

Cassava Starch Production in Nigeria The Feasibility Report.

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Abstracts

Cassava (*Manihot Esculentus* (Euphorbiaceae)) is grown in all the states of the Federation with the current production level being about 45 million metric tones per annum; a figure expected to double by 2020. Nigeria is the leading cassava producer in the world, producing a third more than Brazil and almost double the production capacity of Thailand and Indonesia. Although it is the world leader in cassava production, 90% of the annual production in Nigeria is targeted for the domestic food market.

Cassava has the potential to industrialize Nigeria more than any other product if its potentials are properly harnessed, cassava will not only be a white gold but an alternative to oil as a non-oil foreign exchange earner and a key instrument for job creation and catalyst for development.

It is in realization of this fact that lead government to prioritize the cultivation , processing and export of cassava in the years past thereby leading to what is been referred to as the cassava revolution in Nigeria.

Cassava is the most important root crop in Nigeria. Apart from being a staple crop in both rural and urban household's cassava is a major source of income to cassava farmers and processors in the rural areas.

Cassava alone contributes about 45% of agricultural GDP in Nigeria for food or domestic purposes but its industrial processing and utilization has been very limited.

Currently, the country produces about 40,000,000 tonnes of the commodity and due to the desire of the federal government to reduce import dependency and conserve of scare foreign exchange, there is national programme aimed at increasing the production

of cassava starch as a alternative to corn starch.

It has been established through research that cassava starch has a lot of demand in the textile, oil drilling, pharmaceuticals, food and beverage industries.

The demand for cassava starch in Nigeria is high. The driving force behind the demand is the federal government policy on cassava starch substitution for corn starch.

The annual national demand for cassava starch is estimated at 350,000 tonnes while the national supply estimate is about 300,000 tonnes.

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