

# KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY, ABUJA, NIGERIA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE NATIONAL PALM OIL TRACEABILITY FRAMEWORK AND INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE

## Introduction

**Distinguished guests, esteemed stakeholders, and valued development partners,**

It is with immense pride and a deep sense of national responsibility that I welcome you to the inauguration of the **National Palm Oil Traceability Framework and Interagency Committee**.

Today's occasion marks a significant milestone in Nigeria's agricultural transformation journey. It aligns closely with the *National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Policy (NATIP)* of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security — a policy that champions innovation, sustainability, and market-driven value chains. This traceability framework stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment to these principles.

Under the visionary leadership of **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu**, this administration is taking bold steps to strengthen food safety, ensure market transparency, and build economic resilience. The establishment of a national traceability system for palm oil is a clear demonstration of our determination to modernize agricultural value chains, enhance global competitiveness, and promote responsible production and sourcing throughout Nigeria's oil palm sector.

## **The Imperative of an Effective Palm Oil Traceability System**

As Nigeria continues its journey toward self-sufficiency in palm oil production, it is no longer sufficient to focus solely on increasing output. We must now ensure that we produce **responsibly, transparently, and sustainably**.

A strong national traceability system is not a luxury—it is a necessity. Its importance cannot be overstated, for several key reasons:

- **Meeting Global Market Demands:**

The international market is increasingly shaped by sustainability and ethical sourcing standards. Without a verifiable traceability system, Nigerian palm oil risks being excluded from high-value export destinations—especially in Europe and North America—where buyers demand clear evidence of deforestation-free and

socially responsible production.

- **Enhancing Domestic Industry Standards:**

Traceability is essential for boosting consumer confidence and upholding product integrity. It helps eliminate adulteration, enforces compliance with national and international quality benchmarks, and strengthens the competitiveness of our palm oil in key industries such as food processing, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics.

- **Empowering Smallholder Farmers:**

With smallholders accounting for over 80% of Nigeria's palm oil production, a traceability framework is a critical bridge to formal markets. It facilitates access to premium pricing, fair trade opportunities, and financial services—thereby improving rural livelihoods, promoting inclusion, and reducing poverty.

## **Economic and Industrial Implications**

The broader economic benefits of palm oil traceability are far-reaching and transformative:

- **Boosting GDP and Export Revenue:**

A traceable palm oil supply chain strengthens Nigeria's competitiveness in global markets, attracting investment and increasing non-oil export earnings.

- **Supporting Industrial Growth:**

Industries that depend on palm oil can expand with confidence, assured of a consistent supply of high-quality, traceable raw materials.

- **Curbing Illicit Trade and Reducing Waste:**

By establishing a transparent, accountable supply chain from farm to factory, traceability helps curb environmental degradation, prevent post-harvest losses, and reduce unregulated trade that drains government revenue.

## **A Call for Collaborative Action**

The successful launch of this framework requires strong institutional collaboration. I am therefore pleased to inaugurate the **National Interagency Committee on Palm Oil**

**Traceability**—a multi-stakeholder body mandated to design and oversee the implementation of Nigeria's Palm Oil Traceability Roadmap.

This committee will serve as the driving force behind our traceability system, fostering coordination across:

- Federal and state government agencies
- Private sector actors
- Farmers' cooperatives and processors
- Market associations
- Development partners and donors

May I now respectfully invite all nominated members of the **Inter-Ministerial Committee on Palm Oil Traceability** to kindly rise and be recognized, as we formally inaugurate your collective service to the nation. Your expertise, dedication, and collaboration will be critical to turning this vision into measurable progress and lasting impact.

### **Gratitude to Development Partners**

On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, I extend our heartfelt appreciation to the **Kingdom of the Netherlands** and the **Government of the United Kingdom** for your steadfast support of sustainable agriculture in Nigeria.

Your partnership and generous funding have empowered **Solidaridad** to convene and host this vital initiative. This collaboration exemplifies the spirit of international solidarity that is essential for Nigeria to achieve both its **climate objectives** and **developmental aspirations**.

### **Conclusion**

The inauguration of the **National Palm Oil Traceability Framework** is more than a policy achievement—it is a national economic imperative and a social contract with our farmers, processors, traders, and the future generations.

Together, let us position Nigeria as a **global leader in sustainable palm oil production**—renowned not just for the quantity we produce, but for the values we uphold: **transparency, equity, and environmental stewardship.**

Thank you all for your presence and your continued commitment. May this initiative usher in a new era of prosperity, inclusivity, and sustainability for Nigeria's palm oil sector.

**God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.**

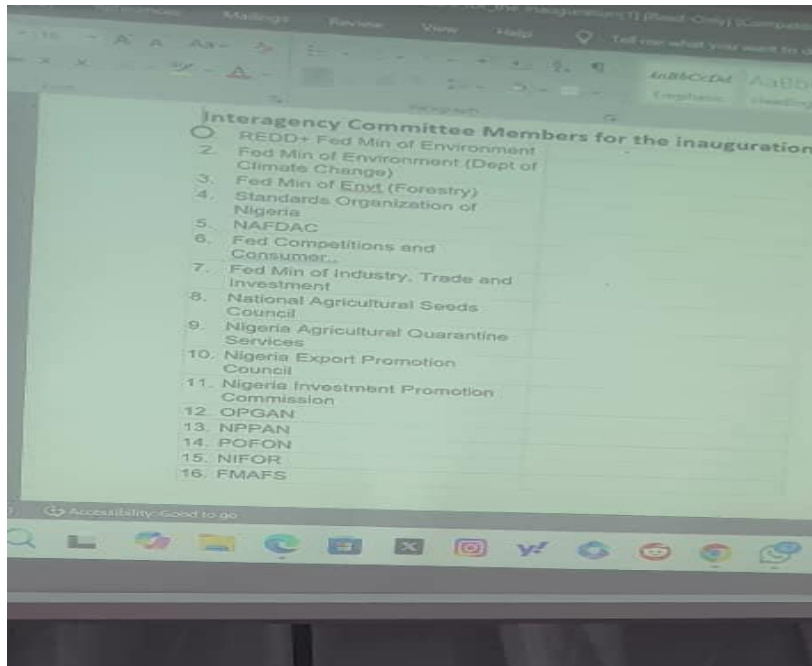
## PHOTOGALLERY OF THE EVENT



**Pic 1:** The Permanent Secretary Federal Min. of Agric, Dr. Marcus Olaniyi Ogunbiyi giving the keynote address on behalf of the Hon. Minister.



**Pic 2:** (From L-R) Group photo of the OPGAN president, Barr. Joe Onyiuke with the Perm Sec FMAFS, the Director FDA, Mr Iwara, the Country Head Solidaridad, Mr Kene Onukwube, the Director, Dept. of Climate Change, FM Env., Mr Jonah D Barde and an official of the Federal Min. of Industry, Trade and Investment.



**Pic 3:** List of the Interagency Committee Members for the Inauguration.



**Pic 4:** Group photo of the OPGAN president, Barr. Joe Onyiuke with other committee members.



**Pic 5 & 6:** Group photograph of the Interagency Committee Members for the Inauguration.