



The Communiqué of the 2022 National Organic Agriculture Business Summit

About 300 participants gathered (physically and virtually) at the 2022 National Organic Agriculture Business Summit (NOABS). The annual event which was the 7th edition, was held at the International Conference Centre, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria from 29 November to 1 December, 2022. Participants represented actors in organic agriculture and agroecology (crop production, input supply, processing, packaging, consumers, etc.) from all the geopolitical zones of Nigeria. Also in attendance were representatives of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the Federal Government and Oyo State of Nigeria related to organic agriculture and agroecology, especially from Agriculture & Rural Development, Industry, Trade & Investment, Health, Environment, Information & Culture, Finance, Budget & National Planning, Education and Science & Technology, as well as the ECOWAS Commission. The Summit's deliberations centred on the theme: *Local Content Development: Organic and Agroecology Alternatives*.

RESOLVED that;

- MDAs in the country to financially support the annual National Organic Agriculture Business Summit, in order to extend its benefits to more stakeholders, thereby contributing to national development.
- Efforts on mainstreaming organic and agroecology into existing curricula for agricultural training at all levels of education in Nigeria must be increased.
- Federal Ministry of Education should encourage organic agriculture and agroecology from the basics, especially, the secondary schools to tertiary institutions.
- School Competition on Organic and Agroecology is included in the annual National Organic Agriculture Business Summit, so as to create more awareness and knowledge on organic and agroecology in the country.
- Pilot projects for organic and agroecology knowledge in primary and secondary schools in the country – “catch them young program” should be established.
- Participatory research activities in various aspects of organic and agroecology should be encouraged.
- More emphasis on local production of organic and agroecology produce and products should be ensured.
- Entrepreneurial skills/schemes on organic and agroecology should be organised and introduced in appropriate academic curricula in the country .
- Government at all levels to establish organic and agroecology farming schemes for interested farmers.
- The Government to enact appropriate policies on organic and agroecology and make subsidies available for farmers in the sectors.
- The Federal Government should promote integrated organic and agroecological activities into farming system in the country.
- Organic and agroecology organizations in Nigeria to collaborate with NAFDAC in the area of food safety.
- Federal Ministry of Health should replicate the success story of University Health Services of the University of Ibadan on integration of organic market outlet into medical services in other public hospitals in the country.
- The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development should encourage Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) approach for smallholder farmers of organic and agroecology in the country.
- Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) should do more in assisting organic and agroecology farmers to access Third Party certification for export.
- The National Orientation Agency (NOA) should encourage ‘Home Organic and Agroecology Gardens’, in order to boost food security in the country.
- The National Orientation Agency (NOA) should encourage public institutions in the country to have organic sales points.
- The National Orientation Agency (NOA) should promote application of indigenous knowledge in organic and agroecology.
- The Federal Ministry of Environment and Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development should discourage bush burning, in order to mitigate the negative effects on soil health which reduces productivity of agricultural lands.
- The National Biosafety Management Agency should ensure appropriate biosafety regulations to avoid comingling of agricultural produce/products in the country with Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) inputs.



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- That foodstuffs for refreshments during NOABS should be sourced from organic and agroecology producers in the country.
- ECOWAS Commission to ensure establishment of a regional Organic and Agroecology Trade Fair in West Africa.
- Organic and Agroecology Initiative (ORAIN) in Nigeria (a coalition of organic and agroecology organisations in the country) should coordinate networking of agroecology organisations in the country with Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).
- The Farm Inputs Support Services (FISS) Department of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development should put in more efforts on awareness of organic inputs available in the country.
- Journalist should be trained in organic agriculture production system for proper reportage.
- All umbrella bodies of organizations related to inputs, production, equipment and services of organic and agroecology in Nigeria should work with Organic and Agroecology Initiative (ORAIN) to handle exhibition of their sectors in NOABS, starting from 2023 NOABS.
- That stakeholders of organic and agroecology in the country should have a good understanding of the protocols of organic and agroecology.
- That the level of organic and agroecological trade (domestic and export) in Nigeria although growing, is still on the low side, compared to leading countries of the sectors in Africa.
- That funding for organic and agroecological activities in Nigeria is low in relation to the needs of the sector.
- That while appreciating the current MDAs' investment in organic and agroecology related issues and addressing the outputs of the last NOABS, the level of investment/support is still low.
- That the issue of agricultural extension services to facilitate organic and agroecology in the country needs to be addressed.
- That the understanding of most stakeholders in Nigeria about the required procedures for certification of organic produce and products for both domestic and export trade is still low;
- That appropriate attention should be paid to the organic and agroecology sectors for an enabling environment, for proper development of the sectors.
- That there is the need to put in motion the necessary apparatus that can lead to an increase in the market share of organic and agroecology (in terms of produce, products, and services) from Nigeria in the global market and participation in BioFach (which holds yearly in mid-February at Nuremberg, German).

RECALLING;

- That Nigeria subscribes to the Sustainable Development Goals; specifically Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and the Malabo Declaration that are relevant to Organic Agriculture.
- That the value of Organic and Agroecology sector of the country is much lower, compared to some countries in Africa that are smaller in land size and population.
- That available facts reveal paucity of scientific evidence to support Organic and Agroecology in Nigeria, especially for policy, exportable produce and products.
- That Organic Agriculture is yet to be properly reflected in the existing curricula relating to agriculture in academic programmes at all levels in Nigeria.
- That agricultural funding policy of the government is yet to give adequate attention to the organic and agroecological sectors.

WE URGE;

- All tiers of government in Nigeria to fully explore opportunities in the decision of the African Heads of States and Governments on Organic Farming [EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVII), 2010].
- The Federal Ministry of Information and Culture should have a Desk for organic agriculture and agroecology within the Ministry (apart from the operation of the National Orientation Agencies), to ensure proper dissemination/public awareness of the benefits, principles, and protocols of Organic and Agroecology in the country.



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- ECOWAS Commission as well as relevant international development organizations to support the annual National Organic Agriculture Business Summit financially, in order to enable more entrepreneurs in the Organic Agriculture sector of Nigeria to tap into ECOWAS open doors for exports and trigger similar development in other countries in West Africa.
- Nigeria as a country to have a robust multi-ministerial/sectoral policy on organic and agroecology to be led by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in order to provide enabling environment for the development of the sectors in the country.
- All relevant or appropriate governmental and private stakeholders to put in place consistent and proper monitoring of organic and agroecological enterprises in the country in order to uphold the integrity of the sectors.
- All MDAs relevant to the organic and agroecology sectors like Federal Ministries of Industry, Trade, and Investments, Federal Ministries of Agriculture & Rural Development, Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) and financial institutions like Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Bank of Agriculture, Bank of Industry and others, support the processes of improving quality of organic and agroecological produce and products from Nigeria with respect to their development for export market through appropriate organic certification programme(s).
- All MDAs relevant to organic and agroecology in Nigeria to include organic agriculture activities in their annual budgets.
- All appropriate bodies involved in the capacity development of stakeholders of organic and agroecology in the country, like Organic and Agroecology Initiative (ORAIN), the 'Nigeria Go Organic Project', NICERT Limited, and others to step up efforts of training stakeholders in having better understanding of the principles and practices of the sectors.
- Organic Agriculture Innovation Platforms in Nigeria (comprising Directors of Agricultural Extension, Desk Officers for organic and agroecology at the State level and Federal Capital Territory, including technical experts in the field of organic agriculture) to be strengthened to support activities of stakeholders and regularly proffer solutions to their operational challenges and contribute the development of the sectors in the country.
- Organic and Agroecology (ORAIN) as a Coalition of organic and agroecology organisations in Nigeria should up-scale her activities and appropriate stakeholders sensitized to join the Coalition for better promotion of the organic and agroecology sectors in the country.
- Appropriate committees of the Senate, House of Representatives, and State Houses of Assembly to ensure that appropriate policies are put in place to provide enabling environment for practicing organic and agroecology in the country, using internationally acceptable guidelines.
- Appropriate support to be given to the work in-progress proposed "National Policy on Organic Agriculture" championed by the Federal Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- All organisations involved on organic and agroecology in Nigeria should be encouraged with incentives to ensure better delivery of their mandates.
- Ministry of Agriculture at State and Local Government levels to allocate lands for organic and agroecology production on group/cooperative basis.
- Each State of the country to have a Desk Officer for organic agriculture and agroecology.

APPRECIATING;

- The Oyo State Government for facilitating and providing enabling environment for the Summit.
- Organic and Agroecology Initiative (ORAIN) and the Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative in Nigeria for organising and coordinating the Summit.
- H.E Engr. Seyi Makinde (The Executive Governor of Oyo State), Hon Adeniyi Adebisi (Oyo State Hon. Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development), Barr. Rahman Abiodun Abdul-Raheem, (Oyo State Hon. Commissioner for Education), Dr. Wasiu Olatunbosun (Oyo State Hon. Commissioner for Information and Culture and Tourism), Hon. Rahman O. Adepoju (Chairman, Ibadan North West LGA), Prof. Moji Adeyeye (Director General, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control – NAFDAC), Dr. Olugbenga O. AdeOluwa (Country Coordinator, Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative in Nigeria), Mr



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Konstantin Naryzhny (Florecer Global Services Ltd.), Mrs. Isabel Kuehne (FAO Africa), Pastor Jonathan Tunde Ajayi (General Manager, Broadcasting Corporation of Oyo State), Mr. Ernest Aube (Retired Head of Agriculture Division, ECOWAS Commission, Abuja), Prof. R. O. Awodoyin (President, Ecological Society of Nigeria), Dr. Nnimmo Bassey (Director, Health of Mother Earth Foundation), Dr. Debo Akande (Director General, Oyo State Agribusiness Development Agency), Dr. Victor Iyama (President of the Federation of Agricultural Commodity Association of Nigeria), Chief Sir Martin Njoku Ihesie, JP (Chairman BOT, Organic Fertilizer Producers and Suppliers Association of Nigeria - OFPSAN), Dr. M. L. Atanda (CEO/ED National Horticultural Research Institute), President of the National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools (NAPPS), Dr. Ronke Ajav (Director, University Health Services, University of Ibadan), for their insightful presentations during the event

- The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Raw Material Research and Development Council, Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria, Oyo State Ministry on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Organic Fertilizer Producers and Supplier Association of Nigeria, and Florecer Global Services Ltd for co-sponsoring this Summit.
- Support of the Federal Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, Industry, Trade & Investments, , Health, Humanitarian Affairs & Disaster Management, Environment, Information & Culture, Finance, Budget & National Planning, Education, Science & Technology, the Oyo State Government, and the ECOWAS Commission for the development of Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in the country.
- The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) and other media organisations like Nigeria Television Authority (NTA), Broadcasting Cooperation of Oyo State (BCOS) and Nigerian Tribune for supporting the Summit.
- The efforts of partner organisations of the Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative in Nigeria, namely; the Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria, the Federation of Agricultural Commodity Associations of Nigeria, Farmer Development Union, Ibadan Go Organic Multipurpose Cooperative Society, Justice Development and Peace Commission, Uyo, Organic Research Teams of University of Ibadan, Kwara State University and Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Ikot Ekpene Women Food Cash Crops Multi-purpose Cooperative Society and Healthy Food for Consumers Initiatives, under the chairmanship of Farm Input Support Services Department of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the West Africa regional oversight by the ECOWAS Commission, with funding from the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC) of Switzerland through Biovision Africa Trust Kenya for consistent contribution to the development of organic agriculture in Nigeria.
- The Local Organising Committee organisations of the Summit, namely; Oyo State Ministries of Agriculture & Rural Development, Oyo State Ministry of Health, Finance, Information, Culture and Tourism, Education, Environment & Natural Resources, Broadcasting Cooperation of Oyo State, All Farmers Association of Nigeria, Oyo State Chapter, Nigerian Television Authority, Ibadan, National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT), the Federal College of Agriculture, Ibadan, the Federal College of Animal, Production and Health, Ibadan and Bitemore.
- CONGRATULATING THE 2022 NOABS National Recognition Awardees (Zenith Energy Enzymes Inc., Prof. Akin Abayomi, Dr. NNimmo Bassey and Engr. Tunde Bello) as Champions of Organic and Agroecology in Nigeria, as well as the WINNER of School Essay Competition for 2022 NOABS - Ige Enoch Oluwadarasimi of Faith Academy Ogbomoso, Oyo State.

We agreed to meet in Abuja in 2023 and Plateau State in 2024 for the 8th and 9th editions of NOABS respectively, to further pursue the drive for the development of Organic Agriculture businesses in the Nigeria.

Singed

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Mr Moruff A. Rasaq
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