

Facts on Nigeria	4
Nigeria: Called to Hegemony	8
On the Way to a Single Currency for ECOWAS Countries?	9
Staple Crop Production and Consumption	11
Demand for Farm Animal Products in Nigeria	14
Nigeria's Agricultural Policy	16
Historic Opportunities for Rice Growers	19
Nigeria: From Customs Exceptions to a Regional Trade Policy	21
The Agro-Pastoral Product Trade with Neighbouring Countries	23
Nigeria's Role in Niger's Food Security	25
A Look at Agriculture and Agribusiness in Nigeria	27
Farmers' Organizations Not Yet Unified in Nigeria	29
Getting Fertiliser into Farmers' Hands	31
The Nigerian Giant Hungers for its Neighbours' Coconuts	33
News from Inter-réseaux	35

The opinions expressed in these articles reflect the views of the authors and people quoted; they do not necessarily reflect the official position of Inter-réseaux. Unsigned articles and uncredited photos are the work of the *Grain de sel* magazine staff.

Front cover drawing by Stew. All articles can be freely reproduced. In the case of reproduction, dissemination or distribution we ask that you include the credit "© Grain de sel" and forward a copy of your publication to us.

Grain de sel is printed on coated paper made entirely from recycled materials (Cyclus Print).

A Grain de sel "Country Report"

BREAKING WITH ITS CUSTOM, *Grain de sel* is devoting this issue exclusively to one country, Nigeria. Why this country? Nigeria alone represents half of the population of West Africa and half of its economy. Despite its size and influence on all surrounding countries, most rural and agricultural development actors in French-speaking countries (and sometimes in English-speaking countries as well) both in the North and within Africa know little about Nigeria.

This special issue contains reports on initiatives, analytical assessments and opinion pieces that aim to inform readers about the West African "giant with feet of clay". Focusing on agriculture, this issue pays particular attention to Nigeria's influence in the sub-region.

What is the current status of crop and animal farming in Nigeria? How has agricultural policy evolved in this country? How are farmers' organizations doing in Nigeria? What dynamics influence agricultural trade between Nigeria and its neighbours? What role does Nigeria play in ECOWAS? All of these questions are discussed in this issue.

We thank all the authors for their contributions and input, and the members of the *Grain de sel* editorial committee, John Odozi who worked for several months to prepare this issue, along with M. Mitaut, L. Pacoud, J-F Sempéré, J-R Cuzon and D. Simon.

An extensive bibliography was compiled during the preparation of this issue; it is available on the Inter-réseaux website at: <http://www.inter-reseaux.org/ressources-thematiques/ressources-par-pays/article/ressources-sur-le-nigeria>. A special online newsletter on Nigeria has also been published: <http://www.inter-reseaux.org/bulletin-de-veille/article/bulletin-de-veille-no167-special>

This bulletin received financial assistance from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the European Union (EU) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

In addition to this issue of *Grain de sel*, readers may wish to consult "Nigeria: from oil giant to agri giant" in *Défis Sud* No. 95: http://www.sosfam.be/developpement-rural-FR-publications-defis_sud-nigeria_petro_geant_agro_geant.htm

Inter-réseaux Développement rural's Executive Secretariat is made up of Fanny Grandval (network facilitator), Christophe Jacqmin (director), Sylvie Lopy (executive assistant), Vital Pelon (network facilitator) and Joël Teyssier (network facilitator) in Paris, and Souleymane Traoré (network facilitator) in Ouagadougou.