

**2016 NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY
AND EQUIPMENT FABRICATORS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (AMEFAN), HELD
AT THE MAIN AUDITORIUM, FEDERAL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, IAR&T
COMPLEX, MOOR PLANTATION, IBADAN,
ON THURSDAY, 7TH APRIL, 2016.**

COMMUNIQUÉ

Preamble

The Agricultural Machinery and Equipment Fabricators Association of Nigeria (AMEFAN), an umbrella body for Nigerian fabricators involved in the development and commercial manufacture of machineries to service the entire agricultural value chain (i.e:from production to utilization) held its 2016 National General Meeting at the Main Auditorium of the Federal College of Agriculture, Ibadan, on Thursday, 7th April, 2016 . The yearly forum is an assembly of agricultural equipment and machinery manufacturers from different parts of Nigeria. This year’s meeting was well attended with National Officers, State Coordinators of the Association and Executive members, as well as members from the North Central, South East and South West geopolitical zones of the country.The assembly deliberated extensively on the status of indigenous fabricators capacities to meet national agricultural machinery and equipment requirements, against the background of the current national economic difficulties. The meeting also identified areas of synergies between local agricultural machinery and equipment fabricators, the Federal government and the Organized Private Sector (OPS) in meeting the challenges of the Federal Government's policy of full local production of rice, partial import substitution of wheat, palm oil derivatives and a number of semi and fully manufactured food, agro-industrial products and intermediates.

Key Outcomes and Recommendations of the Assembly

1. AMEFAN commends the FGN for its bold initiatives aimed at promoting national self-sufficiency in agriculture, particularly in subsectors where Nigeria has clear and definitive comparative advantages. AMEFAN wishes to align itself with the vision and intentions of the government to promote significant national food sufficiency and local industrial capabilities.
2. With the unsustainable foreign exchange inflows into the coffers of government, the FG’s policy on agricultural machinery must now go beyond reduction or removal of tariffs on imported agricultural machinery. The federal government needs to partner creatively with the private sector, by providing the required technological and resource empowerment needed by indigenous agricultural machinery manufacturers.
3. AMEFAN strongly advises the government to mainstream Nigerian local machinery manufacturers into the national programme on food and agro-industrial self-sufficiency. AMEFAN offers itself as a ready partner with the Federal Government and the Organized Private Sector (OPS) to contribute effectively to Nigeria’s current drive at import substitution and export promotion.
4. While commending the bold initiative of the Federal Government in banning the importation of rice into the country, AMEFAN is convinced that between 70 & 80% of Nigeria’s paddy rice requirements can be produced by small scale local farmers and the balance accounted for by large scale operators. In the short term, 60-70% of the processing requirements of the paddy outputs can be supplied by Nigerian machinery fabricators (supplying locally fabricated machineries for threshing, precleaning, parboiling, drying, hulling/polishing, destoning and

packaging facilities). The target processors being SME operators across the country. The downstream effects of such a scenario in terms of job creation, income generation and technology intensification is monumental. Similar sustainable local content scenarios can be undertaken for oil palm, cassava and other hitherto imported processed food and cash crops products and industrial intermediates. AMEFAN desires to work with relevant agencies of government to speedily realize these possibilities.

5. Finally, the assembly commends the initiative of the Federal Government through its Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, to establish a dedicated Technology Development Bank. This will be the first of its kind in Nigeria's development banking history. AMEFAN proposes that the bank should incorporate into its founding articles, the accommodation of portfolios for discretionary credit for indigenous agricultural production equipment and processing machinery R&D activities, credit for the procurement of precision fabrication machineries and tools, and working capital. This will greatly enhance Nigeria's overall industrial production and effective national capacity in achieving substantial import substitution, thereby conserving scarce foreign exchange for the country.

SIGNED

Adeniji Kolawole

National President, AMEFAN

Victor Olomo

National Secretary, AMEFAN