



Federal Republic of Nigeria



# OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, REGIONAL, INTER-REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON DEVELOPMENT-ORIENTED BALANCED DRUG CONTROL POLICY: ADDRESSING SOCIOECONOMIC ISSUE

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# Introduction

- ▶ Nigeria is committed to the universal goals and targets, known as the “**Sustainable Development Goals**” aimed to achieve sustainable development for humanity as well as safeguarded planet earth by the year 2030. The goals among others are targeted at ending poverty, hunger, ensure healthy lives, inclusive and equitable education, and gender equality among others. The SDGs provide Member States with a common plan and agenda to tackle some of the pressing challenges such as poverty, climate change and conflict facing our world.



## Intro...

- ▶ Nigeria's initiative at implementing Alternative Development programme especially the crop substitution programme is still at the **developmental stage**. Alternative development strategies and action plans are still being developed.
- ▶ For us, alternative development is intensifying efforts at preventing the cultivation and trafficking in cannabis and at present, enlightenment and awareness of the stakeholders which include farmers, community members, and traditional leaders are ongoing.

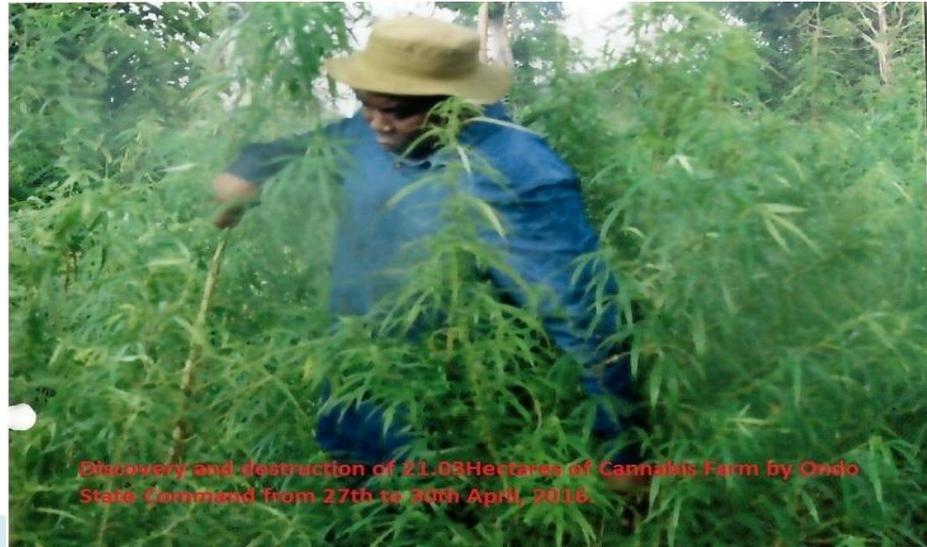


# Expression of Concern on Illicit Cultivation of Crop (A Case Study of Cannabis) Illicit Manufacturing and Distribution.

- ▶ Cannabis continues to be the most widely grown, trafficked and abused drug in Nigeria accounting for more than half of the Nation's drug seizures in recent years. For instance in 2015, of the total of **903,624.56 kgs** of drugs seized, Cannabis accounted for **871,480.32** kilogrammes. Also, in the same year, **377.12 hectares** of cannabis were discovered and destroyed. In 2016, about 718.78 hectares of farmlands were destroyed while between January and June 2017, **38.2** hectares were destroyed by NDLEA. Large scale illicit cultivation of cannabis remains one of the prime concerns in Nigeria. Nigeria is one of the world's leading cannabis producers and the source of 60–70 percent of the seizures in West Africa.
- ▶ **There are indications that there have been increases in the number of hectares of illicit cannabis cultivation due to favourable climatic conditions. It is suspected that the intensive illicit crop cultivation and trafficking activities are sustained by a fully developed system of networking among drug traffickers. Trafficking route for cannabis is mainly through West African Sub-region and Sub Saharan Region to European countries.**

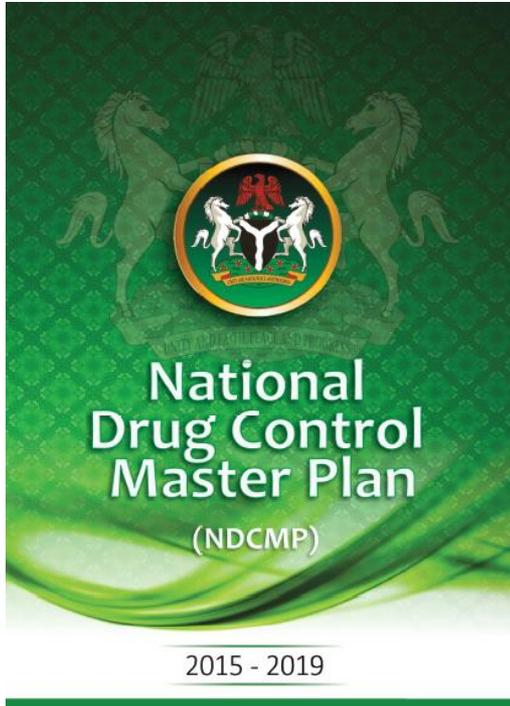


# Cannabis Farm...





## Expression of Concern...

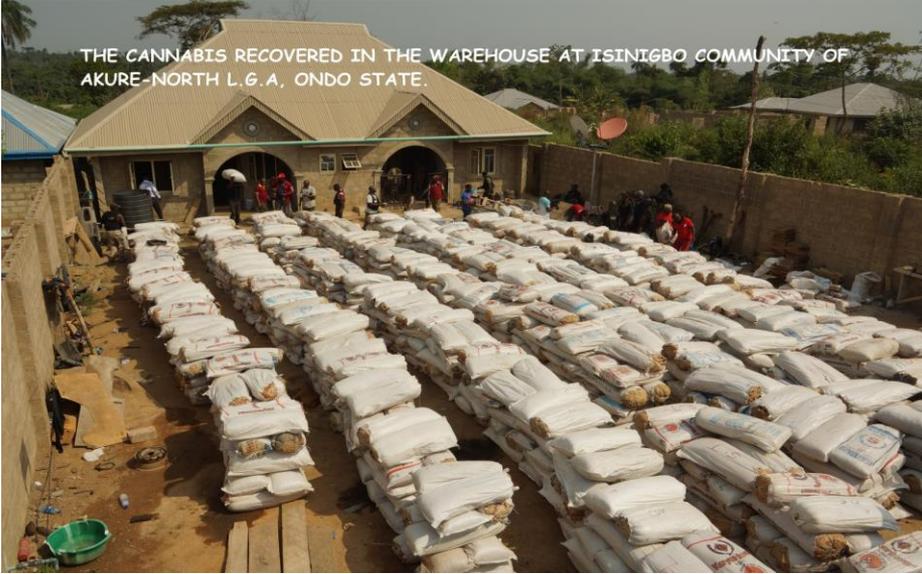


- ▶ Nigeria's effort is aimed at reducing the cultivation and abuse of this illicit drug which provides a window for emerging crime to flourish. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency as the lead agency on drug control has adopted measure as encapsulated in the National Drug control Master plan. The NDCMP is Nigeria's Government comprehensive multiagency and multi-dimension approach to combating illicit drug trafficking and abuse in the country.



# Seized Cannabis

THE CANNABIS RECOVERED IN THE WAREHOUSE AT ISINIGBO COMMUNITY OF AKURE-NORTH L.G.A, ONDO STATE.



Arrest and seizure of 1.511 metric tons of cannabis in Akure North L.G.A, Ondo State, 17th May, 2016 by FCT/INNA, Government

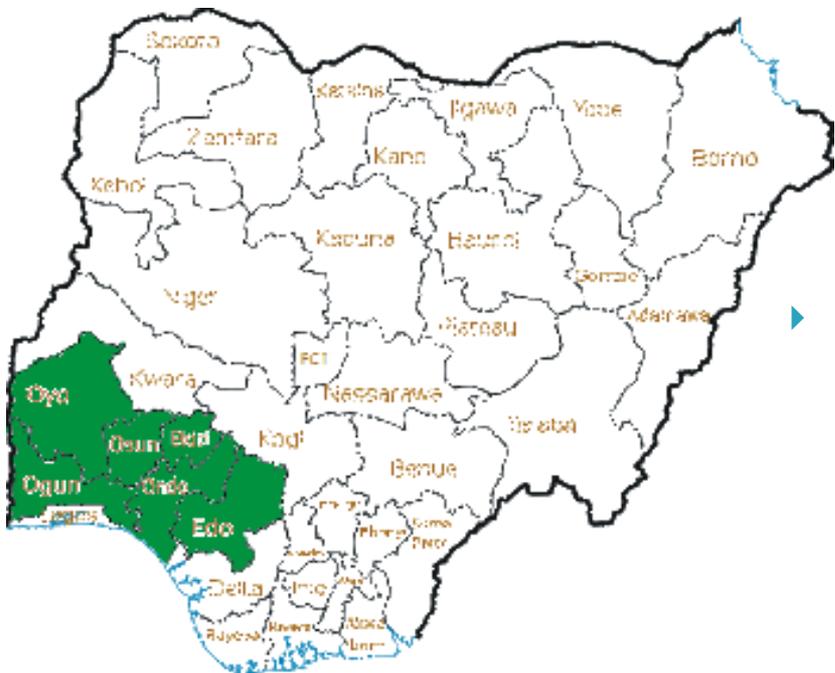


Arrest and Seizure of 218KGs of Cannabis Sativa at Birnin Gwari area of Kachina state by Kachina State Command, 26th October, 2016



## Expression of Concern...

### Map of Nigeria showing Cannabis Producing Areas



- ▶ We have discovered that cannabis can grow in many parts of Nigeria. However, the main areas of cannabis cultivation in large commercial quantities are the South-South and South-West geopolitical zones of the country. These are **Ogun, Ekiti, Osun, Oyo, Ondo** and **Edo States**. The six States have been selected by the UNODC under the EU sponsored project to carry out serial survey of extent of cannabis cultivation in the country.
- ▶ There are two seasons, the **dry season spanning January to June** and the **wet season spanning March & April** while harvesting starts from August to Early November. Attempt to carry out the two surveys this year in collaboration with other stakeholder were not successful due to logistics and other challenges. Arrangements are ongoing to carry out the surveys in 2018.



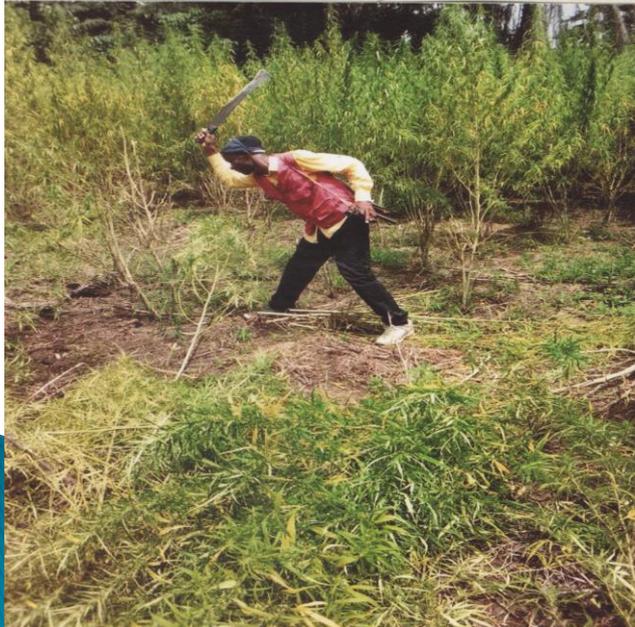
## Expression of Concern...

- ▶ Under the NDCMP, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has started to discuss the issue at its National stakeholders meeting on Agricultural produce and cultivation. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture stressed the importance of collaboration in checking the menace of cannabis cultivation. The highpoint of the meeting was the aggressive sensitization campaign on the need for crop substitution.
- ▶ The Federal Ministry of Agriculture is to lead this initiative to fast-track the alternative development programme with the supports of state governments in the cannabis producing areas of the country.
- ▶ To tackle this challenge the Government in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture sensitized the policy makers in the states where cannabis are cultivated and this has led to the pilot scheme in Oyo State area of the major cannabis cultivation area. The State allocated the cannabis farmland destroyed in the Government Forest Reserve to an investor.



# Oyo Pilot Scheme

GAMBARI FOREST RESERVE, OYO STATE, NIGERIA.  
USED FOR CANNABIS CULTIVATION BEFORE LEASE.





# Oyo Pilot Scheme

GAMBARI FOREST RESERVE, OYO STATE, NIGERIA – CURRENTLY



# GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES AND CANNABIS FIELD ERADICATION DATA FOR GAMBARI FOREST RESERVE, OYO STATE, NIGERIA.

## CANNABIS FIELD IDENTIFICATION REPORT

State: OYO  
 Surveyor's name: FORTUNE CHARLES IKIRIKO  
 Date of field visit (dd/mm/yy): 18 6 2015 Field number: 07

	Latitude			Longitude		
	D	M	S	D	M	S
Center field	7	7	15.8	3	49	39.8
1st corner	7	7	12.0	3	49	41.0
2nd corner	7	7	17.5	3	49	42.8
3rd corner	7	7	17.4	3	49	38.9
4th corner	7	7	14.8	3	49	36.2

Please make sure to setup your GPS to display hh'mm'ss.s" units  
 If corner coordinates not measured enter at least a pair of coordinates

Was the cannabis farm eradicated?  Completely  Not at all  Partially

Farm altitude above sea level (meters) 115.3  
 Estimated farm area (hectares) 2.0  
 Plant height at maturity (meters) 1.6  
 Photo numbers 21.0

Environment of the field  
 Flat land  Hilly terrain

If mixed with other crops, which crops?  
 Cassava  Maize/corn   
 Sweet potato  Sorghum   
 Cocoa, Palm  Others

Product made from cannabis plants  
 Herb (Marijuana)   
 Resin (hashich)   
 Cannabis oil

Agricultural practices  
 Estimated month of sowing Apr  
 Estimated month of planting May

Maintenance  
 Pesticides   
 Manure/Organic fertilizer   
 Irrigated   
 No maintenance

Location of the field  
 Hidden among other fields   
 In forest clearing   
 Near village   
 Near road   
 Near forest   
 Mixed with other crops   
 Others

Comments  
 \* This is a rainy season cannabis farm.

## CANNABIS FIELD IDENTIFICATION REPORT

State: OYO  
 Surveyor's name: FORTUNE CHARLES IKIRIKO  
 Date of field visit (dd/mm/yy): 11 6 2015 Field number: 04

	Latitude			Longitude		
	D	M	S	D	M	S
Center field	7	8	18.5	3	50	0.0
1st corner	7	8	20.1	3	50	0.1
2nd corner	7	8	16.4	3	50	0.8
3rd corner	7	8	19.1	3	49	58.1
4th corner						

Please make sure to setup your GPS to display hh'mm'ss.s" units  
 If corner coordinates not measured enter at least a pair of coordinates

Was the cannabis farm eradicated?  Completely  Not at all  Partially

Farm altitude above sea level (meters) 133.4  
 Estimated farm area (hectares) 1.3  
 Plant height at maturity (meters) 1.5  
 Photo numbers 4.0

Environment of the field  
 Flat land  Hilly terrain

If mixed with other crops, which crops?  
 Cassava  Maize/corn   
 Sweet potato  Sorghum   
 Cocoa, Palm  Others

Product made from cannabis plants  
 Herb (Marijuana)   
 Resin (hashich)   
 Cannabis oil

Agricultural practices  
 Estimated month of sowing Apr  
 Estimated month of planting Apr

Maintenance  
 Pesticides   
 Manure/Organic fertilizer   
 Irrigated   
 No maintenance

Location of the field  
 Hidden among other fields   
 In forest clearing   
 Near village   
 Near road   
 Near forest   
 Mixed with other crops   
 Others

Comments  
 \* This is a rainy season cannabis farm.

## CANNABIS FIELD IDENTIFICATION REPORT

State: OYO  
 Surveyor's name: IKECHUKWU PATRICK  
 Date of field visit (dd/mm/yy): 11 9 2015 Field number: 02

	Latitude			Longitude		
	D	M	S	D	M	S
Center field	7	8	24.7	3	49	34.6
1st corner	7	8	22.1	3	49	35.1
2nd corner	7	8	24.8	3	49	32.7
3rd corner	7	8	25.9	3	49	36.3
4th corner						

Please make sure to setup your GPS to display hh'mm'ss.s" units  
 If corner coordinates not measured enter at least a pair of coordinates

Was the cannabis farm eradicated?  Completely  Not at all  Partially

Farm altitude above sea level (meters)   
 Estimated farm area (hectares) 3.2  
 Plant height at maturity (meters) 3.2  
 Photo numbers 32.0

Environment of the field  
 Flat land  Hilly terrain

If mixed with other crops, which crops?  
 Cassava  Maize/corn   
 Sweet potato  Sorghum   
 Cocoa, Palm  Others

Product made from cannabis plants  
 Herb (Marijuana)   
 Resin (hashich)   
 Cannabis oil

Agricultural practices  
 Estimated month of sowing Apr  
 Estimated month of planting May

Maintenance  
 Pesticides   
 Manure/Organic fertilizer   
 Irrigated   
 No maintenance

Location of the field  
 Hidden among other fields   
 In forest clearing   
 Near village   
 Near road   
 Near forest   
 Mixed with other crops   
 Others

Comments  
 \* This is a rainy season cannabis farm.  
 \* This cannabis farm is mixed with other crops like water leaf.  
 \* This farm could not be filled completely because some parts were destroyed by a heavy rainfall during the eradication and data collection.

## CANNABIS FIELD IDENTIFICATION REPORT

State: OYO  
 Surveyor's name: IKECHUKWU PATRICK  
 Date of field visit (dd/mm/yy): 10 9 2015 Field number: 01

	Latitude			Longitude		
	D	M	S	D	M	S
Center field	7	8	17.5	3	49	36.3
1st corner	7	8	17.1	3	49	38.4
2nd corner	7	8	17.8	3	49	40.0
3rd corner	7	8	17.5	3	49	33.0
4th corner	7	8	15.6	3	49	35.5

Please make sure to setup your GPS to display hh'mm'ss.s" units  
 If corner coordinates not measured enter at least a pair of coordinates

Was the cannabis farm eradicated?  Completely  Not at all  Partially

Farm altitude above sea level (meters) 121.8  
 Estimated farm area (hectares) 1.1  
 Plant height at maturity (meters) 3.4  
 Photo numbers 23.0

Environment of the field  
 Flat land  Hilly terrain

If mixed with other crops, which crops?  
 Cassava  Maize/corn   
 Sweet potato  Sorghum   
 Cocoa, Palm  Others

Product made from cannabis plants  
 Herb (Marijuana)   
 Resin (hashich)   
 Cannabis oil

Agricultural practices  
 Estimated month of sowing Apr  
 Estimated month of planting May

Maintenance  
 Pesticides   
 Manure/Organic fertilizer   
 Irrigated   
 No maintenance

Location of the field  
 Hidden among other fields   
 In forest clearing   
 Near village   
 Near road   
 Near forest   
 Mixed with other crops   
 Others

Comments  
 \* This is a rainy season cannabis farm.  
 \* This cannabis farm is mixed with other crops like water leaf.



## Expression of Concern...

- ▶ The Government of Nigeria is presently discussing with a Foundation on viable alternative crop programme. This is to introduce alternative cannabis with industrial fibre seeds that contains negligible amount of tetra-hydro-cannabinol and has the capacity to neutralize the potency of the cannabis sativa currently grown on our farm lands when grown together.
- ▶ This is of interest because; it will assist in eliminating the specie of cannabis currently cultivated in Nigeria. We are also subjecting the claims to further investigations and research. We are equally conscious of the fact that alternative crop cultivation depends on many factors such as possession of the requisite skills and knowledge for growing such crops; geographical and environmental factors, such as climate, the availability of water and arable land, and proximity to market. All these are being considered at this planning stage.



## Need to Strengthen Sub –Regional and International Cooperation to support Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development Programme including Preventive Alternative Development:

- ▶ ECOWAS and its member states recognize the magnitude of the drug trafficking challenge in the West Africa sub–region, including cannabis. This is evidenced by the range of initiatives developed and implemented over the years. However, the political will needed to support these interventions is often not transferred to support their implementations, leading to situations of operational level battles among technical Agencies. In addition, there are no inadequate resources for implementing Agencies. In other words, there is need for stronger political will and adequate resources among member states.



## Regional and International Cooperation...

- ▶ The initiative of **Alternative Development** be mainstreamed into natural resources management as well as other developmental programmes. Farmers are to be encouraged to go into cultivation of cash crops by providing them with adequate supply of seeds, modern technology equipment, irrigation facilities and access to open export markets of their farm products. The farmers must be availed with or have access to adequate means of farming.
- ▶ **Alternative development in drug control is still relatively new in Nigeria.** The Nation has commenced with the support of international collaborators. We are also studying countries where such programmes has successfully be implemented e.g. Thailand under the Mae Fah Luang Foundation who created the Doi Tung Project in 1987.
- ▶ The ECOWAS Regional Action Plan 2016–2020 in collaboration with the UNODC Regional Programme for West Africa are comprehensive plan aimed at strengthening both sub regional and international cooperation to galvanize different countries” law enforcement and judicial institutions to respond to threats and challenges of illicit drug trafficking and cultivation.



# Promotion of Research as Cannabis remains commonly Abuse Drug in Africa:

There is need for continuous research on drugs especially on cannabis for the following reasons:

- ▶ Nigeria is faced with the dearth of data on drugs especially cannabis. Most of the studies conducted are either obsolete or with little coverage and therefore cannot be generalized or used for sustainable planning and implementations of programmes.
- ▶ Strengthening Research and Data collection capacity on cannabis cultivation will aid the planning and execution of programmes.
- ▶ There is the need for Countries to conduct surveys on different aspects of cannabis cultivation, crop substitution and alternative land use and development.
- ▶ Specialized agencies such as UNODC must continue to support researches aimed at strengthening regional capacity to capture, analyze and regularly monitor baseline data and trends in these areas.



# Promotion of Inclusive Economic Growth and Nigeria's Support Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Economic Development

Nigeria has supported several initiatives for poverty eradication and sustainable economic development which include:

- ▶ **Young Entrepreneurship Support (YES):** An initiative of the Federal Government aimed at poverty alleviation in Nigeria is the Young Entrepreneurship Support (Yes) programme aimed at equipping young people with the requisite skills and knowledge to be self employed by starting and managing their own businesses and thereby dissuading them from being recruits for cannabis cultivation. Participants are drawn from entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 and 35 years.



# Promotion of Inclusive Economic Growth...

- ▶ **N– Power Programme:** N–Power programme is another Federal Government initiative aimed at harnessing Nigeria’s young demography through appropriate skill development efforts which provides an opportunity to achieve inclusion and productivity within the country. N–Power addresses the challenge of youth unemployment by providing a structure for large scale and relevant work skills acquisition and development while linking its core and outcomes to fixing inadequate public services and stimulating the larger economy. N–Power is designed also for citizens between the ages of **18 and 35 years.**



# Challenges

- ▶ The challenge of alternative development in Nigeria is largely as a result of the fact that most of the land mass used for cannabis cultivation is government forest reserves which are located in very remote forest and difficult terrain.
- ▶ Another challenge is the fact that most cannabis farms are leased by absentee barons who employ labourers to work on the farms supervised by managers. They are hired by barons taking advantage of the non-effective use of the forest reserves for their nefarious activities.
- ▶ Other challenges are, raising the budget for alternative development and identifying the number of beneficiaries.



# Conclusion

- ▶ Alternative development is a long-term process, which needs a long-term commitment from all actors involved in rural development.
- ▶ We are conscious of the fact that alternative development goes beyond the concept of crop substitution and that we need to promote the overall integration of areas under cannabis cultivation into the economic and social mainstream.
- ▶ The investment required for road construction, to overcome the inaccessibility of these areas is huge. Our strategy is to go slowly and steadily learning from those who have successfully accomplished this feat.

Thank you for Listening