

BOSCH INDUSTRY ASSISTS CASSAVA PROCESSING IN NIGERIA

Nigeria is the biggest producer of cassava in the world. Naturally, with the objective of promoting the crop as a foreign exchange commodity for Nigeria, the government introduced the Presidential Initiative on Cassava in July 2002.

Cassava is a hardy drought resistant plant that thrives even in marginal soils making it an ideal crop for Africa. It has over forty commercial uses from ethanol to textiles. It is grown and harvested across the continent as a source of food. Cassava comes as a great commodity to the country's economic development. The cassava industry hence adds value to the cassava through processing and packaging.

Nigeria is the largest producer of Cassava but doesn't populate the addition of value adding to cassava. It is a very important staple crop in many parts of Africa, particularly in West Africa. It is a starchy root and tuber crop. It contains essentially a lot of starch and carbohydrate

"After processing it is used as Gari, chips (chin-chin) or fufu, tapioca" Yvonne Lokko UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization explains.

Christoph Pannhausen-German Society for International Corporation also elaborates that technology plays a crucial role in this industry. As a middle class, urban middle class in Nigeria which is more aware of quality issues and quality standards proper packaging and other quality requirements that are needed to make this product more attractive so technologies such as packing materials and also improved processing facilities would help to improve the quality standards of the products that can be produced out of Cassava.

Olusun Dassalu State Chairman-Farmers Association of Nigeria wishes for the local industry to adopt new technology so as to improve the standards of their farmers in the rural areas. This is not to only increase the food production in the country thereby stemming down the poverty rate

Ola Adegun (Agro Allied Cassava Commercial Farmers) expatiates the importance that the value chain between the processors and farmers is not completed without the packaging company because the synergy between the cassava growers, cassava processors together with the company come together to formulate a marketing end points that will be beneficial to everyone else.

Bosch, a global supplier of technology and services partnered United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) recently to organise a stakeholder's consultative meeting in Lagos with farmers to discuss the prospect, challenges and marketing windows of cassava production in the country.

Nigeria's economy would hence receive more revenue through exports as Bosch industry collaborates with the local industry in processing and packaging.

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