

# COMMUNIQUE

In continuation of its public enlightenment programme, the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Abuja, organized a Regional Sugar Sensitization Workshop for Sugar Stakeholders in the Southern Region of the country. The workshop was held on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 at Park Inn by Radisson Hotel, No2, Ibrahim Babangida Boulevard, Kuto Roundabout, Abeokuta, Ogun State.** The theme of the Sensitization Workshop was **“Sustaining the Gains of NSMP for National Self-Sufficiency in Local Sugar Production”**. The workshop commenced at 11.00am prompt with an opening prayer said by **Pastor O.O. Adeyemi**.

2. The Chairman of the workshop was **Mr. SEGUN Ajayi-Kadir**, Acting Director-General, Manufacturers’ Association of Nigeria (MAN), Lagos while the Special Guest of Honour was **Alhaji Aminu A. Bisalla**, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI), Abuja, who was ably represented by the Director, General Services, FMITI, **Mr. Moses Airiohuodion**. The welcome Address was delivered by the Acting Executive Secretary, **Mr. Samuel Ali Kwabe** who was ably represented by **Mr. Kolawole Hezekiah**, Director, Policy, Planning, Research and Statistics, NSDC, Abuja while the **Lead Paper** titled: **“Nigeria Sugar Master Plan (NSMP) Implementation from 2013 to Date”** was delivered by **Mallam Mohammed Jika**, Director Technical Services, National Sugar Development Council Abuja.

3. Goodwill messages were delivered by the following personalities:
- Honourable **Bimbo Ashiru**, Honourable Commissioner for Industry, Ogun State represented by the Director Investment, **Mr. Kayode Ogunti**
  - Honourable **Ronke Sokefun**, Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ogun State represented by the Permanent Secretary, **Pastor O.O. Adeyemi**.
  - **Alhaji Aminu A. Bisalla**, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI), Abuja, represented by the Director, General Services, **Mr. Moses Airiohuodion**,
  - Acting Managing Director, Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation, **Mallam Bashir Haliru Binji** represented by **Mr. Yusuf Sabo Kwabe**, and

➤ **Mr. Chimaraoke Ekpe**, Managing Director, Mc Nichols Sugar Limited

4. Participants at the one day sensitization workshop were drawn from both private and public sectors in the Southern Region of Nigeria. Notably in attendance were Technocrats, Academia, Sugar Refiners, Sugarcane Farmers/Outgrowers, Sugar Technologists as well as Captains of Industries, etc
5. Four (4) Papers were presented at the sensitization workshop as follows:
  - i. Sugarcane Outgrowers Development – A Practical Experience by **Dr. Silas Agbana**, General Manager, Confluence Sugar Company, Ibaji, Kogi State.
  - ii. Funding Investment in Sugarcane-Sugar Value Chain for Self-Sufficiency in Local Sugar Production: The Role of Development Financial Institutions (DFIs) by Managing Director/CEO, Bank of Industry **Mr. Waheed Olagunju** (represented by **Mr. Anyanhu Cyril**)
  - iii. Addressing the Seed Cane Requirements of Local Sugar Industry – Bio-Technology to the Rescue by **Dr. Shola Odusanya**, Scientific Consultant, Bio-crops, Biotech Company Limited, Abuja
  - iv. Sugarcane Agro-Industry: Driving Sustainable Economic Development through Innovation by **Mr. Alexis Aligbe**, Managing Director, Molindex Nigeria Limited
6. After much discussion on the various papers presented by the Resource Persons:
  - i. Participants applauded the significant progress recorded since the commencement of Nigeria Sugar Master Plan (NSMP) implementation in terms of land under cane, cane nursery development, investment commitment as well as job creation and therefore, called on all stakeholders to be more consistent and focussed in playing their roles to ensure that Nigeria achieves self-sufficiency in her sugar requirement at the end of the 10-year plan period.
  - ii. Stakeholders noted that the outgrower component which is to provide 40% of sugarcane required for processing by sugar estates was a good component of the NSMP, and therefore urged for the establishment of

- mill factories (small to medium scale sugar industries), noting that they are the drivers of the sugar sub-sector.
- iii. Participants also advocated for good management of individual sugarcane outgrower operators and factory processors in a professional and efficient manner. Training needs in the following areas - management skills, group dynamism, technical training as well as communication skills etc. were recommended for the outgrowers association and factory processors so that production of sugarcane would be optimized;
  - iv. Participants noted that there is a wide gap in terms of funding investment, land acquisition, sugar production and consumption since the commencement of NSMP implementation and called for more investment in the sugar sector as well as political will by the Federal Government for the sustainability of the implementation of NSMP by the NSDC;
  - v. Stakeholders noted that the risk associated with investment in the sugarcane to sugar value-chain is very challenging and requires a conscious partnership with Nigeria Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC) to reduce the loss due to natural disasters such as fire, flood etc;
  - vi. Participants called on all Governments of the Southern States to partner with NSDC in the area of sensitization and enlightenment with regards to the potential sites identified in the NSMP and facilitate the release of the available land to genuine investors for the establishment of sugar projects/mills;
  - vii. Participants also expressed the need to involve all stakeholders in the region (Government, Investors, Farmers, Community and Land Owners) to ensure that land-bank is established to ease the problem associated with release of land to investors and incessant dispute between investors and land owners;
  - viii. Participants called on the indigenous lending institutions (BOI/BOA/Commercial Banks) to create friendly financial support

- schemes that would address the challenges being faced by investors in terms of high interest rate, untimely release of funds and other associated bottlenecks that slow down farm and factory operations which are time specific;
- ix. Participants expressed confidence that with the establishment of NSDC Sugarcane Bio-factory at Samaru, Zaria and at Unillorin as well as the existing private initiative-Bio-Crops- there is adequate capacity to meet the seed cane requirement of the local sugar industry in Nigeria.
  - x. Participants urged NSDC to ensure that the communiqué of the Sensitization Workshop is widely published and forwarded to all Stakeholders/Southern State Governors for their information and patronage/investment.

National Sugar Development Council,  
Abuja  
**6<sup>th</sup> October, 2016**