries are reached. Proper planning and assessments should be carried out in addition to constant monitoring and evaluation.
- It is important not to stereotype youth especially young men. There are plenty of young men who are violent but not all of them are. Why are youth being held to a higher standard than that of the general population? The misperception of youth must stop.
- There should be a shift from the traditional crops to other crops and products. Not everyone should focus on poultry and oil palm.
- People with other accomplishments outside of agriculture are celebrated. More youths will be attracted to Agriculture if young farmers are celebrated. Encouraging children to see agriculture as important occupation .
- Market linkages are needed, the issue of post-harvest losses due to excess harvest needs to be addressed. Farmers should be able to make a profit rather than selling at low prices.
- The Nonprofit sector has a role to play in reorienting youth, providing them with the skills and the training they need to build successful agribusinesses.
- Cooperatives are the best way to push investment through; it has been tried and tested.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Forum laid a good foundation for new partnerships, shared learning and collection by all the various stakeholders that participated. At the end of all the plenary and panel sessions deliberations from the forum, specific conclusions reached are summarized under five (5) categories as presented below:

1. Investment opportunities in local agricultural commodity value chains

- There are many investments opportunities, and has been much investment in all the major areas of the agricultural commodity value chains such as Cassava, Oil Palm, Rice, Cocoa, Aquaculture & Poultry) and support for agribusiness is available through the Government (Agricultural Transformation Agenda), Research Institutes and from donors such as USAID and DFID among others.
- To achieve the growth potential of the Nigerian economy through agriculture, accelerated and increased investments are needed in crop, livestock and fisheries production, food processing and preservation, agricultural inputs, finance, commodity trading and transportation, among others.
- Farmers do not have access to information that can enhance their performance for sustained growth.
- Business Membership Organizations must focus on promoting or protecting their members' interests, and must position themselves as advocates for change in the market place.
- Government must promote policies and incentives that can create access to existing and new markets both domestic and international.
- General challenges which hinder the optimal performances of virtually all the agricultural entrepreneurs are common and these include:
 - Poor access to reliable information on investment opportunities
 - Inadequate access to land and necessary inputs for production
 - Poor economic infrastructures and erratic power supply
 - Lack of access to credit and high lending rates by financial institutions
 - Stringent collateral requirements
 - Lack of access to markets
 - Weak business linkages
 - Increasing agitations and conflicts that disrupts market systems

2. Impacts of Conflicts and Insecurity on investments in agriculture

- Existing government laws and policies related to land tends to drive benefit capture and advantage to those in power rather than the general population.
- There must be sustainable peace in the region as agriculture will not thrive in an environment characterized by conflict and tension. It is therefore our collective

responsibility and benefit to ensure that the current fragile peace in the region is sustained by working together.

3. Opportunities for Women and Youth in agriculture

- There are opportunities for women and youth in agriculture in the processing function of agricultural value chains. Value added activities such as rice milling, parboiling, fish smoking, packaging, small scale processing and marketing are areas that provides entry points.
- Major challenges hindering more youth leveraging opportunities in agriculture were:
 - I. Access to finance as banks are not keen on agricultural lending especially to the youths.
 - II. Access to land for primary production at scale.
 - III. Lack of opportunity for career growth in the agricultural sector.

4. Government policies and programs at the state level need to be accessible

- Government Intervention programs put in place to ameliorate agricultural enterprises financial challenges through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) such as the - Agricultural finance, Micro finance, MSME development fund, Infrastructure finance and Capacity building programs are not well known to and are rarely accessed by agribusinesses.

5. Partnerships and collaboration for increased productivity and efficiency

- Entrepreneurs, financial institutions and business regulatory agencies were encouraged to engage in more public dialogues and engagements that will help in addressing challenges of access to information, access to markets and enabling business environment for businesses to thrive.
- There was a consensus that addressing the major constraints and common problems facing agriculture sector in the Niger Delta region requires - all stakeholders to work together. A business environment in which large multi-national corporations and MSMEs can thrive is the product of a symbiotic relationship between all relevant stakeholders – public sector agencies, business membership organizations, large corporations, multi- and bi-lateral organizations, financial institutions and MSMEs themselves.
- Business Membership Organizations must focus on promoting or protecting their members' interests, and must position themselves as advocates for change in the market place.
- Sustainably meeting the needs of agribusinesses in the Niger Delta requires long term relationship building among financial institutions, BMOs and business support services within market system.

Conclusively it is hoped that the new knowledge acquired from this people-centered debates will be utilized by all stakeholders for unlocking investment opportunities in agriculture in the Niger Delta for Regional Competitiveness. Participants left the forum with high expectations and a desire to work together on solutions that will address some of the challenges discussed at the forum.

Recommendations

Targeted and deliberate actions to change knowledge, attitudes, practices and policies must occur for investments opportunities in agriculture in the Niger Delta to be unlocked. The recommendations to the organizers of the NDDF for their targeted interventions needs to address five important topics below. These recommendations should be developed into a set of strategic activities for the organizers of the forum. Their progress on the implementation of those strategic activities should be reported on at the next NDDF in 2015.

1. Increased information on opportunities and markets, including business models and potential profitability: for both investors to identify lucrative businesses to invest their resources and supporting institutions such as those who provide equipment and input suppliers (feed companies, seed companies, agrochemical) financial institutions, logistics and transport companies, insurance. To achieve these:

- Extension workers in each of the state Ministries of Agriculture and Agricultural Development Programs (ADPs), must collaborate with investors to develop knowledge and information packages for improving farmers' knowledge, attitudes and practices to enhance their productivity.
- Ministries of Agriculture through their various extension units must develop and share their intervention plans with farmers in the Cocoa, oil palm, rice, cassava, aquaculture and poultry value chains through their various associations and cooperatives about their upcoming training and monitoring plans.
- There is increased demand for value added agricultural commodities in international markets. For local agribusinesses in the Niger Delta to access these markets, the Nigerian Export Promotion Council must share basic information about requirements on how to access international markets, packing and branding through public forum with farmers association/cooperatives and groups across the Niger Delta region.

2. Improving the competitiveness of Nigerian value chains: increasing efficiency and productivity.

- Building climate resilience for food security is increasingly becoming critical especially in this era of global warming that resulted to massive flooding incidence that wiped out large expanse of crops in some Niger Delta States in the last two years. Private sector actors in the region must invest in risk mitigation tools and strategies that are climate-smart. They must also invest in purchasing agricultural insurance products and policies that builds resilience and protection for the

investments. Government must invest in climate mitigation strategies and structures that benefits both small and large farm holders.

- Agricultural Research Institutes must collaborate with private sector to jointly undertake research that will improve farmers productivity and efficiency. Both parties must also jointly identify and develop feasible mechanisms for transferring research findings and evidences to intended users.
- Donor funded agricultural programs should foster collaboration and linkages between agribusinesses and agricultural research centers as part of their interventions aimed at facilitating increased knowledge and information transfer to farmers and investors.
- Development programs and agribusiness must increase engagement of supporting services by demonstrating the value proposition of partnering with farmers and strengthening the supply of service providers to engage with local farmers through provision of:
 - I. Management and training to improve knowledge and practices of agribusinesses.
 - II. Farm mechanization for land preparation and for large scale production.
 - III. Input supply for production and processing.
- Business membership organizations, cooperatives and associations must strengthen the capacities of its members by engaging the services of business support development professionals to build their business and financial management skills so they can be investment attractive to potential financiers.
- Donor funded agricultural programs supporting farmers should build better linkages and relationships between businesses to increase efficiency.
- Business membership organizations, cooperatives and associations must collaborate with financial institutions to develop mutually beneficial relationships that will incentivize banks to develop targeted financial products for its members while at the same time enable banks to build their customers base who will end up buying more financial products from banks.

3. Government policies and investments to promote and incentivize private investments

- Government through the ministry of Agriculture in the Niger Delta should make information on how to access and acquire land for agricultural development available to the public and easily accessible to both small and large prospective investors.
- Government through the ministry of Agriculture promote policies and business models that incentivize the private sector to invest in the provision of land

mechanization services in order make land development feasible for smallholder poor farmers.

State Government in the Niger Delta region need to explore opportunities in establishing Off grid electricity infrastructure such as Micro-grids and Small Solar Installations in rural areas to complement their rural electrification schemes.

- To address some fundamental challenges of infrastructure as well as other components of agricultural development, Federal and State Government must prioritize the establishment of adaptive research centers for agriculture in the region.
- There has been appreciable progress in connecting the towns and to some extent rural settlements, with good roads but not to the farm gates. State and Local Governments need to be engaged and mobilized by BMOs and the private sector to provide linkages to major roads through a comprehensive feeder road network.

4. Strengthening opportunities for women and youth

- Agricultural interventions designed by government and development organizations that are aimed at encouraging youth and women into agriculture must focus on value added small scale processing activities such as rice milling and parboiling, fish smoking and packaging, marketing and transportation/logistics.
- State ministries of agriculture must partner with the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to design and implement targeted public sensitization and awareness programs on specific opportunities available for women and youth. These awareness efforts should aim at re-orientating youth with relevant information, guidance and counselling they need to build successful agribusinesses as a source of livelihood.
- State ministries of agriculture must partner with relevant BMOs and development programs in organizing agricultural focused trade/road shows to attract women and youth to engage in public dialogues, forum, exhibitions.

5. Approaches to addressing Conflict

- Access to land for agricultural purposes and investments has been a source of conflict. The prevalence of land grabbing by state governments in the region for infrastructural projects or for foreign investments leaves farmers with less farmlands for agricultural purposes. Government in the region must promote laws and policies that prevent benefits capture and undue advantage to those in power rather than farmers ready to invest but unable to access the land.
- Government, donor organizations, development organizations and private sector apply conflict sensitive principles to agricultural investment programs to ensure that these do not fuel deep rooted conflicts in the region.



4th NDDF Day 2 Photos

Appendix



PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Tuesday November 25 2014	
Day 1	
8.00am – 9.00am	<i>Delegates Arrival and Registration</i>
9.00am – 9.15am	<p>Plenary Session</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Dara Akala, Programs Director PIND Foundation</p> <p>Welcome Address delivered by Mr. Sam Daibo Executive Director PIND Foundation</p>
9.15am – 9.25am	Opening Address by the Chief Host The Executive Governor of Cross River State; His Excellency Senator Liyel Imoke CON Represented by Mr. James Aniyom, Honorable Commissioner for Agriculture, Cross River State
9.25am – 9.55am	Good will messages from representatives of Partner organizations
9.55am – 10.20am	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>‘Unlocking Investment Opportunities in Agriculture in the Niger Delta for Regional Competitiveness’ Delivered by The Honorable Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina. Represented by Dr. Tony Bello Senior Special Assistant to the HMARD</p>
10.20am – 10.50am	Tea Break and Tour of exhibition stands
10.50am – 11.00am	Short film presentation on NDDF 2013 Review of 2014 Objectives, Agenda and Outcomes by Micah Mendie, NDDF Coordinator
11.00am – 11.25am	Background Paper 1: Investment opportunities in Local Agricultural Commodity Value Chains delivered by Kayode Faleti, Senior Program Manager, Southern Regional Office, USAID/MARKETS II.
11.25am -12.55pm	<p>CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS</p> <p>Session 1a: Investment opportunities in Aquaculture value chain Lead Presenter: Dr. (Mrs.) Onome A Davies, Senior Lecturer, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Environment, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt</p>

	<p>Moderator: Mr. Bill Grant, Global Practice Leader, Agribusiness and Economic Development, DAI, London</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Chris Okwechime: Chairman United Ufuoma Fish Farm Association (UUFFA), Ekpan, Warri • Mr. Rotimi Omodehin: MD/CEO Timmod Investments Ltd. • Mr. Tope J. Banjo: Senior Brand Manager, Grand Cereals Limited, Jos • Mr. Aighobani Ferguson: LAPO Microfinance Bank Ltd., Benin City • Elder Obeten Ubi, Cross River State Agric Development Program, Calabar <p>Session 1b: Investment opportunities in the Cassava value chain Lead Presenter: Ogo Ibok, CEO SENSE Agric. Ltd. Lagos</p> <p>Moderator: Olatunde Oderinde, Deputy Team Leader, GEMS (Wholesale and Retail sector), Abuja</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ohunyon John: Farmer, Ekpoma Edo State • Mr. Peter Idaewor : MD/CEO Idaewor Farms • Mr. Wole Illori: Head, Technical and Sales HARVESTFIELD Industries Ltd. • Mr. Ajayi David: Regional Manager BOA, South-South • Mr. O. B. Adeniyani: Acting Program Manager, Ondo State ADP, Akure <p>Session 1c: Investment opportunities in Cocoa Value chain</p> <p>Lead Presenter: Dr. Peter Aikpokpodion, Senior Special Assistant on Cocoa to the Honorable Minister of Agriculture, Abuja.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Robo Adhuze; COO, Centre for Cocoa Dev. Initiative, Akure</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Daniel Okey: CRACCU, Ikom • Mr. Akin Olusuyi: Ile-Oluji Cocoa • Mr. Benjamin Eze: HARVESTFIELD Nigeria Limited • Dr. Farouk Kurawa: Agric. Finance Director USAID/MARKETS II, Abuja
12.55pm – 1.20pm	Background Paper 2: Opportunities for Women and Youth in Agriculture presented by Bassey Archibong, USAID/ MARKETS II Project
1.20pm – 1.45pm	Background Paper 3: Impacts of conflicts on Investments in Agriculture in the Niger Delta delivered by Professor Michael Ikupolati

1.45pm – 2.45pm	LUNCH BREAK
2.45pm -4.15pm	<p align="center">CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS</p> <p>Panel session 2a: Accelerating and Increasing Opportunities for Women in Agribusiness</p> <p>Moderator: Constance Okeke, International Project Manager, Public Finance for Agriculture Action Aid Nigeria</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tammie Kammonke: Executive Director- POWER Cross River State • Erica Phillips: Director Business Development, Africa Community Bridge Foundation • Mosunmola Cynthia Umoru: CEO, Farmshoppe, Lagos • Mr. Roy Ndoma-Egba, Special Adviser to the Governor on International Development Cooperation, Cross River State. <p>Panel Session 3a: The current state of agricultural investment in the Niger Delta and its effect on conflict dynamics in the Niger Delta</p> <p>Lead Presenter: Dr. Dickson Achimota, Niger Delta University Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State</p> <p>Moderator: Nkasi Wodu; Program Officer: Peace Building, PIND Foundation</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Dickson Achimota: Niger Delta University Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State • Dr. Adaba Ibim: Delta State University Abraka • Mr. Theophilus Agada: Mercy Corps Nigeria • Dr. Ephraim Okon : BRACED Commission, Port Harcourt
4.15pm – 5.15pm	<p>PLENARY SESSION</p> <p>Feedback from breakout sessions by rapporteurs and close of afternoon plenary session</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>Closing by moderator: Dr. Dara Akala, Programs Director PIND Foundation</p>
	Wednesday November 26, 2014
	Day 2
8.00am – 9.00am	Registration

9.00am – 9.15am	<p style="text-align: center;">PLENARY SESSION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Bose Eitokpah, Strategic Programs Manager PIND Foundation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Launch of 2015 PIND Advocacy Calendar Campaign by Mr. Sylvester Okoh: Field Projects Manager PIND Foundation</p>
9.15am – 9.30am	Recap of day 1 proceedings by rapporteurs
9.30am – 9.55am	Background Paper 4: International Perspectives on Agricultural investments delivered by Dr. Mima Nedelcovych, President/CEO Initiative for Global Development, Washington DC.
9.55am -10.25am	TEA BREAK and Tour of exhibition stands
10.25am – 11.55am	<p style="text-align: center;">CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS</p> <p>Panel Session 4a: State-led infrastructural support to Agricultural production and processing</p> <p>Lead Paper Presenter: Prof Johnson Ekpere, Retired Professor of Agronomy, University of Ibadan</p> <p>Moderator : Dara Akala , Programs Director PIND Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Members: Dr Alfred Mulade, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) • Dr. Tony Bello, Senior Special Adviser to the HMARD • Dr. (Mrs.) Martina Ubi, Director of Agric Services, Ministry of Agric and Natural Resources, Cross River State <p>Panel session 2b: Opportunities for promoting agro entrepreneurship for Youth in the Niger Delta</p> <p>Moderator: Emeka Ile, Director Business Development, USAID MARKETS II Project</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon Remy Chukwunyere, Director General, Imo state Directorate of Employment, Owerri, Imo state • Ferdinand Dappa, Team Leader, YOULEAD, CUSO International, Calabar , Cross River state • Mosunmola Cynthia Umoru, CEO Farmshoppe, Lagos. • Nosa Confidence, President Edo State Cooperative Farmers Agency • Enwongo-Abasi Okon, Manager, Capacity Building and Enterprise Development Micro finance and Enterprise Development Agency, Calabar

11.55am -1.25pm

CONCURRENT PANEL SESSION

Panel Session 1d: Investment opportunities in Rice value chain

Lead Presenter: Professor Geraldine Ugwuonah, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus

Moderator: Mr. Emeka Ile, Director Business Development, USAID MARKETS II Project

Panel Members

Panel Session 1d. Investment opportunities in Rice Value Chain

Lead Presenter: Professor Geraldine Ugwuonah, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus

Moderator: Mr. Emeka Ile, Director Business Development, USAID MARKETS II Project

Lead Presenter: Prof Geraldine Ugwuonah, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus

Panel Members

- Fleance Modi, Bansara, Ogoja LGA, Cross River State
- Dr. Godwin Abu: Director, MIKAP Nigeria Ltd. Producers of MIVA Rice
- Alhaji Lawal Rausu: National President, Input/Agro dealers
- Dr. Bulus J Autah: Bank of Agriculture, Kaduna
- Mr. P.O. Asikhia, Program Manager, Edo State ADP, Benin City

Panel Session 1e: Investment Opportunities in Palm oil value chain

Lead Presenter: Dr. Omofefe Asemota. Executive Director/CEO NIFOR, Benin City

Moderator: James Elekwachi Markets Development Manager, PIND Foundation

Panel Members

- Igwe Hilary Uche: President Oil Palm Growers Association of Nigeria (OPGAN)
- Chief D.O Nwachukwu: Chairman, Umuagwo Palm oil association, Imo State

	<p>Dr. Omorefe Asemota. Executive Director/CEO NIFOR Hon. Remy Chukwunyere: Director, Imo State Directorate of Employment, Owerri, Imo state</p> <p>Session 1F: Investment Opportunities in Poultry value chain</p> <p>Lead Presenter: Mr. Akpolu Ebitari Sylvanus; Senior Manager, Okunwan Nigeria Limited. Yenagoa</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Zigha Ayibakuro; MD/CEO ZAL, Yenagoa</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ebie Sylvanus John; M.D Akpowaiwai Agro Resources Yenagoa • Mr. Austin Dalyop; G.M Sales and Marketing, Premier Feed Mills Ltd., Calabar • Mrs. Ebi Austin; Ogionwo; M.D Crystabel MFB Yenagoa, Bayelsa state • David Ogonodi; Director of Industry; Ministry of Trade and Investment Bayelsa State, Yenagoa
1.25pm – 2.25pm	LUNCH
2.25pm – 3.55pm	<p style="text-align: center;">CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS</p> <p>Panel session 3b: Using Investments in Agriculture to mitigate conflicts and address Human Security issues in the Niger Delta.</p> <p>Lead Paper Presenter: Dr Adaba Ibim: University of Port Harcourt</p> <p>Moderator: Nkasi Wodu, Program Officer, Peace Building, PIND Foundation</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Dickson Achimota Niger Delta University Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State • Dr. Adaba Ibim: University of Port Harcourt • Mr. Theophilus Agada Mercy Corps Nigeria • Dr. Ephraim Okon BRACED Commission, Port Harcourt

	<p>Panel Session 4b: Agricultural Land Development and Mechanization</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Bill Grant Global Practice Leader, Agribusiness and Economic Development, DAI, London</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. (Mrs.) Martina Ubi, Director Agric Services, Ministry of Agric and Natural Resources, Cross River State • Mr. Dike, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agric & Natural Resources, Abia State. • Hon. Remy Chukwunyere: Director, Imo State Directorate of Employment, Owerri, Imo state
3.55pm – 4.55pm	<p>Plenary</p> <p>Feedback from breakout sessions by rapporteurs and close of plenary session</p>
4.55pm – 4.25pm	<p>Vote of thanks by Dennis Fleming, Executive Director Niger Delta Partnership Initiative, USA</p> <p>Closing by moderator: Bose Eitokpah, Strategic Program Manager PIND Foundation</p>
4.25pm – 5.55pm	<p>Social Networking</p>