

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PROVIDE A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
NATIONAL ROOTS AND TUBERS PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND
RESEARCH INSTITUTE, ZING, TARABA STATE AND FOR RELATED MATTERS,
2021

Sponsored by Hon. Kasimu Bello Maigari

[] Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of
Nigeria as follows-

PART I - ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL ROOTS AND TUBERS

PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, ZING, TARABA STATE AND GOVERNING BOARD.

1.-(1) There is hereby established the National Roots and Tubers
Production, Processing and Research Institute, Zing, Taraba State (in this
Bill referred to as the "Institute").

Establishment
of National Roots
and Tubers
Production,
Processing and
Research Institute

(2) The Institute:

(a) Shall be a corporate body with perpetual succession a Common
seal;

(b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and

(c) may for the purposes of performance of its functions under this
Bill, acquire, hold movable or immovable property and enter into contract or
any other transaction for the purposes of carrying out any of its functions.

2. The functions of the Institute shall be to:

Functions of the
Institute

(a) To conduct research into the genetic improvement, production,
processing, storage and socio-economy of Roots and Tubers crops of
economic importance. These Roots and Tuber crops includes- Yam,
Cassava, Potato, Sweet Potato, Hausa Potato and Cocoyam;

(b) Assist into research of the system of massive productions of

1 these varieties above, so that Nigeria can achieve self sufficiency in these
2 Roots and Tuber crops;

3 (c) Assist in the transfer, adaptation and utilization of the end results
4 of researches to get to the appropriate and relevant farmers, for the rapid
5 agricultural and socio-economic growth of Nigeria;

6 (d) Carry out appropriate research to ensure compliance with
7 standards and specifications designated by the Institute and approved by other
8 regulatory authorities in Nigeria for effective control of quality of Roots and
9 Tuber food crops;

10 (e) Identify indigenous technologies in the area of Root and tuber
11 crops food processing and develop them into modern technologies;

12 (f) Establish and equip research and development laboratories with
13 relevant facilities in the Institute;

14 (g) Liaise with relevant establishments within and outside Nigeria in
15 pursuance of the functions of the Institute;

16 (h) Establish and operate World class Laboratories and workshop as
17 centres of excellence for cutting edge research in Tuber crops research;

18 (i) Establish demonstration centres to ensure rapid commercialization
19 of its research as well as providing necessary avenues for training and re-
20 training especially for Students of agricultural studies in tertiary institutions of
21 learning;

22 (j) Encourage and promote the commercialization of research and
23 development innovation results through patents in conjunction with the
24 National Office for Technology Acquisition and promotion (NOTAP);

25 (k) Establish and operate State Offices for effective delivery and
26 deployment of its research results especially in the North East Zone of Nigeria;

27 (l) Provide technical consultancy services for revenue generation and
28 for quality control;

29 (m) Collaborate with relevant bodies, especially tertiary institutions
30 to develop curricula or modules for appropriate knowledge transfer and

training programmes with a view of diploma awards;

(n) Achieve a high research and development output and revenue;

(o) Become a member of any relevant International Scientific bodies;

(p) Publish research results of its activities and collaborate with educational institutions and other relevant government Institutes, organizations, agencies, Councils and industries in research and;

(q) Carry out other activities as are necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions under this Bill.

3. There is established a Governing Board (hereinafter in this Bill referred to as "the Board") which shall formulate policy for the Institute.

Establishment
of the Governing
Board of the
Institute

4.-(1) The Institute shall consist of:

Composition of
the Governing
of the Institute

(a) A Chairman, appointed by the President with requisite knowledge and experience in matters relating to global agricultural research and development;

(b) The Minister charged with the responsibility for Science and Technology or his representative;

(c) The Minister charged with responsibility for agriculture and Rural Development or his representative;

(d) A representative of the Nigeria Academy of Science;

(e) A representative of the Nutrition Society of Nigeria (NSN);

(f) A representative of the Nigerian Institute of Foods, Science and Technology (NIFST);

(g) One representative each from the Six Geopolitical Zones, appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development,

(h) A person appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister to represent the Civil Society organizations; and

(i) The Director-General of the Institute who shall be the Board's Secretary.

	1	(2) The supplementary provision set out in the First Schedule to this
	2	Bill shall have effect with regard to the proceedings of the Board and other
	3	matters contained in the Schedule.
Tenure of the Members of the Governing Board of the Institute	4	5.-(1) The Chairman of the Board shall hold office for a term of four
	5	years and may be eligible for re-appointment for another term of four years and
	6	no more.
	7	(2) a member of the Board who is not an ex-officio member shall hold
	8	office for a term of four years and may be eligible for re-appointment for
	9	another term of four years and no more.
Remuneration of members of the Governing Board of the Institute	10	6. The Chairman and other members of the Board shall be paid such
	11	allowances and expenses in accordance with such rates as may be approved by
	12	the Federal Government of Nigeria from time to time.
Removal of the Chairman or any member of the Board of the Institute	13	7.-(1) When it appears that the Chairman or any member of the Board,
	14	other than an ex-officio member should be removed from office on the grounds
	15	of misconduct or inability to perform the functions of his office, the Board shall
	16	make a recommendation through the Minister to the President for approval.
	17	(2) where the President, after making such inquiries as he considers
	18	necessary, approves the recommendation made through the Minister by the
	19	Board, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation shall, in writing
	20	declare the position vacant.
	21	(3) notwithstanding the provision of subsection (1) of this section, the
	22	President may remove any member of the Governing Board, where he is
	23	satisfied that it is in the interest of the Institute and the public to do so.
Resignation by a member of the Board of the Institute	24	8. A member of the Governing Board other than an ex-officio
	25	member may at any time by notice in writing addressed to the President
	26	through the Minister, resign from being a member of the Board of the Institute.
Cessation of members of the Board from office	27	9. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 4 of this Bill, a member
	28	of the Board ceases to hold office as a member, where:
	29	(a) He resigns his appointment as a member of the Board by notice
	30	under his hand addressed to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

(b) He becomes of unsound mind;

(c) He becomes bankrupt;

(d) He is convicted of a felony or any other offence involving dishonesty or corruption;

(e) He becomes incapable of performing the functions of his office, either arising from infirmity of mind or body;

(f) The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the Institute or in the interest of the public for the person to continue in office;

(g) He has been found guilty under the Code of Conduct or serious misconduct in relation to his duties; or

(h) In the case of a person who becomes a member by virtue of the office he occupies ceases to hold such office;

10. In the event of death or resignation by a member of the Governing Board or where the office of a member of the Board becomes vacant under section (3) of this Bill, a replacement shall be appointed by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Filling of vacancies

PART II - POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF THE INSTITUTE

11. The Board shall have powers to:

Powers of the Board

(a) Formulate policies and ratify short and long term plans of the Institute;

(b) Ratify the annual budget and estimates of the Institute in line with approval granted by the National Assembly in the Appropriation Act;

(c) Approve research and Academic programmes of the Institute

(d) Approve investment plan of the Institute;

(e) Consider and approve the capital development plans of the Institute;

(f) Receive and consider proposals, recommendations and suggestions of the Director-General or any Committee of the Governing Board on matters relating to the functions of the Institute under this Bill;

1 (g) Constitute any Committee that may be necessary to discharge any
2 of the functions assigned to it under this Bill;

3 (h) Attract funds by way of donations and contributions to the
4 Institute and put in place mechanisms for collection and utilization of funds;

5 (i) Invest surplus funds of the Institute in profit-yielding ventures; and

6 (j) Carry out or exercise any other powers that may be necessary for
7 the attainment of the objects of this Bill.

The structure of
the Institute

8 **12.-(1)** The Institute shall have:

9 (a) Its headquarters in Zing, Taraba State.

10 (b) Liaison office or Directorate in Abuja; and

11 (c) State offices in the remaining five states of the North East Zone of
12 Nigeria which include:

13 (1) Bauchi State;

14 (2) Borno State;

15 (3) Adamawa State;

16 (4) Gombe State;

17 (5) Yobe State.

18 (2) The Institute shall operate a departmental structure with
19 directorate or any other structure as may be considered necessary for the
20 performance of its functions and delivery of its services under this Bill.

21 (3) The head of the Research Directorate shall be designated as head
22 of Department and headed by a Director.

23 (4) The head of Research Department shall hold office for 3 years in
24 the first instance and renewable for another 3 years and no more.

25 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3) of this Section,
26 in the absence of a Director or head of the Research Directorate, the most
27 Senior Research Officer may be appointed in acting capacity on the
28 recommendation of the Director-General of the Institute to the Board.

29 (6) A Department shall have no more than five divisions, with each
30 division headed by a Deputy Director and a division may consists of Sections,

headed by Chief Research or Scientific Officer and a Section may also be composed of units for effectiveness.

(7) State Offices shall be headed by a State Office Coordinator.

PART IV - APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR- GENERAL AND OTHER

STAFF OF THE INSTITUTE

13.-(1) There shall be appointed for the Institute a Director-General, who shall be the Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer of the Institute.

Appointment of
the Director-General
of the Institute

(2) The Director-General shall be:

(a) Appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister;

(b) Responsible to the Board for the management of the affairs of the Institute;

(c) Responsible for the execution of the policy and day to day Administration of the affairs of the Institute;

(d) Entitled to earn a remuneration and allowances as may be Specified in his letter of appointment;

(e) A person with cognate experience and Skills of not less than 15 years post-doctoral qualification and or 25 years post qualification as a professional in all fields of Agricultural Science that relates to the operations of the Institute or other criteria as may be specified;

(f) Hold office for a term of four years at the first instance and eligible for re-appointment for another term of four years on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment and no more; and

(g) Shall be the Secretary to the Institute and the Governing Board, but not a member of the Board.

14. The Director- General shall:

(a) Prepare the minutes of meetings of the Governing Board and any of its Committees;

The duties of
the Director-General
of the Institute

(b) Keep and secure all records of the Governing Board;

Principal Officers
of the Institute

1 (c) Issue notice of meetings of the Governing Board as may be
2 directed by the Chairman;

3 (d) Be responsible for the implementations of the resolutions of the
4 Governing Board;

5 (e) Coordinates the preparation of income and expenditure, estimates
6 and development plans for the Governing Board's consideration;

7 (f) Have custody of the seal of the Institute;

8 (g) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Board.

9 15.-(1) The principal officers of the Institute shall include:

10 (a) Directors;

11 (b) Head of Department;

12 (c) State Office Coordinators;

13 (d) Head of Servicom Office;

14 (e) Chief Internal Auditor;

15 (f) Head of Pension Office;

16 (g) Head of Legal; and

17 (h) Head of Procurement

18 (2) The Directors, Heads of Departments or State Office Coordinators
19 shall assist the Director-General in the day-to-day management of the Institute

20 (3) Directors or State Office Coordinators shall:

21 (a). Head each of the Directorate of the Institute;

22 (b) Implement the policies of the Institute as they apply to the
23 Directorate;

24 (c) prepare draft expenditure estimates and development plans of his
25 Directorate;

26 (d) Serve on Scientific or Technical Advisory Committee of the
27 Institute; and

28 (e) perform such other functions as may be determined by the
29 Director-General.

1 16. The Board may from time to time, appoint or employ such
2 other persons as members of Staff of the Institute on the recommendation of
3 the Director-General as may be necessary, subject to the extant rules and
4 conditions of service of the Institute.

Other staff of the
Institute

5 17. Salaries and benefits of the Staff of the Institute shall be in
6 accordance with the conditions and scheme of service in other Research
7 Institutes in Nigeria as may be approved by the Board of the Institute.

Remuneration
of employees of
the Institute

8 18.-(1) The Board may make staff regulations or adopt staff
9 conditions of service that is independent of the Civil Service of the
10 Federation that may provide for:

Staff Regulations

11 (a) Remuneration and tenure of office of members of staff of the
12 Institute;

13 (b) Appointment, promotion, fringe benefits and incentive for
14 members of staff of the Institute; and

15 (c) Appeal procedure for members of staff of the Institute against
16 dismissal or other disciplinary measures.

17 (2) The Board shall have power to amend regulations made under
18 this Bill, provided that the proposal for, is passed by two-thirds majority of
19 the Board members.

20 (3) All regulations made by the Board subject to the provisions of
21 this Bill, may be published in the Official Gazette of the Federal
22 Government of Nigeria.

23 19.-(1) The Principal Officers of the Institute may be removed
24 from office by the Board with the approval of the Minister.

Removal and
discipline of Staff
of the Institute

25 (2) any other Senior member of Staff of the Institute may be
26 removed from office by the Director-General with the approval of the
27 Board.

28 (3) The removal from office of any Junior Staff shall be with the
29 approval of the Director-General.

Application of
the Pensions
Reform Act

1 20.-(1) Service in the employment of the Institute shall be as approved
2 service under the Pensions Reform Act, accordingly, employees of the Institute
3 shall, in respect of their services be entitled to Pension and other retirement
4 benefits as prescribed in the Act.

5 (2) notwithstanding provisions of Subsection (1) of this section,
6 nothing in this Bill, shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on
7 terms, which preclude the gratuity in respect of that office.

8 (3) for the purpose of the application of the Pensions Reform Act, any
9 power exercisable thereunder by the President or authority other than the
10 Federal Government(not being the power to make Regulations under Section
11 34 of this Bill), shall be vested in and exercisable by the Institute.

12 (4) subject to Subsection (2) of this Section, the Pensions Reform Act,
13 shall in its application of Subsection (3) of this Section, have effect as if, the
14 office were in the public service of the Federation within the meaning of the
15 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999(as amended).

16 PART III - STRUCTURE AND CONSTITUTION OF THE INSTITUTE

Constitution of
Scientific Technical
Advisory
Committee

17 21.-(1) The Institute may establish Scientific Technical Advisory
18 Committee (in this Bill referred to as the Committee) in the areas of Research to
19 assist the Institute in various aspects of its responsibilities.

20 (2) The members of a Scientific or Technical Advisory Committee
21 shall be persons with requisite expertise and experience in the relevant areas of
22 interest of the Institute.

Establishment
of demonstration
Centres

23 22.-(1) The Institute may with the approval of the Chairman of the
24 Board or Minister, establish Demonstration Centres in any of the six geo-
25 political zones of Nigeria, based on
26 the nature of the Roots and Tubers derivable from the area or zone.

27 (2) The Institute shall provide for:

28 (a). the location of the demonstration centres;

29 (b) the field in which the centres are to conduct its work and
30 manpower training, where applicable;

(c) the transfer to the centres by mutual agreement, any existing Federal, State and Local Government facilities;

(d) the establishment and constitution of senior officers of the Institute to manage the affairs of the centres;

(e) the demonstration centres shall be fully equipped to carry out training and research and development activities; and

(f) a suitable association and collaboration of the Demonstration centres with Universities, other institutions of higher learning.

(3) The Institute may with the approval of relevant authorities establish the Institute's Consult, which shall be a semi-autonomous body to commercialize the Institute's research results.

PART IV - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

23.-(1) The Institute shall establish and maintain a fund which shall be applied towards the promotion of the objectives of the Institute specified in this Bill.

Establishment
of fund for the
Institute

(2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund established in pursuance of subsection (1) of this Section:

(a) such sums as may be provided by the Government of the Federation or appropriated by the National Assembly for payment into the fund of the Institute;

(b) fees charged for services rendered by the Institute; including royalties on the Institute's results ceded to farmers or institutions for national development in areas of agriculture;

(c) all sums accruing to the Institute by way of gifts, testamentary dispositions, endowments or contributions from philanthropic persons or organizations;

(d) contributions from the organized private sector;

(e) foreign aids and assistance from bilateral and multilateral Agencies; and

1 (f) proceeds from commercialization of research results of the
2 Institute.

3 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection (2) of this Section,
4 every application for registration into the Institute's Journal, shall attract a fee,
5 which shall be credited and maintained in a separate account of the Institute,
6 part of which shall be used for the publication of the Institute's Journal.

Expenditure of
the Institute

7 24. The Institute shall apply the fund established under this Bill, with
8 the approval of the National Assembly:

9 (a) Conduct research and development activities in the capital project
10 of the Institute;

11 (b) Maintain the Head Office and establish State Offices for the
12 Institute;

13 (c) Pay allowances and expenses of members of the Board;

14 (d) Sponsor local and international conferences, seminars, workshops
15 for members of Staff of the Institute;

16 (e) Provide scholarship and award for specialized training for
17 personnel;

18 (f) Publicize and promote the activities of the Institute;

19 (g) Support national and international bodies and pay annual dues and
20 other contributions for scientific organizations, in which Nigeria is a member;
21 and

22 (h) Undertake any other activity in connection with the objects of this
23 Bill;

Annual Estimates
Accounts

24 25.-(1) The Institute shall not later than 30th September of every year,
25 submit to the Board and the National Assembly for approval its estimates of
26 Income and expenditure for the next financial year.

27 (2) The Institute shall:

28 (a) keep proper records of all accounts of its income and expenditure
29 and

30 (b) prepare statement of account in respect of each financial year.

(3) The Institute shall not later than 30th June of each financial year, submit its accounts to Auditors appointed from the list of qualified auditors in accordance to guidelines laid down by the Auditor-General for the Federation and the Auditors fees and expenses shall be paid from the funds of the Institute and provide same to the National Assembly for oversight purposes.

26.-(1) The Institute shall not later than 30th June of each financial year submit to the Board and the National Assembly for approval its estimates of income and Expenditure for the next financial year in respect of the preceding year an annual report on the activities of the Institute in such form as the Board may direct.

Annual report

(2) The report referred to in Subsection (1) of this Section shall include:

(a) information on the activities of the Institute for the year;
(b) a copy of the audited accounts of the Institute for that year together with the Auditor- General report on the accounts of the Institute; and

(c) such other information as the Board may request.

(3) The Director-General shall provide such information on the affairs of the Institute as the Board may from time to time request.

27. All income derived by the Institute from sources specified in section 23 subsection (2) of this Bill shall be exempted from income tax and all contributions to the fund of the Institute shall be tax deductible.

28. Subject to the approval by the Board, the Institute may invest in profitable production of agricultural produce for commercial purposes by joint venture, partnership, share-holding or as sole proprietor as the case may be, the net income generated shall be paid into the fund of the Institute.

Capital production
income

29. The Institute may, with the consent, or in accordance with any general authority given by the Board, borrow by way of loan or overdraft, any specified amount of money required by the Institute for its obligations

Borrowing and
Investment Power
of the Institute

1 and functions under this Bill in line with extant laws and Regulations.

2 (2) The Institute may, subject to the provisions of this Bill and the
3 constitutions of any trust created in respect of any property, invest any of its
4 funds with consent or general authority of the Board.

5 (3) The Institute may invest any of its surplus funds in such securities
6 as the Board may, from time to time, approve.

7 PART IV - MISCELLANEOUS

Power to accept
gifts

8 30.-(1) The Institute may accept any gift of land, money or other
9 property upon such terms and conditions, if any, as specified by the person or
10 organization making the gift.

11 (2) The Institute shall not accept any gift where the conditions
12 attached by the person or organization making the gift are inconsistent with the
13 functions and objectives of the Institute.

14 (3) A gift donated to the Institute or project of the Institute shall be
15 made directly to the Institute and shall be utilized only for the purpose.

The seal of the
Institute

16 31.-(1) The seal of the Institute shall be such as may be administered
17 by the Board, signed by the Chairman of the Board and the Director-General.

18 (2) certificates issued by the Institute shall have the Institute's seal
19 affixed and signed by the Chairman of the Board and the Director- General of
20 the Institute.

21 (3) any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person
22 not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal may be made
23 or executed on behalf of the Institute by any authorized person.

Power to make
Regulations

24 32. The Board may make regulations:

25 (a) To regulate the activities and programmes of the Institute, or any
26 matter connected with the Institute; or

27 (b) For the effective implementation of any of the provisions of this
28 Bill.

Limitation of
suit against the
Institute

29 33.-(1) subject to the provisions of this Bill, the provisions of the
30 Public Officers Protections Act, shall apply to any suit instituted against the

Institute, an Officer of the Institute or employee of the Institute.

(2) No suit shall lie or be instituted in any Court of Law against the Institute, a member of the Board or any Principal Officer or Employee of the Institute for an action carried out in pursuance to the execution of this Bill or any enactment, or of any public duty in respect of any alleged neglect or default in the execution of this Bill or duty or authority, unless it is commenced:

(a) within three months of such act, neglect or default complained thereof; or

(b) in the case of a continuation of damage or injury, within six months after the ceasing of the act, neglect or default.

(3) No suit shall be commenced against the Institute, a member of the Board or any Principal Officer or employee of the Institute before the expiration of a period of one month after written notice of the intention to commence the suit has been served on the Institute by the intending Plaintiff or his Agent.

(4) The notice referred to in subsection (3) shall clearly state the:

(a) cause of action;

(b) particulars of the claim;

(c) the name and place of abode of the intending Plaintiff; and

(d) the relief sought.

34.-(1) Any notice or other document required or authorized to be served Service of notice on or given to any person for the purposes of this Bill, may be served or given by:

(a) Delivering it to that person, or by leaving it at his usual or last known place of residence or business or at the address specified by him in any notice, application or other document made, given or tendered to the Institute under this Bill; or

(b) Posting it by registered mail to him at that place of residence or business or at that address.

1 (2) Where any of such notice or other document sent by registered
2 mail, unless the contrary is proved, it shall be deemed to have been delivered to
3 him when it would have been delivered in the ordinary course of a posting mail
4 unless the contrary is established and in proving the delivery, it shall be
5 sufficient to prove that there is return Post Office slip or Speed Post slip
6 showing actual delivery.

7 (3) When for any purpose under this Bill, a notice or document is
8 required to be served on a firm or company, the notice or document may be
9 served on the Secretary, Executive Officer or other Officer holding a similar
10 position in the organization and the service unless otherwise directed by the
11 Institute, be deemed to be served on all persons who are members of the
12 organization.

13 (4) Any service of notice or process on the Institute shall be by proven
14 registered post or personal service on any Principal Officer of the Institute.

Power to give
directives by
the Minister

15 35. The Minister, may give to the Institute, directives of a general
16 character relating to the policies and functions of the Institute and shall comply
17 with such directives without prejudice to the powers of the Board and the
18 oversight of the National Assembly.

Exemption from
tax accruing from
investment

19 36.-(1) The Institute shall be exempted from the payment of income
20 tax in any income accruing from investment made by the Institute.

21 (2) The provision of any enactment relating to the taxation of
22 companies or Trusts Funds shall not apply to the Institute.

Joint Venture
targets for
technology
acquisition

23 37. The Institute shall impose conditions and set targets for the
24 formation of Joint Ventures or Partnerships between multinational services,
25 Research Institutes, institutions or service companies in all sectors of the
26 economy and certified indigenous services companies for the purpose of
27 technological training and acquisition.

Research targets
and development
of research products

28 38. The Institute shall make regulations with requirement and targets
29 for the growth of Research and Development in the areas of Food and other

1 Agro-allied raw materials but not limited thereof as may be reviewed by the
2 Institute, in Nigeria.

3 39. In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires-

Interpretation

4 "Board" means the Governing body of the Institute established under
5 section 3 (1);

6 "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Governing Board of the Institute
7 appointed under section 14(1);

8 "Fund" means the fund of the Institute as established under section 25 of this
9 Bill;

10 "Institute" means the National Roots and Tubers Production, Processing and
11 Research Institute, Zing, Taraba State established under section 1(1) of this
12 Bill;

13 "Minister" means the Minister responsible for Science and Technology;

14 "Member" means a member of the Board and this includes the Chairman;

15 "President" means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

16 "Principal Officer" means the Directors and other Officers as specified in
17 section 16 of this Bill;

18 "Public Service" has the meaning assigned to it in the Constitution of the
19 Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended;

20 "Secretary" means the Secretary to the Board of the Institute.

21 40. This Bill may be cited as the National Roots and Tubers Short title
22 Production, Processing and Research Institute, Zing, Taraba State
23 (Establishment) Bill, 2021.

I SCHEDULE

2 SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD

3 *Proceedings of the Board*

4 1. Subject to this Bill and section 42 of the interpretation Act, the
5 Board may make standing orders regulating its proceedings or those of any of
6 its Committees.

7 2. The quorum of the Board shall be the Chairman or the person
8 presiding the meeting and two other members of the Board and the quorum of
9 any Committee of the Board shall be determined by the Board.

10 3. The Board shall meet not less than four times in each year and
11 subject thereto, the Board shall meet whenever it is summoned by the
12 Chairman or where the Chairman is required to do so by a notice given to him
13 by not less than 4 other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Board to be
14 held within 28 days from the date on which the notice is given.

15 4. At any meeting of the Board, the Chairman shall preside but if he is
16 absent, the members present at the meeting shall appoint one of their members
17 to preside at the meeting.

18 5. Where the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on a
19 particular matter, the Board may co-opt such person for such a period as it
20 deems fit, but a person who is in attendance by virtue of this sub-paragraph
21 shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board and shall not count
22 towards a quorum;

23 6. The Board may set up one or more Committees to carryout, on
24 behalf of the Board, such functions as the Board may determine.

25 7. A Committee set up under this paragraph shall consist of such
26 number of persons as may be determined by the Board and a person shall hold
27 office on the Committee in accordance with the terms of his appointment.

28 8. A decision of a Committee shall be of no effect until it is confirmed
29 by the Board.

30 9. The validity of the proceedings of the Board or of a Committee

thereof shall not be affected by any vacancy in the membership of the Board or of a Committee.

10. Any member of the Board or any person holding office on a Committee of the Board, who has personal interest in any contract or arrangement shall disclose his interest to the Board and shall not vote on any matter relating to the contract or arrangement.

Miscellaneous

11. The fixing of the seal of the Board shall be authenticated by the signature of the Director- General/Chief Executive Officer or any person generally or specifically authorized by the Board to act for that purpose.

12. Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate, would be required to be under seal may be made or executed on behalf of the Board by the Director- General/CEO or any person generally or specifically authorized by the Board to act for that purpose.

13. Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Board shall be received in evidence and shall, unless and until the contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed.

14. The validity of any proceeding of the Board or a Committee shall not be affected by-

(a) A vacancy in the membership of the Board or Committee;

(b) A defect in the appointment of a member of the Board or Committee; or

(c) Reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of the Board or Committee.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish the National Roots and Tubers Production, Processing and Research Institute, Zing, Taraba State, for the conduct of research on Roots and Tubers crops to enhance their growth and commercialization to provide food so that the nation can be self-sufficient in food production.