

ABSTRACT
PARALLEL WORKING SESSION

ELIMINATION OF HUNGER

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The Elimination of Hunger: The University of Agriculture Experience

Hunger may be defined as a condition in which people do not have enough food with the necessary nutrients for healthy living resulting in malnutrition. It is estimated that one billion people in the world go hungry everyday. In Nigeria 60 million out of 150 million people representing 40% are affected by hunger.

To reverse this trend, the International Community comprising most countries of the world, including Nigeria, met in 2000 and resolved to work towards reducing by half the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, through the implementation of 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Interventions in Nigeria aimed at achieving food security and reduction of hunger include:

- The 8 MDGs and food security which are closely linked and are being leveraged to ensure achievement of food security, poverty alleviation and hunger reduction estimated to cost \$45 billion by 2015.
- Investment by the Nigerian Government of N3.0 trillion in the next 5 years into agricultural development along the entire value chain of production, processing, storage and marketing covering crops, livestock, fisheries and other support services and inputs.
- Faculties of Agriculture in Nigerian Universities are involved in various research interventions towards elimination of hunger.

The University of Agriculture Makurdi which has the mandate to strengthen Nigeria's capacity for agricultural development through the integration of teaching, research, and extension has put in place the following:

- Institute for Food Security (IFS) which runs research programmes that are interlinked in addressing food security and hunger elimination.
- Programmes of outreach activities for technology dissemination to the grassroots.
- College-based programmes for addressing hunger and food security.

All these interventions are aimed at building the capacity of the researcher, the extensionist and the farmer to deliver services to alleviate poverty and hunger.