



NABG QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JULY- SEPT 2024

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Dear Members and Stakeholders,

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past quarter, it is clear that we are making strides in strengthening Nigeria's agribusiness sector. Our nationwide sensitization tour has empowered small-scale producers, connected stakeholders, and sparked vital discussions on policy implementation and agricultural development. We could not have done this without the tireless support of our partners and funders.

Thank you for your commitment as we continue to drive progress and build a sustainable future for Nigeria's agriculture.

Jafar Umar

Director General, NABG

Activity Recap

1 Policy Advocacy: Moving the National Seed Policy Forward

In July, we continued from where we stopped following the National Seed Council Roundtable in Abuja, we organized a two-day workshop in Kano, funded by HarvestPlus and in partnership with NASC.

The goal? To finalize the Implementation Framework for the National Seed Policy, which is crucial for enhancing the competitiveness of Nigeria's seed industry. This workshop brought together leading industry stakeholders who shared insights and worked collaboratively to validate the framework.



Event Highlights

- ▶ In-depth discussions on the framework's key elements, including regulatory requirements and funding mechanisms.
- ▶ High-level participation from NASC, SEEDAN, NEPC, AGRA, and more.
- ▶ A robust Q&A session fostering transparency and shared understanding.

Activity Recap

2 Nigeria National Quality Policy Roundtable

NABG, alongside the Nigeria National Quality Council, hosted a roundtable aimed at improving quality and standards within the Nigerian productive economy, including agriculture. With stakeholders from NQS, BSI, IFDC, UKAID, and Mercy Corps, the discussion centered around fully implementing the National Quality Policy to boost agribusiness.



Activity Recap

3 Biofortification Thought Series with HarvestPlus - Lagos

NABG, represented by Secretary General Mrs. Olubokola Nwaneri, Board Member Engr Segun Falade, and DG Jafar Umar, participated in the HarvestPlus Biofortification Thought Series in Lagos. This event highlighted HarvestPlus' successes in biofortifying crops, especially in Northern Nigeria, and NABG's commitment to further collaborating with them.



Activity Recap

4

Partnerships with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS)

NABG led by DG Jafar Umar met with directors from FMAFS to discuss ongoing activities, the Presidential Roundtable on Agribusiness, and addressing challenges in the sector. We remain committed to fostering sustainable agribusiness practices through strong partnerships.



Lens on Regional Agribusiness Sensitization Initiative

1 NABG Regional Agribusiness Sensitization Initiative – Gombe

Our Sensitization Tour kicked off in Gombe with 135 physical participants and 18 joining online. We focused on sustainable farming, climate-smart techniques, and enhancing understanding of agricultural policies. Supported by HarvestPlus, we empowered smallholder farmers and agribusinesses with knowledge vital to sustainable Agriculture.



Lens on Regional Agribusiness Sensitization Initiative

2 Oyo State Sensitization Event – Southwest

The Southwest leg of our tour in Oyo drew 116 physical attendees and 120 online participants. This event, held in partnership with PiLAF, focused on agribusiness financing, value chain development, and empowering small-scale producers.



Lens on Regional Agribusiness Sensitization Initiative

3 Enugu State Tour - Southeast

In August, we brought the Sensitization Initiative to the Southeast, hosting an impactful event in Enugu. With 101 physical and 8 online participants, the focus was on agricultural policies, food safety, and post-harvest management. The event saw significant female participation, showcasing NABG's commitment to inclusivity.



Lens on Regional Agribusiness Sensitization Initiative

4 Katsina State Sensitization Tour – Northwest

Our final tour stop in Katsina was a resounding success, with 123 physical participants and 13 online. The focus was on policy advocacy, extension services, and agribusiness sustainability. We were proud to see strong regional participation and dialogue on agricultural policies.



NABG at Africa Food Systems Forum 2024

NABG made its presence felt at the Africa Food Systems Forum (#AFS2024), with a strong delegation led by President Arc. Kabir Ibrahim. Alongside our Director General, Jafar Umar, and other elected officials, NABG actively participated in discussions focused on climate-smart agriculture, food security, and innovative agribusiness solutions. Our participation reaffirmed NABG's role as a key player in shaping Africa's food systems for a sustainable future.

Event Highlights

- ▶ Partnerships forged to drive innovation and policy advocacy.
- ▶ Strategic engagements with global stakeholders on climate-smart agriculture.





SPOTLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

SPOTLIGHT OF THE QUARTER: MRS. OLUBUKOLA NWANERI



This quarter, we shine the spotlight on Mrs. Olubukola Nwaneri, the General Secretary of NABG and the driving force behind many of our successful initiatives, including the Women and Youth Farmers Agripreneur Regional Conference (WAYFARC). Mrs. Nwaneri shares her thoughts on the role of women and youth in agribusiness, her vision for the future, and the power of collaboration in the agricultural sector.

Q. In your own words, please tell us who Mrs Bukola Nwaneri is?

A. I am Mrs. Olubukola Nwaneri. A trained Management Administrator who has worked with different organizations in the past in different capacities. I left the corporate world and have been in agribusiness for almost two decades now. Livestock farming and processing, Produce /offtake trading, Business management, Agric consulting, Agribusiness set up/start up, etc are part of what i do. I am a versatile worker and always ready for new challenges. Apart from being on the Board of some Companies, I'm a member of the Admin Board, a member of the Executive council and currently the Secretary General of NABG.





Q. What inspired you to pursue a career in agribusiness, and how did you come to join NABG?

A. I can say venturing into agribusiness was more of a calling and passion for doing something to fill the food supply gap that is still evident till date. I am not an agriculturist by training. I joined NABG in 2015 on the invitation of the late NABG's President, Chief Emmanuel Ijewere. We founded the Food Logistics and Suppliers Association of Nigeria in 2016 and registered with NABG.

Q. Can you share with us your vision for NABG's role in empowering women and youth in Nigeria's agribusiness sector?

A. NABG as a group is gender sensitive. We try as much as possible to balance our activities thereby making it an all inclusive activity that embraces equal opportunities, including People Living with Disabilities. My vision is to see our women being self sufficient in AgriBusiness while our youths find new meaning and confidence in the commercialization of food production and processing as a sustainable way of life.



Q. What inspired the creation of WAYFARC, and what are the key outcomes you hope to achieve from this initiative?

In order to bring about inclusivity to women and youth, NABG deemed it fit to reach out to this sector of the nation. By reaching out, sensitizing and empowering, we intend to see and support the growth of interest, collaboration, partnerships and inspire new entrants into agribusiness. We also look to enable Information dissemination to participants about agribusiness policies, programs, and incentives that support women and young farmers. Encouraging young participants to explore new technologies to revolutionize agribusiness is also a key aspect of our program.



Q. How do you think NABG's partnerships contributed to the success of your programs?

A. The success of these programs can be attributed to several partnerships and collaborations with other groups, associations, MDAs, institutes, etc. These partnerships further helped to reach the key stakeholders for the implementation of the WAYFARC program.

Q. What challenges have you encountered in implementing gender and youth-focused programs, and how have you worked to overcome them?

A. Challenges come in different formats when you try to achieve a gender based success story especially in AgriBusiness. The partnerships formed with different organizations including the Federal and State Ministries of Agric, Women and Youth, etc helped to overcome challenges like access to land (landholdings), access to finance, training, etc. Financing programs, especially implementing empowering programs is expensive, but with the aid of Donors and organizations pulling resources together, we are able to achieve some milestones. There is still much to be done.





Q. In your experience, how can women and youth agripreneurs tap into the opportunities in Nigeria's agricultural sector?

A. First, I would advice them to seek knowledge. Information is key and powerful. If they know what is obtainable in the agric sector, they would know where to tap into. Also, working in groups, cooperatives, associations, further enhances their success when any opportunity arises to increase their capacity and productivity.

Q. With your extensive experience, what are some key skills or qualities that you believe are essential for success in agribusiness?

A. A.Passion, determination, focus, ambition, resilience, hunger for knowledge, resourcefulness, etc are basic skill sets and attributes that will help the success of anyone in AgriBusiness.



Q. What excites you most about the future of agriculture in Nigeria, particularly for women and youth?

A. Gone are the days when AgriBusiness is seen only as farming with crude implements. Now and in the future, the train of AgriBusiness revolution is moving very fast and our youth are actually behind the wheel. The liberation of the female gender to venture and excel in all AgriBusiness sectors is exciting such that the nation will witness the next big thing in AgriBusiness sector very soon.



Q. What has been your biggest takeaway from the regional sensitization tours?

A. Knowledge, they say is power. I have had so many take aways and chiefly among them is the fact that, if you are not in AgriBusiness in the next few years, you are missing out. It is the next gold and oil readily available for tapping. AgriBusiness is one of the remaining few occupations in the world that AI technology cannot completely take away. It is here to stay as long as there are mouths to feed. Our population is big and growing daily. Our population is big and growing daily.

Q. Are there any personal anecdotes or experiences you would like to share that highlight your journey or passion for agribusiness or anything you would like to add that we haven't covered in the questions above?

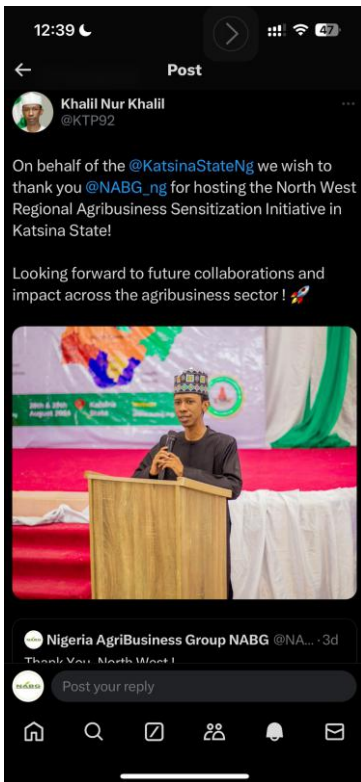
A. I would encourage everyone to give AgriBusiness a thought. We can be assured that it's a life long occupation that gives peace of mind and comfort.



Social Media Highlights

Throughout the tour, NABG engaged a broader audience through social media, capturing key moments and encouraging online participation. The hashtag #NABGSensitizationTour gained over 10,000 impressions, with participants sharing their experiences and learnings from the events.

Screenshots of key social media feedback



Partner Acknowledgments

A big thank you to our partners for supporting us throughout this initiative:

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

HarvestPlus

Mercy Corps

National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC)

Gombe State Government

PILAF

Oyo State Government

All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN)

Enugu State Government

Extension Africa

Katsina State Government

Looking Ahead: Q4 Focus

1

Coming Soon: WAYFARC – Women and Youth Farmers Agripreneur Regional Conference

Launching in October, NABG's WAYFARC aims to empower women, youth, and PWDs across Nigeria's six regions. This transformative conference will offer hands-on training, networking opportunities, and access to resources that will help participants thrive in agribusiness.

Lagos: 18th – 19th October

Uyo: 30th – 31st October

Enugu: 8th – 9th November

Jigawa: 19th – 20th November

Adamawa: 4th – 5th December

Kwara: 12th – 13th December

2

Coming Soon: Sahel Food Systems Changemakers Conference

The Director General of Nigeria Agribusiness Group (NABG) Jafar Umar, will be facilitating an insightful breakout session titled "The Role of Public-Private Partnerships in Solving Governance Challenges for Agribusiness Prosperity in Nigeria" at the Sahel Food Systems Change makers Conference. A session that will engage key global leaders in discussions about how innovative governance models can drive food and nutrition security in Nigeria.

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Let's continue to work together to build a brighter future for Nigeria's agribusiness!