

## RSM2SNF Project Launch

**Date:** May 19th, 2022

**Location:** University of Ibadan International Conference Center

**Number of participants:** 175



*Fig. 1 From left to right: In person participants, online participants, Mr. Wale Fasanya (Ag DG SMEDAN) during his remarks at the RSM2SNF launch*



*Fig. 2 From left to right: research team members meeting after the event, Prof. David Tschirley and Dr. Victor Ajjeroh making welcome remarks*



*Fig.3 From left to right: Dr. Debo Akande (ED OYSADA) giving his remarks, NAC members during their inauguration, Dr. Abdulrasheed Yerima (President NASME) making his remarks*

## Event Summary

The Research Supporting African MSMEs to Provide Safe and Nutritious Food (RSM2SNF) project was launched on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The hybrid event was attended by 175 people (137 in person and 38 online), 63 females and 110 males.<sup>1</sup> The participants cut across various stakeholder groups such as academia (38%), private sector including farmers and non-farm private sector enterprises (28.6%), civil society (10.2%), government agencies (8.8%), media (8.0%) and donor/development partners (3.6%).



*Fig. 4 From top left to bottom right: Participants' registration, all participants, Dr. Ayala Wineman and Ms. Iveren Igbudu, traders and farmers' association with Prof. Liverpool-Tasie, participants during perception survey administration, representatives of civil society organizations*



<sup>1</sup> Two participants did not specify their gender.

Welcome remarks were made by the representatives of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – Dr. Victor Ajieroh, Michigan State University (MSU) – Prof. David Tschirley and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan – Prof. Oluyemisi Bamgbose.



*Fig. 5 From top left: Prof. David Tschirley, Dr. Victor Ajieroh and Prof. Oluyemisi Bamgbose*

In his remarks, Dr. Ajieroh emphasized the importance of research in improving the efficiency of food systems. He commended the timeliness of the project and noted that as one of the reasons the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is supporting the RSM2SNF project. He explained that Nigeria actively participated in a recently concluded Global Food Systems Summit with over forty country level dialogues leading to the early articulation of the National Food Systems Transformation Pathways. He recalled that over 70% of the population of Africa cannot afford a healthy diet every day and highlighted this fact as a challenge that deserves significant research, policy, and financing attention. The foundation will therefore partner and co-invest to see improved diets delivered by evidence driven food system programs and policies to improve the equitable consumption of safe and nutritious foods in Africa, all year round.

Prof. David Tschirley was impressed with the project approach that will focus on how various stages of the value chain systems depend on each other, as well as the collaborative style of building on local capacity.

Prof. Bamgbose appreciated the project's dual focus on safe and nutritious food and the equally critical issue of food affordability. She concluded her remarks by imploring participants to tour the university campus and enjoy the serenity of the UI environment.

Videos of welcome remarks given by representatives from partner Institutions such as Babcock University, University of Ibadan, Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta and National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS) were played during the opening session of the launch. All the dignitaries from the partner institutions expressed their support for the project and its objectives.

Additional welcome remarks were made by Dr. Debo Akande (DG, Oyo State Agribusiness Development Agency (OYSADA)), Mr Wale Fasanya (Acting DG SMEDAN), Dr. Abdulrasheed Yerima (President NASME) and Mr. Illiyasu (on behalf of the Chairman, Vegetable Traders Association).

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Debo Akande commended the foundation for its continuous efforts in supporting diverse development innovations in Nigeria including this partnership to get agriculture and food value chains strengthened for competitiveness among global actors. He further emphasized the importance of the role of MSMEs in national development and their ability



to reduce poverty, create wealth and enhance economic growth. He noted the potential of the goals of the project to support the national effort to understand the roles MSMEs could play in supporting the industrialization of the agricultural sector. He concluded his remarks by expressing the commitment of Oyo State to partner with the RSM2SNF team to successfully deliver the mandate of the project.

In his remarks, Mr. Fasanya stated that SMEDAN trusts that the project will cause a meaningful change in the drudgery that is usually associated with agriculture and agribusiness sector. He noted that the results of the research project will engender targeted policy interventions. He also mentioned that SMEDAN is delighted that the research strategy is not limited to data collection but will extend to supporting practical solutions addressing challenges facing the MSMEs in the country. He concluded by saying that the agency is committed to complementing the project's effort in addressing these issues. Dr. Yerima appreciated MSU and partners for extending the invitation to NASME and for giving the agency the honor of making welcome remarks. He further stated that the agency has no doubt that the project will be of great benefit to MSMEs and looks forward to working closely with the team on the project.

Mr. Illiyasu (representing the Vegetable Traders Association) appreciated the event organizers for extending the invite to their association. He expressed the association's hopes that RSM2SNF will be of great benefit to traders, helping to improve their sales and business in general at Akinyele market.

### **Ice breaker**

To foster interaction among participants, Ms. Jenifer Igbudu (for the in-person participants) and Ms. Aisha Ibrahim Lawal (for the virtual participants) led icebreakers. Participant were asked to put down (in sixty seconds) a word or phrase that comes to mind when they think of the vegetable and fish value chains in Nigeria. Ms. Igbudu, read out a few words from the in-person submissions and the online submissions were displayed on the screen in a word cloud. Key words that came out strongly from the word cloud were **losses, postharvest, climate and processing.**



Fig.6 Left to right: Ms. Igbudu during the Ice breaker session, Words put down by participants during the session

## Project Overview

The lead principal investigator for the project (Prof. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie of MSU) presented an overview of the project. During her presentation, she explained that the project was designed on the premise that agri-food value chains in developing regions have grown significantly over the last three decades. This expansion was facilitated by aggregate investment of MSMEs. She cited examples of the interrelationship and inter-dependence that exist along the value chain from the producer down to the consumers, the challenges of the MSMEs categorized into micro, meso and macro activities, as well as how these activities along the value chain determine the ability or inability of food systems to provide affordable, safe, and nutritious foods.

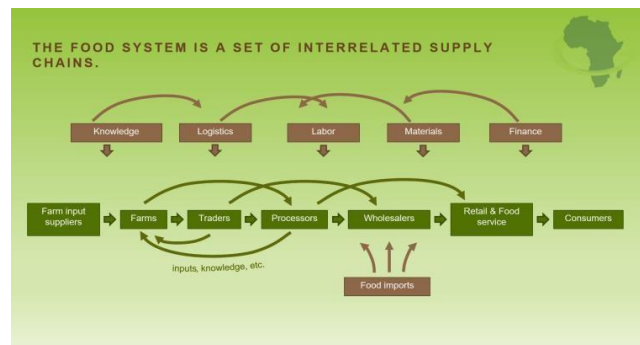


Fig. 7: Prof. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie presenting the project's overview

Prof. Liverpool-Tasie noted that a key goal of the project is to better understand the structure, conduct and performance of the project value chains and how such knowledge can improve the supply of affordable, safe, and nutritious foods. To do this the project has a 5-year timeline (2022-2026) and will be conducted through the 3-pronged research methodology involving rapid reconnaissance, followed by a series of meso studies and then an in-depth analysis of data collected from representative samples of MSMEs at selected nodes of the study value chains, the

latter known as a stacked survey approach. She provided a justification for the project value chains chosen (fish, green leafy vegetables, and tomatoes) and how the selected value chains will be used to learn broader lessons about Nigeria’s food system.

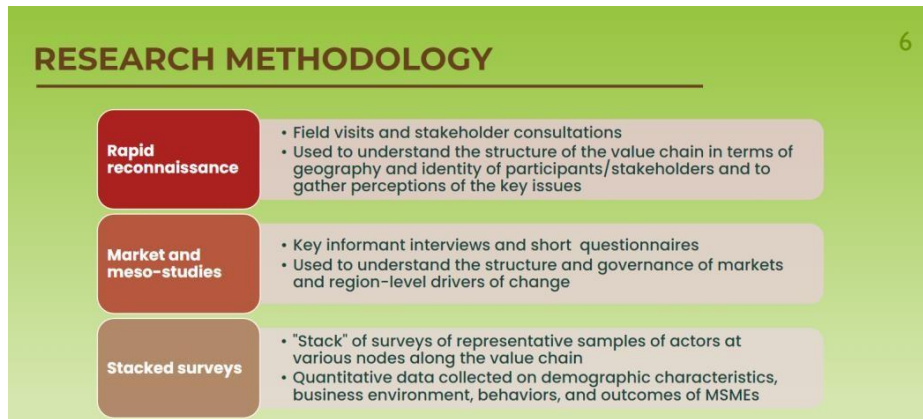


Fig 8: Clips from Prof. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie’s presentation of the project overview

The project overview announced the broad range of stakeholders RSM2SNF will be engaging with. These include an advisory committee (inaugurated during the launch), several collaborating institutions, market associations, governments, and private agencies as well as civil society organizations. Prof. Liverpool-Tasie noted that feedback on research findings will be presented to these stakeholders using tools and means most appropriate to their diverse needs.

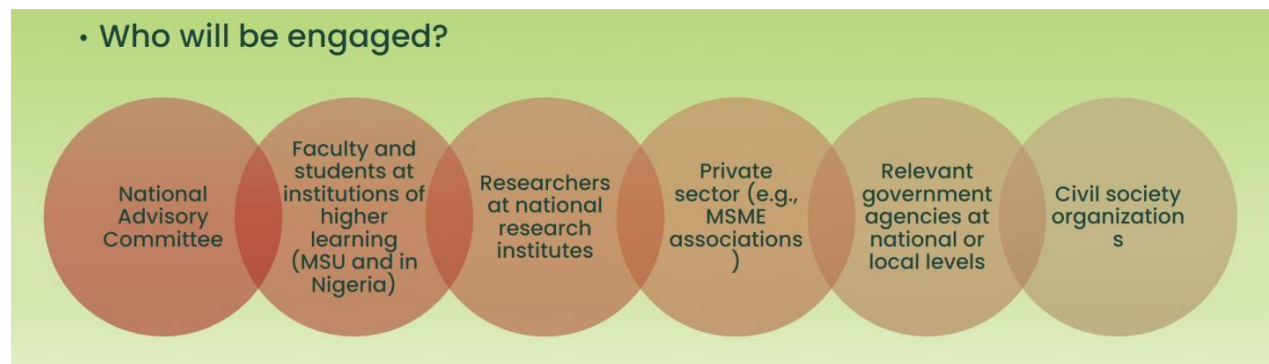


Fig 9: Clips from Prof. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie’s presentation of the project overview

Prof. Liverpool-Tasie highlighted the project’s early career scholar program that will be working with Nigeria’s future leaders and subjecting the project’s research to critical review for publication in academic and policy journals. Finally, she noted that an intervention will be co-created with a subset of stakeholders. This process will identify an intervention that addresses a specific challenge faced by MSMEs and then work to pilot the intervention and evaluate it as part of the research.



*Fig.10 From left to right: Prof. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie presenting the project's overview, Prof. Adewale Obadina introducing the research team*

### **Introduction of project research team and inauguration of the National Advisory Committee (NAC)**

The project team (including faculty, early careers scholars and project support staff) was introduced by Prof. Adewale Obadina (FUNAAB) and Ms. Aisha Ibrahim (NAERLS). This was followed by the introduction and inauguration of the project's advisory committee by Dr. Ajieroh. Dr. Ajieroh presented the terms of reference (TORs) of the advisory committee that described their roles and responsibilities. He introduced each advisory committee member (with a brief description of their background) and facilitated the signing of the TORs. Following the signing, Dr. Ajieroh confirmed the formal inauguration of the RSM2SNF national advisory committee.



*Fig.11: Members of the NAC. From left to right: Prof. Gbenga Ogunmoyela, Mr. Wale Fasanya, Mr. John Karunwi, Dr. Yemisi Kuku and Dr. Lydia Umar*



## **Stakeholder perception survey**

Dr. Ayala Wineman (a co-principal investigator of the project) led the stakeholder perception survey administration. She explained that the objective of the survey is to understand stakeholders' perceptions of food value chains in Nigeria. Tablets were provided for participants (in person) who did not have a smartphone to access and fill out the survey, while online participants were given the link in the zoom chat to do so. Some hard copies of the survey were also provided for participants with challenges to complete the survey digitally.



*Fig. 12: Dr. Ayala Wineman with participants during the perception survey administration*

## **Facilitated sessions:**

The event had two facilitated sessions both online and in-person. During these sessions, attendees were given the opportunity to share opinions and interact with other participants.

Facilitated session 1 was focused on how the RSM2SNF project could meet stakeholder needs in terms of information that could be provided or links that could be established, while facilitated session 2 was focused on how stakeholders could contribute to increasing the availability of affordable, safe and nutritious foods in Nigeria.

**Summary of discussions during facilitated session 1 (How RSM2SNF can meet stakeholder needs in terms of information or links that could be established)**

**In person:**

**Group 1 (Farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs) facilitated by Mr. Adeniyi Ayodeji (AFEX) and Dr. Bolatito Shobo (Babcock University)**

- The RSM2SNF project can:
  - support regular meetings with farmers so researchers can understand the prevalent issues for farmers and where to focus their intervention efforts.
  - support improved linkages between MSMEs themselves as well as between MSMEs and markets.
  - support MSMEs to leverage on social media platforms to have their voices heard.



*Fig. 13: Farmer and agribusiness entrepreneur discussions*

**Group 2 (Government) facilitated by Mr. Onesi Lawal (SMEDAN) and Prof. Obadina (FUNAAB)**

- RSM2SNF can:
  - support increased availability of information for use by government agencies in decision making. This includes information on:
    - the types of fish and vegetables commonly consumed by Nigerians and their nutritional values.
    - new and improved methods and technologies for farmers and post-farm MSMEs.
    - information on dangerous practices and inputs used by farmers and post farm MSMEs (e.g., growth boosters that can negatively affect animal and human health).



Fig. 14: Government representatives in their discussion session

**Group 3 (Civil Society and Donors) facilitated by Ms. Iveren Igbudu (NDA) and Prof. Y.A Sani(NAERLS)**

- RSM2SNF can:
  - continue to engage with the MSMEs during the various stages of the project
  - support the training of stakeholders in the use of technologies and innovations
  - support the development of an effective feedback mechanism to disseminate results and findings from research activities



Fig. 15: The facilitated session for civil society and donors

**Online:**

**Group 1 facilitated by Dr. Toba Adeyeye (Agrosynergy Ltd) and Ms. Charuta Parkhi (MSU):**

- RSM2SNF can:
  - create a forum for stakeholders to speak and communicate freely and in the language they understand

- have a feedback mechanism and bridge communication gaps among stakeholders
- use the main source of receiving information for stakeholders such as radios and community-based advisers.

***Group 2 facilitated by Dr. Ben Belton (MSU) and Dr. Osawe Wellington (National University of Ireland):***

- RSM2SNF can:
  - provide feedback on knowledge and findings from research along the value chain
  - support the dissemination of information on innovations and markets
  - support conversations that promote more policy attention to the agriculture sector

***Group 3 facilitated by Prof. Thomas Reardon (MSU) and Ms. Carolina Vargas (MSU)***

- RSM2SNF can:
  - ensure that feedback from research findings is provided to stakeholders
  - provide information on safety practices to stakeholders
  - explore the incentives to strengthen feedback mechanisms

***Group 4 facilitated by Ms. Yewande Kazeem (Wandievile)***

- RSM2SNF can:
  - let stakeholder know what they stand to gain from engaging with other stakeholder groups
  - Support direct engagement of interventions/research with stakeholders through trainings (not too often), social media platform, infographics, and media e.g., radio
  - Knowledge feedback/feedback from findings

**Summary of discussions during facilitated session 2** *(What roles can different stakeholder groups play in supporting increased supply of affordable, safe, and nutritious foods in Nigeria's food systems?)*



## **In person**

### ***Group 1 (Farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs) facilitated by Prof. Chris Daudu (NAERLS)***

Roles that farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs can play include:

- Networking and sharing information among themselves and with other stakeholder groups
- Being open to adopting innovative and safety practices



*Fig. 16: Photo from facilitated session*

### ***Group 2 (Government) facilitated by Mr. Yakubu Gorah (Kaduna Ministry of Environment) and Dr. Anthony Onoja (APRNET)***

Roles that government could play include:

- Creating awareness on production, processing, and safety for all value chain actors in selected products (tomatoes, green vegetables, fish)
- Enforcing policies and regulations with respect to production and safety practices along the value chains.
- Leveraging on research, coupled with proper monitoring and evaluation
- Strengthening the extension arm and giving the logistic and facilities to work.
- Providing subsidies for inputs of production



Fig 17: Photo from facilitated session of government representatives

**Group 3 (Civil Society and Donors) facilitated by Prof. Ogunmoyela (CAFSANI) and Prof. Omonona (UI)**

The roles that civil society and donors can play include:

- Sharing thoughts about actionable strategies to address constraints and encourage the supply of affordable, safe, and nutritious foods in markets
- Suggesting ways that specific stakeholders may benefit from engaging with the project
- Raising awareness of food hygiene and facilitating practices to limit food loss

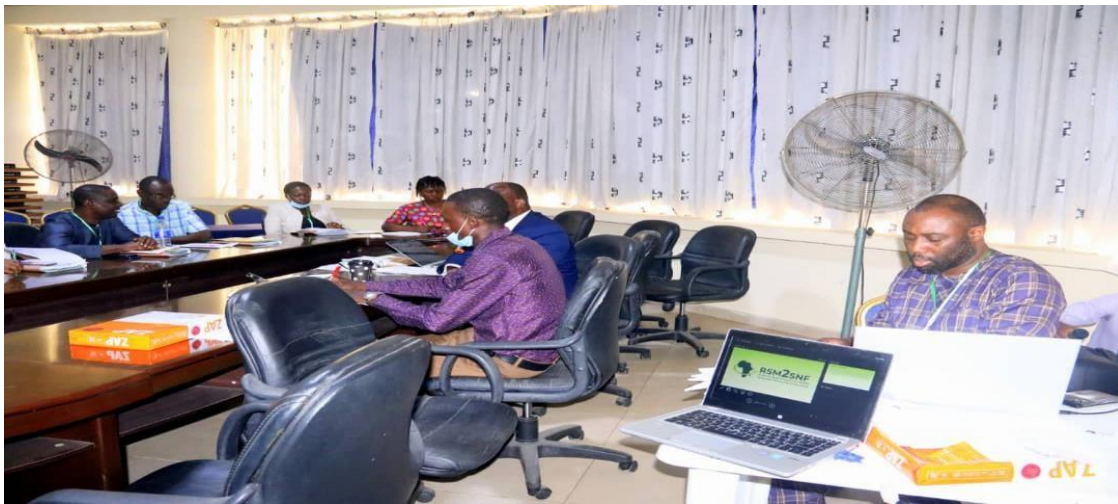


Fig. 18: Photos from facilitated session for civil society and donors

**Online group discussions:**

***Group 1 facilitated by Dr. Toba Adeyeye (Agrosynergy Ltd) and Ms. Charuta Parkhi (MSU):***

Stakeholder roles include:

- Being members of associations where there are benefits such as having access to soft loans. Stakeholder commitment (financial) in these associations e.g., savings can then be used to get loans from financial institutions.
- Reorientation of farmers at the grassroots
- Sharing knowledge information and learning from peers
- Sensitizing other stakeholder groups along value chains

***Group 2 facilitated by Dr. Ben Belton (MSU) and Dr. Osawe Wellington (National University of Ireland):***

Stakeholder roles include:

- Associating with other key stakeholder in the industry
- Sharing with other key stakeholders how they will benefit from such associations to encourage mutually beneficial interactions.

***Group3 facilitated by Prof. Thomas Reardon (MSU) and Ms. Carolina Vargas (MSU)***

Stakeholder roles include:

- Adopting safety measures and practices in handling food products
- Adopting proper storage practices

***Group 4 facilitated by Ms. Yewande Kazeem (Wandieville)***

Stakeholder roles include:

- Engaging with other stakeholder groups to facilitate information transfer

**Feedback from facilitated sessions and closing:**

The feedback from the various groups were presented to the larger house by representatives from each of the groups highlighting major points that were discussed. This was followed by a vote of thanks given by Dr. Bukola Osuntade (Babcock University). The event ended at 4:50 pm with attendees singing the second stanza of the Nigerian national anthem.



## Appendix 1

### Event Agenda:

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10:30–11:00 am	Arrival of participants and registration
11:00–12:00 pm	<b>Welcome:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General welcome and opening prayer - MC</li><li>• Welcome remarks from<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation – Dr. Victor Ajieroh</li><li>○ Michigan State University (MSU) – Prof. Dave Tschirley</li><li>○ Various State Commissioners of Agriculture</li></ul></li><li>• Welcome videos from partner institutions (NAERLS, UI, Babcock University and FUNAAB)</li><li>• Welcome remarks from<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Oyo State Agribusiness Development Agency (OYSADA) – Dr. Debo Akande</li><li>○ Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) – Dr. Dikko Umaru Radda (DG)</li><li>○ Nigerian Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME) – Engr. Dr. Abdulrasheed Yerima (President)</li></ul></li><li>• Icebreaker (Ms. Iveren Igbudu)</li></ul>
12:00–12:30 pm	<b>Project overview:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation of RSM2SNF – Dr. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie (MSU)</li><li>• Introduction of research team – Prof. Obadina (FUNAAB) and Aisha Lawal Ibrahim (NAERLS)</li></ul>
12:30–1:00 pm	<b>Inaugural events:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inauguration of the project’s National Advisory Committee (led by Dr. Ajieroh of Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation)</li><li>• Project launch group photos</li></ul>
1:00–1:30 pm	<b>Survey of stakeholder perceptions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction by Dr. Ayala Wineman (MSU)</li><li>• Survey of stakeholder perceptions</li></ul>
1:30–2:00 pm	<b>Coffee/tea/snack break</b>
2:00–2:45 pm	<b>Facilitated session 1: How can the project meet stakeholder needs?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Video on govt. and private sector take-up/use of research</li><li>• In person discussion groups<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Farmers and Agribusiness Entrepreneurs – Mr. Adeniyi Ayodeji (AFEX) and Dr. Bolatito Shobo (Babcock University)</li><li>○ Government – Mr. Onesi Lawani (SMEDAN)/Prof. Obadina (FUNAAB)</li><li>○ Civil Society and Development Partners – Ms. Yewande Kazeem (WandieVille)/Prof. Sani (NAERLS)</li></ul></li><li>• Online discussion groups<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Group 1 – Dr. Toba Adeyeye (Agrosynergy Ltd.) (/Ms. Charuta Parkhi (MSU)</li></ul></li></ul>

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- Group 2 – Dr. Ben Belton (MSU) /Dr. Osawe Wellington (National University of Ireland)
- Group 3 – Prof. Bolorunduro (NAERLS) /Ms. Carolina Vargas (MSU)

2:45–3:00 pm	Group reflection and water break
	Facilitated session 2: What roles can different stakeholder groups play? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video on stakeholder innovation</li> <li>• In person discussion groups           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Farmers and Agribusiness Entrepreneurs – Dr. Lydia (GAT)/ Prof. Chris Daudu (NAERLS)</li> <li>○ Government – Mr. Yakubu Gorah (Kaduna Min. of Env.) / Dr. Anthony Onoja (APRNet)</li> <li>○ Civil Society and Development Partners – Prof. Ogunmoyela (CAFSANI)/Prof. Omonona (UI)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Online discussion groups           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group 1 – Dr. Toba Adeyeye (Agrosynergy Ltd.) (/Ms. Charuta Parkhi (MSU)</li> <li>○ Group 2 – Dr. Ben Belton (MSU) /Dr. Osawe Wellington (National University of Ireland)</li> <li>○ Group 3 – Prof. Bolorunduro (NAERLS) /Ms. Carolina Vargas (MSU)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3:00–3:45 pm	
3:45–4:15 pm	Feedback from facilitated sessions
	Closing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vote of Thanks – Dr. Bukola Osuntade (Babcock University)</li> <li>• Refreshments</li> </ul>
4:15–4:30 pm	

## **Appendix 2: Full notes from group discussions:**

### **Group 1 (Farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs)**

This group discussion was facilitated by Mr. Adeniyi Ayodeji (AFEX) and Dr. Bolatito Shobo (Babcock University). It included farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs such as fish farmers and traders, leafy vegetable farmers and traders, mushroom farmers and traders, as well as Tomatoes farmers and traders.

**Q1: *What are the main concerns of stakeholders related to making affordable, safe, and nutritious foods available in Nigerian markets?***

#### ***Leafy Vegetables, Tomatoes Farmers and Traders:***

- Having better storage facilities for our tomatoes to prevent spoilage.
- Having good, reliable, and affordable sources of inputs such as viable seedlings and farm implements.
- Having viable seedlings accompanied with training would make planting easier. When we have training on seed types, we will be able to avoid crop failure. Last year, we incurred great losses due to inadequate training on the hybrid seeds. Things were so bad that we could not recoup the already very high cost of seedlings, nor the cost of labor spent.
- Having training on proper pest and disease management system.
- Improved market access e.g., a way for the mass uptake of produce to reduce the stress of the farmers who must market their produce themselves.
- Better access to loans as grass-root farmers. The bank of agriculture for example attaches high interest rates to the loans they give farmers. The BOA also requests for documents that would be impossible for a farmer to provide. (especially so for the uneducated and elderly ones).

#### ***Fish farmers and traders:***

- Clearing the grass on the water surface that prevents us from using the water and having access to the fish especially in the Eleyele river.
- Better access to cold rooms to store fish to reduce wastage and spoilage.

- Improved production practices such as creating cage cultures to reduce dependence on the fish in the natural water bodies.
- Having access to subsidized cost of inputs such as feeds as it constitutes 70% of production cost for fish.



*Fig 19. Discussions from the facilitated sessions*

**Q2: What kind of information would be useful for your stakeholder group to guide its decision making, program design, etc.?**

- Linkages with insurance organizations so that we can work together and buy what we need from each other.
- Leveraging on social media platforms to have our voices heard

**Q3: How can the project facilitate healthy engagement/discourse between your stakeholder group and other stakeholder groups?**

- There is no relationship between us and government and even if it exists at all is at best strained and this is one of our major challenges.
- Although the current government in the state is trying to better support farmers, those that are put in charge of the agencies still make things difficult.
- No board to represent farmer groups and this impacts negatively on our ability to have smoother relationships among ourselves and with the government.



## **Group 2 (Government)**

This group was facilitated by Mr. Onesi Lawal (SMEDAN) and Prof. Obadina (FUNAAB) in the first session, It comprised of Government representative and agencies.

**Question 1: *What are the main concerns of stakeholders to making food affordable, available, and safe?***

- Increased awareness and sensitization for all farmers of tomato and vegetable, as well as fish farmers. This would bridge the gap between traditional knowledge and new knowledge among farmers.
- Capacity building for farmers through trainings
- High input prices (fish feed, fertilizer etc.) which could be eased if they were subsidized to encourage production activities.
- Limited regulations on post- harvest activities
- Poor extension services/bodies and limited value addition activities.
- Poor regulatory policy for setting and enforcing standards for fish and penalties for illegal/improper practices. There should be certifications for agri-food actors at the various stages of the value chain.
- Disconnect in the passing of policy from the governments to the grassroots. Therefore, a connecting system linkage - intensive advocacy from the government to farmers.
- Lack of infrastructure i.e., Roads linking the rural areas to the urban markets are not motorable thereby increasing the cost of transportation of farm products and leading to post harvest losses.
- There is also a problem of storage.
- Use of harmful chemicals i.e., Bio pesticides should replace synthetic pesticides and there should be control use of pesticides.
- No structured research.

**Question 2: *What kind of information would be useful for this group to guide in decision making?***

- Information on the diverse types of the vegetables commonly consumed and their nutritional values.
- Consumer information e.g., the types of fish that are consumed in the country.
- Information on new methods and technologies.

- Information on the type of chemicals that should and should not be used. e.g., growth boosters that can affect human sterility and other health implications of production inputs.
- Provision of data base or baseline information to guide decisions.

### **Group 3 (Civil Society & Development partners)**

This group was facilitated by Ms. Iveren Igbudu, Prof. Y.A Sani and Dr. Lydia Umar.

#### ***Q1: What are the main concerns (needs) of (stakeholder) group when it comes to making nutritious foods more available?***

- There is a big gap between policy and implementation.
- No synergy between research and those on the field
- Entrepreneurs need to be taught basic nutrition and food safety
- Lack of continuity in Partnership between the Organizations and Governments/sponsors
- Poor sensitization

#### ***Q2 what kind of information would be useful for [stakeholder group] to guide its decision making, program design, etc.?***

- Information on improved practices, modern technologies, transition in food technologies as well as changes in those various processes.

#### ***Q3 How can the project facilitate healthy engagement/discourse between [stakeholder group] and other stakeholder groups?***

- Dissemination of results
- Trainings
- Identification of Knowledge based gaps
- Provision of incentives for research groups
- Conducting a pilot scheme of the study done
- Building Capacity
- Identification and collaboration between civil society and development partners
- Proper sensitization and dissipation of information in the local languages

## **In person facilitated session 2: What roles can different stakeholder group play?**

### **Group 1 (Farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs)**

This group was facilitated by Prof. Chris Daudu (NAERLS)

**Q1: How can your stakeholder group contribute to this effort to build knowledge regarding the food system and MSMEs in the midstream and downstream of food value chains?**

- Collaborating with researchers can help us get genetically modified foods (GMOs) that will be pest free and environmentally friendly, reducing the use of pesticides. This would be useful to the farmers and through extension services the MSMEs, making the work of the researchers easier.
- Frequent meetings between the farmers and researchers, would help researchers to better understand the prevalent issues and know where to focus their efforts.
- Collaborating with researchers so that farmers and entrepreneurs can be trained to yield maximum results. The associations in the rural areas are willing to work hand in hand with researchers to achieve safe and affordable foods.

**Q2: How can your stakeholder group leverage your own resources, capacities, and already-in-place activities to further the primary aims of this project?**

- Farmers and entrepreneurs can create social media groups or better still the researchers can help create social media groups that would aid better interaction between farmers/entrepreneurs and help information flow between the researchers and the farmers/entrepreneurs and among the farmers/entrepreneurs themselves. It would even encourage young ones to access information quicker and that group might be more willing to try out the new discoveries on the field.
- Farmers should learn to employ value added practices. They should also learn to move beyond just planting to processing and marketing. This is readily available knowledge that can improve the profitability of the farmers. They should adopt local adaptable processing and value addition practices for better results.
- Employ the use of local information dissemination systems to share tested and proven practices among farmers/entrepreneurs to other farmers/entrepreneurs. Non-governmental organizations will be of immense help in this regard.

- Farmers/entrepreneurs can educate one another on already available agribusiness best practices. They should also be innovative and creative about packaging to aid farming and selling of their goods in ways that would be profitable and fit in the bracket of safe and hygienic food production.



Fig. 20. Photos from facilitated sessions

**Q3: One component of this project will be the co-creation of an intervention designed to address a challenge faced by MSMEs, with a pilot implementation and evaluation. How might [stakeholder groups] participate in co-creating an intervention?**

- Producers (farmers) can use innovative practices to preserve food and this information should be shared with others. These groups can come together to help each other.
- Groups can speak to one another about the issues faced as farmers, researchers, and retailers. One such issue is proper bookkeeping and record keeping and we can find ways to deal with these issues.
- Networking and sharing information and opportunities is important. We should also learn to create markets to ease selling their produce.
- Government should give more appropriate attention to agriculture than it is giving now.

### **Group 2 (Government)**

This group was facilitated by Mr. Yakubu Gorah and Dr. Anthony Onoja.

**Question 1: *What role can the government play in fish, tomato, and vegetable production?***

- Regulation of quality of water for irrigation in vegetable production.
- Sensitization and enforcement of policies on production.
- Government should provide equipment, and capacity building and micro loans.
- Reinforcements of regulations and laws.
- Awareness creation on safety, monitoring the farm, especially in the use of organic pesticide and chemicals. Government should promote organic agriculture.
- Strengthening the extension arm and giving the logistic and facilities to work.
- Information on good farm practices.
- Subsidy on all the inputs of production.
- Facilitates and establishment of up takers for distribution.
- Structural transformation on value chain.
- Provision of Mechanism to get feedbacks from farmers and act on them.
- Advocacy for documentation of policies to follow proper channels.
- Policy on extensions should be reactivated.



*Fig 21: Photos from the facilitation sessions*

**Question 2: *What do you think is the role of research institutes on the value chain towards availability, affordability, and safety?***

- Creation of linkage between the research institutes and the teaching institutions.
- Research institution should do research that uncovers the bad practices in agriculture.



- Conducting a situation analysis and how to rescue it.

**Question 3: *How can the project facilitate healthy engagement/discourse between government and other stakeholder groups?***

- Improved and effective value chain system.
- Improved food safety practices from all segments (from farmers to policy makers).
- Government should be willing to accept the intervention coming from this project.
- Recommendation and implementation strategies

**Group 3: Civil society and donors**

This group was facilitated by Prof. Ogunmoyela (CAFSANI) and Prof. Omonona (UI)

***Q1. How can your stakeholder group contribute to this effort to build knowledge regarding the food system and MSMEs in the midstream and downstream of food value chains?***

- Research/Knowledge building
- Validation of results by the stakeholders and Government
- Dissemination of results/outreach activities
- Organizing and collaborating with those in the field for easy access to information
- Access and assemble various stakeholders for capacity building
- Monitor the utilization of the information and the changes implemented
- Promoting culture and tradition in media using local languages and dialect for communication and information dissipation
- Proper structure for the regulation of policies related to MSMEs by the Government
- Establishment of working guidelines and standards

***Q2. How can other stakeholder groups leverage your own resource capacities, and already-in place activities to further the primary aims of this project?***

- Raising awareness of food hygiene
- Raising awareness of, and facilitating, practices to limit food loss
- Ensuring that decent food hygiene practices are followed
- Support other needs of MSMEs
- Training in the use of Technology
- Provision of necessary infrastructure for MSMEs

**Q3. One component of this project will be the co-creation of an intervention designed to address a challenge faced by MSMEs, with a pilot implementation and evaluation How might stakeholder groups participate in co-creating an intervention?**

- Share thoughts about actionable strategies to address constraints to/encourage the supply of affordable, safe, and nutritious foods in markets
  - Suggest ways that specific stakeholders may benefit from engaging with the project.
  - Continuous engagement of the MSMEs in the process of development
  - Monitoring the process of development and implementation
  - Building capacity
- 

## **Online Breakout rooms Sessions**

### **Breakout room 1:**

Facilitated by Dr. Toba (Agrosynergy Industry) and Charuta Parkhi (MSU)

**Q1. What are the main concerns (needs) of (stakeholder) group when it comes to making nutritious foods more available?**

- Logistics and Storage
- Insecurity
- High prices due to high cost of transporting goods to market

**Q2. What kind of information would be useful for [stakeholder group] to guide its decision making, program design, etc.?**

- Market information

**Q3. How can the project facilitate healthy engagement/discourse between [stakeholder group] and other stakeholder groups?**

- Have a forum for them and speak their language to make them comfortable

- Have a feedback mechanism, bridge communication gaps

***Q4. Through what avenue would [stakeholder group] most appreciate receiving information, or new knowledge about our research topic?***

- Radio jingles
- Advocacy visit to community heads
- Flyers printed in their local languages
- Use of community-based advisors

***Q5. How can [stakeholder group] contribute to this effort to build knowledge regarding the food system and MSMEs in the midstream and downstream of food value chains?***

- Being parts of associations
- Learning from peers
- Reorientation of farmers at the grassroots
- Being a part of an association that can give soft loans. A group where they have financial commitment in form of savings which can be used to get loans from financial institutions.

***Q5. How can your stakeholder group leverage your own resource capacities, and already-in place activities to further the primary aims of this proposed project?***

- Sharing knowledge that you have with others in your stakeholder group
- Sensitizing every stakeholder group along value chains

## **Breakout room 2:**

Facilitated by Dr. Ben Belton (MSU) and Dr. Wellington Osawe (ESRI)

***Q1. What are the main concerns (needs) of (stakeholder) group when it comes to making nutritious foods more available?***

- Gap in Knowledge
- High production cost
- Lack of access to credit

**Q2. What kind of information would be useful for [stakeholder group] to guide its decision making, program design, etc.?**

- Advocacy for producer to diversify production and for consumer to diversify consumption based on what the environment has abundance in in terms of diets
- More policy attention to the agriculture sector
- Information on innovations and markets

**Q3. How can the project facilitate healthy engagement/discourse between [stakeholder group] and other stakeholder groups?**

- Feedback on knowledge and findings from research along the value chain
- Having and training community-based advisers who will facilitate flow of information

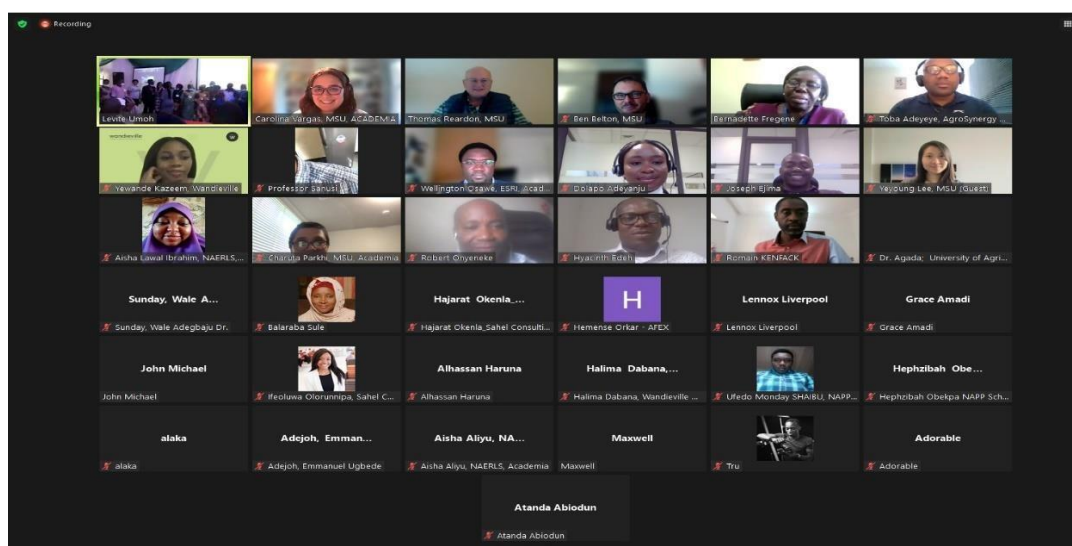


Fig. 22: Photos of virtual participants

**Breakout room 3:**

Facilitated by Ms. Carolina Vargas (MSU) and Prof. Thomas Reardon (MSU)

**Q1. What are the main concerns (needs) of (stakeholder) group when it comes to making nutritious foods more available?**

- High cost of inputs

- Lack of quality/safety differentiation in the market – so farmers have no incentive to do better quality or food safety in products as they do not get better prices for these so just ignore all that.
- Retailers (and consumers) do poor safety practices like serving fresh cut veg (not clean) in basket
- The group hypothesized “lots” of spoilage and waste; need to know storage practices

***Q2. What kind of information would be useful for [stakeholder group] to guide its decision making, program design, etc.?***

- Students and professors lack incentives to do outreach to and listen to farmers; lack organizational systems to interact so university just does its research and theses and does not share with food system participants
- Need to review extension model by first understanding how farmers get their information such as from private sector and each other and other channels.

**Breakout room 4:**

Facilitated by Ms. Yewande Kazeem (CEO WANDIEVILLE).

***Q1. What are the main concerns (needs) of (stakeholder) group when it comes to making nutritious foods more available?***

- High cost of production
- Low quality Infrastructure

***Q2 what kind of information would be useful for [stakeholder group] to guide its decision making, program design, etc.?***

- Knowledge feedback/feedback from findings

***Q3. How can the project facilitate healthy engagement/discourse between [stakeholder group] and other stakeholder groups?***



- By giving incentives and letting stakeholder know what they stand to gain engaging with other stakeholder groups

***Q4. Through what avenue would [stakeholder group] most appreciate receiving information, or new knowledge about our research topic?***

- Direct engagement through not too frequent trainings, social media platform, infographics
- Use of media e.g., radio