



# NIHORT *News*



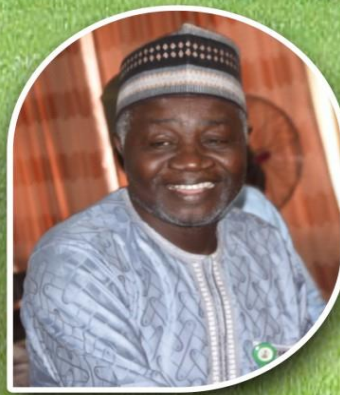
A NEWS BULLETIN OF NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
P.M.B 5432, IDI-ISHIN, JERICO RESERVATION AREA, IBADAN, OYO STATE, NIGERIA.

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# NIHORT] IN BRIEF

## VISION:

To develop horticultural produce and products for local and export market with attendant health, industrial raw materials and employment generation benefits.

## MISSION:

To develop sustainable production and utilization of horticultural crops in order to achieve excellence in fruits, vegetables, spices, ornamentals as well as aromatic plants research in Nigeria.

## MANDATE:

To conduct research into the genetic improvement, production technologies, processing, storage, utilization and marketing of fruits, vegetables, ornamentals, spices, other medicinal and aromatic plants of nutritional and economic importance.

## MOTTO:

Institutional progress through excellence in horticultural crops research

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*This is*

## PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT

### Our Goal

To build intra-institutional synergy and enhance the reputation of the Institute through effective and efficient engagement of the publics for the attainment of organizational mandate.

### Our Strategies

- Produce and distribute NIHORT News
- Organize press conferences and releases
- Organize policy seminars and public engagements on new technologies and innovations
- Promote/enhance social media interfaces
- Publicize technical and social events

*Join Us*





## From the Editor's Desk



I welcome you to this special edition of our fledging NIHORT Newsletter. Some time, which I thought we could hold back, has lapsed between the rebirth edition and this, and I appreciate the Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer of NIHORT, Dr. Muhammed Lawal Attanda, Internal Management Committee and all stakeholders on this project for the grit exhibited to it. The resultant effect is the release of this edition.

Much of the articles herein had been in the cooler, and now spiced up with scintillating pieces which make the volume good enough for your information and delightful reading.

The devastating effect of that noxious Okra Enation Leaf Curl Disease (OELCuD) and the swift actions of NIHORT to contain it caught the sharpest focus of our lens, and is here featured as our cover story. Within the same period last year, our very supervisor, the Executive Secretary of the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN), Prof. G.H. Sharubutu, paid a two-day working visit to the Institute. In spite of his high sense of humour, he displayed firm leadership charisma and positive disposition to the growth of NIHORT, which left it more united and harmonious than before his arrival. NIHORT News had an interview with him, the excerpts of which are worth your reading.

Fast-forward to some of the recent events. Talking institutional productivity, the pragmatic leadership of the ED/CEO, further accentuated by the Ministerial

'marching order', has resulted in its increased index. Our amiable CEO himself captured this in his succinct entry-NIHORT's strides for Renewed Hope Food Security Programs. The highlights of the capacity building programme, reinauguration of the ICPC - ACTU / NIHORT Branch, the training on Tissue Culture techniques are expressions in this volume. The visit of the Oyo State Commissioner of Police, with the peace accord re-enactment, boosted the confidence of the institute in the face of insecurity which is prevalent in most of our cities today. Then the Social Diary which captures the beautiful scenes and marks memories for posterity. You have it all here. Our promise to produce hardcopies bi-annually is not retracted.

Meanwhile, enjoy this edition and version, and if you have comments or observations, or seek further clarification, please reach out on [publicrelations@nihort.gov.ng](mailto:publicrelations@nihort.gov.ng), and we will meet you there. You can also access general information about NIHORT through our other social media handles displayed on page two (2) here.

Happy reading.



**Dr. Lawrence O. Olajide - Taiwo**



# Viral Disease Infestation on Okra and NIHORT's Role in its Containment

Scientists in the National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT) have detected a new virus disease attacking okra plants across Nigeria. This new and uncommon disease known as Okra Enation Leaf Curl Disease (OELCuD) has rapid proliferation on farms and is responsible for the numerous deaths of okra plants in certain observed situations.

Okra is a common fruit vegetable cultivated in Nigeria for its high economic and nutritional value. At both commercial and subsistence scales, its cultivation generates income for the farmers as well as affordable source of nutrients such as iron, vitamins and protein for households.

The scientists visited several okra farms in all South Western States and Niger State in the North Central Region and observed an unusual leaf curl associated with enations, distinct from the known leaf curl/vein yellowing symptoms associated with okra. They discovered a high population of whiteflies, aphids and leafhoppers as the insect vectors. Based on visible symptoms, they concluded that the disease is caused by Okra Enation Leaf Curl Virus (OELCuV).

In view of the drastic reduction on farmers' income, the negative multiplier effect on regeneration, the possibility of a nationwide epidemic and the resultant devastating impact, scientists rose to the occasion. The main objective was to survey, identify and control this newly emerging virus and the transmitting vectors. All hands are therefore on deck, as the team of researchers have broken down the general objective into sub-tasks and engaged specific teams to investigate further in the areas so designated, as:

- Conduct thematic survey and collection of baseline information from farmers in endemic areas;
- Identify and characterize the newly emerging virus strains, using serological and molecular methods;
- Isolate the implicated virus(es) from the suspected insect vectors collected on okra farms;
- Identify and characterize the transmitting insect vector(s) of the isolated virus(es);



- Determine the probable crop host-range among commonly cultivated vegetable crops within the study area;
- Determine the alternative host-weed plants among common prevalent weeds on okra farms within the study area, and
- Develop effective Integrated Pest Management (IPM) package in the control of the insect.

A press release has already been issued following the discovery of this noxious attack on okra, especially as the virus ravaged farms in Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Ondo, Ekiti, Lagos, and Niger States. Very soon, a comprehensive control package will be released by the Institute, in addition to the already effective rapid response approach deployed to salvage farms across the country.

Meanwhile, there is a new variety of okra, NHOkra1, also known as NHOlak7, which was developed by NIHORT seasoned scientist, Dr. Olagorite Adetula, and has been released. This particular variety is tolerant to the viral disease, and the seeds are readily available in our outlets.



NIHORT is at the forefront of promptly swinging into action to tackle challenges of similar occurrences, especially as they affect horticultural crops. NIHORT at it again!



# Interview with Executive Secretary, Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria, Prof. Garuba Hamidu Sharubutu

**O**n the 18th August, 2023, being the second day of his two-day working visit to NIHORT, the crew of the Public Relations Unit of the Institute, led by the Editor/Director of Research, Dr L.O. Olajide-Taiwo, had a session with the Executive Secretary, Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN), Prof. Garuba Hamidu Sharubutu, in his oversight responsibility.

The interview, which took place in the Executive Director/CEO's office, had the presence of our amiable CEO, Dr Muhammed Lawal Attanda, the Technical Adviser to the Executive Secretary, Dr Umar Abdulahi and some Directors of Research in NIHORT. The interview was preceded by a formal introduction of the crew from Public Relations Unit – Dr L.O. Olajide-Taiwo and Mr. Joseph Okocha, the Production Editor of NIHORT News.

## Excerpts.

**NN:** Thank you very much sir for this privilege. We are highly honoured to have you in the Institute. Please tell us a little bit about yourself, though we know your name and read about you.

**ES:** Thank you very much. I am Garuba Hamidu Sharubutu, a professor of veterinary medicine with specialization in infectious



**Dr. L.O. Olajide-Taiwo (L) & Prof. G.H. Sharubutu (R)**

diseases of livestock. I attended primary school as far back as 1966, and I was a pupil of Roman Catholic Missionary School, Kwande, Plateau State. I attended Government Secondary School, Shandam, formerly Community Secondary School. I proceeded for my Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in Ahmadu Bello University. I had my Masters in Veterinary Sciences and PhD in Medical Microbiology from University of Ibadan and Uthman DanFodio University respectively.

I began my career with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Department of Livestock with the mandate to coordinate Green Policy in terms of Veterinary Medicine and Livestock Development. I was posted to the Sokoto office, from where I was deployed to Zugu Goat Multiplication Centre. The Centre was to multiply Red Sokoto goats in order to harvest the quality Moroccan leather. From there, I moved on to Uthman DanFodio University, and started job there as Assistant



Interview with  
**Executive Secretary,**  
**Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria,**  
**Prof. Garuba Hamidu Sharubutu**

**Contd.**

Lecturer and I eventually became a professor in 2005. I had the privilege of serving as the head of Department, being the Dean in the Faculty, and then the Complex Coordinator.

I served as the President of the Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association, elected the President of the Veterinary Council of Nigeria, the regulatory arm of the profession. I attended the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, near Jos and graduated as a Member of the National Institute (MNI) in 2013. I was appointed the Provost/CEO of Federal College of Animal Health and Production Technology, Vom, Plateau State. I had my sabbatical at the University of Agriculture, Makurdi, now Joseph Tarka University. While on sabbatical, I was deployed under the Federal Government policy to the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN), at a time when the government felt that the Council could not be funded because of the disappointing level of performance.

I acted as the Executive Secretary for a period of six (6) months, after which I was appointed the substantive Executive Secretary of ARCN by the President of Federal Republic of Nigeria. One of the areas that actually interested me while I was the Provost was the expansion of courses, and to make sure that anything that was related to agriculture and food security was established. That was what led us for the first time to propose and implement the programme of Veterinary Laboratory Technology, so that we would be able to move away from the Medical Laboratory practitioners that were involved in the diagnosis of animal diseases. So, we established that course, with four components, namely Medicine, Surgery, Radiology, and Anaesthesiology. Right now, we are proud to be producing these categories, both at OND and HND levels. For the first time, I insisted that Federal Colleges of Agriculture must get deeply involved in environmental sciences, and that is

where we sought the consent of the Environmental Health Officers Registration Council to set up a programme on Environmental Health. Today, all the Federal Colleges of Agriculture are involved in agricultural activities that have to do with the environment - pesticides, herbicides, vaccinations and all the rest.

Immediately I came to ARCN, I had the privilege of driving the workforce there for us to reorganize the whole system and make sure that we were able to achieve the mandate. If you look at the law that established the system, there is a lot of mandate for us to execute, apart from advising the government, designing and looking for fund; it has also given us room for documentation about research programmes, and popularizing them, and that is what led us to establishing the ARCN Radio and Television, which is about the pride of the nation now. So, in a nutshell, this is who I am. Of course, I am a farmer, a very big one for that matter. I farm all categories; I have livestock (even though I have reduced its size for security reasons). I also farm rice and maize. In the average, every year at least I farm not less than 200 hectares.

**NN:** That is huge; you really have a lot sir. No wonder we are also benefitting from it as an Institute. When our amiable CEO came in here, he actually singled you out as one of the people that can be a mentor, not only to him but to the system as well. We are privileged to have you. This is the second time that you are coming since he (Dr Attanda) came up here.

Sir, between your first visit and this present one, can you say a few things about the changes that you noticed?

**ES:** Yes, I came here first when I was appointed as the Acting Executive Secretary of ARCN, because the composition of the Board (of NIHORT) made available the opportunity for the ARCN to be represented on the Board, and the first time I sent somebody, he brought the report and I looked at it. The second time, I said there is need for me to also come up and try to see what. When I came, I had a very good understanding with the Board Chairman and with the then Executive Director, who took me round and



we were able to look at some of the facilities. But I want to place on record that as at that time, NIHORT was one of the Institutes that were heavily deprived of finance. The budgetary allocation coming to this place as at that time was very very low. But within that period, there were efforts, especially with Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) to try and put some things, and to be fair to the system, the finances have not improved drastically; we were still living within the confines of that low financial provision. This time around, I would tell you that there is tremendous improvement; there is the ability to build on what was already put there as a foundation, and the good thing there is that once a foundation has been built, somebody cannot come and repeat what is there.

The success of every administration is in how far you have been able to take it up from what was there. It is very glaring that the system has actually benefitted from his coming – the environment is looking finer; the attention of staff as far as I am concerned, is the real purpose in the workplace. I think the ED has used his mentality of the workforce within the place to further better a lot about this place.

Apart from what I have seen physically, I also know that we have received reports of the release of various varieties of crops which have been evaluated and adopted, and all the rigours. These are success stories that we are talking about. We don't want to limit our success stories to buildings and the provision of roads and all the rest, but the general comportment of the staff has a lot of progress in it, the release of varieties, and I know that before now, there has not been series of complaints, but then this has also been experienced in this coming that I have: staff comfortable within their domains, and presentable. That is to show you that there is real understanding of the system, and that is what development is. When the individuals benefit to the extent that the learning environment, the work environment has been made conducive for them, that is great.

I remember that the immediate past Executive Director was also battling with the issue of official



## Interview with Executive Secretary, Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria, Prof. Garuba Hamidu Sharubutu

Contd.

vehicles. We have seen an influx: new vehicles have been introduced. And the pattern of budget implementation differs. You know this budget implementation also has its effects on who was the ES then and the ED then, and it also bothers on who was the Chairman, House Committee/Chairman, Senate Committee, and who is also managing these issues today. So, while

I give him the credit for the progress that has been made, I want to say that this cannot be attributed to him alone; it is attributed to the environment he has found himself, and the workforce. You remember that if he had met rancour here, his attention would have been diverted, and one of the things that rarely happens and people find themselves in peace is the humility with

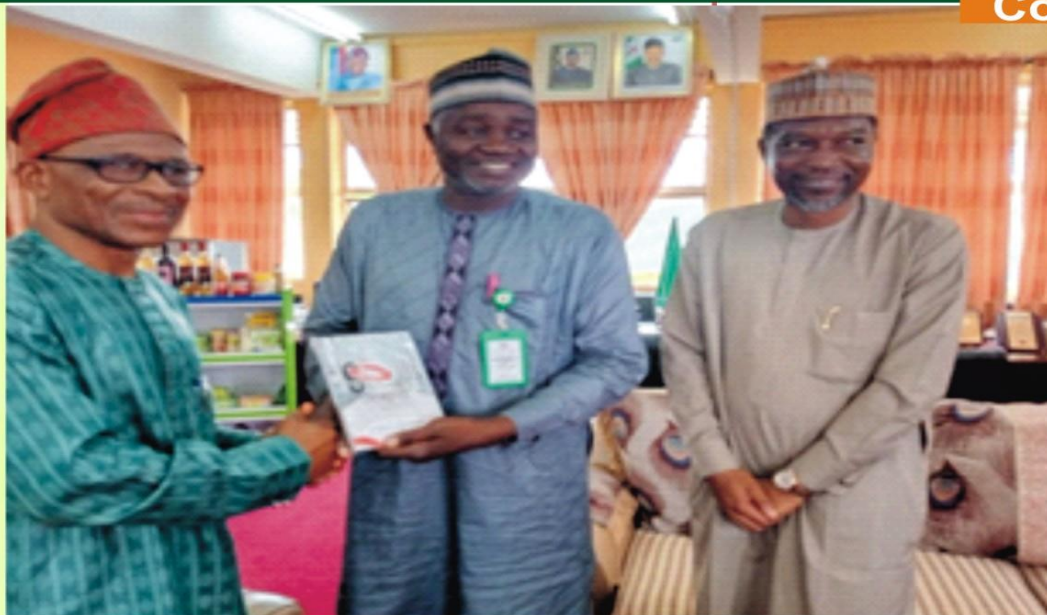
which his predecessor has taken his exit from office, because he had his own supporters. When he came, he also had his own supporters. If he had taken it negatively and does not cooperate with the person that is currently working, definitely there would have been friction. This does not seem to be there, and I hope this is something he also will be able to handle in a much more progressive way.

If we had not seen any development, we would have said "No, both of them have failed". But I am proud of him; definitely it is sure that before his exit at the end of his tenure, we are likely to see more things. Yesterday, we were discussing his budget plans and that is one good thing about him – he does not want to hide his programmes; he shared them with me and I was able to make my own contributions. That is the evidence of a good leader. He does not look at government money as if it is his own; he feels that since government money is for the public, there is no harm in him sharing how it will be utilized, because whatever you do here impacts on ARCN, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, the programme of President Ahmed Tinubu, and of-course, the nation.



# Interview with Executive Secretary, Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria, Prof. Garuba Hamidu Sharubutu

Contd.



(L - R) Dr. Olajide-Taiwo, Prof. Sharubutu & Dr. Attanda (CEO, NIHORT)

**NN:** You came here on a mission. Would you say that the mission has been accomplished?

**ES:** Highly.

**NN:** If yes, then your final word/advice, sir.

**ES:** My mission here was actually to see how well the restructuring programme that you people are undertaking is succeeding; to try and see if there are areas of complaints, and I thank God that I have been able to meet with all these people. I have met with all the Directors, I met with the members of the Internal Management Committee (IMC), I met with the three Unions, I met with the Head of Administration, I also met with the CEO and we interacted very well. We looked at areas of conflict and I have come to the conclusion that there is the need for us to do some in-house cleaning for us to be able to perform our roles very well.

The role of the ARCN has been very low, but my coming here has given me the areas of intervention, and I think if I am a good learner, I should be able to take the lesson that I have learned here back to ARCN and decide to enforce what I have learned in all the thirty-two (32) institutions that are operating under the ARCN. Where there are difficulties, we were able to streamline, and of-course the area of difficulty which we noticed was the role of individuals and their offices, the mix-up in terms of roles and lack of understanding of the basic regulations and mandates, but at the end of the day in order to ensure that the lessons were learnt by all of us (the stakeholders), we were made to hold a joint meeting with the Directors, the Unions, Administrative and technical departments. At the end of the day, we did not end up clapping hands, but we ended up knowing the truth about our roles and with a renewed commitment to make sure that President Ahmed Bola Tinubu, our Minister and the Institute are not disappointed. We hope that what we have achieved so far will be maintained with the beneficiaries, especially our farmers who are horticulturists.



# NIHORT'S STRIDES FOR RENEWED HOPE FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS

Achievements in 2023 up to July, 2024.



Dr. Muhammed Lawal Attanda,  
Executive Director/GEO, NIHORT

With a keen interest in improving the Nigeria's horticultural industry, the National Horticultural Research Institute has stepped up her efforts to contribute to food security, economic diversification, sustainable livelihoods and employment creation through horticultural value chains development. The Institute's productivity and achievements in the horticultural technology generation for development in 2023/2024 are categorized under the following:

## A. Breeder and Foundation seeds production

A ministerial directive on breeder and foundation seeds production for the Renewed Hope Food Security Programs has recently required the Institute to generate breeder and foundation seeds of okra, tomato, pepper, and amaranth. To accomplish this, the Institute cleared and set aside 22 hectares of land at her headquarters and the Institute's outstations in Kano, Gombe, Benue, and Plateau States. A robust implementation pathway has been put in place to deliver on the mandate.

## B. Institutional Breeding Programme:

- a) The Institute is presently conducting trial on the underlisted mandate crops in preparation for release in 2024 and 2025.
  - i. Plantain/Banana
  - ii. Garden egg
  - iii. Onion
  - iv. Egusi melon
  - v. Tomato
  - vi. Pepper

b) The Germplasm of the following vegetables are conserved in the Institute's efficient gene bank: tomato-255 accessions, eggplant-170 accessions, Amaranth- 250 accessions, Corchorus- 80 accessions, Okra- 100 accessions, Pepper- 22 accessions, Cucurbits-30 accessions.

c) Eight indigenous vegetables (Tete abalaye, Efo yanrin, Efo Igbagba, Utazi, Soko Abalaye, Efo Odu, Eku, Efo Worowo) have been collected and established.

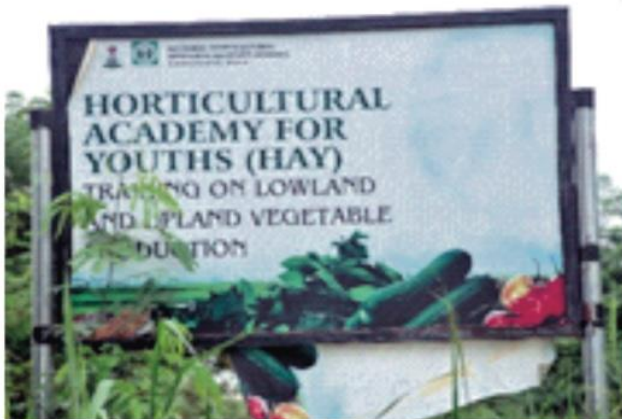
## C. Value addition

- a. Value-added products developed include:
  - i. Seasoning powder, crackers and teas developed from mushrooms
  - ii. Multipurpose flour developed from roselle seeds
  - iii. *Gurundi* produced from roselle seed flour
- b. Food pelletizer was developed to produce fruit-based snacks.
- c. A novel hybrid solar dryer has been created for drying pumpkin leaves, plantain slices, and tomato slices.
- d. Trademark acceptance letter obtained in the process of patenting NIHORT tomato wine.
- e. Mango-based snacks developed in combination with ginger.
- f. Two (2) mango varieties processed into fruit drink and the storage of the drink evaluated using pet and glass bottles, thus serving as an avenue for minimizing post-harvest losses in mango and also environmental sustainability
- g. Essential oil produced from Marigold, and this has been tested to be active against some insects of horticultural crops.



#### D. Capacity building/Dissemination

28 unemployed youths have been trained by the **Horticultural Academy for Youths** for self-reliance in selected horticultural value chains. This represents the second batch of adequately empowered youths graduating from the Academy. Enrolment continues for eligible candidates, and HAY is established firmly to deliver in this regard.



**Some of the HAY Students**



**On-Field instruction**

#### E. Upcoming Global Okra Roundtable discussion and tomato value chain stakeholders' workshop

- The Institute is about to release new varieties of pepper, corchorus and tomato.
- Sex determination in pawpaw and varietal improvement is ongoing.
- The Institute is collaborating with Foundation for Advanced Training in Plant Breeding (ATPBR) India, to co-convene a conference on global Okra roundtable discussions to be held at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, Nigeria, from 2nd to 4th October, 2024. This is necessary most especially at this time when the impact of climate change is negatively affecting horticultural productivity.

- Further, a one-day Tomato Value Chain roundtable discussion is being planned by the Institute. The workshop's main goal is to promote measures that will increase tomato availability, particularly during the rainy season when supplies from Northern region are constrained. Stakeholders from the seed firm, processors, research institutes, and industrialists will be part of the workshop targeted at developing a pathway towards improving tomato supply in the country especially during the rainy season, when tomatoes are traditionally in short supply and highly expensive. Other targeted participants are input suppliers, growers, marketers, transporters, and processors.

**In summary**, the Institute will intensify efforts in the following areas in the years to come:

- i. Production of breeder and foundation seeds of mandate crops.
- ii. Genetic improvement of horticultural commodities
- iii. Post-harvest management
- iv. Pest and diseases management
- v. Improving Laboratory infrastructures
- vi. Capacity building of stakeholders in horticultural value chain.
- vii. Dissemination of horticultural technologies and innovations.
- viii. Improvement in Internally-Generated Revenue.



# A Courtesy Visit of Oyo State Commissioner of Police to the Institute

The then Oyo State Commissioner of Police, CP Adebola Hamzat, (now the Assistant Inspector General of Police [AIG] in charge of Anti-Terrorism, Abuja), accompanied by his high-powered deputies and prominent officers of the state command, paid a scheduled visit to National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT), on the 21st of September, 2023. Welcoming the then CP and his entourage in his office, the Executive Director/CEO of NIHORT, Dr. M.L. Attanda, expressed delight at the visit.

On his mission, the CP stated that he came to know NIHORT better, for its importance and for the existing collaboration with the Nigeria Police, Oyo State command. He further sought to enhance the goodly relationship through gainful knowledge of the sciences and technical bases of NIHORT's activities in agriculture generally. In his response, the ED/CEO of NIHORT appreciated the visit, remarking that the presence of the command has been very beneficial to the Institute. Furthermore, he listed the areas of possible collaboration to include peace-keeping through community policing, technology dissemination, capacity building of our security outfit, and the



training of police officers in Agric-based social sciences across the six geo-political zones, given the spread of the Institute.

Supporting the ED/CEO, two members of the Institute's Internal Management Committee (IMC), Drs. E.I. Nwanguma and O.A. Adetula, expressed delight at the visit and the CP's high sense of humour.

The ED/CEO, on behalf of the Institute, gave the CP some of NIHORT's produce/products. In return, the CP presented a plaque of Compliments to the ED/CEO. Dr. O.O. Oyedele, a Director of Research in the Institute, gave a vote of thanks, appreciating the CP for the visit.





# Capacity Building of Leaders and Administrators for Effective and Efficient Performance



**DR. M. L. ATTANDA**  
Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer

The training, aptly tagged “Capacity Building”, was organized by the Institute to bridge perceived skill gaps among certain category of staff. The three-day training took place from February 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. It was predicated on some premises, namely, labour turnover (movements in and out of NIHORT), rotational leadership style of the Institute, emerging policies, and evolving Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Others include the need to nurture quality followership, changing production systems, global competition, mark-up on Internally-Generated Revenue (IGR), industrial harmony, and boost to staff morale/confidence.

National Horticultural Research Institute  
Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Presents  
**Management Training**  
Series 2

Theme **CAPACITY BUILDING OF LEADERS AND ADMINISTRATORS FOR EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT PERFORMANCE**  
13th - 15th February, 2024

9:00am Prompt     Institute Auditorium

**DR ATTANDA M. L.**  
Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer

There were fifteen (15) topical areas which were handled by seasoned facilitators, all of whom were drawn from NIHORT, save one. The participants and the observers would never forget the lesson on Mental and Emotional Health Management for

Human Capital Development delivered by Mrs. Sade Olatunji of the University College Hospital, Ibadan. The training was as interactive as it was electrifying.

Positive results, in terms of effective and efficient performance of staff overall, are

already being felt. Kudos to NIHORT IMC and the organizing committee for that wonderful initiative.



**DR O. A. ADETULA**  
Facilitator

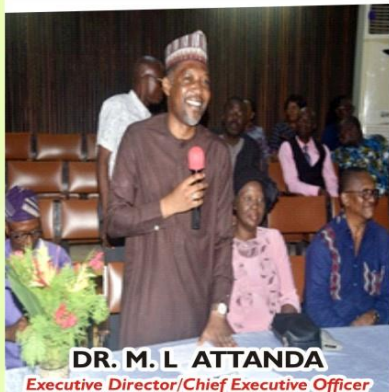


**MRS. SHADE OLATUNJI**  
Facilitator, UCH, Ibadan





# REINAUGURATION OF ACTU, NIHORT BRANCH



**DR. M. L. ATTANDA**

Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer



**Group Photo (NIHORT Management, ACTU Team, ICPC Staff - Oyo State Office)**

The re-inauguration of the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU) of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC), NIHORT branch took place on 14th May, 2024, at the Institute's auditorium. It was well attended by the Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer of NIHORT, Dr. Muhammed Lawal Attanda, many members of the Institute's Internal Management Committee (IMC) and NIHORT staff. The team from ICPC, Oyo State office, led by the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Linus Gubi, and three other Principal Superintendents, namely Barr. Evans B. Peter, Mr. Tope Eegunjobi and Mrs. Khairat Ahmed were in attendance.

The seven-member ACTU-NIHORT branch was reinaugurated, and Dr. Henry A. Akintoye, a Director of Research, is the Chairman. Dr. Akintoye is serving in this capacity for the second term. Other members of the team are Dr. Gbenga Adebayo, Dr. Segun Adeboye, Mr. Bayo Leo Ogunsanya, Mrs. Bukola Shittu, Barr. Samuel Ojei and Mrs. Tope Ajetunmobi.

In a brief welcome address, the Executive Director/CEO of NIHORT, Dr. M.L. Attanda, appreciated the visiting team of ICPC staff, the Internal Management Committee (IMC) of NIHORT and the entire staff of NIHORT. The ED/CEO remarked confidently that NIHORT was highly ICPC-compliant.

In his goodwill message, the Oyo State Resident Anti-Corruption Commissioner, Barr. Lucky Erewa, ably represented by Mr. Linus Gubi, commended NIHORT for complementing the

efforts of ICPC in the fight against corruption by upholding the five core values of the commission, which are Professionalism, Integrity, Dedication/Tenacity, Excellence and Team Work. He further augmented these core values with C.A.R.E., an acronym for Culture of Accountability, Responsibility and Excellence in carrying out the duties of the unit. He charged the new ACTU-NIHORT team to realize the enormous task before it.

In the paper presented by Mr. Tope Eegunjobi, the three-fold duties of the ICPC were clearly stated, namely, Enforcement (Sanction), Preventive Mandate, and Public Education and Mobilization. In the course of the paper presentation, it was emphasized that the ACTU-NIHORT is empowered to carry out all of these duties, except prosecution which is a part of the Enforcement function. Also, a general overview of ICPC, ACTU and the enabling laws/decrees that established these bodies were given.

The administration of the oath on the new ACTU-NIHORT members followed the incisive presentation. This was handled by Barr. Evans B. Peter.

An acceptance speech and a Vote of Thanks was given by the returning Chairman, Dr. H.A. Akintoye to mark the close of the programme.



**ACTU and ICPC Staff**



**ACTU Oath taking**

Report by: Joseph Okocha



# NIHORT IN-HOUSE SEMINARS

S/N	DATE	PRESENTER	SEMINAR TITLE/TOPIC	KEY MESSAGE
1.	30/3/2023	<b>Dr O.D. Ojo</b> Director of Research and HOD, Fruits and Spices 	Hidden Hunger Alleviation in Nigeria: Perspectives on Intelligent Models.	The presentation sought to alleviate hidden hunger using nine different intelligent models, like Accuracy of field measured texture in some Nigerian soils, Africa's Economic Growth and the Debt Crisis, Quantitative and Qualitative Yield Determinant Techniques, Soil Organic Amendment technologies, etc. The seminar called on policy makers to utilize the findings from those models, and avert the endemic diseases caused by hidden hunger.
2.	20/4/2023	<b>Dr D. O. Ibitoye</b> Asst. Director, Genetic Resource Unit 	Genebank Management: Making Greater Use of Agricultural Biodiversity.	The seminar focused on the effective and efficient management of genebanks through the application of standards and procedures that ensure continued survival and availability of plant genetic resources. The presenter urged the Institute to upgrade to global best standards and practices in order to harness the rich agricultural biodiversity of Nigeria and Africa in general.
3.	4/5/2023	<b>Dr M. A. Badmus</b> Asst. Director, Farming System Research Programme 	Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable horticultural Value Chain Development: The Critical Role of Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment.	Dr. Badmus highlighted some challenges faced particularly by women in horticulture, and pushed for gender-sensitive approaches that take into account women's specific needs and preferences necessary to enhance their role in the horticultural value chain and overall sustainable development.
4.	25/5/2023	<b>Dr. A. O. Oduntan</b> Chief Research Officer, Product Development Programme 	Participatory Action Research As An Approach To Agricultural Research For Development.	A direct fallout from the knowledge gained at the training on "Making Research Work - Solving Complex Agricultural Problems", organized by ICRA, The Netherlands, Dr. Oduntan zeroed in on Participatory Action Research (PAR), Building Trust of Stakeholders, and Team Work as approaches to overcome poor adoption of research technologies and outputs. The people matter all through.



# NIHORT IN-HOUSE SEMINARS

S/N	DATE	PRESENTER	SEMINAR TITLE/TOPIC	KEY MESSAGE
5.	8/6/2023	<b>Dr. V.A. Chikaleke</b> HOS, Bagauda Station, Kano 	Making Nigeria Apple ( <i>Malus dosmética</i> ) Hub of West Africa Starts With National Horticultural Research Institute, Ibadan.	As difficult as it is for Apple ( <i>Malus dosmética</i> ) to grow in Nigeria, Dr. Chikaleke demonstrated through studies and experience certain pre-plant physiological seed conditioning that can improve some aspects of seed germination. Though apple seeds are non-natives, they must germinate, even if it means by force through specialized treatment
6.	22/6/2023	<b>Dr. A. G. Adebayo</b> Floriculture Res. Programme 	Cut Flower Production in Nigeria: Opportunities and Challenges.	From the SWOT analysis carried out by Dr. Adebayo, he came to the conclusion that cut flower production in Nigeria is financially viable. He thus advocated that diversification into high-value non-traditional agricultural export as a sustainable strategy to trigger economic transformation.
7.	20/7/2023	<b>Dr. M. A. Abdul-Rafiu</b> HOU, Seed Technology Unit. 	Enhancement of Seed Yield and Quality in Selected Vegetable Crops for Maximum Productivity.	Dr. 'seed' Monsur took the audience through the various approaches employed to enhance seed yield and quality, especially the breeding and selection of high-yielding cultivars, and Seed production techniques. He touched on some pest control practices for healthy seeds, and also advanced seed processing techniques, stressing that seeds serve as the foundation for crop production.
8.	10/8/2023	<b>Dr. I. N. Akinpelu-Ayodele</b> Asst. Director, Human Resources 	Administrative Principles, Procedures and Practices: The Public Service Rules.	It is good to remind staff of the Public Service Rules (PSR) from time to time, and to convey some recent enhancements to the rules. Dr. Akinpelu-Ayodele relayed the duality of the carrot and stick principle in public service, stressing the need for every staff, new and old, to know their rights, as ignorance does not water down the rules. She advocated institutional reform and attitudinal re-orientation for implementing the PSR.



## NIHORT IN-HOUSE SEMINARS

S/N	DATE	PRESENTER	SEMINAR TITLE/TOPIC	KEY MESSAGE
9.	17/8/2023	<b>Mr. O. Aba</b> Head, Soil Laboratory Unit 	Laboratory Hazards: Cause, Prevention and Control.	The presenter took the audience through the basic and 'unconventional' causes of hazards in the laboratory. In that sermon-like seminar, he gave certain principles, procedures and practices that must be adhered to in order to prevent and control laboratory hazards. Even for moral, economic and occupational health reasons, he so moved, as a comrade.
S/N	DATE	PRESENTER	SEMINAR TITLE/TOPIC	KEY MESSAGE
10.	24/8/2023	<b>Dr. V.C. Umeh</b> Director of Research 	Managing Fruit Flies in Nigeria to Realize Qualitative and Quantitative Fruit Yield for Domestic and Export Trades	The 'emeritus' researcher highlighted the ever-present economic and financial rewards of engaging in fruit production, processing and export. He however lamented the biotic and abiotic constraints of pests and diseases, particularly the advent of the fruit fly <i>Bactrocera dorsalis</i> . Nonetheless, he proffered control options against the devastating effects of the fruit flies, especially with the international collaboration efforts.
S/N	DATE	PRESENTER	SEMINAR TITLE/TOPIC	KEY MESSAGE
11.	31/8/2023	<b>Dr. O. O. AdeOluwa</b> Floriculture Research Programme 	Impact Through Participatory Action Research: making your research count.	Participatory Action Research brings about transformative change. Therefore, to make a research output acceptable and adopted, the research must be done 'with the community' and NOT 'on the community'. This carry-along philosophy engenders trust among stakeholders and helps generate the necessary feedback.
S/N	DATE	PRESENTER	SEMINAR TITLE/TOPIC	KEY MESSAGE
12.	7/9/2023	<b>Dr. S. O. S. Akinyemi,</b> Director, Pomology and Biotechnology Research 	Where is the Green Pasture? An exploratory account of Research & Educational Institutions for Development in Nigeria.	As much as there is congruence between research institutes and educational institutions in Nigeria for national development, the potentials have not been maximized, as there is a lot of issues that can be resolved. As presented by the erudite researcher, the grass can only be green when it is watered. To this end, there is need for urgent intervention in the activities of these research systems, especially in the area of information generation and dissemination.
S/N	DATE	PRESENTER	SEMINAR TITLE/TOPIC	KEY MESSAGE
13.	14/9/2023	<b>Dr. O.O. Oyedele,</b> Director of Research/ Coordinator, Horticultural Academy for Youths (HAY) 	Fast Tracking Technology Uptake Through On-Farm Demonstration: A Case Study of Tomato Technology Package in Kano State	Although there are various outlets available for dissemination of technologies for possible adoption by end-users, the seminar posits that there are immense benefits hidden in on-farm demonstration. The paper also outlined different kinds of technologies, and possible options for their dissemination. Then using the Technology Triangle, Dr. Oyedele further clarified the mutual interdependence of the research scientist, the extension practitioner and the end-user



## NIHORT IN-HOUSE SEMINARS

S/N	DATE	PRESENTER	SEMINAR TITLE/TOPIC	KEY MESSAGE
14.	28/09/2023	<b>Dr. O. A. Adetula,</b> Director of Research 	Elevating Excellence: Unlocking the path to success	The veteran researcher discussed the intricate strategies that underpin the cultivation of excellence. She stressed effective leadership with respect to the influence of organizational culture, as pivotal to the attainment of overall excellence.
S/N	DATE	PRESENTER	SEMINAR TITLE/TOPIC	KEY MESSAGE
15.	12/10/2023	<b>Dr. J.A.T. Olofintoye</b> Asst. Director of Research 	Our Agricultural Production Sphere Menace, "Blessings in Disguise"	The presenter essentially admonished the agricultural production system to engage more of organic materials in soil improvement. In the experiment which he conducted, he could prove that the yield of crops grown on naturally-amended soils compete extensively with those on inorganic fertilization. "Why not exploit nature's endowments?", he asked.
S/N	DATE	PRESENTER	SEMINAR TITLE/TOPIC	KEY MESSAGE
16.	26/10/2023	<b>Dr. A. A. Olaniyan</b> Director of Research, Citrus and Product Department 	Memoir of sabbatical leave at Christian Development Foundation (CDF), Imala, Ogun State: Lessons Learnt.	The immediate past ED/CEO discovered that CDF has vast resources of land and educational facilities that could be of interest to NIHORT for collaboration in seed and seedling multiplication. He also implored staff to explore the exchange programme for training in value-added horticultural crops
S/N	DATE	PRESENTER	SEMINAR TITLE/TOPIC	KEY MESSAGE
17.	09/11/2023	<b>Dr. R. B. Aminu-Taiwo</b> Asst. Director of Research, Fruits & Spices 	Farmers' Hidden Enemies in Horticultural Production and their Management using NIHORT - Formulated Biopesticides.	The paper elaborated major plant-parasitic nematodes, with emphasis on root-knot nematodes, as the cucumber farmers' greatest enemies. She however articulated some control measures, like chemical and biological methods, use of resistant crop cultivars, cultural methods, use of botanicals, as well as organic amendments.
S/N	DATE	PRESENTER	SEMINAR TITLE/TOPIC	KEY MESSAGE
18.	23/11/2023	<b>Dr. O. Adebisi-Adelani</b> Director of Research, Farming Systems and Extension Dept. 	Engaging stakeholders for climate-smart agricultural practices: Involvement of the National Horticultural Research Institute	The paper, as a study, focused on the utilization of climate-smart agricultural practices among scientists and technical staff of NIHORT. It concluded that the respondents are aware of the various climate-smart practices but rarely utilize them. She recommended in-house sensitization before stakeholders' engagement.
S/N	DATE	PRESENTER	SEMINAR TITLE/TOPIC	KEY MESSAGE
19.	7/12/2023	<b>Dr. E. O. Ajayi</b> Asst. Director of Research and Head of Otukpa Station 	Publication ethics: Promoting integrity in research	Dr. Ajayi highlighted the ethical standards aimed to promote honesty, transparency, reliability of scientific research and accountability among authors, editors, reviewers, publishers and readers. The seminar frowned at plagiarism, data manipulation and duplicate submissions as some of the unethical practices prevalent in research.



# Biotechnology Training on Tissue Culture Techniques

Interview with Mr. Ayodeji Aduloju of the Biotechnology Research Unit, on the 3-day Intensive Training Workshop on Plant Tissue Culture Techniques, held in NIHORT Headquarters, from Tuesday, 25th June, 2024 to Thursday, 27th June, 2024. [Key: NN = NIHORT News, AA = Ayodeji Aduloju (Respondent)]

## Excerpt

**NN:** Mr. Aduloju, you are the Focal Person for Biotechnology Research Unit on NIHORT Newsletter, as nominated, and you have participated in our joint session towards the production, release and distribution of the first e-edition. Now, your Unit is conducting a training workshop on Plant Tissue Culture Techniques.

What is the basis and rationale for the intensive training workshop?

**AA:** Thank you, Mr. Okocha.

The Biotechnology laboratory of NIHORT is known for its Tissue Culture Techniques and Molecular Characterization of some of our mandate crops. It is very pertinent at this time that we are facing food crisis to actually empower people and bring about awareness, and sensitize them that they do not have to wait for the normal, conventional means of getting planting materials from sources far and near, and from people/farms that you cannot vouch for the quality of their materials. So, one of the benefits of this training is to give people access to clean and disease-free planting materials, especially now that the rains are here and we are into the planting season. It is



**DR. M. L. ATTANDA**  
Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer

known that tissue culture plantlets are clean and disease-free, and the science behind it is what we refer to as Totipotency – the natural ability of almost all plants and higher multi-cellular organisms to regenerate themselves, if given the right condition and atmosphere to thrive.

Also, through tissue culture techniques, millions of plantlets can be produced and raised into proper plants and crops in a short time. Not only that, all the plantlets so raised have the same age and size

(height, weight). This feature cannot be guaranteed if the planting materials were sourced from different farmers and fields. So, tissue culturing ensures uniformity in

the morphological characteristics of the planting materials.

Not only that, obtaining planting materials from different sources and soils is one of the surest ways of transmitting crop diseases. If there is a disease inherent on the field from which the materials are sourced, you would have acquired it and put on your own newly established field/farm. So, tissue culture techniques help to avert such endemic situation of disease transmission from field



contd.



Joseph Okocha, NIHORT News (L) & Ayo Aduloju (R)

t o f i e l d .  
N I H O R T  
(Biotechnology ) has protocol t h r o u g h research to enhance the productivity of these plants,

and that is what we are pushing out as well through these trainings to individuals and corporate farmers, and institutions. The trainees are also free to come back afterwards for supports and collaborations by way of MOUs to help them set up their own laboratories in this wise.

Again, tissue culture techniques are highly capital intensive; only few individuals and corporations can afford the establishment. Just the Laminar flow-hood (akin to the surgical operation theatre of the hospital) is huge investment, and it is an equipment that tissue culture cannot do without. That is where the operation on the plants takes place, that makes them to multiply geometrically. Then the chemicals required to sustain the culture are also hard-sourced and, thus expensive.

In all, a strong basis for this training is to expose the trainees to the techniques and also offer them access to cheaper, alternative laboratory essentials.

**NN:** Interesting. You have organized a related training programme earlier, focusing on plantain. Does this particular one cut across all our mandate crops, or you have select mandate crops?

**AA:** The technique is used for every tree, every crop available, but for this training, we streamline ourselves to plantain, banana and pineapple, though we added ugu (fluted pumpkin) to what they are doing presently. The truth is that if you understand the techniques, then you can modify them,

manipulate them to suite any other crop. There is a general pattern, process or set of stages that is involved in tissue-culturing, but being able to understand those stages and the processes helps to modify them a bit to suite whatever particular crop you desire to work on.

**NN:** It appears from the first (theoretical) session handled yesterday (25/06/2024) by Dr. Pamela Akin-Idowu (Director of Research) that what you deal with in tissue culture is essentially asexual methods of propagation and multiplication. Does that mean that there are no seed inputs or cross-fertilization anywhere along?

**AA:** Yes.

Most of the time, those regeneration or multiplication you are talking about have to be done asexually. The crops are vegetatively propagated; that means they do not need to have the male and female gametes coming together before the formation of the zygotes. These gametes are embedded already on one plant. In other words, the plant has the capacity to regenerate from any of its parts, be it the roots, shoot meristem, leaf, floral meristem and bud.

**NN:** Who is your target audience for this training?

**AA:** I won't say it's everybody. At the same time, it's everybody; everybody in the sense that whoever is interested in learning and acquiring knowledge and hands-on experience on the techniques. From trend and statistics however, you see more of researchers and academicians – lecturers in the universities who want to complement the theoretical knowledge that they have gotten, and deliver same to their students. There are some researchers from Kano, Kwara, Ogun and Ekiti States and also post-graduate students, especially Ph.D students. The audience is diverse.

**NN:** Great! You have already stated some of the benefits accruing to the





Practical Session

trainees. So, after the 3-day programme, what does NIHORT stand to benefit?

**AA:** Although NIHORT is not a profit-oriented organization, we are out for research, to bring research output for people to take up and use. Nonetheless, the first thing we (NIHORT) intend to gain is visibility – that people (the publics) will get to know us more for this kind of technique; that it is available, active and functional in NIHORT. Secondly, the training will bring about positive collaborations. It is also an avenue to mobilize grants into the institute. In addition, it can help attract international interests and buy-ins, whereby mega-corporations, national entities and multi-nationals may request for our outputs (plantlets, technical assistance, ...) and help them produce things.

**NN:** Any starter kits/empowerment for the trainees/graduands?

**AA:** Basically, there are no starter kits. However, we can give them some of our produce for them to nurture. By 'produce', I mean the plantlets that are beyond their nascent stage. Those would have multiplied

considerably and started rooting properly. The trainees who would get these plantlets would have started practicing, and have the enabling environment so that the produce would not die off. We can establish a bio-factory where we produce in millions, and through the value chain, people can acquire them at various stages, including the necessary equipment. I must also state that we can only give out the plantlets on request, knowing full well that the person requesting must have the capacity to nurture the plantlets to maturity, to field-ready stage.

**NN:** How many participants do you have this time around?

**AA:** Sixteen (16) in all.

**NN:** Any fee charged?

**AA:** Yes. It could not be free, because we feed them, get the consumables ready for them, including light and power. We charged them a token compared to what we are giving to them.

**NN:** Are you free to mention the amount charged?

**AA:** Sure. It is fifty thousand Naira (N50,000.00) only. This is very cheap. The Institute, in collaboration with HortConsult placed a limit, that we could not exceed the N50,000.00. Otherwise, it could not have been less than a hundred thousand Naira (N100,000.00).

**NN:** Well, let us hope that we make up through the visibility benefit, believing that these trainees will go out there and become our evangelists and brand ambassadors. Any other vital information that you may wish to share?

**AA:** Yes. What I would like to share has to do with the controversial discussion that is



Biotech Lab.



Theoretical Session



Group Photograph



going on particularly on the social media, when it comes to agricultural biotechnology in the area of GMO – Genetically Modified Organisms. When it comes to Biotechnology, it is a very wide and still growing field. Its application is very wide – in medicine, agriculture, engineering, food sciences. But when it comes to the area of agricultural biotechnology and genome editing for plants, it should not be mistaken for tissue culture. Tissue Culture is just a very simple technique of multiplying plants. So most of the time, there is no variation or digression from what you have started with. No foreign gene, no foreign DNA is inserted into the crop. So, it is what you bring in that you are taking out. We have a regulatory and indexing policy that can help us to know and confirm that this thing that we have brought in is exactly what we are pushing out, that nothing has changed.

Nevertheless, there is an aspect of Tissue Culture that can be employed to bring about insertion or modification of the genetic make-up of that plant, and that is where we will be talking about genome editing. That is when you go deep into the molecular structure of the plant and alter something; either you remove, delete, or insert, or you code in different species and that is when we will be talking about GMO. So (in this case), the genetic blueprint of the plant has been altered, either by bringing in new particular gene of interest or by knocking out a particular gene that is causing problem for that plant. This is the clarification that I want us to make.

Now, both biotechnology and genome editing are technological tools which biological sciences utilize to manipulate organisms, and make some things (life basically) better off. Of course, we must not deny the fact that there are instances where what you want to do might boomerang, and that is where the issue of regulation and regulatory agencies come to play.

**NN:** Thank you so much, Mr. Aduloju, for the interview, and for your great insight into Biotechnology.

**AA:** You are welcome Mr. Okocha, and thank you for this opportunity.

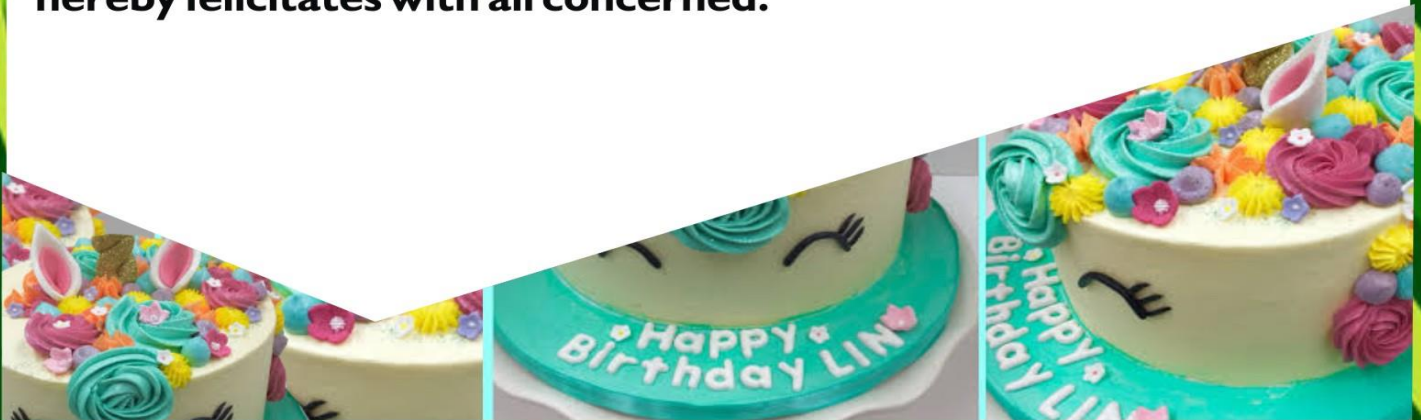






**T**he Public Relations Unit of NIHORT, in keeping with its prime goal of building intra-institutional synergy by publicizing social events, wishes to recognize and celebrate with some staff of the Institute who had memorable events in the recent past. In the No. 1 of the last volume, we started by celebrating birthdays for the quarter April to June, 2023. We continue this time with thoughtful enhancement in our reach-out, to cover other areas like marriages, naming ceremonies retirements/sendforths and even burial ceremonies.

**NIHORT News panorama captured the following events and hereby felicitates with all concerned.**





# Marriages



On the 22nd of April, 2023, former Miss Elizabeth Olufunmilayo Olaitan hooked her heartthrob, in person of Mr. Dominic Damilola Aminu-Taiwo, the son of our own Dr. Aminu-Taiwo of the Spices Research Unit. That colourful event which took place at Christ Apostolic Church, Agodi, Ibadan, was attended by many, and the radiating joy could be seen all over the proud mother of the groom.



Congratulations, handsome bobo and beautiful wife, and also to the Aminu-Taiwos. May their marriage be blessed.

Also on the 17th of June, 2023, Prof. & Mrs Ayodele Fajinmi gave out their daughter, Christiana Adeyinka Fajinmi in a blessed matrimony to Mr. Babajide Oluwakayode Olabode on that spectacular ceremony that took place at The Apostolic Church Nigeria, Apata, Ibadan. We rejoice with our own Mrs. Omolara Fajinmi of Fruit Programme, NIHORT on that occasion, and wish the couple, Mr. & Mrs. Babajide Kayode Olabode eternal conjugal bliss.



Former Miss Mercy Oluwayomade Adebisi of the Extension Research Programme tied the conjugal knot with Mr. Samuel Omotayo Adams on 22nd July, 2023, when she openly declared "I Do". Of note is that Mrs Mercy Adams is a daughter of one of our Directors of Research, Dr. Oluyemisi Adebisi-Adelani, also of the Extension Research Programme of NIHORT. The marriage solemnization which took place at The Gospel Faith Mission International, Benjamin Area, Eleyele, Ibadan, was well attended by many staff, families and well-wishers. NIHORT News congratulates the couple and wishes the union marital bliss.





# Child Naming



NIHORT News rejoices with the family of Mr. & Mrs. Noah Oyegoke on the occasion of their baby's naming ceremony. The couple was blessed with a bouncing baby girl and the christening took place on 7th July, 2023 at their residence.



Mr. Oyegoke is the current scribe of NASU, NIHORT branch, and so you can trust the attendance. Great NASU! Welcome, baby Faith Ebunolouwa Peculiar Noah Oyegoke and hearty congratulations to the Oyegokes.

## Retirements/Sendforths

Rest is sweet after work, especially having made meritorious impact in employment. This is a succinct way of recognizing some staff who retired statutorily from service recently. We congratulate them, as they took their bows in grand style and accomplishment. NIHORT News wishes you happy retirement in good health, long life and struggle-free productivity.

We miss una shaa!

**Mrs. C.Y. Ariyo, a.k.a Princess** was a Food Technologist in the Product Development Programme of the Institute, where she delivered exceptional quality product and service. She retired as a Chief Technologist, on the 23rd February, 2023.



NIHORT News wishes you happy retirement and renewed strength.



## Retirements/Sendforths

This charming and elegant woman, Mrs. Victoria Temitope Lawal, served in the Extension Programme of NIHORT. She was particularly warm and very receptive. She retired as a Chief Technologist, having made remarkable impact in the Institute through diligence. She took her bow on the 20th of July, 2023.



**Congratulations on your retirement. Please remain radiant**

## Burial Ceremonies

The body of Late Mama Esther Olabimpe Akinfasoye was laid to rest at her hometown, Ile-Oluji, Ondo State on 12th May, 2023. Several staff made the trip to attend the funeral rites, notwithstanding the distance. That was in honour of our dear Dr. Joel Akinfasoye, who is one of the sons of the late mama. Dr. Akinfasoye is the MD/CEO of HortConsult Ltd, a spin-off company of NIHORT. May the soul of the nonagenarian repose. Condolences, Dr. Akinfasoye.



**Dr. Akinfasoye & some NIHORT Staff**

The sad death of Mr. Johnson Oyedotun Ladapo occurred on the 30th of April, 2023. The middle-aged man was born on 21st May, 1973, and joined the service of the federal government at NIHORT on 1st March, 2001, where he rose to the post of Chief Store Keeper. NIHORT News expresses condolences to his survivors, praying God to grant them the fortitude to bear the loss, and for his soul to repose.



The shocking news of the death of Mr. Oyetunde Oluwasesan Osoba hit the Institute with awe. Mr. Osoba had been away in International University of Japan on official capacity building programme, where he died on that fateful 30th day of May, 2023. He was born 8th November, 1981, joined NIHORT on the 13th of August, 2015, and rose to the post of Senior Human Resource Officer. NIHORT News sends condolences to his wife (also a staff of NIHORT), and other members of his family. Rest in peace, O.O.O.







# Hort Consult

**H**ortconsult is a spin-off company of National Horticultural Research Institute with mandate for consultancy and training. We engage individuals, companies and other stakeholders to transact business in the different horticultural value chain to achieve growth, profitability and sustainability.

## OUR SERVICES ARE:

- Feasibility study on horticultural crops production
- Establishment and execution on Landscape projects
- Consultancy services for establishment and management of horticultural farms and orchard
- Training programmes (In-house and customized)
- Advisory services
- Improved planting materials (Vegetable seeds, suckers and seedlings)



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**MOTTO: PROGRESS THROUGH EXCELLENT SERVICES**

# FOCAL PERSONS

- Dr A. G. Adebayo
- Dr O. O. AdeOluwa
- Dr O. O. Oguntolu
- Dr R. K. Egberongbe
- Dr O. Kenneth-Obosi
- Dr. K. E. Oke
- Mrs. F. O. Olumaiyegun
- Mrs T. O. Ogunjinmi
- Mrs. E. O. Adelowo
- Mr. M. A. Adejinmi
- Mr. S. O. Owolade
- Mr. C. A. Otunla
- Mr. A. O. Aduloju
- Mr. W. A. Durojaiye
- Mr. U. Nasiru
- Mrs. O. S. Shittu
- Mr F. Igbegwu
- Miss C. O. Akinleye
- Mr. L. A. Ajibade
- Mrs. R. Akinnese
- Mrs. O. Badeniya
- Mrs. M. A. Bankole