

ABSTRACT

Strengthening of the Three Agricultural Mechanization

Zonal Fora

PrOpCom engaged the services of New Nigeria Foundation (NNF) with the specific objective of the assignment being to strengthen the three newly established zonal agricultural mechanization networks by facilitating the achievement of critical/foundational activities of the networks which will make them to stand and function as networks. The specific tasks include facilitating the development and adoption of a constitution for each of the zonal fora/networks, facilitating the development of detailed 6-month work plan for each of the networks, assessment of the needs of the fora and provision of a short and concise recommendation on the roles that can be facilitated by PrOpCom to support and partner with the networks.

In August, September, October and November 2008, NNF worked directly with executive members and key members of the three zonal networks. Our engagement involved phone calls, participation in meetings of executive committees, meetings with key members of the networks, preparation of draft documents and presentation to executive committee meetings for consideration, interaction with PrOpCom, planning and attendance of stakeholder meetings in Kano, Ibadan and Enugu presentation of findings to stakeholders in Kano, Ibadan and Enugu etc. NNF assisted and worked with the executive committees of the three networks in preparing draft constitutions. NNF also worked directly with the executive committees to identify the major constraints in their zone and among their stakeholders; and to develop draft 6-month work plans which were considered by stakeholders at the general meetings. The stakeholder meetings were held for the Kano-Kaduna zonal network on the 9th of October 2008 in Kano and for the Lagos-Ogun-Oyo network on the 20th October 2008. The stakeholder meeting for the Abia-Ebonyi-Enugu network was held on the 24th November 2008 in Enugu. The stakeholder meetings considered and approved the draft constitutions, considered and agreed on a 6-month workplans for the networks, undertook sustainability analysis of the activities of the networks and discussed other issues related to dealing with agricultural mechanization problems through the activities of the networks. At the meetings NNF presented reports on its activities with relation to the network and PrOpCom was duly represented.

Registration with CAC is scheduled to progress for the all the three networks. The needs of the networks and possible roles for PrOpCom have been identified. Possible next step is for PrOpCom to provide some assistance to networks in some critical areas to ensure successful implementation of their work plans. Such areas include:

Support for Organisational Structure

- Capacity building/needs assessment of stakeholders groups
- Promotion of Technology Dissemination Initiatives (Patents, Copyright etc.) Assessment of Critical Machines
Assistance in the Implementation of Work plan and Upgrading of the Agricultural Mechanization Value Chain