

**INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN THE
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University of Hohenheim

Social and Institutional Change in Agricultural Development

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**An Institutional Analysis of the Transition from Food Supply System to
Biomass Supply System: A case study of cassava in Nigeria**

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Science in Agricultural Science in the Tropics and Sub-Tropics

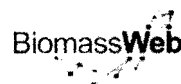
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ABSTRACT

There is considerable potential of biomass based economic growth in resource rich but economically deprived countries like Nigeria. Yet, not much is known about the opportunities as well as constraints in the full utilization of biomass based value webs (or complex systems of interlinked value chains). What kinds of institutional arrangements and policy frameworks are required for increasing the productivity and value addition as well as better incomes for the small holders in biomass sector? This study addresses this question in the context of cassava biomass value webs in Nigeria. Cassava is an important crop because of its multiple usages in food, feed, fiber and biofuel industries. Moreover, the demand for cassava exceeds its supply in Nigeria. The study identified the key actors in cassava value web and analyzed the policy environment for its promotion and development of a biomass based economic growth. Data was collected on the basis of in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and participatory mapping with key stakeholders including the farmers, agricultural ministry, processing industries, agricultural research institutions, and NGOs within the cassava sector. The study found high transactions costs, information asymmetry and unstable policy environment as the major constraints in the utilization of the potential of cassava biomass value web. It recommends more transparency in institution working together for better efficiency, more effective use of cassava byproducts, knowledge disseminations on cassava varieties and their demand, better storage and transportation facilities, and favorable contractual arrangements for cassava growers as ways to enhancing the potential of cassava value web in Nigeria