

**NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL SCIENCE**

Established by Act no. 26 of 2007

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE ONE DAY STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING ON  
"CHALLENGES OF MICROLIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA" HELD AT BISHOP KELLY  
PASTORAL CENTRE, BENIN CITY, EDO STATE.**

10 November, 2010.

Stakeholders' in the Nigerian Microlivestock sector including academics, farmers, administrators, policy officers and technocrats gathered for a one day stakeholders meeting on Wednesday 10 November, 2010 to brainstorm on the challenges facing the sector and recommend ways and strategies to overcome the challenges for the benefit of the industry. This very important meeting was convened by the Microlivestock Production Committee of the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS).

The summit deliberated on a wide range of issues as they concern the challenges being encountered in the Microlivestock production and marketing with its attendant social and economic setbacks and made suggestions on how to mainstream and to fully exploit the Microlivestock industry value chain.

**PREAMBLE**

The meeting appreciated the Federal Government and the National Assembly for putting NIAS on board and also the NIAS council for creating a separate committee for Microlivestock production discipline.

The meeting specifically noted that

- Microlivestock animals includes a wide range of animal species including but not limited to rabbit, grasscutter, honey bees, snails, guinea pigs, turtles, crocodiles, giant rats, dogs, cats, monkeys, snakes, insects etc which contributes immensely to the nutrition of teeming population of the country but yet are neglected relative to other livestock animals.
- Microlivestock production in Nigeria has serious challenges in the areas of nutrition, breeder stock, management, marketing and processing.
- There is an urgent need for the immediate unbundling of National Animal Production Research Institute (NAPRI) to pave way for at least five new species specific livestock institutes (one of which should focus on Microlivestock animals)

to enhance livestock research and to solve the myriads of problems in animal agriculture.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

At the end of the meeting, the following resolutions and recommendations were unanimously agreed;

- That NIAS should designate and support breeding and research centres across the country for the different Microlivestock species. Of immediate relevance are the current Rabbit breeding project at NAPRI and the Grasscutters breeding project at OAU, Ile-Ife which should immediately be designated and supported as centres for these species.
- That government and NIAS should institute measure to check cross border movement of Microlivestock species into Nigeria in order to better utilize the available indigenous genomes.
- That NIAS should embark on awareness campaigns to boost interest in the production and consumption of Microlivestock animals.
- That the existing producers' associations of the different Microlivestock species be strengthened in every states of the country with the ultimate aim to form an umbrella body.
- That government and NIAS should develop training and retraining programmes for Microlivestock farmers and extension officers.
- That NIAS should support researches into the nutrient requirements of the different classes of Microlivestock species and also the available feedstuffs.
- That government at all levels should extend credit facilities to microlivestock farmers and also accord Microlivestock production similar importance normally attached to conventional livestock animals.
- That Microlivestock production should be incorporated into the curriculum of secondary schools and undergraduate students in agriculture.

## **CONCLUSION**

The stakeholders appreciated the initiative of NIAS in convening the meeting which was recommended to become regular henceforth to serve as the platform to continually address issues affecting the Microlivestock industry.

**Issued at Ibadan today, 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.**