



Sugar News

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL SUGAR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

FG promises more support to ensure self-sufficiency in sugar production



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Self-sufficiency in Sugar Production Attainable – Busari

NSDC holds sugar technology symposium in Lagos

BUA, Netafim sign agreement on Sugar Irrigation Project

NSDC....We sweeten your world

Editorial

The 3rd quarter of 2019 was quite a busy one for stakeholders in the nation's sugar industry. Key players such as the National Sugar Development Council, private sugar companies and other interested parties had their hands full as they engaged in one meeting or the other.

Within the period under review, Otunba Niyi Richard Adebayo and Hajiya Maryam Katagum were announced as the Minister and Minister of State of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment respectively. Given the prime place the ministry occupies in the diversification drive of the current administration; both Ministers have since hit the ground running. Both Ministers have been receiving briefings from heads of Agencies, Councils and Parastatals under the Ministry's purview.

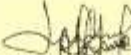
In the last quarter, the Council leadership also played host to a delegation of the Bank of Industry (BOI) led by its Managing Director, Mr. Olukayode Pitan. The BOI visit to the Council was to among other issues discuss ways of strengthening existing working partnership and explore other areas of

possible collaboration between NSDC and BOI.

Also, the BUA Group and Netafim, a renowned Israeli firm, signed a pact on automated sugar irrigation project. The contract signing took place at the headquarters of Sugar Council and was witnessed by the leadership of the NSDC, led by the Executive Secretary, Dr. Latif D. Busari.

As often said, the reward for hardwork is more work. The International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ISSCT) at its last congress in Tucuman, Argentina, upon the recommendation of the Technical programme Committee approved the appointment of Dr. Latif D. Busari as member of the body's Management Commission. The appointment is to run from 2019-2022. He is the first Nigerian to be appointed into the ISSCT Management Commission. Congratulations, Sir.

In this edition are other industry-related activities we've tracked for you, including activities within the Sugar House. Happy reading.


Abdullahi W. Yunusa
Editor - In-Chief

FG promises more support to ensure self-sufficiency in sugar production

The Federal Government has restated its readiness to render more supports to investors and other key players in the nation's sugar industry to ensure that Nigeria attains self-sufficiency in sugar production in line with the Nigeria Sugar Master Plan (NSMP).

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Otunba Niyi Richard Adebayo made this disclosure in Abuja, while taking briefings on the state of the country's sugar sector from the management of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), led by its Executive Secretary, Dr. Latif D. Busari.

While reiterating government's desire to grow the sector, Otunba Adebayo disclosed that the President Muhammadu Buhari led administration is ready to work with stakeholders in the industry in order to address its challenges.

He said that the Buhari administration had done a lot in the area of agriculture and non-oil sectors; stressing that sugar sufficiency would further support such initiatives.



Otunba Niyi Richard Adebayo
Minister of Industry, Trade & Investment

The Minister expressed optimism that Nigeria would soon be at par with nations like Brazil and Mauritius who are currently diversifying into ethanol production through the use of modern sugar technology, adding that government would ensure full implementation of the ten-year Nigeria Sugar Master Plan (NSMP) which was adopted in 2012 by the Federal Government.

Earlier in his presentation, the Executive Secretary, NSDC, Dr. Latif D. Busari enumerated some achievements of the current administration in the industry, among which he said are job creation and industrialization.

Dr. Busari said part of the plan was to create 114,000 jobs and produce 1.7 million metric tonnes of sugar annually.

He said that with reduced importation of sugar and increase in local production, about 500 million dollars would be saved in foreign exchange.

He listed Dangote Sugar Refinery, BUA Sugar and Golden Sugar Company as the three major operators in the industry, accounting for about 99.8% of sugar production in the country.

Self-sufficiency in sugar production attainable -Dr. Busari



Dr. Latif Busari
Executive Secretary NSDC

The Executive Secretary of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Dr. Latif Busari, is confident that Nigeria has all it takes to attain self-sufficiency in sugar production, noting that the sector has been repositioned and holds lots of opportunities for prospective investors.

Dr. Busari, who said government has put in place necessary measures that would make the sector more attractive to investors, said government was currently implementing a 10-year roadmap for the sugar sector tagged: 'Nigerian Sugar Master Plan.' He said the major thrust of the plan is to ensure that Nigeria attains self-sufficiency in sugar production.

Dr. Busari, who dropped these hints while declaring open the 2nd Sugar Industry Technology Symposium yesterday in Lagos, stressed the need for stakeholders in the industry to embrace modern technology in their operations, adding that modern machinery do not only improve outputs, but guarantee efficiency.

Represented by the director of policy, planning, research and statistics, National Sugar Development Council, Mr. Hezekiah Kolawole, Busari identified technology as the backbone of sugar production.

Underscoring the importance of the symposium and what participants stood to gain from it, Busari said, "This would be one of the many events that would expose operators in the Nigerian sugar industry to new technologies for field and factory operations; address deficiencies in skills and available manpower in the sector and provide platforms for business relationships that would enhance the capacity of the local sugar industry."

While assuring all stakeholders of Council's readiness to provide a level playing ground for them to do business, he equally stressed the need for industry players to redouble their efforts and be faithful to the various agreements they entered into with government.

"We at the Council are interested in growing the nation's sugar industry. Our objectives as a government-owned regulatory agency are targeted towards building an all-inclusive sugar sector for the country and other interested parties," he added.

Speaking further on the need to expose more sugar companies and stakeholders to modern technologies, Busari noted that "We have brought in more technology providers and experts in order to give our investors and other participants a range of different production and sugar processing technologies to consider."

In his speech at the event, a sugar technology manufacturer, Mr. Landry MaffoMelli, said technology has made sugar business an interesting activity, noting that sugar companies have a lot to gain when they deploy modern sugar technologies in their operations.

BUA, Netafim sign agreement on sugar irrigation project

Representatives of BUA Sugar and Netafim, an Israeli company that specializes in the manufacturing of irrigation equipment have signed an agreement for a Drip Irrigation of 4,000ha at the Lafiagi Sugar Company (LASUCO) owned by the BUA Group.

The agreement signing which was witnessed by the Executive Secretary, National Sugar Development Council, Dr. Latif D. Busari took place in the Board Room of the Council with BUA and Netafim company representatives as well as other sugar stakeholders in attendance.

Earlier in his welcome address, the NSDC boss, Dr. Latif D. Busari commended the BUA Sugar team for its innovativeness adding that by “leveraging on technology BUA is positioning itself to become a low-cost sugar producer, able to compete globally”.

He said though sugar business is capital intensive as investments in the sector often take time to yield returns, but noted that the Nigerian sugar sector is commercially viable and holds lots of opportunities for investors.

“We at the National Sugar Development Council are quite excited that Netafim is coming in strongly into the industry. We are happy about this positive development. It is a right step in the right direction. We shall continue to support and encourage worthy initiative as this”.

In his remarks, the Group Executive Director, BUA Group, Alhaji Kabiru Rabi'u thanked the NSDC for its support and facilitation, noting that BUA maintains good working relationship with the Council.

He said the project is “very important to us at BUA because of its impacts and opportunity to create jobs for our people. LASUCO is very dear to our heart. It is massive and seats on a vast land. The project is probably the most ambitious sugar project in the whole of West Africa. When completed the

factory will provide 20 percent of Nigeria's sugar needs, provides jobs, generate electricity and produce 20 million litres of ethanol”.

In his address, leader of the Netafim team, Mr. Sean Movsowitz, said they are excited to be associated with the project and will give their best as they are not here to just sell

technology and

disappear, but will partner with BUA to ensure a successful outcome of the project.

In a vote of thanks, Director, Human Resource Management, NSDC, Mr. Samuel Kwabe commended both teams for the honour it accorded the Council and its leadership for choosing its office as venue for the agreement signing ceremony. Mr. Kwabe who urged both BUA and Netafim to remain faithful to the agreement they both signed, restated Council's readiness to offer necessary policy support and technical assistance whenever the need arises.

Netafim is a major producer of drippers, dripperlines, sprinklers and micro-emitters. It also manufactures and distributes crop management technologies, including monitoring and control systems, dosing systems, and crop management software.



L-R: Group Executive Director, BUA Group, Alhaji Kabiru Rabi'u and representative of Netafim, an Israeli irrigation equipment manufacturer, Mr. Sean Movsowitz, during the agreement signing for the construction of a Drip Irrigation of 4,000ha at the Lafiagi Sugar Company (LASUCO), Lafiagi, Kwara State.

NSDC holds sugar technology symposium in Lagos

In line with its resolve to encourage stakeholders in the nation's sugar sector, especially factory operators to adopt modern technologies in their field and factory activities, the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), has organized a one-day sugar technology symposium for stakeholders in the industry.

The technology symposium which is the second in its series was organized in collaboration with three international companies with expertise in machinery production, field irrigation and factory operations generally. The companies are BMA of Germany, Jain Irrigation System and CNH Industrial N.V Ltd.

The event which drew participants from the public and private sectors as well as the academia, featured presentations on key industry issues such as "Factory concepts-Cane Sugar Plants and Sugar Refineries, Optimization of Input and Enhancement of Productivity in Sugarcane Cultivation as well as Mechanization in Sugarcane Farming".

In his speech at the event, the Executive Secretary, NSDC, Dr. Latif D. Busari stressed the need for stakeholders in the industry to embrace modern technology in their operations, adding that modern machineries do not only improve outputs, but would guarantee efficiency.

He expressed confidence that Nigeria has all it takes to attain self-sufficiency in sugar production, noting that the sector has been repositioned and holds lots of opportunities for prospective investors, as government had put in place necessary measures that would make the sector more attractive to investors.

Represented by the Director, Policy, Planning, Research and Statistics,

National Sugar Development Council, Mr. Hezekiah Kolawole, Dr. Busari identified technology as "the backbone of sugar production".

Underscoring the importance of the symposium and what participants stand to gain from it, Dr. Busari said, "This will be one of the many events that would expose operators in the Nigerian

objectives as a government regulatory agency are targeted towards building an efficient and globally competitive sugar sector for the country and other interested parties," he added.

In his speech at the event, a representative of BMA Technologies, Mr. Landry Maffo Melli, said technology has made sugar business an interesting activity,



R-L Director Policy Planning Research & Statistics Mr. Hezekiah Kolawole, Director, Finance and Accounts Mallam Auwalu Abubakar Shira, Deputy Director, Technical Services Mallam Salihu Bkeke at the 2nd NSDC Sugar Industry Technology Symposium in Lagos State

sugar industry to new technologies for field and factory operations; address deficiencies in skills and available

manpower in the sector and provide platforms for business relationships that would enhance the capacity of the local sugar industry."

While assuring all stakeholders of Council's readiness to provide a level playing ground for them to do business, he equally stressed the need for industry players to redouble their efforts and be faithful to the various agreements they entered into with government.

"We at the Council are interested in growing the nation's sugar industry. Our

not ing that sugar companies have a lot to gain when they deploy modern sugar technologies in their operations.

Mr. Melli while urging stakeholders to take advantage of opportunities that technology provide to grow their businesses, stressed the need for government to provide the enabling environment and support indigenous companies to remain in business.



L-R 4th from left is the Executive Secretary, Dr. Latif Busari and 3rd from right is MD/CEO Bank of industry, Mr Olukayode Pitan when the bank's Management team visited the Council recently



A cross section of participants at the 2nd Nigeria Sugar Technology Symposium which held on Wednesday 18th, September, 2019 in Lagos State.

L-R: E. S NSDC, Dr. Latif Busari, his daughter, Dr. Kudrat Busari and Mrs. Bola Busari at the Convocation of fellows of the National Post-Graduate Medical College of Nigeria (NPMCN) Dr. Kudrat Busari won the award of Best Part II Candidate in Renal Medicine.



Photo Speaks



Some Council staff in a group photograph at the end of a two-day workshop on Effective Communication Skills for Organization Development held in Karu, Nasarawa State.



Nigeria's delegation to the 2019 edition of Thailand International Sugar Conference in Khonkean, Thailand.



NSDC senior drivers at the end of a training programme on defensive driving and safety management at the Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology (NITT) Kano Study Centre

Sugar Council's contract bidding process transparent, Dr Busari

The Executive Secretary of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Dr. Latif Busari, has said the Council's contract bidding processes are transparent.

Speaking while flagging off the Council's 2019 bids opening exercise for its capital projects, Dr. Busari said the Council had put in place a system that upholds transparency, accountability and honesty in carrying out government businesses.

The NSDC boss advised Nigerians and other interested parties in the sugar sector to always approach the Council for clarification on issues relating to the industry. He noted that the Council had since keyed into the anti-corruption policy of the present administration which stressed openness, transparency and due process in the discharge of government assignments.

While urging the bidding companies at the event to abide by all the rules and regulations to ensure a hitch-free exercise, Dr. Busari noted that modalities had been put in place to ensure that no one was denied the opportunity of taking part in the exercise.

The Deputy Director (Procurement) at NSDC, Dr. Abiodun Adeyemo, said the exercise attested to the Council's resolve to ensure transparency and accountability in its operations, pledging that all the bidding companies would be treated fairly.

Dr. Adeyemo assured the bidders that, "Nobody would be accorded preferential treatment as far as this exercise is concerned. We at the NSDC conduct our businesses in manners that wouldn't give room for malpractices."

International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists appoints Dr. Busari into Management Committee

The apex organization for sugarcane technologists across the globe, International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ISSCT) has upon the recommendation of the body's Technical Programme Committee (TPC) approved the appointment of the Executive Secretary of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) Dr. Latif D. Busari as Member of the Management Commission.

The appointment which was contained in a letter signed by the General Secretary of ISSCT, Dr. Jean Claude Autrey, said the

appointment which is for the period of three years begins from 2019 to 2022.

While congratulating Dr. Busari on his appointment, Dr. Autrey noted that the Management Commission, which he is now a member handles "organization of workshops, review of papers/posters/extended abstracts for congress, translation of abstracts" etc.

Dr. Latif D. Busari is the first Nigerian to be appointed member of the Management Commission of the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ISSCT).

The International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ISSCT) is an association of scientists, technologists, managers, institutions and companies/corporations concerned with the technical advancement of the cane sugar industry and its co-products.

The ISSCT has been in existence for 95 years during which it has

organized 30 Congresses, usually at 3-year intervals. The last Congress was held in Tucumán, Argentina from 2 to 5 September 2019. The next XXXI Congress is scheduled December 2022 in Hyderabad, India.



Dr. Latif Busari
Executive Secretary
National Sugar Development Council

Council holds general staff meeting

The Council recently held its 2nd general staff meeting in 2019 during which issues relating to the policies, programmes, activities and how to achieve NSDC's core mandate featured as topics for deliberation at the event.

The meeting which was chaired by the Executive Secretary of NSDC, Dr. Latif D. Busari, had Council staff from the Headquarters, North-West, North-East, North-Central zonal offices and Lagos liaison office in attendance.



A cross section of NSDC Staff during the last general staff meeting in September.

development of the Council, especially as it pertains to achieving Council's corporate objectives, Mr. Kwabe equally charged members of staff to desist from acts inimical to the overall development of the Council.

In his speech, Chairman of the meeting, Dr. Busari who stressed the need for staff to exhibit professionalism, discipline, honesty and commitment in

In his welcome address, Director, Human Resource Management, Mr. Samuel Kwabe thanked the Chairman for convening the meeting in the first place, adding that the general staff meeting is a platform for interaction between and amongst staff of the NSDC on how to achieve the Council's core mandate.

While calling on those present to make useful contributions and suggestions on issues that border on the growth and

the discharge of their duties, warned that the Council would not tolerate acts capable of frustrating the attainment of Council's objectives.

He urged staff to be innovative in their attitude to work, noting that advancement in information and communication technology has made access to information less difficult with several options of getting information available to users.

SUGAR SECTOR IN THE NEWS

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- BUA Boss lists solutions to sugar's BIP challenges, Vanguard, 26th July, 2019. Page 34.
- Setting up of cube-sugar producing packaging plant, Thisday, 11th July, 2019. Page 31
- Sugar Council is committed to transparency, Leadership, 28th August, 2019. Page 29
- Sugar Council's contract bidding process transparent, Daily Trust, 29th August, 2019. Page 19
- Why Nigeria still not-sufficient in sugar production, Daily Trust, 5th September, 2019. Pages 28 & 29
- Sugar Council urges FG to explore bio-energy from sugar factories, Daily Trust, 24th September, 2019. Page 18

STAFF MATTERS

Tributes, eulogies and emotions as Mr. Kwabe retires

It was a potpourri of tributes, applause and uncontrolled emotions as the Director, Human Resource Management, Mr. Samuel Ali Kwabe announced his retirement from active service at the last general staff meeting having attained the age of 60.

While reminiscing on the fruitful years he had spent in the Council, Mr. Kwabe said, he is exiting the service a fulfilled, happy and blessed individual. He urged those still in service to be patriotic, exemplary and dedicated in their service to Nigeria, stressing that genuine service to humanity and fatherland is a legacy that would count for us long after we are gone.

On his relationship with staff of the Council, Mr. Kwabe who fought back tears while speaking, said he had enjoyed cordial working relationship with all members of staff across strata, and promised to always keep in touch with everyone.

He thanked everyone for the show

of love, especially those who worked directly with him as subordinates in the Human Resource Department for being supportive and loyal even at personal cost.

Some staff of the Council took turns to speak on their relationship with Mr. Kwabe and how he has impacted them positively.

Mrs. Senchi Okida Kaka (CAO) of the HRM described Mr. Kwabe as a “father, teacher and mentor who has taught me a lot of things. I am grateful to God for his life and the positive legacies all through his stay in the Council. I am personally going to miss his love, counsel and elderly encouragement”, she said.

On his part, Mr. Munachiso C.J

(ACPO) of the Technical Services department said, Mr. Kwabe is a “perfect gentleman who is so committed to his work and ever ready to be of help to others, especially his subordinates in the office. He is only leaving the civil service. He still has a lot to offer humanity. Sir, be rest assured that will always look out for you whenever the need arises.

Mr. Kwabe's unique fashion sense and smashing appearance formed the thrust of Mr. Abdullahi Yunusa's (PIO) tribute. He described him as a “good dresser who appears simple but classy, clean and knows how to combine colours. I have had personal encounters with him, both within and outside the office environment. He's indeed a thoroughbred administrator and patriotic Nigerian”, he stated.



Mr. Samuel Ali Kwabe

Former Director, Human Resource Management, NSDC

Tears as Council loses staff

The entire Council was on Wednesday, 28th August, 2019 thrown into mourning following the announcement of the sudden death of one of its staff, Late Engineer Michael Toba Owoyemi of the Technical Services Department.

According information made available to the Council by his family, Late Engineer Owoyemi died in his house, Iddo Sarki, a sprawling settlement along the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.

In a tribute, Confidential Secretary to the Executive Secretary, Mal. Musa Disina said, "My condolences to his immediate family and the Sugar Council as a whole. May Allah forgive his shortcomings".

On his part, one of his colleagues in the Technical Services Department, Mr. MCJ Munachiso said, "Honestly, I was shocked to the marrow when I got the sad news of his passing. The memory of my last close association with him at Oyo Sugar in Iseyin, between 7th and 15th of August kept playing up in my mind. I couldn't believe it until Engineer Isaac confirmed it. I condole with the family and indeed all of us in the Sugar Council. May God accept his gentle soul and grant us all the fortitude to bear the loss".

Mr. Kawu Mohammed of the Procurement Department prayed God to accept the soul of late Engineer Owoyemi, saying "He was a kindhearted, God-fearing and humble man. May his soul rest in peace".



Late Engineer Michael Toba Owoyemi

According to a letter of burial notification sent to the Council by late Engineer Owoyemi's family, his funeral rites began with a service of songs on Wednesday, 4th September, 2019 at the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG Winner's Chapel, opposite Junior Secondary School, Iddo Sarki by 5:00pm.

The corpse left the Federal Medical Centre, Jabi for his ancestral home, Odo-Ere, Yagba-West, Kogi State on 5th September, 2019. A Christian wake-keep was held same day in his family compound. His remains were later committed to mother earth on Friday, 6th September, 2019.

Late Engineer Michael Toba Owoyemi was until his death a Principal Officer in the Technical Services department. He is survived by his wife, children and other relations. May his soul rest in peace, amen.

DATA ON SUGAR IMPORTATION IN THE SECOND QUARTER JULY - SEPTEMBER 2019

Month	Importer	Qty (MT) (NPA)	Qty (MT) (NCS)	Levy Paid (N)	Country of Origin	D/Port	Type of Sugar
July	Dangote Sugar	46,602	41,950	192,215,488	Brazil	Apapa	Raw
	BUA Sugar	-	-	-	Brazil	Tincan	Raw
	Golden Sugar	50,146	-	-	Brazil	Apapa	Raw
August	Dangote Sugar	46,211	43,960	200,247,998	Brazil	Apapa	Raw
	BUA Sugar	-	40,000	211,573,002	Brazil	Tin Can	Raw
	Golden Suagr	52,511	38,000	207,183,015	Brazil	Apapa	Raw
September	Dangote Sugar	45,656	38,712	171,976,684	Brazil	Apapa	Raw
	BUA Sugar	-	-	-	Brazil	Tin Can	Raw
	Golden Sugar	-	-	-	Brazil	Tincan	Raw
Total		241,126	202,192	983,192,187			

SUMMARY OF AVERAGE LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL RAW AND WHITE SUGAR PRICE: JULY - SEPTEMBER 2019

MONTH	SOURCE (STATE)	SUGAR (BRAND)	WHOLESALE		RETAIL		INTERNATIONAL		INTERNATIONAL	
			N/50KG	N/MT	N/50KG	N/MT	RAW SUGAR		WHITE SUGAR	
							AVERAGE PRICE		AVERAGE PRICE	
							\$/MT	N/MT	\$/MT	N/MT
JULY	LAGOS	WHITE	13,311.00	266,672	13,586.00	271,725.00	281.62	86,373.46	321.36	98,642.00
	KANO	DANGOTE/								
	ABUJA	GOLDEN/								
	ADAMAWA	BUA								
	KWARA									
AUGUST	LAGOS	WHITE	13,261	265,212	13,548	270,960	272.84	84,542.19	318.4	97,722.96
	KANO	DANGOTE/								
	ABUJA	GOLDEN/								
	ADAMAWA	BUA								
	KWARA									
SEPTEMBER	LAGOS	WHITE	13,318	266,353	13,582	271,640	261.06	80,123.46	332.78	102,132.92
	KANO	DANGOTE/								
	ABUJA	GOLDEN/								
	ADAMAWA	BUA								
	KWARA									
AVERAGE MONTH										
TOTAL			13,296.67	266,079	13,572.00	271,441.67	271.84	83,679.70	324.18	99,499.29

* Note: Mt =metric Tons (50kgx 20), Kg = Kilogram, N =nigerian Currency Naira,
S= Usd, Currency Conversion Us\$1 = N306.92(nigeria Central Bank Rate; Average For Quarter)
Weight Conversion: 1000kg = 1 Metric Tonne, S/ Ton = C/ib X 22.04
Country And State Are Not Applicable To International Raw And White Sugar Price.
Source: International Sugar Organization Market Report & Local Market Survey.

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...and much more