



RIVERS STATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Status of Delivery of Our Mandate (A Summary)

- ❖ AGRICULTURE
- ❖ SME'S AND COMMUNITY-BASED BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
- ❖ TRAINING & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (INCLUDING SCHOLARSHIPS)
- ❖ SUNDRY DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS

[October 2009]

RSSDA OVERVIEW

Our Mandate

The **Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency** (RSSDA) is a strategic intervention initiative of the Rivers State government set up under an autonomous legal framework to re-focus development effort in the areas of poverty alleviation, rural grassroots development and youth empowerment in the State.

Our Vision

A prosperous and peaceful Rivers State where communities are productive, have access to basic social amenities, economic opportunities and a healthy environment that facilitates sustainable livelihoods.

Our Mission

We are committed to strengthen the capacity of communities to be economically productive through:

- provision of skills for economic production
- provision of economic infrastructure
- institutional support for socio-economic development at community level, with special focus on the youth.

RSSDA OVERVIEW

OUR PHILOSOPHY

For us,

Sustainable Development is holistic socio-economic transformation of the rural areas of **Rivers State** with a long term horizon, which ensures that the needs of the rural dwellers are met through results-oriented and professionally supported programmes and projects.

In light of the above, the 4 primary objectives of RSSDA's operations are to:

1. Develop the individuals through formal and on-the-job training, skills acquisition, and formal education .
2. Empower the individuals through business incubation, technical support and or funding.
3. Enable individuals to become productively-active income earners, who can ensure food security for their households, meet their basic needs, have disposable income and pay taxes to the public treasury.
4. Provide the infrastructural and social development support that will bring about an enabling environment for the target population to achieve objectives 1 to 3 above.

RSSDA: OVERVIEW

Pre-institutionalisation activities:

- The 2008 Budget plan was approved by the House of Assembly.
- The commencement of the Governor's Special Intervention Programme : *The GSIP Initiative; A unique programme funded directly by the Governor.*
- 15-year Programme Plan: *A 30-person team comprising development planners and consultants in various areas of specialization were grouped into sectors to develop a 15year plan of 5 cycles and having 3yrs per cycle.*
- Started up and continued the implementation of carryover projects (Quick Results Projects) from the RSSDP – of the previous administration
- Commenced front-end activities/implementation of 2008 programme plan.
- Commenced the transition from adhoc operations to full institutionalization of the Agency: *such as: acquisition of office, infrastructure, logistics, recruitment of a small number of pioneer staff to meet an exploding number and scope of projects, etc*

Post-institutionalisation activities:

- Full institutionalisation process commenced 1st September 2008 (staffing)
- Commenced the development of institutional operating procedures and process systems, by bringing in experienced Shell staff to drive the task
- Commenced establishment of RSSDA's 9 zonal (or field) offices
- Established the RSSDA's partnership desk.
- Continued the implementation of RSSDA's programme plan.(2008 – 2009)

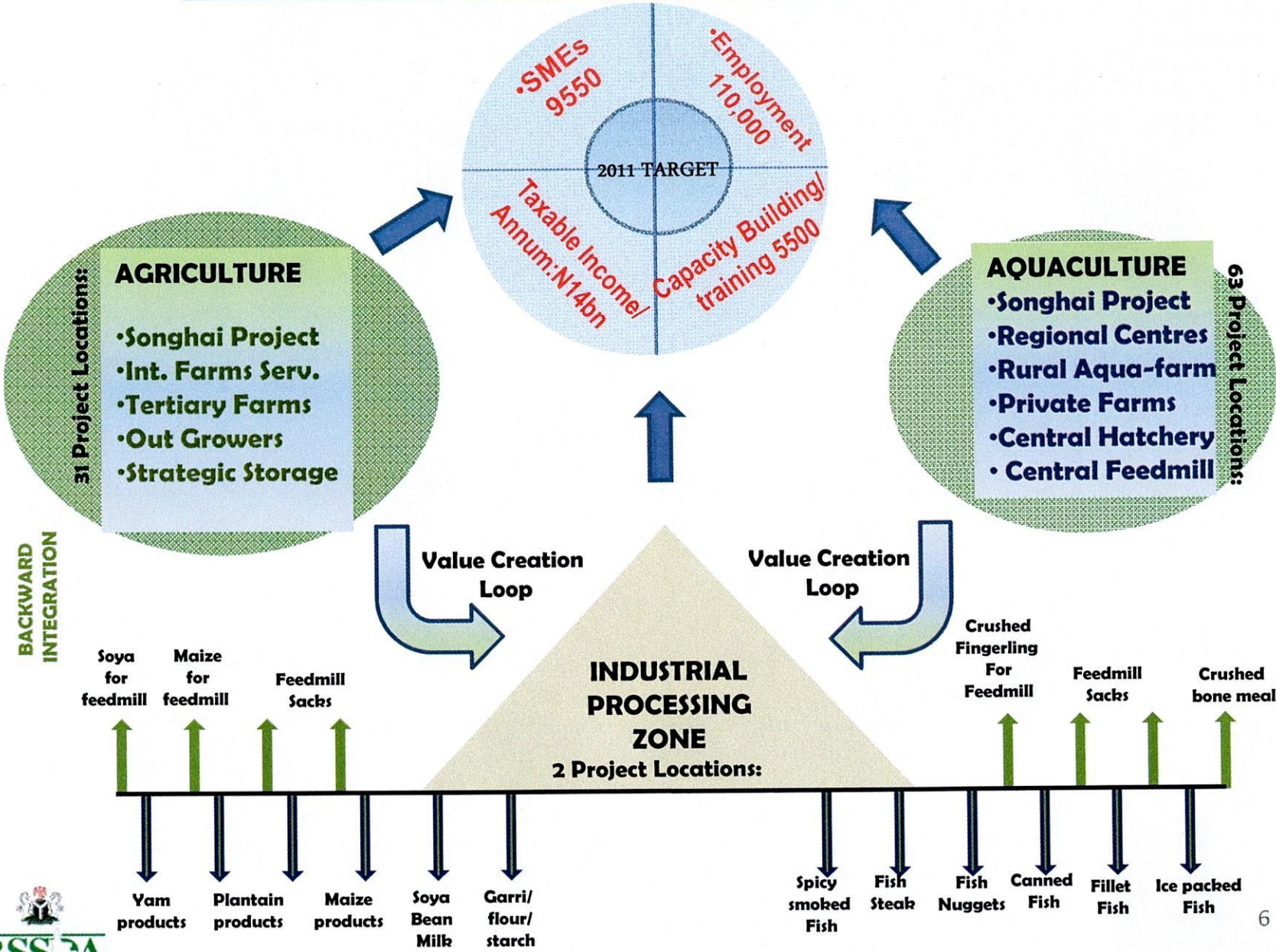
RSSDA: STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Our main strategy for economic empowerment comprises;

- a) major and minor activities in the agro allied sector;**
- b) development of wealth creation through entrepreneurial activities based in the communities, via the development of the SMEs sector.**
- c) a mix of conventional and unconventional interventions in education, health, skill building for business and technical work, youth re-orientation, special charity support interventions (through official grants and the staff's private Compassion & Charity Club), etc.**

An economic growth strategy for the state has been designed by the RSSDA to give direction to overall programme delivery

RSSDA: 2011 TARGET



RSSDA: AGRICULTURE

1. AGRICULTURE: AGRO ALLIED PROJECTS

90% of our strategic operational focus is on economic empowerment through mass creation of employments with viable household incomes in the agro allied sector (crops, staple food for commercialization through processing; export products (primary, semi and fully processed); Aquaculture (including packaging & canning of fish for export, with American partners from Mississippi); Poultry; Processing, eggs, etc; Honey production, snailery, etc. This is implemented within the framework of Rivers State “Agriculture Intervention Backbone”.

Some Achievements

- We have developed an agricultural intervention backbone for Rivers State with a farm cultivation target of 12,000 Hectare by 2011. Harvested a total of **271 hectares out of**
- **500ha of cassava.**
- We are in the process of concluding a 10-year agreement with the Zambia Extracts Oils & Colourants (ZEOCO) in the establishment of the regional agriculture integrated service farm management under the ‘Partnership for Privatisation Initiative’ .
- We have flagged off the Agric-portal development exercise ; an agri-business information hub.
- We have completed **15 out 22 multipurpose processing centres.**
- We have signed 10 year partnership agreement with Nigeria Institute of Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR).

RSSDA: AGRICULTURE

A State Agriculture Intervention Development Backbone model was designed having;

1. The State Hub: Songhai Rivers 1 located at Bunu–Tai , Tai L.G.A

Establishment of the Songhai Rivers project replicating the Songhai model in Porto Novo, a robust zero-waste, integrated agro allied initiative promoting rural growth through training, technology, adaptation and research and strong business/commercialization strategy.

(Songhai Rivers 2 – Egbeke Nwuba available for partnership)

2. The Regional Support Service Centres:

Establishment of 5 regional integrated farm service centres to provide arable farming support to service other private farms within their catchment areas (Agric LGA's); special partnerships with cooperatives and out growers schemes; Major agro-product partnership with Zambia Extract Oils & Colourants (ZEOCO), Zambia, 12,000HA cultivation targeted between 2010-2012. *281ha out of 500ha of Cassava currently being harvested and processed. A total of 17 micro & multi-purpose processing centres to be fully activated for the processing exercise.*

3. The Regional Aquaculture Service Centres:

Establishment of 4 regional integrated aquaculture centres to provide training, commercialization and support service for other private farms. Special 10-year partnership with the Nigerian Institute of Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR) for the 'Upgrade for Training and Commercialization Programme' of the Buguma African Regional Aquaculture Centre (ARAC) Brackish Water Institute. 300 youth to be trained annually.

RSSDA: AGRICULTURE

4. Industrial Processing Zone (IPZ):

Establishment of an agro-processing/value addition platform to support production from the regional centres and other farms in Rivers State; the IPZ, a cluster of private sector driven processing centres in partnership in Manufacturer Association of Nigeria (MAN), Total E& P and NAOC. **(IPZ 1 & 2 available for partnership)**

5. Regional Sales & Marketing Centres:

Establishment of private sector driven **Regional Marketing and Sales Centres** creating sales linkages and outlets for packaged farm produce.

6. Agric-portal Development platform:

Development of a robust **Agric-portal**, a platform designed for agricultural production data, information dissemination and communication interface within entire the agricultural supply chain. Project in partnership with Agip.

The state agric-portal development exercise to be flagged-off by Monday 26th October 2009.

RSSDA: AGRICULTURE

Arable Agriculture

The crop production component of the agriculture programme has the **Cassava Programme** as its focal point. This targets the cultivation of 500ha in the first phase with demonstration and seed multiplication farms and establishment of 4 Cluster farm service centres that can manage a minimum of 2000ha of contiguous farm land each and service private farms. 481ha of cassava have been cropped and 30ha maize cultivated out and harvested as input into the feed mill. Poultry feed production cost is reduced by 40% due to the local production of feed using locally grown maize. Also 23 units of power tillers have been procured for distribution to cooperative farming units. A total of **23 Multi-purpose Processing Centres** are to be established in the State out of which 15 have been completed. Over 802 direct and 2,400 indirect employments already created through RSSDA's agricultural programmes.

Rural Aquaculture

The development of a comprehensive aquaculture programme given the natural ecology of the State is imperative because of the comparative advantages. Therefore the **Regional Aquaculture Project** seeks to establish 8 regional integrated aquaculture centres to serve as service hubs to other farms (private/ tertiary) within the region. Currently 3 of these regional centres are at various stages of milestone completion. Complementing this is a **Rural Aquaculture Programme** with 40 rural aquaculture farm estates being established for catfish production where beneficiaries are also trained and empowered to establish their own farms.

RSSDA: AGRICULTURE

A **Central Feed mill** and **4 Central Fish Hatcheries** have been established in strategic locations in the State. To maximise use of resources, reduce wastage and in order to absorb left over stock from the 4 central hatcheries, **80 ton Grow-Out Ponds** were established and are now ready for stocking. A **Poultry Feed Production Line** has also been incorporated into the existing feed mill and the warehouse expanded to accommodate poultry feed. Still on aquaculture development with focus on shell fish, RSSDA secured a 10-year Operations Agreement with the Nigerian Institute of Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR) to upgrade the Buguma facility for Training and Service utilisation. The Buguma Facility called **The African Regional Aquaculture Centre, Brackish Water Institute Buguma**, consists of a 9ha brackish water pond, an Oyster production farm and Shrimp Farming. Training & certification will be carried out by the institute. To embed ownership of aquaculture in the state, the **Aquaculture Incentive Programme** is aimed at reviving the private sector participation in the aquaculture sector in the State.

In the area of livestock production an **Integrated Poultry and Egg Production Project** is to establish 15 poultry farms (Phase 1) in the existing Aquaculture centres targeted to produce 8,104 crates of eggs per day. 8 out of 15 farms completed stocked and producing eggs. Other components of the livestock programme are the **Heliculture [Snail production] project** **Rabbitry and Bush meat Production Project** and the **Apiary Demonstration Project [Honey Production]** from which honey is now being produced.

RSSDA: AGRICULTURE

Allanblackia Project

The RSSDA has embarked in a partnership with Unilever, to tap into the agro-economic potentials of the Allanblackia(AB) crop as a means to create viable businesses and sustainable income streams through the cultivation management and sale of the produce.

So far 10 Hectares of land has been acquired at Mgbu-Ndoki in Oyigbo Local Government Area for the establishment of one Rural Resource Centre (RRC), site clearing for RRC and propagator installation is in progress. Allanblackia trees pruned in the following communities and LGAs: Nyae, and Nyowii in Khana LGA, Mbakiri in Etche LGA, Okpuntu, Marihu, and Mgbu-Ndoki in Oyigbo LGA. Twenty (20) persons already employed in the following communities and LGAs for AB seed supply chain.

Challenges

- **Disruption and stoppage of project** in some communities.
- **Lack of access road project site.**
- General **lack of power** distribution line and transmission to over 90% of project sites.
- **Theft of produce** (e.g eggs, chickens & fish) at some farms.
- Intra-community conflict which stalls project execution.
- Lack of adequate and timely funding

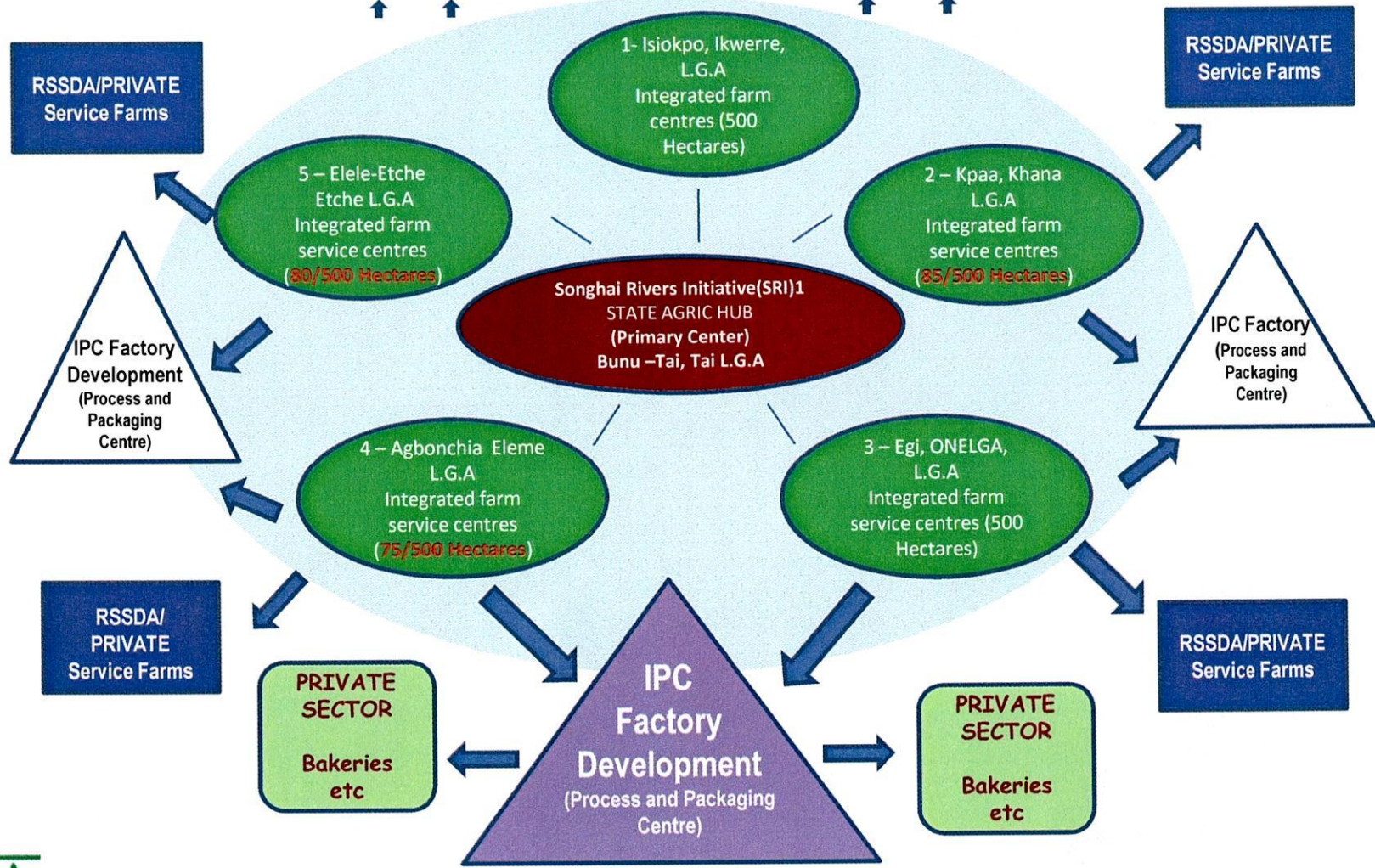
RSSDA AGRICULTURE INTERVENTION BACKBONE

PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT
Contract farming, Marketing, Processing etc

PRESENT LOCATION S(19) & HECTARAGE

- Elele-Etche – 70Ha
- Agbonchia, Eleme- 50Ha
- Kpaa-Khana – 55Ha
- Ozuzu-Etche – 5Ha
- Omakwa, Abua/Odual-5Ha
- Okwale-Khana – 5Ha
- Bori, Khana – 5Ha
- Kpaa, Khana (maize – Intercrop) – 30 Ha
- Koroma-Tai – 6Ha
- Gbam, Tai – 5Ha
- Abalama, Asari-Toru -5Ha
- Agbonchia, Eleme – 25Ha (maize intercrop)
- Umuagu, Omuma -10Ha
- Umuogba, Omuma- 5Ha
- Rumuoro, Ogbakiri – 5 Ha
- Umoukpirikpi, Isiokpo – 5Ha
- Ochigba, Ahoada-East-5Ha
- Ekporo, Eleme -20Ha
- Elele Etche – 10Ha
- Odufor, Etche -5Ha

Total Hectares – 331 Ha



RSSDA: SME's & COMMUNITY BASED DEVELOPMENT

2. SME'S AND COMMUNITY-BASED BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- The impact of the arable agriculture and aquaculture intervention programmes shall lead to the emergence of Small and Medium Scale businesses positioned to support and provide services for the 'mother projects'. SMEs expected to emerge are; bagging and other forms of disposable packaging business, Transportation services, Produce retail outlets, Farm equipment, implement sales and maintenance, Produce export online marketing & sales agents, Bee honey farmers, Snail farmers, Telephony services.
- Other special SMEs will be generated under **Private Partnership and Support projects** (*cottage industry development*) such as the establishment of a **Ceramic Industry and Leather Industry** where over 550 SMEs will emerge from these industries. *SMEs training programme on leather products to commence by 1st week of December 2009.*
- The Promise **fast food outlets** partnership programme (about 12-15 outlets envisaged state-wide by 2012, with over 3000 employments, while provide steady sales outlets for some of RSSDAs agro allied products)
RSSDA farm Produce supply chain to support all outlets including other outlet in Port Harcourt with eggs, chicken, fish, flour, garri, snails, vegetables etc

RSSDA: TRAINING & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

3. TRAINING & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (INCLUDING SCHOLARSHIPS)

The **Workmanship & Technical Training Centre (WTTC)** being established in partnership with City & Guilds, U.K is to be completed in April 2010. It is at 60% completion. The WTTC is expected to address the gap existing in technical manpower in the State and subsequently eliminate importation of such skilled personnel from Asia.

Our **Graduate Work Experience Placement Scheme** is a continuous initiative and has placed 74 persons in Banks and Oil Service companies while another 80 are being prepared for placement. Perhaps an enabling policy could foster greater cooperation among socially responsible organisations operating in the State.

Youth Rehabilitation Centre equipped with various skills training equipment and starter packs such as welding machine, carpentry, aluminium works and a bus. So far 72 youths are undergoing training in welding, carpentry and aluminium works before re-assimilation into society.

Other programmes centre on provision of **Scholarship** to support a total of 631 Students comprising 83 Post Graduate Students and 369 Undergraduates in Canada and United Kingdom; and 211 studying ICT in Singapore and India. A total of 123 Students are studying in 14 top flight Nigerian Secondary Schools while there are 100 Oil & Gas Diploma Students in Nigeria. Study durations range from 2 to 8 years.

RSSDA: SUNDRY DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS

In the area of Healthy Living critical community health programmes have been initiated. The **Community Health Infrastructure Improvement Project** has provided Solar powered blood transfusion & Vaccine Cold Chain Storage for 5 General Hospitals and provided an ambulance vehicle for each of the General Hospitals.

Community health mobilisation initiative in 6 LGAs- a preventative health care programme for pregnant women and de-worming of children under 5yrs was conducted to increase the level of awareness of preventive health in 22 communities. A skill pool of 59 Health Community Resource Persons [Health CORP] trained within the communities are now embedded in-situ. Malaria treatment was provided for 320 pregnant women, while 1,000 Haematinics and 1,000 ITNs were distributed to aid recovery and safeguard against further infection. In addition 1,200 school children were de-wormed and ITNs & malaria drugs were donated to Ubima Health Centre.

Under the **Community Health Intervention Initiative** a quarterly de-worming of Primary and Nursery School Students has been executed targeted at 4,000 children in 16 primary schools in Emohua Local Government Area. The first phase of the bi-annual **Free Medical Surgical Intervention** (medical Mission) in rural communities has been concluded. 132 surgeries executed in 6 centres across the 3 Senatorial districts.

RSSDA: SUNDRY DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS

Governance support at L.G.A level

This focuses on the engagement of development and investment stakeholders (traders, local farmers, private and public sector investors, community based organisations, etc) in rural communities and the partially developed urban areas to help strengthen their economic capabilities and expand their entrepreneurial potentials. Another major activity during the period centred on the **Excellence in Local Governance Initiative** aimed at ensuring efficient service delivery by LG Councils; provision of local government ICT services and capacity building for local government functionaries that have impacted 184 functionaries. The establishment of RSSDA Zonal Offices is also being addressed in collaboration with the LG Chairmen to bring service closer to the grassroots.