



NIGERIA

Roadmap to reinforce the tomato sector in Nigeria

Context

Tomatoes are a staple product in Nigerian diets. The tomato industry is one of the sub-sectors Nigeria has a competitive advantage in as the country is the second (2nd) largest producer of tomato in Africa and the thirteenth (13th) major producer in the world. Over 1.7 million tons of tomatoes are produced yearly, with an average of six metric tons per hectare. States including Katsina, Kano, Kaduna, Jigawa, Nassarawa, and Plateau, have acted as tomato production centers for years, exporting their tomato crop to other West African countries.

However, Nigeria remains the world's largest importer of tomato paste, mainly because of the following challenges:

Stunted production: The *tuta-absoluta* plague; poor storage capacity; very small-scale producers; barriers to acquisition of efficient inputs.

Processing issues: Lacking supply of fresh tomatoes; distrust of tomato producers; lacking competitiveness compared to low-cost exporters.

Business environment: a weak enabling environment for power and infrastructure.

In such a context, the need to identify the main actions to support and reinforce the tomato sector in Nigeria appears as a key mission fully aligned with the NIRP objectives and ambition.

Main Approach

The UNIDO-Nigeria Industrial Revolution Project Office focuses on capacity strengthening for sustainable industrial development in Nigeria. The aim of the overall project is to contribute to the main goals of the Nigerian government's Industrial Revolution Plan (NIRP), which seeks to spur economic diversification, industrial growth, job creation, and sustainable livelihoods.

Falling under the agro-allied category, and as one of the most in-demand products in Nigeria, the tomato sector has been identified as a priority area for the NIRP Project Office to commence work and recommend policies favorable to Nigeria's tomato sector, particularly focusing on the following key challenges:

- The need to quantify the impact and importance of each value chain challenge
- To identify viable initiatives to solve the challenges
- To quantify the cost of each initiative
- To involve key stakeholders

Alongside the formulation of the 2-year roadmap, the team also supports linkages with potential investors and donors and will be involved in the implementation of specific action lines within the tomato road map.

Impact And Results

The main pillars of the project are to produce a realistic and actionable roadmap, to benefit from effective execution starting with small scale pilots, and to roll out successful initiatives to ensure the involvement of the private sector.

The process of developing the roadmap involves a number of steps:

A complete diagnostic of the tomato sector situation and status in Nigeria: analysis of the whole value chain (from production, to processing, and distribution).

Research and development of priority actions lines and their associated activities, timing, implicated stakeholders and budget.

Support to establish linkages with potential investors and donors.

Follow-up and implementation of action lines.

At a Glance

Project title: Roadmap to reinforce the tomato sector in Nigeria

Country coverage: Nigeria

Thematic areas: Upgrading the complete tomato value chain in Nigeria (production, processing, and distribution).

Main country counterparts: Federal government of Nigeria (the Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development).