RICE PROCESSING CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS (Ebonyi State).

DELIVERED AT A PANEL DISCUSSION HELD AT FUNAI ON OCCASION OF 2016 NEST-FUNAI CONFERENCE.
INTRODUCTION.

• Agriculture seems to be the only way of survival in failing economy as witnessed in Nigeria today.

• Experience and history tell us that Nigeria survived on agriculture in the early sixties before the advent of petroleum.

• The groundnut pyramids, cocoa, palm produce, Rubber latex, cotton and tobacco were major sources of the country’s GDP.
• Rice importation constituted a major source of depleting the country’s foreign reserve with over one billion naira spent daily on imported rice.

• Today, the Government is strongly discouraging rice import by promoting local production for import substitution.

• Nigerians have come to accept local rice as a better alternative to the imported brands.
FACTS ON GROUND.

• Nigeria is the 2\textsuperscript{nd} largest importer of rice in the world.
• Nigeria is the 6\textsuperscript{th} highest consumer of rice in the world with over 6 million metric tons of milled rice consumed annually @ the rate of 40kg per Nigerian/annum
• Nigeria ranks 16\textsuperscript{th} position in the world rice production.
• Rice can be cultivated in all 36 states of the federation including the FCT.
• Nigeria has a potential to be self sufficient in rice production by the year 2018 (Adeshina FMARD).
RICE IN EBONYI STATE.

• Ebonyi state with 13 local government areas has a total land area of over 5,533 sq. kilometers and a population of over 1,739,136 (2005 census).

• Ebonyi state ranks 6th highest producer of paddy rice (over 405,000MT) and highest rice processor in Nigeria with over 2,080,000MT/annum installed capacity.

• Small Rice mills-8,000MT/day, Large Integrated Rice mills- 200MT/day; Medium scale mills-120MT/day.
Area Cultivated by Rice captured by State as at 10/05/12

- Kano: 202,389.72
- Kebbi: 174,755.36
- Borno: 144,641.49
- Niger: 140,064.35
- Ebonyi: 135,462.44
- Plateau: 98,455.74
- Taraba: 94,027.84
- Kaduna: 93,816.36
- Benue: 78,851.93
- Bauchi: 72,848.99
- Nasarawa: 71,470.68
- Jigawa: 51,294.01
- Gombe: 43,846.28
- Cross-River: 39,469.58
- Sokoto: 34,736.44
- Adamawa: 25,421.75
- Yobe: 23,911.65
- Zamfara: 23,768.83
- Kogi: 21,341.03
- Kwara: 18,165.68
- Katsina: 15,599.20
- FCT: 13,240.82
- Anambra: 12,402.82
- Edo: 10,898.83
- Abia: 10,377.80
- Kogi: 9,419.11
- Katsina: 9,294.67
- Bayelsa: 5,929.47
- Akwa-Ibom: 3,661.48
- Oyo: 3,013.07
- Ondo: 2,381.35
- Osun: 1,292.55
- Delta: 778.20
- Lagos: 641.15
- Imo: 371.10
- Rivers: 254.26
SECTION OF RICE SEED

whole rice grain

hull

bran

white rice

germ
Polished parboiled rice locally milled by old model rice mill.
BROWN RICE (Glaberima )
PREAMBLES.

• Rice processing simply refers to all activities involved in transforming raw paddy rice from whole grain after harvesting to the form or nature the consumer wants it.
• Rice milling is the act of removing the husk and bran from rice and exposing the white layer as either polished or brown rice.
• White rice is refers to raw paddy polished without parboiling.
• Parboiled rice is when the paddy rice is subjected to a thermal treatment making it to gelatinize before milling.
Rice milling technologies in Ebonyi State

- There are predominantly 3 major rice milling technologies in Ebonyi state: Conodisc/Engleberg, Rubber roller & Jet peeler.
- There are 5 giant modern integrated rice mills, 10 medium modern rice mills, and over 2000 small scale old model Engleberg rice mills all located in almost every LGA in Ebonyi state.
- Ebonyi state has the highest number of rice re-processing centers (otherwise called rice clinic) with destoners and post milling facilities.
Engleberg/Cono disc rice mill.
RUBBER ROLLER rice mill
JET PEELER
SMALL DESTONER
COLOR SORTER
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Products available:

- Ebonyi state is blessed with good soil and environment suitable for agriculture and particularly rice agriculture.
- Unfortunately, only rain-fed cultivation is prevalent with small scale farming. Irrigation is not available but highly desirable.
- Different rice products are available in Ebonyi; ranging from the popular Abakaliki rice to Ebonyi world, Ebony Agro, Eagle rice and so many others.
- Other rice products such as Brown rice flour and grain, rice briquettes and white rice flour and grain are readily available in Ebonyi state.
MODERN MEDIUM SCALE RICE MILL
CHALLENGES IN THE RICE PROCESSING INDUSTRY.

• POOR QUALITY AND INSUFFICIENT PADDY RICE.
• EQUIPMENT CONSTRAINT AND USE OF OUTDATED MILLING TECHNOLOGY.
• PRODUCT QUALITY CONSTRAINTS (branding ).
• POOR MARKETING INFRASTRUCTURE.
• FINANCIAL CONSTRAINT.
• INCONSISTENT GOVERNMENT POLICY ON RICE IMPORT.
• LACK OF WELL TRAINED MACHINE OPERATORS AND COMMITTED STAFF.
• INTERFERENCE OF POLITICS ON AGRICULTURE.
MIXED VARIETIES.
Road side/Sun drying
Sundrying
PROSPECTS & RECOMMENDATIONS;

• INVESTORS SHOULD EITHER BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED OR SPONSOR RICE AGRO-BUSINESS.
• GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE BOTH THE SMALL AND MEDIUM RICE PROCESSORS.
• THE PUBLIC SHOULD EAT NIGERIAN RICE.
• BANKS AND FINANCE INSTITUTIONS SHOULD MAKE CREDIT FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO PROCESSORS & FARMERS.
• NIGERIA CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO WASTE OUR FOREIGN RESERVES ON RICE IMPORT.
ECONOMIC POTENTIALS.

• NIGERIA IS A HUGE MARKET FOR MILLED RICE AND THIS CREATES AN INEXHAUSTIBLE MARKET FOR LOCALLY MILLED RICE.

• THE EXCHANGE RATE OF USD TO NAIRA PROVIDES FOR A HEALTHY COMPETITION BETWEEN IMPORTED RICE AND LOCAL RICE.

• ESTIMATED CONSUMPTION OF RICE IN NIGERIA IS 8MILLION MT AND LOCAL PRODUCTION IS ONLY 6MILLION MT. THE DEFICIENCY OF 2MILLION MT IS A HUGE MARKET FOR RICE PROCESSORS.
CONCLUSION.

• EBONYI STATE HAS ALL IT TAKES TO BE THE BEST RICE PRODUCER IN THE COUNTRY WHEN ALL THE GIANT RICE MILLS BECOME FULLY FUNCTIONAL.

• THE EXISTING SMALL SCALE OLD MILLS HAVE POTENTIALS TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF THEIR PRODUCTS THROUGH RICE CLINIC AND ADDITIONAL ANCILLARY MACHINES.

• NIGERIANS WILL BE SELF SUFFICIENT IN RICE PRODUCTION SOON IF THE GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS THE EXISTING POLICY ON RICE.
THANK YOU.

My grandfather used to say that once in your life you need a doctor, a lawyer, a policeman, and a preacher, but every day, three times a day, you need a farmer.

Brenda Schoepp