1. Background

- Government of Nigeria intends to grow the agricultural sector, especially value addition in maize sector
- Well structured and dedicated institutions are needed to postulate supportive policies and implement an efficient marketing system (Ismaila et al., 2010; Guta, 2012 & Asveld et al., 2015)
- Smallholders will benefit from maize value addition if interactions among different actors in the sector can be enhanced (Ismaila et al., 2010)

2. Problem Statement

- Inefficient institutional structure (Ismaila et al., 2010)
- Existence of maize marketing problem due to weak institutional linkages (Adetoyinbo et al., 2016)
- High transaction cost for smallholder farmers (Lenis et al., 2009)
- Very few studies on the institutional structure of maize sector in Nigeria

3. Objectives

- To examine the institutional structure for value addition in maize sector
- To identify the institutional challenges in the maize sector

4. Methodology

- Data Collection - Interviews
  - Focus Group Discussion
  - Net mapping

5. Results

Net-map showing the knowledge and information linkages

6. Conclusions

- Efficient institutional structure is essential for a successful development of the maize sector in Nigeria
- Good collaboration among national research institutes BUT
- Some weak financial and information linkages cause inefficiency in the institutional set-up
- Information asymmetry for smallholders due to weak information linkage to MAAN and inconsistent funding of ADP staff
- Many state ministries of agriculture are quite isolated in the sector

7. Recommendations

- State governments should make consistent salary payment to ADP staff
- Consistent funding of research projects by the federal government is needed
- Effective means to form smallholders into groups and link them up to MAAN
- More collaborations between the state ministries of agriculture and the national research institutes