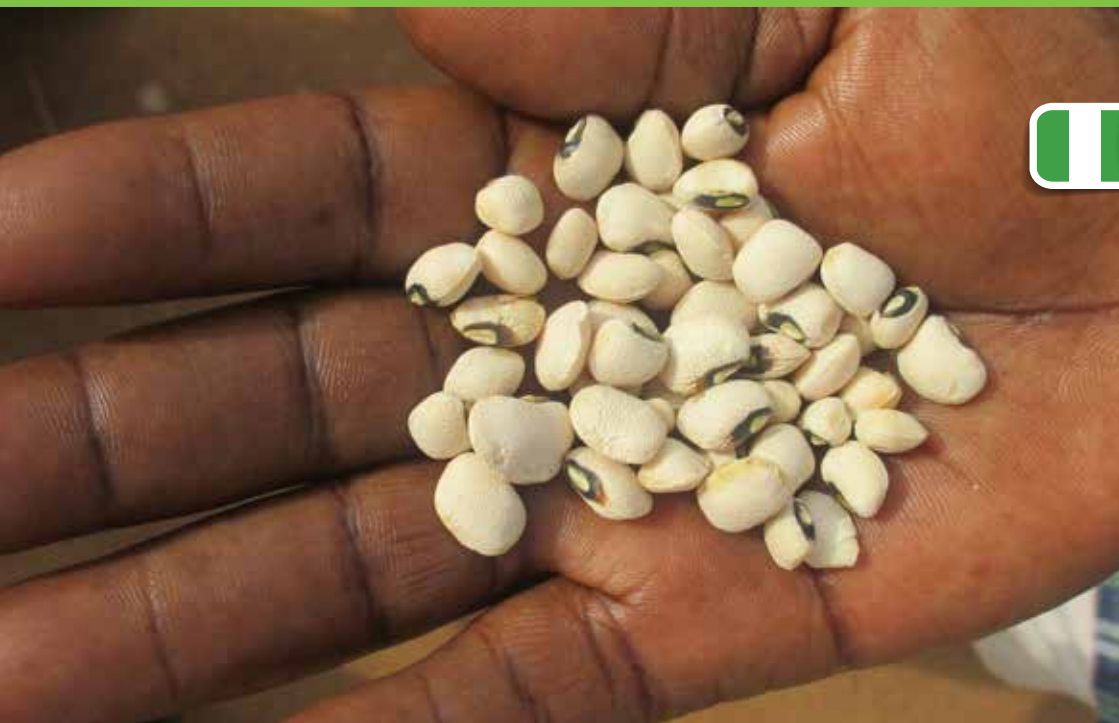


# *Safety. Quality. Competitiveness. Nigeria.* National Quality Infrastructure in Action



## CONDUITS OF EXCELLENCE

For the resolution of safety and quality challenges in the agri-food sector in Nigeria, Conduits of Excellence connect key infrastructure elements and well-trained value chain partners with the Nigeria's Quality Infrastructure. These Conduits of Excellence – through relentless dedication to product quality – unlock key markets and economic benefits.



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## The Issue

Agri-food production in Nigeria is troubled by quality and safety issues.

The main issues are uncoordinated use of pesticides, storage conditions leading to mycotoxin contamination, and lack of consistent quality management.

These challenges have, in some cases, resulted in suspension of trade, leading to loss in income and reputation as a trade partner.

## The solution

Conduits of Excellence, designed and implemented by UNIDO, connect motivated farmers with key infrastructure elements for proper storage, processors looking for quality products, and the EU-funded National Quality Infrastructure.

Through consistent deployment and use of Good Practices along the whole value chain, together with strict control by official laboratories, high quality, safe products are brought into the market.

The creation of successful role models is the basis for mainstreaming quality production in Nigeria.

### STRENGTHS

- › Compartmentalization of quality issues
- › Creation of role models
- › Connecting women operators to international markets
- › Scalable model for quality-driven production
- › Use of existing resources

### WEAKNESSES

- › Organization of value chain operators needed
- › New legislation required to be most effective



### OPPORTUNITIES

- › Consistent exports to high value markets
- › Nigeria as a reliable trading partner
- › Basis for moving towards value-added products
- › Potential to transform the agri-food sector

### THREATS

- › Lack of sustainable funding
- › Development of world-market prices
- › Perception of Nigerian products

## Who's involved?

Conduits of Excellence are fully private sector driven.

Their inception, however, was the result of a multi-stakeholder effort with input from NEC, NAFDAC, NACCIMA, NEPC, NAQS, FACAN, NSPRI, FPIS, DVPCS, FMARD, APDFDA, AFAN, Union Bank, ICUREMARKET, RHABE, IAR, MAN, NAMBA and other public and private institutions.

The public sector continues to support Conduits of Excellence through the provision of an enabling environment for the operators of the Conduit of Excellence.

## Sustainability

Over time, it is expected that Conduits of Excellence are replaced by quality-driven production everywhere. During the transitional period from the status quo to the full realization of the quality-driven approach, however, Conduits of Excellence are role models, inspiring value chains to produce safe high quality food and increase their value realisation.



## The National Quality Infrastructure Project for Nigeria

The National Quality Infrastructure Project for Nigeria (NQIP) is tasked with developing the country's quality infrastructure in order to encourage improvement of the quality of products and services supplied to local and export markets. The project with a total budget of EUR 12,080,000 is funded under the European Union's 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Programme for Nigeria and implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in cooperation with the Federal Government of Nigeria.

NQIP was launched on 19 July 2013 and is expected to conclude in July 2018.

Nigeria's Quality Infrastructure will act as enabler to the Conduits of Excellence by providing technical assistance for a consistent and stringent quality management. At the same time, the Conduits of Excellence will test the effectiveness of the National Quality Infrastructure.

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