

NIGERLA's IMPACT STORY 1: OFAB NIGERLA GOES TO SCHOOLS

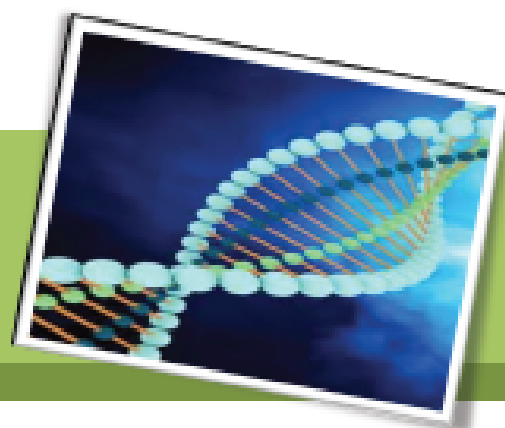
The Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) Nigeria Chapter has recorded a huge success in building the capacity of stakeholders since its inception in April 2009. In order to continue its advocacy campaign and capacity building sessions to include vulnerable the vulnerable groups (Women and Children), it has extended its special sessions to secondary schools.

OFAB is a unique platform, which brings together all stakeholders of Agricultural Biotechnology to exchange information and share their views on the application of the technology while respecting one another's view with the aim of providing evidence-based information to promote its adoption and domestication in Africa.

Students play a key role in the society and are pivotal to the adoption of technology especially, as they are tomorrow's future leaders. Special Sessions were held at Redeemers Private School, Lugbe, Abuja and Federal Government Girls College, Bwari, Abuja



targeted the Students particularly girls who tend to be excluded from advanced career opportunities. The students were introduced to the basic scientific principles of biotechnology, bioethics, the variety of careers options in biosciences, as well as the commercial and regulatory characteristics of the biosciences. The session gave the students a basic understanding of biotechnology, the career opportunities available and the impact it makes on society.





OFAB GOES TO SCHOOLS

Students from a secondary school in Nigeria want careers in the field of Biotechnology

About 50% of the students from a random survey want a career in the field of Biotechnology and enquired about educational grants available to them. They also want basic biotechnology to be included in their science curriculum. They queried the hindrances in the domestication of biotechnology and want to be young advocates for biotechnology promotion.

The teachers also want biotechnology to be included in the school curriculum and training giving to them. The principal of the school appealed to OFAB to take its sessions to all the Federal Government Colleges in Nigeria. She said, "Educating the children on biotechnology would also lead to children educating their parents and their entire families."



*Lets promote biotechnology
through the eyes of children.....*

NIGERIA'S IMPACT STORY 2: OFAB NIGERIA BUILDS AND STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIPS WITH STAKEHOLDERS



Participants @ the 2 day meeting/workshop

OFAB Nigeria facilitates a two-day stakeholders meeting with Monsanto Inc.

The Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology has the set objective of Forging strategic alliances for creating synergy and optimization of resources through convening and encouraging inter-institutional networking and knowledge sharing in the agricultural biotechnology space. In 2013, key strategic sessions were held to foster alliances. This included a two-day stakeholder meeting in collaboration with Monsanto Inc. with representatives from the Regulatory Office, the National Agricultural Seed Council of Nigeria, National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP), Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN), Consumer Protection Council of Nigeria (CPC), Seed companies, and Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development in November 2013. The outcome of the meeting brought on board new partnerships & Strategic Alliances with Monsanto Inc. and the Government Institutions. A follow-up high-Level Stakeholder Meeting was held in February 2014 with the Legislators, Ministries of Agriculture and Environment. The outcome of the meetings included



Ag. DG NABDA (2nd Rm)

More partnerships...

Resolve to provide infrastructural development and capacity building (especially for farmers) needed to domesticate biotechnology. The Legislators (Senate Committee Chairmen on Agriculture, Science and Technology and the Deputy Chairman, House Committee on Privatization, Honourable Abonta pledged to ensure the speedy review and passage of the Biosafety Bill to pave way for biotechnology domestication.

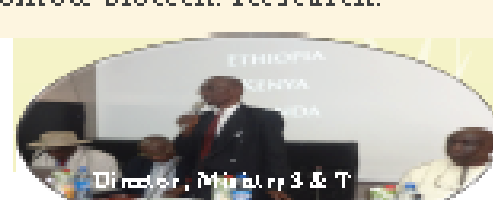
OFAB also hosted a session at the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Abuja to enlighten the Ministry on OFAB activities, also the imperatives of Biotechnology and the lack of resources available to promote the technology. The Permanent Secretary in response pledged to advocate for more funds to sponsor OFAB activities and promote biotech. Research.



*Ag. DG NABDA, Sen. Boroffice
& Metalle Vona*



OFAB Nigeria co-ordinator



Director, Ministry S & T



Deputy Governor @ OFAB at
Itadan Session -South West



Deputy Governor of Katsina (Centre)
with other Guests at OFAB
Exhibition Session in Katsina-North

OFAB- Endorsed by the National Productivity Centre...

OFAB Nigeria Chapter strengthened its collaboration with the National Productivity Centre by co-hosting an OFAB session. The National productivity Centre is the Competent authority charged with the responsibility of promoting productivity, improvement and consciousness in all sectors of the economy. It has endorsed agricultural biotechnology as a key tool required to boost the Nigerian economy through Agriculture. It is facilitating follow-up sessions to train farmers.

OFAB Nigeria

Strengthened partnerships with Institutions and Government

OFAB Nigeria Chapter co-hosted an OFAB session with the National Cereals research Institute (NCRI), Badeggi- Niger State in December 2013 with the key objective to promote biotech research activities in the Institute. The Commissioner for Science and Technology who represented the Governor pledged the donation of land and resources to support immediate confined field trials of biotech crops and commitment to ensure biotechnology is domesticated in Nigeria. Similarly, the Kogi State Government also pledged its support for the National Biotechnology Development Agency through its resource centre in the State to promote Agricultural Biotechnology. This is in line with other State governments (Oyo state, Edo state, Gombe State, Imo, and Katsina States) who are partnering with OFAB to promote Agric-biotech.

State Representatives of farmer unions (including women farmers) at the Sessions expressed keen interest to partner with NABDA to ensure they have immediate access to biotech.



Commissioner for Agric. Kogi State

Nigeria's Impact Story 3:

OFAB NIGERIA BUILDS CAPACITY OF STAKEHOLDERS

...Referred to as the most significant source of Information

OFAB Nigeria is becoming a household name in the field of biotechnology. Stakeholders especially local farmers refer to the forum as the most effective forum to disseminate reliable information backed with scientific facts at simplified language.

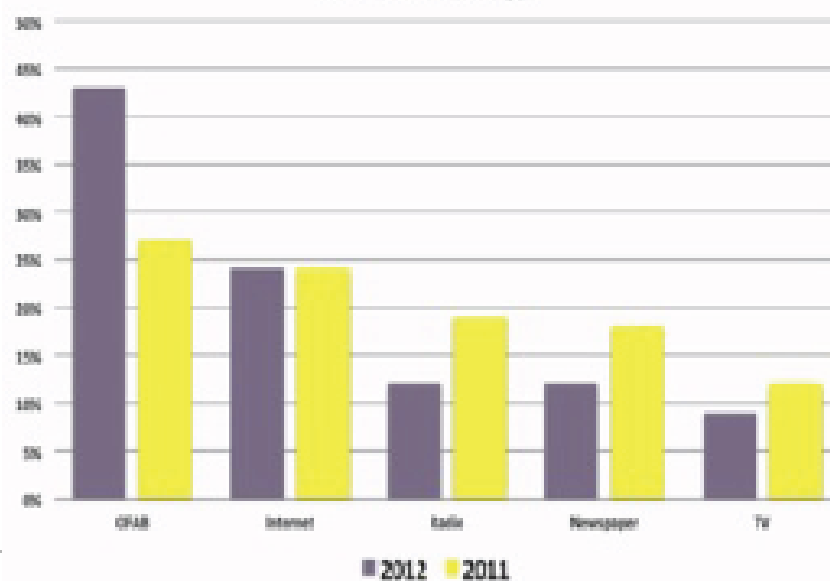
At a special forum organized to enlighten stakeholders on the imperatives of biotechnology, A reverted and renowned anti-biotech activist (Mark Lynas U-R photograph) gave a lecture on how the negative perceptions he once preached were without scientific evidence and were currently stalling the strong potential to end food security. The OFAB Nigeria Co-coordinator (M-R photograph) through a press interview at the same session appealed to the public to seek information and make informed decisions to support biotechnology in Nigeria. A random stakeholder survey through the distribution of questionnaires also shows that stakeholders refer to OFAB as the most significant source of Information. This is representative with increase in the number of stakeholders surveyed per year.



"OFAB continues to provide a veritable platform for linking NEEDA with the outside world by cornering all the stakeholders physically and beyond the usual rhetoric of bureaucrats - well done!"

Suleiman Sodangi, an Agriculturist posted on facebook

Most Significant Source of Information on Biotechnology



OFAB continues to build the capacity of stakeholders by providing and utilising its networking skills to source for accurate information, which transcends down to stakeholders. It hosted a session in May 2013 to launch the International Service for the Acquisition of Agric-biotech Applications (ISAAA) 2012 report. ISAAA is a not-for-profit international organization that shares the benefits of crop biotechnology to various stakeholders, particularly resource-poor farmers in developing countries, through knowledge sharing initiatives and the transfer and delivery of proprietary biotechnology applications. Its report

provides stakeholders with global and well-research information on Agri-biotech to enable them make informed decisions.



Builds capacity of Women Farmers.....

OFAB Nigeria in 2013 co-hosted a special session with the Sheda Science and Technology Complex (SHETSCO) to build the capacity of local women farmers on the potentials of Agricultural biotechnology to Increase yield amidst climate change challenges. The lectures were delivered in Hausa (the major Nigerian language spoken by the women) by the OFAB Nigeria Coordinator and the Guest Speaker, making it easier for the farmers to comprehend. The women were pleased to learn hope was available to re-instate their source of livelihood. They queried their Local Government Chairman present on why biotech. seeds were not available to them. They further pleaded with all parties do their best to ensure biotech. seeds are made available to them. They thanked OFAB for bringing hope to them.



NIGERIA'S IMPACT STORY 4: OFAB NIGERIA REVAMPS THE OIL PALM INDUSTRY

Hosted a special session with the National Institute For Oil-Palm Research (NIFOR,
Benin, South Southern Nigeria)



Nigeria has fallen from being a net exporter of oil palm in the 1960s to being an importer to cope with its increasing demand. The collapse in the oil palm sector transcends to the loss of jobs for poor producers and tens of thousands of poor processors whose families are dependent on this source of livelihood.

The ED/CEO of National Institute For Oil-palm Research (NIFOR) identified one of the key challenges facing the oil palm sector growth is the presence of wild grove in the production system, which comprises of low yielding varieties.

"I believe that this new technology would be an appropriate tool to explore the challenges of food security and mitigate the issue of climate change in the country" -

*HE, Abdullahi Fas kari, Deputy
Governor Katsina State*

"Agricultural biotechnology is now the future technology to overcome drought, poor soil nutrient, pest and disease infection caused by changes in the global environment and climate change"-

*HE, Thaanda Jas on Rub aing,
Deputy Governor Gombe State*

"No doubt, your relentless struggle in this direction is a testimony to your commitment to the need to protect our environment and ensure that the welfare and safety of our people are not compromised". -

*HE, Akele Aw aniyi, Deputy Governor
Kogi State*

Biotechnology has the strong potential to forestall this challenge through the application of tissue culture techniques for the commercial production of high yielding clones produced through modern biotech Techniques.

It was to this note; OFAB Nigeria took its platform to Benin the Edo State Capital in the south-south Nigeria.

Oil-palm farmers express gratitude to OFAB

Key Stakeholders including the Commissioner for Agriculture, the Commissioner for Communication, Head of the State Farmers Association, and researchers all attended his forum.

The DG/CEO NABDA in his address appealed to the State Government to fund and support biotech. activities, which would alleviate the problems farmers face rather than fund schemes with no clear vision on how end the plight of farmers.

The Representative of the Edo State Governor, The Commissioner of Agriculture applauded OFAB for bringing the enlightenment to the State. He expressed interest to partner with NIFOR to achieve the states roadmap of ensuring Edo state is one of the richest in the country through oil palm production.



"Edo state would be one of the richest states in the Country in 10-15 years thanks to OFAB"-

Commissioner for Agriculture-Edo State



The Head of the oil-palm growers in the Benin Kingdom (left) also expressed gratitude to OFAB for the

enlightenment campaign and requested in addition to the high yielding varieties, research on herbicide and pest resistant varieties should also be carried out to improve the farmers income

