



# **FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Safety, FMAFS  
Federal Government of Nigeria

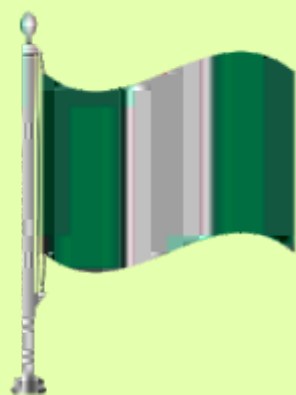
## **NIGERIA AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY STANDARDS GRADING POLICY**

**For a more transparent and profitable Agribusiness**

**2025-2030**

*Facilitated by*

**Nigeria Agribusiness Group, NABG**



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## ACRONYMS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AFRAC	African Accreditation Cooperation
AFRIMETS	Intra-Africa Metrology System
AFSEC	African Electro-technical Standardisation Commission
AIDA	Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa
ARSO	African Regional Standardisation Organisation
ASHAM	African Standards Harmonization
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
BIAT	Boosting Intra-Africa Trade
BIPM	International Bureau of Weights and Measures (Bureau International des Poids et Mesures)
BIPM	Bureau International des Poids et Mesures
CA	Conformity Assessment
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CAB	Conformity assessment body
CAI	Conformity Assessment Infrastructure
CIPM	International Committee for Weights and Measures (Comité International des Poids et Mesures)
CB	Certification Body
CMC	Calibration and Measurement Capability
CRM	Certified Reference Material
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DI	Designated Institute
EAC	East African Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOSHAM	ECOWAS Standards Harmonisation
ECOWAS	Economic Community for West African States
EU	European Union
GRP	Good regulatory practice
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
IEC	International Electro-technical Commission
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
IMEKO	International Measurement Confederation
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ITC	International Trade Centre

ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MoU	Memoranda of Understanding
MSM	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MRA	Multilateral Recognition Arrangement
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NINAS	Nigerian National Accreditation Service
NMIN	National Metrology Institute of Nigeria
NMS	National Measurement Standards
NNQP	Nigerian National Quality Policy
NQI	National Quality Infrastructure
NPL	National Physical Laboratory
NPS	National Primary Standards
NSB	National Standards Body
NQI	National Quality Infrastructure
NSB	National Standards Body
NTB	Non-Tariff Barrier
NTRF	National Technical Regulatory Framework
OIE	Office International des Epizooties (World Organization for Animal Health)
OIML	International Organisation for Legal Metrology (Organisation Internationale de Métrologie Légale)
OPS	Organised Private Sector
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PT	Proficiency Testing
PAQI	Pan African Quality Infrastructure
PPP	Public-Private-Partnership
QI	Quality Infrastructure
QMS	Quality Management System
QP	Quality Policy
RIA	Regulatory impact assessment
REC	Regional Economic Community
RMO	Regional Metrology Organization
SDO	Standards Development Organization
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SI	International System of Units
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SQA	Standardization and Quality Assurance

SQAM	Standardization, Quality assurance, Accreditation and Metrology
SQMT	Standardization, Quality, Metrology and Testing
STC – TIM	Specialized Technical Committee for Trade, Industry and Minerals
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TC	Technical Committee
TOR	Terms of Reference
TR	Technical Regulation
UMA	Arab Maghreb Union
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
WACIP	West Africa Common Industrial Policy
WTO	World Trade Organization

## TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The following Terms and definitions apply to this Nigeria Agricultural Commodity Standards Grading, unless the context determines otherwise. Should there be controversy in interpretation or application of any of these terms in Nigeria Agricultural Commodity Standards grading issues, the definition here shall override any other definition.

**Accreditation** is a third-party attestation related to an authoritative independent body conveying formal demonstration of its competence and impartiality to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks.

**Acidified low-acid food** means a food which has been treated to attain an equilibrium pH of 4.6 or lower after heat processing.

**Agricultural commodity-** means produces or products which are obtained from the production of agriculture, livestock, fishery, or forestry, which is intended for consumption or processing to be food.

**Arthropoda-** means any stage in the life of an invertebrate member of the Animal Kingdom that is bilaterally symmetrical with a segmented body, with jointed limbs that are paired and a chitinous external skeleton.

**Blemishes** - means any mark or skin defects on the surface or outer layer of the commodities which adversely affects the appearance thereof.

**Bruises** - means any pressure which shows an indentation or results in discoloration directly under the skin, adversely affect the quality of the commodities es and is visually noticeable.

**Calibration** is the set of operations that establish, under specified conditions, the relationship between values of quantities indicated by a measuring instrument or measuring system, or values represented by a material measure, or a reference material and the corresponding values realized by standards.

**Carrier container** - means a container in which more than one consumer package of commodity are packed.

**Cat faces** -means a condition involving malformation and scarring of commodities, particularly at the blossom end.

**Chemical residues** - means residues of agricultural remedies which in may include Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and all other substances miscible for the treatment of pests and diseases and which do not exceed the prescribed maximum residue limit.

**Commodity** - A commodity is a basic good used in commerce that is interchangeable with other goods of the same type. Commodities are most often used as inputs in the production of other goods or services. A usually

refers to a raw material used to manufacture finished goods. A product, on the other hand, is the finished good sold to consumers.

**Contaminant** means any substance not intentionally added to food, which is present in such food because of the production (including operations carried out in crop husbandry, animal husbandry and veterinary medicine) manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or holding of such food or because of environmental contamination. The term does not include insect fragments, rodent hairs, and other extraneous matter.

**Consignment** -means a quantity of commodities of the same grade belonging to the same owner which is delivered at any one time under cover of the same consignment note, delivery note or receipt note, or is delivered by the same vehicle, or if such quantity is subdivided into different grades, size groups, cultivars, trademark or, types of packaging, each quantity of each of the different grades, size groups, cultivars, trademarks or, types of packaging.

**Container** -means the immediate container in which commodities are packed directly, the outer container in which prepacked units are packed and bulk containers excluding prepacked units and shipping containers in which pallet loads are shipped.

**Cracks**-means the splitting of the epidermis around the calyx or stem scar; there are two types of commodities cracks:

**Concentric cracking** - is the splitting of commodities skin in a circular pattern.

**Certification** is the procedure by which a third party provides written attestation that a product, process, system, or person fulfils specified requirements.

**Conformity assessment** means the demonstration that specified requirements relating to a product, process, system, person, or body are fulfilled.

**Conformity assessment procedure** means any procedure used, directly or indirectly, to determine that relevant requirements in technical regulations or standards are fulfilled (WTO -TBT Agreement definition);

**Conformity assessment body** means a body that performs conformity assessment services.

**Conformity assessment system** means the rules, procedures, and management for carrying out conformity assessment.

**Decay** - means a state of decomposition, fungal development, or internal insect infestation or excrement or insect damage with signs of tissue collapse which partly or completely affects the quality of the commodities



detrimentally, is visually noticeable.

**Diameter** - means the greatest transverse measurement of a commodities, measured at right angles to a line running from the stem-end to the apex of the commodities.

**Firm** - means a stage of development at which the flesh or surface of the commodities is hard enough to withstand normal commercial handling.

**Food Business Operator (FBO)** means the person or persons responsible for ensuring that the prescribed requirements of these regulations are met within the food business as well as the person with overall authority on site or in the specifics of Microbiological criteria Microbiological Criteria found in agricultural commodities and food shall comply with the requirements by importing countries which consist of: (1) “n” = Minimum number of sample units which shall be examined from a lot of food. (2) “m” = Acceptable microbiological level in sample unit. (3) “c” = The maximum allowable number of sample units in which microbiological level detected are greater than “m”. (4) “M” = The microbiological level specified, when

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**Conformity assessment body** means a body that performs conformity assessment services.

**Conformity assessment system** means the rules, procedures, and management for carrying out conformity assessment.

**Decay** - means a state of decomposition, fungal development, or internal insect infestation or excrement or insect damage with signs of tissue collapse which partly or completely affects the quality of the commodities detrimentally, is visually noticeable.

**Diameter** - means the greatest transverse measurement of a commodities, measured at right angles to a line running from the stem-end to the apex of the commodities.

**Firm** - means a stage of development at which the flesh or surface of the commodities is hard enough to withstand normal commercial handling.

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**Foreign matter** - means any material or substance that is visually noticeable, which does not naturally form part of a commodity in question.

**Food** - means any substance, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, which is intended for human consumption, and includes drink, chewing gum and any substance which has been used in the manufacture, preparation or treatment of “food” but does not include cosmetics or tobacco or substances used only as drugs.

**Food additive** means any substance not normally consumed as a food by itself and not normally used as a typical ingredient of the food, whether or not it has nutritive value, the intentional addition of which to food for technological (including organoleptic) purpose in the manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or holding of such food results, or may be reasonably expected to result, (directly or indirectly) in it or its by-products becoming a component of or otherwise affecting the characteristics of such foods. The term does not include “contaminants” or substances added to food for maintaining or improving nutritional qualities.

**Grade** - means a grade referred to in this policy.

**Graded commodities** - means commodities which have been graded according to the grades specified in this policy and of which the container is marked with a grade designation or other designation indicating that the commodities are of a particular grade or possesses quality properties.

**Harmonized standards** mean standards on the same subject approved by different standardizing bodies, that establish interchangeability of products, processes and services, or mutual understanding of test results or information provided according to these standards.

**Hermetically sealed** containers mean containers which are sealed to protect the contents against the entry of microorganisms during and after heat processing.

**Injury** - means any wound which exposes the flesh of the commodities, excluding a wound which has healed ncompletely or has calloused.

**Inspector** - means the Executive Officer or an inspector under his control or an Assignee or a qualified employee of an Assignee.

**Malformed** - means that the shape of a commodity is not typical of the cultivar concerned.

**Microbiological criteria** - Microbiological Criteria found in agricultural commodities and food shall comply with either the international criteria or those appropriately required by importing countries which consist of:

(a) “n” = Minimum number of sample units which shall be examined from a lot of food.

**Inspector** - means the Executive Officer or an inspector under his control or an Assignee or a qualified employee of an Assignee.

**Inspection** - means the examination of a product design, product, process or installation and determination of its conformity with specific requirements or, on the basis of professional judgement **Low-acid food** - means any food, other than alcoholic beverages, where any component has a pH value greater than 4.6 and water activity greater than 0.85.

**Malformed** - means that the shape of a commodity is not typical of the cultivar concerned.

**Microbiological criteria** - Microbiological Criteria found in agricultural commodities and food shall comply with either the international criteria or those appropriately required by importing countries which consist of:

- (a) “n” = Minimum number of sample units which shall be examined from a lot of food.
- (b) “m” = Acceptable microbiological level in sample unit.
- (c) “c” = The maximum allowable number of sample units in which microbiological level detected are greater than “m”.
- (d) “M” = The microbiological level specified, when exceeded in one or more samples would cause the lot to be rejected.

Where “M” is not indicated, both of “m” and “c” are taken into consideration as judging criteria - Where “M” is indicated, and the microbiological level found is greater than “m”, the total amount of the detected samples shall not be greater than “c”, and the microbiological level found shall not be higher than “M”. - Where appropriate, the number of sample units taken to be inspected may be reduced; however, process control systems and histories of a producer shall be taken into consideration.

**Metrology** means the science of measurement and includes scientific, industrial and metrology. No testing would be possible unless the characteristics of the product or service in question can be measured in a way which compares them against physical or chemical reference of known values. Therefore, adequate methods for measuring the properties of products and services are fundamental to the quality assessment process.

**Metrologically traceable:** means property of a measurement result whereby the result can be related to a reference through a documented unbroken chain of calibrations, each contributing to the measurement uncertainty.

**Maximum Limits, MLs** - The MLs of food additives found in agricultural commodities and food shall comply with either provisions concerning contaminants of Codex, importing country, or the limits established.

**Legal Metrology** means measurement covering mandatory technical requirements. It ensures that measurement pertaining to trade, environment, public health and safety are correct.

**Measurement standard** means a material measure, measuring instrument, reference material or measuring system intended to define, realize, conserve or reproduce a unit, or one or more values of a quantity, to serve as a reference.

**Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)** means an arrangement whereby participating bodies acknowledge to others that the conformity assessment results of the other participating bodies have been produced by competently performed, equivalent procedures.

**National measurement standard** means a measurement standard recognized by national authority to serve in a state or economy as the basis for assigning quantity values to other measurement standards for the kind of quantity concerned.

**National Metrology Institute, NMI** means institution designated by national decision to develop and maintain national measurement standards for one or several quantities.

**National Quality Infrastructure (NQI):** The totality of the institutional framework (public or private) required to establish and implement **standardization, metrology** (scientific, industrial and legal), accreditation and conformity assessment services (**inspection, testing** and product and system **certification**) necessary to provide acceptable evidence that products

and services meet defined requirements, be it demanded by authorities (technical regulation) or the market place (contractually or inferred). The NQI is the key tool for the implementation of the National Quality Policy.

**Nigeria National Quality Policy (NNQP):** An official national document adopted at a highest level of a Country (Government or National Assembly) which gives the general visions on quality and technical regulation issues that are in coherence with the general national policy adopted by the national authorities in all the areas.

**National Standard** means a standard that is adopted by a national standards body and made available to the public.

**National Standards Body** means a standards body recognised at the national level that is eligible to be the national member of the corresponding international and regional standards organisations.

**The Policy** - means the Nigeria Agricultural Commodity Standards Grading Policy.

Production systems concerning handling, preparation, and processing (after primary production) shall comply with General Principles of Food Hygiene and/or Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) as appear in the Recommended International Code of Practice; General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969, Rev.4-2003), and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) System and Guidelines for Its Application (TAS 9024). or Nigeria Agricultural Standards.

**Pesticide-** means any substance intended for preventing, destroying, attracting, repelling, or controlling any pest including unwanted species of plants or animals during the production, storage, transport, distribution and processing of food, agricultural commodities, or animal feeds or which may be administered to animals for the control of ectoparasites. The term includes substances intended for use as a plant growth regulator, defoliant, desiccant, fruit thinning agent, or sprouting inhibitor and substances applied to crops either before or after harvest to protect the commodity from deterioration during storage and transport. The term normally excludes fertilizers, plant and animal nutrients, food additives, and animal drugs.

**Pest** - Any quarantine pest of importing countries shall not be detected in agricultural commodities which have a potential to be vectors. The commodities shall be obtained from appropriate management measures which are based on scientific justification according to bilateral agreement between the exporting and importing countries.

**Pesticide residue** means any specified substance in food, agricultural commodities, or animal feed resulting from the use of a pesticide. The term includes any derivatives of a pesticide, such as conversion products, metabolites, reaction product, and impurities considered to be of toxicological significance. The residues of authorized pesticides found in agricultural



commodities and food shall not exceed the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs). In case of persistent pesticides that have been banned for agricultural use for a long period, yet the residues still exist in general environments, these residues remaining in the commodities and food shall not be greater than the Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits (EMRLs).

**Public** in the context of the private and public sector includes independent statutory bodies.

**Policy** means a guide to the action or decisions of people, aimed at helping to achieve the objectives in a consistent manner.

**Policy measures** means something that is done to implement a policy.

**Quality Infrastructure (QI)** is a system comprising the organizations (public and private) together with the policies, relevant legal and regulatory framework, and practices needed to support and enhance the quality, safety and environmental soundness of goods, services and processes. Quality infrastructure is required for the effective operation of domestic markets, and its international recognition is important to enable access to foreign markets. It is a critical element in promoting and sustaining economic development, as well as environmental and social wellbeing. It relies on metrology, standardization, accreditation, conformity assessment, and market surveillance.

**Quality** means the degree to which a set of inherent characteristics or distinguishing feature fulfils requirements that are stated, generally implied or obligatory.

**Quality Assurance** means part of quality management focused on providing confidence that quality requirements will be fulfilled.

**Quality management** means the coordinated activities to direct and control an organization with regard to quality.

**Quarantine pest** means a pest of potential economic importance to an area officially defined by importing country endangered thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled.

**Radial cracking** - is the splitting of the commodities skin from the stem scar towards the blossom end.

**Residues of veterinary drugs** include the parent compounds and/or their metabolites in any edible portion of the animal product and include residues of associated impurities of the veterinary drug concerned Production systems. Primary production of food obtained from plant, livestock and fish shall comply with relevant Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) specified in certain Nigeria Agricultural Standards. Residues of veterinary drugs are authorized for use in food producing animal found in agricultural commodities and food must not exceed the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) established. Residues

of authorized veterinary drugs for use in food producing animal shall refer to either the MRLs elaborated by Codex, or those appropriately required by importing countries.

**Regulator** means authority that carries out the mandate given under the law to oversee implementation and administration of technical regulations and includes national and provincial government departments, local authorities and regulatory agencies established by legislation.

**Rules of Procedure** mean a set of formally adopted rules and/or guidelines for activities undertaken by constituted cooperation structures, committees, subcommittees or working groups.

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**Rules of Procedure** mean a set of formally adopted rules and/or guidelines for activities undertaken by constituted cooperation structures, committees, subcommittees or working groups.

**SI Units of measurements** means a universal, practical system of units of measurement.

adopted by the General Conference on Weights and Measures, which is the international authority on the metric system.

**Standard** means a document, established by consensus, and approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in each context.

**Standardisation** means the activity of establishing, regarding actual or potential problems, provisions for common and repeated use, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in each context.

**Standards Body** means a body recognised at national, regional, or international level that has as a principal function, by virtue of its statutes,

the preparation, approval, or adoption of standards that are made available to the public.

**Supplier** means any organization or person that brings a good or a service into circulation or onto the marketplace, irrespective of who the manufacturer is.

**Size group** means a size group describe for a particular category of commodity.

**The established MRLs and EMRLs** of the residues of any authorized pesticide refer to the MRLs elaborated by the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme (Codex), or those appropriately required by importing countries. However, the residues of the pesticides regulated as Type Four Hazardous Substance in accordance with the Notification process of hazardous substances issued in line by the relevant agencies shall not be found.

**Technical regulation** means a document which lays down product characteristics or their related processes and production methods, including the applicable administrative provisions, with which compliance is mandatory. It may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labelling requirements as they apply to a product, process, or production method.

**Technical Barrier to Trade:** Non-tariff barriers that generally result from the preparation, adoption and application of different technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.

**TBT Agreement:** The World Trade Organizations Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) – sometimes referred to as the Standard Code – aims to reduce impediments to trade resulting from difference between national regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures.

**Traceability of Measurement:** The result of a measurement or the value of a standard that can be related to stated references, usually national or international measurement standards through an unbroken chain of comparisons; all having stated uncertainties.

**Testing** means the determination of one or more characteristics of any material, product (including a service) or process according to a procedure.

**Third party** means a party independent from the supplier (first party) and the purchaser (second party) in the context of conformity assessment. For example, standard developer (supplier) and Conformity Assessment Body check for conformity to the standards (purchaser) and Accreditation is independent of the two (Third Party).

**Ungraded commodities** - means commodities which have not been graded according to the grades specified in this policy and the quality specifications in



the standard and of which the container is marked with a designation to indicate that no definite grade or grade has been applied to the container; and

**Unprocessed-** means that the commodities have not been cooked, peeled, dried, or processed in any other way, excluding sorting, grading, packing, or cleaning practices.

**Unspecified defects** - means any defects caused by physiological and non-physiological factors affecting the quality of the commodities detrimentally.

**Unspecified defects** - means any defects caused by physiological or non-physiological action. Contaminants existing in agricultural commodities and food shall not exceed the Maximum Levels of physiological factors affecting the quality of the commodities detrimentally.

**Veterinary drug** means any substance applied or administered to any food producing animal, such as meat or milk producing animals, poultry, fish, or bees, whether used for therapeutic, prophylactic, or diagnostic purposes or for modification of physiological functions or behaviour.



## PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

Fellow Nigerians,

I write to support a national agricultural commodity grading system. I hereby express my unwavering support for Nigeria's groundbreaking Agricultural Commodity Grading Policy. This policy, spearheaded by the Nigeria Agribusiness Group (NABG), marks a pivotal moment in our nation's journey toward economic prosperity and global competitiveness.

As a forward looking country, we need this policy to address the current challenges with our agricultural commodity trading and export. This policy will address the issue of Nigeria commodities and product rejects at certain markets. Farmers have long faced the heartbreaking reality of their hard-earned produce being rejected in international markets. This rejection not only harms our economy but also undermines the efforts of our dedicated agricultural workforce. The Commodity Grading Policy aims to eliminate such rejections by ensuring that every commodity leaving Nigeria meets rigorous standards.

Our commodities shall achieve global acceptance through a faithful implementation of commodity grading policy. Our commodities shall thrive in the global agricultural landscape if align with international benchmarks for quality and grading

prescribed in this policy. By implementing this policy, we signal our commitment to excellence, making Nigerian produce more attractive and acceptable worldwide.

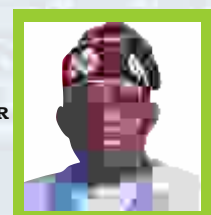
More importantly, our farmers shall have fair Value for their sweat and investment. Our commodities are properly graded, farmers receive fair compensation for their labour. This policy empowers them by creating predictability in prices and encouraging sustainable farming practices.

The policy emphasizes the need for standardized products. No longer will consumers face uncertainty when choosing from our shelves. Graded and standardized commodities ensure fairness for both producers and consumers. The policy is a multi-stakeholders developed and validated by the agriculture and agri-business community through rigorous validation across all six geopolitical zones. Experts, stakeholders, and farmers were actively involved in shaping the text of this policy. We will ensure that its implementation will be driven by the public and private sector.

As your President, I wholeheartedly endorse the Commodity Grading Policy. Let us stand united in our pursuit of excellence, ensuring that "Nigerian Agricultural Commodities" becomes synonymous with quality, reliability, and pride.

Thank you, and may our fields yield abundance for generations to come.

**BOLA AHMED TINUBU** GCFR  
President And Commander-in-chief  
Federal Republic Of Nigeria





## **STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY**

*Fellow Nigerians,*

*As we embark on the journey to transform Nigeria's agricultural sector, I wholeheartedly endorse the implementation of the Agricultural Commodity Grading Policy. This policy represents a crucial step toward enhancing the quality, competitiveness, and marketability of our agricultural produce.*

*The grading system will provide standardized criteria for evaluating the quality of various commodities, including grains, fruits, vegetables, livestock, and processed products. By assigning grades based on factors such as size, colour, texture, and nutritional content, we can ensure transparency and fairness in trade.*

*I have put my support this policy for the following reason:*

- ✓ **Quality Assurance:** Grading system will instil confidence among consumers, traders, and exporters. It assures them that the products they buy or sell meet specific quality standards.
- ✓ **Market Access:** Standardized grades, Nigerian agricultural products will gain better access to both domestic and international markets. Buyers will have clear information about the quality they can expect.
- ✓ **Price Discovery:** Allows for fair pricing based on quality. Farmers who produce high-quality commodities will be rewarded, encouraging better practices and increased productivity.
- ✓ **Value Chain Enhancement:** By implementing this policy, we strengthen the entire agricultural value chain—from production to processing, packaging, and distribution.

*As we roll out the grading system, I urge all stakeholders—farmers, processors, traders, and government agencies—to collaborate. Let us work together to ensure its effective implementation, monitor its impact, and continuously improve our agricultural practices.*

*Together, we can elevate Nigeria's agricultural sector to new heights, ensuring food security, economic growth, and prosperity for all.*

**SENATOR ABUBAKAR KYARI**

Honourable Minister

Federal Ministry Of Agriculture And Food Security.



Fellow Nigerians,

It is my pleasure to endorse Nigerian Agricultural Commodity Grading Policy. The grading system will provide standardized criteria for evaluating the quality of various commodities, including grains, fruits, vegetables, livestock, and processed products. By assigning grades based on factors such as size, colour, texture, and nutritional content, we can ensure transparency and fairness in trade.

On behalf of our ministry, I express strong support for the Agricultural Commodity Grading Policy. This policy aims to enhance transparency, quality, and efficiency in our agricultural sector. By ensuring standardized grading across commodities, we empower farmers, aggregators, processors, producers and consumers, fostering trust and promoting fair trade.

As we move forward, I am committed to working closely with stakeholders in both public and private sector of our economy to ensure effective implementation and positive impact in our commodity markets.

I wish us a successful implementation of this policy.

**Her Excellency, Doris Nkiruka Uzoka-Anite**

The Honourable Minister

Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment.

Federal Republic of Nigeria.



## **The President, Nigeria Agribusiness Group, NABG**

### **Statement of Support for Nigeria Agricultural Commodity Grading Policy**

As the President of the Nigeria Agribusiness Group (NABG), I wholeheartedly endorse the approval and implementation of the Nigeria Agricultural Commodity Standards Grading Policy. This groundbreaking policy aims to revolutionize Nigeria's agricultural sector by ensuring that commodities produced within our nation meet international standards and receive fair value.

The Council and board of NABG recognizes the detrimental impact of commodity rejection on our economy. We are committed to ensuring that no Nigerian commodity exported abroad faces rejection due to inadequate grading or lack of standards. We seek to ensure that safety, health and wellness of our people are guaranteed through grading system that allows only safe commodities into our markets.

By embracing a robust grading system, we empower farmers, marketers, and processors. Standardized commodities lead to predictable prices and make agriculture a more attractive business venture. The commodity market become more attractive with the transparency and predictability provided by this policy. The Nigeria Agricultural Commodity Standards Grading Policy is the first private sector-driven initiative of its kind. It reflects our determination at Nigeria Agribusiness Group to enhance the quality and acceptance of Nigerian produce globally.

We look forward to the successful implementation of this policy, which will contribute significantly to our nation's economic prosperity. Let us work together to eliminate commodity rejection and elevate Nigeria's position in the global agricultural market.

On behalf of Nigerians, the Agribusiness Group value chains, and the private sector, I wish thank our partners and all those that worked tirelessly on the development of this policy.

Sincerely,

**Arc Kabiru Ibrahim**

President, Nigeria Agribusiness Group (NABG)



## **Statement of Support for Nigeria Agricultural Commodity Grading Policy**

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Dear People of Nigeria,

As the Director General of the Nigeria National Accreditation System (NiNAS), I wholeheartedly endorse the Nigeria Agricultural Commodity Grading Policy. This groundbreaking initiative represents a pivotal moment in our nation's agricultural sector, and NiNAS is fully committed to supporting its successful implementation.

We are committed to providing comprehensive accreditation services necessary for the effective execution of the grading system. Our team of experts will rigorously assess and accredit laboratories, inspection bodies, and certification bodies involved in the grading process.

We will ensure that these entities adhere to international standards, enhancing the credibility and reliability of the grading system.

NiNAS will collaborate with relevant stakeholders to enhance technical competence and proficiency. Our training programs, workshops, and capacity-building initiatives will empower professionals involved in grading and quality assurance. Our goal is to foster a skilled workforce capable of maintaining consistency and accuracy in commodity grading through accreditation system. NiNAS will promote transparency by ensuring impartiality, confidentiality, and ethical conduct throughout the accreditation process. We pledge to uphold the highest standards of integrity, building trust among producers, exporters, and consumers.

The successful implementation of the Nigeria Agricultural Commodity Grading Policy requires collective effort. Let us work hand in hand—government agencies, private sector players, and civil society—to elevate our agricultural exports to global standards while ensuring that our people consume safe, healthy and nourishing food and beverages produced using appropriate grades of our agricultural commodities. .

Together, we can transform Nigeria into a hub of quality agricultural produce, bolstering our economy and securing a brighter future for generations to come.

Sincerely,

**CELESTINE ONWUZULIKE OKANYA**

*Director General, Nigeria National Accreditation System (NiNAS)*



**NIGERIA AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY -  
STANDARDS GRADING POLICY (2025 -2030)**

Policy relating to the quality, grading, packing, and marking of commodities.

This policy development was facilitated by Nigeria Agribusiness Group, NABG and funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Title:

**NIGERIA AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY STANDARDS  
GRADING POLICY (2025-2030)**

**Policy Name : Agricultural Ccommodity Sstandards Grading Policy**

**Approval Authorities:**

First Step: NABG Board of Directors  
Responsible Body for Approval: NABG

*Second Step: Federal Executive Council  
Federal Republic of Nigeria, FEC*

*Co-sponsors:*

1. *Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, FMAFS*
2. *Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment, FMITI.*

*NABG shall partner with the government, private sector organizations and international donor partners to ensure success of this project. NABG as private sector organisation is at liberty to pursue the implementation of all or part of the proposals in this policy document within the private sector domains.*

**Sponsors:**

Nigeria Agribusiness Group, NABG  
NABG SECRETARIAT

Abuja

Funded by

The Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation (BMGF)

## **POLICY PARTICULARS**

Adoption Page

**Adopting Authority :**  
The Council,  
Nigeria Agribusiness Group NABG

Signatures

Date

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President, NABG

Approval Notes



## **POLICY PARTICULARS**

Approval Page

### **Approval Authority :**

Federal Executive Council, FEC  
Federal Republic of Nigeria

Signatures

Date

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Permanent Secretary  
Federal Executive Council

Approval Notes

## Nigeria Agricultural Commodity Grading Policy

## CHAPTER I - INTRODUCTION

*Our journey to commodity standards grading, why,  
how and what we must do*

### **PART 1.1 Rationale/Reasons for commodity grading of Nigeria**



Measures of the quality of commodities can be measured in various ways. To some extent "quality" depends on the needs of the end user. The quality properties of an agricultural commodities are affected by genetic traits, growing period, harvest timing, grain harvesting and handling equipment, drying system, storage management practices, and transportation procedures. In general, measures of the quality of commodity can be separated into physical, sanitary, and intrinsic traits. Physical traits relate to the physical appearance or characteristic of the external covering of the commodity.

Examples of physical traits include test weight, kernel size, moisture content, damaged kernels, and other properties of the grain that can be determined by physical inspection or mechanical separations. Sanitary traits relate to the cleanliness of the grain. Sanitary traits include the presence of dockage and foreign material, as well as other undesirable materials such as fungi and mycotoxin, insects and insect fragments, rodent excrements, toxic seeds, pesticide residue, or commercially objectionable odours. Intrinsic traits are often critical to the functionality of the grain but usually can only be determined by analytical tests. Traits such as protein, ash, and gluten content, milling yield, oil content, starch content, hardness, germination percentage, and feed value are all examples of intrinsic traits which could affect the value of a grain for a particular use.

In addition to these measures of quality, there are market-based quality measures. An obvious example would be the designation of organic. While it is difficult to distinguish organic agricultural produce based on physical appearance, cleanliness, or analytical tests, the property may have value to end users and thus result in a difference in value. Market-based traits are usually reflected by premiums or discounts. The importance of these traits also often varies across markets. For example, the absence of genetically modified varieties might be important in one market and have no value in another.

A system of grades and standards improves the efficiency of the marketing system by communicating to buyers and sellers the properties of the commodity being marketed. Grades provide a common trading language, or

common reference, so buyers and sellers can more easily determine the quality (and value) of commodities. Grade and standards improve price discovery, the process by which buyers and sellers arrive at the transaction price for a given quantity and quality of grain at a given time and place. Uniform grades and standards are essential for electronic commodity markets and futures markets to function. Grades and standards also communicate what commodity characteristics are or are not permissible. An efficient grading system must have several characteristics. It must measure characteristics that are important to users and that can be accurately and uniformly measured. It must be easily applied and not slow the process of handling and transportation. It must measure quality characteristics that are available in significant volume and important to a significant number of users to justify the costs of measuring the characteristic and segregating the commodity. The establishment of specifications for grades and standards can be difficult. Scientists and the trade tend to develop standards that are easily measured but not necessarily informative or accurate. Conflicts may arise between buyers and sellers, and compromises may form part of marketing negotiations. In the end, specifications must be indicative of value to the end user, otherwise the end users will not use the grades.

Changes in the preferences of consumers, the ultimate end users, have increased the pressures on the system. Marketing agreements have had to evolve and now often include more specific and tighter quality conditions. Marketers and end users have increased their reliance on grower contracts and identity-preserved systems to meet and document specifications. In some cases, documentation is required on the type of seed and variety planted and a history of pesticide use, as well as specific information on the nutrient content of the grain. The result is tighter control and a need to preserve the integrity of the product as it moves through the system. Such extra control leads to greater costs, with higher prices for end users but not necessarily better prices for producers.

It is important to have a grading system which accurately describes products in a uniform and meaningful manner. Grades and standards contribute to operational and pricing efficiency by providing buyers and sellers with a system of communicating price and product information. Commodities are indistinguishable from one another. However, there are differences between grades, and this must be communicated to the market.

By the same measure, buyers require a mechanism to signal which grades they are willing to purchase and at what premium or discount. Prices vary among the grades depending upon the relative supply of and demand for each grade. Since the value of a commodity is directly, affected by its grade,

disputes can and do arise. In fact, the government or private sector organization may establish grading services to serve as a disinterested third party.

Grading typically occurs at the assembly stage or when a product moves into storage, during storage, or just before it leaves storage. Grading is not normally a separate marketing stage. It is a function provided by the storage firm or the commodity merchant or the government. Prescribed procedures for grading are set forth by the trade members of commodity markets or else are stated in governments regulations. Grading may be undertaken by a member of the trade specialising in a particular commodity. Several lots of grain, oilseeds, and cotton are combined to produce a grade level required for a particular sale. This gives rise to what are known as house grades. A merchant's primary marketing advantage may be a reputation for house grades of consistent quality.

The absence of grades and standards restricts the development of effective and efficient marketing systems.

### **PART 1.2 The Status of the commodity standards grading in Nigeria.**

Historically, produce standards and grading has been practiced since the colonial era in Nigerian territory. Some of the ordinances, orders, and much later Decrees where standards and grading of commodities where mentioned include the followings:

1. *Nigeria Central marketing Board Ordinances of 1955 (No 1 of 1955).*
2. *The export of Nigeria Produce Ordinance of 1958.*
3. *The Produce enforcement of Export Standards Ordinances 1959.*
4. *The Produce (enforcement of export standards) Ordinance 1959*
5. *Export of Nigeria Produce (Prescribed Grades and Standards) Regulations of 1959.*
6. *Federal Produce Inspection Regulations, 1961.*
7. *Export of Nigeria Produce (Prescribed Grades and standards) (AMENDMENT) Regulations 1979.*
8. *Copra (inspection for export) Regulations, 1979.*  
*Coffee (inspection for export) Regulations, 1979*  
*Export of Rubber (Prescribed Grades and Standards) Regulations 1979*  
*Pest Control in Port areas Regulations 1969*  
*Decree No.30 of 29<sup>th</sup> May 1968 – Pest Control of Produce (Special Powers) Decree 1968.*  
*Declaration of Port Areas Order, 1969.*

*The commodities or produce that had specific standard grading requirements for export included the followings; Benniseed, Capsicums, cassava starch, Cocoa, Copra, Cotton seeds, Cotton lint, Fruits, Fruit products, Ginger, Groundnut, Groundnut cake, Palm Kernels, Palm oil, Rubber and Soyabeans.*

Unfortunately, Nigeria's agricultural produce market abandoned commodity grading principles many years ago. You may not find a commodity marked or labelled as grade 1 or 2 in our local markets. It is also difficult to find properly segregated commodities with required marking in our commodity markets.

This unfortunate lapse in our commodity trading practice reflects negatively on our market performance and global market reach. Buyers lack confidence in our commodity integrity and reliability of our commodity labeling is also very discouraging. The defunct Nigeria Commodity board relied on grading to ensure that there was transparency and fairness in the commodity trading. The benefits the commodity Boards enjoyed from application of the concept of agricultural commodity grading were well documented.

Due to lack of a Standards Grading System, Farmers face increased risks and uncertainties leading to considerable low production and price volatility.

**Other challenges include:**

Lack of adequate market information diminishes the ability of farmers and traders to make informed decisions, increase their risk, and raise transaction costs.

Prohibitively high financing costs, coupled with inflation and currency devaluation, depress investment in rural areas thereby diminishing both the quality and competitiveness of the agricultural sector.

Lack of adequate and timely information (production estimates, trade trends, crop prices) Inadequate support systems, both public (extension) and private (producers associations, retail inputs, vertical supply chain integration)  
The inability to smooth markets and improve food security by storing products (infrastructure, storage standards, financing).

The shortage of capital and relatively thin domestic markets further depress the emergence of agroindustry, a subsector that is already hampered by high energy and transport costs, unsuitable processing varieties, inadequate quality, and costly production inputs and packaging.

To restore the confidence on Nigeria Commodity trading system, particularly, as we compete with other trading countries in AfCFTA and the global market, Nigeria Agricultural Commodity Standards Grading must be re-invented. It is also important to mention here that Nigeria continues to lose huge foreign

revenues due to commodity reject at some destination countries. A working and reliable grading system shall address the gaps that resulted to issues of produce reject and ban on Nigeria agricultural produce in some countries.

### **PART 1.3 African Continental Free Trade Area and commodity grading**

The British introduced commodity grading most likely to ensure transparency and protection of British businesses buying these export commodities from Nigeria. Grading ensured that they purchased exactly what they paid for.

It is therefore important to rekindle the flame of standards grading of commodities lit in 1955 now that we had begun trading in the Africa's single market under African Continental Free Trade Agreement, AfCFTA.

Nigerian farmers and Agribusinesses will benefit a lot from this policy. NACSGP will enthrone an era of transparency, equity, and profitability in commodity trading. The commodity market will become more predictable and bankable.

The value of commodity standards grading cannot be overemphasized. This policy is intended to provide guidance and control in commodity trading for both local market and for export from Nigerian territory. This policy will be a useful guide to government in furthering its actions towards achieving a viable agriculturally based economy. The stakeholders will find value in transparency and equity it provides in commodity related transactions.

### **PART 1.4 Aim of the NABG AC-SGP of Nigeria**

The purpose of this policy is to establish NABG standard guidelines for the grading of agricultural commodities to ensure consistency in quality and pricing, and to protect consumers from substandard products.

The aim of this policy is to provide a framework for a system that ensures categorization of agricultural produce or products into different lots, each containing similar characteristics.

The characteristics could be one or more of the followings, sizes, flavour, ripeness, length of staples, location oriented, wholesomeness, dryness, or water content and many more.

NABG AC-SGP aim to that Nigeria's commodity market take advantage of standards grading to achieve uniformity of quality of produce, possibilities of differential pricing, increase in demand, elimination of risks and guaranteed transparency in trading of commodities.

If successfully achieved, our commodity market shall expand significantly. The trading system shall become more predictable to attract Bank products, hence making finances available. Above all, it will eliminate multiple inspection activities.

## **PART 1.5 Vision for the Policy**

The vision of Nigeria Agricultural Commodity Standards Grading Policy, is a commodity market where no commodity is sold or bought unless such commodity has been properly sorted, segregated, and graded into one of the four available grades (grade 1, grade 2, grade 3 and grade 4), with proper bagging or packaging, markings and labeling. The establishment of this policy on standards grading of commodities is based on international standards and guidelines recommended by international organizations which are the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme (Codex), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and Office International des Epizootic (OIE). Additionally, the contents exist in the standard are also in accordance with scientific-based information and importing countries' standards and regulations to develop and adopt relevant commodity standards grades for purpose of trading.

Grading of such agricultural commodity based on their characteristics starting with commodities of interest for Nigeria's competitiveness in the AfCFTA.

## **PART 1.6 Objectives of the NABG AC-SGP**

### **The objectives of NABG AC-SGP are as follows:**

Standardisation of Nigeria Agricultural Commodities by utilizing existing standards such Standards Organisation of Nigeria, SON to further

To design and adopt a grading, bagging, labeling with a reliable marking system for Nigerian agricultural commodities.

To fast-track Nigeria's potential leadership in AfCFTA agricultural commodity market.

To increase Nigeria's commodity trading globally while making it more profitable for farmers, distributors, and exporters.

## **PART 1.6 The Policy Drivers**

Many agricultural commodities today exist in a new business and safety environment, one that has industrial specification characteristics, sophisticated logistics, concentration of actors, and increasingly more demanding standards grading. As competition becomes global, markets tend to differentiate and are best served by logistically sophisticated supply chains that coordinate and concentrate information, finance, technology, and risk.

These vertically integrated supply chains allow participants to achieve higher levels of service, and to capture substantial added value, but one of their prerequisites is adequate and consistent standards grading system.



Consumers in industrialized nations today demand increasingly sophisticated levels of quality and they are also driving a new set of standards that cover child labor issues, working conditions, and environmentally damaging processes.

They are more than ever interested in processes that occur in even the most distant producing countries. With the expanding globalization of trade, these various grades and standards help to set the 'rules of the game' and their implications for the participation and competitiveness of developing countries are becoming increasingly relevant. As the development and application of standards grading are becoming a critical component of regional and international agreements, they have replaced tariffs as a hot political economics topic, particularly regarding sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues and technical barriers to trade (TBT).

The drivers of this policy will therefore include the following:

**Nigeria Agribusiness Group, NABG**, a body that is the leading voice for Agribusiness investors in Nigeria. This policy will surely strengthen the potential of different agricultural value chains. NABG can provide an independent private sector driven inspection, testing, and certification services of agricultural commodity grading system. NABG can develop market and maintain marked, graded bags production and distribution in a commodity exchange programme. NABG is providing funding and technical support in the development of this policy. Federal Produce Inspection Services, FPIS of The Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment, FMITI regulates and ensure that only good quality Agricultural produce that meet national and international quality standards are exported out of or imported into Nigeria thereby creating foreign exchange earnings and employment to Nigerians that are involved in either export or processing of Agricultural produce.

The practice of commodity grading started with the Federal Produce department in the 1950s. Standards grading will continue to be of great value to the achievement of the mandates of FPIS.

NABG recognise this regulatory role of FPIS. To support the achievement of the objectives of the Ministry in this regard, NABG deemed it important and urgent to enthrone commodity grading system. The private sector is at liberty to provide to our economy, a private sector driven, sector specific commodity

grading initiative that compliments the effort of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment.

**Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, FMAFS** is mandated to ensure food security in crop, livestock, and fisheries, stimulate agricultural employment and services, promote the production and supply of raw materials to agro-industries, provide markets for the products of the industrial sector, generate foreign exchange, and aid rural socio-economic development. In fulfillment of the above mandate, FMARD must organize and manage the agriculture sector and facilitate agribusiness for increased food security and employment along commodity value chains and agro-industrial development to earn foreign exchange and contribute to socio-economic development of the country.

It will be impossible to achieve this mission with a reliable standard grading system for agricultural commodities. This policy is therefore a very important policy for the ministry. It is therefore expected that FMAFS champions the approval of this policy as a national policy. It is also expected that FMARD will further provide support for ensuring that this policy receives an appropriate legal framework.

**Standards Organisation of Nigeria, SON** is the National Standards Body for Nigeria, among other roles, coordinates development and adoption of standards relating to products, measurements, materials and processes among others, and their promotion at the national, regional, and international levels.

SON stated that they have adopted many commodity standards in Nigeria. These published standards provide a key tool and guidance for standards grading of agricultural commodities. SON will continue to play a strong role in the coordination of standards development strategy.

**The Nigeria National Accreditation System (NiNAS)** is Nigeria's national accreditation body recognised internationally to accredit conformity assessment bodies (CABs) such as laboratories (testing, medical testing, and calibration), inspection bodies and certification bodies, in accordance with the relevant ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation) series of standards and guides. NiNAS' accreditation attests to the technical competence and impartiality of the CABs to provide conformity assessment

services that are recognised internationally.

Standards grading will require inspection services and inspectors. Furthermore, the grading system will need to be assessed for competence, impartiality, and consistency. The above activities are best described as accreditation activities. NiNAS is committed to providing all relevant accreditation services that this policy may require.

### **PART 1.7 SCOPE**

This policy applies to all agricultural commodities traded in the market, including but not limited to grains, fruits, vegetables, livestock, and dairy products.

This policy applies to be used as a reference for agricultural commodities and food producers to advantages of food safety improvement, trade benefits and consumer's health protection. This technical standard for grading indicates safety criteria and limits that contribute to the inspection and certification schemes on the safety of agricultural commodities and food. These standards cover three groups of agricultural commodities and food including their produce or products: namely, plant, livestock, and fish. This policy therefore applies to all agricultural commodities. Its primary application is for NABG members who wish to access both local and international market by riding on the trust and confidence this policy will provide in our export good. NABG will drive this initiative to become one of the reliable and trusted agricultural commodity grading systems in Africa and in the global market.

Government of Nigeria may partner with NABG for the possibilities of nationwide application in Nigeria's commodity market.

## CHAPTER TWO: The Governance Structures



This policy may be managed in part by a private sector system or government may at decide to adopt it, in which case the governance structure shall be designed to fit its ownership and the implementing body.

### Private Sector Commodity Grading

Private sector organizations, such as NABG, Commodity trading companies, and commodity exchange market owners may use a variety of methods to manage agricultural commodity grading for trading purposes. Here are some of the most common methods:

#### **Internal grading systems:**

Many trading companies develop their own internal grading systems to evaluate the quality of the commodities they trade. These grading systems are typically based on established industry standards but may include additional criteria specific to the company's needs. The grading results are used to determine pricing and trading decisions. NABG shall consider this option greatly.

#### **Third-party grading services:**

Some trading companies rely on third-party grading services to evaluate the quality of the commodities they trade. These grading services are often accredited by regulatory bodies or industry associations and provide an objective and independent evaluation of the commodities. The grading results are used to determine pricing and trading decisions. NABG may choose to provide a third-party grading service for agricultural commodities.

#### **Contractual specifications:**

Trading companies may also use contractual specifications to establish the quality requirements for the commodities they trade. These specifications may include specific grading criteria, such as size, colour, moisture content, or other factors, and may be based on established industry standards or the company's own internal grading system. The grading results are used to determine pricing and trading decisions.

This policy seeks the government establishment of a governance structure that ensures the followings:

1. A streamlined grading and marking of agricultural commodities in Nigeria and further recommends that the Central Government to make Rules for:
  - a) Fixing grade designations to indicate quality of any agricultural commodity to be scheduled in response to this policy.
  - b) Defining the quality indicated by every grade designation, and
  - c) Specifying grade designation marks to represent grade designation.
2. This policy proposes that the government put in place procedures for grant
  - I. Certificate of Authorisation to companies to issue Nigeria Agricultural Commodity Grading Mark (NAGC-Mark), Certificate.
  - II. Use of NAGC-Mark in labelling and marketing Nigeria's agricultural commodities.
  - III. Support setting up of laboratories dedicated to agro-products analysis, Inspection and certification bodies for implementation of this policy.
  - IV. To recognise NAGC –Mark Certificate issued by authorised agents to be evidence of compliance to the ascribed grade on any agricultural commodity.
  - V. That appropriate government regulator take actions on offences, fraud, non compliances and irregularities related to commodity grading for both local market and for Nigeria's export.
  - VI. That government ensure that NAGC-Mark becomes a another tool for consumer protection measures by providing information on commodity specific requirements relating to hygienic aspects, packaging, labelling and grade standards based on quality parameters. Grade standards notified as per the provisions of this policy shall be popularly called NAGC-MARK Standards.
3. Put in place a procedure for evaluation, selection, licencing, and monitoring of manufacturers and distributors of controlled NAGC-Marks bags and packaging materials used for implementation of the national agricultural commodity grading and marking -NAGC-Mark.
4. Government is further sort to provide appropriate framework for enforcement and penalties for offences related to implementation of this policy.
5. The Federal government constitute a board responsible for the implementation of Nigeria Agricultural Commodity Grading Policy, a framework that regulates the segregation, sorting, grading, packaging, labelling and inspection, and quality control of commodities intended for commodity market.

This policy further demand the Federal Government to approve the establishment of :

1. Accredited Agricultural Commodity Inspectors as unique professional to conduct inspections of agricultural commodities at commodity markets, aggregation centres, and export gates leveraging on the private sector driven service sector. Such Inspector are required to obtain accreditation from the Nigeria National Accreditation System, NiNAS.
2. Accredited Agricultural Commodity aggregation centres or Agricultural commodity exchange hubs. The private sector players are welcome to invest in this opportunity or undertake private public partnership with different tiers of government.
3. That the Federal government mandates the regulatory agencies to utilise the certificates issued through the commodity grading and marking system to effect the regulatory functions thereby reducing the overall cost of regulation.

### **Technology-based solutions:**

With the advancement of technology, some trading companies are now using automated systems, such as machine learning algorithms and artificial intelligence, to evaluate the quality of commodities. These systems use data and analytics to evaluate the quality of the commodities based on various criteria, such as size, colour, texture, and other factors. The grading results are used to determine pricing and trading decisions.

The private sector organizations use various methods to manage agricultural commodity grading for trading purposes, depending on their needs and the specific requirements of the commodities they trade. The goal is to ensure that the commodities meet the quality standards required for trading and that pricing decisions are based on accurate and reliable grading results. There are several examples of well-developed private sector-managed agricultural commodity standard grading systems. For instance; GlobalG.A.P.: GlobalG.A.P. is a private sector-led initiative that provides a comprehensive set of voluntary standards for sustainable agriculture. The organization has developed a set of guidelines and checklists that cover all aspects of agricultural production, including grading and quality standards. The standards are regularly updated to reflect changes in industry practices and consumer demands.

**Rainforest Alliance:** The Rainforest Alliance is another private sector-led initiative that provides certification and training programs for sustainable agriculture. The organization has developed a set of criteria for grading and quality standards, including environmental and social criteria. The standards

are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that they are up-to-date and relevant to the needs of the industry.

**Fairtrade:** Fairtrade is a private sector-led initiative that provides a certification program for fair trade products. The organization has developed a set of criteria for grading and quality standards that focus on ensuring fair prices and working conditions for farmers and workers. The standards are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that they meet the needs of farmers and the industry.

**UTZ:** UTZ is a private sector-led initiative that provides certification and training programs for sustainable agriculture. The organization has developed a set of criteria for grading and quality standards, including environmental and social criteria. The standards are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that they meet the needs of farmers and the industry.

These are just a few examples of private sector-managed agricultural commodity standard grading systems. These initiatives have been successful in promoting sustainable and fair-trade practices in the agricultural industry, and they have helped to establish clear and transparent standards for grading and quality.

NABG shall pursue this option of creating a private sector managed agricultural commodity grading system to facilitate membership trading or exchange of their agricultural product and products.

The effectiveness of an agricultural commodity standards grading system shall require a strong governance structure that provides leadership, technical know-how and the political will to achieve set objectives. The governance shall provide for the effective management of the following:

**PART 2.1 Administration** – The Policy administration or is transition to a law (if adopted by the government) and subsequent management shall be by an agency of government or appointed representatives. Therefore, a national and subnational administrative structure will be required. A national Steering committee shall be created and charged with the implementation of this policy.

The national steering committee shall be drawn up from the government and



private sector. Recommended stakeholders include the followings:

1. Market Associations
2. Key Commodity Associations
3. NABG Representatives
4. Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, FMAFS
5. Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment, FMITI
6. NACCIMA, NASME, MAN, NASSI, NEPC, SON, NAFDAC, NiNAS, NQC

This National Steering Committee (NSC) shall be responsible for putting in place a leadership structure in place to manage the implementation of the policy. It is not intended here that steering committee be responsible for the day-to-day management of the implementation of this policy but simply to usher in a management team and by inference advice on the best model of the leadership best fit for our national situation and realities.

## **PART 2.2 Inspection and Grading –**

Commodity inspectors play an important role in an agricultural commodity grading system. Their primary responsibility is to inspect and grade agricultural commodities to ensure that they meet the required quality standards. Here are some specific roles of commodity inspectors in an agricultural commodity grading system:

### **2.2.1 Sampling:**

Commodity inspectors collect samples of agricultural commodities from various sources, such as farms, processing plants, and storage facilities. They use standardized sampling procedures to ensure that the samples are representative of the entire lot. The samples are then tested for quality parameters, such as moisture content, foreign matter, and purity.

### **2.2.2 Grading:**

Commodity inspectors grade the agricultural commodities based on established grading criteria, such as size, colour, shape, texture, and other quality parameters. The grading process involves comparing the commodity's characteristics against established standards and assigning a grade based on the degree of conformity to the standards.

### **2.2.3 Inspection:**

Commodity inspectors inspect the agricultural commodities to ensure that they meet the required quality standards. The inspection involves checking for



defects, such as insect damage, mold, and other physical or chemical contaminants. The inspectors also verify that the commodities are correctly labelled and packaged.

#### **2.2.4 Certification:**

Commodity inspectors may issue certification documents to indicate that the agricultural commodities meet the required quality standards. The certification may be required for export or import purposes, as well as for domestic sales.

#### **2.2.5 Enforcement:**

Commodity inspectors may enforce compliance with the grading standards by conducting inspections and taking appropriate action, such as issuing fines or penalties, revoking licenses, or initiating legal proceedings. Commodity inspectors play a critical role in ensuring the quality and safety of agricultural commodities in the market. They help to maintain transparency and integrity in the grading system, which is essential for fair trade practices and consumer protection.

### **2.3 Inspection method and procedure**

There are various inspection methods and procedures for grading agricultural commodities depending on the type of commodity being inspected. Here are some general steps that are commonly followed in inspecting graded agricultural commodities:

**2.3.1 Sampling:** A representative sample of the commodity is taken for inspection.

Physical examination: The inspector will visually examine the sample for quality characteristics such as size, shape, colour, texture, defects, and other physical attributes that are specific to the commodity.

**2.3.2 Grading:** The inspector assigns a grade based on the quality of the sample. The grade may be based on specific criteria established by a regulatory agency, a buyer or a seller. Measurement: The inspector may measure certain physical attributes of the commodity such as weight, moisture content, and volume to ensure compliance with standards.

**2.3.3 Documentation:** The inspector will record the results of the inspection on a document known as an inspection report, which includes the date of

inspection, name of the inspector, name of the commodity, the grade, the quantity inspected, and any comments or remarks about the sample.

**2.3.4 Verification:** The inspector may conduct follow-up inspections to verify that the commodity remains in compliance with the standards established during the initial inspection.

**2.3.5 Certification:** Once the inspection is completed and the commodity meets the required standards, a certificate of inspection is issued to the owner of the commodity as proof of compliance.

Inspection and grading at Procurement Centres will require a well-documented structure that will be managed by trained and accredited Produce Inspectors and certification team. NABG board shall approve the creation of a management and technical team to be involved in the grading system including inspectors and certifiers. NABG shall maintained a documented process for training and maintaining the competency of the inspectors. Where government adopts this policy as a national or state policy, such government shall decide on whether to use existing agencies of government or subcontract the responsibilities of inspection, grading certification and related enforcement shall be made by the steering committee. Should the government decide to implement this policy, the requirements for training and competencies of everyone involve in the entire process shall be maintained as prescribed in this policy.

## **2.4 Training and accreditation of commodity inspectors and certification bodies.**

Commodity inspectors play a crucial role in the agricultural industry, where they are responsible for ensuring that agricultural commodities meet established quality standards. These standards are used to grade agricultural commodities, such as grains, fruits, and vegetables, based on various factors such as size, shape, colour, moisture content, and freedom from defects or diseases.

### **2.4.1 Training of Commodity Inspectors:**

The training of commodity inspectors begins with a formal education in agricultural science or a related field, followed by specialized training in commodity inspection. Typically, aspiring inspectors complete a certification program or a degree in agricultural science, which includes coursework in

crop science, soil science, plant pathology, and agricultural economics.

After completing their education, aspiring commodity inspectors undergo on-the-job training to gain practical experience in commodity inspection. This training typically involves working alongside experienced inspectors and learning how to identify and grade different commodities based on established quality standards.

#### **2.4.2 Assessment of Commodity Inspectors:**

Assessing the performance of commodity inspectors is critical to ensuring that the grading system remains accurate and consistent. There are several ways in which commodity inspectors can be assessed, including:

**2.4.3 Performance-based evaluations:** Commodity inspectors may be evaluated based on their ability to accurately grade commodities according to established standards. This can be done through periodic assessments, where inspectors are asked to grade a set of commodities under controlled conditions.

**Knowledge-based assessments:** Commodity inspectors may also be evaluated based on their knowledge of agricultural commodities and the grading system. This can be done through written exams or oral interviews, where inspectors are asked to demonstrate their understanding of various aspects of commodity inspection.

#### **2.5 Accreditation of Commodity Inspectors:**

Accreditation is the process by which commodity inspectors are officially recognized as qualified and competent to perform their duties. The accreditation process typically involves a formal evaluation of an inspector's education, training, and experience, as well as their performance on assessments. To become accredited, commodity inspectors must meet certain criteria established by the governing body responsible for overseeing the grading system. These criteria may include a minimum level of education, a specified amount of on-the-job training, and passing performance on assessments.

Once accredited, commodity inspectors are authorized to perform grading services for agricultural commodities, and their evaluations are recognized as official and authoritative. The accreditation process is typically overseen by a

government agency or a professional organization responsible for regulating the agricultural industry.

The training, assessment, and accreditation of commodity inspectors are critical components of the agricultural commodity grading system. Through a combination of formal education, on-the-job training, and assessments, commodity inspectors are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to accurately grade agricultural commodities and ensure that they meet established quality standards. The accreditation process ensures that only qualified and competent inspectors are authorized to perform grading services, which helps to maintain the integrity and consistency of the grading system.

There are several ISO standards that are relevant to accrediting commodity inspectors, including:

**2.5.1 - ISO/IEC 17020:2012** - This standard specifies requirements for the competence of inspection bodies and covers the independence, impartiality, and integrity of inspection bodies, as well as their confidentiality and protection of information.

**2.5.2 - ISO 9001:2015** - This standard specifies requirements for a quality management system and can be applied to any organization, including inspection bodies. It focuses on customer satisfaction, continuous improvement, and a process-based approach to quality management.

**2.5.3 - ISO/IEC 17025:2017** - This standard specifies requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories and covers the technical competence of laboratory staff, the validity and reliability of test results, and the traceability of measurement results to national or international standards.

**2.5.4 ISO 22000:2018** - This standard specifies requirements for a food safety management system and can be applied to any organization involved in the food chain, including inspection bodies. It focuses on hazard analysis, preventive measures, and continual improvement.

The specific ISO standards that are relevant to accrediting commodity inspectors may depend on the type of commodities being inspected and the regulatory environment in which the inspections take place. The body

responsible for setting these requirements for accreditation shall be Nigeria National Accreditation System, NiNAS.

**PART 2.6. Sampling and analysis** – sampling and analysis of commodities shall be conducted by accredited laboratories that must be accredited to such scope of analysis. There shall be a clear management structure for such Laboratories to ensure impartiality and competence. The evidence and proof on competence and requirement to participate in service provision shall be a valid accreditation from Nigeria National Accreditation System, NiNAS. In line with the Nigeria National Quality policy, NNQP, a private sector conformity assessment bodies including laboratories are encouraged to play in this space and in fact take leadership in provision of sampling and analysis services to commodity traders and commodity exchanges.

**PART 2.7. Weight and Measure (metrology)** of commodity bags, packages, containers, and consignments must be revamped, upgraded, and aligned to modern and international system. This requires that weights and measures be accurate and easily administered. All equipment to be used in pursuance of this policy shall have evidence calibration to traceable to an accredited national or international metrology institute.

## **PART 2.5. Bags and Packages –**

### **2.5.1 National Bagging System**

Agricultural commodity grading bagging system is a process of packing and labelling of agricultural commodities into standard bags that meet the required quality standards. The bagging system ensures that the quality and quantity of the commodities are preserved and protected during storage, transportation, and sale. The agricultural commodity grading bagging system are in use in some countries such US and India.

### **2.5.2 Bagging process:**

The bagging process involves cleaning, drying, and grading of the agricultural commodities, such as grains, seeds, and pulses, before packing them into bags. The process shall be defined in the specific commodity grading document.

### **Bagging standards:**

The bagging standards vary from country to country, and they are usually determined by government regulations or industry associations. For instance,

in India, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has set bagging standards for grains, which specify the weight, size, and quality of the bags. The bags must meet the required quality standards, such as weight, size, and material type. The bags are then labelled with relevant information, such as the commodity type, grade, weight, origin, and date of packing.

### **2.5.3 Bagging Standards:**

The bagging standards vary from country to country, and they are usually determined by government regulations or industry associations. For instance, in India, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has set bagging standards for grains, which specify the weight, size, and quality of the bags. The bags must weigh between 50-100 kg and be made of jute or high-density polyethylene (HDPE) material.

In the United States, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) sets standards for bagging of various agricultural commodities, including grains, cotton, and tobacco.

In this policy, NABG will adopt the bagging requirement already set by the relevant regulatory body or adopt an internationally recognised bagging material.

### **2.5.4 Bagging inspection:**

The bagging inspection is conducted to ensure that the bags meet the required quality standards. The inspection is usually carried out by trained personnel or independent third-party inspectors. The inspection involves checking the bag's weight, size, material type, labelling, and overall condition. Any bags that do not meet the standards are rejected and removed from the inventory.

### **2.5.5 Bagging storage and transportation:**

The bagged agricultural commodities are stored in warehouses or other storage facilities that meet the required storage conditions, such as temperature, humidity, and ventilation. The bags are usually stacked on pallets or stored on shelves to prevent damage or spoilage. During transportation, the bags must be secured and protected from moisture, pests, and other environmental factors that could affect the quality of the commodities.

The production and distribution of bags or packaging materials with proper marking must be coordinated and controlled to comply with defined technical

requirements to ensure that their production, use, and disposals meet set requirement by this policy. A packaging and marking authority shall be created for this purpose. The authority shall provide guidance and coordination in the national approach to unified bagging, labelling, marking, and packaging of agricultural commodities. The packaging material and bags must be environmentally friendly and recyclable. Their materials shall be required to meet all regulatory requirements for packaging materials for food or produce as may be required by relevant agencies in Nigeria and that of destination country. The bags must be made of high-quality material, such as jute or polypropylene, and must meet the required weight and size standards. The bags are also required to be labelled with relevant information, such as the commodity type, grade, weight, and origin.

### **PART 2.6. Certification -**

Other Certification activities as may be found necessary for the protection of Nigerian people, health, and safety as well as our environment may be introduced during implementation of his policy. Some of these certification may include food safety, HACCP, Global Good Agricultural Practice, Global GAP, etc. Other include:

- ISO 14001: Environmental Management System
- ISO 14001 defines principles for developing and maintaining effective environmental management strategies, promoting practices that reduce environmental impact and ensure legal compliance in the agriculture sector.
- ISO 9001: Quality Management System -ISO 9001 promotes successful agricultural operations in the food production chain by ensuring food safety through best practices for quality management, sampling, product specifications, and requirements for packaging, transportation, and storage.
- ISO 22000: Food Safety Standard—ISO 22000 provides food safety management guidelines for global food chains, building on ISO 9001 principles to create, maintain, and enhance food safety management systems based on business risks.
- ISO 45001: Occupational Health & Safety Standard

ISO 45001 helps organisations reduce hazardous factors, protecting customers, employees, and the general public from potential accidents, injuries, and diseases.



## **CHAPTER THREE: The Policy Principles**



### **PART 3. Nigeria Agricultural Commodity Standards Grading Policy –The policy**

**PART 3.1 Policy Statement:** It shall be a requirement for purpose of commercial transactions, exchanges, sales, distribution, supplies, and use in direct consumption or production of other commodities, that agricultural commodities shall be segregated, graded, packed, marked accordingly, and accompanied with a qualitative and qualitative, descriptive information label.

It shall be further required by this policy that all agricultural commodities marketed by Nigerian Commodity Markets, and or exported out of Nigeria must comply with the requirements of food safety standards, environmental friendliness and full disclosure on their specifications and characteristics.

#### **PART 3.2. Reason for Policy:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish standard guidelines for the grading of agricultural commodities to ensure consistency in quality and pricing, and to protect consumers from substandard products. It shall provide for control, transparency, equity, and profitability in the supply chain and export of agricultural commodities, semi processed- products and other by-products of farm produce.

#### **PART 3.3. Policy Frame**

- 1.3.0 Requirement for traceability*
- 1.3.1 Requirement for sorting and segregation.*
- 1.3.2. Requirement for grading according to commodity standards*
- 1.3.3. Standard for Grading, Grade 1- 4.*
- 1.3.4. Commodity Specifications*
- 1.3.5. Quality Assurance Specifications, inspection, and certification*
- 1.3.6. Containers and Packaging Requirements*
- 1.3.7. Markings, Labelling, Inscriptions, logos*
- 1.3.8. Warranty*
- 1.3.9. Restrictions on Sale, distributions, and export.*

#### **PART 3.4. The Policy –**

Agricultural commodities shall be graded based on their physical and chemical properties, as well as their performance characteristics. The grading standards shall be established and maintained by NABG, or an independent body appointed by NABG and shall be reviewed and updated periodically to

reflect changes in market demand and technological advancements. This policy applies to all agricultural commodities traded in the market, including but not limited to grains, fruits, vegetables, livestock, and dairy products. This policy can be adopted as a national policy, in which case it shall be reviewed to align to government structures and processes.

#### **Part 3.4.1. Requirement for traceability**

Traceability systems in agricultural commodity grading systems involve the tracking of a commodity throughout the supply chain, from the point of origin to the point of sale. The purpose of this system is to provide information about the production, processing, and distribution of the commodity, which can help to ensure its safety, quality, and sustainability.

This may further involve tracking the commodity from the point of origin to the point of importation and maintaining records of the production process and other relevant information such as;

##### **3.4.1.1 Documentation:**

The traceability system begins with documentation of the production process, which may include records of planting, harvesting, processing, and storage. This information is typically recorded at each stage of the supply chain and can be used to track the commodity.

##### **3.4.1.2 Identification:**

Each batch of the commodity shall be identified with a unique code or label that allows it to be traced throughout the supply chain. This may include information such as the date of production, location of production, and type of commodity.

##### **3.4.1.3 Monitoring:**

The commodity shall be monitored as it moves through the supply chain, with information about its location and status recorded at each stage. This may involve physical monitoring using sensors or automated systems, or manual monitoring by workers in the supply chain.

##### **3.4.1.4 Verification:**

The information collected through the traceability system shall be verified to ensure its accuracy and completeness. This may involve audits or inspections of the supply chain to verify that the commodity has been tracked correctly.

##### **3.4.1.5 Reporting:**

The information collected through the traceability system shall be reported to stakeholders in the supply chain, including producers, processors, distributors, and retailers. This information may be used to make decisions about production, pricing, and distribution of the commodity.

#### **Part 3.4.2. Requirement for sorting and segregation.**

During harvesting, most agricultural produce, or commodities or products like grains, fruits, and vegetables, pulses, nuts, etc., have varying physical characteristics and may contain various contaminants and other inedible

parts. Hence, it is important to perform various unit operations like cleaning, decontamination, sorting, and grading before these commodities are sent for further processing. It has been discovered that a significant percentage of agricultural output is being lost due to secondary, postharvest operations, resulting in limited accessibility for consumers and the need for imported goods. To obtain high-quality end products, these agricultural produces must be separated from the substandard ones at the initial stages. Sorting and grading are done to enhance the uniformity and commercial value of the products.

**Part 3.4.2.1:** *Requirement: It shall therefore be a requirement of this policy that all agricultural produce, commodity, and products must be properly sorted, and segregated according to their kind for purpose of grading.*

**Part 3.4.2.2:** *The unsorted, non-segregated and non-graded commodity shall not be traded under any grade but can be traded if properly marked as nonsegregated and ungraded commodity.*

**Part 3.4.2.3:** *It shall be a violation of this policy to present in any form of an agricultural commodity for trading, exchange, or other types of commodity related transactions, unsorted, nonsegregated and ungraded commodity as graded regardless of its quality standards.*

### **PART 3.5. Requirement for grading according to commodity standards –**

It is important to have a grading system which accurately describes products in a uniform and meaningful manner. Grades and standards contribute to operational and pricing efficiency by providing buyers and sellers with a system of communicating price and product information. It is a transparent system that ensures that farmers, commodity traders and exporters receive deserved payment in monetary terms for the investment in these commodities.

**PART 3.5.1:** *All commodities whose grade standards has been established by a relevant body, are by this policy required to be graded into applicable grade before presentation to any market in Nigeria or for Export to another country.*

**PART 3.5.2** *Where there are no established grading standards for such commodities, the packs, bags, or consignment must be marked “ungraded”.*

**PART 3.5.3:** *This policy directs all specific commodity stakeholders, value*

*chain actor and responsible authorities to ensure that commodity standards and their grading specifications are developed, established, and published for all agricultural commodities of interest to Nigerian economy.*

### **PART 3.6: Standard for Grading, Grade 1- 4.**

**PART 3.6.1:** Commodities shall be sold as either graded or ungraded.

**PART 3.6.2:** There shall be four grades of graded commodities namely Grade 1 (highest grade), Grade 2, Grade 3, and Grade 4 (Lowest grade).

**PART 3.6.3:** Graded and ungraded commodities shall contain no chemical residues that exceed the prescribed maximum residue limit permissible. Graded and ungraded commodities shall contain no pesticide residue that exceeds the prescribed residue limits. All food safety standards requirements must be met.

**PART 3.6.4:** Commodities which are graded as Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, and Lowest Grade shall comply with the specifications set out in their standards grading document.

**PART 3.6.5:** The extent to which Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3 and Lowest Grade commodities may deviate from the specifications prescribed in this policy must be clearly communicated.

**PART 3.6.6.:** No consignment of commodities graded as "Grade 1", "Grade 2", "Grade 3" and "Lowest Grade" shall contain; pest (living or dead), organic and inorganic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides; organic matter such as animal wastes and decaying plant material; irrigation residues like salts and trace metals; and microorganisms that exceed the prescribed maximum residue limit permissible by competent authorities.

### **PART 3.7 Commodity Specifications**

A commodity specification refers to a set of documented requirements to be satisfied by commodity. specification is often a type of technical standard. Commodity standards and grades provide a means for measuring levels of quality and value for agricultural commodities. These standards provide a basis for domestic and international trade and promote efficiency in marketing and procurement.

**3.7.1:** All commodities shall be ascribed specifications that are drawn from the physical properties, shapes, sizes, colour, weight and other parameters found by competent authority and stakeholders as “the specifications for such commodity”. Minimum standards for commodities are adopted by the national standard body who have the mandate for standard adoption and management. Standards Grading builds on the minimum standard to describe the degree of compliance or noncompliance.

**3.7.2:** The commodity specifications shall be developed through a consultative process with stakeholders, experts, and value chain actors for the commodity.

**3.7.3:** Approved Commodity Specification shall be published either separately or as part of the standards for the commodity and made readily available to the public. Where there is already a national standard for such commodity, the specification referred to here, remains private or industrial standard. The stakeholders, commodity exchange, value chain interest parties shall work with government to harmonise the commodity specifications where necessary in line with international specifications.

**3.7.4:** The national standards body, Standards Organization of Nigeria, SON is responsible for coordinating development and adoption of national standards. Some of the national standards for some commodities may have commodity grades that may be similar or differ from these private standards. We possible the commodity standards grading referred to here can be put through the process of adoption as a national standard. In such cases, SON shall provide the coordination required to adopt these standards grades, as national standards.

### **PART 3.8. Quality Assurance Specifications**

The objective of quality assurance is to build quality into processes of a commodity system to prevent quality problems in the produce or by-products or services. Its application to agribusiness, especially in postharvest technology, can contribute to greater profitability, customer safety and satisfaction.

control standards includeand Phyto-Sanitary measures, good agriculture practices, quarantine treatments, residues of agrochemicals, and safety of food packing materials. The customers must be provided with assurances that

the quality control systems are in place for quality assurance.

The SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary) measures are regulations implemented by countries to protect human, animal, and plant health from potential risks associated with the importation of agricultural commodities. These measures include requirements related to grading and quality standards for agricultural commodities. In the context of agricultural commodity grading systems, SPS measures may be applied in several ways:

This policy shall require that commodities meet set specific SPS requirements. These may include requirements related to the quality, safety, and composition of the commodity.

Agricultural commodities shall be inspected and certified to ensure that they meet the SPS requirements set by the importing country. This may include inspection of the production process, packaging, and labelling, as well as testing for contaminants and other potential risks.

**3.8.1:** This policy requires all farmers, bulk buyers, and distributors to provide evidence of quality assurance and safety for the traded commodities.

**3.8.2:** The proof for the quality assurance compliance and safety shall include but not limited to the use of accredited certification bodies, inspectors, testing laboratories and Farm Assurers along commodity corridors and the value chain as the case may be.

**3.8.3:** The sellers, distributors or exporters shall perform the product testing and quality analysis conducted by an accredited laboratory to ensure that the product meets the commodity specifications. The results shall be evidenced by an Accredited Certificate of Analysis (COA).

### **PART 3.9. Containers and Packaging Requirements –**

All containers and packaging shall be manufactured / produced to meet the requirements of the Regulatory Agencies for such packaging material that contacts the packaged commodities and their product. The contractor shall obtain and maintain documentation from the container or packaging material manufacturer to prove that the containers and packaging materials used in the manufacture or production followed the Government's regulatory requirements for safe contact with agricultural produce and food products.

**3.9.1:** If a commodity trader purchases packaging and container ingredients from a foreign country and/or the package and container is manufactured in a foreign country, the package and container SHALL NOT display country of origin labeling. Phrases including, but not limited to, “Made in [Name of Foreign Country.]” or “Product of [Name of Foreign Country.]” are strictly prohibited. This prohibition ensures that actors may not deliberately label a local commodity as an imported one simply because the container was manufactured elsewhere.

**3.9.2:** Containers, bags and packaging materials for commodities must be environmentally friendly and comply with the requirements and conditions put in place by relevant environmental regulatory authorities. Even where there no local environmental requirements for such material, the commodity Traders must ensure that the material meets the requirements of destination country.

**3.9.3:** The container and packaging material must meet the requirements of safety, health, and fit for purpose.

**3.9.4** Markings, Labelling, Inscriptions, logos—Containers containing commodities destined for sale shall be marked in clear and legible block letters and nu-merals in a manner, with the following particulars:

**3.9.4.1** The name of the company or group or trademark and physical or postal address of either the farm, producer or owner or importer or packer of the commodities packed in that container.

**3.9.4.2.** The expression "Product of Nigeria or in case of imported commodity, Product of “the name of the country of origin of the commodities”.

**PART 3.9.6:** The grade, in the case of Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3 and Lowest Grade: Provided that additional to the grade names the following names may be used:

- Grade 1 - First,
- Grade 2 - Select,
- Grade 3 - Standard,
- Grade 4 -Lowest Grade (Budget).



**3.9.4.3.** The size group of the commodity in the container, indicated as either minimum diameter and maximum diameter or as --

"Extra Large" or "XL",

"Large" or "L",

"Medium Plus" or "M+",

"Medium" or "M",

"Medium small" or MS

"Small" or "S" and Baby or Mini commodities:

Provided that the size group indication may be omitted in the case of specialty types of commodities and commodities packed in the transparent plastic bags.

**3.9.4.4** The net mass of the contents as prescribed by the department of Weight and Measure and using SI units as prescribed in Nigeria National Quality Policy. The word "name of commodity", in the case of containers the contents of which are not visible from outside.

**3.9.4.5.** If containers containing commodity are packed in a carrier container, each carrier container shall be marked with the particulars in subsection above, as well as with the number of containers it contains, on at least one end of every carrier container by means of stamping or stenciling or by pasting a printed label thereon.

**3.9.4.6:** The particulars prescribed above shall be indicated on the container by stamping, printing or by affixing a label thereon.

**3.9.4.7** If at any stage the grade or size designation should change the labels shall be replaced unless the new grade or size designation is stamped across the old grade or size designation, in clear legible block letters of at least 2 mm larger than the previous marks, with a suitable stamp.

**3.9.4.8** Each container containing commodities shall be provided with only one or more labels, that shall be intact, clean, and neat, manufactured from suitable material; and affixed firmly to the container and in such a manner that re-stamping is possible without opening or damaging the container. If graded commodities are displayed for sale in loose quantities, any quantity of a particular grade, size group or cultivar shall not be displayed mixed with commodities of any other grade, size group or cultivar.

The grade, size group and country of origin of the commodity shall be indicated in clear, legible block letters of at least 10mm on a notice board prominently placed at the quantity of commodity.

Containers containing ungraded commodities shall be marked in clear and legible block letters and comply with subsections above.

**PART 3.9.9.2:** Labels or markings shall be printed in English or both in English and any other official language as may be the case in future: Internationally acknowledged symbols may be used.

### **PART 3.10.0: Warranty**

#### **3.10.1. Warranty – Nonconforming Commodities**

All Commodities delivered by Suppliers, to a buyer whether local or international shall be free from any defects in defect, contaminating material, or microbes. If any Commodities offered by the Supplier are found to be defective, or do not conform to Supplier's warranty, the customers shall have the option of returning, or replacing the defective commodities at Supplier's expense.

**3.10.2** Payment for any commodities shall not constitute acceptance. Acceptance by a customer's agent shall not relieve the Supplier of its warranty or any other obligation under this policy. This provision includes any physical or morphological changes to a commodity by the producer that were not disclosed to the buyer.

#### **PART 3.10.3** Restrictions on Sale, distributions, and export.

**3.10.3.1.** No agricultural commodity shall be distributed, sold, or exported unless such commodity meets the requirements of FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius, or the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), or International Organisation for Standardisation, ISO, or a national standard approved by Standards Organisation of Nigeria, SON. The restriction is limited to commodities that have approved standards, be it national, regional, or global.

**3.10.3.2.** No agricultural commodity shall be supplied, distributed, and exported unless it has been proven to be safe for consumption or fit for prescribed purposes and therefore poses no danger to the health of consumers and safety of the environment.

**3.10.3.3.** Agricultural commodities shall be supplied, distributed, and exported in a manner proven to be safe for the environment (environmental impact assessment of the method of farming, storage and utilisation must be performed, if not known). New methods that reduce the negative environmental impact shall be encouraged. The government shall encourage and provide incentives to farmers to practice environmentally smart agriculture.

**3.10.3.4. Prohibited particulars**

No wording, illustration or other device of expression which constitutes a misrepresentation or which directly or by implication can create a misleading impression of the contents shall appear on a container of any commodity or on a label affixed thereto or which is displayed therewith.

**3.10.3.5 - Sampling and Testing Procedures -** Transparent sampling testing and assessment procedures allow all parties to operate in an open way so that each is fully aware of the actions performed by the other parties. Having full knowledge and understanding of the procedures and the inherent probabilities of wrongly accepting or wrongly rejecting a lot leads to informed decision-making by both parties which in turn can reduce the potential for disputes based on sampling and testing results. When discrepancies do occur, transparency allows for effective communications between parties to address differences.

The sampling and testing procedures selected should be:

Scientifically based, considering the existing Codex standards.

Appropriate to the commodity and lot or consignment to be sampled and tested and fit for intended purposes and applied consistently.

**3.10.3.6** The selection of sampling and testing procedures should consider:

**3.10.3.6.1** Practical matters such as cost and timeliness of the assessment and access to lots or consignments, provided that the probability of accepting a non-compliant lot or consignment is not too high.

**3.10.3.6.2** Variation within a lot or consignment.

**3.10.3.7 The following quality assurance criteria should be adopted by laboratories involved in the import and export control of foods:**

**3.10.3.7.1** Compliance with the general criteria for testing laboratories laid down in ISO/IEC 17025 “General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.

**3.10.3.7.2** Participation in appropriate proficiency testing schemes for food analysis which conform to the requirements laid down in “The International Harmonized Protocol for the Proficiency Testing of (Chemical) Analytical Laboratories”, Pure & Appl. Chem. 78 (2006) 145-196.

**3.10.3.7.3** Whenever available, use methods of analysis which have been validated according to the principles laid down by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

**3.10.3.7.4** Use of internal quality control procedures, such as those described in the Harmonized Guidelines for Internal Quality Control in Analytical Chemistry Laboratories Pure & Appl. Chem. 67 (1995) 649-666.

**3.10.3.7.5** And any other national requirements or policy such as national quality policy.

**PART 3.10.3.8.: Methods of Inspection**

The inspection methods will include but not limited to

**3.10.3.8.1:** Determination of size variations

**3.10.3.8.2:** The sampling and testing procedures selected should be: Scientifically based, considering the existing Codex standards.

**3.10.3.8.3** Appropriate to the commodity and lot or consignment to be sampled and tested.

**3.10.3.8.4:** Fit for intended purposes and applied consistently.

**PART 3.10.3.9: The size variation shall where applicable be determined as follows:**

**3.10.3.9.1:** The selection of sampling and testing procedures should consider the practical matters such as cost and timeliness of the assessment.

**3.10.3.9.2:** Access to lots or consignments

**3.10.3.9.3:** Provided that the probability of accepting a non-compliant lot or consignment is not too high.

**PART 3.10.3.10:** Variation within a lot or consignment guidelines covers the following sampling situations:

**3.10.3.10.1:** Control of percentage of defective items, by attributes or by variables, for a continuous series of lots or in individual items.

**3.10.3.10.2:** Control of mean content information that is needed to define an appropriate sampling plan and method of analysis includes whether the procedure is to apply to single lots considered in isolation, or to lots forming part of a continuing series.

**3.10.3.10.3:** Whether the methods available to assess the characteristics of samples are qualitative or quantitative.

**3.10.3.10.4:** Whether sampling plans will be on inspection by attributes basis or inspection by variables basis.

**3.10.3.10:** Parameters such as the AQL or LQ.

**CHAPTER FOUR**  
**Consumers and Consumer Protection**  
**PART 4.1. Consumers and Consumer Associations**



Consumer's rights are inalienable rights that must be protected by the consumer, business organizations and the government public policies emanate from the government of a state and are geared towards regulating business relationships among the citizenry or distributing social amenities to individuals and communities.

The operation of business demands sound public policies and laws aimed at promoting harmony, stability, and growth in the economy. Consumer rights and protection laws are essential in Nigeria to check and regulate the excesses of businesses and individuals against the Nigerian consumer. Government has established specific agencies to monitor, identify and prosecute fraudulent businessmen and women. It is therefore necessary to provide an enabling environment for the consumers to demand quality. The Consumer Associations shall provide the necessary advocacy and awareness for the successful implementation of this policy. The government shall provide incentives to such associations.

The Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) is mandated to address consumers' complaints, providing consumer education, and encouraging trade, industry, and professional associations to develop and enforce quality standards designed to safeguard the interests of consumers. FCCPC shall as required by their mandates, enforce consumer rights under this policy and where necessary sensitize the consumers on this policy.

**PART 4.2. Commodity Based Associations**

Commodity Based Associations are the grassroot level autonomous registered bodies established around a single enterprise or a group of related enterprises to offer end to end solutions to a group of producers to improve production efficiency, minimize cost of production, facilitate value addition, and enhance the profit margins. These associations are essential where many producers are taking up a particular intervention/enterprise in each locality/region with reasonable surplus produce for sale. The CBAs will address most of the issues related to backward and forward linkages which is a prerequisite for profitable farming.

The specific commodity-based Association must be encouraged to drive the implementation of the vision of this policy and development of their commodity standards grading. It's hoped that if all commodity-based associations commit to standards grading for their commodity, in a no distant time the vision of grading all agricultural commodities will be realized.



## CHAPTER FIVE



### **PART 5.0. Roles of stakeholders.**

#### **5.1. Government Roles**

The Federal Government of Nigeria has the responsibility of approving all national policies. The government can therefore at its own will and time process and approve this very important technical policy as a national policy. Agricultural commodity trading is of huge economic benefits to the government and people of Nigeria. Therefore, in addition to approval of this policy, the government shall do the followings.”

**5.1.1** A Federal Ministry should champion the national validation of the draft policy and present the validated copy to the Federal Executive Council for approval.

**5.1.2** The government shall set up and inaugurate a national steering committee for the implementation of the approved policy nationwide.

**5.1.2.1** The Federal, State and Local government shall ensure the implementation at the 3 levels of the government structure (LGA, State and Federal).

**5.1.2.2** The Federal government shall provide funding through the champion ministry for the full implementation of this policy.

**5.1.2.3** The federal government is required to set up or strengthen and modernize the commodity inspection program to meet current technological and industrial realities. The government shall support and fund technological upgrade of Nigeria’s Agricultural commodity inspection programs at relevant government agencies.

The government to approve an implementation of agricultural commodity standards grading, unique grades 1-4, Bags and packaging program, national grade seal or grade mark (G-Mark) and establishment of G-Mark management Service as public private enterprise PPE.

**5.1.2.4** The government of federation, in consideration of health, safety of

Nigeria and environmental protection, shall approve establishment of agricultural commodity bagging and packaging system control Centre with unique labelling requirements for both local and international market. For sustainability's sake, the government shall support a public-private partnership in the management of bagging and packaging system control unit. The Bagging and Packaging System control unit provides unified guidelines, processes for ensuring that all commodity bags in use are safe, properly labelled, environmentally friendly and support the standards grading system effectively.

**5.1.2.5** That the government supports and encourages private to take the lead in the implementation of Agricultural Commodity grading system except in regulated area specifically meant for regulatory agencies of the government.

### **PART 5.2. NABG Roles**

**5.2.1** Beyond the development of this policy, NABG shall continue to support the review and update of this policy. NABG shall support and play a pivotal role in the implantation of this policy.

**5.2.2** NABG shall continue to work with stakeholders to develop agricultural standards and grading standards for other commodities of interest not accommodated in this pilot project.

**5.2.3** NABG shall work with MDAs to invest in the establishment of a unified G-Mark and management of same. NABG shall work with stakeholders and government to ensure that the proposed bagging and packaging and labeling program meets international market requirements. NABG shall be willing to provide nationwide service to commodity market around certification, inspection, and testing.

### **PART 5.3. Stakeholders Roles**

Stakeholders' support and buy in are very crucial to successful implementation of this policy and to conduct the pilot standards grading. Specific commodity groups or associations are vital to successful achievement of the vision of this policy.

### **PART 5.4. Donor Community / NGOs**

Donor partners are welcome to support the implementation of this policy and commencement of the commodity grading in Nigeria. The Agricultural

Commodity standards grading initiative will continue to need support over the next 10 years. Donor partners and friends are requested to support the implementation of this program.

The donor partners and NGOs are expected to partner in the advocacy, capacity building and monitoring and evaluation of the implementation process. The government encourages the mentoring and training of our future agribusiness Experts. The Donor Partners and NGOs are invited to support this process and create opportunities for exchange programs, scholarships and grants.

### **PART 5.5. Organized Private Sectors**

The Organized Private Sector (OPS) is an umbrella organization of Business Membership Organizations representing the interest of the private sector in Nigeria.

OPS member organizations are the

- a. Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN)
- b. Nigeria Employers Consultative Association (NECA)
- c. Nigeria Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA)
- d. Nigeria Association of Small-Scale Industries (NASSI)
- e. Nigeria Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME)

Nigeria's private sector activities, investment and growth is driven by the works of these five large groups. For this policy to succeed, the organized private sector must support and drive it home to businesses and our communities. The long-term benefit of this intervention is the real sense, that of the organized private sector.

## CHAPTER SIX



### **PART 6.0. Success Factors:**

#### **6.1- Application of technology**

Traceability is a system in which grains, fruits and vegetables can be traced from the field (farm) to the buyer by lot through unique codes. A lot of code could be a number, number-letter combination, or some other designation that is unique to the lot. Technological applications make this possible, easier, and instantaneous. Each farm should have a traceability system in place that allows the grower to track the produce from the field (one step back) to the buyer (one step forward).

This policy seeks to introduce traceability in the commodity trading system to help build greater confidence and trust in Nigerian Agricultural commodity market. NABG commodity standards grading system shall take the advantage of already available technology and future innovative technologies and science to ensure that our commodity grading will be one of the best in Africa. Information technology provides huge opportunity for Nigeria through Agricultural Commodity Standards Grading System to usher in era of zero reject of our agricultural commodities.

#### **Part 6.2- Government Political Will, investment, and legal framework.**

Agricultural commodity standards grading system involves many government and private sector players. It equally requires commitment, political will on the part of the government and an appropriate legal framework to succeed as a national policy. However, NABG is at liberty to implement this policy as a private and sectorial policy that benefits farmers and agribusiness investors. The financing of the grading system will require huge investment whether implemented as a private sector driven or a government policy. However, the value it brings or the return on investment outweighs any initial cost of implementation. This policy can be implemented through the PPP program.

#### **Part 6.3 – Strong Private Leadership**

Due to the complexity of the commodity grading process, it may be difficult to have a successful implementation relying on the MDAs. The government shall provide the enabling environment and support for private sector qualified groups or business to provide leadership in the coordination of the business end of the system. The regulatory ends if any shall be managed by the Federal

Agencies with such a mandate (should the government decide to approve of it as a national policy). Nigeria Agribusiness Group understands the workings and processes of agricultural commodity standards grading system. NABG stakeholders also have the required capacity, both technical and financial, to successfully implement this system with or without government participation because it is a market demand and driven policy.

#### **6.4 Consumer Awareness and Protection**

Consumers agricultural commodities must be protected from exploitations, health hazards and safety of consumer agricultural products and commodities. This provides for the engagement and participation of consumer groups and associations in the design, validation, and implementation of this policy. The Federal competition and consumer protection commission FCCPC has the responsibility to ensure that consumers are aware of the benefits and also take advantage of it. They must also create easy channels for lodging complaints.

## CHAPTER SEVEN



### **PART 7.1. Offences and Penalties:**

It may well be difficult to prescribe offences and penalties at the policy levels, but the market forces will surely provide the initial consequences of not complying with this policy. This policy will not only provide guidance, public awareness and buy-in from the value chain actors and investors but will also provide strong incentive for compliance and a change in business behaviour that goes against the principles of standards grading.

Upon approval of this policy as a national policy, the government shall advance this policy to develop the required legal framework. The Legislature or the Executive can champion the process of making this policy a legal document in the interest of Nigeria's economy.

The Champion Ministries, FMAFS and or FMITI is expected to take leadership in sponsoring this policy to Federal Executive Council for approval and subsequently to Ministry of Justice for its legal text.

The legal draft will contain all necessary penalties for the violations.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### Monitoring and Evaluation



Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of an agricultural grading system shall involve several key steps to ensure the system is effective and meets its objectives. Here are some essential components:

- 1. Define Clear Objectives and Indicators:**
  - Establish what the grading system aims to achieve (e.g., improved product quality, market access).
  - Develop specific, measurable indicators to track progress (e.g., percentage of products meeting grade standards).
- 2. Data Collection:**
  - Collect data regularly from various sources such as farms, markets, and processing facilities. <sup>1</sup>.
- 3. Baseline Assessment:**
  - Conduct a baseline assessment before implementing the grading system to understand the current state of agricultural products and practices.
- 4. Regular Monitoring:**
  - Implement continuous monitoring to track the performance of the grading system.
- 5. Evaluation:**
  - Periodically evaluate the data collected to determine if the grading system is meeting its objectives.
- 6. Feedback Mechanisms:**
  - Establish feedback loops to communicate findings to stakeholders, including farmers, traders, and policymakers.
- 7. Reporting and Documentation:**
  - Document all findings and prepare regular reports to share with relevant stakeholders.
- 8. Capacity Building:**
  - Train personnel involved in monitoring and evaluation to ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge. By following these steps, you can effectively monitor and evaluate the implementation of an agricultural grading system, ensuring it achieves its intended goals and benefits all stakeholders involved.



S/N	ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS	RESPONSES
1	Asked by Entities Funding Commodity Grading activities.	
2	Should the government and donors continue to fund Commodity Grading activities programs?	
3	Are the agricultural commodity grading programs effective?	
4	How would you improve or terminate ineffective aspects of the programs?	
5	What new programs should be implemented to meet the needs of farmers, or to address changes of the rural agricultural clients you intend to serve	
6	What are objective evidences of the success of agricultural commodity grading.	

**BOX 1.**

**BOX 2. EVALUATION TO DETERMINE PROJECT OR POLICY EFFECTIVENESS**

1	<b>Program Effectiveness:</b>	Focus shall be on effectiveness of an intervention (program, project, or policy) in meeting objectives.
2	<b>Resource Effectiveness:</b>	Focus shall be on analysis of benefits and costs of an intervention, including cost per beneficiary.
3	<b>Service to Diverse Audiences:</b>	Focus shall be on which programs, policies, and practices are most effective with different target groups (e.g., women, ultra-poor, ethnic minorities).
4	<b>Experiential Effectiveness:</b>	Focus shall be on how users of Commodity Grading activities and services perceive service quality, or their intention to use new information and/or technology.

S/N	ACCEPTABILITY	RESPONSES
1	Grading System	
2	NACG—Mark	
3	Inspection Program	
4	Certification Program	

5	Use of Accredited Laboratories	
6	Unified Bagging System	
7	Requirements for Weights and Measures	
8	Private Sector QI service providers— Accredited Commodity Inspectors	
9	Use of Farm Extension Agent on grading practice	

Monitoring evaluation report shall be submitted to appropriate authority in line the the governance structure every quarter.

The reports shall be analysed and used for system improvement purposes.

The management shall review these reports during their meeting and develop agree on actions and responses to the issues raised by the report.

There shall be in the overall program implementation plan, an arrangement to have a dedicated personnel whose role shall be to coordinate the M&E plan implementation. The M&E office shall be supported with enough resources to carry out her functions.

## CHAPTER 9

### Policy Reviews



Policy reviews are to ensure that the policies address existing and emerging needs of farmers, commodity aggregators, dealers of commodities in all the value chains, exporter and importers. It is also necessary to ensure that this policy continues to protect the best interest of consumers of agricultural commodities and as well ensure health and safety of citizens. All reviews activities and updates shall be such that it responds to the needs of its stakeholders in achieving vision and accomplishing its mission on agricultural commodity grading policy.

#### **Frequency of Reviews**

This policy shall be due for review and update every Five (5) years. In rare cases of urgent need to address emerging issues, an adhort and extraordinary review process may be initiated by the domiciliary Ministry.

#### **Process of reviews shall include the followings:**

1. Establishment of the need for reviews (due to time limitation or extraordinary circumstance)
2. Constitution of a multi-stakeholder review committee.
3. Development and issuance of terms of reference to the committee.
4. Submission of the Report of the Review committee
5. Approval of the report and their recommendations.
6. Implementation of the recommendations and
7. Publication of the new version
8. Distribution to MDAs and Organised Private Sector.

## CHAPTER 10

### Policy Implementation Plan



#### **Policy Implementation Plan**

Policy implementation is stage in the policy process where policy action occurs to address a recognized policy problem. At this stage, the design of a policy proposal is put into effect. Policies are executed by respective administrative agencies. At this stage all the technical issues include gathered evidence and data of what works, implementation pre-planning and other mandatory steps required in government policy development, including public consultation feedbacks will be put into use. Though priorities and actions were clearly articulated during the policy development process. After final approval, **Implementation plan document shall be developed** by policy implementation responsible offices including the **cost of implementation**.

Leadership needed at all levels of the system for policy implementation. From a political perspective, the appropriate level of leadership is needed to reshape mandates, resources, structures and programmes related to Agricultural Commodity Grading. Consistency in leadership has also been suggested as an enabler of implementation, such as fixed-term positions for senior government department officials, to ensure continuity and strengthen relationships. The literature on leadership for policy implementation also points to the need for a 'craftsman' style of leadership, which has a focus on building and sustaining relationships with different commodity value chains, managing complexity and interdependence, and managing multiple and conflicting quality infrastructure accountabilities.

Communication play an important role in facilitating successful implementation of this policy and was a core part of policy development from the beginning and throughout the stages of implementation. Systematic communications are important to share information and feedback on how implementation is progressing across sites, and to share wins and important policy milestones to maintain buy-in and motivation of stakeholders.

Feedback mechanisms be established between governance structures and front-line practitioners of Agricultural commodity grading once implementation has begun, to ensure the policy is being implemented as intended, unplanned consequences are addressed efficiently and to support

the learning capacity of the system. Feedback mechanisms can include regular, standardised reporting arrangements from front-line services by the M & E team to oversight structures for the policy.

It is expected that NABG will lead the technical processes while the public sector provide the enabling environment for the policy and practice of Agricultural commodity grading system will thrive.

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