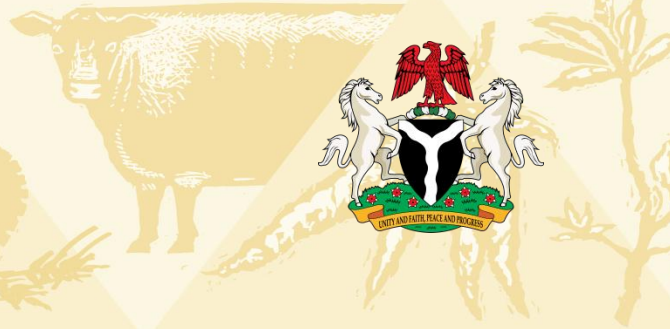




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NSSP Workshop Report # 22

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON “MAKING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH WORK FOR END-USERS”

(Prepared by Amina Yakubu)

Nigeria Strategy Support Program
Workshop Report

May 24, 2011

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THE NIGERIA STRATEGY SUPPORT PROGRAM WORKSHOP REPORTS

ABOUT NSSP

The Nigeria Strategy Support Program (NSSP) of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) has an initiative to strengthen evidence-based policymaking in Nigeria in the areas of rural and agricultural development. This initiative, facilitated by USAID, supports the implementation of Nigeria's national development plans by strengthening agricultural-sector policies and strategies through:

- Enhanced knowledge, information, data, and tools for the analysis, design, and implementation of pro-poor, gender-sensitive, and environmentally sustainable agricultural and rural development policies and strategies in Nigeria;
- Strengthened capacity for government agencies, research institutions, and other stakeholders to carry out and use applied research that directly informs agricultural and rural policies and strategies; and
- Improved communication linkages and consultations between policymakers, policy analysts, and policy beneficiaries on agricultural and rural development policy issues.

ABOUT THESE WORKSHOP REPORTS

The Nigeria Strategy Support Program (NSSP) Workshop Reports provide a record of the presentations delivered during workshops and key comments from the audience and group discussions. The comments from the participants do not necessarily reflect the views of IFPRI

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON “MAKING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH WORK FOR END-USERS.

Abuja, Nigeria
May 24, 2011

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Introduction

In line with the objectives of the Nigeria Strategy Support Program (NSSP) to improve communication linkages and consultations between policymakers, policy analysts, and policy beneficiaries on agricultural and rural development issues, a national symposium on “Making Agricultural Research Work for End-Users” was held in collaboration with the African Institute for Applied Economics (AIAE) and the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet).

The motivation for the symposium was to rally experts and practitioners on the important question of optimizing the interface of agricultural research, agricultural policy and agricultural enterprise for sustainable growth and food security in Nigeria.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Share research information, and
- Synthesize informed perspectives on innovative and best practices for linking research, policymaking and private enterprise.

The symposium brought together 100 key participants comprised of researchers, government officials, development practitioners, research managers and agricultural entrepreneurs (see Appendix C for participant list). The workshop was held at the Valencia Hotel, Abuja on May 24, 2011.

Opening Ceremony

The workshop was opened by the President of the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet) and Executive Director, African Institute for Applied Economics, Professor Eric Eboh. He welcomed participants to the symposium and applauded the large number of participants which, according to him, constituted a distinguished cross section of agricultural sector stakeholders from across the country. He stated that the political transition the country was going through should be devoted to deepening reflection about how to correct past mistakes and set the country’s agricultural sector on the right path. In order for agricultural research to have the desired impact and produce usable results, it should be communicated in a manner that promoted its use on a sustainable basis. He also emphasized that agricultural research should be relevant, available and accessible. On the other hand, potential users of research results should also have the capacity and orientation to digest, absorb and utilize research results.

Summary of Presentations – First Plenary Session

Five presentations were made at the first plenary session: “*Achievements and challenges in facilitating linkages between research and enterprise,*” by Dr. Damian Chikwendu; “*Maximizing the relevance and impact of agriculture research in Nigeria – the IFPRI experience,*” by Dr. James Sackey; “*Integrating agricultural research into policy and practice: Experience from the Nigerian PropCom (DFID) Program,*” by Dr. Victor Oboh; “*Cost-effective pro-poor*

agricultural spending in Nigeria,” by Dr. Manson Nwafor; and “*Drivers of agricultural growth in Nigeria,*” by Dr. Moses Oduh.

Achievements and challenges in facilitating linkages between research and enterprise.

ARCN’s Director of Agricultural Policy, Extension, and Socio-Economic Research Program, Professor Chikwendu, began his presentation by providing some insight on the national research system, its present state, the role of ARCN, the paradigm shift from the traditional linkage system and the challenges the system currently faces in her effort to facilitate a sustainable linkage between research and enterprise. One of the key factors he identified as the bane of the existing deplorable state of the research system in Nigeria was the inadequate and unstable funding from government (he showed that many of the research institutes had zero investment allocation for many years). In addition, there was the lack of adequate manpower within the Nigerian Agricultural Research System (NARS). As part of the paradigm shift needed for an effective and sustainable linkage between research and the end users, he proposed an innovative platform where researches are client-oriented, implementation of an adopted village concept, targeted commercialization, promotion of intellectual property rights and the use of agricultural research fairs.

Maximizing the relevance and impact of agricultural research in Nigeria – the IFPRI experience.

In his presentation, Dr. James Sackey, Program Leader of IFPRI’s Nigeria Strategy Support Program, gave a brief history of IFPRI and its activities in Nigeria and around the globe. As part of its activities in Nigeria, he noted that the NSSP was initiated in 2007 as the Agricultural Policy Support Facility (APSF) with funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The follow-up programs included the Global Food Security Response (GFSR) and the Feed the Future (FTF), funded by the USAID. These programs sought to address the issue of evidence-based policymaking through research, capacity-strengthening and improved communication.

He noted that identifying the outcomes and the expected impact of research posed a great number of challenges, including the difficulty of quantifying the impact of knowledge and ideas in terms of reduced poverty and/or increased income. Attributing changes to a specific study or project, he said, could be confusing and even more difficult. On the other hand, he pointed out that an example of IFPRI’s impact on policy formation was during the 2007-2008 world price crises, when IFPRI was able to quickly pull together relevant research and its resulting recommendations were included in the United Nations’ Comprehensive Framework for Action on Food Security.

Specific to IFPRI’s work in Nigeria, he pointed out that a recent evaluation of the APSF by an independent Canadian consulting firm noted that NSSP in general had contributed to the knowledge base for policymaking by initiating research to better understand the institutional capacity within Nigeria, as well as to demand, provide and use evidence in policymaking strategy design. NSSP had worked with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural

Development (FMARD), key agricultural universities and other research institutions in strengthening their access to information and enhancing information flows amongst stakeholders.

In his conclusion, Dr. Sackey stated that capacity building relies on three major elements: knowledge, resources (capital) and capable people to continuously integrate relevant data into a coherent knowledge management system that is capable of identifying information gaps critical to decision making, as well as creating a policy environment that supported agricultural productivity growth.

Integrating agricultural research into policy and practice: Experience from the Nigerian PrOpCom (DFID) program.

Dr. Victor Oboh, Agricultural Policy Advisor to the Department for International Development (DfID), gave a program overview of PrOpCom (Promoting Pro-Poor Opportunities through Commodity and Service Markets), its approach policy interventions and lessons learned with the objective of facilitating changes in the market systems with focus on the causes of market failure and facilitating sustainable solutions. He noted that the ongoing interventions were being carried out in Kano, Ogun and Adamawa States with the aim of translating evidence-based research into policy reforms. He cited as an example the research to guide policy reforms on fertilizer subsidy in Adamawa State, in which the implementation of the recommendations increased farmers' actual subsidy benefit (from 13 percent in 2009 to 42 percent in 2010).

Finally, he noted that some of the key challenges encountered in executing the program included the high cost associated with high-quality and credible research, suspicion on the part of policy makers for some of the research conclusions, and the low uptake of research results. The stated goal of his presentation was to promote flexible approaches to evidence-based policy reform, involvement of key stakeholders from all points of research to practice, working strategically with time policy, and sharing of research findings with stakeholders.

Cost –effective pro-poor agricultural spending in Nigeria

Dr. Manson Nwafor of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in his presentation stated that poverty reduction remains a critical challenge for Nigeria and therefore a concerted effort is needed if Nigeria is to decisively move towards the MDG target of halving poverty by the year 2015. He pointed out that the agricultural sector has a critical role to play in poverty reduction.

He noted that the review of the project report submitted by participating states in the National Special Programme for Food Security (NSPFS) indicated that most of the programs did not adequately report on expenditures according to the agriculture products of focus. The need to report on the focused crops, he said, was important as it would enable agriculture planners to carry out budget monitoring and evaluation and to benchmark cost-effectiveness in a systematic manner. He added that such analysis would further improve the outcomes of programs and projects implemented by various agencies and could lead to greater poverty reduction in a cost-

effective manner. He provided an example of the results that could be obtained by using the required information.

Drivers of agricultural growth in Nigeria

The presentation of Dr. Moses Oduh, Research Fellow at AIAE, dealt with the factors driving the agricultural sector in Nigeria. The findings from the study indicated great untapped potential for the sector, even though its past growth had been unbalanced. He noted that the capital input contribution to the growth was low, while labor had been overused, suggesting that labor contribution had surpassed its potential. Government expenditure was the least contributor to agricultural growth. He concluded that in view of the above, human capital development would remain an important factor to drive agricultural productivity in the same way as the use of irrigation.

General Group Discussion – Second Plenary Session

The following observations and resolutions emerged in the general discussion that followed the presentation.

- i. Capacity building in agricultural research and communication should be hinged on 3 elements of knowledge, resources and people. Hence evidence-based policy and dissemination will be achieved through sustainable funding, available knowledge, and capable people.
- ii. The existing policy of fertilizer subsidy is not adequate. As such, there was a call on government to affect the implementation of the Federal Executive Council (FEC)-approved policy on fertilizer, based on the agreed resolution of the fertilizer summit of 2006.
- iii. Budgeting by the different levels of government in the agricultural sector should reflect cost effectiveness and poverty reduction potentials of different agricultural commodities.
- iv. Drivers of agricultural growth include capital, which at present is very low. Furthermore, labor productivity has been overstretched, resulting in the need for increased mechanization of agricultural production.
- v. There is urgent need to develop the irrigation sector to support both smallholder irrigation as well as the big government irrigation schemes.
- vi. Government should consider establishing a 'trust fund' for sustainable funding of agricultural research, development and extension.
- vii. Policy advice in Nigeria is often not evidence-based, calling for greater interface between policy researchers, policy makers and end-users.
- viii. Users of research findings should be made to fund research in agriculture, as in other countries.

- ix. Fund allocation for research should be differentiated from the capital and recurrent costs in all agricultural research institutes.
- x. There is need to promote the development of alternative extension strategies for reaching end-users in addition to the Agricultural Development Project (ADP) system.
- xi. The symposium observed the substantial post-harvest losses in Nigeria and recommended that more research into storage and handling of agricultural produce should be encouraged.

Appendix A: Invitation Letter

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL POLICY SYMPOSIUM ON “MAKING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH WORK FOR END-USERS”

In collaboration with the African Institute for Applied Economics (AIAE) and with support from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI-Nigeria) funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Nigerian Agricultural Policy Research Network (NAPRNet) hereby invites you to a Policy Symposium on “Making Agricultural Research Work for End-Users”.

The Policy Symposium is designed to rally experts and practitioners on the important question of optimizing the interface of agricultural research, agricultural policy and agricultural enterprise for sustainable growth and food security in Nigeria. It creates an opportunity to share research information and to synthesize informed perspectives on innovative and best practices for linking research, policymaking and private enterprise. The Symposium will be attended by researchers, research managers, policymakers, development practitioners and agricultural entrepreneurs.

Discussions and recommendations of the Symposium will be tailored to support the implementation of the National Agricultural Investment Plan and the National Agricultural Sector Strategy.

The Symposium will hold as follows:

Date: Tuesday 24 May 2011

Venue: Valencia Hotel, Wuse 2, Abuja

Time: 9am-5pm

Given your prominent institutional mandate in promoting links of agricultural research, policymaking and enterprise in Nigeria, we would be very pleased to have your active participation at the symposium.

Please note that breakfast and lunch will be provided during the meeting. Participants are however responsible for their accommodation, transport and other incidental expenses. We would appreciate very much your favorable consideration. Meanwhile, accept the assurances of our highest esteem. For additional information about the Nigerian Agricultural Policy Research Network (NAPRNet) and further details about the objectives, agenda and expected outcomes of the Policy Symposium, please see the attached brochures.

Kindly confirm your participation by contacting Miss Grace Adeogun (08033078613, g.adeogun@cgiar.org) or Dr. Victor Oboh (08062116918, vuoboh@yahoo.com).

We look forward to welcoming you.

Sincerely,

Prof. Eric Eboh
*Executive Director, AIAE
Nigeria*

Dr (Mrs.) Ngozi Egbuna
Vice President, NAPRNET

Dr. James Sackey
Program Leader, IFPRI,

Appendix B: Agenda

NAPRNET/AIAE/IFPRI NATIONAL AGRICULTURE POLICY SYMPOSIUM
Valencia Hotels, Wuse 2, Abuja
Tuesday, 24 May 2011
9am-5pm

Chairman: Prof. Tunji Akande, Former DG, Nigerian Institute for Social & Economic Research (NISER)

Time	Item	Responsibility
09:00-09:30	Registration	NAPRNet/AIAE/IFPRI
09:30-09:35	Opening Prayer	
09:35-09:40	The National Anthem	All
09:40-09:50		President, NAPRNet
	1st Plenary Session	
09:50-10:10	Research Needs of the FMARD for effective policy planning & implementation/official opening of the symposium	Honourable Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development
10:10-10:30	Achievements and challenges in facilitating linkages between research and enterprise.	Executive Secretary, Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria
10:30-11:00	Tea Break	All
11:00-11:20	Maximizing the relevance and impact of agriculture research in Nigeria – the IFPRI experience.	Project leader, IFPRI, Nigeria
11:20-11:40	Integrating Agricultural Research into policy and practice: Experience from the Nigerian PrOpCom (DFID) program.	Policy Advisor, PrOpcom-DFID
11:40-12:00	Cost –Effective pro-poor Agricultural spending in Nigeria.	Manson Nwafor, Institute for Applied Economics, Enugu
12:00-12:20	Drivers of Agricultural Growth in Nigeria	Moses Oduh, Institute for Applied Economics, Enugu

12:20-1:20	Lunch Break: Watch a 20minutes Fertilizer Video Documentry	All
	2nd Plenary Session	
1:20-3:20	General Discussion: Experience & Challenges in linking research, policy and practice	All
3:20-4:00	Communique	Communique Drafting Committee/Rapporteurs
4:00-4:10	Vote of Thanks	Project Leader, IFPRI-Nigeria
4:10-4:15	Closing Prayer	
5:30-7:30	NAPRNet Cogress Meeting	

Appendix C: Participants List

List of Participants At the National Symposium on Making Agricultural Research work for end users			
SN	Name	Decignation	Organization/Institution
1	Prof. Johnson Onyibe	Assistant Director	NAERLS, A.B.U Zaria
2	Dr. E.O Idowu	Head of Department	Dept. of Agric Econs, OAU, Ile-ife.
3	Prof. Osa Eguareen	Executive Director	Rubber Research institute of Nig.
4	Chinedum Nwajiuba	Executive Director	Nig. Enyt. Study Action team, Ibadan
5	Dr. P.C. Ike		Delta State University, Asaba Campus.
6	Dr. D. A Okiy	Executive Director	Nig. Institute for oil palm Research, Benin
7	Oluwatosin G. A	Head, SWFSRCE	Inst. Of Agric Research and Training , Ibadan
8	Dr. O. J. Okwu	Dean, coll. Of Agric Econs, Ext & Mgt Tech, Makurdi	University of Agric, Makurdi.
9	Dr. G. A Abu	Head of Dept. Agric. Econs, uni Agri, Makurdi	University of Agric, Makurdi.
10	Olusola .A. Ojo	Agronomist	NOCAIDA/NADS
11	Ajibola Akeem .O.	SRA	IFPRI
12	Salau Shehu	SRA	IFPRI
13	Edeh Hycinth	SRA	IFPRI
14	Onoja A. O.	Member- NAPRNET	University of Portharcourt
15	Aigbekaen Emmanuel .O.	Director (FSR&E) CRIN	CRIN, Ibadan.
16	Asumgha Godwin	Assist. Director	National Root Crops Research Institute, Umudike.
17	Charles O. Ezendu	Consultant NPFS, Rep. Soil Science.	NPFS, Abuja.
18	Michael Nwodo	Cooperative Officer	Abuja
19	Manson Nwafor	Policy Analyst	IITA
20	Chukurah Michael O.	Lecturer2	Federal college of Education (Tech), Asaba.
21	Gloria Ujor	Member	NAPRNET
22	Abdulkadir Gudugi	Snr Agric Economist	USAID
23	James Sackey	P.L	IFPRI

SN	Name	Decignation	Organization/Institution
24	Luke Mccarthy	R .A	IFPRI
25	Umeobi Andrew	Perm. Sec	Min. Of Agric, Anambra State
26	Amuka J. I	Researcher	Dept. Of Economics, UNN.
27	Nbameboh . N	Researcher	AIAE
28	Sola Bayowa	Executive Secretary	NOCAIDA
29	Comrade C. M. Obi	Food Processor	RLSSN
30	Basseyanwan Usoroh	Researcher	Dept. of Agric/Econs, UNN.
31	Daniel E. Jacob	Dir. Agric. Seervies	Kaduna ADP
32	Akujobi Cajetan	Research Fellow	NISER Ibadan, Oyo state.
33	Prince Ike E. Ubaka JP	Deputy Nat. President	AFAN
34	Oladimeji .T. Shogboyi	Head Agic. & WT	National Planning commission
35	Oyoboh Daniel	NAPRNET	NAPRNET
36	Emeka Vaet	Research Fellow	AIAE, Enugu
37	Jude Chukwu	Lecturer/Researcher	Dept. Of Economics UNN/AIAE
38	Sola Oluwadare	Communications Manager	AIAE
39	Austin Okaeme	Director research	NIFFR
40	Steve Zemch Jatan	DPRS	MOA, Kaduna
41	Prof. Folarunso A. Ajayi	Dean Agriculture	Nasarawa state University, Keffi.
42	Ekwoyi . A.R	Executive Director	OCHIGBO Development foundation
43	Dr.P.O Nwadukwe	Director	Min. of Agric & Rural Dev. Akwa.
44	L.L Akinwusi	Director	MAFS Osogbo, Osun State
45	Dr. Adegbite Ojo	Ag P.S	MAFS Osogbo, Osun State.
46	Danian Chikendu	Director	ARCN
47	Mrs. Lizzy Igbine	National President	Nigeria Women Farmers
48	Salihu S. Abubakar	Staff	NAERLS/ABU
49	Maina Laban Binus	Director PME	ADP Gombe State
50	Prof. K. M Baba	Dean	FUT Minna
51	Sir. Maurke Obionn Ichita	Permanent Secretary	M.O. A Abia State

SN	Name	Decignation	Organization/Institution
52	Dr. Lousis Mandama	Permanent Secretary	M.O.A Adamawa State
53	Dr. Sunday Uhiene	Coordinator	FMARD CAADP sector
54	Prof. V. O Chude	President	Soil Science Soc of Nigeria
55	Imoka .U.L	PM	ADP Amambra State
56	Prof. C.A.M Lakpini	Asst. Dir. Res	NAPRI/ABU, Zaria
57	Ifitumi Onu		CAADP
58	Prof. Paul Bolomndim	Program Leader	NAERLS/ABU
59	Nath Utoh	Seed Concultant	FMARD/NPFS, Abuja.
60	Uzoma Melody	Program Officer	PARHD
61	Taiwo Segun	Exec. Program Director	Prog. of Action for health and rural Dev.(PAHRD)
62	Chibuzor Emejor	Correspondent	Daily Independent
63	Ujah Oliva	Research fellow	AIAE
64	Oduh Moses	Research fellow	AIAE
65	Oguike Ikechkwu	Economist	Ama Care
66	Dr. Augustine .O. Angba	Head of Agric Econs	University of Calabar
67	Ndaya Muhammed Yelwa	DH/Monitry	FCT- ADP
68	Prof. E. Bako Amana	Asst. Dir. Research	IAR/ABU Zaria.
69	Mr. Oluvasonya Tosin .S.	Field Supervisor	Torchwood Limited
70	Prof. G.B. Ayoola	President	FIF
71	Jeminiwa Charles	ACPO (Agric)	National Planning Commission
72	Dr. C. U.Egbo	PM	Benue ADP
73	Samuel Dung	PM	Plateau ADP
74	Hon. Ajibade Babatola	General Secretary	AFAN
75	Fred Aleburu	Country Director	African-American Centre for Gov. & development.
76	Oladipo Ademola	Research Assistant	FIF
77	Emmanuel U. Torhon	President co-oper	City Aquacultic co-op society, Abuja.

SN	Name	Decignation	Organization/Institution
78	Oghi Benjamin	President co-oper	UBA Plc
79	Elijah Iddoko	Consultant	Integrated Advisory Ltd
80	Oguntade . A.E	Lecturer	FUTA
81	Michael Kingsley Balasom	Snr. Planning Officer	National Food Reserve Agency HQ.
82	Bulama Dauda	Agric Officer	National Food Reserve Agency
83	B.A.G Amoo	Deputy Director	CBN
84	Mohammed S. Idris	Catalytic Intervention Manager	DFID-PropCom
85	Abdullahi Umar	Catalytic Intervention Manager	DFID-PropCom
86	Ogbonnaya Ukwakahi	Consultant	DFID- Propcom
87	Emmanuel Ozeomena	Communications Specialist	DFID-Propcom
88	Dr. G. I. Okafor	Snr Lecturer	Univ. of Nig. Nsukka
89	Dr. (Mrs) A.O. Olufolaji	Director	NIHORT, Ibadan,
90	Prof. A. B. Ogunwale	Dean Faculty of Agric Sciences	Ladoke Akintola University of Tech,Ogbonmo.
91	Charles Ofulue	Asst. Director	Min. of Agric, Calabar.
92	Prof. A.A Voh (Jr)	Executve Director	NAPRI-ABU
93	Dr. Jowes Ozuzu	President	Nigerian Commercial Farmers Association.
94	Chief (Engr)John Duru	Secretary	Nigerian Commercial Farmers Association.
95	E. F. Elekwachi	Program Manager	Abia ADP
96	Ozoemena Umo	Program Officer	GADA, Abuja.
97	Dr. Abdullahi Nuhu	Rep. Dean Agric	Kano University of science & Technology,Wudil
98	Bonny Alams	Project Director	Science &Tech Digest (oracle Solution Ltd)
99	Onosowon Blessing	Kofan Estate	DLBC
100	Amina Yakubu		IFPRI