



Agricultural Policy Research Network

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 8TH AGRICULTURAL POLICY RESEARCH NETWORK'S (APRNet) AGRICULTURAL POLICY RESEARCH SEMINAR HELD AT DESTINATION BAUCHI HOTEL, BAUCHI, NIGERIA ON 13TH APRIL, 2018

Introduction

The APRNet's 8th Agricultural Policy Research Seminar was held at Bauchi Destination Hotel on 13th April 2018. The Policy Seminar was supported by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The specific aim of this particular Agricultural Policy Seminar at Bauchi was to (i) dialogue with Bauchi State agricultural stakeholders on strategies to improve water efficiency in agricultural production for increased agricultural productivity in the state and Nigeria, (ii) assess the problems of food safety and storage challenges in Nigerian agricultural value chain with evidence for policy making on food safety and storage in Nigeria, (iii) bring together multi-stakeholders in Nigerian agricultural value chain for networking and sensitization on new policies of the Federal Government of Nigeria and the State Government. It was generally a reflective stock-taking, information sharing and learning of best practices experience by the actors themselves. Just as researchers have responsibility to communicate with end-users, the end-users themselves should be able to tell their own stories too. Against this backdrop, the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet), convened the 8th Seminar series.



Group Photograph of the participants at the APRNet 8th Agricultural Policy Research Seminar at Bauchi, April 13, 2018

The 8th edition of APRNet policy seminar series is in tandem with the APRNet seminar objectives which include:

- sharing knowledge about existing approaches and practices in linking agricultural research with policymakers, farmers and agricultural practitioners;
- discussing and learning innovative approaches and practices for more effective research dissemination and research utilization by end-users;
- enabling the exchange of perspectives and ideas among the producers, providers and users of agricultural research; and
- giving opportunity for inter-stakeholder interaction and networking - researchers, policymakers, farmers and agricultural practitioners.



APRNet EXCO with Special Guests of Honour at the Policy Seminar

The seminar had 44 participants from major stakeholders in Nigerian agricultural policy making, academia, MDAs and agro-industry. Some distinguished guests among them include the Representative of the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), Mr. Auwal Maidabino, Honourable Yakubu Kerfi, the Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources Bauchi State with the Permanent Secretary and some directors of the ministry, the Vice Chancellor of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa represented by Prof S. Jubril and the Provost College of Agriculture. After the National anthem and opening prayers, the President of APRNet, Dr Tony Onoja read the Presidential address which welcomed the participants and set the tone for the research seminar presentations of the day. He highlighted the aims, objectives and activities of the APRNet as an organization as well as its agricultural policy seminar series' thrust. Dr Onoja identified some key challenges facing the Nigerian agricultural sector lately which included the problem of climate change that exacerbates water scarcity and desertification, migration of farmers/herdsmen connected to lingering conflicts especially that of herdsmen versus farmers' violent clashes across some states of Nigeria which lead to loss of lives and agricultural output , the issue of food loss due to poor storage systems across the agricultural value chain as well as threats of unsafe food in Nigerian markets and homes. He noted that most of these problems were intertwined and would require policies that will address these systemic problems based on

evidence. APRNet is rising up to the challenges of providing a forum for multi-stakeholders in Nigerian agriculture to offer evidence based solutions to the Federal Government and other policy makers which can address the myriad of challenges facing the Nigerian food and agricultural sub sectors. Hence he stressed that there was a need for the FMARD to grant more support to APRNet and leverage on the existing partnership with APRNet for solving Nigerian agricultural policy problems. He rounded off by expressing his appreciation to all participants for honouring APRNet's invitation to this seminar.

The LOC chairman, Prof M.H. Sani, Head, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU), gave a welcome remark which stressed that no meaningful transformation in Nigerian Agriculture can take place without a robust research and policy activities.

The Key Note Speaker and Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Bauchi State, Hon.Yakubu Kerfi, gave his speech in which he noted the contributions of Bauchi State government to agricultural development. Key among his contributions were that Bauchi State had acquired 500 hectares of land to help farmers engage in commercial agricultural production in the state. He also stated that ,in a bid to improve mechanization of agriculture in the state, the present administration in the state had purchased 400 manual precision planters and 200 tractors. He was pleased with APRNet for choosing Bauchi State as its venue for conveying this year's Agricultural Policy Seminar.

The good will message from the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Chief Audu Ogbe was presented by the Programme & Planning Coordinating Director (FMARD), Auwal Maidabino, who also doubled as a second Vice President of APRNet from FMARD. In the Minister's message, it was highlighted that:

- Agriculture should be made a global agribusiness enterprise as part of the change mantra.
- APRNet needs to effectively synergize with ARCN for a robust relationship that will offer quality data for planning agricultural policy and development in Nigeria.
- He also stressed the need to enhance conducive investment climate for value chain approach in developing Nigerian agriculture.
- The minister announced that, in line with the thrust of the new Agricultural Promotion Policy (APP), the FMARD is supporting agribusiness via Agricultural finance, insurance and cooperative.
- The FMARD also addressed loan defaults by small holders' farmers who do not honour agreements which was seen as a major limitation of the Anchor Borrower Programme.
- The Minister announced the planned Farmers Day , a national activity, which will hold on the 8th of May, 2018 at Abuja.
- Some copies of the "Green Alternative" documents were then donated to APRNet and received by the APRNet President, Dr. Anthony O. Onoja with appreciation.

The Vice Chancellor, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU), represented By Prof S. Jubril, then gave his good will remarks, thanking God and APRNet for giving Bauchi the hosting right. He then advocated for proper and timely policies and impetus on agriculture in Nigeria.

Paper Presentations

Paper 1: (Food Safety in Nigeria: Implications For Food Security Policy.....Prof R.M. Sani).

The paper highlighted the following challenges:

- ✓ Poor packaging of food delivered to Nigerian food consumers was on a record high level.
- ✓ Thus, threat of various diseases of food during storage and distribution along agricultural value chain is becoming a serious health challenge in Nigeria
- ✓ Apathy and poor will of Nigerian government towards enforcing food safety standards was identified.
- ✓ Loss of food and infected foods due to poor and improper storage facilities was noted
- ✓ Poor budgetary allocation to agriculture and food sector was worrisome

Paper 2: (Policies and Issues in Water Access & Efficiency for Sustainable Food Production in Nigeria-----Dr Emeka Nzeh).

The paper highlighted the following challenges:

- Climate change and herdsmen/farmers upheavals were serious challenges related to water access via water unavailability and shortage for pastoralists.
- A dearth of safe and clean water access in Nigeria despite her numerous water bodies.
- Water was not being efficiently utilized in Nigerian farms and farm households
- Poor irrigation facilities in the country, despite several policies on water access and availability in the country over the years would scuttle agricultural growth plan
- Poor budgetary allocation to water resources development in Nigeria is also a serious issue

Communiqué

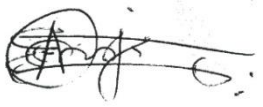
Based on the various challenges highlighted by different speakers, the Seminar came up with the following communiqué at the end of the day:

- Emphasis should be placed on the need to promote robust research and policy activities as no meaningful transformation can take place in Agriculture without these.
- Forging alliance by FMARD with APRNet for an agricultural evidence based information data management system development that will spell out strong and specific roles for APRNet (as the only agricultural policy organization in Nigeria) and any other similar research based organizations in Nigeria is urgently required.
- Building resilience against climate change impacts , development of irrigation facilities and watershed to improve food and high quality pasture production that can also indirectly tackle the issue of herdsmen/farmers upheavals is advisable.
- Sensitization of pastoralists on the benefits of adopting grazing reserves approach in livestock production should be done.
- Funding research into the issues of nomadic herdsmen clashes with farmers in Nigeria with a view of finding proper evidence and policies to address this issue is a necessary.
- Promoting safe food delivery in Nigerian Agriculture should be urgently embarked upon by Nigerian government.
- Focus should drift from food budgeting, value chain and production to food safety in Nigeria

- Create enabling environment for policy implementation should be pursued.
- Creation of awareness on food safety should be embarked upon by the government and other organizations in agricultural sector.
- Development of a comprehensive road map on food production and public health to ensure food security and food safety for all by FMARD is needed.
- Review of existing food safety laws that meet relevant standards should be pursued.
- Nigeria should be on the right track of budgetary allocation especially with respect to agriculture.
- Emphasis should shift to water resource accessibility and efficiency for sustainable food production in Nigeria.

Acknowledgement

The Association wishes to thank IFPRI for providing support for the logistics that made this seminar a success. APRNet also appreciates the Bauchi State Government, Abubakar Tafawa Belewa University, Bauchi and all those who supported the hosting of the 8th Seminar series of the Network for their presence at the seminar.

Signed:  Dr. Anthony O. Onoja

President, Agricultural Policy research Network, (APRNet)



President, APRNet, Dr. Anthony O. Onoja

Attendance List

| No | Name | Institution |
|----|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Auwal Maidabino | FMARD, Abuja (Dir, P&PC) |
| 2 | Emma J. Itodo | FMARD, Abuja |
| 3 | Abdulwahab Kolo | ATBU, Bauchi |
| 4 | Dr Emeka Nzeh | Sec Gen, APRNet |
| 5 | Prof M.H. Sani | ATBU, Bauchi/Chairman LOC |
| 6 | Babangida Hamidu | ATBU, Bauchi/Sec LOC |
| 7 | Dan Oyoboh | APRNet, N.C. Coordinator |
| 8 | Abbas Shehu | ATBU, Bauchi |
| 9 | Nuru Moh'd Inuwa | College of Agric, Bauchi |
| 10 | Prof P.C. Ike | Vice President, APRNet |
| 11 | Abubakar Suleiman | ATBU, Bauchi |
| 12 | Prof Salawu A. Jubril | ATBU, Bauchi |
| 13 | Prof R.M. Sani | ATBU, Bauchi |
| 14 | A. Mohammed Sani | ATBU, Bauchi |
| 15 | Dr Gloria Ujor | NEST/APRNet |
| 16 | Aminu Munyura | ATBU, Bauchi |
| 17 | M.B. Asha | Radio Nigeria, Bauchi |
| 18 | Dr Tony Onoja | President, APRNet |
| 19 | Zaman Ezekiel Yusuf | ATBU, Bauchi |
| 20 | Prof M. Abubakar | Provost, Coll of Agric, Bauchi |
| 21 | Dr Ephrian K. Rabo | College of Agric, Bauchi |
| 22 | Ahmed Mohd Bununu | College of Agric, Bauchi |
| 23 | Huseyn Abubakar | News Agency of Nigeria |
| 24 | Ilaysu A. Gitel | BSADP, Bauchi |
| 25 | Hon Yakubu Kirfi | Comm, Min of Agric, Bauchi |
| 26 | Dr Bala Lukashi | PS, Min of Agric, Bauchi |
| 27 | M.B. Abubakar | Dir, Min of Agric, Bauchi |
| 28 | Aliyu I. Dankade | Dir, Min of Agric, Bauchi |
| 29 | Haruna Girma Dauda | MANR, Bauchi |
| 30 | Ayuba I. Ishaya | MANR |
| 31 | Dr Istafanus Majau | MANR |
| 32 | Abdullahi Ibrahim | MANR |
| 33 | Gambo Usman | MANR |
| 34 | Haruna S. Yara | MANR |
| 35 | Dr A.Y. Nuru | FMARD, Bauchi |
| 36 | Prof I. Mohammed | ATBU, Bauchi |
| 37 | Nura A. Bunzo | ATBU, Bauchi |
| 38 | Aliyu K.A. | FIRS, Bauchi |
| 39 | Adamu Mustapha M. | ATBU, Bauchi |
| 40 | Ameh Benjamin O. | ATBU, Bauchi |
| 41 | Dr Yahaya Adamu Y. | Meat Pdts Co Ltd, Bauchi |
| 42 | Mohammed Yusuf | FMARD |
| 43 | Zubaida Adamu I. | ATBU, Bauchi |
| 44 | Agabus Abigail T. | ATBU, Bauchi |