

**A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE NATIONAL NUTRITION SUMMIT
ORGANISED BY THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS
HELD AT ROCKVIEW HOTEL, (ROYAL) WUSE II, ABUJA 20TH AND 22ND FEBRUARY 2012.**

1 PREAMBLE:

The National Nutrition Summit was held in Abuja from 20th – 22nd February 2012. The theme of the summit was: **“Scaling up Nutrition in Nigeria: Catalyst for achieving the MDGs”**. Two hundred and twenty-six participants comprising Nutritionists, Food Technologists, Agriculturists, Academics and other stake holders drawn from the Federal and State Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Education Water Resources and Research Institutes and Universities were present at the meeting. Also present at the meeting were traditional rulers, religious leaders, representatives of the mass media, NGOs/FBOs and Development Partners such as SCUK, DFID, UNICEF, WHO, USAID, ACF-US, GAIN, HKI, MI, TSHIP, PRRINN-MNCH, WATER AID, CIFF, MITOSATH as well as Professional Associations including Nutrition Society of Nigeria, Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology and Association of Food, Beverage and Tobacco Employers (AFBTE). Government parastatals such as NAFDAC, SON, NPHCDA, ADP and FIRO were also present at the meeting.

The summit was declared open by the Honourable Minister of State for Health, Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate. During the opening ceremony, the investiture of nutrition champions – His Royal Majesty the Asagba of Asaba, Prof. Chike Edozien, His Royal Highness, the Emir of Argungu, Alhaji Sama'ila Mohammed Meira and Hajia Mariam Uwais was performed by the Honourable Minister of State for Health.

The Objectives of the summit were:

- To identify, prioritize and discuss major challenges with Nutrition in Nigeria and recommend necessary policy and programme actions to address them.
- To advocate for increased resource allocations for Nutrition interventions by all stakeholders in Nigeria.
- To deliberate and develop a Road-Map for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) in Nigeria.

2 OBSERVATIONS:

Following several presentations and exhaustive deliberations on the objectives of the meeting, it was observed that:

1. Nutrition activities in the country are guided by the national policy on food and nutrition (2002), a national plan of action (2004), regulations and laws developed by line Ministries and Agencies among others.
2. Most of the evidence based interventions for improving nutrition are already being implemented through many programmes. However, the coverage of the interventions remains low.

2. The existing National Policy on Food and Nutrition as well as the National Plan of Action on Food and Nutrition should be revised.
3. Government at all levels should drive the accelerated implementation of the plan of action.
4. The key government agendas and documents including the following should have key Nutrition Interventions mainstreamed into them:
 - i. Transformation Agenda
 - ii. Vision 20:20:20
 - iii. National Strategic Health Development Plan
 - iv. National Agricultural Investment Plan.
5. The Honourable Minister of State for Health should constitute a team of nutrition champions and lead an advocacy /delegation to meet the President, key community and religious leaders, the National Assembly and the leadership of relevant MDAs by the end of April 2012 to ensure that nutrition is placed high on the social/economic development agenda and resources allocated to roll out quality nutrition services at all levels.
6. FMOH and Nutrition Partners should update "PROFILES", the nutrition advocacy tool, by end of March 2012, linking it with other relevant advocacy packages, for use to facilitate advocacy.
7. A Senior Special Adviser on Food and Nutrition should be assigned to advise Mr. President on Nutrition matters.
8. The National Nutrition Council which was approved by the Federal Executive Council in 2007 should be inaugurated and chaired by Mr. President or his representative.
9. A professional and experienced Nutritionist of not less than a Director should as a matter of urgency be deployed to head the Secretariat of the National Committee on Food and Nutrition domiciled at the National Planning Commission. A dedicated budget should be allocated to make the Committee functional.
10. There is urgent need to mainstream nutrition into the Agriculture and other relevant sectors' plans.
11. States and Local Government Areas Committee on Food and Nutrition should be established and adequately funded.
12. Community participation and involvement should be made mandatory in the planning, implementation and monitoring of nutrition interventions.