

Communiqué of the 5th ASAN-NIAS JAM, at University of Port Harcourt,
18th - 22nd September, 2016

PREAMBLE

The Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) and the Animal Science Association of Nigeria (ASAN) held the 5th Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) from 18th - 22nd September, 2016 at the University of Port Harcourt, with the theme "**Repositioning Animal Agriculture in a dwindling Oil Economy.**" This five-day event was attended by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, represented by Mr. John T. Taiwo, Deputy Director in the Ministry (Federal Department of Animal Production and Husbandry Services); the Rivers State Governor, represented by the Commissioner for Agriculture (Barrister Onmim Jack); and other dignitaries. Several papers were presented.

COMMENDATION

The Conference commended the Buhari-led administration for:

- once again, driving attention to agriculture as a business through the (Green Alternative) Agriculture Promotion Policy (2016 -2020), to give birth to agro-allied industries that would fully optimize the value chain in the commodities being promoted in the milieu of appropriate financial, pricing and marketing policies. However, the 2016 estimates of national agricultural activities mentioned all cash crops with poultry, dairy and fish and excluding all other livestock species.
- The vision of the Green Alternative policy is to work with key stakeholders to build an agribusiness economy capable of delivering sustained prosperity by meeting domestic food security goals, generating export and supporting sustainable income and job creation.
- Government policy and effort of school feeding and nutrition, to enhance enrolment and opportunities for local agro business.

CONFERENCE NOTED THAT

- Some of the factors that have caused agricultural policy failure in Nigeria range from:
Complexities in policy making process; problems emanating from organizational staffing (as the case in the FMARD); problem of institutional manning deficiencies that inhibit policy implementation; lack of the use of technical tools of analysis, Impacts of domestic socio-political factors, Incompatibility of the policies with the political system; technological gaps; negative effects of variations of policy transfer; effects of international factors such as the processes of globalization; and lack of feedback and policy learning.
- A major ingredient for successful implementation of the diversification of animal agriculture is to truly professionalize the various disciplines involved in the livestock production system.
- Mismatches in Govt. appointments in livestock departments and Parastatals make it difficult to drive Govt. policies in the right direction. There should be no bureaucratic incursions of other professionals into the animal science profession.
- Fodder production as a business is an opportunity that will strengthen the ranching desire of a great many Nigerians.
- Lack of reliable data in livestock sub-sector from all tiers makes it difficult for proper planning by the producers of raw-materials, end-users, suppliers and other stakeholders to make efforts in meeting optimum production level in animal production.
- The huge opportunities for self-employment not exploited, cannot be attained unless the prices of livestock inputs and machinery are subsidized and made affordable by the Government.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Improved government funding for livestock sub-sector to attain a competitive pedestal.
2. Financial institutions (banks, NGOs, etc.) should be more responsive in providing credit for start-ups to enhance livestock production and employment creation.
3. Encourage forage production (hay and pasture seed) and formation of out growers' associations with outlets in liaison with the emerging ranches to forestall further conflicts between herdsmen and crop farmers.
4. Urgent reversal of mismatches in Govt. appointments at the Federal Department of Animal Production and Husbandry Services; as well as in various livestock departments and Parastatals, to encourage professionalism and drive Govt. policies in the right direction.
5. Govt. should fund reliable data generation in livestock sub-sector for planning and drive policy execution.
6. Govt. should subsidize inputs and machinery in the livestock sub-sector to enhance agribusiness and food security.

MEMBERSHIP

Prof. Grace T. Iyeghe-Erakpotobor (Chairperson)

Prof. Ibrahim D. Mohammed

Prof. Rasheed A. Hamzat

Prof. Deji Fasuji

Dr. Saleh M. Sir

Mr. Akinboro O. Ebenezer

Dr. Ime E. Ebenso (Secretary)

DATE

Done this day at Port Harcourt

21st September, 2016