

GOODWILL ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR FELIX KOLAWOLE SALAKO OF THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA, NIGERIA, AT THE CASSAVA TECH CONFERENCE, HELD AT ORIENTAL HOTEL, LEKKI, LAGOS ON WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2017

Protocol,

It is indeed my pleasure to welcome you all to this very important International conference on cassava processing and equipment development. UK, African and Brazilian researchers and technologists gather in Lagos to consider how local technologies can boost cassava processing.

We are very blessed to have scientists, industrialists, policy makers and the media from UK, African and Brazilian researchers and technologists gather in Lagos to consider how local technologies can boost cassava processing. A well-structured value addition of cassava from farm to fork will contribute to employment opportunity, income generation and sustainable development. The development of locally manufactured cassava processing equipment is key to the attainment of sustainable food security in our region.

Though Nigerian is the largest producer of cassava in the World, we are unable to gain optimally in the regional and international export business due to inappropriate processing and value addition technologies. We need to promote investment in appropriate cassava processing and value added products at different scales to drive demand and encourage farmers to improve their productivity.

This event is indeed a unique opportunity to gain further insights on rudiment of equipment development. It will feature keynotes from Research experts like NRI's Professor Andrew Westby, local manufacturing leaders such as Mrs Yemisi Iranloye of Psaltry International Starch and financiers, including Michael Oye, Head of SME funds at the Bank of Industry, BOI. Also, the conference will feature technical presentations on recent research, a special session from a Brazilian Research team from EMBRAPA and a cooking demonstration. Nigerian equipment fabricating companies will be presenting their wares at the parallel Agra Innovate Trade Fair.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Our University in collaboration with other partners facilitated drying technology development since 2002. Our Staff participated in the Presidential Initiative on Cassava through IITA and Agricultural Transformational Agenda through C: AVA project. These activities yielded encouraging results with steady growth in domestic and export businesses for cassava flash drying systems. We salute the courage

of fabricators like The Peak products Ltd, Niji groups, NobexTech, Adebash, Fatarouy, and others for their readiness to learn and innovate in technology upgrade. This conference is another opportunity for you. Combined inputs from Africa, Europe and Latin America will surely add value to our sustainable development.

I wish to thank the partners: the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) of the University of Greenwich, UK, SNV, a Dutch development agency, the Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta and EMBRAPA, the Brazilian Agricultural Research Organisation, are convening a conference.

We also wish to thank Nigerian fabricators, processors and local institutions for their partnership with the cream de la of the World cassava research consortium.

Thank you for listening.

Professor Felix Salako

Vice-Chancellor,

Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta

22nd November 2017