



United Nations
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UNEVOC

International Centre
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Presented at Global Forum on
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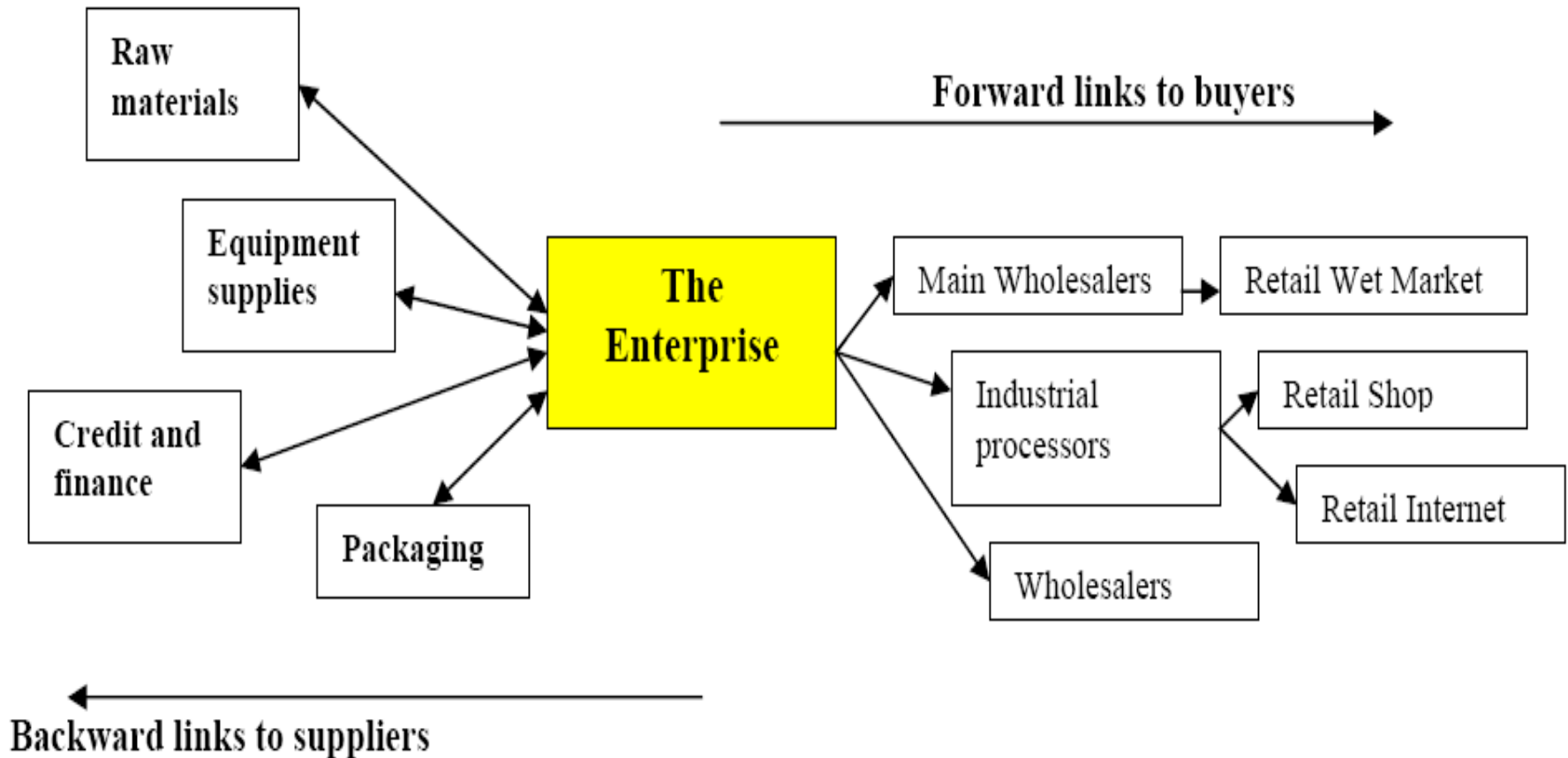
PROMISING PRACTICES (FCT, NIGERIA): YOUTH AND WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

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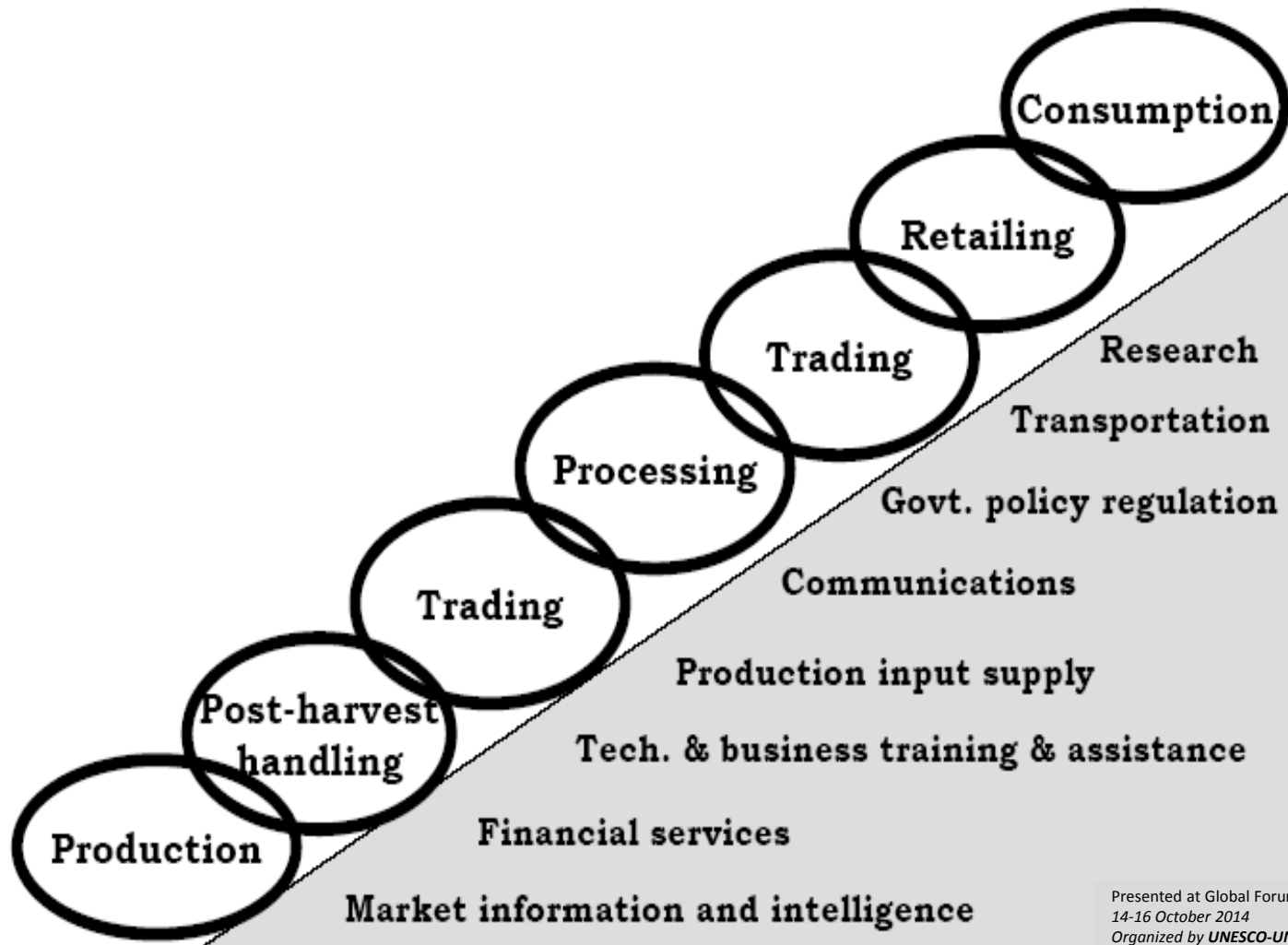
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN.

SOCIETY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL ECONOMY

Small-Scale Rural Producers' Challenges



Important Market Chain Interventions Required by Small Holder Producers



Participating Partners/Collaborators and Their Roles

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No	Stakeholders/Partners	Role
1.	FCTA Department of Economic Planning – MDGs Project Support Unit	Catalytic role in the development, promotion and implementation of this initiative. This PSU has driven the project from inception till now, committing human and material resources to ensure its success. Provision of initial funds for the take-off of micro credits delivery to participants
2.	FCT Agency for Science and Technology (FAST) – International TVE Institute, Utako	Provision of technical and vocational skills training to out-of-school youths and practicing artisans in the FCT.
3.	The six Area Councils in the FCT	Selection of participating communities in collaboration with the Department of Economic Planning. Sponsoring of youths for training and provision of enabling environment at the communities.
4.	Staola Agencies Ltd. (Society for the Development of Rural Economy)	Organization of participating members in the grassroots communities into Trust Groups and the formation of the Apex Association to ensure active participation by members. Training of members and development of operating instruments for the SOCIETY.
5.	Participating Microfinance Banks – HASSAL, FIMS and E-Barcs Microfinance Banks	Mobilization of savings from participants, granting loan facilities and management of loan recovery.
6,	Development Partners (Local and International) – MDGs National Office, UNDP/UNDAF Abuja, DfID, SURE-P, CBN, Bill Gates Foundation	Provision of financial and technical assistance towards the up-scaling of the project; and sponsorship of skills training of participating members

Impact and Testimonials

- Reports of the impact assessments show that all participating communities were satisfied with the programme. Participants have acquired skills and knowledge that has enabled them and their families upgrade their earning capacity. For example revenue from the community maize farm in Kpaduma rose from N150,000 in 2010 to N1,100,000.00 in 2012; and most participating yam producers in the FCT have doubled their production within the 2 years of the intervention. Some pioneer participants on this project have built modest 3-bedroom bungalows for themselves
- They strongly agreed that the project lived up to expectation, the PSU staff and agric agents were prepared and helpful,
- The project has provided opportunities for participants to actively participate in decision makings and apply lessons learnt to improve their lives;
- There has been marked improvement in the lives and economic status of participants that have benefitted from training and micro-credits (as demonstrated by testimonials from 3 pioneer participants:
 - Samuel Wankili from Kpaduma Community in Abuja Municipal Area Council
 - Markus Thomas from Yaupe Community in Bwari Area Council; and
 - Samson Bako from Chikuku in Kwali Area Council.

Conclusion

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- This is the beginning of a long journey that requires painstaking training, retraining and monitoring to ensure best practices are maintained. It has, however, shown that it is beneficial to all.
- Technology Parks have been designed to enable value addition activities at the local level. This will ultimately lead to the establishment of local export processing zones and accelerated growth of economic activities in the FCT. The cassava processing facility in Abaji will soon be ready for commissioning.
- The initiative has shown that poverty can best be eradicated when the poor are trained and aided to become productive, when their self-esteem have been restored and they can reconnect with their inner selves and activate their creative abilities and capabilities..
- The programme has demonstrated a tangible impact on the lives of participants and their communities as well as implementing partners
- It is socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable and can be replicated in any community.; Hence it is a promising practice that can be replicated elsewhere in the Global fight against the scourge of poverty.