

## **COMMUNIQUÉ**

The Zonal Sugar Forum for South West Nigeria organized by the National Sugar Development Council, Abuja, was held at Continental Suites, Ibara, Abeokuta, Ogun State, on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2009. The theme of the Forum was ***“Joining the League of Top 20 Global Economies: Role of Nigerian Sugar Sector”***. The Forum was declared open by the Special Guest of Honour, Olatunji Akinosi, the Honourable Commissioner of Agriculture, Ogun State and the Keynote Address titled: ***“Role and Challenges of the Nigeria Sugar Sector in the 20-2020 Project”*** was delivered by Professor O.O. Oworu, of the Faculty of Agricultural Production and Renewable Resources, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Yewa Campus, Aiyetoro. Participants at the Forum were drawn from both Private and Public Sectors, including Private Promoters, Consultants, Representatives of Sugar Refineries and Academics etc.

2. The chairman of the opening session was Chief J.A. Akinnigbagbe, Hon. Commissioner of Agriculture, Ondo State while Rev. Remi Onajole, the Permanent Secretary of Ogun State Ministry of Agriculture chaired the Technical Session. Goodwill messages were delivered by Honourable Commissioners for Agriculture of Oyo and Ogun States.

3. Two papers were delivered as follows:

- i. *Achieving National Self-Sufficiency in Sugar: Propects and Challenges of Southwest Nigeria* by Chief J.A. Akinnigbagbe. Hon Commissioner for Agriculture, Ondo State.
- ii. *Sugar Production: A Tool for Accelerating National Economic Development* by Prof. (Mrs) L.V. Adekunle, Promoter, Gayvita Sugar Company Limited, Papalanto, Ogun State.

4. After a thorough deliberation and discussion of the papers presented by the resource persons, the following resolutions were reached.

- NSDC should be empowered to fund research into equipment, technology and the final product, sugar.
- There should be policy consistency on the part of Government to ensure that local investments in the sugar sub-sector are well protected and made profitable.
- Government as a matter of urgency should establish National Sugar Research Institute and also empower the existing ones to give adequate support to the sugar industry in all ramifications.
- NSDC should promote information sharing among stakeholders of the sugar sub-sector.

- NSDC should be adequately funded to carry out its mandate towards the attainment of the 70% self-sufficiency in local sugar production by 2020.
- Outgrowers and Cooperative farmers interested in sugarcane production should be adequately supported with the required incentives, inputs, seedlings etc to make this venture a profitable one.
- Efforts to attract youth into sugarcane production should be packaged by NSDC as a succession programme for aged farmers.
- NSDC and sugarcane research institutes such as National Cereal Research Institute (NCRI), Unilorin Sugar Research Institutes (USRI) should collaborate with NACGRAB on varietal development to boost sugarcane yield.

**NATIONAL SUGAR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, ABUJA.**

**Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2009.**