

COMMUNIQUE

In continuation of pursuing its mandate, the National Sugar Development Council, (NSDC), Abuja organized a Sensitization Workshop for Stakeholders in the Sugar Sub Sector for the North Central Zone held at the Confluence Beach Hotel, Ganaja Road, Lokoja, Kogi State, on 14th December, 2010. The theme of the workshop was ***“The Role of the Sugar Sector in the National Economic Development”***.

The Chairman of the occasion was Alhaji Sha’aba Lafiagi, The former Governor of Kwara State and Chairman, National Sugar Development Council Governing Board who was ably represented by Engineer S.A. Adeniyi, Director, Inspectorate Department, Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Abuja and also member, NSDC Governing Board. The Special Guest of Honour at the workshop was Dr. Abdulkareem Abubakar, the Honourable Commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Kogi State, while Key-note Address was delivered by Alhaji Lateef G. Salami, Director, Industrial Development Department, Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Goodwill messages were delivered by Honourable Commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Kogi State, Dr. Abdulkareem Abubakar and Honourable Secretary, Agricultural Development Secretariat, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja represented by Dr Mike.

The North Central Sensitization workshop was the fourth among the series organized by the NSDC this year. The workshop attracted participants from both formal and informal sectors of the Nigerian economy.

Three (3) papers were presented at the workshop viz-a-viz:

1. ***Economic Development and Industrial Clusters of the Sugar Sector***, by Alhaji Lateef Salami – Director, Industrial Development Department, Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Abuja

2. ***Wealth Creation, Rural Development and Poverty Reduction: Role of the Sugar Sector*** by Mr. R. Ibraheem, Director, Agriculture and Industry Department, National Planning Commission, Abuja
3. ***Food Security and Self Sufficiency in Sugar by year 2020: Prospects and Challenges*** by Prof. B.Y. Abubakar, the Executive Secretary, Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN), Abuja represented by Abubakar Mustapha.

After a lively discussion on the various papers presented by Resource Persons, Participants adopted the following resolutions; and It is believed that if they are fully implemented, they will move the sugar sector to the next level:-

- ❖ Participants advocated for the adoption of Cluster Concept Strategy as spelt out in the NSMP by providing for and encouraging sugarcane outgrowers and sugar millers.
- ❖ Stakeholders called on the Federal Government to enforce appropriate legislation aimed at developing the sugar sector by giving all the necessary support it requires
- ❖ Participants advocated for stronger political will at all levels of government so as to create a lobby group who will canvass for support as is the case in other Sugar Producing Countries
- ❖ Participant also called for synergy among relevant agencies such as NOTAP, SON, NAFDAC, NPC, NIPC and other MDAs etc for realization of the dream.
- ❖ Participants called for the need to strengthen the coordinating role of NSDC so as to give the needed support to existing and prospective investors to establish more sugar estates to generate employment to rural populace.

- ❖ Participants agreed that technology innovation must be adopted by Farmers in response to Financial Incentives and Federal Government to institute policy linking Farmers to input/output markets.
- ❖ They also enjoined NSDC to ensure that Confluence Sugar outfit at Ibaji which has proposed development of 32,000 Ha of land for the cane cultivation should be encouraged by all stakeholders.

NATIONAL SUGAR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, ABUJA
14TH DECEMBER 2010

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