

# Vegefresh partners FUNAAB on tomato farming

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Vegefresh Company Limited, an agro-allied firm, has produced a wholly Nigerian made tomato paste.

The development was made known during a ceremony held on Thursday at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta to mark the breakthrough, a statement by the company said on Friday.

The Managing Director of Vegefresh, Mr. Samuel J. Samuel, said, “We are happy to have all of you here to witness the consummation of efforts that will lead to the birth of a truly Nigerian tomato paste, Samuel, who was represented by the company’s Chief Programme Officer, Dr. Ademola Idowu, added that Vegefresh was poised to unlock the untapped potential in the agricultural sector, starting with the tomato value chain.

On the other hand, the Deputy -Vice Chancellor in charge of Development at the FUNAAB, Prof Felix Salako, stated that the collaboration of the university and Vegefresh Company Limited was a welcome development “because this is a collaboration that tallies with the mandate of the university, which is to teach, research and extend key agricultural extension services to farmers.”

He added, “Through this synergy, a new chapter has been opened in the area of public-private sector partnership, which currently is the trend globally, Universities across the world cannot solely fund their research works.

The participation of the private sector will go a long way in encouraging research activities in the ivory towers.”

The National Integrated Tomato Development Programme is being facilitated by Vegefresh, in collaboration with universities, national and international research institutes, the Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigerian Export-Import Bank and states like Lagos, Kano, Gombe, Bauchi and Benue.