

## Introducing the National Quality Infrastructure Project for Nigeria (NQIP) Component 2



# building trust for trade

THE NATIONAL QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE  
PROJECT FOR NIGERIA

The National Quality Infrastructure Project for Nigeria (NQIP) supports the development of missing standards and quality control bodies in Nigeria, with the overall objective of improving the competitiveness of Nigerian goods and services on the domestic, regional and global markets. Component 2 of 5 focuses on the enhancement of accreditation services and the accreditation system in Nigeria. More specifically, the aim is to establish a National Accreditation Body (NAB) in coherence with the West African accreditation system and to obtain international recognition.

### Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NiNAS)

The NQIP has been assisting the establishment of the Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NiNAS). NiNAS was registered as a legal entity in November 2015. A business plan, financial forecast, budget and HR plan, as well as marketing and branding strategies were developed. Subsequently, the CEO of NiNAS and the Director of Laboratory Accreditation were recruited and trained and the NiNAS governance structure established. In the first implementation phase, NiNAS is expected to offer accreditation services to testing and calibration laboratories and assess whether they are technically competent, impartial and capable of performing their tasks in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025. In May 2017, NiNAS became an Associate Member of the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC).



NiNAS has also been actively training assessors through a four-phased training program. Theoretical training was provided in the first 3 phases with a focus on the accreditation standard, management system auditing, and NiNAS policies and procedures. The fourth phase will be a practical one, offering assessors real-life experience in assessing laboratories. After the completion of the fourth phase, pilot accreditations will be able to commence.

### Training of Laboratories



The NQIP has developed the first national online laboratory directory. Furthermore, 78 laboratories and 235 technicians and managers entered the NQIP training program for laboratories that is to prepare them for accreditation.

60 of these laboratories were selected toward further technical assistance on the basis of transparent criteria. These are being mentored to the point of carrying out internal audits to assess compliance of their systems with ISO/IEC 17025.

### Proficiency Testing Scheme

At present, there is no Proficiency Testing (PT) provider for food and beverage in Nigeria or in the West Africa region. Furthermore, access to international Proficiency Testing Schemes and providers is often difficult and expensive, especially for developing countries. Hence, the NQIP is supporting the establishment of a Food and Beverage Proficiency Testing Scheme in Nigeria. The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) accepted to host and operate this scheme. A trial proficiency testing scheme was launched successfully in February 2016, involving laboratories in Lagos. The next phase, set to launch in 2017, will be a national pilot PT scheme, involving all food testing laboratories in Nigeria for three agricultural products, namely flour, bean/melon seeds and shea butter.

#### NQIP in Brief

**Donor:** European Union

**Implementer:** UNIDO - Department of Trade,

Investment and Innovation

**Budget:** EUR 12,080,000

**Duration:** 5 years (July 2013 - July 2018)

**NQIP Website:** <http://www.nqi-nigeria.org/>

**NiNAS Website:** <http://www.ninas.ng>

**Laboratory Directory Website:** <https://labs.nqi-nigeria.org>



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