



BRITISH AMERICAN  
TOBACCO NIGERIA  
FOUNDATION

Empowering rural Nigeria for a sustainable future

# GREENTalk

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## Stakeholders seek agricultural policy support for rural farmers

*Cross-section of participants at the session*



Experts in the agricultural sector have urged government and the organised private sector to give greater support to smallholder farmers by providing the right incentives and financial support systems, as well as strengthening existing infrastructure to assist smallholder farmers in eradicating hunger and poverty. This appeal aggregates the opinions of stakeholders at the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATNF)'s Dialogue Session on Agricultural Policies and the Nigerian Smallholder Farmers which was held at the prestigious Southern Sun Hotel, Ikoyi on Tuesday, 6th October 2015.

The Stakeholders Dialogue Session was necessitated by the need to provide a robust and expansive policy framework for the nation's agricultural sector in line with the current administration's resolve to enhance practices and output of the sector.

In his opening address, the Director, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation, Mr Freddy Messanvi, who represented the Managing Director, British American Tobacco Nigeria, Mr Chris McAllister, stated that after 10 years of the Foundation, it "has been repositioned and realigned to suit the contemporary socio-economic

*Footnote: In order to further enhance the support to the rural smallholder farmers through advocacy, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation collaborated with stakeholders in the agricultural sector to organise a Dialogue Session where issues that affects farmers were discussed*



*Freddy during his opening address at the Session.*

environment and challenges." Messanvi noted that the Dialogue Session was an 'advocacy platform' to facilitate access to policy-making decisions of the smallholder farmers who produce the bulk of the food Nigerians consume.

Executive Director, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation, Oluwaseyi Ashade, in her presentation, provided an overview of BATNF's initiatives aimed at empowering Nigeria's rural dwellers. On the accomplishments of the Foundation in this regard, she noted that "The Foundation sees the importance of assisting the people working hard to improve the Nigerian economy," adding that in the last five years, it had been able to execute various Corporate Social Investment projects in Nigeria and sustained them. She listed the key focal points of the Foundation as sustainable agricultural development, provision of potable water supply channels, as well as

environmental protection and vocational skills development. "We have projects running across the federation that cater to these critical touch points, and we are gladdened by the many success stories that have come out of these impactful and live-changing initiatives," she said.

In her presentation, Senior Associate, Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), Mrs. Feyisetan Fatona-Ajayi, examined the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA)'s current progress, how it has worked before and its impact on the Nigerian smallholder farmers.

The Dialogue Session also examined the impact of the ATA on the farming communities in Nigeria. Professor Umar Abubakar, Executive Director, Institute of Agricultural Research, Zaria, who was ably represented by Professor Ben Ahmed chronicled the many achievements of the ATA. He observed that one of the key areas where the ATA has

succeeded, is in organizing farmers into groups, registering them and sensitising them on the imperatives of forming commodity-based cooperatives for the purpose of accessing government-assisted services, financial services and other benefits from service providers.

Other discussants noted that the drop in the cost of agricultural input and falling prices of agricultural products are also a direct result of the ATA.

There were also presentations made by representatives of the various groups where they reviewed the report of the BATNF's Executive Working Group (EWG).



*Seyi during her presentation at the Session*

# PHOTO NEWS FROM THE EVENT



(1)BATNF Technical Committee members with the with BATNF Board; (2) Freddy and other dignitaries at the Foundation stand; (3) Feyisetan Fatona-Ajayi of NESG presenting her paper; (4) Professor Ben Ahmed presenting his paper; (5) BATNF Board with the EWG; (6) Dr. A. Adelani making a point during the session; (7) Abimbola Okoya, BATNF General Manager delivering a speech at the Session; (8) Professor Chidi Ibe, member Technical Committee of the Foundation; (9) Mr. Innocent Azih, presenting the Executive Working Group Report

# PHOTO NEWS FROM THE EVENT



(1)The Climate Change Group; (2) The Maize/Rice Group; (3) The Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System (NIRSAL) Group; (4) The Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GESS) Group; (5) The Oil Palm Group; (6) The Livestock/Poultry Group; (7) The Cassava Group; (8)The Vegetable Group

# BATNF visit projects' model farms

*The objective of the engagement and assessment visits to the established BATNF model farms across the country is to engage the beneficiary farmers, assess and evaluate the present state of the established model farms to review the current farming period with the implementing partners and the beneficiary smallholder farmers with a view to review the implementation strategy for future interventions.*

**T**he monitoring and evaluation visit of the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation's established model farms across the country, kicked-off on Monday, 5th October 2015 with the visit to BATNF Maize Enterprise Value-chain Development Project model farms at Bisara Community in Zaria, Kaduna State. The visit by the Foundation team, which included the Executive Director, Oluwaseyi Ashade and Projects Manager, Remi Adewole, provided the team with an opportunity to interact with the beneficiary farmers and conduct visits on-the-spot-assessment of the established farm.

#### *Ojiegbe Community, here we come...*

The monitoring and evaluation visits to the Foundation's farm model sites started on the 16th September 2015 with

the visit to farms at Izzi Local Government of Ebonyi State. The project coordinator, Dr. Cletus Nwakpu appreciated the Foundation's intervention through the 3-year project. He said the beneficiary farmers now have access to timely farm inputs and capacity building through training which has translated to higher yield and income for the farmers. Dr. Nwakpu further stated that the collaboration between the Foundation and Ebonyi State FADAMA Coordinating Office has opened more collaborating opportunities with other development organisations.

In his welcome address when the team visited the farms at the community, the Chairman, BATNF-Ojiegbe Rice Farmers Cooperative Society, Elder Matthew Ede thanked the Foundation for the intervention. He further said that with the farm inputs and trainings received, each of the 30

*Members of BATNF-Ojiegbe Rice Farmers Cooperative Society with group photograph with BATNF team*



*One of the established rice farm at Ojiegbe Community, Ebonyi State*



*Oluwaseyi at the meeting with Bisara beneficiary farmers*



*Inside one of the established maize farm at Bisara, Kaduna State*



beneficiaries have been able to cultivate hectares of rice farms and harvesting will commence during the 1st week of November.

When responding to the chairman's speech, the Foundation Executive Director, Oluwaseyi Ashade, expressed her satisfaction with the level of commitment to the project by the beneficiaries. She however observed that more women need to be involved in the project; the farm produce needs a high-level marketing strategy and the group need to process their produce.

***At Bisara Community...***

On the 5th of October 2015, the Foundation team visited the maize farms established by the beneficiary farmers of the Foundation's maize enterprise development project at Bisara, Zaria in Kaduna State. In his welcome address, the Chairman of BATNF-Bisara Farmers' Cooperative Society, Malam Nuhu Umar, thanked the Foundation for the intervention through the collaboration with Kaduna State Agricultural Development Program. He said that the capacity building and technical assistance received through

the intervention has turned around the economic situation of the farmers for the better. Umar further stated that other farmers within and outside the community that are non-members of the group, also benefited through adoption of technologies introduced by the implementing partner. He said the group was very happy with early commencement of the project this year which facilitated good yield and early harvesting of the farm produce.

In her response, Oluwaseyi informed the farmers that the objective of the visit was to conduct an on-the-spot assessment of the farms established through the intervention, its impact on the farmers and the community and also what other requirements were needed to further improve the farmers' productivity.

A joint inspection of the farms was carried out with the officials of Kaduna ADP and the beneficiary farmers.

***Next was the Dokko Community Rice Enterprise Development Project...***

On Saturday, 10th October 2015, the Foundation's Projects Manager, Remi Adewole in company of Niger State



*One of the beneficiary farmers' rice farm at Dokko Community, Niger State*

representatives: Alhaji Muhammed Vasta, Project Desk officer and Malam Ngadi, visited the established model rice farms at Dokko Community, Niger State. In his welcome address, Alhaji Vasta highlighted the activities carried out with the group during the current planting season which were distribution of farm inputs to the beneficiaries, pre-season & on-season trainings and regular monitoring of farm activities of the beneficiaries. He also stated that some of the beneficiary farmers were relocated from Dokko due to its proximity to water sources for irrigation to complement the rainfall and avoid crop failure due to climate change.

During visits to the established farms, it was observed that the beneficiary farmers adhered to the best practice introduced to them by the implementing partners which was evident from the good state of the farms during visit.

#### ***And then it was Benue State...***

Lie/Mbakyan community BATNF Rice Enterprise Development Project, Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State was the next point of call during the on-going monitoring and evaluation exercise by the Foundation. The visit, which took place on Friday, 16th October 2015 gave the Foundation the opportunity to have first hand information on the project status. BATNF Projects Manager, Remi Adewole and the Project Coordinator, Mr. Godwin Tortya of Benue State FADAMA Program met with the 30 beneficiary farmers to evaluate and discuss other challenges experienced during the season. While welcoming the visiting team, the chairman, BATNF-Kwande Rice farmers Cooperative Society, Mr. Boniface Gwebe thanked the Foundation and Benue State FADAMA Program for the early commencement of the project for the 2015 planting season. He said that the group appreciated the positive feedback received when farmers raised concerns over the quality of fertilizer given to the farmers during the 2014 planting season. Mr. Gwebe further stated that



*A beneficiary of BATNF intervention at Kwande, Benue State, Richard Abanger, in his established rice farm.*



*Some farmers in the rice field.*



*Beneficiary cassava farmers at Otu, Oyo State.*



*An established cassava farm of one of the beneficiaries at Ogbooro, Oyo State.*



with the quality of inputs given to the farmers, bumper harvest is guaranteed in the 2015 planting season. In his remarks, the project coordinator, Mr. Tortya gave brief highlights on the activities conducted during the 2015 planting season. He said that each of the 30 beneficiary farmers were able to establish 1 hectare of rice farm each and urged the beneficiaries to fully utilize the opportunity given to them through the intervention.

**A field visit was conducted by the team to 5 farms established by the beneficiary farmers. During the farm visit, it was observed that the farms were in good condition with prospect for bumper harvest. The group has also established a rice processing centre financed with the fund from the State FADAMA project.**

#### *...and Ogun State*

In continuation of the monitoring and evaluation visits to BATNF project sites, the BATNF team train got to Ijebu North and Ijebu North-East of Ogun State on 18th November, 2015. The visits to the projects sites at Apoje and Ago-Iwoye in Ijebu North and Idode and Imewuro in Ijebu North-East enabled the team to access the level of work and commitment exhibited to the project by the beneficiaries and the implementing partner, Ogun State Agricultural Development Program.

At one of the meetings held with the farmers and the implementing partner, Abimbola Okoya enjoined the farmers to be more committed to the project and the implementing partner to show focus on achieving successful results at the end of the intervention.

#### *The Ile-Ife visit*

The GM, Abimbola and the Projects Manager, Remi, visited the established model farms of the BATNF Osun State Cassava/Maize Enterprise Value-chain Development Project on 12th November 2015. The project, which is in collaboration with Osun State FADAMA Coordinating Office, has 30 smallholder farmers as its beneficiaries.

Speaking on behalf of the state government, the Project Coordinator, Dr. Ganiyu Adediji at the project site expressed gratitude to the Foundation for the intervention which aimed at assisting the smallholder farmers in the State.

During interaction with the farmers, Abimbola observed



*Meeting with the farmers and implementing partners during the visit at Ile-Ife, Osun State*

*Project site for the BATNF-Apoje Community Cassava Enterprise Development Project, Ijebu North-East Local Government of Ogun State.*



the need for gender participation in the project, in terms of ownership and composition of the executives of the group. She appreciated the project implementing partner for issues raised and enjoined him to resolve all observations during the visit. Abimbola also asked the beneficiary farmers to learn from each other especially those whose farms are exemplary.

In marketing their farm produce, the implementing partner has linked the farmers to a starch processing industry at Ondo State thereby improving the value chain. A Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into by the farmers, Osun State FCO and the industry.



**During the monitoring and evaluation visit by the Foundation team to all the established model farms, some of the beneficiaries were interviewed and this is what they say...**



Danmallam.



Abe.



Abanger.

**Kwande Rice Value-chain Enterprise Development Project, Benue State**

**Kumbus Mathias**

*"British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation has given me life. Now, I am able to support my children's education through proceeds from my rice farm with support received from BATNF intervention despite non-payment of my gratuity."*

**Felicia Abe**

*"Now I am fully engaged in rice farming business with the inputs and technical support received from British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation. I can conveniently pay my children's school fees and even have a bank account."*

**Richard Abanger**

*"I have been able to expand my other crop farms with proceeds from the rice farm established through BATNF intervention. Now, my income has increased greatly."*

**Dokko Rice Value-chain Enterprise Development Project, Niger State**

**Muhammad Emigi**

*"There is a big difference between my rice farm and those of non-beneficiary farmers in my community due to technical support and improved farm inputs received through the intervention by BATNF."*

**Bisara Community Maize Value-chain Enterprise Development Project, Zaria, Kaduna State**

**Hassan Danmallam**

*"I am now a model farmer to other maize farmers in my community. This is due largely to the great support in term of capacity building and farm inputs I received from British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation and Kaduna State ADP. I have been able to increase my farm size from less than 1 hectare to 2 hectares. I am now called Sarki Noma (King of farmers) because I have the biggest farm in my community now. Thanks to BATNF."*

**Ojiegbe Community Rice Value-chain Enterprise Development Project, Ebonyi State**

**Elder Matthew Edeh**

*"Rice production for the BATNF-Ojiegbe Rice Farmers Cooperative Society has never been the same in the last 2 years when the intervention started. With the improved inputs and training received, we have been able to increase our yield from less than 2 tons per hectare to 4 tons per hectare; this has tripled the income generation for the individual beneficiary farmers."*

**Ido Community Cassava Value-chain Enterprise Development Project, Oyo State**

**Mr. Basiru Adesiyan**

*"The intervention of the Foundation has been very rewarding. It has helped the members of Agbenireti Cassava Growers Multipurpose Society to improve our cassava production, processing and ultimately our income. As you can see, these bags of processed gari are due for delivery."*



Ede.



Adesiyan.



Emigi.

# BATNF sponsored BusinessDay Food Security Summit

The British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation sponsored and participated in the 2015 annual BusinessDay Food Security Summit with the theme: Making Agriculture the Economic Game Changer. The event which took place on 22nd October 2015 at the Civic Centre, Victoria Island, had in attendance over 200 stakeholders in the agricultural sector of the Nigerian economy.

In his presentation at the Summit, member, Technical Committee, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation, Mr. Fatai Afolabi, gave an elaborate view of the Foundation's efforts in using agriculture to boost the economy of the rural smallholder farmers and their community with the topic: Making Agriculture the Economic Changer: BATNF Agricultural Value Chain Model.

Mr. Afolabi stated that agricultural growth and development requires adequate investment and right technology which will make huge economic gains possible. He further said that the increase in government spending in East and South Asia over the past 20 years, has been clearly linked to rapid growth in agriculture and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. He said that the sub-sahara countries' public investment in agriculture is still far below what is required despite commitments made by the African governments to allocate 10% of their public spending to agriculture.

He further stated that the above-mentioned challenges informed the Foundation to develop a strategy which was proactively designed to promote, reposition and transform agriculture as a game changer in the Nigerian economy most especially among the rural smallholder farmers. The strategy includes: the vision, mission, program strategy, objectives, implementing strategy, priorities, projects portfolio, project spread, selection of implementing partners, and creation of a wide stakeholders' base.

Other speakers at the Summit were: Dr. Bashorun Olajide, Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture;

Dr. Vincent Nwani, Director, Research and Advocacy, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Olabode Abikoye, Head, Agric Business, Union Bank; and Mr. Sotonye Anga, Coordinator, Agricbusiness.

Over 150 participants visited the Foundation's exhibition stand at the Summit.



*The panelists at the Summit.*



*Cross section of the participants at the Summit.*



*Mr. Afolabi during his presentation at the Summit.*



A BATNF beneficiary, Mr. Aмоса Moshood, Fatou Ndir, Oluwaseyi Ashade, Professor Chidi Ibe, Chiago Akpata, another beneficiary, Mr. Ismaila Ajao and Abimbola Okoya after the award

# BATNF wins at SERAs award

On Friday, 20th November, 2015, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation in appreciation of its effort in uplifting the agricultural sector, won the Best Company in support of Agriculture at the 9th Social Enterprise Reports and Awards (SERAs). This year, the SERAs received over 100 entries from various categories in 13 sectors of the nation's economy.

The Foundation's entry for this year award was its 3-year Maize Enterprise Value-chain Development Project at Bisara Village, in Zaria Local Government of Kaduna State where 30 rural smallholder beneficiary farmers were supported with improved farm inputs and capacity building through trainings in best agronomy practices.

Since inception of the Award, the Foundation has always been recognised as foremost organisation in empowering rural Nigeria for a sustainable future through agriculture. Also, in 2014, the Foundation commenced sponsorship of the award category for the Best Company in Sustainability Reporting.

This year's event, which has over 500 dignitaries in attendance, has 'Building partnerships for a sustainable future: Business leadership as catalyst for development' as its theme.



Oluwaseyi after receiving the award plaque.



The Foundation table during the event.

At British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation,  
we support small holder farmers to adopt more  
productive ways of managing and earning  
livelihoods from natural resources  
in a sustainable manner



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# BATNF attends AgralInnovate 2015 Farmers' training program



From left: Onyinye Adiele, BATNF; Alhaji M.A. Adelekan, BATNF beneficiary vegetable farmer, Ajara, Badagry, Lagos State; Mr. Tolu Sonaïke, BATNF beneficiary cassava farmer, Ijebu-Igbo, Ogun State and Mrs. Cecelia Iluyomade, BATNF beneficiary poultry farmer, Abeokuta, Ogun State at the training program.

On the 26th November 2015, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation attended the 2015 Farmers' training program organised by Agra Innovate which took place at the Landmark Event Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos. The event, which was tailored towards the rural smallholder farmers, has over 100 key players along the value chain of the country's agricultural sector.

Participants met foreign manufacturers and suppliers of innovative technology in agricultural sector; network with major key players, Non Governmental Organisations,

research organisations and entrepreneurs; discover latest technologies in the sector, and have training on improved technologies on productivity.

The training program was attended by 3 beneficiaries of the Foundation's agricultural value-chain enterprise development projects from Ajara, Lagos State, Abeokuta, Ogun State and Ijebu Igbo, Ogun State. They are: Alhaji M.A. Oyelekan, vegetable farmer; Mrs. Cecelia Iluyomade, poultry farmer and Mr. Tolu Sonaïke, a cassava farmer.

Certificate of participation were issued to participants that attended the 1-day training program.

In keeping to the sustainability strategy for all its projects, the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation, in collaboration with the Centre for Management Development, organised a 5-day training program for 15 staff of Education Department of Oluyole Local Government of Oyo State. The program which took place between 7th - 11th December, 2015 at CMD Zonal office in Ibadan had the theme: Inplant program on vocational skills design, implementation and management.

Welcoming the participants to the training program, General Manager, Abimbola Okoya, who was represented by Projects Manager, Remi Adewole, said that investing in

## Foundation trains staff of Oluyole Local Government

knowledge and skills is the cornerstone of developing globally competitive workforce. She urged the participants to make the best use of the program by translating the skills and knowledge acquired from the training program into economic gains and for the development of the vocational training centre donated by the Foundation and the larger society.

Participants at the training program.



From Left: Wale Olanrewaju, Assistant Director, Centre for Management Development, Abimbola Okoya, GM, BATNF, Dr. Alaga Ayo Monsurat, Director of Education & Social Services, Oluyole LG, Dr. K. K Usman, Director General, Centre For Management Development and Mrs Kemi Oyedeji, Head of Local Government Administration, Oluyole LG.

# Foundation at the Stakeholders' Roundtable on Nigeria Cassava Policy

On Tuesday, 24th November 2015, the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATN Foundation) attended and presented a paper at the 2015 High level National Stakeholders' Roundtable on the Nigerian Cassava Policy organized by the National Association of Nigerian Traders, NANTS at the Knightbridge Hotel, Ikeja.

In his opening remarks, the President NANTS, Mr. Ken Ukaoha, who is also a member of the BATNF Executive Working Group (EWG), said the objective of the Roundtable is to awaken the consciousness of all stakeholders in the agricultural sector towards the benefits and impacts of a strong and active implementation of cassava policy in Nigeria. He said that the role cassava value-chain can play in the farm and food systems towards creating employment and ultimately reduce poverty cannot be over-emphasised. Mr. Ukaoha further stated that with the

importance of cassava to the livelihoods of many millions of poor people especially for rural smallholder farmers has made it a target for interventions from notable NGOs such as Oxfam, Markets; USAID, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation and research institutes such as International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, IITA. He enjoined the participants to develop a robust communiqué that will push for implementation of cassava policy reform in Nigeria and unlock Nigeria's huge investment potential in cassava.

During his presentation at the event, Mr. Innocent Azih, member, Executive Working Group of the BATN Foundation, reiterated the efforts of the Federal Government's Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) in bringing succor to the rural smallholder farmers through informed policies. He further informed the gathering the efforts of BATNF in keying

into the plans of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture's ATA policy by studying the policy of the value-chains and proffers solutions in making the policies more benefitting to rural smallholder farmers. The issues, challenges and recommendations were in the areas of production, processing, storage, marketing, logistics, financing and improved technologies.

The participants all agreed that; there should be a shift by donor agencies from capacity building to funding of projects; encourage inputs sourcing locally within communities of interventions; to encourage public-private-partnership to support smallholder farmers; to encourage use of extension agents to build capacity and provide information to rural smallholder farmers; and to provide jobs for the vulnerable groups (women and youths) in the community.



Participants from the cassava farmers group, BATNF delegate, OXFAM and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development delegates at the event.



Mr. Ayodele Ikupeleye OXFAM representative, Mr. Ken Ukaoha (with cap), President, National Association of Nigerian Traders, and Abimbola Okoya, General Manager, BATN Foundation.



Mr. Ayeni Olusegun (middle) of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development delivering his papers at the event.

# Foundation at the CVL annual lecture

The British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation, on Friday, 6th November 2015, attended the 2015 3rd Economic Growth Sector celebration of Centre for Value Leadership with a focus on Agricultural Sector.

The event, which was held at the Eko Hotel and Suites, co-sponsored by the Foundation, had a paper presented by Dr. Umar Bindir, Secretary to the State Government, Adamawa State and Chairman, Think-Tank Committee of Board of Directors, Songhai Regional Centre, Benin.

Member, Technical Committee of the Foundation, Mr. Fatai Afolabi, General Manager, Abimbola Okoya and Projects Manager, Remi Adewole, attended the event on behalf of the Foundation.



*Professor Pat Utomi, Mr. Fatai Afolabi, Dr. Umar Bindir and Abimbola Okoya at the event.*

## BATNF Executive Working Group meeting

On November 10 2015, the Executive Working Group (EWG) of the Foundation met to review its activities and the just concluded Dialogue Session where its reports of the review of Agricultural Transformation Agenda and how it affects smallholder farmers was presented to stakeholders.

In her welcome remarks, the General Manager, Abimbola Okoya, thanked the members for their valuable contributions towards the successful hosting of the Foundation's 1st Dialogue Session in October. She said that the EWG would be retained to ensure that recommendations are followed up to a logical conclusion and also to ensure sustainability of the findings. Abimbola further stated that the Foundation is planning to present the outcomes of the National Dialogue to the National Council of Agriculture which comprises the Minister for Agriculture, States commissioners and Permanent Secretaries for agriculture, etc.

The Group reviewed the sections of the draft report and identified challenges and issues that are affecting smallholder farmers. The sections include: Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for

Agricultural Lending, NIRSAL, Growth Enhancement Support Scheme, GESS, Climate Change, and selected value-chains (maize, cassava, oil palm, vegetable, livestock/aquaculture and poultry).

Present at the meeting were Professor Femi Ajibola, Mr. Francis Okpani, Mr. Innocent Azih; Abimbola Okoya, Professor Lemchi Jones and Mr. Ken Ukaoha.



*The Executive Working Group during the meeting.*

## FACTS ABOUT AGRICULTURE

Nearly two million people farm or ranch in the United States. Almost 90 percent of U.S. farms are operated by individuals or family corporations. American agriculture provides jobs-including production agriculture, farm inputs, processing and marketing, along with retail and wholesale sales--for 15 percent of the U.S. population.

**Source: NC University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences**

Nigeria of today is a country where agriculture is still greatly and relatively undermined; and or even overlooked as a mere "backyard business". Some Nigerian youths even regard farming as "an odd job that is meant only for the illiterate rural people". **Source: thenigerianvoice.com**

Many delicious and juicy fruits, vegetables and cash-crops are largely produced from Nigeria's local farming communities. But, do you know that a very great percentage of these delicious organic farm produce often get damaged and, or wasted before they reach their final consumers? In this kind of a situation, one of the major problems that is facing the helpless local farmers there, is lack of adequate food storage of processing facilities.

**Source: thenigerianvoice.com**



At British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation,  
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productive ways of managing and earning  
livelihoods from natural resources  
in a sustainable manner



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