

COMMUNIQUE

In continuation of its Public Enlightenment Programme, a Sugar Sensitization Workshop for Stakeholders in the Northern Region of the Country was organized by National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Abuja. The one day event was held on Thursday 26th, April, 2018 at Tahir Guest Palace Hotel, Dutse, Jigawa State. The Theme of the workshop was: ***“Revising the NSMP Implementation Modalities for the Achievement of National Self-Sufficiency in Sugar”***. The Sensitization workshop commenced at 10:00am with the National Anthem.

2. The Chairman of the workshop was Alhaji Shehu Sanusi (Ciroman Dutse), President, Jigawa State Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, Dutse, Jigawa State while the Special Guest of Honour was Alhaji Sidi Yanleman, Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Industry Commerce and Cooperatives, Dutse, Jigawa State, who was represented by the acting Permanent Secretary Alhaji Aminu Yusuf. The Keynote Address titled: ***“Highlight of the Mid-Term Review Workshop on the Implementation of the NSMP”*** was delivered by the Executive Secretary of NSDC, Dr. Latif D. Busari while the Welcome Address was delivered by the Director, Policy Planning, Research and Statistics (PPRS), Mr. H. Kolawole.

3. Goodwill messages were delivered by the following dignitaries:

- i. Alhaji Abubakar Yusuf, Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Katsina State.
- ii. Alhaji Kabiru Ali, Honourable Commissioner, Ministry for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dutse, Jigawa State.
- iii. Alhaji Shehu Sanusi (Ciroman Dutse) President Jigawa State Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture Dutse, Jigawa State.

4. Update On Sugar Projects in Jigawa State:

- a. The Project Director of Great Northern Agriculture Limited (a subsidiary of the Lee Group) Mr. Wilkins Lam presented the summary of the Projects while Dr. Umaru Mohammed Majia, Director Agric. Services gave the company’s Projection and Plans.

- b. The Chairman/CEO of the Crystal Sugar Mills International Limited who was represented by Engr. Shehu Ahmed presented the Company updates. After presentation, they all sought for the cooperation of the NSDC and other Stakeholders to curtail the various challenges enumerated in order to achieve the laudable objectives of the these projects.
5. Participants at the workshop were drawn from both private and public sectors of the Nigerian economy. Notably in attendance were: Academics, Technocrats, Sugarcane producers Associations, Chief Executives of Agencies and Ministries, Captains of Industry, University Students as well as sugar Refineries Representatives.
6. Three (3) papers presented at the workshop were as follows:
 - i. Strategies for Increasing Local Investment in Sugarcane/Sugar Projects for National Self-Sufficiency in Sugar: Challenges and Solution by Alhaji Ibrahim Abubakar Yaro Managing Director, BUA Sugar Refinery, Lagos;
 - ii. Large Scale Adoption of Improved Sugarcane Seedlings by Sugar Estates/Investors for yield Increase per Hectare, Bio-technology perspectives by Dr. Sola Odusanya, Bio-crops Biotech Company Limited, Abuja
 - iii. Workable Models for Outgrowers Development in Nigerian Sugar Industry by Mr. Anlo du Pisani, General Manager, Sunti Golden Sugar Estate, Sunti, Niger State.
6. After a lively discussion on the various papers presented by the Resources Persons, the following resolutions were reached.
 - i. Participants congratulated and commended NSDC for organizing the Regional Sugar Sensitization Workshop in Dutse, the Jigawa State Capital and expressed the hope that with the 1.8m hectares of land and enough underground water that could support the establishment of Sugarcane Plantation, Jigawa State has the potential to become a net exporter of sugar.
 - ii. Participants noted that there are major challenges on the path of sustainable development and growth of local investment in Sugar Sector of the Nigerian economy. They noted that for a meaningful growth and development to take place in the sector, infrastructure challenges relating to good access road to the

sugar project sites, availability of water, easy acquisition of land, etc should be addressed.

- iii. Participants noted that the Sugar Sector suffers the dearth of skilled workers and therefore advocated for the establishment of a specialized Skill Acquisition Training Centre in collaboration with NOTAP on its Industry Technology Transfer Fellowship Scheme (NITTF) to bridge the gap;
- iv. Stakeholders also advocated for youths to be gainfully empowered and engaged in Bio-technology to produce millions of seedlings and at the same time increasing the standard of living of the engaged youths.
- v. Participants further advocated for the establishment of an Association of Sugarcane Stakeholders comprising of everyone that has something to contribute to the sugar industry in order to consolidate the gains in the Nigeria Sugar Industry and ensure sustainability.
- vi. Conflicts in Land Acquisition/Security was identified as a major challenge to increasing local investment and it was advocated that Government should interface with the host Communities where sugar projects are domiciled and /or to be set up to resolve this issue. Concrete policy direction is to be put in place by Government.
- vii. The issue of smuggling and infiltration of foreign sugar was noted as a disincentive to sugar investors as it reduces sales. Relevant Government Agencies e.g. NAFDAC, SON, NCS were urged to be more proactive to check the illicit trading activities.
- viii. Bio-Technology system was noted as the future of agriculture particularly if the need to obtain clean seedlings for increased yield per hectare is taken into consideration.
- ix. Stakeholders called for more synergy between NSDC and Universities in the area of sustainable Research and Development in the Country.

**NATIONAL SUGAR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL,
ABUJA
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