

Nasarawa State School Feeding Programme



Nasarawa State 

The Programme:

The design and organization of the Nasarawa State School Feeding Programme commenced after President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, requested that His Excellency, Alhaji (Dr.) Abdullahi Adamu, Governor of Nasarawa state & Chairman of the Presidential Committee

on Dairy Development fast track the inauguration of an innovative government-supported pilot programme targeting primary school children with the distribution of a fortified nutritional supplement.



His Excellency Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, President, Ambassador, School feeding of the UN World Food Programme, Commander in Chief of Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria.



His Excellency Alhaji (Dr.) Abdullahi Adamu, Executive Governor, Nasarawa State

Background:

Nigeria has an estimated population of 120 million, 47% of which are below 18 years of age. 36% of pre-school children (0-5) are underweight, 43% stunted, while 9% are wasted. The situation in the State of Nasarawa is that 31.4% of the children below five are stunted with a high prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies. Nigeria's per capita

GDP is \$328 with life expectancy of 51.5 years. (Human Development Report, UNDP, 2004 and Nigeria Food Composition and Nutrition Survey 2001-2003). The government firmly believes that improving the nutritional status of primary school children is essential to the future well-being of the nation.



Goal and Objectives:

The goal of the Nasarawa State School Feeding Programme is to fight hunger and to correct and prevent the known nutrient deficiencies of the targeted primary school children. This will be achieved by establishing a public – private partnership to support the distribution, consumption and localization of a nutritional supplement. In targeted primary schools, program implementation will achieve the following: improving the nutritional status of children; increasing school enrollments; and raising class attendance levels. As a result, the academic performance of targeted children will be enhanced. In targeted communities and local governments the program will accomplish the following: promoting their involvement to manage and monitor program

implementation; and establishing linkages with existing and community-based programming in the education and health sector.

His Excellency Alhaji (Dr.) Abdullahi Adamu, The Executive Governor, Nasarawa State, believes in the well being of the school children of Nigeria in order for the nation to prosper in the future. Therefore, His Excellency is fully funding the school nutritional initiative in the State of Nasarawa utilizing hard-earned State resources. In addition His Excellency believes the School Feeding Program in the State of Nasarawa will be extended into additional States in Nigeria, which will act as a catalyst for Industrial Development and Economic Growth.

Agricultural Development

The School Nutrition Program in the State of Nasarawa State is projected to act as a catalyst for economic growth achieved through investments by the private sector into value added processing of i.e. liquid dairy products, juices, and other nutritional liquid solutions. Over time these investments and the production of these locally added value products will replace the import of these products. The economic impact will include employment being generated in the processing sector and the potential availability of lower-cost nutritional liquid drinks to Nigerian consumers.

The School Feeding Programme is an integrated component of the school feeding value chain to promote sustainable agricultural development in Nigeria. The programme will generate demand for locally-produced foodstuffs, which will lead to an increase in farm employment and to augment farm incomes. The sustainability of these efforts will be achieved through Industry Development and when the commercial demand for the various liquid still drinks exceeds the demand from the school children. Experiences from countries like China, Thailand and Iran indicate that school feeding programmes can have a tremendous impact on the agricultural and food sectors. In these countries many jobs have been created in both the production, processing and distribution sectors of the value chain. Tetra Pak's Food for Development Office has been actively involved as a technical partner in the development of current activities within the State of Nasarawa from the beginning. The programme has captured



From left to right: Mr. Bjorn Wille, Tetra Pak Food for Development Office, His Excellency Alhaji (Dr.) Abdullahi Adamu, Executive Governor, Nasarawa State, His Excellency Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, President, Ambassador, School feeding of the UN World Food Programme, Commander in Chief of Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, and former Swedish Ambassador to Nigeria, HE Mrs. Birgitta Holst Alani.

global interest and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, Helen Keller International, University of Toronto, Good Hope International and Solae are among a few of the partners that have expressed an interest of supporting various components of this initiative.

Nutritional Supplement:

NUTRI SIP is the nutrition supplement that has been selected for the Nasarawa State School Feeding Programme. The product is a blend of pre-cooked maize and soy isolates, fortified with 30 nutrients per 250ml Tetra Brik® Aseptic packages; specifically engineered to correct certain specific known nutrient deficiencies as identified by the WHO, namely Iron, Zinc and Vitamin A. The product is hygienically packed using aseptic processing and filling, and the Ultra High Temperature (UHT) treatment process that ensures that:

- All harmful bacteria are killed
- The nutrition value of the product is maintained without using any preservatives or any other chemicals
- The product does not require any refrigeration and has a minimum shelf life of 6 months
- The packaging design include:

**“SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME
NASARAWA STATE – NOT FOR SALE”.**

Efforts to create a formula based on agricultural products grown in Nasarawa state are currently underway, with local production of the school feeding supplement scheduled to commence in the 1st or 2nd quarter of 2006.

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Nigeria Food Composition and Nutrition Survey 2001-2003). The government firmly believes that improving the nutritional status of primary school children is essential to the future well-being of the nation.

Launch:

The launch of the School Feeding Programme in the State of Nasarawa will take place on Tuesday 27th of September, 2005 at the Primary School of Laminga in the State of Nasarawa.

The Special Guest of Honour and Chief Launcher: His Excellency Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, President, Ambassador, School feeding of the UN World Food Programme, Commander in Chief of Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Chief Host of the launch: His Excellency Alhaji (Dr.) Abdullahi Adamu, The Executive Governor, Nasarawa State