

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

THEME: *STIMULATING AFRICA'S INDUSTRIALISATION THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF AND ASSURING QUALITY ALONG THE CASSAVA VALUE CHAIN*

Date: 18th - 20th October, 2023

Venue: NAF Conference Centre, Plot 496, Ahmadu Bello Way, Kado , Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria.

Conference Overview

Cassava Conference will bring together stakeholders in the Cassava Value Chain to share experiences, discuss and strategize on the full exploitation of cassava-based products ensuring that standards and quality requirements are addressed. An exhibition alongside the conference will also be held where the stakeholders in the Cassava Value Chain will showcase their innovative cassava products. Research institutions will also share research innovations in the Cassava Value Chain for the benefit of farmers, processors and stakeholders interested in investing in the Cassava Value Chain.

Goal of the conference

To foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among stakeholders in order to strengthen the Cassava Value Chain, promote its economic benefits, and enhance food and nutrition security in Africa.

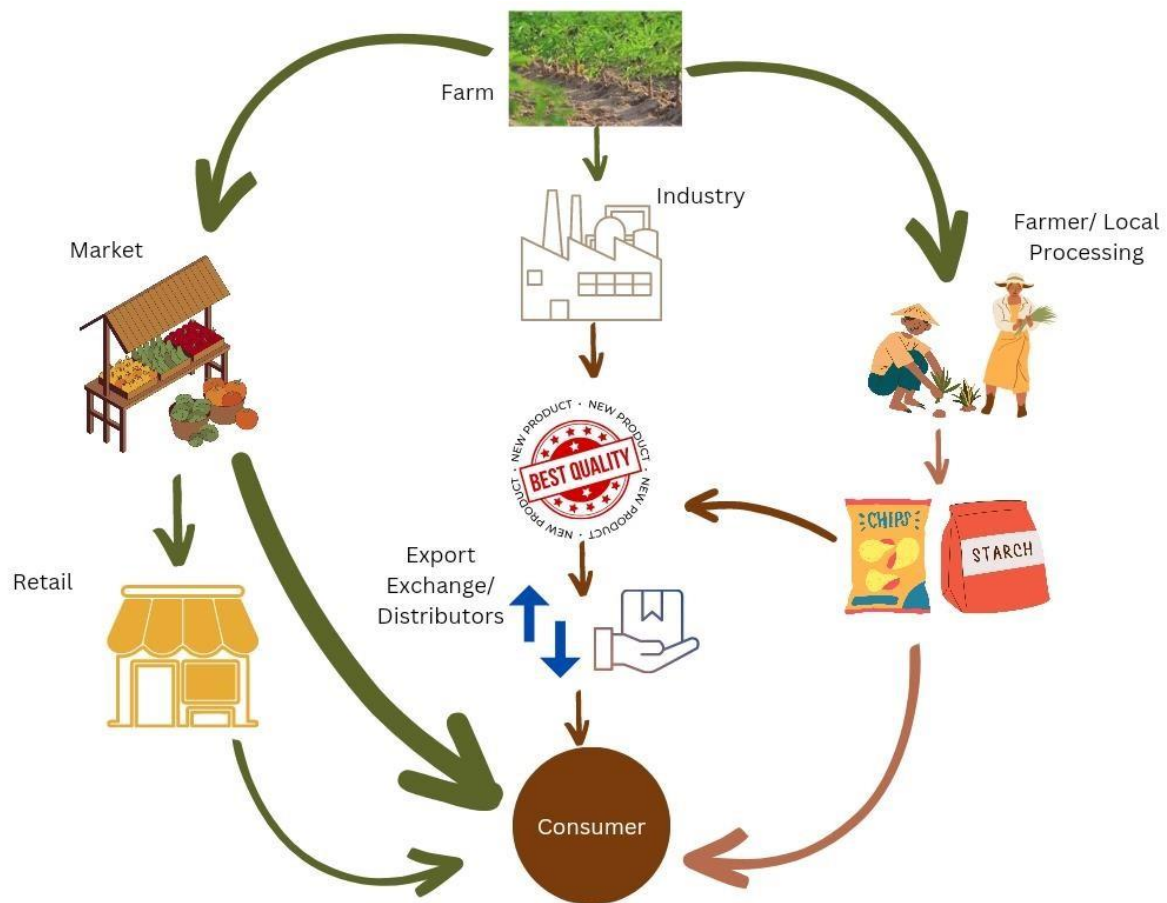
Coverage

Cassava production, value chain, economic benefits, role of stakeholders, research and technology, and value addition in Africa

Target Audience

These target audiences reflect the diverse stakeholders involved in the cassava value chain and its development, encompassing both public and private sector actors, researchers, farmers, development organizations, and investors.

Cassava Value Chain



About Cassava

Cassava is a starchy root crop that is native to South America but has been cultivated in Africa for centuries. It is an important staple food in many African countries, providing a significant source of carbohydrates and nutrients for millions of people.

History of Cassava in Africa

Cassava was introduced to Africa by Portuguese traders during the 16th century. It quickly adapted to the African climate and became widely cultivated across the continent. The crop thrived in various ecological zones and played a crucial role in food security, particularly during times of drought and famine. Cassava “*Manihot Esculenta*” is a perennial crop present in most of Sub-Saharan Africa that has gradually transited from a food security crop to a cash crop because of the recent demand for it globally. Cassava is cultivated both as food, animal feed and as an industrial raw material.

Cassava is a ‘poverty fighter’ capable of contributing to Food Security and spurring industrial development in Africa. The top four producers of Cassava are Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, (DRC), Ghana and Angola contributing between 54% and 61% of the continent’s cassava production.

Cassava's popularity in Africa can be attributed to its ability to grow in poor soil conditions and withstand harsh weather conditions. Additionally, cassava is a versatile crop that can be harvested year-round, providing a reliable food source.

Derivatives and Products of Cassava

1. **Fresh Cassava:** The root of the cassava plant is commonly consumed in Africa. It can be boiled, roasted, or steamed and used as a side dish or the main ingredient in various recipes.
2. **Cassava Flour:** Cassava flour is made by grinding dried cassava roots. It is a gluten-free alternative to wheat flour and is widely used in African cuisine for making bread, pancakes, and other baked goods.
3. **Tapioca:** Tapioca is a starch extracted from the cassava root. It is often used as a thickening agent in soups, stews, and sauces. Tapioca pearls are also a popular ingredient in desserts and bubble tea.
4. **Garri:** Garri is a popular cassava product in West Africa. It is made by fermenting and drying cassava roots, then grinding them into a coarse powder. Garri can be used as a cereal, cooked as a porridge, or processed further to make "eba," a dough-like staple food.
5. **Fufu:** Fufu is a traditional African dish made from cassava or other starchy tubers. It is prepared by boiling and pounding cassava roots into a smooth, dough-like consistency. Fufu is typically served as an accompaniment to soups and stews.
6. **Cassava Chips:** Cassava can also be processed into chips, similar to potato chips. These crispy snacks are a popular street food in many African countries.
7. **Industrial Uses:** Cassava is used in various industrial applications. Its starch is utilized in the production of adhesives, paper, textiles, and bioethanol. Cassava peels can also be used as animal feed.

Cassava is a versatile and important crop in Africa, providing sustenance and economic opportunities for millions of people. Its derivatives and products contribute to the diverse culinary landscape of the continent while serving as a vital source of nutrition and income.

Organizers

About PAQI

The Pan-African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) is an initiative aimed at promoting quality infrastructure development in Africa. It is a collaborative effort among multiple African countries and organizations to enhance the quality of products and services, facilitate trade, and promote economic growth and development on the continent. PAQI is comprised of four bodies which are:

- The African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC)
- The Intra-Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS)

- The African Electrotechnical Standardisation Commission (AFSEC)
- The African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO)

Key points about the Pan-African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI):

- **Objectives:** PAQI aims to establish and strengthen quality infrastructure systems across Africa. This involves improving the capacities of quality assurance institutions, promoting conformity assessment practices, enhancing metrology and calibration services, and facilitating accreditation and standardization processes.
- **Harmonization:** PAQI seeks to harmonize quality infrastructure practices and frameworks among African countries. This harmonization enables mutual recognition of conformity assessment results, facilitates trade among African nations, and reduces technical barriers to trade.
- **Institutions:** PAQI involves collaboration between various stakeholders, including national quality infrastructure institutions, regional economic communities, standardization bodies, accreditation bodies, metrology institutes, and regulatory authorities across Africa. These institutions work together to establish common standards, promote quality assurance practices, and enhance infrastructure capabilities.
- **Capacity Building:** PAQI places a strong emphasis on capacity building and knowledge sharing. It supports training programs, workshops, and technical assistance initiatives to enhance the skills and competencies of quality infrastructure professionals and practitioners in Africa.
- **Market Access:** By establishing robust quality infrastructure systems, PAQI aims to improve market access for African products and services. This includes ensuring compliance with international standards and regulations, enhancing product quality and safety, and promoting the export competitiveness of African businesses.
- **Integration with Continental Initiatives:** PAQI aligns with and complements other African Union initiatives, such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). By enhancing quality infrastructure, PAQI contributes to the successful implementation of AfCFTA by facilitating trade facilitation and reducing non-tariff barriers.
- **Support from International Organizations:** PAQI receives support and collaboration from international organizations, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), African Development Bank (AfDB), World Bank, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). These partnerships provide technical expertise, funding, and resources to strengthen quality infrastructure development in Africa.

About AUC

The African Union Commission (AUC) is the administrative body of the African Union (AU), a continental organization consisting of 55 member states in Africa. The AUC serves as the executive branch of the AU and is responsible for implementing the decisions, policies, and programs of the organization.

Mandate: The AUC's primary mandate is to promote the objectives and principles of the AU as outlined in the AU Constitutive Act. This includes promoting unity and solidarity among African

nations, defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member states, and accelerating political, economic, and social integration across the continent.

Structure: The AUC is composed of various departments, divisions, and specialized agencies that focus on different areas of the AU's work. Some of the key departments include Peace and Security, Political Affairs, Trade and Industry, Infrastructure and Energy, Human Resources, Science and Technology, and Social Affairs.

Leadership: The AUC is headed by a Chairperson who is elected by the Assembly of the African Union, consisting of the heads of state and government of AU member countries. Deputy Chairpersons and Commissioners who oversee specific portfolios and departments within the AUC support the Chairperson.

Partnerships: The AUC collaborates with various regional and international organizations, governments, and stakeholders to advance its goals. This includes partnerships with the United Nations, African Development Bank, regional economic communities, civil society organizations, and private sector entities.

It oversees the implementation of several key programs and initiatives of the AU. These include the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the Agenda 2063 for Africa's development, the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and various sector-specific programs in areas such as infrastructure, health, education, agriculture, and youth empowerment.

AUC facilitates decision-making within the AU through its interactions with AU organs such as the Assembly, Executive Council, and Permanent Representatives Committee. It supports the implementation of decisions and resolutions made by these bodies and provides technical expertise and recommendations to guide the AU's work.

[Nigeria National Accreditation System \(NiNAS\)](#)

The Nigeria National Accreditation System (NiNAS) is Nigeria's national accreditation body (NAB) responsible for the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) such as laboratories (testing, medical testing and calibration), inspection bodies and certification bodies, in accordance with the relevant ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation) and IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) series of standards and guides. NiNAS' accreditation attests to the technical competence and impartiality of the CABs to consistently provide conformity assessment services that are recognised internationally. Accreditation reduces the need for multiple inspections of goods and services supplied by accredited CABs.

[Partners](#)

[HarvestPlus](#)

HarvestPlus is a global non-profit organization that focuses on improving nutrition and public health by developing and promoting biofortified crops. Biofortification is the process of breeding crops to increase their nutritional value, particularly by enhancing their content of vitamins and minerals.

HarvestPlus was founded in 2003 as a joint initiative of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). The organization

aims to address micronutrient deficiencies, also known as hidden hunger, which affects over 2 billion people worldwide, particularly in developing countries.

The organization employs a multidisciplinary approach that involves plant breeding, agriculture, nutrition, and public health. HarvestPlus works with a network of partners, including agricultural research institutions, farmers, governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to develop and promote biofortified crops.

The primary focus of HarvestPlus is on staple crops that are widely consumed by vulnerable populations, such as rice, wheat, maize, beans, and sweet potatoes. These crops are biofortified through conventional breeding techniques to increase their content of key micronutrients, including vitamin A, iron, and zinc.

HarvestPlus aims to ensure that biofortified crops are accessible and available to those who need them the most. This involves working with farmers to produce and distribute the seeds, promoting consumer awareness and acceptance of biofortified foods, and collaborating with governments and policymakers to integrate biofortification into agricultural and nutrition policies.

The organization has made significant progress in the adoption and dissemination of biofortified crops in various countries, and its efforts have positively impacted millions of people by improving their nutritional status and reducing the risk of micronutrient deficiencies.

Overall, HarvestPlus plays a crucial role in addressing malnutrition and improving public health by leveraging the power of agriculture and plant breeding to increase the nutritional value of staple crops and make them more accessible to vulnerable populations.

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

IITA (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture) is a research organization based in Nigeria. It is one of the leading agricultural research centers in Africa and focuses on improving agricultural productivity, enhancing food security, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices in the tropics.

IITA's headquarters is located in Ibadan, Nigeria. It also operates several regional hubs and offices across Africa, including in countries like Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, among others.

The mission of IITA is to enhance food security and improve livelihoods in Africa through research-for-development. The organization conducts research, develops innovative solutions, and works in collaboration with various partners to address agricultural challenges and promote sustainable agricultural development.

Actively involved in research in various areas, including crop improvement, natural resource management, agricultural systems, agribusiness, and policy and impact assessment. The organization works on a wide range of crops, including staple crops such as cassava, maize, yam, cowpea, banana, and soybean, among others.

IITA is known for its expertise in crop improvement, developing improved varieties of crops that are resistant to pests and diseases, have higher yields, and possess desirable traits such as drought tolerance, nutritional content, and market value. This contributes to improving the productivity and resilience of farmers' crops. Its research and interventions have made significant impacts in improving agricultural productivity, enhancing nutrition, and supporting rural development in Africa. The organization works closely with farmers and communities to ensure that research findings and innovations are effectively disseminated and adopted at the grassroots level.

IITA is actively involved in training and capacity building programs for farmers, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders. These programs aim to enhance knowledge, skills, and technologies related to agriculture and promote the adoption of best practices in farming systems.

IITA collaborates with national and international organizations, governments, universities, research institutions, and the private sector to strengthen research and development efforts in agriculture. The organization actively seeks partnerships to leverage expertise, resources, and networks for achieving its objectives.

Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON)

The Standard Organization of Nigeria is the national standards body responsible for developing and implementing standards, ensuring quality assurance, and overseeing metrology in Nigeria. SON formulates standards across various sectors of the economy, covering manufacturing, agriculture, construction, energy, and more. These standards promote quality, safety, and reliability while supporting industrial development and fair trade practices.

SON enforces standards and quality assurance through inspections, testing, certification, and product registration. It operates a Quality Management System Certification Scheme, helping businesses improve their processes and meet national and international standards. The organization also oversees metrology, maintaining measurement standards and calibrating instruments to ensure accuracy in trade and measurement practices.

Market surveillance is a crucial aspect of SON's work. It monitors compliance with standards, identifies substandard or counterfeit products, and takes enforcement actions when violations are found. This includes product recalls, fines, and legal measures, all aimed at protecting consumers and maintaining market integrity. SON also plays a role in consumer protection, educating consumers about their rights, conducting campaigns against substandard products, and providing channels for complaints and redress.

Internationally, SON collaborates with standardization bodies like ISO and IEC to harmonize Nigerian standards with global best practices. This cooperation facilitates trade, enhances product quality, and promotes the acceptance of Nigerian products in international markets. Through its comprehensive efforts, SON contributes to economic growth, public health, and consumer confidence by promoting quality, safety, and competitiveness in Nigerian industries.

Nigeria Agribusiness Group

The Nigeria Agribusiness Group (NABG) is a private sector-led organization in Nigeria that represents the interests of agribusinesses and stakeholders in the agricultural sector. It serves as a platform for collaboration, advocacy, and policy engagement to promote sustainable

agribusiness development in the country. NABG's objectives include creating an enabling environment for investment and growth in agriculture, enhancing productivity and competitiveness, and addressing issues related to job creation, poverty reduction, and food security.

NABG brings together a diverse range of stakeholders, including agribusiness companies, farmers, processors, input suppliers, financial institutions, research institutions, and industry associations. Through advocacy and policy engagement, NABG actively influences agricultural policies, investment incentives, trade facilitation, market access, and infrastructure development. The organization fosters networking and collaboration among members and stakeholders, promoting partnerships and knowledge-sharing to drive innovation and best practices in agribusiness.

NABG prioritizes capacity building and skills development, organizing training programs, workshops, and mentorship initiatives to enhance entrepreneurship, technical knowledge, and management capabilities in the agricultural sector. Additionally, NABG focuses on investment promotion by showcasing opportunities, facilitating access to finance, and supporting agribusinesses in scaling up operations or attracting investors. Through partnerships with local and international organizations, development partners, and government agencies, NABG leverages resources, expertise, and networks to implement projects and programs that benefit agribusinesses and contribute to the growth of the sector.