Speech by Amb. Abhishek Singh, High Commissioner of India to Nigeria on Agriculture & Allied Sector on 06.08.2026

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Mr Danladi Mato. DGM, Agricultural Services Department Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC)

Good afternoon to all the members of the business community and Media.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the India–Nigeria Trade Forum on Agriculture & Allied Sector. Agriculture is the foundation of both our economies.

In India, agriculture employs nearly 45% of our workforce and we are the world's largest producer of milk, pulses, spices, and the 2nd largest producer of rice, wheat, and vegetables.

In Nigeria, agriculture contributes significantly to GDP and livelihoods, with immense potential in grains, horticulture, livestock, fisheries, and food processing. Both our countries face the same goals: food security, rural prosperity, job creation, and climate-resilient farming. And both have complementary strengths.

India is a global hub for affordable tractors, drip irrigation, solar pumps, seeds, and fertilizers. These can help increase Nigerian farm productivity. Nigeria's demand for rice mills, tomato processing, dairy equipment, cold chain, and packaging aligns perfectly with India's expertise in food processing technology.

From drones and precision farming to FPO digitization and agri-finance, Indian startups are ready to partner with Nigerian farmers and agribusinesses.

For this trade to grow, **we need to address 3 enablers**:

First, Policy & Standards - Faster approvals, clarity on NAFDAC and SON requirements.

Second, Finance - Credit lines, insurance, and investment support through NEXIM Bank, Bank of Industry, and private partners.

Third, Logistics - Efficient shipping, warehousing, and cold chain to reduce post-harvest losses. India is committed to partner in Nigeria's agricultural transformation. In fact, being the Strategic partners, we are ready to share technology, training, and investment.

I would like add that Nigeria's agricultural seed sector is experiencing massive demand driven by the need to feed a growing population. Estimated at over 350,000 metric tons annually, such a demand calls for international collaboration. While India's mature seed market, the 5th largest globally, is worth over $4.25 billion and focuses heavily on high-value hybrids and genetically modified (GM) traits. To address this issue, I would like to share here that during the visit of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Nigeria in November 2024, India offered cooperation on Millet cultivation, supply of high yield seeds and technical experience for drones, digital tools and nano fertilizers. This is the kind of collaboration that we are forging keeping in mind the strategic partnership that we have with Nigeria.

In livestock sector: India has offered its technological expertise and training to improve dairy farming and animal healthcare. India's cooperative dairy model and animal feed solutions can support Nigeria's efforts to boost milk and poultry production. **Jigawa State of Nigeria** is one of such State, which is modernizing its livestock sector through strategic partnerships with India, focusing on artificial insemination, breed improvement, and organizing farmers into cooperatives to enhance dairy and meat production. Key initiatives include collaborations with the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** of India and local cooperative clusters to improve milk collection and animal healthcare. I am pleased to share that many Indian companies based in Nigeria are working in this sector, for example **Natural Dairy**, a well-known company in livestock sector in **Kaduna** is owned and run by an Indian entrepreneur **Mr. Chandrasekhar Dhulipudi**. I am happy that he is present today in this gathering.

As part of India's commitment to support Nigeria in securing food security, a MoU for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors have been proposed and share with the Federal Government of Nigeria. We are hopeful to get it signed during the upcoming high-level visits.

I urge our business community today to move beyond buyer-seller to partners. Let's do Joint Ventures. Let's co-manufacture in Nigeria. To support this, the High Commission has also started conducting webinars twice a month focused on sector-specific opportunities. My team and I remain fully committed to boosting India–Nigeria agri-trade. I thank the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and our partner, Abuja Chamber of Commerce & Industry**(ACCI),** for their unwavering support in making this forum possible.

In closing, let us work with one purpose: **From Indian innovation to Nigerian fields, let us grow together.**

I thank you all.

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I have another important announcement to make...

Launch of Business WhatsApp group

My dear friends from the Business community, I take this opportunity to share that in line with our commitment to deepen trade and investment between India and Nigeria, the High Commission is pleased to launch the **'India–Nigeria Business WhatsApp Group'** today. This platform will serve as a direct bridge between Indian exporters, Nigerian importers, industry associations, and policymakers. In today's fast-moving world, timely information is opportunity. This group will enable real-time sharing of trade inquiries, B2B matchmaking, policy updates, and success stories. The link will be available at the High Commission's website under the tab- Trade & Commerce. I encourage all of you to actively **apply for its registration** and use this new initiative to forge partnerships, resolve challenges, and collectively build a stronger **India–Nigeria economic corridor**.

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