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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 utilisation 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, utilisation 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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About Information and **Documentation Department**

The Information and Documentation Department is dedicated to being a premier centre for the management and dissemination of horticultural knowledge, driving innovation and collaboration across the horticultural research community. Our mission is to expertly generate, curate, and share cutting-edge scientific information through the NIHORT newsletter, bridging the gap between research and practical application. We aim to empower stakeholders with timely, accessible insights that enhance horticultural productivity, support national food security, and contribute to economic growth, ensuring that knowledge fuels sustainable development and excellence in horticulture.

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 its Publics for the attainment of organisational mandate.

Team Members

- Mr. J. I. Okocha
- Miss O. N. Ezekiel
- Mrs. O. A. Bankole
- Miss J. Olofintoye





Clicov-in-Chiefs Remarks

am honoured to highlight our significant achievements in advancing horticultural research and innovation during the second half of 2024. National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT) continues to excel in Nigeria's agricultural sector, driving sustainable development, food security, and economic growth. The past six months have been a period of remarkable achievements for NIHORT, marked by impactful initiatives and partnerships that strengthen our commitment to improving food security and sustainable agriculture. Some of these achievements include:

- i. Pest-Resistant Pepper Varieties: Our scientists have developed improved pepper varieties resistant to common pests, addressing affordability and boosting farmers' productivity.
- ii. Biotechnology Advancements: With FAO support, we have upgraded our tissue culture facilities, enhanced banana and plantain production and improved pest management strategies.
- iii. Innovative Products: We have developed organic biopesticides, herbal teas, flavoured honey, and natural cosmetics from horticultural waste, promoting eco-friendly practices.

iv. Capacity Building: Training programmes across Nigeria's geopolitical zones have empowered farmers with knowledge on horticultural commodity value chains strengthening rural economies.

The second Global Okra Round Table (GORT II), in collaboration with

Foundation for Advanced Training in Plant Breeding (ATBPR) India hosted by NIHORT in October 2024, showcased Nigeria's leadership in horticultural innovation as the world's second-largest okra producer. This international conference brought together experts to discuss advancements in okra breeding, agronomy, and socioeconomic impacts.

The Institute reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable agricultural systems, focusing on genetic improvement of indigenous crops, eco-friendly practices, and strategic partnerships. By fostering research and capacity building, NIHORT aims to enhance food security and transform Nigeria's horticultural sector. The Institute remains dedicated to improving livelihoods and advancing innovative solutions for sustainable agriculture globally.

Thank you for supporting this vision. Warm regards,

Prof. M. L. Attanda

Executive Director/CEO & Editor in Chief.
National Horticultural Research Institute
(NIHORT)





t is my pleasure to introduce this edition of our newsletter, a publication that embodies our commitment to excellence and innovation in horticultural value chains. Our vision is to transform this newsletter into a beacon of knowledge, not just for Nigeria but for the global community, aligning with international standards of quality and relevance.

Dreaming Big: A Vision for Excellence

Our dream is to create a platform where the latest breakthroughs in horticulture are showcased, where farmers, researchers, and policymakers can find valuable insights to enhance their work. We envision a newsletter that is not only informative but also engaging, featuring stories of resilience and success from our stakeholders, giving updates on our cutting-edge research, and perspectives from leading experts in the field.

Vision for the Future

Our vision is built on three pillars: Innovation, Collaboration, and Sustainability. We aim to highlight NIHORT's role in developing innovative solutions for horticultural challenges. We seek to foster collaboration between stakeholders, ensuring that our research output reach the end-users effectively. Finally, we are dedicated to advancing sustainable practices, innovative methods and responsible environmental stewardship.

Global Visibility

To achieve comparable visibility, we are elevating the NIHORT newsletter by enhancing content quality, design, and distribution. This includes featuring

Elevating NIHORT's Voice in the Global Community

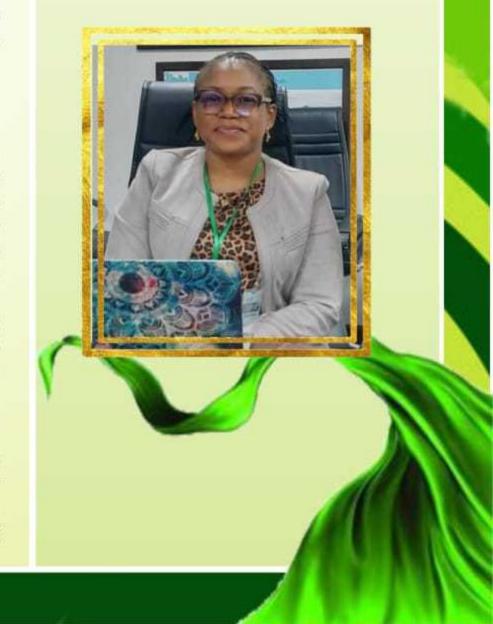
articles from esteemed international experts, integrating engaging multimedia elements, and broadening our digital outreach. Our goal is to establish NIHORT newsletter as a leading global resource for horticulture information.

A Call to Action

We invite our readers to join us on this journey, share stories, provide feedback and suggestions. Together, we can make NIHORT newsletter a symbol of excellence in horticultural communication.

Thank you for your continued support. Best Regards,

Oladunjoye Mobolaji, PhD. Editor



Seeds of Hope: NIHORT Rises to the Challenge of Renewed Hope for Food Security

n a bold stride towards national food sufficiency, the Institute has responded decisively to the Federal Government's Renewed Hope Food Security Programme. Acting on a ministerial directive, NIHORT has taken up the initiative of breeder and foundation seed production for key horticultural crops: tomato, okra, amaranth (tete Yoruba) and pepper. This demonstrates NIHORT's pivotal role in Nigeria's horticultural value chain.

This directive, communicated through the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, set the stage for a coordinated institutional response. The Executive Director swiftly convened Heads of Departments, Programs, and Units for a brainstorming session towards ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the assignment's scope and urgency. Through robust dialogue, a strategic path was charted, culminating in the formation of specialised committees tasked with translating policy into action and aligning with the Presidential emergency proclamation on food security.

The process began with the development of a detailed work plan, spearheaded by the Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Department in concert with the Seed Technology Unit. The latter assumed

responsibility for varietal development, breeder and foundation seed production, and rigorous seed quality evaluation and processing. This collaborative approach ensured that every stage from the compilation of planting materials to land allocation, nursery establishment and management, pest and disease control, harvesting, and storage was meticulously executed.

The results speak volumes about NIHORT's capacity and commitment. A total of 881.2 kilograms of okra breeder and foundation seed, 58.53 kilograms of tomato, 493.6 kilograms of amaranth, and 59grams of pepper breeder seed were produced with each batch meeting the stringent standards expected of premium seeds. These achievements underscore the institute's alignment with national seed policy, which mandates that only accredited public and private entities handle early generation seed production to guarantee genetic integrity and quality for Nigerian farmers.

NIHORT's efforts not only fulfill a ministerial directive but also embody the spirit of innovation and resilience required to secure Nigeria's food future in horticultural value chain. As the nation rallies behind the Renewed Hope agenda, NIHORT stands as a beacon, demonstrating that with strategic leadership, collaboration, and technical excellence, the seeds of hope can indeed yield a harvest of abundance.

Seeds of Hope: NIHORT Rises to the Challenge of Renewed Hope for Food Security Cont'd.

Land preparation







Land preparation (Ploughing and Harrowing) at onset of the Ministerial Directive

Inception Training





Participants during the inception training for the Ministerial Directive on Breeder and Foundation seed production

Nursery production





Soil sterilisation and sowing tomato seeds in the nursery







Seeds of Hope: NIHORT Rises to the Challenge of Renewed Hope for Food Security Cont'd.

Management practices



Tomato plants being staked on the field

Harvesting and Processing





Harvesting of matured Amaranth seeds





Harvesting of Matured Okra pods





Weighing and processing tomato seeds after harvesting

Storage of the processed seeds: Proper storage is essential to guarantee the viability of the processed seeds, accordingly, the tomato seeds, along with other varieties produced, have been carefully stored in the Institute's seed room.





Processed tomato seeds carefully packaged before storage

Capacity Building of Leaders and Administrators for Effective and Efficient Performance of NIHORT Staff

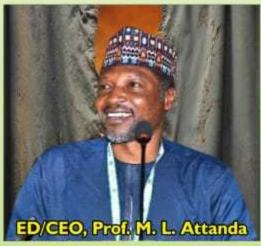
NIHORT Management Training Series has been a cornerstone in enhancing leadership and administrative capabilities among staff, fostering a more productive and harmonious workplace. Following the success of the first batch held from February 13th to 15th, 2024, the second batch took place from October 22nd to 24th, 2024 at NIHORT Headquarters, Ibadan, This iteration aims at addressing skill gaps among trained staff.

The training featured 15 comprehensive sessions and combined leadership development with mental health awareness aligning with World Health Organisation's (WHO) recommendations on mental and emotional health in the workplace.

Highlights included talks on achieving organisational goals, leadership styles, and team dynamics, delivered by in-house experts. Mental and emotional health talk were central to Day 2, with sessions led by Mrs. Shade Olatunji and Dr. Toyin Aniagwu from the University College Hospital, Ibadan. Topics covered includes understanding mental health, psychosocial issues at work, and work-life balance. complemented by practical case studies.

Participants also benefited from general medical checkups and subsidized eye tests, underscoring NIHORT's commitment to holistic staff well-being. Pre and posttraining evaluation ensured the programme effectively addressed skill gaps, while certificates were awarded to all attendees.

NIHORT's ED/CEO, Prof. M. L. Attanda, emphasised the programme's role in shaping resilient and innovative leadership, marking a significant step toward a healthier and more productive institute.

















Horticultural Academy for Youths (HAY) Celebrates Second Batch Graduation



he Institute marked the graduation of its second cohort of trainees under the Horticultural Academy for Youths (HAY) programme on October 31st, 2024. The seven-month intensive training, designed to address unemployment and enhance food security, concluded with a ceremony that highlighted the trainees' mastery of horticultural practices on vegetable production.

Overview: Building on the success of its inaugural cohort, in which 28 unemployed youths were trained in 2023, the second batch maintained the same enrolment size. The HAY initiative focuses on equipping participants with lowland and upland vegetable production techniques, emphasizing sustainable livelihoods through horticulture. Trainees received comprehensive training in theoretical and practical horticulture, including crop establishment, nursery management, pest control, and value-chain integration.

Empowerment and Recognition: To ensure hands-on learning, participants were allocated dedicated plots and provided with production inputs such as seeds, tools, protective cover all, and field equipment. Stipends were also disbursed to support their engagement. Six outstanding trainees—three males and three females—received awards for exceptional







Horticultural Academy for Youths (HAY) Celebrates Second Batch Graduation

Contd.



performance, reflecting the programme's emphasis on merit-based recognition.

Impact: The training surpassed its four-point objectives, demonstrating measurable success in empowering youths to become self-reliant horticultural practitioners. Graduates were equipped to contribute to Nigeria's food security while serving as employers of labour. NIHORT's commitment to mentorship extends beyond graduation, with ongoing support available to alumni to navigate challenges in their agricultural ventures.

Acknowledgment: The Institute congratulates the 28 graduands on their achievement and commends the HAY team for their dedication to fostering youth-led agricultural innovation. This milestone underscores NIHORT's role in advancing Nigeria's horticultural sector through targeted capacity-building initiatives.





IHORT reaffirmed its dedication to sustainable horticultural development in the latter half of 2024 by successfully delivering a series of impactful empowerment programmes across Nigeria. Five flagship initiatives were conducted in Lere (Kaduna State), Ilorin (Kwara State), Aiyede-Ekiti (Ekiti State), Ijebu-Ode (Ogun State), and Gombi/Hong (Adamawa State), targeting vulnerable Nigerians particularly women and youth between November I and December 18, 2024.

These comprehensive sessions focused on enhancing participants' knowledge and practical skills, aligning with NIHORT's mission to promote sustainable horticultural practices through engagement with farmers and other stakeholders. The programmes received enthusiastic participation, as captured in the visual highlights featured in the following pages.

NIHORT's empowerment initiatives underscore its commitment to building local capacity and driving horticultural advancement nationwide. By prioritising knowledge transfer and skill development, the Institute continues to play a leading role in boosting productivity and sustainability in Nigeria's horticultural sector.

Programme Spotlight: Kaduna, Kwara, Ekiti, Ogun and Adamawa States

Empowering Women and Youths in Lere, Kaduna State: NIHORT's Advanced Training in Tomato and Okra Cultivation From November 1st - 4th, 2024, NIHORT successfully trained 331 women and youths in Lere Federal Constituency on advanced tomato and okra cultivation, value addition, and seed production techniques. The comprehensive program covered nursery management, transplanting, field establishment, and strategies to reduce postharvest losses along the value chain. Sponsored by the Federal Government of Nigeria, this initiative equipped participants with knowledge and practical skills to excel in small and medium agricultural enterprises, reinforcing NIHORT's commitment to community-driven agricultural transformation.









Registration desk





[Left] Welcome Address by the Executive Director /Chief Executive Officer NIHORT, Prof. M. L. Attanda represented by Dr. J. A. Akinfasoye, Coordinator (Training & Services) Hort Consultancy Ventures Limited, Ibadan. [Right] Opening remark by Honourable Ahmed Munir, Member of House of Representative representing Lere Federal Constituency



Workshop Overview by Dr J. A. Akinfasoye



Cross Section of Participants during Pre-Training Evaluation





Technical Paper Presentation on Tomato and Okra Production





Technical Paper Presentation on Tomato and Okra Production





Participants' feedback





Group photograph of participants and officials at the end of the training with participants displaying their certificates







Distribution of certificates, training manual and starter kits to participants

Empowering Youth and Women in Kwara Central: Advancing Horticultural Value Chains

From November 11th–15th, 2024, NIHORT successfully conducted a capacity-building program focused on horticultural value chains for youth and women in Kwara Central Senatorial District, Ilorin, Kwara State. The training, held at the Lower Niger Basin Development Authority, emphasised

the cultivation and commercialisation of Telfairia (Ugu) and Abelmoschus esculentus (Okra).

In his welcome address, Prof. Muhammed Lawal Attanda, ED/CEO of NIHORT, expressed gratitude to the Federal Government of Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, and the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN) for their financial support and

commitment to horticultural empowerment. He also acknowledged Senator Saliu Mustapha (Turaki of Ilorin) for selecting NIHORT mandate crops for his constituency project, underscoring the strategic partnership driving this initiative.

The comprehensive five-day training, equipped 200 participants with knowledge and practical skills to enhance productivity and value addition in horticultural enterprises.



Empowering Women in Post-Harvest Farming: Aiyede-Ekiti Initiative

From the 19th to 23rd November 2024, NIHORT successfully conducted a specialised training program on Plantain and Pineapple Post-Harvest Handling and Value Addition at Sir Adebola Ayoola Cooperative Hall, Aiyede-Ekiti, Oye Local Government Area, Ekiti State. The

initiative equipped 30 women participants with knowledge and essential skills to enhance post-harvest practices and boost value addition in horticulture. The program received wide coverage across print and electronic media, underscoring NIHORT's commitment to women's empowerment in agriculture.



Practical Session



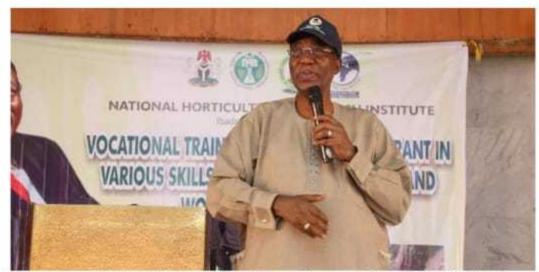
Group photograph of trainees with community leaders at Aiyede Ekiti

Empowering Ogun State Youths and Women: Vocational Training in Plantain Sucker Multiplication and Value Addition

As parts of efforts to boost employment and entrepreneurship, NIHORT successfully conducted a vocational training workshop from November 25th to 30th, 2024, at the Conference Hotel, ljebu-Ode. Sponsored entirely by the Federal Government of Nigeria, this initiative equipped 200 unemployed

youths and women from Ogun State with essential skills in plantain sucker multiplication and value addition.

The comprehensive program covered best practices in production, value enhancement techniques, economic aspects of production, marketing strategies, and meticulous record-keeping. The aim of the hands-on training was to foster sustainable livelihoods and stimulate local agribusiness growth among participants, paving the way for economic empowerment and community development.



His Excellency, Distinguished Senator, Otunba Senator Gbenga Daniel, the Senator representing Ijebu East Senatorial District giving his speech at the opening ceremony



Group Photograph of Participants at the Opening ceremony



Workshop Overview by Dr J. A. Akinfasoye, Training Coordinator, Hort Consultancy Limited, NIHORT



Practical Session on Plantain value addition handled by Dr A.O Oduntan, Chief Research Officer and Head of Programme, Product Development, NIHORT and Mr A. Olabanji Product Development Programme, NIHORT



Vote of thanks by Dr M. V. David, Director of Administration, NIHORT

Empowering the Future: Building Agribusiness Capacity for Youth and Women in Gombi, Adamawa

From December 17th to 18th, 2024, NIHORT successfully conducted a comprehensive training program on tomato and pepper production at the NUT Building in Gombi, Adamawa State. The initiative focused on equipping participants with practical skills in nursery establishment, planting and transplanting,

field maintenance, pest and disease management, harvesting techniques, and value addition. A total of 100 youth and women from the Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency benefitted from this capacity-development effort, which was facilitated by Hon. James Barka, the constituency's legislative representative. This program underscores the Institute's commitment to empowering local agripreneurs and fostering sustainable agribusiness development.



Welcome Address by Mr. Solomon Adamu representing Rt. Hon. James Barka, a member of Federal House of Representatives representing Gambi/Hong Constituency



Hon. Clifford Boniface giving the Vote of Thanks

Demonstrating unwavering dedication to food security and economic empowerment, NIHORT advances its mission through comprehensive training and empowerment programs. These strategic initiatives not only boost horticultural productivity but also enhance livelihoods by promoting nutrition, self-reliance, and job creation.



Participant feedback



Participant appreciating NIHORT



Cross Section of Participants

Beautification Of The Institute: Enhancing Productivity And Research Excellence







Different ornamental plants

he Farm Management Unit plays a pivotal role in maintaining the aesthetic appeal of the institute's surroundings. The team worked diligently to ensure that the Institute remains beautifully maintained. This activity is integral to fostering an environment that supports the Institute's core mission of advancing horticultural research.

The importance of a well-designed and maintained environment cannot be overstated. Such an environment enhances the overall research experience, therapeutic and mental wellbeing and boosts staff morale. It also reduces stress and improves job satisfaction, leading to better research outcomes. By prioritisings beautification, NIHORT creates a conducive setting that supports its researchers and technical staffs in their pursuit of excellence, ultimately contributing to the advancement of horticultural science and practice in Nigeria.

Hedges serve as an aesthetically pleasing and functional boundary, crafted from living plants to enhance the visual appeal of gardens or landscapes. Maintaining these green borders is essential for health, structure, and overall attractiveness. Hedge maintenance encompasses a range of practices, including pruning, watering, and fertilising, all of which contribute to their vitality and longevity. Proper hedge maintenance not only enhances the beauty of landscapes but also ensures that these natural boundaries remain healthy and resilient against pests, diseases, and environmental stressors. Regular care ensure hedges fulfil both their functional and aesthetic roles effectively.



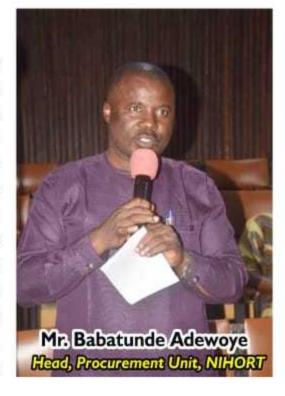
Shrub

NIHORT's Technical Bid Opening: Transparency in Action

he Institute's headquarters recently conducted a technical bid opening for its procurement exercise as a clear indication of its commitment to transparency, accountability, and competitiveness. This pivotal event, held on 18th September 2024, marked a significant milestone in the institute's procurement process. Conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Public Procurement Act 2007, the technical bid opening was a testament to NIHORT's dedication at ensuring that all procurement activities are fair, transparent, and compliant with regulatory standards.



The event was attended by relevant stakeholders who were pleased with the outcome. The formal opening of bids in the presence of these stakeholders not only ensured that the process was conducted with integrity but also provided an opportunity for all parties involved to witness first-hand the transparency and fairness that NIHORT upholds in its procurement practices. As the institute moves forward with the procurement process, it remains committed to completing the evaluation and awarding of contracts to successful bidders in a timely and efficient manner. This approach will undoubtedly foster a competitive environment that benefits both NIHORT and the participating vendors, ultimately contributing to the success of the institute's projects.







NIHORT's Technical Bid Opening: Transparency in Action

he Institute marked a significant milestone in her procurement process with the financial bid opening held on November 11, 2024. This event was part of the ongoing procurement exercise aimed at advancing transparency, accountability, and competitiveness in line with the provisions of the Public Procurement Act, 2007.

The bid opening underscores NIHORT's commitment to adhering to best practices in public procurement. By ensuring openness and fairness in the bidding process, the institute continues to maintain trust among stakeholders and encourage participation from eligible contractors and service providers.



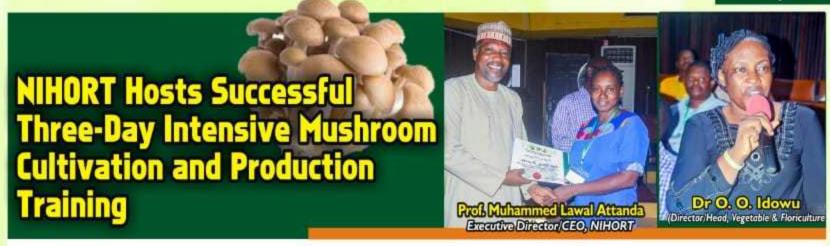
Director of Administration. Dr M. V. David











he Mushroom Unit of the institute organised a three-day transformative training programme on mushroom cultivation and production from August 13th to 15th, 2024. This initiative aimed to equip participants with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills essential for mushroom farming.

Highlights of the Training

The training attracted a diverse group of 25

participants which include lecturers, youth corps members, and researchers from various geopolitical zones across Nigeria. The programme featured a balanced mix of theoretical and hands-on

practical sessions led by seasoned experts in the field.

Key Activities

Theoretical sessions: Participants were introduced to spawn multiplication, substrate preparation, fruiting body production, and nutritional and economic benefits of mushrooms. Pre- and post-evaluation assessment revealed significant improvement in participants' understanding of mushroom cultivation concepts.

Practical sessions: Participants engaged in critical activities like sorghum soaking for seed multiplication, substrate composition and sterilisation, inoculation, and transferring inoculated substrates to vegetative rooms. These hands-on practical exercises provided them with the confidence to establish their own mushroom farms.

Impact and Feedback

The initiative was followed by enthusiastic feedback from participants, many of whom demonstrated readiness to apply their newfound knowledge

found knowledge and skills by purchasing starter kits. As a gesture of encouragement, the Executive Director/CEO, Prof. M. L. Attanda promised starter kits to two participants who showed exceptional commitment during the programme. This initiative is expected

to significantly enhance mushroom production in Nigeria, contributing to income generation, improved nutritional status, and reduced protein malnutrition. Additionally, it strengthens economic empowerment by enabling participants to explore entrepreneurial opportunities in mushroom farming.

The three-day intensive training was a success, reinforcing NIHORT's commitment to advancing horticultural practices in Nigeria. By equipping individuals with technical knowledge and practical skills in mushroom cultivation, the programme has laid a solid foundation for sustainable agricultural development and economic growth.



Championing Equity And Inclusivity With Gender Mainstreaming Initiative



owards fostering equity, inclusivity, and institutional growth, the Institute organised a dynamic two-day event on October 8th - 9th, 2024, at its auditorium. Spearheaded by the NIHORT Gender Mainstreaming Office, the programme focused on awareness creation, sensitisation, and capacity building to embed gender mainstreaming into the Institute's core operations.

Day One: Spotlight on Awareness and Sensitisation

The opening day featured an impactful seminar aimed at enlightening staff on the critical role of gender mainstreaming for institutional success. The session was inaugurated with welcome remarks by the Executive Director, Prof. M. L. Attanda, alongside Dr M. A. Badmus, NIHORT's gender focal person, who played a central role throughout the event.

Participants were treated to three thoughtprovoking presentations titled:

Overview of Gender Mainstreaming:

- Understanding the Place of a Gender Mainstreaming Office in a Workplace' by Prof. Francesca Ukpokolo (University of Ibadan).
- Importance of Gender Mainstreaming in Horticultural Research by Prof. S. O. Odebode (University of Ibadan).
- Gender Mainstreaming Office: Purpose, Objectives and Activities by Dr M. A. Badmus (NIHORT).

The seminar concluded with an engaging question and answer session and group discussions on practical strategies for staff to champion gender mainstreaming initiatives. Closing remarks by Research Review and Planning Committee (RRPC) Chairman, Dr O. A. Adetula, underscored the collective responsibility to advance gender equality as a cornerstone of institutional development.

Championing Equity And Inclusivity Come With Gender Mainstreaming Initiative



Empowering Horticulture through Inclusivity: NIHORT's Capacity-**Building Workshop on Gender** Mainstreaming

On the second day of the pivotal event, the Institute hosted a capacity-building workshop titled "Gender Mainstreaming in Horticultural Research: Enhancing Inclusivity and Equity in Agricultural Innovation." Dr M. A. Badmus inaugurated the workshop, outlining its objectives and expected outcomes.

The workshop was structured into four engaging sessions:

Session 1: Introduction to Gender Mainstreaming in Agricultural Research

Dr Abigail lyilade from Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute (ARMTI), Ilorin, presented on the concepts and definitions of gender mainstreaming, emphasizing its importance in agricultural research. Dr M. A. Badmus provided an overview of mainstreaming gender in horticultural research.

Session 2: Institutionalising Gender Mainstreaming in Research Institutes

Dr. lyilade discussed developing gender-responsive research institutions, while Dr F. B. Olajide-Taiwo highlighted gender-responsive approaches to agricultural innovation. Mr. A. A. Layade focused on creating effective monitoring and evaluation systems for tracking gender mainstreaming efforts.



Session 3: Gender Mainstreaming in Policy and Decision-Making

Dr lyilade presented a key paper on gender-sensitive policy formulation, using case studies of successful genderresponsive policies.

Session 4: Group Activity and Action Planning

Participants formed groups to develop action plans for integrating gender considerations into their programs, which was facilitated by Dr. R. B. Ibe. The workshop concluded with closing remarks, certificate presentations, and discussions on advancing gender mainstreaming at NIHORT.

This event marked a significant step in NIHORT's journey toward creating a more inclusive and equitable research environment, ensuring that future agricultural innovation is both impactful and community focused.

Community Home Gardening: A Panacea for Food Security

By: Dr Olutola O. Oyedele, Director of Research/Coordinator



n response to the global rise in living costs and food prices, the Institute has launched an innovative community home gardening initiative to address food insecurity and improve nutrition in urban households. This programme as part of NIHORT's corporate social responsibility, aims to empower families by helping them establish small-scale home gardens to support their daily food needs.

The first phase of this quarterly programme commenced on December 11th, 2024, with Executive Director, Prof. M. L. Attanda officiating the launch. Also, 42 participants from various residential communities surrounding the institute received both theoretical and practical training in leafy vegetable production. To ensure continued support, participants were put in a WhatsApp group for followup, while NIHORT staff will conduct

physical visits to the established home gardens as needed.

The initiative targeted II residential communities around the Institute, including Idi-Ishin, Ile-tuntun, Alpha Grace Estate, Oladele Phases One and Two, Akilapa Estate, Elenusonso, Adejumo, Lasokun, Irewole and Alafara. By encouraging horticultural crops production, which offers nutritional, health, and economic benefits, the Institute aims to create a safety net for families facing financial constraints.

This project not only addressed immediate food security concerns but also promised long-term benefits for NIHORT. These include enhanced relationships with residents, generation of social capital, increased institutional visibility, and promotion of NIHORT's horticultural technologies. Team members include Dr O.

Community Home Gardenings Control A Panacea for Food Security



Group Photograph of Participants and NIHORT Internal Management Committee at the Event

O. Oyedele, Dr F. B. Olajide-Taiwo, Dr J. A. Akinfasoye, Mrs. Bukola Adesina, Mr. Yakubu and Mrs. Bukola Bejide.

Food inflation in Nigeria reached 39.93% in November 2024, intensifying concerns over food insecurity. In response, NIHORT's community home gardening programme provides a practical solution

by equipping urban households with technical skills to grow their own vegetables, reducing reliance on costly market produce. This initiative reflects a broader national trend, as more Nigerians adopt home gardening to enhance food security and promote selfsufficiency.

















Empowering Horticultural Excellence Through Information Access

n the dynamic landscape of horticultural research, timely and precise information is the catalyst for innovation. The Information and Documentation Department at NIHORT serves as the cornerstone of this mission, integrating the Library, ICT Centre, and Public Relations Unit to bridge the gap between researchers, technicians and essential resources. By facilitating seamless access to vital knowledge, enhancing digital capabilities, and fostering connectivity, this department propels the advancement of horticultural knowledge and innovation.

Its pivotal contributions elevate agricultural research, fortifies collaboration, and solidifies NIHORT's position as a pioneer in Nigeria's horticultural development and broader agricultural transformation. This synergy not only fuels innovation but also underscores the department's role as the backbone of NIHORT's success, empowering researchers and to drive sustainable production and utilisation of horticultural crops, and ultimately, to develop horticultural produce and products for both local and export markets.

Community Service and Resource Enhancement

In a remarkable display of collaboration and generosity, NIHORT's Information and Documentation Department has significantly enriched its library with 136 valuable resources donated by esteemed individuals and organisations. This influx of materials, categorised into General Agriculture (59), Horticulture (65), and other fields (12), reiterates the community's commitment to knowledge sharing and fostering a collaborative environment that thrives on diverse perspectives and expertise.

Key contributors include Prof. M. L. Attanda, Dr O. O. Oyedele, Mr. A. A. Oladigbolu, the Institute of Agricultural Research/ARCN, Federal College of Agriculture, Kagoshima University International Centre for Island Studies. IIRCAS, LEOSCHE Group, Cocoa Research Institute (CRIN), Nigerian Library Association (NLA), Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Dr Ademola Idowu, African Journal of Library Archives and Information Science, Nigerian Rural Sociology Association, and the Food and Agricultural Organisation,

Empowering Horticultural Excellence Through Contd.

Nigeria. These contributions highlight NIHORT's dedication to creating a vibrant hub for academic and professional growth.

Unlocking Knowledge: Bridging the Gap with Electronic Libraries Resources and Institutional Repositories

In today's fast-paced digital landscape, the Institute is at the forefront of innovation with its library electronic resources and institutional repository. The Library Unit has made significant strides by digitising 201 reprints, ensuring that critical research materials are easily accessible. Additionally, downloadable versions of the Nigerian Journal of Horticultural Science (NJHS) are now available, further enhancing access to vital research findings. Complementing these efforts, NIHORT's institutional repository stands as a robust database, primarily featuring about 860 entries of publications by NIHORT scientists on mandate crops.

This repository serves as a pivotal resource for research seeking the latest insights in horticulture, fostering collaboration and advancing the field globally. By integrating these digital platforms, NIHORT is not only expanding its reach but also contributing significantly to the global horticultural community.

ICT Enhancement and Training

NIHORT has also prioritised upgrading its ICT infrastructure to ensure seamless connectivity across key areas, including the Biopesticides and Biotechnology Units. By December 2024, the Institute had recorded 242 active users, with substantial data transfer volumes. This enhanced connectivity supports the Institute's mission to facilitate cutting-edge research and collaboration. In addition to the Department's technical development and achievements, training sessions were conducted for IT students, equipping them with essential ICT skills

Connecting the Dots: NIHORT's Digital Leap and Horticultural Innovation

The Department has leveraged on platforms like WhatsApp, YouTube, and Instagram to engage a wider audience. This initiative included live-streaming of 14 events, including seminars, workshops, and training sessions, which not only expanded our reach but also fostered meaningful interactions. Additionally, exclusive Zoom sessions and specialised training further amplified the institute online presence. These advancements underscore NIHORT's commitment to enhancing horticultural productivity and contributing to national food security.

Global Okra Round Table (GORT II)

Unlocking the Potentials of Okra: A Global Gathering of Experts



he National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT), in collaboration with the Foundation for Advanced Training in Plant Breeding (ATPBR), recently hosted the Global Okra Round Table (GORT II) and the 5F Farming Conference on Breeding for Resilience from October 2nd to 4th, 2024. This significant event brought together a diverse group of experts and stakeholders dedicated to advancing research in okra production, breeding programs, and sustainable agricultural practices. The conference was marked by insightful addresses from prominent personalities, including the Executive Director/CEO of NIHORT, Prof. M. L. Attanda, and the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, ably represented by Prof. Garba Hamidu Sharubutu, the Executive Secretary of the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN) who highlighted Nigeria's progress in okra production.

The conference aimed to foster international collaborations in vegetable production, particularly okra, to benefit the public. Key discussions centred on the collection, characterization, and documentation of genetic materials adapted to local environments, as emphasized by Prof. O. J. Ariyo in the keynote address. The event attracted a broad audience from various institutions, both physically and virtually, and featured a total of 10 keynotes addresses and 28 research papers. Notably, the conference recognized and honoured individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of okra production. The closing remarks were delivered by Dr O. A. Adetula, representing the ED/CEO of NIHORT.

Global Okra Round Table (GORT II)

Unlocking the Potentials of Okra: A Global Gathering of Experts

Contd.





NIHORT IN-HOUSE SEMINARS

| S/N | DATE | PRESENTER | SEMINAR TITLE/TOPIC | KEY MESSAGE |
|-----|-----------|---|---|--|
| J. | 02/2/2024 | | Next Generation Scientists: Their Roles in Revitalisation of Nigeria's Economy | As the global population surge towards 9 billion by 2050, food production must rise by 60% to meet demand. Innovative research, sustainable technologies, and strategic partnerships among universities, industries, and institutes like NIHORT are vital. Harnessing microbial applications and modern advancements can combat food insecurity, environmental degradation, and climate change. Effective communication of these innovation will shape policies to secure safe and nutritious food for generations to come. |
| 2. | 14/3/2024 | Mrs V.A. Adedipe, Asst. Director, Finance & Accounts. | An Overview of Bottom-up Cash Planning on Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) Re: Cash Management Policy | The Federal Government's Bottom-up cash planning policy revolutionizes cash management by empowering Ministries, Departments, and Agencies to forecast needs and allocate resources efficiently. Integrated with GIFMIS, this decentralised approach enhances transparency, accountability, and fiscal discipline. By minimizing risks and optimizing cash flow, it fosters budget certainty and strategic resource allocation, driving sustainable development and financial stability across government operations. |
| 3. | 16/5/2024 | Dr Olusimbo Kenneth-Obosi | Horticultural Waste Utilisation: An Advancement to Food and Nutrition Security in Improved Livestock Production | Horticultural waste from farm to market, holds immense potential in a circular economy. Research highlights its transformation into silage for ruminants and nutrient supplements for poultry, enhancing animal protein production while mitigating environmental impacts. With promising results in silage quality and egg productivity, this approach exemplifies sustainable innovation, addressing food insecurity and reducing waste. Circular practices in agriculture pave the way for healthier ecosystems and resilient food systems. |
| 4. | 20/6/2024 | Dr Olawale Arogundade | Molecular Biology: A Viable Tool in Crop Protection Improvement for Enhanced Food Security | Global food insecurity affect millions, with severe hunger rising from 135 to 345 million in five years, especially in Africa and Asia. Crop pests and diseases exacerbate this crisis, causing up to 100% yield losses without control measures. Advances in molecular biology, including DNA markers, gene editing, and recombinant DNA techniques offer transformative solutions—enhancing crop resilience, combating biotic stress, and improving yields. These innovation hold promises for sustainable food sufficiency globally. |

NIHORT IN-HOUSE SEMINARS

| S/N | DATE | PRESENTER | SEMINAR TITLE/TOPIC | KEY MESSAGE |
|-----|-----------|--|--|--|
| 5. | 18/7/2024 | | Biology of Sesbania pachycarpa Dc., and its Green Manure Effects on the Growth of Amaranthus cruentus L. in Ibadan, Nigeria | Green manuring with Sesbania pachycarpa enhances soil fertility, reduces nitrogen runoff, and mitigates greenhouse gas emissions. Research reveals that acid-scarified seeds maintain viability for weeks, while 45-day-old plants incorporated into soil significantly boost Amaranthus cruentus growth. This eco-friendly approach curbs inorganic fertilizer use, promoting sustainable agriculture and combating environmental degradation. Sesbania's fast-growing nature and nitrogen-fixing capacity makes it a game-changer for conservation agriculture in Nigeria. |
| 6. | 15/7/2024 | Dr H.A. Akintoye | Work Ethics and Corruption Issues: the Role of the Anti-Corruption and Transparent Unit (Actu), Nihort. | Ethics are essential for fostering integrity, accountability, and professionalism in public service. This paper highlights the role of the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU), established by the ICPC, in combating corruption and promoting ethical standards. NIHORT ACTU, inaugurated on May 14, 2024 advises on financial and procurement matters, educates staff on ethics, review systems, investigates corruption cases, and develops institutional policies. To ensure transparency and productivity, NIHORT must adopt robust ethical measures while supporting anti-corruption campaigns. Collaboration with agencies like ICPC is vital for building capacity and entrenching ethical governance across public institutions. |
| 7. | 19/9/2024 | Dr Ifeoluwapo O. Amao | Reporting in Monitoring and Evaluation Processes | Reporting in project monitoring is crucial for stakeholders to assess performance against plans, identifying potential issues. This paper highlights the benefits of reporting in monitoring and evaluation, including report frequencies, formats, and characteristics. It also outlines criteria for effective reporting, and steps to develop a monitoring and evaluation report. Emphasizing key concepts, the paper underscores the importance of reporting in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of research activities at institutions like NIHORT. Regular reporting is essential for measuring institutional performance and achieving organisational goals. |
| 8. | 23/9/2024 | Prof. Valentine Otang Ntui, African Genome Centre, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P), Ben Guerir, Morocco. | Harnessing Biotechnology Tools for Agricultural Improvement in Africa | The guest lecturer demystified the apparent complexity in the application of Genetic Engineering and Genome Editing for increased agricultural productivity |

NIHORT IN-HOUSE SEMINARS

| S/N | DATE | PRESENTER | SEMINAR TITLE/TOPIC | KEY MESSAGE |
|-----|------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| 9. | 17/10/2024 | Dr Bolanle Oluyemisi, Fagbola | Bibliotherapy: Exploring the Therapeutic Use of Literature | Bibliotherapy, derived from the Greek terms "biblion" (book) and "therapeia" (healing), uses literature to support emotional development and mental health. This approach offers a versatile tool for addressing mental health challenges by providing insight, comfort, and coping strategies. In Nigeria, where economic hardship and social inequality prevail, bibliotherapy can play a significant role in promoting psychological support and well-being. Through case studies, this therapeutic use of reading has shown promise in fostering self-discovery and emotional healing, offering a unique solution for navigating life's challenges with resilience. |
| 10. | 21/11/2024 | Dr. Modupe Victoria, David | Career Progression Requirements of Staff | Career progression, encompassing promotion, upgrading, advancement, or conversion, is crucial in the civil service as it prevents stagnation. Stagnation erodes morale and productivity, hindering career growth. Employees can advance within or across cadres by meeting prescribed conditions. Preparing for opportunities is key to success. Staff need to be updated about career progression requirements, enabling them to achieve a fulfilling career in the civil service. By equipping employees with the necessary knowledge, a more productive and motivated workforce is created. |
| 11. | 19/12/2024 | Mr Ebenezer Idowu Babatunde | Internal Audit as a Tool for Management Control: Enhancing Public Organisational Governance and Performance | resource management, risk mitigation, and performance optimisation. The paper |

Celebrating Academic Excellence: Doctoral Theses of 2024

| S/N | Date | Names | Department/ University | Title |
|-----|------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| 1. | May 2024 | Dr Kehinde Oke | Department of Crop Protection, University of Ilorin | Incidence and Severity of Viral Diseases of Tomato (Solanum lycopersicum) and Characterisation of Associated Viruses in Southwest, Nigeria |
| 2 | October 2024 | Dr Adejumo A. Layade | Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta | Efficiency and Competitiveness of Tomato Production in Nigeria |
| 3 | December 2024 | Dr Mobolaji T. Oladunjoye | Department of Data and Information Science, University of Ibadan | Knowledge Management Resources, Processes and Factors as Predictors of Decision -Making by Staff in Agricultural Research Institutes in the Southwest, Nigeria |



NIHORT News Highlights Staff Transitions: Workforce Updates and Human Resources Report

he Institute witnessed dynamic workforce movements in 2024, highlighting key appointments and departures. The Institute welcomed 32 new staff members, however, three of these recruits subsequently resigned, resulting in a current staff retention of 29. Over the same period, NIHORT experienced a total of 35 employee exits, comprising 17 statutory retirements, 11 voluntary retirements and five resignations, and, with deep regret, two untimely deaths.

These transitions reflect the evolving dynamics within our workforce. We take this opportunity to honour the dedicated service of our retirees and acknowledge those who have chosen to pursue new opportunities. At the same time, we solemnly remember and pay tribute to our colleagues who sadly passed away. Their commitment and contributions remain an enduring part of NIHORT's legacy.

In accordance with statutory mandates, 17 employees retired from NIHORT in 2024.

Statutory Exits: Retirements in 2024

| S/N | Title | Full Names | Last Designation | Date of Exit | Length of Service (Years) |
|-----|-------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Dr | NWANGUMA Ephraim Ifeanyi | Director of Research | 29/03/2024 | 35 |
| 2 | Dr | OLANIYAN Abayomi Akeem | Director of Research | 28/08/2024 | 35 |
| 3 | Mr | POPOOLA, Olaoluwa Joseph | Chief Agric. Technologist | 18/08/2024 | 31 |
| 4 | Mr | SALISU, Sikiru Afolabi | Chief Agric. Technologist | 20/07/2024 | 31 |
| 5 | Mr | EGBUGBA, Adindu Joseph | Senior Accountant | 19/09/2024 | 30 |
| 6 | Mr | LAWAN, Wudil Mohammed | Senior Agric. Technologist | 13/11/2024 | 27 |
| 7 | Mr | AHUAMA, Enyinnaya Azubuike | Senior Works Superintendent | 11/07/2024 | 27 |
| 8 | Mr | ISARINADE, Sunday Edward | Senior Works Superintendent | 15/06/2024 | 23 |
| 9 | Mr | THOMAS, Olufunsho (Ojugbele) John | Technical Officer | 07/11/2024 | 23 |
| 10 | Mr | OGUNDELE, Omotayo Lasisi | Agric. Field Attendant | 17/03/2024 | 23 |
| 11 | Mr | SULE, Adeola Samuel | Technical Officer | 23/04/2024 | 21 |
| 12 | Mrs | OGUNREMI, Abidemi Funmilayo | Assistant Chief Agric, Field Overseer | 13/05/2024 | 19 |
| 13 | Mr | POPOOLA, Oluwafemi Samuel | Senior Technical Superintendent | 24/07/2024 | 19 |
| 14 | Mr | OYELEKE, Segun Ademola | Principal Agric. Technologist | 24/10/2024 | 15 |
| 15 | Mr | AKANDE, Olugbemiga Matthew | Senior Human Resource Officer | 24/10/2024 | 15 |
| 16 | Mr | OLADIMEJI, Elijah Olasunbo | Chief Motor Driver Mechanic | 24/07/2024 | 15 |
| 17 | Mrs | JUNAID, Aina | Assistant Chief Field Overseer | 08/08/2024 | 15 |

Voluntary Exits: Retirements and Resignations in 2024

Equally notable were the 16 voluntary exits consisting of 11 retirements and five resignations, as valued employees pursued new opportunities, marking important transitions for both the employees and the Institute.

Voluntary Retirements

| S/N | Title | Full Names | Last Designation | Date of Exit | Length of Service (Years) |
|-----|-------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Dr | OLAJIDE-TAIWO Lawrence Omotayo | Director of Research | 02/10/2024 | 30 |
| 2 | Mrs | OKAFOR Grace | Senior Accountant | 02/12/2024 | 33 |
| 3 | Mr | ONYEMAOBI Donatus | Agric. Technologist | 24/09/2024 | 23 |
| 4 | Mrs | OBIAGERI Deborah | Agric. Technologist | 24/09/2024 | 23 |
| 5 | Mr | ADEWALE T. Bayo | Assistant Agric. Tech | 15/04/2024 | 23 |
| 6 | Dr | IDOWU-AGIDA Oladayo | Chief Research Officer | 17/05/2024 | 19 |
| 7 | Dr | AMOSU Semeton Akinduro | Chief Research Officer | 31/05/2024 | 17 |
| 8 | Mrs | AGBOOLA Titilayo | Accountant I | 19/01/2024 | 16 |
| 9 | Mr | AWODERU Olusola S | Principal Technical Officer | 28/03/2024 | 17 |
| 10 | Mrs | ALO Olubunmi | Assistant Chief Admin. Officer | 30/06/2024 | 14 |
| 11 | Mr | AKINYELE Bayode | Principal Lab Tech. I | 15/01/2024 | 13 |

Resignations

| S/N | Title | Full Names | Last Designation | Date of Exit | Length of Service (Years) |
|-----|-------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Dr | EMMANUEL Obianuju | Chief Research Officer | 22/08/2024 | 9 years |
| 2 | Miss | DENTON Abolade | Admin. Officer I | 01/05/2024 | 9 years |
| 3 | Mr | FADE-ALUKO Akintola | Principal Research Officer | 07/02/2024 | 9 years |
| 4 | Mrs | IDOWU Oluwasayo Olabisi | Research Officer I | 01/01/2024 | 2 years |
| 5 | Mr | OGUNDIRAN Abiodun | Admin Officer II | 01/04/2024 | 2 years |

In Memoriam: Remembering Our Departed Colleagues of 2024

The Institute mourns the loss of esteemed staff members in 2024. Their dedication and contributions to the Institute's mission will be long remembered and honoured.

| S/N | Title | Full Names | Last Designation | Date of Death | Length of Service (Years |
|-----|-------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Dr | OKAFOR Benard Ndubuisi | Assistant Director of Research | 03/03/2024 | 19 |
| 2 | Mrs | POPOOLA Folake Olabimpe | Principal Research Officer | 22/05/2024 | 19 |



Dr E. I. Nwanguma: A Distinguished Career Comes to a Graceful Close

r. Ephraim Ifeanyi Nwanguma, the pioneering Technical Editor of NIHORT News, retired from the Institute on March 28, 2024, concluding a remarkable tenure of dedication and excellence. As a Director of Research and Chairman of the Research Review and Planning Committee (RRPC), Dr. Nwanguma contributed significantly in various leadership roles, including serving as Acting Executive Director/CEO from September 2021 to March 2022.

A celebrated nematologist, he led the Mbato station for many years and played key roles in numerous committees and projects that advanced NIHORT's research and production goals. His meticulous attention to detail as technical editor ensured the highest standards for every publication, a commitment that led to his recognition as the Otunba Tobase of Akaka-Remo, Ogun State.

As NIHORT News honours his legacy and statutory retirement, we extend our heartfelt wishes for a fulfilling and joyful life in his new chapter. Your unwavering insistence on precision will be deeply missed.

Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement, sir.



Dr E. I. Nwanguma: A Distinguished Career Comes to a Graceful Close

Cont'd.

















Dr E. I. Nwanguma: A Distinguished Career Comes to a Graceful Close













Dr Akeem Abayomi Olaniyan's Distinguished Farewell: A Legacy of Excellence at NIHORT

ith the timeless adage of "Come, you may; Go, you must," Dr. Akeem Abayomi Olaniyan's journey at NIHORT gracefully concluded on August 28, 2024, fulfilling the inevitable call to move forward. Drawing inspiration from Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, his valedictory lecture poignantly marked the end of an era.

Dr. Olaniyan's journey in the Institute is a testament to dedication and professional growth. Serving as the 7th Executive Director/CEO from September 1st, 2016, to August 31st, 2021, he rose steadily from Research Officer I in 1988 to Director of Research in 2010, exemplifying commitment and expertise.

A celebrated authority in Citrus Research and Production, Dr. Olaniyan earned his Ph.D. in Agriculture (Horticulture – Pomology) from the University of Ibadan in 2001. His academic and research prowess extended to his role as Principal Research Fellow (Associate Professor) at Hallmark University, Omu-Aran. As a Fellow of the Horticultural Society of Nigeria (HORTSON), he contributed extensively to scholarly journals, conferences, technical papers, and co-authored numerous books.

The entire NIHORT community proudly celebrates Dr. Olaniyan's remarkable contributions and bids him a well-deserved farewell as he embarks on new horizons. Many congratulations, sir, on a legacy well crafted.



Dr Akeem Abayomi Olaniyan's Distinguished Farewell: A Legacy of Excellence at NIHORT











Dr Akeem Abayomi Olaniyan's Distinguished Farewell: A Legacy of Excellence at NIHORT













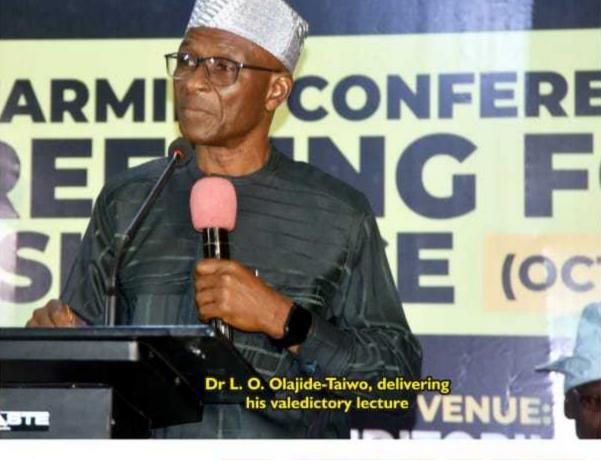




A Legacy of Excellence: NIHORT Bids Farewell to Dr Lawrence O. Olajide-Taiwo

closed on a distinguished career, Dr Lawrence Omotayo Olajide-Taiwo, the visionary leader of NIHORT's Public Relations Unit and esteemed researcher. embarked on a new chapter with his voluntary retirement on October 2nd. 2024. The career period spanned a little above three decades. Beyond

editing the NIHORT Newsletter, he led numerous units, programs, and projects, leaving an enduring impact in the research landscape. The NIHORT News Team extends warm wishes to our editor on the occasion of his retirement. We celebrate his remarkable career and wish him a joyful and fulfilling retirement ahead.









A Legacy of Excellence: NIHORT Bids Farewell to Dr Lawrence O. Olajide-Taiwo



















A Legacy of Excellence: NIHORT Bids Farewell to Dr Lawrence O. Olajide-Taiwo















NIHORT Partakes In 2024 Research Institutes Games

he 2024 RIGAN Games, aptly tagged CRIN 2024, held at Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) marked a significant milestone in the realm of sports and research excellence. Held from December 6th to December 15th, 2024, this event celebrated unity and sportsmanship among Nigerian research institutes. NIHORT made a notable appearance with 68 representatives being the largest delegation in its history of sporting activities. The Institute actively participated in an array of games, including football, table tennis, darts, volleyball, chess, scrabble, long jump, triple jump, athletics, draught, and "Ayo". This participation not only

showcased NIHORT's commitment to sports but also highlighted its dedication to fostering a culture of teamwork and camaraderie.







NIHORT Partakes In 2024 Research Institutes Games

Cont'd

NIHORT Shines at the Games: A Medal-Winning Performance

In a remarkable display of skill and determination, NIHORT's team emerged victorious, securing an impressive haul of medals at the recent games. The Institute's athletes brought home three gold medals, one silver medal, and six bronze medals, showcasing their prowess across various sport activities.

delegates in the likes of Messrs Dapo Sotola, Felix Osewa and Adenike Akinleye who earned the prestigious gold medal. Additionally, other individuals awarded bronze honours for their outstanding contributions include Akinleye Idowu, Fatogun Sunday, Ebenezer Babatunde Omolara, Akina Blessing, Olanrewaju Shittu, Olarinade Funmi, Adeolu Adejinmi, and Oladimeji Adegbemi. Furthermore, the Football Veteran Team was recognized with a

Medal Highlights

Gold Medals: NIHORT excelled in table tennis, winning gold in both the single and double veteran categories, as well as in the long jump event for female athletes.

Silver Medal: The football veteran team secured a silver medal, demonstrating their strength and teamwork.

Bronze Medals: NIHORT's athletes also claimed bronze medals in table tennis (double women), draught (male), Ayo (male and female), table tennis (active men), and darts.

Special Recognition

The Executive Director/CEO and Internal Management Committee extended special commendations to outstanding







silver award, highlighting their remarkable teamwork and dedication. These recognitions underscore the value the Institute places on hard work and collaboration within our community.

Chess Performance

NIHORT's chess team also performed commendably, finishing 6th and 10th out of 26 participants, further highlighting the institute's diverse talent pool.

END-OF-YEAR PARTY AND AWARD CEREMONY

Celebrating Excellence: NIHORT's End-of-Year Party and Award Ceremony Shines Bright

n Tuesday, December 17th, 2024, the NIHORT community was abuzz with excitement and joy as management and staff gathered to celebrate the end of the year in style. The event was a vibrant blend of prayers, lively dance party, delectable cuisine, and the highlight of the day was the prestigious award presentation.

Words of Encouragement and Vision

Goodwill messages poured in from the esteemed Executive Director/CEO, Prof. M. L. Attanda and members of the Internal Management Committee. Prof. Attanda, known for his optimistic outlook, reaffirmed his commitment to elevating NIHORT beyond national standards, aiming at international recognition.

Honoring Achievements

Heartfelt congratulations went out to the deserving awardees, whose dedication and hard work have been recognised and was celebrated. This event not only marked the end of the year, but also served as a testament to the organisation's commitment to excellence and teamwork.









END-OF-YEAR PARTY AND AWARD CEREMONY















END-OF-YEAR PARTY AND AWARD CEREMONY Cont.













END-OF-YEAR PARTY AND AWARD CEREMONY





















| NAMES | DATE | S | NAMES | DAT | TES |
|----------------------------------|------|----|--|------|------------|
| Odusanya, Taiwo Grace | July | 1 | Kayode, Adedeji Benedict | July | 14 |
| Okpara, Kachidoronye Ginikanwa | July | 2 | Olusoji , Christopher Oludayo | July | 14 |
| Ayinde, Fatimoh lyabode | July | 2 | Ndagi, Abubakar | July | 14 |
| Shuaibu, Zulkiflu | July | 2 | Osunbanwo, Ronke Damilola | July | 14 |
| Igborein, Oshuare Constance | July | 2 | Otunia, Adewale Caleb | July | 15 |
| Odetoyinbo, Oluwatosin Folorunso | July | 2 | Ogungbemi, Michael Idowu | July | 15 |
| Fabiyi, Abidemi Solomon | July | 3 | Adamu, Salisu | July | 15 |
| Adedoyin, Olatokunbo R | July | 3 | Chukwu, Adanna Jane | July | 17 |
| Olatunji, Tosin Mosunmola | July | 5 | Adeniran, Adebayo Peter | July | 17 |
| Olatunde, Joseph O. | July | 5 | Ayetan, Femi | July | 17 |
| Okeke, Agatha | July | 5 | Aliyu, Musa | July | 17 |
| Oni, Oluwayemisi Martha | July | 5 | Folorunso, Joseph Idowu | July | 18 |
| Okereke, Fabian | July | 5 | Oloruntoba, Oluwatosin Titilayo | July | 18 |
| Mfon, Okon Adolf | July | 6 | Emoihe (Sunday), Roseline Oghenetega | July | 18 |
| Madunagwu Iheanacho | July | 6 | Onyiaocha, Micheal Chukwuem | July | 19 |
| Nwakwe, Paulins Ikechukwu | July | 6 | Dagold, Samuel Oluyemi | July | 19 |
| Ojelabi, Mercy Oreofe | July | 7 | Adediran, Isaac Kehinde | July | 19 |
| Agunbiade, Anew Kolawole | July | 7 | Atanda, Mubo Iyabo | July | 20 |
| Paul, Temileye Patience | July | 7 | Fabiyi, Moses Adeku | July | 20 |
| Aliyu, Abdullahi | July | 7 | Esan, Abosede. O | July | 20 |
| Ojo, Kayode Yekini | July | 7 | Aina, Rebecca Adebusola | July | 20 |
| Aluko, Micheal | July | 7 | Raji, Oyewale Munirudeen | July | 21 |
| Akinyemi, Oluseyi Sunday | July | 8 | Adejinmi, Busuyi Opeyemi | July | |
| Adebusoye, Gabriel Adedayo | July | 8 | Oyetunde, Enitan Sunday | July | 23 |
| Nwosu, Paul Uchenna | July | 8 | Olufunmi, Olawale Oluwayombo | July | 24 |
| Umeh, Vivian Chinenye | July | 8 | Aneke, Chiamaka | | 24 |
| Musa, Abubakar Abubakar | July | 9 | Atim, Uzoma Julianah | July | |
| Okunade, Moyomade F. | July | 9 | Company of the Compan | July | 24 |
| Adeyemo, Joseph Olukayode | July | 10 | Akinbola, Michael Akintoye | July | 25 |
| Katibi, Sofiat Oluwatobi | July | 10 | Adebayo, Olalekan Oluwole | July | 25 |
| Adegoke, Janet Omotayo | July | 11 | Alabi, Oladipo Olakunle | July | 26 |
| Egwuonwu, Scholastica Ifeyinwa | July | 12 | Ahmed, Hussani | July | 26 |
| Awe, Monisola Florence | July | 13 | Raji, Oluwatoyin T. | July | 27 |
| Adewoye, Babatunde Sunday | July | | Odoh, Joseph J | July | 27 |
| Odulana, Olutayo Olumide | July | 14 | Yau, Gwammaja Muazu | July | 30 |



| NAMES | DATES | NAMES | DAT | TES |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|--------|-----|
| Muhammad Muhammad .O. | August 1 | Aderibigbe, Abiola Adetoyese | August | 13 |
| Adeyi Olugbenga Ezekiel | August 2 | Adeeko, Iyabo Adenike | August | 14 |
| Olaoye, Oluyemisi Florence | August 2 | Oyewumi, Olayonu Ruth | August | 14 |
| Anjorin, Sarah Oluwadara | August 2 | Famakinwa, Stephen | August | 14 |
| Nnadi, Amandi Fidelis | August 2 | Yakubu, Ya`U | August | 15 |
| Eluwa, Nwaobiara Victoria | August 2 | Otun, John Kayode | August | 15 |
| Lasisi, Ololade Taofeek | August 2 | Adepoju Abdulahi Adekola | August | 16 |
| Bala, Abdullahi lis | August 3 | Gbadamosi, John Adebayo | August | 16 |
| Sule, Yakubu James | August 3 | Owolade, Samuel | August | 17 |
| Uche, Funmilayo Agnes | August 4 | Ezekiel, Oreoluwa Nkem | August | 17 |
| Akinnese, Racheal Oluwatoyin | August 4 | Otinau, Usman Nuhu | August | 18 |
| Lawal, Oluwatoyin Christiana | August 5 | Suliamon, Taiwo Wasiu | August | 18 |
| Oyebade, Emmanuel Sunday | August 5 | Lawal, Alade Akeem | August | 18 |
| Ekechi, Ifeanyi Barry | August 6 | Akinleye, Akinbusuyi Olutoba | August | 19 |
| Owolabi, Sulaimon | August 6 | Oladigbolu, Abiola Adeyinka | August | 19 |
| Ikpe, Temidayo Adefunke | August 6 | Ayegba, Veronica Oluwabunmi | August | 19 |
| Ladapo, Omotoso | August 7 | Shittu, Olushola Adefunke | August | 20 |
| Sule, Akofe Sikiru | August 7 | Abubakar, Saidu Saidu | August | 20 |
| Abdullahi, Adamu Kofa | August 8 | Adeyemo , Adio Muritala | August | 20 |
| Kolawole, Emmanuel Olaoluwa | August 8 | Adebisi Mercy Oluwayomade | August | 21 |
| Adedokun, Bolaji Jumoke | August 9 | Oladele Usman Dolapo | August | 21 |
| Timothy, Bulus Hajara | August 9 | Bala, Daniel Marcus | August | 22 |
| Olomide, Oluwatosin A.K | August 9 | Oigebe Edo Isaac | August | 22 |
| Ademoyegun, Temitope Olufemi | August 11 | Adesegun, Esther Aderonke | August | 23 |
| Adewale, Oluyemisi Motolani | August 11 | Ajibola Oluwatoyin | August | 23 |
| Akinrinola, Oludele John | August 11 | Adesanya, Aderonke Folasade | August | 23 |
| Okpara, Stanley Chukwujekwu | August 11 | Adebisi-Adelani, Oluyemisi | August | 24 |
| Oladunjoye, Mobolaji Tolulope | August 11 | (Nnaji) Igwe, Franca Odinkenma | August | 24 |
| Ayanyemi, Sunday | August 11 | Ayodele, Aderonke Adeyemi | August | 24 |
| Ojo, Samuel Adebayo | August 12 | Awoderu, Ayodeji Olatunbosun | August | 24 |
| Adejuwon, Olufemi Moses | August 12 | Oladele, Tiri Gboyega | August | 25 |
| Saiha, Abdullahi | August 12 | Nwokpor Sunday S. | August | 25 |
| Ajayi, Emmanuel Oluwakayode | August 13 | Mayo Kudirat Titilayo | August | 25 |
| Ojeleye, Isaac Olusegun | August 13 | Nwokpor Sunday Solomon | August | 25 |



August Celebrants cont'd.

| NAMES | DAT | ES | NAMES | DAT | ES |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| Gbadamosi, John Adebayo Owolade, Samuel Ezekiel, Oreoluwa Nkem Otinau, Usman Nuhu Suliamon, Taiwo Wasiu Lawal, Alade Akeem Akinleye, Akinbusuyi Olutoba Oladigbolu, Abiola Adeyinka Ayegba, Veronica Oluwabunmi Shittu, Olushola Adefunke Abubakar, Saidu Saidu Adeyemo, Adio Muritala Adebisi Mercy Oluwayomade Oladele Usman Dolapo Bala, Daniel Marcus Oigebe Edo Isaac Adesegun, Esther Aderonke | ugust | 16 17 17 18 18 19 19 19 20 20 21 21 22 22 23 | Adebisi-Adelani, Oluyemisi (Nnaji) Igwe, Franca Odinkenma Ayodele, Aderonke Adeyemi Awoderu, Ayodeji Olatunbosun Oladele, Tiri Gboyega Nwokpor Sunday S Mayo Kudirat Titilayo Nwokpor Sunday Solomon Adisa, Ajani Morufu Bara`U, Mudi Opayemi, Samuel Bolaji Oyedele, Olayinka Olutola Nweke Uchenna Charles Ayelabola, Diran Augustine Saleh, Amana Bobagunwa, Kehinde Esther Egbewale, Adeoye James | August | 24 24 24 25 25 25 25 26 27 28 28 28 28 29 |
| | ugust | | | | |

September Celebrants

| NAMES | DATES | NAMES | DATES | |
|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-----------|---|
| Oladipupo, Omolola Jelilat | September 1 | Lukman, Bisola Fatimat | September | 5 |
| Ahmed, Mahmud | September 1 | Omiyale, Olawale Oluwafemi | September | 5 |
| Elum, Chinyere Gift | September 2 | Adedeji, Michael Olusola | September | 6 |
| Ajose, Titilayo Esther | September 2 | Olawolu, Emmanuel Owolabi | September | 6 |
| Ayeni, Temidayo Emmanuel | September 2 | Mfon, Olamide Bosede | September | 6 |
| Nweke, Onyebuchi Peter | September 3 | Adeyemi, Christianah Dupe | September | 6 |
| Taiwo, Emmanuel Seun | September 3 | Akinyede, Mopelola Abosede | September | 6 |
| Owolabi, Olatunde Sulaiman | September 4 | Wudil, Muhammad Sani | September | 6 |
| Anthony, Bamigbose Dare | September 4 | Luke, Uzoamaka Linda | September | 6 |
| Jiribe, Udoka Chioma | September 4 | Yekini, Nurudeen Tunde | September | 7 |
| Adeyemi, Solomon Ademayowa | September 4 | Orimogunje, Jacob Tosin | September | 8 |
| Okocha, Joseph Ilobaa | September 5 | Akerele, Yetunde Mary | September | 8 |



September Celebrants

| NAMES | DAT | ES | NAMES | DATES | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----|------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Ilokhoria, Regina Oluwafunmilayo | September | 9 | Bitrus, Boyi | September | 20 |
| Yau, Amadu | September | 9 | Awosika Oladipupo Gabriel | September | 21 |
| Ojo Ebenezer Oluwatosin | September | 9 | Abdulkai Sarafadeen Abdulkai | September | 21 |
| Adul-Rafiu, Monsur Ayoola | September | 10 | Babatunde Solomon Alaba | September | 22 |
| Adamu, lis Umar | September | 10 | Lawal, Sanni Babangona | September | 22 |
| Aliyu, Fatimah Tope | September | 10 | Oroile, Abiye Grace | September | 22 |
| Muhammad, Abdulrahaman | September | 10 | Olaseeni Funso Ayodeji | September | 22 |
| Archibong, Ini Vincent | September | 11 | Shokalu, Olubukola Adekemi | September | 23 |
| Adepoju, Tope Kabiru | September | 11 | Ibe, Bolatito Rebecca | September | 23 |
| Ummunakwe, Ebere Innocent | September | 11 | Jibrin, Aminu | September | 23 |
| Adeyemo, Temitayo Olusola | September | 12 | Odebiyi Tobi Samuel | September | 23 |
| Abubakar, Abdulahi Musa | September | 12 | Edeh Ujunwa Favour | September | 23 |
| Umar, Yusuf | September | 12 | Aaron, Feyisayo Bolanle | September | 24 |
| Awodire, Adebayo Moses | September | 13 | Akinrinola, Omolola Adebisi | September | 24 |
| Kudi, Dimas | September | 14 | Bello, Adeniyi Maruff | September | 24 |
| Bolodeoku, Peter Oluwafemi | September | 15 | Ajakaiye, Victoria Tayo | September | 24 |
| Ismail, Muhammad Junaidu | September | 15 | Bisong, Ekebe Oti Catherine | September | 25 |
| Omowumi, Iyabode Deborah | September | 15 | Ibrahim, Mohammed Danladi | September | 25 |
| Nwaoha, Onyekachi Christian | September | 15 | Okereke, Ifeanyi Emmanuel | September | 26 |
| Adebayo, Asani Oluranti | September | 15 | Oke, Kehinde Ezekiel | September | 27 |
| Adeboye, Sunday Olusegun | September | 17 | Dixon, Henry Gbenga | September | 27 |
| Alesinloye, Olumuyiwa Akinola | September | 18 | Fasehun, Eunice Idowu | September | 27 |
| Alagba, Ndidiamaka Josephine | September | 19 | Amoran, Ayoyemi Samuel | September | 28 |
| Akanji, Olakemi Christiana | September | 19 | Ezulike, Zacheous | September | 28 |
| Bankole, Afolake Oluwaseun | September | 19 | Onyia, Blessing Chinenye | September | 28 |
| Babalola, Oyenike Sadiat | September | 20 | Adedoyin, Kunmi Akinpelu | September | 28 |
| Falana, Omobola | September | 20 | Agwaza, Stephen Andoakula | September | 29 |
| Dabrinze, Chinwe Juliet | September | 20 | Mustapha Oluwakemi Balikis | September | |
| Adebo, Imona Samson | September | 20 | Olaleye, Ibrahim Abioye | September | |
| Musa, Samaila | September | 20 | Adetula Olagorite Arinola | September | |



October Celebrants

| NAMES | DATES | NAMES | DATES | |
|--------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|---------|----|
| Abubakar, Nasiru Asema | October 1 | Adeniyi, Aderibigbe Helen | October | 16 |
| Shittu, Adeoye Olanrewaju | October 1 | Omisakin, Adebayo | October | 16 |
| Ishaya, Tsudawi | October 1 | Rabo, Abdu | October | 17 |
| Musa, Bako | October 1 | Sunday, Job Friday | October | 17 |
| Ogunnaike, Olaniyi Olukunle | October 2 | Alabi, Chinedu | October | 18 |
| Omole, Adesanya Babatunde | October 2 | Owolabi, Olatunde Solomon | October | 18 |
| Okafor, Emeka Fabian | October 2 | Olatoye Julius Owoeye | October | 18 |
| Agbontale, Hephzibah Osas | October 3 | Danjuma, Enoch | October | 18 |
| Ofoegbu, Alexander Uchechukwu | October 3 | Amaechi, Innocent Chidi | October | 18 |
| Akinloye, Sewa Victoria | October 3 | Usman, Mohammed Nasiru | October | 19 |
| Nwagbara, Udodirim Chisom | October 4 | Aikoye, Claire Aisha | October | 19 |
| Adekunle, Olubunmi Deborah | October 4 | Makanjuola, Deborah Bolanle | October | 19 |
| Eyeke, Adaeze Ann | October 5 | Akintewe, Olayinka Olanike | October | 19 |
| Ilokhoria, Ofeimu Isaac | October 5 | Bello, Adenike Risikat | October | 20 |
| Bello, Idowu Nurudeen | October 6 | Alao, Ashisat Abidemi | October | 22 |
| Olaleye, Bolatito | October 6 | Abdullahi Usman | October | 22 |
| Ojekemi, Faith Olajumoke | October 7 | Onuh, Christian Bernard | October | 22 |
| Amoran, Olufunmilayo Diwura | October 7 | Agu Chukwuma Geoffrey | October | 23 |
| Mayo, Onaolapo Kamaldeen | October 7 | Apael, Luwen John | October | 23 |
| Akinyeye, Obaniyi Adebambo | October 7 | Odetoyinbo, Adefunke Deborah | | 23 |
| Agaku Tardo David | October 9 | Eneh, Pascal Amaechi | October | 23 |
| Ezulike, G.Ezinne | October 9 | | October | 24 |
| Babalola, Adisa Abdulazeez | October 10 | Ojehonmon, Paul Emmanuel | | |
| Uzoigwe, Chikaodinaka Mary | October 10 | Clement-Ibhahe, Nivea | October | 24 |
| James, Olamide Rachel | October 10 | Olabamiji, Abidemi Akeem | October | 24 |
| Shehu, Muntari | October 10 | Olatomirin, Stephen Olawole | October | 25 |
| Ayodele, Tosin Samuel | October 10 | Oyebamiji, Latifat Adeola | October | 25 |
| Oladimeji, Adegbemi Adetoye | October 10 | Cramstone, Yakubu | October | 26 |
| Akinyoola Omolara I. | October 12 | Ameh Godday | October | 26 |
| Nwosu Chiazom Geraldine | October 13 | Lawson, Ajibade Leonard | October | 27 |
| Raji, Aderemi Tajudeen | October 13 | Fatokun, Simon Dare | October | 29 |
| Bala Halima Umar | October 13 | Ibrahim, Bilyaminu | October | 29 |
| Majekodunmi, Olubunmi Temilade | October 14 | Onyegiri, Ngozi Laeticia | October | 30 |
| Kolawole, Ebenezer Adesoji | October 14 | Olajide-Taiwo, Bosede Funmilayo | October | 31 |
| Asaju, Samson Oluwafemi | October 14 | Olajire Musiliu Adekunle | October | 31 |
| Nworie, Azubike | October 15 | Joseph, Daniel Sunday | October | 31 |
| Abiodun, Solape Folakemi | October 15 | Arowolo Ishola Haruna | October | 31 |



November Celebrants

| NAMES | DATES | NAMES | DATES |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Adesanya, Tunde | November 1 | Oladoyin Musibau A. | November 19 |
| Olemeforo, Grace Uchenna | November 2 | Omotayo Oluwaseun Olorunleke | November 20 |
| Karaki, Henri Olatunji | November 4 | Osuchukwu, Ngozi | November 20 |
| Okoroafor, Ezinna Beatrice | November 4 | Usman, Kabiru | November 20 |
| Amao, Oyebola Abidemi | November 4 | Odanike, Samuel Oghenemiga | November 21 |
| Adegboyega, Gabriel Abiodun | November 4 | Abdulraheem, Ibrahim Abdulrasaq | November 21 |
| Ayeni, Amoke Eunice | November 5 | Badejo, Mercy Adenike | November 22 |
| Okoro, Nkechi Flora | November 5 | Nwafor, Ann Odinakachi | November 22 |
| Oyelade, Ajara Eleojo | November 6 | Olajide, Bose Rachael | November 22 |
| Showole Adewale Monsoor | November 7 | Kassim, Shehu Lukman | November 23 |
| Abesin Aderonke Opeyemi | November 7 | Awoderu, Segun Olusola | November 23 |
| Adejinmi, Micheal Adeolu | November 8 | Ojo, Bukola Clara | November 23 |
| Akande , Oluwaseyi Elizabeth | November 9 | Amadi, Blessing Chinoyerem | November 23 |
| Ugoji Beatrice Ebere | November 9 | Abdullahi, Nasirudeen Opeyemi | November 23 |
| Hamuzat, Williams Moniloye | November 9 | Joshua, Oluwamodupe | November 24 |
| Jibrin, Haliru Jibrin | November 10 | Olatunbosun, Ojuolape Omoyemi | November 24 |
| Ogedengbe, Oluwasegun Kayode | November 11 | Olaoti, Oladiran Simeon | November 25 |
| Agu, Chidinma Benice | November 11 | Ibekwe, Ndubuisi Hyginus | November 26 |
| Utobo Oliver | November 12 | Fasuan, Titilope Modupe | November 27 |
| Amos, Omekaramadu Blessing | November 13 | Fadahunsi, Olaniran Segun | November 28 |
| Ganiyu, Jelili | November 13 | Adesida, Victoria Oluwatoyin | November 29 |
| Adeyemo, Philips Olusanjo | November 14 | Ojiere, Eugene Chidiebere | November 29 |
| Adedimeji Adnan Adekunmi | November 16 | Okpara, Nkeiruka Justina | November 29 |
| Ayinde, Ayooluwa Joanah | November 16 | Olabode, Abioye Isaac | November 30 |
| Ajidahun, Charles Ayoyinka | November 17 | Peter, Paschaline Ifeoma | November 30 |
| Ogunlana, Aderemi Kazeem | November 18 | | |





| NAMES | DATES | NAMES | DATES |
|-------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Faremi, Rotimi Stephen | December 1 | Adara, Joseph Olumide | December : |
| Awe Yemisi Omolara | December 1 | Solomon, Matthew Kekinde | December : |
| Isiaka, Ademola Ibrahim | December 1 | Iliasu, Kamaldeen Biodun | December |
| Awe, Olugbenga Israel | December 1 | lwuchukwu, Chika | December 4 |



December Celebrants Cont'd.

| NAMES | DATES | NAMES | DATES |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Oguntolu, Olusesan Olawale | December 4 | Ogbonna, Nwodo Friday | December 19 |
| Auwal, Muhammad Sueiman | December 4 | Adelowo, Elizabeth Oluwafunmilayo | December 20 |
| Tifase, Olanike Eunice | December 6 | Eneh, Cynthia Adaora | December 20 |
| Awodele, Samson Mayowa | December 6 | Adetunji, Abiodun James | December 21 |
| Ayodele, Oluwakemi Alaba | December 7 | Oduntan, Oluwakemi Abosede | December 22 |
| Famiyesin, Oluwafemi Joseph | December 7 | Oloyede, Alaba Bayo | December 22 |
| Musa, Usman | December 7 | Famosipe, Grace Adebimpe | December 22 |
| Magaji, Dallami | December 7 | Sulyman, Wasiu Kehinde | December 22 |
| lisu Yahabu Mohammed | December 8 | Ogundele, Ruth Bukola | December 23 |
| Akintoye, Akinwumi Henry | December 9 | Denton Abolade Abiodun | December 23 |
| Stephen, Olumide Temitope | December 9 | Awodiran, Babawale Abiodun | December 23 |
| Muraina, Idowu Sheriff | December 9 | Akinosun, Olajide Opeyemi | December 23 |
| Awosunle, Isaiah Abiola | December 9 | Ogundiran Abiodun Jeremiah | December 23 |
| Ngwueche, Chinyere Anthonia | December 10 | Uwazuruike, Chinwe Stella | December 24 |
| Adebayo, Kazeem | December 10 | Adawa Abiodun Amos | December 24 |
| Yusuf Umar Manir | December 10 | Nwankwo Ezekiel Ndubuisi | December 24 |
| Usman, Hassan | December 10 | Garba, Umar | December 24 |
| Akujobi, Confidence | December 10 | Oyesanya, Adekunle Abiodun | December 24 |
| Madubuko, Faithwin Chidiebere | December 12 | Oguntoye, Gbenga Moses | December 25 |
| Bamidele, Victor Adeolu | December 12 | Abubakar, Bolanle Mutiat | December 25 |
| Ojo, Adedayo Jacob | December 12 | Amoo, Abiodun Lawrence | December 25 |
| Lateef, Ridwan O. | December 12 | Adegahi, Daniel | December 25 |
| Fatogun, Oladipo Sunday | December 12 | Odesilo, Oluwakemi Odunayo | December 25 |
| Alkali Umaru | December 12 | Tachio, Juliana | December 26 |
| Kiyesi, Emmanuel Oladele | December 13 | Oladoja, Suleiman Ayinla | December 26 |
| Oyekan, Bidemi Rasaki | December 14 | lge, Morenikeji Raimot | December 27 |
| Akinpelu, Oladunni Ayoola | December 15 | Taiwo, Halimat Opeyemi | December 27 |
| Ogunjinmi, Olubunmi Temitayo | December 15 | Sadiq Olawumi F. | December 27 |
| Fijabi , David Oluwajoba | December 16 | Uwazuruike, Alaetoo Christian | December 28 |
| Adeniyi, Abiye Deborah | December 16 | Elum, Maduabuchi E. | December 28 |
| Ifeanyichukwu Adaora | December 16 | Dada, Moses Adeniyi | December 29 |
| Olaosebikan, Kehinde Comfort | December 16 | Oyesomi, Adenike Janet | December 29 |
| Adedeji, Ayobami Adebukola | December 16 | Bala, Abdulazeez | December 30 |
| Ogunbosoye Tolulope Akinbola | December 16 | Bazazzagi, Abdulsalam | December 30 |
| Ibitoye, Olubunmi Dorcas | December 17 | Usulor, Emmanuel Chika | December 31 |
| Jimoh. Olaide Nimotalahi | December 19 | Avebo, Deborah Monisola | December 31 |



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 chains to achieve growth, profitability and sustainability.

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- Consultancy services for establishment and management of horticultural farms and orchard
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- Advisory services
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