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**FOOD PRODUCTION AND HEALTH AWARENESS**

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 **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This business plan examines the feasibility of the development of a 20hectares cassava plantation and a cassava processing plant in the outskirts of Ibadan in Oyo state. The plantation will produce about 25 tonnes per hectare. For every four tonnes of cassava the processing plant will make one bag of garri and multitude of other products such as flour, animal feed, alcohol, cassava starch, sweeteners, cassava flakes and cassava chips. Cassava is a very popular crop in Nigeria because of the various end products that can be gotten from it and as a result, there is a high demand for it. Cassava is a root crop that can thrive in poor soil and as a result is a very accessible crop. Cassava is mostly cultivated in states like Anambra, Delta, Edo, Benue, Cross River, Imo, Oyo and Rivers.

The proposed project will create economic opportunities, impact positively on the people and help conserve scarce foreign exchange. The cassava that will be processed will be sourced locally through direct production from the plantation. The project will create market access, improve income of farmers and contribute significantly to food security. It will also generate satisfactory returns for sponsors and investors.

**SPONSORSHIP**

The project will be sponsored by the university of Ibadan and also Obasanjo Farms Nig Ltd. The University of Ibadan has a faculty of Agriculture and they have also been of assistance to small scale farmers in Ibadan, lending help and assistance whenever they can. Obasanjo Farms has also contributed a lot to the Nigerian agricultural sector and also the citizens of the country. The farm has given thousands of Nigerians a means of income by offering them jobs at the plantation.

**MANAGMENT**

The management will comprise of a democratically elected Board of Directors that will be made up of shareholders and member of the organization who have stake in the survival, growth and profitability of the business as well as people who are professionals and have vast knowledge and experience in this field. The main aim of the board being in place is to ensure that policies that will promote the growth and development of the organization are put into place. The board also has a duty of ensuring that the organization follows the standards set by the government.

The Managing Director is responsible for the coordination of the day to day management of the organization and he is accountable to the Board of Directors; he will mobilize organization resources to achieve set goals. His job is to mobilize the resources in the organization to achieve set goals and he is also in charge of managing business risks and creating of wealth.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The cooperation will have a working relationship with the National Root Crops Research Institute (NRSCI). The NRSCI deals mainly with the production of root crops and has therefore agreed to provide the necessary assistance needed. The organization will also have a relationship with the Bank of Agriculture which has agreed to finance the production of the 20 hectares of cassava through a loan at 5% interest rate given to the organization.

The organization will also have a relationship with Obasanjo Farms Nig Ltd who will also provide financial and technical assistance. The end products of the cassava will be sold through cooperatives and other distribution channels.

**MARKET AND SALES**

The by-products will be distributed to every state in Nigeria and some of them will be exported to countries beyond the borders. The consumers will vary between the lower class all the way to the higher class.

**COMPETITION ANALYSIS**

Cassava is a very popular crop in Nigeria which is produced in 24 states in the federation. The major states that produce cassava are: Anambra, Delta, Edo, Benue, Cross River, Imo, Oyo and Rivers and to a lesser extent Kwara and Ondo.

**TARIFF AND IMPORT ANALYSIS**

The new government policy on the importation of food produce will be of benefit to this project.

**MARKET POTENTIAL**

There is a strong demand for the various by-products of cassava especially garri in every part of the country. This makes cassava a very valuable commodity to the economy of Nigeria.

**PROFITABILITY**

Many factors such as weather, biological factors, chemical factors, physical and environmental factors such as temperature, sunlight, water, air, soil conditions, varieties of seed, pests, diseases, price fluctuations and other risks e.g. cow invading the farm could affect yield and profitability. However, some solutions can be employed to prevent risks and ensure that profit is made.

**TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY**

The project that is, the processing of cassava is technically feasible. It involves the use of technology to process the various by products and we have readily available, various professionals in the field of converting the cassava into various end products. We also have the necessary equipments and people who have knowledge on the use and maintenance of these equipments. As regards the growing of the cassava plant, cassava is avery easy crop to grow as it can survive almost any condition or soil but even at that, we have in place necessary facilities that will help facilitate the growth of these plants.

**GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AND REGULATION**

The current government is an advocate of locally produced foodstuffs and theexportation of these produce. They are not in support of the importation of edible goods from other countries and this is a great plus to the organization because this regulation enables local producers to sell better. And also, the production will receive financial support from governmental policies aimed at supporting local farmers.

**PROJECT TIMELINE**

The project will be completed within a year because cassavas usually take between 8-10 months after planting to mature after which the processing will start.

**ESTIMATED PROJECT COST AND REVENUE**

**Fixed cost**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Quantity** | **Amount** |
| Purchase of land | 20 hectares | 30,000,000 |
| Land clearing | 20 hectares | 4,600,000 |
| Processing plant | \_ | 120,000,000 |
| Tractor | \_ | 7,500,000 |
| Boom sprayers | \_ | 2,000,000 |
| harvesters | \_ | 8,654,000 |
| **TOTAL** |  | 172,754,000 |

**Operating cost**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ploughing | 20 hectares | 300,000 |
| harrowing | 20 hectares | 200,000 |
| fertilizers | 200 bags | 500,000 |
| Planting of cassava | 100 stems per hectare | 800,000 |
| Weeding of grass | 20 hectares | 300,000 |
| Insecticides and herbicides | 100 bags for each | 500,000 |
| Workmanship |  | 200,000 |
| **TOTAL** |  | **2,800,000** |

**FUNDING MECHANISMS**

Various organizations including the Bank of Industry, Commercial Banks and the Bank of Agriculture have agreed to fund this project. Some foreign investors have also invested into this project.

**CONCLUSION**

Cassava planting and harvesting takes some time to materialise, so the watch word is patience. It needs a lot of coordination and management of resources. But at the end of the day this project will lead to the realisation of a lot of profits.