



### Summary report of validation event for the Rapid reconnaissance exercise

On April 27, 2023, the “Research project to support Africa’s micro small and medium enterprises to deliver affordable, safe and nutritious food” – RSM2SNF held a validation exercise for its Rapid Reconnaissance survey conducted in 2022. The hybrid event was led by the project’s early career scholars (ECS) and had in-person participation in two locations; Zaria, Kaduna State (19) and Ibadan, Oyo State (16) while 20 other participants joined online. Thus, there were 55 agrifood stakeholders present (35 male and 20 female). In Zaria, participants converged at The National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS) E-extension training hall, National Farmers Helpline Centre (NFHL), and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State. In Ibadan, participants met at the Initiative for Information, Arts, and Culture Development in Nigeria (IACD) Hall, Jericho, Ibadan, Oyo State.



Fig 1: *Dr Oyinkan Tasié during his welcome remarks*

The project's stakeholder engagement lead, Dr Oyinkan Tasié, gave the welcome remarks where he spoke about the importance of having validation events such as this where knowledge is not only gathered but also transferred and that is one of the core objectives of the RSM2SNF project.



Fig 2: *Mr Olawale Olunuga during his presentation*

The welcome remarks were followed by the presentation of key findings from the exercise presented by two early career scholars (ECS) Mr Olunuga and Mr Yau Rabiou presented the summary of the key findings to the participants ,on the fish and vegetable (& tomatoes) value chains respectively.

The key findings include (i) The fish subsector has expanded in recent years reflecting rising demand that stems from income growth and changing diets and is sometimes facilitated by government investment in infrastructure (ii) Many products in the fish value chain are imported, including frozen fish and industrially-produced fish feed. (iii) While fish farming is common in Ebonyi and Oyo States, capture fishing is common in Kebbi State. Kebbi's distance from the coast means that feed is locally

produced rather than imported (iv) Challenges related to transportation costs and inefficiencies are most common in all states, reflecting the far-reaching impact of poor road networks and high vehicle and fuel costs (v) Food safety concerns are noted at the transportation stage, where tomatoes are often stored in baskets with little ventilation, and at the wholesale and retail stage, where the product is often packaged and arranged without following safe food handling and proper storage practices.



Fig 3: Mr Yau Rabiu during his presentation

Two discussants (A member of the project's National advisory committee (NAC) and the former National president Horticulture Society of Nigeria) presented their reflections on the study and report and discussed how the study findings resonated with them given their different fields of expertise.



Fig 4: Dr. Shittu (a discussant and NAC member) giving her feedback

Dr Ayala, The Co-Principal investigator of the project led an icebreaker session by asking participants what market they prefer to buy from and why. Responses from participants include (i) Proximity to the market (ii) Cost of goods at the market and (iii) Convenience



*Fig 5: Dr Ayala Wineman during the icebreaker session*

This was followed by an engaging session (facilitated by faculty and scholars on the research team) during which participants at the various locations engaged in discussions about the study findings. A summary report of the feedback on the report can be found [here](#). This feedback is reflected in the final synthesized RR report.



Fig 6: *participants during the facilitated session in Zaria*



Fig 7: Participants during the facilitated session in Ibadan



Fig 8: *Participants in Zaria*





Fig 9: *Early career scholars at the event in Ibadan*

