



VISIT OF DR. RICHARD MUNANG TO NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFFI (NSUK), NIGERIA ON FRIDAY 27TH MAY, 2022 AND COMMISSIONING OF NSUK/UNEP EBAFOSA CENTRE/ SOLAR DRYER AND UNVEILING OF THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEPARTMENTAL HANDBOOK OF CLIMATEPRENEURSHIP CURRICULUM

A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON THE INTERSECTORIAL COLLABORATION FOR

UPTAKE OF DATA AND EXPERIENCES ON INTEGRATING CLIMATE ACTION SOLUTIONS TO INFORM COHERENT PRO-SDGS POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

1. PREAMBLE

This programme was to achieve three aspects coordinated by the Nasarawa State University at Keffi (NSUK) and the UNEP EBAFOSA initiative on “Supporting coherent policy implementation to catalyze food & livelihood security in Africa”. The first was the commissioning of the NSUK-UNEP/EBAFOSA Centre, Solar Dryer, a climate action solution used for practical training of students drawn from different faculties on climate action entrepreneurship. The second was the unveiling of the curriculum of the Entrepreneurship Department, which incorporates climate action entrepreneurship (ClimatePreneurship) courses. The third was to convene policy and operational experts drawn from different sectors & backgrounds to participate in the public lecture Environment and Climate Action Entrepreneurship to deliberate and take up lessons and data on how coherent actions from different sectors are—resulting in integrating climate action solutions to climate proof food systems and creating opportunities towards actualizing multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And by this, inform pro-SDGs policy implementation in their sectors and docket. This event took place at the Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nigeria, on Friday 27th May 2022, at 10 am. The programme was jointly coordinated by the United Nations Environment (UNEP) Programme, Africa Regional Office, and the Nasarawa State University, Keffi.



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KEY DIGNITARIES THAT ATTENDED THE PROGRAMME INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

- ▶ The Emir of Keffi and Chancellor, HRH. Dr. Shehu Chindo Yamusa III (represented by the Wambai of Keffi);
- ▶ The Emir of Nasarawa/Royal Father, HRH. Alh. Ibrahim Usman Jibril, who doubled as the Patron of the UNEP-EBAFOSA programme in Nigeria
- ▶ Hon Minister of Environment, Barrister Mohammed Abdullahi, represented by Dr Aliyu Goni, Conservator-General, National Park Service
- ▶ DG NESREA, Prof. Aliyu Jauro (represented by Engineer Ralph Nkoh).
- ▶ DG, National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA Mustapha Habib
- ▶ DG, Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency, NIHSA Engineer Clement Nze
- ▶ Prof Oyesola James, President, EBAFOSA Nigeria
- ▶ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics) and Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Haruna Kuje Ayuba;
- ▶ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Admin), Prof. Saádatu Hassan Liman;
- ▶ Bala I. Ahmed II- Registrar of the University
- ▶ Mall. Murtala Abubakar Kana- Ag. Bursar
- ▶ Dr. Aliyu Abdulkadir- Librarian
- ▶ Ibrahim Habu Ekpo, Information and Protocol Officer
- ▶ Dr K'tso Nghargbu
- ▶ Deputy Directors of the Directorate of Linkages and International cooperation (Dr. Lay Usman and Dr. Mary Unekwu Adehi),
- ▶ Dr Ruth Andah, HOD Entrepreneurship Department
- ▶ Prof Adedoyin-Raji, Dean Faculty of Law
- ▶ Dr Ogah Adamu Tanko, HOD, Geography
- ▶ Dr Mohammed Alkali, HOD Environmental Management
- ▶ As well as a good number of Staff and Students
- ▶ The Media in attendance included the Africa Independent Television (AIT), TVC, Local NTA and the Nasarawa Broadcasting Service
- ▶ The Ag. Deputy Director, Africa Office Climate coordinator, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya, Dr. Richard Munang, was the Guest Lecturer.

This meeting positioned NSUK at the intersection of policy, theory, and practice towards ensuring that policy implementation trajectories for pro-SDGs actions across different sectors benefit from theory and are moderated by what has been proven to work by leveraging climate action enterprise engagements in agri-food systems.

2. OBJECTIVES

The engagement had three-fold objectives

1

COMMISSIONING OF THE NSUK-UNEP/ EBAFOSA CENTRE

The first was the commissioning of the NSUK-UNEP/EBAFOSA Centre, Solar dryer, which is a climate action solution used for practical training of students drawn from different faculties on climate action entrepreneurship

2

THE UNVEILING OF THE CURRICULUM OF THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEPARTMENT

The second was the unveiling of the curriculum of the Entrepreneurship Department, which incorporates climate action entrepreneurship (climatepreneurship) courses

3

CONVENE POLICY AND OPERATIONAL EXPERTS DRAWN FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS & BACKGROUNDS

The third was to convene policy and operational experts drawn from different sectors & backgrounds to deliberate and take up lessons and data on how coherent actions from different sectors are resulting in the integration of climate action solutions to climate-proof food systems and create opportunities toward actualizing multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And by this, inform pro-SDGs policy implementation in their sectors and docket

3. OPENING REMARKS

The Deputy-Vice Chancellor and Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Haruna Kuje Ayuba (standing in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Suleiman Bala Mohammed), gave the opening remarks. While thanking the UNEP-regional Office in Nairobi, he noted that:

The event was a historic and a milestone one for the University in several respects. He noted that NSUK was the first University in Nigeria to have a UNEP-EBAFOSA climate action entrepreneurship centre where they engage directly with the UNEP-Africa regional office in addressing climate actions. Secondly, he noted that the Nasarawa State University is the first University in Nigeria to partner with the UNEP to develop and incorporate climate action entrepreneurship (climatepreneurship) programme in its undergraduate curriculum for the BSc. Entrepreneurship programme. The idea is for undergraduate students to leverage climate change's opportunities to enhance their capacities and increase their resilience. Thirdly, he noted that their University is also the first to have a solar dryer for agri-food applications donated by the UNEP-Africa Regional Office to aid in the practical training of climate action entrepreneurship opportunities in the agri-food sector. Fourthly, he underscored the backstopping provided by UNEP in enhancing the technical performance of the climate action entrepreneurship centre called the "NSUK/UNEP EBAFOSA Innovative Volunteerism Centre". He then noted that the event would be crowned by a public lecture on environment and climate action entrepreneurship from UNEP, building on the practical work undertaken on the ground. This Lecture will also form part of the deliberations to be held. He thanked the UNEP team for considering NSUK worthy of such a gesture and pledged the University's commitment to continued partnership and collaboration with the UNEP-Africa Regional Office. And all other stakeholders that will assist NSUK in actualizing its strategic vision and mission. And increase its visibility in the critical role of bridging policy, theory, and practice through climatepreneurship for the SDGs.

He thanked the Royal Father and Patron of the UNEP-EBAFOSA programme in Nigeria and a former Hon Minister of Environment HRH Alhaji Ibrahim Usman Jibril, the Emir of Nasarawa, for his initial efforts in fostering the partnership, for the vision and his fatherly blessings in the planning of the programme. He expressed appreciation to the Chancellor of the University, HRH Dr Shehu Chindo Yamusa III, for his visionary leadership in steering the affairs of the University. And other strategic partners, such as the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA), all who participated in the data for policy deliberations.

4. GOOD WILL MESSAGES

Good will messages were delivered by the following:

- ▶ The Emir of Keffi and Chancellor, HRH. Dr. Shehu Chindo Yamusa III (represented by the Wambai of Keffi);
- ▶ The Emir of Nasarawa/Royal Father, HRH. Alh. Ibrahim Usman Jibril, who doubled as the Patron of the UN-EBAFOSA programme in Nigeria
- ▶ Hon Minister of Environment, Barrister Mohammed Abdullahi, represented by Dr Aliyu Goni, Conservator-General, National Park Service
- ▶ DG NESREA, Prof. Aliyu Jauro (represented by Engineer Ralph Nkoh)
- ▶ And Mr. Oyesola James, President EBAFOSA, Nigeria



DR MUNANG STATED THAT HIS DREAM IS FOR THE UNEP-EBAFOSA CENTRE AT NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE THE AFRICAN HUB FOR CLIMATE ACTIONS. AND THAT IN THE COMING YEARS, UNEP WILL REMAIN COMMITTED TO A SUSTAINED PARTNERSHIP WITH NSUK



Based on lessons from the ground actions in decentralizing climate action solutions to communities, an initial group of students from different disciplinary backgrounds/trade areas – tailoring, carpentry, masonry, metalwork etc., have been engaged to start receiving training on the development of climate action solutions.

5. OVERVIEW OF THE UN-EBAFOSA

On behalf of the Directorate of Linkages and International cooperation, the immediate past Director, Dr. K'tso Nghargbu, gave a brief overview of the background of the NSUK/ UNEP EBAFOSA centre and the installation of the solar dryer. He was emphatic that NSUK had become the hub in Africa; and thanked UNEP through Dr. Richard Munang for their effort to make everything a reality. Based on lessons from the ground actions in decentralizing climate action solutions to communities, an initial group of students from different disciplinary backgrounds/trade areas – tailoring, carpentry, masonry, metalwork etc., have been engaged to start receiving training on the development of climate action solutions. These are to be further guided to decentralize these solutions to local communities, engage them, and generate data that will be used to inform pro-SDGs policy implementation across different dockets.

6. PUBLIC LECTURE

To kickstart the policy deliberations, a public lecture entitled Environment and Climate Action Entrepreneurship was made by UNEP's representative Dr Richard Munang, Ag. Deputy Director, Africa Office Climate coordinator, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The Lecture explained how empirical work on climatepreneurship by diverse actors in Nigeria showcased inter-sectorial coherence in integrating climate action solutions to climate proof food systems and created opportunities for actualizing multiple SDGs. It covered the importance of such empirical work in informing practical pro-SDGs policy implementation trajectories whose lessons could be picked by actors from different sectors. He gave some statistics about the African continent and why Africa must be at the forefront of climate action entrepreneurship. He emphasized on some success factors for climate action entrepreneurship and concluded with the following takeaways.

First, diversify. He noted that the past two years have been unprecedented in recent years as far as global economic shocks are concerned. If any lessons must be picked, it should be that, while emergencies may be on a global scale, they do not affect everyone the same. Some people are usually more prepared than others, and some countries are more prepared than others. He noted that this reality had taught us that- it is our individual responsibility to be prepared. It has taught us that we all must diversify our income sources. He noted that diversification is the most significant security of any system. He pointed out that climate action entrepreneurship is an opportunity for Nigeria to diversify enterprising engagements regardless of background. He noted that the most significant enabler of diversification is skills retooling. This implies learning new skills to be able to diversify into new areas. He pointed out that the climate action entrepreneurship centre offers skills retooling opportunities.



Second, he reminded us that enabling policy and regulatory environment should not be taken for granted. He reminded us that the bulk of implementation actions the world over are actualized through private investments. And the number 1 investor in any country is its citizens, through their enterprise actions. He, therefore, noted that we must take responsibility for identifying a niche area of entrepreneurship from the climate Change Act of 2021, determining the incentives in place, and developing and decentralizing solutions competitively to the community.

Third, he noted that data is vital. He explained that no matter how good, brilliant, or excellent ideas are, the only thing that moves policy decisions is success stories. Verifiable proof of ground successes. He noted that this is the only premium we have to make objective calls for targeted incentives to take climate action entrepreneurship to the next level. He, therefore, called on all those being trained in climatepreneurship to work on generating these success stories.

Fourth he underscored the importance of cultivating purposeful passion. Passion, he said, is the fuel that moves ideas into real-life solutions. Without passion, he noted that we would only throw money at every problem, waste it, and end up with no result. He, therefore,

indicated that success in climatepreneurship calls for purposeful passion towards offering practical, contextual climate action solutions to the community. This will then unlock climatepreneurship opportunities for all.

Five – he expounded on the importance of all becoming transformational values-based leaders. This underscores the importance of selflessness in all our actions and self-discipline. He noted that these were the best personal attributes needed to make climate action entrepreneurship the norm in SDGs implementation policies.

Dr Munang, then working with the climate action enterprise actors already on the ground, presented the data and lessons on impacts registered by diverse actors in developing, decentralizing, and uptake climate solutions of solar dryers and fuel briquettes players in the informal sector. He presented the socio-economic and environmental impacts registered to date. This is in terms of the agro postharvest losses recouped and the implication in preserving ecosystem goods and services and enhancing food & income security. He also presented the impact of fuel briquettes uptake in fuelwood displaced to save forests and household cooking energy savings. This then led to the opening of the floor for deliberations.

7. OUTCOME

A) INTERACTIVE SESSION:

After the Lecture, the Ag. Vice-Chancellor Prof Haruna K Ayuba thanked Dr Richard Munang for the intelligent and thought-provoking Lecture. He assured him that NSUK would peruse all the take-aways and ensure they are implemented in the University. He pleaded with Dr Munang to extend the partnership to produce fuel briquettes at the Centre where the first class had been trained. Still, there was the need to expand the class and guide the trained students into practical climatepreneurship engaging the local communities and the informal sector in Nigeria. There have already been three training sessions that have been undertaken that the meeting shared experiences on as well. In his response, Dr Munang stated that his dream is for the UNEP-EBAFOSA centre at Nasarawa State University to be the African hub for climate actions. And that in the coming years, UNEP will remain committed to a sustained partnership with NSUK, with NSUK playing the critical interlocution role at the intersection of policy, theory, and practice of climate action entrepreneurship. This ensures that policy implementation trajectories for pro-SDGs actions across different sectors benefit from theory and are moderated by what has been proven to work, leveraging climate action enterprise engagements in climate-proofing food systems. This meeting served as the first cross-sectorial policy meeting where policy experts and representatives led by the Ministry of Environment, academia among others – were convened to get the lessons and data coming in from the coherent ground actions in developing and community uptake of climate solutions for food and livelihood security towards actualizing multiple SDGs.

Based on the deliberations, it was agreed that more data, lessons, and experiences on the critical success factors from this work need to be taken up to train more young people in entrepreneurship to take climate action as a source of opportunities.

The deliberations then adopted some key aspects considered critical for longevity in policy implementation, based on experiences shared thus far. These were the lessons that were gleaned out as most relevant to be taken up into pro-SDGs implementation actions by different dockets in Nigeria.

- ▶ achieving an integrated participatory approach to meaningful, demand-driven climate action uptake is best achieved by combined participation of national government/policy, local government, academia, and informal sector ground actors. With each playing their part to bridge knowledge gaps towards enhanced climate action from an enterprise dimension that is key for longevity.
- ▶ integration of climate action into the academic curriculum from the opportunities, enterprise, and investment dimension to train manpower that can drive market driven uptake of climate action is an urgent need.
- ▶ the NSUK entrepreneurship centre is the bridge by which new knowledge on climate action entrepreneurship permeates into policy. It ensures that there is interlinkage between academics, practice, and policy. Such policy discourse meetings will be held periodically to take up empirical lessons from enterprise-driven climate action implementation to inform optimal NDCs and climate action implementation trajectories for the country to prioritize.
- ▶ To demonstrate how various policies in the country on climate & environment can be implemented productively, leveraging youth and the informal sector as key operational constituencies for implementation is critical for success. The meeting agreed that retooling young people's skills,

developing and decentralizing climate action solutions through academic institutions and working with local governance structures to mobilize local communities to be a market for these solutions - is critical to achieving longevity in climate and environment policy implementation.

- ▶ the meeting emphasized the need to enhance “soft capital” aspects of passion for complementing skills, retooling, and developing adequate manpower for climate action entrepreneurship to ensure a market approach to climate and environment policy implementation that assures longevity.
- ▶ the meeting called for lessons in cross-hybridization where NSUK becomes a model for other academic institutions across Nigeria to emulate in driving climate action for jobs and productive enterprise opportunities.

B) PROJECTS COMMISSIONED

After the public Lecture and the policy deliberations, the dignitaries moved to the NSUK-UNEP EBAFOSA Centre to commission the Centre, the Solar Dryer, and unveiling of the hand-books containing the curriculum for the B.Sc. Entrepreneurship programme. Dr Richard Munang commissioned the Solar dryer; The Minister of

Environment, represented by the Conservator-General, Dr Aliyu Goni, commissioned the NSUK/UNEP/EBAFOSA centre, while the Royal father, Emir of Nasarawa, unveiled the Handbook containing the curriculum.

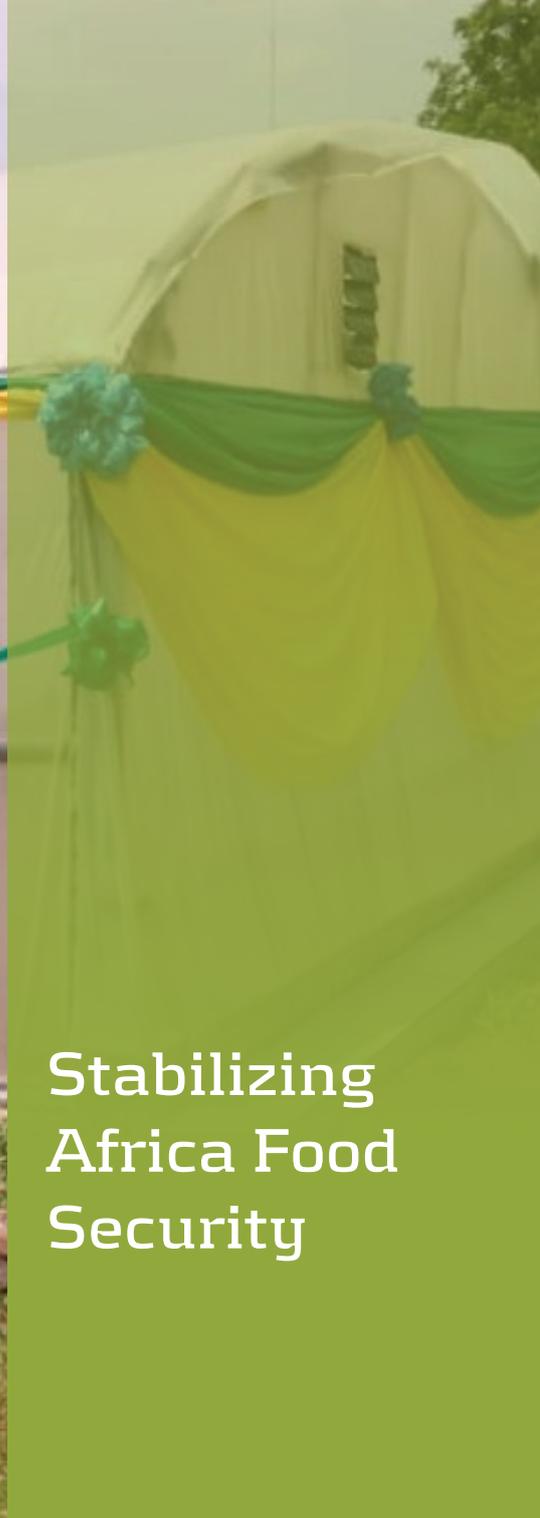
C) VOTE OF THANKS AND CLOSING

The Registrar of the University, Bala I Ahmed, gave the closing remarks by thanking all participants who graced the occasion. There were photography sessions. Lunch was also served to all participants. The programme ended at about 2.00 pm

D) CLIMATE ACTION ENTREPRENEURSHIP (CLIMATE-PRENEURSHIP) CURRICULUM HANDBOOK LAUNCHED

The link to the curriculum hand-book to train more manpower from diverse backgrounds to coherently take action in devising and decentralizing climate action solutions to unlock multiple SDGs through the agri-food systems. <https://www.dropbox.com/s/i28e286n58n9kjb/Curriculum%20HANDBOOK%20%20June%202022.pdf?dl=0>





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