BLUEPRINTS ON THE IGBO BU IGBO (IBI) AGRO PROJECT ESTABLISHMENTS IN IGBOLAND, NIGERIA



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF IGBOLAND AREAS, EAST AND WEST OF THE RIVER NIGER



Submitted to
Igbo Bu Igbo Socio-Cultural Foundation
Lake Chad Crescent, Maitama Abuja, FCT, Nigeria

September, 2020

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SUBMITTED TO

GBO BU IGBO (IBI) SOCIOCULTURAL FOUNDATION LAKE CHAD CRESCENT, MAITAMA ABUJA – FCT, NIGERIA

SEPTEMBER 2020

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of the members of the Committee on the Blueprints for Agricultural Development of Alaigho in Nigeria, I wish to appreciate the Rt. Hon. (Dr) Patrick Ifeanyi Ubah, the Distinguished Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Chairman of IBI Board of Trustees, and Dr Lawrence Mefor (Chancellor) as well as the other respected members of the National Executive Council of the Igbo Bu Igbo Socio-cultural Foundation, World-wide, for the rare honour and opportunity granted us to serve the Igbo race in this capacity. It is amazing that of all expediencies and existential challenges facing the Igbo nation on planet Earth and in Nigeria, your Foundation has singled out and accorded Agriculture a prime position in our homeland to guarantee food security, poverty reduction, venturing into massive food production, agro-export processing and sustainable income generation among our people that are predominantly farmers across the various value chains. With the bold and diligent support which the IBI has provided to this Committee in November last year, which did give us the stimulus to tackle the herculean assignment of assessing and understanding the issues, factors and challenges that have stagnated the pace of commercial and exportable agricultural practice as well as the derivable existential improvement of the Igbo people of Nigeria, this committee has come to the full realization of the IBI's commitment to hoist its agenda for agriculture and economic development of our people. Powered by this IBI's zeal and unparalleled faith in our people, we of this committee have taken the impetus at our disposal to produce and submit this Blueprints document this day. Thank you, distinguished Chairman, Gentlemen and Ladies of the IBI Foundation.

I wish to use this opportunity also to congratulate the members of the Agricultural Blueprints for the Development of the Igboland in Nigeria on their unfettered diligence and deep commitment in the course of this tackling this project. We worked under the pandemic phobia and crushingly heavy COVI-19 Lockdown paranoia. We thank God that during those days of brain sapping task (with Corona virus in town), we stayed safe and protected. It was only God that could have done it for us. Glory be to God.

The IBI Chairman, and Distinguished Senator Dr Patrick Ifeanyi Ubah, deserves an exclusive nention here. His great storming enthusiasm and support compelled him to make out a special ime with the committee after the inauguration in Abuja. He met and shared with concern, his treams and those of the IBI with the Committee about agricultural development of all Igbo land and to

use agriculture as both national and international business to empower our people and to make our youths to embrace home (Nigeria) and still become hugely successful in life. What a rare expression of commitment to people. The Executive Committee and Secretariat personnel of the IBI ably led by the Dr Law Mefor; Jude Chidi Omeje; Ms Ebere Jane Ulelu; Chief Jude Ndukwe; Ms Charity Ikenwa; Chief Ifeanyi Metu; Dr (Mrs) Bibian C. Okereafor, Mr Senator Iroegbu, Mr Ifeanyi Maduka, Chief Don. Chikezie and Dr Oscar Ugwuoke, as well as the technical staff of the Secretariat, are hereby appreciated for their personal input and support during and after the inauguration/presentation event last November.

Please, permit me to salute my dear wife, Dr Ngozi P. Omeje, for her technical cum academic contributions in the course of putting this work together and for having provisioned for the space and facility at our residence and location in Enugu to facilitate the Committee's 3-day Round Table for the completion of this Report.

On a special note, we deeply acknowledge the short contributions of the following who started with us but were opted out on account of logistics and distance: Professor Isaac I. Osakwe of the Department of Animal Science, Alex Ekwueme University, Ndufu Alike, Ikwo, Ebonyi State, Mr Ken Uchegbu fomerly, of the Raw Materials Research and Development Institute, Abuja, and Dr Ndu Ojukwu (Rtd Deputy Inspector General of Police, agricultural professional and a fellow "Lion" and Classmate at the Jniversity of Nigeria, Nsukka 41 years ago), who joined our discussion from Ilorin, Kwara State, during and after the inauguration/pre-assignment presentation ceremony in Abuja in November last year.

Finally, I wish to greatly thank all stakeholders, various organizations and private firms in Agriculture especially those that are members of the IBI Foundation who have severally and variously expressed nuch desire and curiosity in up-holding agriculture as the best approach towards providing a holistic nainstay by which our people can leverage on their existence and improved standard of living. Their contacts, enthusiasm and suggestions, we must admit, did go a long way to making the processes of research, data collection and analyses carried out possible and worthwhile.

The distinguished Senator, Chairman and members of Council, Board of Trustees and other nembers of the IBI, ladies and gentlemen, once again, please do accept our deep gratitude and ppreciation for having given us this opportunity to serve our people.

hank you.

KENNA SYLVANUS OMEJE, PhD

Professor of Animal Breeding & Genetics)

'hairman, Blueprints Committee on IBI's Agricultural Intervention in Igboland, Nigeria

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Preamble

The Board of Trustees of the Igbo-Bu-Igbo Socio-cultural Organization (IBI) led by the Distinguished Senator Dr Patrick Ifeanyi Ubah, and the Executive Officers and members of the IBI under its Chancellor, Dr Law Mefor, and Secretary General, Chidi J.Omeje, have made a peculiar commitment and paradigm shift in Nigeria's agriculture, by having set up an ad hoc Committee to work out Blueprints by which Agriculture targeting the South East and parts of South South geopolitical zones can be used to turn around the socioeconomic fortunes of the Igbos, and to re-direct (back home) the global wandering of millions of Igbo youths in search of where to make their ends meet. Thus, by this action the IBI has placed a beacon to the new way of a holistic approach to the agricultural development of our country, Nigeria. Igbo land lies in the area east and west of River Niger, consisting of a vast segment of agricultural lands and fresh water bodies sustaining not less than 70 million people. This huge land mass, richly reticulated with river basins, provides the ancestral homes to the millions of the people (agrarians, livestock producers, fishers, and agro-entrepreneurs) inhabiting and harnessing it for their living and socio-economic needs.

The Committee, inaugurated on Tuesday, Afor day, 19 November, 2019, was charged with a few tasks, cardinal of which was to draw blueprints and /or way out for the multiplication of our ndigenous farm animal species notably, Cattle (Efigbo), chicken (Okukuigbo), goats Ewuigbo), sheep (Aturuigbo), and local pigs (Ezi) to prevent them from going into extinction and to enable them enhance the rebuilding of the food chains in Igbo land and create thousands of jobs for the unemployed Igbo youths. Other important tasks include, designing modern ways of profitable crop production targeting rice, yams, cassava, maize, and related others including nack and culinary species to enable for their incorporation into integrated farming whereby eeds can be directly produced for the animals, general sales, and for sustaining organic food roductions in commercial quantities for local consumption and for exports. As well the Committee was tasked to look into means by which agricultural practice among our people can e boosted and made lucrative via incentivisation, market access, extension packaging, value hain creation, and processing for export.

ntroduction

The Igbo territory, geographically, is divided by the lower Niger River into two sections: an eastern (the larger of the two) and a western one (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igbo people). The population is characterized by the diverse Igbo culture and the speakers of equally diverse Igbo anguages. Their cultural diversity stems from them being divided into the eastern and midwestern regions by the Niger River. The earliest found settlements in Igboland date to 4500 BC n the central area, from where the majority of the Igbo-speaking population is believed to have nigrated. The mid-central to northern Igboland boasts of the famous Kingdom of Nri, which is he oldest existing monarchy in present-day Nigeria. The Nri Kingdom sprang up around the 10th century AD (900 AD), and is credited with the foundation of much of Igboland's culture, customs, and religious practices. Nevertheless, the far-nothern area of Igboland including all of Vsukka and parts of Awka and Asaba areas share some cultural affinities with the Igala ollowing long years of Igala Empire (late 19th - early 20th century) which gave much cultural nfluence to Northern Igbos. Traditionally the Igbo people have been identified as subsistence armers, their staple crops being yams, cassava, and cocoyam as well as maize, melons, okra, sumpkins, peas and beans. By far, yam is the "King" of all crops produced by the Igbos, they alue yam more than any other crops and it is the chief food served at important occasions and elebrations.

On the other hand, the people also own and rear such animals and livestock such poultry, pigs, attle, goats and sheep. Among those still engaged in agriculture, men are chiefly responsible for am cultivation, women for other crops. Over the ages however, the farming traditions of the eople began to wane and to suffer setbacks on account of certain happenstances and historical vents: slave trade, the 1966-1970 civil conflict, advent of new religions with exotic civilization nd new lifestyles, white collar jobs, new manner of politicking and governance, modern usiness, commerce and manufacturing and other commodity-based industries (outside griculture) all of which heavily caused an irreversible shift in our worldviews on life and means f its sustenance predicated upon the pre-existing agro-centred cosmology conceived and urtured over generations by our ancestors to a new 'worldly' outlook that weighs less on gricultural productivity as a way of life. Today, we are a people that do not grow enough food a our soils: either by ourselves or by agencies that can produce food and products. We are no inger able to sustain our lives and to meet our daily socio-economic needs from the agricultural

activities by which we have been known. Those that can do the production (youths and ablebodied men and women) are largely mot available. While the youths get out in droves to other lands they leave behind frail parents and relations as well as some able-bodied adults who are not interested to go into farming. Those at home have largely taken to non-farming occupations and many have gone into buying, selling and importation of finished goods and processed foods with very few into agricultural productivity. Thus, the sub-population of the Nigerian people living in the entire Alaigbo part of this country is under threat of phenomenal food insecurity. Thus, interest and involvement in commercial livestock enterprise in Igboland are almost dying out, leaving the environment and the populace open to exploitation by itinerant and migrant livestock merchants, with the attendant degradation of the environment, and massive capital flight from Igbo land.

Given the above situation, a timely intervention of the Igbo Bu Igbo Socio-cultural Organization World Wide) to work on the concerns and the potential benefits a region-wide organized agricultural programme for our people will be invaluable and expedient to reverse the trends and an deed to put Igboland back on the agricultural maps.

Overview of Nigeria's Agriculture and Rural Development

Aside petroleum oil business, agriculture has been characterized as the mainstay of the Nigerian economy considering the many critical roles the sector is playing in the country's economy, such is providing adequate food for the population; supply of adequate raw materials to the industrial sector; being a major source of employment; source of foreign exchange earnings, and market for the products of the industries. It is understood that increase in agricultural production and the rise in the per-capita income of the rural community, together with the industrialization and rbanization processes, lead to an increased demand in industrial production. In this way, gricultural sector has helped promote economic growth by its direct feed to industrial sector. Agricultural development is, thus, a must for the economic development of a country, especially digeria. And experts and stakeholders must have to focus more and aim higher since progress in griculture is the engine driving the provision of food for growing agricultural and non-gricultural labour force sectors, raw materials for industrial production, income savings, and tax

revenue to support development of the rest of the economy. Success of the focus will also be to earn higher foreign exchange and to occasion ever growing markets for domestic factories.

Blueprints for Projects on Specific Areas in Livestock Enterprise

It is obvious that Igbo people are very conscious of the quality of their diet, hence the high numbers of livestock and poultry slaughtered on daily basis throughout Igbo land. Therefore, efforts should not be spared to ensure that Ndi Igbo can substantially meet their animal products supplies in the short run while striving to ensure that our people will eventually be self sufficient in these products in the long run. This can be achieved through aggressive grass root mobilization of Igbo entrepreneurs to get involved in livestock and poultry production business. Cattle, sheep, goat and poultry production ventures have the potentials to create millions of jobs in Igbo land thereby helping to reduce youth unemployment and create wealth. There are vast apportunities in the cattle production value chain in Igbo land which investors can key into. Same agrees for sheep (ram), goats and pigs which presently are mostly sourced outside Igbo and with the attendant capital flight if the status quo is allowed to continue.

Cattle business is a lucrative one, and when properly managed, the Efigbo production, nultiplication and marketing and other value lines will create sustainable wealth from the web of ts value-added businesses among the Igbo farmers even higher than the levels obtained among other cattle breeding and rearing nationalities in Nigeria and in the developing world. From the goat projects profiled in this Report it can be witnessed that engaging in a goat farming using 250 Ewuigbo (ecotype of the WAD goat) on, say, a 500m x 500m plot of land with all the actilities installed and well managed, can generate a meaningful profit but will do much more if we milk them and retail the product during the lactation period. Compared to the Toggenburg with a universal adaptability in all climes) the revenue from our Ewuigbo is far below the range or international trade as evidenced from a three-year production activity involving the Ewuigbo and Toggenburg comparative projects profiled in which Ewuigbo could garner as much as \$\frac{1}{2}3.30\$ million profit, while the Toggenburg could fetch N5.85billion profit.

On the other hand, there are few poultry establishments in Igbo land but the sector is yearning for nore investments in day-old-chicks production (hatchery), and in table eggs production. Animal

feed production is another important area that needs to be addressed. Certainly any component in the animal production value-chain is a potential gold mine that will guarantee prospective investors adequate return on investment as demonstrated in our report for the productions and multiplications of Efigbo, Ewuigbo, and Okukoigbo, etc. When this is done, not only will the motivation of Ndi Igbo be enhanced, but will also ensure that there are sufficient stocks available for prospective investors in the cattle business.

Blueprints for the Genetic Improvements in Cattle, Goats, Swine, and Poultry in the South East Zone and Delta North District of Delta State

The productive potentials of indigenous livestock and poultry cannot be compared to those of their counterparts in the developed world. Therefore it has become necessary to improve the productive capacity of indigenous livestock and poultry through genetic amelioration and upgrading with exotic livestock. To fast-track this process, the use of established animal biotechnological tools such as selective breeding, artificial insemination, super ovulation, embryo transfer, etc in line with the national animal breeding policy (draft) of Nigeria is advocated. The strategies and recommendations for the following stock have been highlighted in this report, namely the genetic improvement of Efigbo, Ewuigbo, Aturuigbo, Okukuigbo, etc, which we think will make a paradgm shift in the productivities of our native animals. Thus, we envisage that in the nearest future in Igboland we shall begin to produce and multiply Efigbo and Ewuigbo with the capacities for quantitative beef and goat-meat as well as milk production for commercial and export purposes.

Blueprints for Crop Production in the South East Zone and Delta North District of Delta State Nigeria

Nine crop species have been identified that can profitably be grown in Igbo land. Some of them especially rice, cassava, yam, sweet potato and maize are crops that have opportunities for further value addition in their downstream processing chain, which can create a very high number of employment opportunities for many people not directly involved in their primary production. Others like Pigeon pea (fiofio) and Bambara nuts (Okpa) have very high nutritive value due to their high content of essential proteins, that make up for the protein and other

nutrient deficiencies in the menu of the very poor rural population, but are not considered as a priority crop by most of the farming population, and so are not produced in sufficient quantities, thereby making Igbo land dependent on neighbouring states for their supply. Igbo youths will find the production of these crops a very lucrative enterprise and make Igbo land food secure and non dependent on others.

Other very lucrative agricultural enterprises include the production of vegetables and spices that thrive in Igbo land, but are often not produced in sufficient quantities. Some of these are spinach, salad items, tomatoes, Nsukka Yellow pepper, Fluted pumpkin (Ugu), Bitter leaf, Water leaf *Talinum triangulare*), and other staple vegetables of Igbo land. Each of these is very lucrative agro-business opportunities when they are undertaken on a commercial scale.

Blueprints for Extension, Marketing Functions, Value Addition and Agro-Export Activities for Igboland

n the areas of extension, marketing, value addition and agro-export, to respond to the changing astes and preferences of consumers it has become imperative for the producers to effectively ensitize their customers and make goods available at the right places, conditions and times. This process calls for a robust extension services, product packaging, storage, transportation, pricing and distribution. Particularly, there is need to increase value addition in order to maximize the penefits derivable from different products, increase income and the livelihood of Ndi Igbo.

The IBI therefore, needs to take advantage of the different opportunities that abound in different institutions in Nigeria to promote their products to meet both national and international standards and as well earn high premium. Some of these institutions include the Nigerian Export Processing Zones (EPZ), Nigerian Export Promotion Council, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Other institutions include the agricultural research institutes and other utility control and assurance bodies, like the National Agency for Food and Drug administration and Control, Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Services, Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services, Standards Organizations of Nigeria, Nigeria National Accreditation ervices, as well as other national and international policies one of which is the African continental Free Trade Agreement.

Locations (in towns and cities) for Siting of the IBI Agro-Projects, Industrial and Export Centres Across Alaigbo Areas of South East and Delta States, Nigeria

Enlistments have been made from among the States, Senatorial districts, LGAs, major cities, towns, and local communities native to Igbo people inhabiting contiguously east and west of the lower River Niger in Nigeria. It is from the listings that a pool of possible locations were drawn for the siting of the IBI proposed agro-projects, produce processing, value creations, export centre, and adoption fora, etc. The lists cover a total of 16 Senatorial districts, 104 local zovernment areas, 50 urban centres (which may serve as State capitals, Senatorial district or LGA headquarters) and 140 towns/communities. Because of the inequalities of the states in the numbers of LGAs the number of selected towns/communities ranged from 20-27 per state. These locations, spanning through the length and breadth of the Igbo region east and west of the Niger, were sampled out and projected as probable candidates from which those that may be having comparative advantage for the production of specific crops and animals, and those having access o or proximity to installed facilities for value addition/creation and processing of the products, as well as those having the advantage of being chosen as locations for adoption, incentive provision, and other extension services, and as centres for processing of produced goods from ecommended projects and other products of associated agro-industries for export to nternational markets courtesy of the IBI.

Checklists of Livestock, Crop Production Types, Extension Packages and Export Processing Centres in Designated Locations in the South East and Delta North Zones of Nigeria

The recommended projects' locations were presented separately for (i) livestock, (ii) crops, (iii) xtension and communication and (iv) value addition and export processing respectively as utlined under different headings. For livestock, two sub-sections became necessary: production nd multiplication of the existing local Efigbo, Ewuigbo, and Ezi (Pigs), as well as broiler hickens and day-old chicks for supply to the public on one hand and recommendations for the enetic improvements of our native farm animal species to world class levels, on the other hand. For kinds of projects were aimed to be generating surplus meat and quality stock young bulls, eifers, male and female kids and piglets, along their value chains, for supply to consumers and armers across the region and beyond. The business aspect of the production of the animals in the

projects took a special caution for proper understanding that a viable livestock venture is the type that must be practiced consistently and cognately for not less than 3-5 production cycles which should be within the first 4-5 years of the project. We had to note that the number/stock size would imply the take-off quantity in the 1st production cycle for each project; target size being the envisaged quantity at the 4th -5th year of production; the cost element would indicate the amount it would take to produce the item during the 1st production cycle, while the "benefit" would mean the profit (income-expenditure estimate) over 4-5 years of the production. ("Benefit" could also mean the "profit" after each cycle of production.) Production and multiplication of the livestock and poultry types have been recommended to be cited in 28 out of the 140 locations in the entire Igboland.

Ranging from dairy and beef cattle, goats, to swine and poultry breeds, pure lines of exotic and genetically improved lines of Efigbo, Ewuigbo, Aturuigbo, and Okukuigbo animals have been recommended to be bred at domiciled project sites in on a 2-3community-based axis per species per State in Alaigbo. Similar recommendations were made for the siting of crop production projects, value addition centres, points for adoption, incentive provision, and other extension services, and locations for the processing of produced goods and associated agro-industrial products for export to international markets

Conclusion and General Recommendations

Given the observed relatively high profitability profiles of the Efigbo, Ewuigbo, and Yam production projects, and given also that these food items serve the unique purpose of sustaining the trado-socio-cultural heritage of the Igbo nation which is practiced by the Igbos anywhere in the World, it is hereby recommended that the multiplication and improvement of the listed farm livestock as envisaged in this report be accorded due priority in the implementation of the IBI agricultural development program in Igboland Specifically, cattle production with its value chain pusiness is a lucrative one. When properly harnessed, it will create great wealth and businesses that will impact positively on Ndigbo in Alaigbo. It is therefore recommended that the multiplication and improvement of Efigbo as envisaged in this report be accorded due priority in the implementation of the IBI agricultural development programme for our people.

Engaging in a goat farming involving,say,250 Ewuigbo on a 500m x 500m plot of land with all the facilities installed and well managed, can generate a meaningful profit only if the animals can be milked and product retailed during their lactation stage. Compared to the Toggenburg goat breed which has a universal adaptability for high dairy production, the revenue from our Ewuigbo is far below the range except that the Ewuigbo goat serves the dual purposes of meeting the meat (nutritional) and socio-cultural needs in Igboland. On the other hand, for high economic, nutritional and socio-cultural benefits it is advocated here that the genetic improvement of the WAD goats be considered as outlined in this Report to endow Efigbo with the genome for high grade and permanent dairy productivity in this part of the country.

Broiler production, day-old chick production, and piggery are certainly the "Signature" money spinner projects at any time, which we recommend highly for the economic empowerment of our people. This recommendation is borne out by the facts that they provide abundant quality meat affordable to every home and hence an assured means of sustained food security for our people; surplus produce from the projects will leverage favourable global export competitions from Igboland; provide job and income opportunities for unemployed youths and help stem the tide of their emigration to other climes outside home. Similar benefits are expected from cassava, maize, cocoyam, and other crop production projects with bounteous yields and incomes. On the other hand, the present emphasis being made on the commercial production of spice and snack crops as well as other cuisine and salad veggies (Ose Nsukka, Mmimi, Oha, Utazi, Okazi, cabbage and lettuce, etc), is in the correct direction and hereby recommended. The sustained production and supplies of spice and snack crops will engender a shift to improved dieting for the overall wellness and life-prolonging existence of the Igbo person. Already some of these crops and vegetables are on the export list serving the Diaspora, and hence, more foreign exchange earnings assured.

From the fore going, therefore, this Committee strongly submit this report with the humble brayer that it be duly looked into with a view to finding some (if not all) the project recommendations both feasible and bankeable and the recommended project location s across gboland acceptable.

TLOSSARY OF SOME TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

ATA -Agricultural Transformation Agenda

ABGeN-ng -Animal Breeders and Geneticists Network Nigeria

AfCFTA -African Continental Free Trade Agreement

ADC -Agricultural Development Corporation

ADP -Agricultural Development Programme ('P' formerly was for 'Project')

APP -Agriculture Promotion Policy

ABM -Agribusiness and Marketing

AI -Artificial Insemination

ALAIGBO- Synonym of "Igboland", the land of Igbo people

3LP -Back to Land Program

2A - Comparative advantage (in the production of, and/or and doing business with an agric. produce)

CMB -Cassava Mealy Bug

CF -Community Forum

CODEX Alimentarius- Europe-based food safety code Commission

OCs -Day-old Chicks

DVPCS -Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services

ERG -Eastern Region(al) Government (one of the former regional administrations in Nigeria)

3COWAS -Economic Community of West African States

BMS -Extensive Management System

ENDC -Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation

EPZ -Export Processing Zone

EDF -Export Development Fund

EG -Export Expansion Grant

'AO -Food and Agriculture Organization

LI -Female Line Index

MARD -Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

SM -Green Spider Mite

RM -Green Revolution

31 -Igbo Bu Igbo (Socio-cultural Foundation)

IMS -Intensive Management System

MLI -Male Line Index

Mt -Metric Tons

NGOs -Non-Governmental Organizations

NABC -National Animal Breeding Committee

NAFDAC -National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control

NCRI -National Cereals Research Institute

NRCRI -National Root Crop Research Institute

NAQS -Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Services

NEPC -Nigerian Export Promotion Council

NiNAS -Nigeria National Accreditation Services

OPV -Open Pollinated Cultivar

OFN -Operation Feed the Nation

PRODA -Projects Development Institute

QCAs -Quality Competent Authorities

SON -Standards Organizations of Nigeria

SMS -Semi-intensive Management System

TGBG -Toggenburg Breed of Goat

WADG -West African Dwarf Goat

WTO -World Trade Organization