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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Ambassador Tours Cassava Processing Plant in Ogun State

U.S. Ambassador Robin Renée Sanders today visited the Ekha Agro Factory - a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) public-private partnership facility in Ogun State. The Factory is a beneficiary of United States Government assistance to promote commercial agriculture through USAID's Maximizing Agriculture Revenue and Key Enterprises for Target Sites (MARKETS) program.

In her remarks to participants, Ambassador Sanders said the public-private partnership between the Ekha Agro Factory and USAID "shows the power that the private sector has in its ability to transform Nigerian agriculture, increase food security, and raise farmers' income." Even though Nigeria is the largest producer of cassava in the world, the crop is rarely used in higher-value commercial food processing. The Ekha-USAID partnership provides over 1,000 farmers with secure markets, access to finance, and technical assistance to produce for the first time in Nigeria glucose from cassava. Small scale farmers will double their productivity and increase their net incomes by over 150 percent thanks to better yields and higher prices.

The Ambassador's visit is part of the United States of America's celebrations of National Week in Nigeria and highlights the partnership between the people and government of the United States and Nigeria to foster democratic governance, promote peace and security, improve human development, and accelerate economic growth. The United States Mission in Nigeria supports economic growth in Nigeria with agricultural assistance that dovetails with the Government of Nigeria's objectives to ensure food security and reduce poverty.