

# United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

## **ROUND TABLE: THE ECONOMICS OF GUM ARABIC IN AFRICA**

**27 April 2018, Geneva**

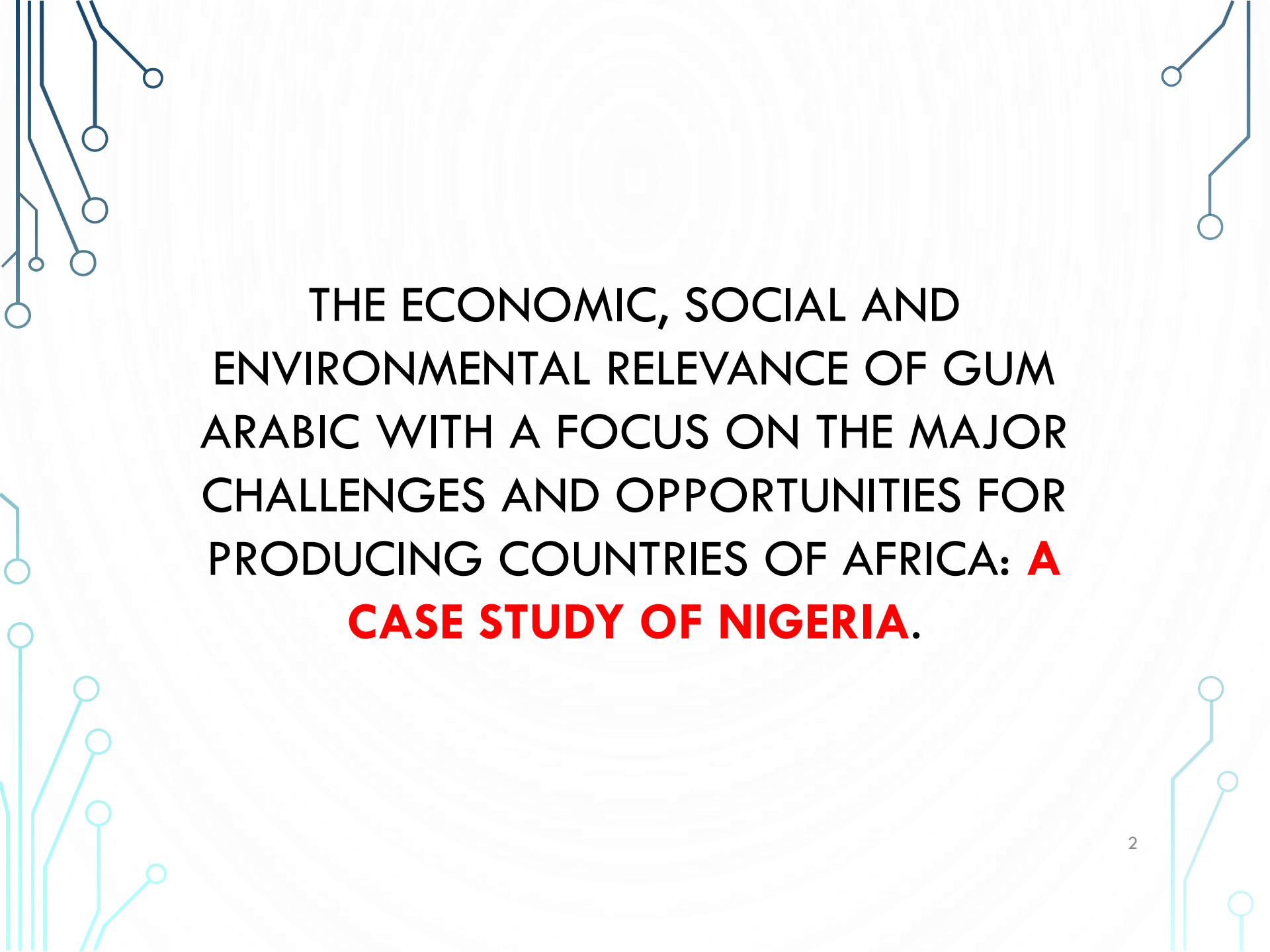
**The economic, social and environmental relevance of gum arabic with a focus on the major challenges and opportunities for producing countries of Africa: A case study of Nigeria**

By

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.

The page features decorative circuit-like lines in the corners, consisting of thin blue lines with small circles at the ends, resembling a network or data flow diagram. These lines are positioned in the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners of the page.

THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RELEVANCE OF GUM ARABIC WITH A FOCUS ON THE MAJOR CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRODUCING COUNTRIES OF AFRICA: **A CASE STUDY OF NIGERIA.**

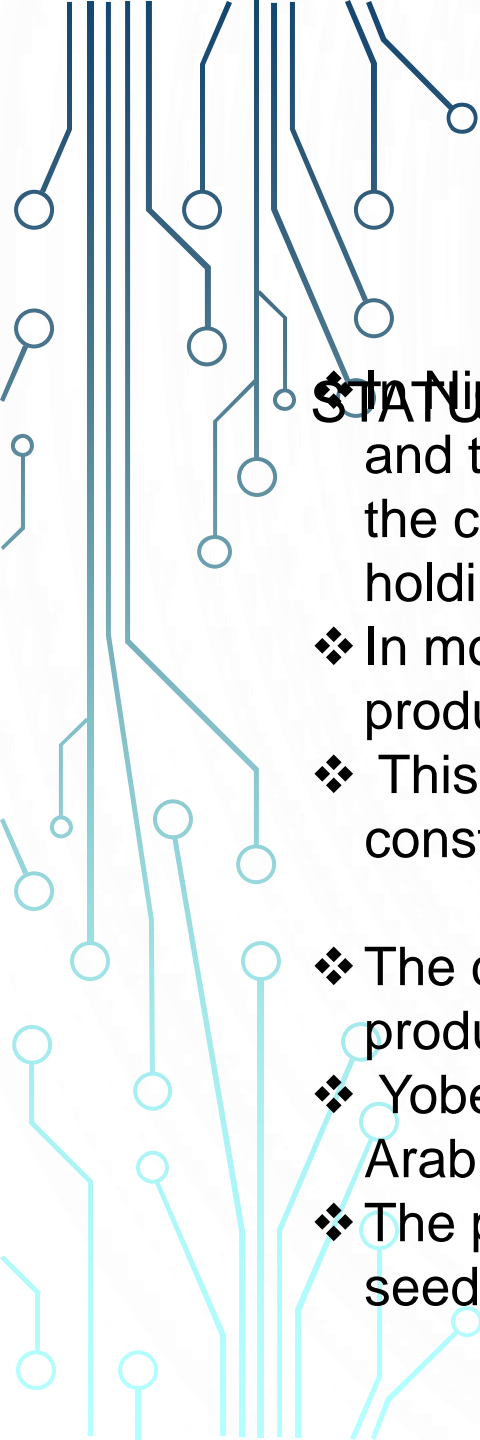
## NIGERIA IN CONTEXT



- Land area: 923 Million square km.
- Population: 190 million, 2.5% annual growth
- Economy: GDP of about \$500b, Largest economy in Africa
- GDP per Capital: \$2,376
- Main Resources: Oil, Gas, Cocoa, Rubber etc.

# GUM ARABIC

- Gum Arabic “desert gold of Africa” is the dried exudates obtained from stems and branches of *Acacia senegal* (L.) Willd or closely related species of *Acacia* that belong to the family *Fabaceae*.
- The species adapted naturally to the hot, dry and barren regions of Africa particularly in areas along the southern frontiers of Sahara desert including Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Sudan

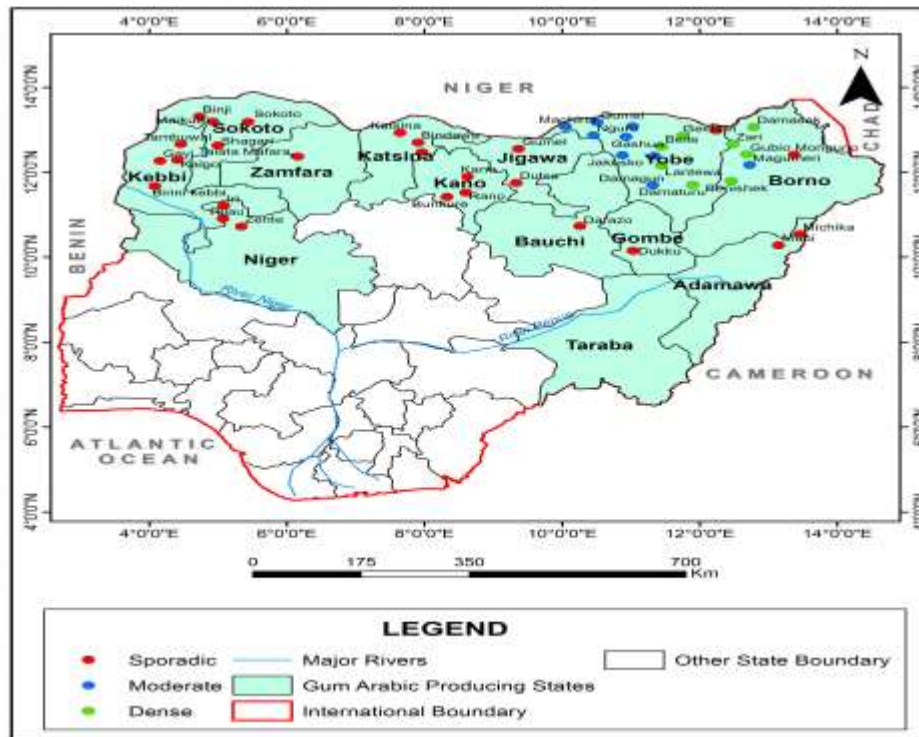


**STATUS OF GUM ARABIC PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA**

Nigeria is estimated to have a range of gum Arabic both cultivated and the wild form (forest reserves) is put at **2.5 million** (ha) while the cultivated type comprising of government and private holdings sum up to **12,050.4ha**

- ❖ In most states *Acacia Senegal* occurs along side other gum producing *Acacias* such as *A seyal*,
- ❖ This biodiversity is reminiscent of centres of origin which often constitute centres of biodiversities.
- ❖ The cultivated type represents less than 1% of the total country production.
- ❖ Yobe, Borno and Jigawa states have more plantations of gum Arabic compared to other states.
- ❖ The plantations are mostly *Acacia Senegal* established with seeds obtained from Borno and Yobe states

## GUM ARABIC PRODUCING STATES IN NIGERIA



**Table 1: Estimated hectarages of private and government owned *Acacia senegal* plantations as well as natural stands of gum arabic by states in Nigeria.**

States	Government (Ha)	Private (Ha)	Forest Reserve (Ha)	Total Hectarage (Ha)	Total Potential Gum Yield (tons)
Jigawa	428.8	119.7	480,000	480,548.5	96,164.6
Borno	492.7	-	584,000	584,492.7	116,947.8
Yobe	100.7	9,174.9	540,054	549,329.6	110,793.5
Kano	160	100	150,000	150,260	30,078.0
Kebbi	130	297.7	70,000	70,427.7	14,128.3
Sokoto	120	89	50,000	50,209	10,062.7
Zamfara	300	67	90,000	90,367	18,110.1
Adamawa	-	94.5	50,000	50,094.5	10,028.4
Taraba	30	17	15,000	15,047.5	3,014.1
Bauchi	50	17.7	256,000	256,067.7	51,220.3
Gombe	19	241.7	150,000	150,260.7	30,078.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,831.2**</b>	<b>10,219.2**</b>	<b>2,435,054*</b>	<b>2,447,104.4</b>	<b>490,625.9</b>

# GUM ARABIC PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA

- production capacities of the various Gum Arabic producing states in Nigeria both cultivated and wild forms in forest reserves is put at 490,625.9 tons
- Three states alone have 66% of the total production capacity. These are Bornu, Yobe and Jigawa States
- However there are several constraints in maximizing this production capacity



## GUM ARABIC EXPORT FROM NIGERIA 2000-2013

Year	Quantity (tons)	Value (\$)
2000	8,239	8,339,526
2001	8,747	9,175,603
2002	6,556	7,539,400
2003	5000	6,769,000
2004	15,407	17,718,050
2005	19,313	57,939,000
2006	21,231	89,170,200
2007	14,463	57,950,634
2008	14,124	64,047,854
2009	40,862	40,861,594
2010	34,780	232,053,502
2011	32,341	65,745,563
2012	12,192	77,231,600
2013	11,932	53,993,548
Total	240,237	781,835,074

# MAIN REASON FOR SHARP DROP IN PRODUCTION OF GUM ARABIC: **BOKO HARAM**



# GUM ARABIC VALUE ADDITION ACTIVITIES



- The main value addition activity of Gum Arabic in Nigeria is farm gate processing of the gum
- These include drying, cleaning, sorting, grading and storage
- Women are mostly involved in processing activities
- Further drying cleaning and sorting is done at the warehouses of exporters before storage and shipping.

# DIFFERENT GRADES OF GUM ARABIC

GRADE 1



GRADE 2



GRADE 3



# GUM ARABIC PROCESSING IN NIGERIA

## PROCESED GUM ARABIC



- Dansa Foods Processing Company (DFPC) based in Kano is the only processing company in Nigeria
- It has capacity to process 10-15 tons per day

# GOVERNMENT SPECIAL INTERVENTIONS TO GROW GUM ARABIC SUB-SECTOR

- Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria (RRIN) established a Gum Arabic Research Sub-Station at Gashua, Yobe State in 1995
- RRIN has continue to produce and distribute to farmers improved grade 1 Gum Arabic seedlings
- RRIN to produce and distribute 1,236,284 improved grade 1 seedlings of gum Arabic in 2017
- **Gum Arabic production enhancement input support scheme**

# CHALLENGES OF GUM ARABIC PRODUCTION AND MARKETING IN NIGERIA

- Political instability and insecurity in the growing regions.
- High cost of fencing Gum Arabic plantation to prevent trespass by herdsmen
- Affected by climate change, insect pests and diseases.
- Paucity of scientific information on various aspects of Gum Arabic production and marketing
- Poor value addition in the Gum Arabic value chain

# SUGGESTIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS

- Focus on establishment of Gum Arabic Plantations.
- dedicated fund to assist Gum Arabic farmers access fund to establish plantation
- Scientific study of Gum Arabic aimed at improved yield
- Encouragement of local investment in the gum Arabic processing and product development to increase value addition
- Encourage establishment of producers and commodity associations