COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF ONE DAY CIVIL SOCIETY WORKSHOP ON LEGISLATIVE
AND POLICY ADVOCACY ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND HEALTH IN NIGERIA ORGANIZED
BY THE CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) HELD AT KINI COUNTRY
HOTEL, AKWANGA NASSARAWA STATE ON THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER, 2015.

PREAMBLE:

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) organized Civil Society Workshop on
Legislative and Policy Advocacy on Agriculture, Nutrition and Health in Nigeria. The meeting
aimed at training civil society groups to understand and effectively demand accountability on
Nigeria’s legislative and policy process in the areas of health, nutrition and agriculture. The
meeting drew about 30 participants from various civil society groups working on health,
agriculture and nutrition. It featured Dr. David Olayemi, Mrs. M.O Omotoso and Chioma Kanu
as the lead presenters. After exhaustive deliberations on various thematic issues, the following
observations and recommendations were made:

OBSERVATIONS

1. So far, Nigeria has formulated several policies, but backpedalled by administrative
inconsistency, weak coordination and lack of continuity, needless introduction of new
policies, lack of institution arrangement and home grown agricultural initiatives.
2. Lack of agricultural extension service, and poor communication between community
and the government on land acquisition to drive expected growth and development in
the nation’s agricultural productivity.
3. Poor marketing strategy for agricultural products, and storage facility results in
persistent wastage, loss of agricultural profitability, and discourage exportation.
4. Lack training on proper use of agricultural resources, and poor record keeping skills by
farmers discourage effective tracking, monitoring and utilization of agricultural finance.
5. Delay in agricultural policies and programmes, inadequate agricultural investment,
incentive and enabling facilities, and lack of systemic fund evaluation, discourage
appreciable participation, especially by small scale farmers in agricultural productivity at
all levels.
6. Poor budgetary allocation and implementation results hampers timely implementation
RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants recommended as follows:

1. Effective policy implementation with administrative consistency to promote continuity and home grown agricultural initiatives at all levels.
2. Adequate financial literacy for farmers, especially across the grassroots to encourage effective utilization, tracking and monitoring of agricultural resources.
3. Effective communication between government and the community with increased legislative oversight on land acquisition law to encourage full participation, growth and development of agricultural productivity at all levels.
4. Increased focus in value chain system to boost state’s agricultural specific strength for favourable comparative advantage and enhance employment opportunity at all levels.
5. Inadequate agricultural investment, incentive and enabling facilities, and lack of systemic fund evaluation, discourage appreciable participation, especially by small scale farmers in agricultural productivity at all levels.
6. Develop comprehensive agricultural plan for transformation into legislation.
CONCLUSION

The participants expressed appreciation to CISLAC for embarking on the training channeled towards capacity building for civil society capacity to understand and effectively demand accountability on Nigeria’s legislative and policy process in the areas of agriculture, nutrition and health. The participant demonstrated willingness to continue partnering with CISLAC on the initiative. Participants further expressed gratitude to the organizers noting that the engagement was revealing and indeed an opportunity to begin to engage legislative process on health, nutrition and agriculture.