

Developing a Nigerian-made flash dryer

IITA and relevant government agencies have been urged to support the Cassava Equipment Fabricators Association of Nigeria (CEFAN) to develop an efficient and cost-effective made-in-Nigeria flash dryer for the production of quality cassava flour for the baking industry.

This was the resolution of participants at a recent meeting of the Presidential Task Force on the implementation of the national policy to incorporate 10% of cassava flour into bread. The meeting, held at IITA, was chaired by Mrs Oluwatoyin Adetunji, Special Assistant to the President on Food Security.

More than 300 units of flash dryers with capacity for 3–5 tonnes/day are required in Nigeria to meet current demands of cassava flour. In view of the huge cost of imported dryers, IITA

scientists commenced the procurement of such a dryer from Nigerian fabricators. One year later, only five fabricators are manufacturing the equipment, and their total output is a meager 5% of FMAN cassava flour requirement.

Addressing participants at the meeting, Dr Lateef Sanni, IITA Food Technologist/Postharvest Specialist remarked that locally manufactured flash dryers were not yet efficient. He called for openness among the manufacturers so that they could gain from each other's expertise. Dr Sanni assured CEFAN members that IITA was willing to support this initiative by bringing into the country any required components of the machine that were not readily available in Nigeria.

In a similar development, the milling sector recently established a ₦500 million fund to support Nigerian cassava farmers,

processors, and equipment fabricators. Announcing this at the meeting, Mr Yemi Ogunyemi of the Flour Mills of Nigeria Plc, said the fund was being administered by the Bank of Industry (BoI). He added that Cassava Growers Association of Nigerian, CEFAN, and cassava processors should approach the bank for information on how to benefit from the fund.

IITA is collaborating with the Federal Government to encourage large-scale cassava production across the country.

Dr Sanni gave an update on cassava flash dryers installed by the Integrated Cassava Project in southsouth, southeast, southwest, and north central parts of Nigeria. He also said that there is now an efficient tunnel dryer (Malaysian made) with a private processor (Vesa Foods, Agbor road, Benin city).

Taye Babaleye, Public Affairs



Participants at the meeting.

Workshop on the design and fabrication of a rotary dryer

The workshop on the design and fabrication of a rotary dryer commenced with a welcome address by the director of SEDI, Dr Nwajargu. Dr Okoro, representing DG Hartman, presented his goodwill message. Representatives of FIIRO, Lagos, PRODA, Enugu, and Enugu

State ADP attended the workshop. Dr Sanni presented the workshop objective to the participants. Dr Nwajargu, Director, SEDI took participants round the SEDI facilities.

The technical session began with an address from Engr Chukwuma Unuegbu,

representing the secretary of CEFAN protom president. The representative of the Director General SMEDAN, Engr Obi presented her speech on financing SME and microprocessing centers and equipment fabrication for food security and income generation.

Dr Sanni introduced the concept of the rotary dryer to the participants after which the designs commenced. After the presentations and criticisms, a concept of fixed drum and rotating paddles was accepted. Engr Chukwuma Unuegbu invited participants to see the rotary dryer for *gari*. The team assessed the dryer and gave suggestions for improvement.

Materials for construction were purchased and participants were assigned parts to fabricate. The equipment fabrication and assembly was completed on Saturday 3 June at an approximate cost of ₦476 700. On site assessment of the dryer with *fufu* indicated that drying was done in 40 seconds.

It was, however, unanimously decided that a trial on cassava flour and *gari* cake be done at the IITA Onne Station, to give room for thorough assessment and characterization.



Prototype of rotary dryer at IITA Onne.

IITA women's group scholarship for 2006–2007

The IITA Women's Group welcomes applications from qualified candidates for scholarships in the following categories:

- Junior secondary school
- Senior secondary school
- Polytechnic
- University

The criteria for the awards are:

- Applicants must be children of IITA employees in Ibadan, Kano, Onne, Ikeja, and Maiduguri on Pay Grades 1–6.
- Parents of such applicants must have worked at IITA for at least two years and must be presently employed.
- Applicants must be above average academically and must have school reports to prove this.
- Applicants must be registered in schools or must have secured admission into a recognized school.
- Applicants will be expected to perform well during the interviews (both oral and written), which will be conducted for shortlisted candidates.

The value for each scholarship will be as follows:

- Junior secondary = ₦5000
- Senior secondary = ₦7500
- Post secondary = ₦10 000

Interested parents with children in these categories may collect the forms from the Employee Services Unit of the Human Resources Program in Building 500 during working hours. Completed forms are to be returned to the Employee Services Unit on or before 30 September. Late applications will not be accepted.

Jumoke Fatokun, IITA Women's Group

Sanni Lateef, R4D

Conference Service charges

Please note that amendments have been made on the earlier communication (in Bulletin no. 1853, 5 June) about the charges for the conference and seminar room facilities by IITA staff for internally approved use. The charges have been revised and now exclude the depreciation and maintenance costs for the facility and equipment and covers only the service costs, including staff time and consumables. The new charges will thus be calculated on an individual basis considering service levels required. Internal IITA clients who were charged according to the recently advertised rates will be compensated with the difference after costs are recuperated.

It is important to confirm booking early to enable a full range of administrative, logistics, facilitation, and event management services to be provided.

Funke Ogunsola, CIS

Issued every Monday by the Editorial Unit. All material for publication should be sent to the Unit's main office, Room 208, Building 500, or via e-mail to: WBulletin@iita.exch.cgiar.org by noon of the Wednesday before the week of publication.