



RSM2SNF

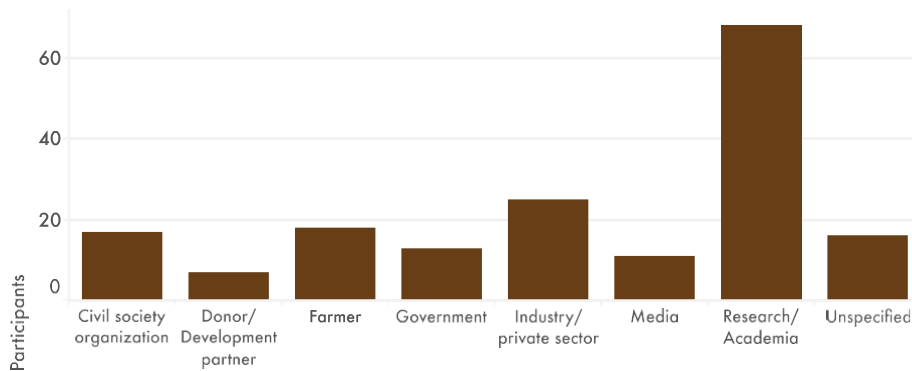
Research Supporting African MSMEs
To Provide Safe and Nutritious Food

PROJECT LAUNCH

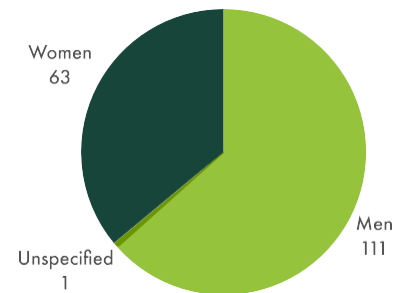
May 19, 2022

The project launch of RSM2SNF took place on May 19, 2022, at the University of Ibadan International Conference Center. At least 175 agrifood stakeholders from a wide set of backgrounds came together to formally commence the five-year project and share ideas for how micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the Nigerian food system can be better supported to provide affordable, safe, and nutritious foods.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS IN ATTENDANCE



ATTENDANCE BY GENDER



Welcome remarks were given by representatives of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Dr. Victor Ajieroh); Michigan State University (MSU) (Prof. David Tschirley); the University of Ibadan (Prof. Olujemisi Bamgbose); the Oyo State Agribusiness Development Agency (OYSADA) (Dr. Debo Akande); the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) (Mr. Wale Fasanya); the Nigerian Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME) (Dr. Abdulrasheed Yerima); and the Vegetable Traders Association (Mr. Illiyasu).



Prof. Olujemisi Bamgbose,
Deputy Vice Chancellor of the
University of Ibadan

A **project overview** was presented by Prof. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie of MSU, the lead principal investigator. Agrifood value chains have grown rapidly in recent decades, a transformation fueled by the aggregate investment of many MSMEs in the midstream and downstream of these value chains, comprising the wholesale, logistics, processing, and retail segments. The RSM2SNF project will work with MSMEs along the value chains for fish, tomatoes, and green leafy vegetables to understand the structure, conduct, and performance of these value chains and ultimately to support MSMEs to provide affordable, safe, and nutritious foods.



Prof. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie,
lead principal investigator



Members of the NAC (from left to right): Prof. Gbenga Ogunmoyela, Mr. Wale Fasanya, Prince John Karunwi, Dr. Yemisi Shittu, and Dr. Lydia Umar. Ms. Yewande Kazeem (not shown) attended the event online.

The **research team**—including partners from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU Zaria), Babcock University, the Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Michigan State University, the National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS), and the University of Ibadan—was introduced. A **National Advisory Committee (NAC)** for the project was inaugurated.

The RSM2SNF project will prioritize active and sustained stakeholder engagement with the aim of ensuring that the project addresses their concerns. Toward this end, a **survey of stakeholder perceptions** of the Nigerian food system was initiated. The project launch included a set of **facilitated discussions** on how the project can meet stakeholder needs and how different stakeholder groups can play a role in achieving the project’s goals. There were discussion groups for farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs; government representatives; and civil society and development partners.



Scenes from the facilitated discussion sessions

Key Takeaways from the Stakeholder Discussions

- Participants appreciated the strong representation of MSMEs at the event. This included wholesalers, retailers, and farmers, along with government agencies and private sector associations focused on MSMEs such as SMEDAN and NASME.
- Participants suggested that the project support continued interaction between researchers and stakeholders. They also recommended that stakeholder groups interact more with one another to share ideas and innovations and, thus, to learn from each other.
- Stakeholders emphasized the need for more training on modern practices to improve agricultural productivity, food storage, and food safety.

The launch ended with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Bukola Osuntade of Babcock University (the gender lead for the project), who noted that the event was just the start of a longer dialogue and continued collaboration among those present.

Please click [here for a short video about the launch](#).