

CURRENT YAM MARKET STATUS, EXPORT AND PROCESSORS REQUIREMENTS IN NIGERIA

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By

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Current Yam Market Status

YAM CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF THE FOOD COMMODITIES DRIVING FOOD INFLATION IN NIGERIA

The price of yams in 4 major markets in Lagos State namely Oyingbo, Daleko, Mushin and Mile 12 in a bi-monthly market survey carried out by Nairametrics, Nigeria's top online news platform found that in May, 2022 yam tubers recorded a 60-67% increase and Olaola pondo yam recorded an increase of 23.7%

According to the report, a big-sized yam tuber initially sold for an average of N1,413 two weeks earlier galloped to an average of N2,350. In the same vein, a medium-sized yam tuber rose from an initial average of N875 to sell at N1,300.



Current Yam Market Status

The increase in the price was attributed by the traders to

- the decline in farm labour due to a high level of insecurity, and seasonal fluctuations
- continuous spike in the cost of transportation as a result of
 - ✓ bad road network
 - ✓ surge in fuel prices and
 - ✓ illegal tolls
- payments to touts and union members

Price differentiation in terms of variety is an issue that will define price in the future. A situation where some varieties tend to attract higher prices than others already exists in most markets across Nigeria.

Current Yam Market Status

Yam continues to be sold by size and number in markets across Nigeria except Shoprite and such super stores where yams are sold by weight.

Integrating trade practices across Africa through standardization is fast becoming an imperative in the spirit of African Continental Free Trade Agreement. Trade transactions should be easy, uniform, transparent, fair and trustworthy.

The ongoing review of the Weight and Measures Act to make agricultural produce marketing by weight mandatory is a welcome development



Popular and Best Selling Varieties in Yam Markets across Nigeria

S. No	Yam Market	LGA	State	Popular & Best Selling
1	Otuocha	Anambra East	Anambra	Emgbe, Adaka
2	Zaki-Biam, Ugba, Naka	Ukum, Logo & Gwer-West	Benue	Gbangu, Punch, Gyundugagu, Mumuye, Icheyor, Ogoja, Danacha, Sam-pepa, Faketsa, Agatu, Jibo, Ikyo-yo, Iiyoye, Gem, Tutube, Amula, Hembamkwase, Obute, Orgbudu
3	Onueke-Eke Imoha	Ezza South	Ebonyi	Nwopoke, Nvula (Water Yam), Oko (Yellow Yam)
4	Ilasa	Ekiti East	Ekiti	Odor
5	Gariki	Enugu South	Enugu	Ogoja, Iyoo Pakisa, Sponge, Ogbagada

Popular and Best Selling Varieties in Yam Markets across Nigeria

S. No	Yam Market	LGA	State	Popular & Best Selling
6	Zuba	Gwagwalada	FCT	Makan kusa, Water Yam
7	Eke-Ukwu Owerri	Owerri Municipal	Imo	Ji Mbala (Water Yam), Nkukpo Agwa
8	Malete	Moro	Kwara	Boki, Sofini, Omi Efun, Adara, Okoiyawo, Agogo, Amula
9	Mile 12	Kosofe	Lagos	Pampas, Oju Iyawo
10	Obi	Obi	Nassarawa	Aloshi, Hembamkwase

Popular and Best Selling Varieties in Yam Markets across Nigeria

S. No	Yam Market	LGA	State	Popular & Best Selling
11	Paiko & Lambata	Paikoro & Gurara	Niger	Hembamkwase, Pepa, Danacha, Lagos, Water Yam, Bimbio
12	Yewa	Abeokuta East	Ogun	Ewura (Water Yam), Ako Isu
13	Elegbeka	Ose	Ondo	Ewura
14	Odo-ori	Iwo	Osun	Amula, Iju Iyawo
15	Obada Kishi & Bodija	Irepo & Ibadan East	Oyo	Laserin, Amula, Pampas (Iju Iyawo),
16	Gboko-Creek Road	Phalga	Rivers	Pepa, Ogoja, Punch, Faketsa, Hembamkwase, Gbongo, Ikyoyo, Amula
17	Zing	Zing	Taraba	Yanzo, Intizen

Excitement About the New Yam Varieties in Nigeria

Food Farm News is a Print and Electronic media in Agriculture and Agro-Allied matters.



Wednesday, 23 December 2020

Committee registers two, releases 18 seed varieties

<https://foodfarmnews.blogspot.com/?m=1>

UMUDAa31 popularly known as wonder yam (*Dioscorea alata*) has been improved to become more **pound-able and very marketable**.

UMUDr29 super and UMUDr30 (Nagode) (*Dioscorea rotundata*) has been improved to ensure **increased availability of productive and preferred varieties for seed multiplication, marketing and food security towards better economic earning in the country**.

Present and Future Drivers of Choice

Reasons why varieties can be popular and best selling:

1. Production
2. Export
3. Processing
4. Aggregation, Storage and Transportation
5. Primary Consumption

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Reasons for Choice of Yam Variety Cultivated - **Production**

- ❑ Varieties that are not just “**high yielding, pest and disease tolerant**” but also **early maturing and heat/drought tolerance/resistance** due to effect of climate change
- ❑ Yam Planting – Any variety that the seed yam is of regular shape and can be planted mechanically or whose rooted vine cuttings can be transplanted mechanically
- ❑ Yam Staking - based on the economics of ware yam production per hectare, staking is the second most highest cost element next to seed yams. Yam varieties that do not require staking will therefore bring down the cost of yam production per hectare and can be a variety of choice
- ❑ Yam Harvesting – Any yam variety that is amenable to mechanical harvesting when planted on ridges



2 Reasons for Choice of Yam Variety for **Export**

- **Size and shape** - Slender and smooth
- **Weight** - Tuber to weigh averagely 2 kg
- **Ability to withstand stress** associated with long shipment by sea - During the first ever flag off ceremony on home soil for the first batch of packaged 72 tons Nigeria yams for export to the UK & USA on 29th June, 2017 by the Technical Committee on Nigeria Yam Export Programme, it was found that **Hembamkwase withstood the stress associated with the shipment and arrived more wholesome than all the other varieties.**

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3

Reasons for Choice of yam Variety for Processing

❑ Yam peeling machine – requires yam that is smooth, straight, weighing 2 – 2.5Kg

❑ Processors of yam into Yam flour and Pharmaceutical Grade Starch (PGS) require varieties with high flour yield and high starch yield and good nutritional content- On **Thursday November 7, 2019**, Honeywell Flour Mills, Lagos wrote an email to the National Association of Yam Farmers, Processors and Marketers requesting for 66 tons/day of **Ogoja yam and Faketsa yam** for 320 days of each year.

❑ The following processed products may require varying varietal preferences and requirements: Yam sugar bread, Yam sesame buns, Yam cup cake, Yam spranks, Yam cookies, Yam tidbits, Yam chinchin, Yam twist bread, Yam cake, Yam fancy rolls, Yam bread, Yam Fries

To Oasesoffshore Nigeria ltd

Mr. Peter Okundaye,

Good morning! How are you?

Pleasure to have your email from Dr. Yuan.

As mentioned to Dr. Yuan, we are looking for a supplier of 40,000 tons of dried and sliced Yam with expected specification as below,

Starch	Moisture	Fibre	Sand & Silica
67% MIN	14% MAX	5% MAX	3% MAX

Payment method: Letter of Credit (LC)

Please quote us the price/ton and the delivery time for such amount.

Looking forward to your reply and pleasure to collaborate.

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Reasons for Choice of Yam Variety for **Aggregation, Handling, Storage, Warehousing, Packing & Transportation**

Seed and ware yam handling, storage, warehousing, packing & transportation will require varieties that are

- Resistant to elastic deformation, mechanical damage, vibration and stacking density
- Shelf life and moisture retention capacity during storage (less shrinkage)

Determination of visco-elastic properties of yam tubers have engineering applications in mechanical loading, sorting, handling, transportation and storage, design of improved storage facilities for yam tubers, and the amount of vibration force the yam tubers can withstand during transportation, safe stacking in containers & deep bin pallets, etc



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Reasons for Choice of Yam Variety for **Primary Consumption**

- Primary Consumption in the Form of: Pounded yam, Amala, Fried yam, Boiled yam, Yam Porridge, Ikokore, Roasted yam

Consumption Form	Landraces
Frying	Gbongu, Amula (after long storage but not when new and moisture is high), Punch
Boiling	Pepa, Amula, Gbongu, Alakpa
Pounding:	
▪ Not good when freshly harvested (new yams)	Amula, Pepa, Faketsa (all too soft)
▪ Good when harvested and stored for sometime to loose moisture	Amula, Ogoja, Punch, Faketsa, Pepa
▪ You cannot pound and keep-when a customer comes, pound immediately and serve hot	Pepa, Faketsa – both don't have much starch
▪ Stores well and long after pounding	Ogoja (new & old), Amula, Hembamkwase

CONCLUSION

Refinements and Advancements :

□ Production:

- Varieties that are early maturing and heat/drought tolerance/resistance to deal with the effect of climate change
- Varieties that allow for mechanization especially planting & harvesting to upscale production and retire the hoe
- Varieties that do not need staking to cut down the cost of production and prevent deforestation

□ Export:

- Size and shape to be slender, straight and smooth weighing on the average 2kg
- Ability to withstand stress associated with long shipment by sea

CONCLUSION

□ Processing:

- Yam peeling machines require varieties to be slender, smooth, straight, weighing 2 – 2.5Kg
- Processors of yam into flour and Pharmaceutical Grade Starch (PGS) require varieties with high flour yield and high starch yield

□ Handling, storage, warehousing, packing & transportation:

- Resistance to elastic deformation, mechanical damage, vibration and ability to withstand stacking density

□ Primary Consumption:

- Frying
- Boiling
- Pounding



Thank You
Thank You
Thank You!!!!