



NIHORT News



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Breakthrough Tomato and Pepper Varieties Promise Boost in Disease Resistance and Yield *Pages 8 & 12*

PROF. M. L. ATTANDA

Executive Director / CEO NIHORT

NIHORT Accelerates Innovation:
Ministerial Visit Sparks New Era
in Vegetable Research for
Development

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**DR SENATOR ALIYU
SABI ABDULLAHI (CON)**
*The Honourable Minister of State
for Agriculture and Food Security*



MOTTO: INSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN HORTICULTURAL CROPS RESEARCH

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 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 stakeholders for the attainment of organisational mandate.

Team Members

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

Join Us



Cultivating Innovation and Growth: A Half-Year Reflection from the Editor-in-Chief



Dear Readers, Partners, and Friends of NIHORT, As we present the January to June 2025 edition of the NIHORT newsletter, we celebrate a remarkable period marked by groundbreaking innovations and unwavering dedication to advancing Nigeria's horticultural landscape and agricultural innovation.

This half-year has been a testament to NIHORT's commitment to enhancing horticultural productivity, resilience and sustainable livelihoods across Nigeria.

The launch of our tomato cultivars HORTITOM 4 and 5, alongside the pioneering habanero pepper varieties HORTIPEP 1 and 2, marks a significant milestone in scientific achievement. These new varieties promise not only to elevate yields but also to strengthen disease resistance, reflecting our mission to drive food security and economic growth through cutting-edge research.

The Institute has fostered impactful partnerships to advance agricultural development, notably collaborating with the Tomato and Orchard Producers' Association of Nigeria (TOPAN) on the Southwest Tomato Farmers Project 2025. This strategic alliance focuses on large-scale seed multiplication, capacity building, and the dissemination of improved varieties to smallholder farmers throughout the Southwest region, thereby promoting adoption and sustainable agricultural growth.

Our commitment to collaboration is further strengthened through our partnership with Lagos Business School, which enhances our capability to merge scientific research with business expertise, delivering practical solutions that empower both farmers and consumers. Additionally, key workshops

such as the KAFACI-NIHORT Tomato Production Insights and the Okra Market Segmentation Validation Workshop have provided stakeholders with critical knowledge, improving their ability to effectively respond to dynamic market demands.

Beyond research, NIHORT's impact resonates strongly in community empowerment. Vocational training initiatives such as mushroom cultivation and pineapple juice processing designed specifically for pastoral women and youth, underscore our dedication to inclusive growth and livelihood enhancement. These programs embody our vision of science as a catalyst for societal transformation.

Our dedication to learning and innovation was prominently demonstrated at HortiFair 2025, which featured the participation of over 22 Dutch businesses. During this event, NIHORT took a leading role in fostering market and policy linkages while showcasing scalable and innovative technologies. Also, the inaugural Library Lovers' Day, thoughtfully launched in February to promote reading culture, celebrate curiosity and knowledge as drivers of progress. Ministerial visits and strategic planning workshops have invigorated our collective resolve to pioneer transformative horticultural solutions.

This newsletter captures a dynamic period rich with scientific breakthroughs, strategic alliances, capacity development, and community-driven empowerment. I extend profound thanks to every member of the NIHORT family, our partners, and stakeholders whose dedication fuels these accomplishments.

Together, we stride forward with renewed energy and optimism, steadfast in our mission to cultivate innovation and nurture sustainable growth across Nigeria's horticultural sector.

Warm regards,

Prof. M. L. Attanda

Editor-in-Chief and Executive Director / CEO NIHORT

EDITOR'S REMARK

Welcome to the first half of 2025 at NIHORT, where innovation seamlessly intersect with impact to redefine the future of Nigerian horticulture. As we reflect on this period of remarkable progress, I am delighted to present the latest edition of the NIHORT Newsletter. An inspiring showcase of breakthroughs, partnerships, and transformative initiatives shaping the horticultural landscape. Between January and June, NIHORT has reached significant milestones that underscore our unwavering dedication to advancing food security and sustainable farming.

Highlights include the successful launch of superior tomato and habanero pepper varieties developed to boost yields, enhance disease resistance, and stabilise market prices, demonstrating our role in driving agricultural resilience and commercial viability. Our active presence at HortiFair 2025 further spotlighted these innovations, reinforcing NIHORT's position as a national leader in horticultural research.

Beyond scientific advancements, this edition celebrates our holistic investment in human capital development. Training programs such as Mushroom Production and vocational empowerment initiatives targeting pastoral women and youth emphasise our commitment to building a skilled and empowered workforce. Mental and wellness activities for staff and the inaugural Library Lovers' Day on Valentine's anniversary highlight our focus on fostering a culture of health, learning, and information accessibility key drivers in sustaining institutional excellence.

As we reflect on NIHORT's journey and envision the path ahead, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to elevating NIHORT's voice within the international

horticultural community. Recognising the critical role that global engagement plays in advancing research and innovation, we are dedicated to positioning NIHORT as a leading authority and collaborative partner on the world stage.



Looking forward, NIHORT is strategically poised to deepen and expand its collaborations: ranging from alliances with strategic farmers' associations and prestigious institutions like Lagos Business School, to dynamic collaborations with leading international research organisations. These initiatives are designed to accelerate knowledge exchange and value addition throughout the horticulture value chains, driving tangible impact both locally and globally.

All stakeholders researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and industry leaders are encouraged to engage pro-actively in amplifying NIHORT's research impact by participating in global forums, advocating for sustainable horticultural practices, and fostering collaborative innovation with experts worldwide. It is through such collective effort that NIHORT's voice will resonate more powerfully as a beacon of horticultural excellence, extending far beyond Nigeria's borders.

A renewed commitment is made to delivering timely, insightful, and inspiring content that drives progress and fosters impactful partnerships. Together, let us continue this journey of innovation, empowerment, and agricultural transformation, working hand in hand to cultivate a prosperous and sustainable future for Nigerian horticulture and the global community at large.

Warm regards,

Oladunjoye Mobolaji, PhD
Editor, NIHORT Newsletter

Advancing Sustainable Horticulture: Highlights from NIHORT's 2025 In-House Research Review and Planning Meeting



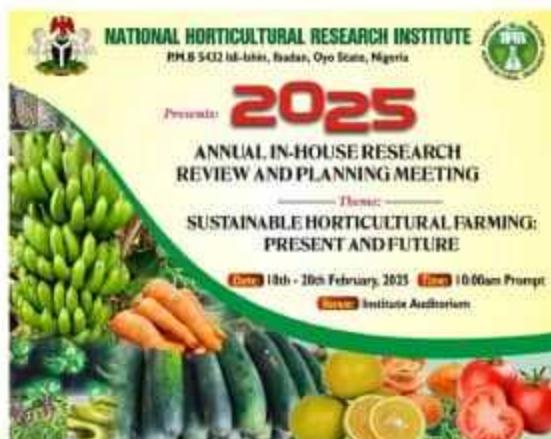
The Institute successfully hosted its 2025 In-House Research Review and Planning Meeting from February 18 to 20, themed, Sustainable Horticultural Farming – Present and Future. This pivotal gathering reinforced NIHORT's dedication to driving innovation and excellence in horticultural research.

The event brought together a dynamic mix of stakeholders including government officials, agricultural researchers, educators, and key industry players. The meeting featured notable participation from representatives of the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security (FMA&FS) and the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN).

The collaborative forum focused on reviewing current research outcomes and proposals through syndicate group presentations, evaluating ongoing projects, and charting strategic plans. Key resolutions emphasised:

1. Strengthening partnerships and research collaborations
2. Enhancing research and development initiatives
3. Promoting adoption of sustainable horticultural technologies
4. Improving the dissemination and practical application of research findings

NIHORT remains steadfast in its mission to advance sustainable horticultural farming, contributing significantly to Nigeria's agricultural growth and food security.



Celebrating Knowledge and Love: NIHORT's Inaugural Library Lovers' Day on St. Valentine's Anniversary

In a passion for knowledge and the spirit of St. Valentine's Day, the Information and Documentation Department NIHORT, had its first-ever Library Lovers' Day on February 14, 2025, at the Institute's library.

Rekindling Passion for Knowledge at NIHORT Library

The event was graced by the Executive Director/CEO Prof. M. L. Attanda, represented by Dr M. V. David, Director of Administration, some members of the Internal Management Committee, NIHORT staff, and esteemed external guests. The aim was to rekindle enthusiasm and patronage among members of staff for the library. The event spotlighted the library's invaluable resource and encouraged deeper engagement with its wealth of information. Opening the session, Acting Head of Department Dr Mobolaji Oladunjoye warmly welcomed attendees and highlighted the significance of Library Lovers Day and the enduring pursuit of knowledge.

Highlights of the day included heartfelt goodwill messages, a captivating history of the NIHORT Library, storytelling sessions, and recognition of outstanding library patrons.

Awards were presented as follows:

1. Information Excellence Award:
Prof. Muhammed Lawal Attanda
2. Outstanding Female Library Patron:
Mrs. Onaolapo Olatunji
3. Outstanding Male Library Patron:
Mr Samuel Ojei
4. Distinguished Librarian of the Year:
Mr Joseph Adara

A Toast to Tradition and Innovation at NIHORT

The celebration was delightfully enhanced with refreshments and a commemorative anniversary cake, reflecting the event's warm and welcoming spirit. Dr Mobolaji Oladunjoye, Acting Head of Department, alongside her committed team, pledged to establish Library Lovers' Day as an annual tradition. This inspiring initiative was sparked by the creative vision of Mrs Sarah Adesokan, a librarian who received special recognition for her ingenuity.

Congratulations to the Information and Documentation Department for championing a wonderful blend of learning passion and community spirit!



NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
INFORMATION & DOCUMENTATION DEPARTMENT



Cross section of Participants at the Event

Celebrating Knowledge and Love: NIHORT's Inaugural Library Lovers' Day on St. Valentine's Anniversary *Contd.*



Breakthrough: Tomato and Pepper Varieties Promise Disease Resistance and Boost in Yield

HORTITOM 4 (formerly known as NHTo10-1) is a pure line variety of *Solanum lycopersicum* L. developed by the National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT). The variety, released on April 15, 2025 was bred through a cross between the parental lines G7 and AVTO0102. The development and release of this variety was overseen by a team of breeders, including Anyaoha Christian O., Oguntolu O. O., Okoyo M. E., Ikoro J. I., Ibitoye D. O., Uterdzua O., Hamisu H. S., Akinyode E. T., and Adetula O. A., with collaboration from scientists such as Fajinmi O. B., Abdul-Rafiu A. M., Elum C. G., Olajide-Taiwo F. B., Adesegun E. A., Osuji E. M., and Attanda M. L.

Morphologically, HORTITOM 4 exhibits a determinate growth habit with intermediate stem pubescence and slightly sparse foliage cover. The plant produces predominantly rounded fruits characterised by a flat blossom end shape. Both the exterior and interior of mature fruits display a vibrant red colour. This variety is well-adapted to a range of

Nigerian agro-ecologies, including the rainforest, derived guinea savanna, and Sudan savanna zones. It reaches maturity within 80 to 90 days and has a potential yield of approximately 27.2 tons per hectare. HORTITOM 4 demonstrates tolerance to key pests and diseases such as bacterial wilt, early blight, and Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus, making it particularly suitable for open field rainfed and irrigated cultivation systems.

In terms of specific descriptors, HORTITOM 4 flowers 25 to 30 days after transplanting and maintains a determinate growth habit with present stem pubescence and intermediate internode length. The leaf attitude is horizontal with slightly compact foliage. Anthocyanin pigmentation is evident on the stem but absent on leaf veins. The fruits measure approximately 5 cm in length, are high-round in shape, and transition from light green when immature to a rich red at maturity, with a light red interior flesh colour. The fruit is notably very firm with a flat blossom end shape, contributing to its excellent shelf life and transportability.



Unripe Hortitom 4



Ripe Hortitom 4

Breakthrough Tomato and Pepper Varieties Promise Disease Resistance And Boost In Yield *Cont'd.*

From a Distinct, Uniform, and Stable (DUS) perspective, HORTITOM 4 seedlings display anthocyanin coloration on the hypocotyl. The plant exhibits medium numbers of inflorescences on the main stem, medium anthocyanin coloration on the stem, and semi-drooping leaves of medium width and leaflet size. The leaf colour is a medium green with moderate glossiness. Flowers are yellow, and fruits lack green shoulders or stripes prior to maturity. The fruit size and length-to-diameter ratio are medium, with a flat shape at the blossom end and medium pericarp thickness. The mature fruit's skin is medium glossy, firm, and characterised by a long shelf life. Flowering and maturity times are classified as medium, underscoring the variety's balanced growth cycle suitable for diverse production systems.

HORTITOM 5, botanically classified as *Solanum lycopersicum L.*, is a pure line tomato variety developed and released by the National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT), Ido-ishin, Jericho GRA, Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria. Previously known as NHT180-1, this variety was bred from a cross between lines 39-1 and AVTO1219. The breeding program was led by a team of accomplished scientists, including Anyaoha Christian O, Oguntolu O. O, Okoyo M. E, Ikoro J. I, Ibitoye D. O, Uterdzua O, Hamisu H. S, Akinyode E. T, and Adetula O. A, with the support of collaborating experts such as Fajinmi O. B, Abdul-Rafiu A. M, Elum C. G, Olajide-Taiwo F. B, Adesegun E. A, Osuji E. M, and Attanda M. L.

Morphologically, HORTITOM 5 is characterised by a determinate growth habit and intermediate stem pubescence. The variety produces predominantly rounded, heart-shaped fruits with a flat blossom end. Both the exterior and interior of the mature fruit exhibit a vibrant red color, while the

immature fruits are light green. The fruits are firm, medium in size (approximately 5 cm in length), and possess a light intensity of interior flesh coloration. The plant features semi-drooping leaves with intermediate foliage cover and no anthocyanin coloration of the stem or leaf veins.

HORTITOM 5 is well adapted to a range of Nigerian agro-ecologies, including the rainforest, derived guinea, and Sudan savanna zones. It reaches maturity within 80 to 90 days and demonstrates a high yield potential of 21.7 tonnes per hectare. Notably, this variety exhibits strong tolerance to major tomato diseases such as bacterial wilt, early blight, and Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus. Its outstanding characteristics include medium maturity, excellent fruit quality, and robust performance under both open field rainfed and irrigated cultivation systems. Nutritionally, HORTITOM 5 is notable for its high vitamin C content (8.5 mg/100g), elevated lycopene levels (10.18 mg/100g), and a Brix value of 5.00, indicating superior fruit sweetness and nutritional value.

In terms of distinctness, uniformity, and stability (DUS), HORTITOM 5 displays consistent traits such as the absence of anthocyanin coloration in the hypocotyl and stem, medium-sized and semi-drooping leaves, and yellow flowers. The fruits lack green shoulders and stripes before maturity, have a medium size and firmness, and possess a long shelf-life. The variety flowers and matures at a medium rate, making it suitable for various production schedules. Collectively, these attributes underscore HORTITOM 5's suitability as a high-performing, disease-tolerant, and nutritionally rich tomato variety for Nigerian farmers and the broader horticultural sector.

Breakthrough Tomato and Pepper Varieties Promise Disease Resistance And Boost In Yield *Cont'd.*



NHTo180-1 (HORTITOM 5) at maturity and ripening



NIHORT Unveils Breakthrough Habanero Pepper Varieties to Revolutionise Nigerian Agriculture

Addressing critical challenges in habanero pepper (*Capsicum chinense*) production, National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT) officially released two superior varieties NB (HORTIPEP 1) and 90DG (HORTIPEP 2) on April 15, 2025. These high-yielding, disease-tolerant lines exhibit excellent adaptation across Nigeria's diverse agro-ecologies. HORTIPEP 1 impresses with its vibrant red fruits, firm texture, and extended shelf life, while 90DG offers consistent performance with medium-sized, aromatic yellow peppers. Both varieties demonstrate uniform ripening, strong fruit set, and resilience against major diseases, promising to enhance productivity, boost farmers' income, and strengthen the pepper value chain. This milestone release marks a significant step toward sustainable habanero cultivation and food security in Nigeria. NIHORT recommends scaling up seed distribution and extension support to maximise nationwide impact.

HORTIPEP 1 (Formerly NB) General Description of the Variety

The habanero pepper variety, designated as HORTIPEP 1 and formerly known as NB, belongs to the species *Capsicum chinense*. This open-pollinated variety was developed and released by NIHORT. The breeding was led by Anyaoha Christian O. and Habu Saleh Hamisu, with significant contributions from a team of collaborating scientists including Oyedeji E., Arogundade O., Abdul-Rafiu A.M., Badmus, M.A., Aminu-Taiwo B., Akinpelu C.A., Ademoyegun O.T., Akinkunmi, O.Y., Osuji E.M., Fariyike T.A., Akintoye H.A., Attanda M. L. while the exact pedigree of HORTIPEP 1 remains unknown, it exhibits distinct morphological and agronomic traits that make it well-suited for cultivation across various ecological zones in Nigeria.

Morphologically, HORTIPEP 1 is characterised by an erect plant habit and produces blocky-shaped fruits with a yellow exterior at maturity and light green coloration when immature. The variety is adapted to a wide range of ecological zones, including the Rainforest, Derived Savanna, Guinea, and Sudan Savanna regions. It reaches maturity within 100 to 125 days and demonstrates a high yield potential of approximately 20.11 tonnes per hectare. Importantly, HORTIPEP 1 shows resistance to key pests and diseases such as Cucumber mosaic virus and Bacterial wilt (caused by *Ralstonia solanacearum*), while also exhibiting tolerance to the pepper fruit fly. The variety is noted for its outstanding characteristics, including very high pungency, pronounced aromatic qualities, and superior nutritional content, with capsaicin levels of 5.83 mg/100g, vitamin C concentration of 68.16 mg/100g, and beta carotene content of 10.03 µg/g.

Specific Morphological and Agronomic Traits

HORTIPEP 1 exhibits a green stem colour and attains an average plant height of 131 cm. It displays an upright growth habit with determinate growth and an intermediate internode length. The plant lacks anthocyanin coloration on both the hypocotyl and nodes, and stem hairiness at the nodes is absent. Flowering occurs at approximately 94 days to 50% bloom, with one to three internodes between the first flower and shortened internodes, reflecting a moderately compact growth pattern.

Distinct, Uniform, and Stable (DUS) Characteristics

The variety demonstrates medium-length

NIHORT Unveils Breakthrough Habanero Pepper Varieties to Revolutionise Nigerian Agriculture

Cont'd.

stems and medium-sized lanceolate leaves with smooth margins and moderate undulation. The peduncle and fruit both exhibit a drooping attitude. Prior to maturity, fruits are light green in colour, transitioning to a medium-intensity yellow at full maturity. Fruit dimensions are intermediate in length and diameter, with a horned shape in longitudinal section and circular shape in cross-section. The pericarp shows weak to very weak sinuation, and the surface texture is slightly wrinkled. The fruit attachment at the pedicel is truncate, with medium flesh thickness and stalk length, and moderate stalk thickness. The calyx is enveloping, and the variety exhibits excellent fruit set with uniform ripening occurring at a medium time frame.

Additional DUS descriptors include the presence of anthocyanin coloration on the seedling hypocotyl and medium anthocyanin

intensity on the stem. Leaves are semi-drooping with medium width, size, green intensity, and glossiness. Flowers are yellow, and fruits lack green shoulders or stripes before maturity. At maturity, the fruit and flesh colour are red with medium glossiness and firm texture. The variety is noted for its long shelf-life, with medium times to flowering and maturity, making it a reliable choice for both growers and markets.

This comprehensive characterisation of HORTIPEP 1 underscores its suitability as a high-performing, disease-resistant, and nutritionally valuable habanero pepper variety for Nigerian agro-ecologies. The combination of its agronomic stability, yield potential, and superior fruit quality traits positions it as a promising candidate for widespread adoption and commercial cultivation.



Candidate NB at maturity and ripening stages



Harvested HORTIPEP 1: The Aromatic Powerhouse



NIHORT Unveils Breakthrough Habanero Pepper Varieties to Revolutionise Nigerian Agriculture

Cont'd.

HORTIPEP 2 (formerly 90DG): Variety Description

HORTIPEP 2 is an open-pollinated variety of *Capsicum chinense* developed and released by the National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT), Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. While its precise pedigree remains unknown, this variety was bred under the expert guidance of breeders Anyaoha Christian O. and Habu Saleh Hamisu, with collaborative contributions from a team of scientists including Oyedele E., Arogundade O., Abdul-Rafiu A. M., Badmus M. A., Aminu-Taiwo B., Akinpelu C. A., Ademoyegun O. T., Akinkunmi O. Y., Osuji E. M., Fariyike T. A., Akintoye H. A., and Attanda M. L. The variety is adapted to diverse Nigerian agro-ecologies, including rainforest, derived savanna, and northern Guinea savanna zones, demonstrating broad environmental resilience.

Morphologically, HORTIPEP 2 exhibits a slightly dense, upright, and compact plant habit, reaching an average height of approximately 131 to 137 cm. The plants have a determinate growth habit with medium internode length and lack anthocyanin coloration on the hypocotyl and nodes. Leaves are broadly ovate to lanceolate with smooth margins, medium width, and a semi-drooping attitude. The flowering period culminates around 94 to 100 days to 50% flowering, with uniform ripening and medium maturity occurring between 100 to 125 days. The variety is characterised by excellent fruit set and a medium-sized fruit profile.



The fruits of HORTIPEP 2 are notable for their distinctive triangular or horned shape in longitudinal section and circular cross-section. Immature fruits display a dark green to light green coloration with high colour intensity and a slightly wrinkled surface texture. At maturity, the fruits turn yellow with a light to medium intensity and medium glossiness. The fruit apex is truncate, and the flesh thickness is medium, contributing to a firm fruit with excellent shelf life. The peduncle is medium in length and thickness, with a drooping fruit attitude and absence of stalk cavities. The calyx is enveloping, further protecting the fruit. Nutritionally, the variety is rich in capsaicin content (approximately 12.27 mg/100g), high in vitamin C (57.13 mg/100g), and contains significant beta-carotene levels (15.00 µg/g), making it highly pungent, aromatic, and nutritionally valuable.

HORTIPEP 2 exhibits robust resistance to key pepper diseases, including Cucumber mosaic virus and bacterial wilt caused by *Ralstonia solanacearum*, and demonstrates tolerance to pepper fruit fly infestations. These traits, combined with its high yield potential estimated at 18.6 t/ha, medium maturity, and adaptation across multiple ecological zones, make it a valuable variety for Nigerian farmers seeking improved productivity and quality in habanero pepper cultivation.



NIHORT Accelerates Innovation: Ministerial Visit Sparks New Era in Tomato Research and Vegetable Development



The Executive Director and his team welcoming the Minister Dr Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi

In a one-day working visit on April 28, 2025, the Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, Dr Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, acknowledged NIHORT's commitment to agricultural innovation by charging the institute to fast-track the development of a new tomato variety resistant to the devastating pest *Tuta absoluta*. This pivotal directive underscores NIHORT's vital role in safeguarding Nigeria's vegetable production and enhancing food security.

The Minister's visit was marked by commendations for NIHORT's recent breakthroughs, including the successful release of the HORTITOM 4 and 5 tomato varieties alongside HORTIPEP 1 and 2 pepper varieties. These achievements reflect the institute's unwavering dedication to advancing crop resilience and productivity. Emphasising the importance of a harmonious work environment, Dr A. S Abdullahi urged NIHORT's management and staff to sustain the institute's positive atmosphere.



The Minister, Dr Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi Addressing members of NIHORT community

NIHORT Accelerates Innovation: Ministerial Visit Sparks New Era in Tomato Research and Vegetable Development *Cont'd.*



The Executive Director presenting the Minister with cut flowers from the Floriculture programme

Setting a visionary agenda, the Minister called for intensified research on sensitive vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, and onions, advocating the inspiring slogan NIHORT IN EVERY POT to signify the institute's mission to make its improved varieties household staples nationwide.

Responding with assurance and optimism, NIHORT's Executive Director, Prof. M. L. Attanda, expressed gratitude for the Minister's visit and reaffirmed the institute's readiness to meet these challenges. He also hinted at upcoming varietal releases,

including new garden egg varieties, signalling continued innovation and impact.

The visit was further distinguished by a presentation of cut flowers from NIHORT's Floriculture Research Programme, symbolising the institute's diverse expertise and warm hospitality.

The Minister's tour included a visit to the Biotechnology Unit, where rapid multiplication of plantain, pineapple, and telfairia seedlings were underway, showcasing NIHORT's comprehensive approach to agricultural development.

Partnership Between the National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT) and the Tomato and Orchard Producers' Association of Nigeria (TOPAN) for the Southwest Tomato Farmers Project 2025

The National Horticultural Research Institute, in partnership with the Tomato and Orchard Producers Association of Nigeria (TOPAN), successfully executed the Southwest Tomato Farmers Project, aimed at enhancing capacity and facilitating the distribution of improved tomato seeds. This initiative encompassed comprehensive training, featuring practical demonstrations on tomato nursery management, field establishment techniques, and integrated pest and disease control strategies.

The project's primary objective was to increase tomato production and address the issue of scarcity within the region. Through TOPAN's evaluation, the lack of access to quality tomato seeds was identified as a significant challenge confronting farmers. This insight underscored NIHORT's pivotal role in empowering farmers by providing improved tomato varieties- HORTITOM 1 and HORTITOM 2 recently developed by the Institute.

In addition to seed distribution, the project prioritised capacity building by delivering

hands-on training that covered the entire tomato production cycle, from nursery establishment to harvest. Key area of focus was practical demonstration which included seed sowing, seedling management, pest and disease control, fertilizer application, and adherence to safety protocols.

To ensure the sustainability and success of the project, continuous field monitoring of participating farmers was planned, facilitating the assessment of impact and overall effectiveness. The project was implemented across several locations in the Southwestern states of Oyo, Osun, Ogun, Ondo, and Lagos between June 10 and July 3, 2025. Details of the locations visited, the number of farmers engaged, and quantities of HORTITOM 1 and HORTITOM 2 seeds distributed are outlined in the accompanying seed distribution Table.

Training Output: A total of 14.125 kg of improved tomato seed was distributed across the project sites. These seeds are being cultivated on 94.1 hectares, with an estimated potential yield of 4,703.5 metric tons of fresh tomatoes.

Seed Distribution during the Training across Multiple Locations

Location	Training Date	Training Venue	Number of Farmers			Quantity of Seed Distributed – HORTITOM 1 and HORTITOM 2
			Male	Female	Total	
Ibadan, Oyo State	10 th June, 2025	NIHORT	27	12	39	1kg
Ogbomoso, Oyo State	11 th June, 2025	Odokoto Area and Ahoro Dada Village, Ogbomoso, Oyo state	42	6	48	1.5kg
Odogbolu, Ogun State	17 th June, 2025	Baale's house, Agoro, along Okun -Owa Road Odogbolu, Ogun State.	34	24	58	1.25kg
Obafemi – Owode/Abeokuta/Ewekoro Ogun State	18 th June, 2025	Obada-Oko, Abeokuta	52	8	60	1.25kg
Epe, Lagos State	25 th June, 2025	Anoram farm	100	87	187	1.25kg
Badagry, Lagos State	26 th June, 2025	Abia farms	47	27	74	1.25kg
Egbedore, Osun State	27 th June, 2025	Awo	41	5	46	2kg
Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State	1 st July, 2025	Eritun Farm Settlement	173	77	250	1.85kg
Akure, Ondo State	2 nd July, 2025	FADAMA Office, Ondo State Agric Devt Programme	140	63	203	1.43kg
Ile-Oluji, Ondo State	3 rd July, 2025	St Francis Catholic High School	112	66	178	1.33kg
Total			768	375	1143	14.125kg

Partnership Between the National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT) and the Tomato and Orchard Producers' Association of Nigeria (TOPAN) for the Southwest Tomato Farmers Project 2025 Cont'd.



Partnership Between the National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT) and the Tomato and Orchard Producers' Association of Nigeria (TOPAN) for the Southwest Tomato Farmers Project 2025 Contd.



Training on tomato nursery practices and pest and disease control at the demonstration site in Obafemi/Owode LGA, Ogun State

Highlights from the National Horticultural Research Institute's Partnership with the Tomato and Orchard Producers' Association of Nigeria for the Southwest Tomato Farmers Project 2025

Contd.



Elevating Tomato Production: Insights from the KAFACI-NIHORT Training Workshop

The Korea-Africa Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (KAFACI), in collaboration with the National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT) on May 14, 2025, convened a pivotal training workshop at the Institute Auditorium in Oyo State. This one-day event was meticulously designed to empower tomato farmers with advanced production techniques, effective disease management strategies, and best practices in post-harvest handling. These are the key elements aimed at boosting tomato yields, enhancing food security and improving farmers' livelihoods.

Opening Remarks Set the Stage for Innovation
The workshop commenced with a warm welcome from Dr H. A. Akintoye, who represented the Executive Director/CEO of NIHORT, Prof M. L. Attanda. He underscored the institute's commitment to agricultural innovation, spotlighting cutting-edge technologies such as NIHORT's biopesticides and the Tuta-Trap-Tray. His call to action encouraged participants to embrace these innovations and engage fully in the capacity-building sessions. Complementing this, Dr M. V. David, Head of Administration, emphasised the critical role of NIHORT's mandate crops in household nutrition and urged active participation throughout the training. Dr A. M. Abdulrafiu, Principal Investigator of the KAFACI project in Nigeria, expressed gratitude to all stakeholders and reaffirmed the project's goal to enhance tomato production by its conclusion in 2025.

Technical Sessions Deliver Practical Expertise
The core of the workshop featured sessions facilitated by Dr A. M Abdulrafiu, Mrs E. A. Adesegun, and Dr T. O. Ademoyegun, who delivered comprehensive presentations on tomato production technology for improved

yield, disease management, and post-harvest handling respectively. These sessions equipped participants with actionable knowledge to optimise their farming practices and reduce losses.

Engaged Participants Drive Interactive Dialogue

The workshop fostered an interactive environment where participants raised pertinent questions ranging from farm sanitation practices and soil testing services to intercropping effects and foliar fertilisation at fruiting stages. The participants raised concerns about the affordability of NIHORT biopesticides and the practical use of cocopeat as a growing medium. These concerns were addressed with clarity by Dr A. M. Abdulrafiu. The workshop emphasised the importance of good farm hygiene, noted NIHORT's functional laboratories, and provided detailed instructions on cocopeat preparation and its versatility for various crops. The participants were given NIHORT's tomato varieties - HORTITOM 1 and HORTITOM 2, and packaging materials. Participants were also referred to NIHORT's social media platforms for access to workshop materials, ensuring continued learning beyond the event.

This successful collaboration between KAFACI and NIHORT not only reinforced the institute's role as a beacon of agricultural innovation but also empowered tomato farmers with the knowledge and tools to transform production systems. The commitment shown by all participants promises a vibrant future for tomato cultivation in Oyo State and beyond.

Elevating Tomato Production: Insights from the KAFACI-NIHORT Training Workshop *Cont'd.*



Empowering Youths through Intensive Mushroom Production Training: A Pathway to Income Generation and Improved Livelihood

To boost income generation and enhance livelihoods among youths, the Institute, in collaboration with Horticonsult, conducted a two-day intensive training on mushroom production technology from June 4th to 5th, 2025. This capacity-building initiative, anchored by the Mushroom Research Unit, targeted both male and female youths eager to explore sustainable agricultural ventures.

The training was designed to equip participants with knowledge and practical skills essential for mushroom farming. Beyond technical instruction, the programme encouraged mushroom production and consumption, highlighting its significant

health benefits. Through hands-on sessions, participants gained confidence to establish their own mushroom farms, recognising the potential for substantial income generation.

The training underscores a sustainable model of knowledge transfer and empowerment, improve participant's economic status and contribute to inclusive diverse communities through mushroom farming. The training included the distribution of comprehensive manuals, certificates, and sterilised inoculated substrate bags, ensuring participants were well-prepared to implement their new skills. Also, various mushroom-based dishes were prepared and sampled, demonstrating the versatility and cookery value of mushrooms.



Empowering Pastoral Women and Youth: NIHORT Partners with Value 4 Dairy for Vocational Training in Pineapple Juice Production

In a collaboration aimed at uplifting pastoral communities, NIHORT engaged the Value 4 Dairy (V4D) pastoral youth and women cohort to conduct a vocational training workshop on pineapple juice production on May 29, 2025. This initiative underscores a shared commitment to empowering women and youth in rural areas by equipping them with practical skills that enhance livelihoods and foster economic independence.

Represented by Dr J. A. Akinfasoye, the Executive Director/CEO of NIHORT emphasised the importance of the training as a strategic effort to build capacity among pastoralists, particularly women. He highlighted that investing in women's potential is vital for unlocking new economic opportunities, promoting self-sufficiency, and driving sustainable growth within pastoral communities.

Expressing gratitude to NIHORT's leadership under Prof. M. L. Attanda, Dr Akinfasoye welcomed participants and provided insights into NIHORT's diverse programmes. Beyond traditional dairy products like millet balls (fura) and cheese (wara), he introduced the prospect of fruit processing as an additional income stream, emphasising pineapple juice production as a promising avenue for financial empowerment.

Mrs Florence Nwamba, the Chief Executive Officer of Simul Fortes Company Limited, delivered the opening speech, warmly welcoming distinguished guests, facilitators, and participants. She also acknowledged the invaluable support of partners such as IFDC and Friesland Campina West Africa Milk Company (WAMCO), whose collaboration has made this initiative possible.

The training featured a theoretical session led by Dr A. Oduntan, Head, Product Development Programme, NIHORT, who detailed the step-by-step process of pineapple juice production. This process includes harvesting, sorting, washing, peeling, blanching, juice extraction, preservative addition, bottling, pasteurisation, and cooling. This was followed by a hands-on practical session at the processing plant, where participants observed and engaged in the juice production process first hand.

This collaborative vocational training reinforces the collective responsibility of dairy and agricultural development for national progress. By fostering knowledge exchange and practical expertise, NIHORT and its partners are paving the way for increased economic resilience and improved quality of life among pastoral women and youth.



Empowering Pastoral Women and Youth: NIHORT Partners with Value 4 Dairy for Vocational Training in Pineapple Juice Production

Cont'd.



The CEO, Simulfortes company limited, Mrs. Florence Nwanba giving her welcome Address



Representing the Executive Director, Dr. Joel A. Akinfasoye giving the welcome address



Cross section of participants at the event



Facilitators, Dr. J. A. Akinfasoye, Dr. A. O. Oduntan, and The CEO, Simulfortes, presenting a certificate to a participant



Group photographs of Participants at the event

Forging the Future of Okra: Insights from the Two-Day Okra Market Segmentation Validation Workshop



The Executive Director, Prof M. L. Attanda granting a press interview

In a landmark gathering at The Citron Hotel, Ibadan, from June 18th to 19th, 2025, key stakeholders from across Nigeria convened under the auspices of the Vegetable Agribusiness and Climate-smart initiative within the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS) framework to chart a new course for the okra value chain. The two-day workshop was a participatory platform designed to validate okra market segments and collaboratively develop Target Product Profiles (TPPs) that resonate with real-world market needs and opportunities.

The opening day set a compelling tone, immersing participants in a deep exploration of okra's diverse market segments. The

session began with a warm welcome from the Executive Director/CEO of NIHORT, Prof. M. L. Attanda, who emphasised the strategic importance of enhancing Nigeria's okra value chains. Dr Dorcas Ibitoye, a Director of Research in NIHORT gave a keynote presentation which captivated the audience by illuminating okra's rising significance not only as a nutritional powerhouse but also as a versatile economic crop gaining global traction. Her insights emphasised the shift from viewing okra as an "orphan crop" to recognising it as a promising "opportunity crop." She highlighted the critical role of collaborative, user-centered crop development. The day's stakeholder engagement revealed a shared vision: to

Forging the Future of Okra: Insights from the Two-Day Okra Market Segmentation Validation Workshop *Cont'd.*



unlock new business avenues, expand okra's market beyond fresh consumption, and co-design products that meet diverse consumer demands. Interactive presentations and group validations further enriched the discourse, culminating in a validation of market segments that reflected the collective expertise and aspirations of all participants.

Building on this foundation, the second day propelled the workshop into the realm of actionable innovation, translating validated market segments into precise TPPs. Facilitators guided participants through the strategic importance of market-driven breeding, emphasising traits such as pod size, colour, shelf life, and viscosity, while encouraging forward-thinking about okra's potential in emerging industries such as the pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. Through collaborative group work, stakeholders drafted TPPs that not only addressed immediate market needs but also anticipated

future trends and scalability challenges. The presentations and constructive feedback sessions ensured that these profiles were both relevant and adaptable, setting the stage for impactful breeding programmes. The workshop concluded with participants receiving certificates and expressing optimism about sustained collaboration and innovation in okra development.

This workshop has successfully bridged critical gaps between research, production, and market demand, laying a solid foundation for the next phase of okra improvement in Nigeria. The validated market segments and co-created TPPs will now guide breeding efforts, ensuring that new okra varieties are tailored to meet the complex needs of farmers, processors, marketers, and consumers. Moving forward, the consolidation of these profiles and continuous stakeholder engagement will be pivotal in driving adoption and scaling innovations that enhance livelihoods and nutrition across the country.

Forging the Future of Okra: Insights from the Two-Day Okra Market Segmentation Validation Workshop *Cont'd.*



NIHORT at the PIND Foundation Workshop on Strengthening Seed Systems in the Niger Delta

The Institute was represented by Mr O. A. K. Olomide at a two-part regional workshop organised by the Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND). The workshop brought together relevant stakeholders across the seed value chains including researchers, extension workers, seed companies, government representatives, and donor agencies all committed to building a more inclusive and resilient seed system in the Niger Delta.

The sessions, held on June 17 in Ondo State and June 20 in Rivers State, were focused on Strengthening Seed Systems for Inclusive Agricultural Growth in the Niger Delta. At both workshops, Mr O. A. K. Olomide,

representing NIHORT, shared the Institute's key contributions to the horticultural seed sector and discussed emerging opportunities to support small-holder farmers and agro-entrepreneurs in the region. He gave an overview of the Institute's research on improved seed varieties for vegetables and other horticultural crops and highlighted ongoing efforts to enhance seed production and distribution for wider agricultural impact.

NIHORT's input was well received, and the event opened opportunities for future collaborations and partnerships aimed at scaling up horticultural innovations and boosting food security in the region.



Cross-section of Participants at the PIND Foundation Workshop on Strengthening Seed Systems in the Niger Delta



Cross section of the participants



Mr. O. A. K. Olomide from NIHORT



Participants at the PIND workshop

NIHORT Seminar Series: From Spores to Plates – The Art of Mushroom Production

The Institute hosted an enlightening seminar titled "From Spores to Plates: The Art of Mushroom Production" on June 19th, 2025, presented by Dr Olufunmilayo O. Idowu. The presenter provided a comprehensive overview of mushrooms—macro fungi distinguished by their fruiting bodies, which unlike plants, lack chlorophyll and decomposes organic matter (lignocellulolytic materials) for sustenance. The seminar detailed the mushroom's life cycle from spore propagation to mycelium development and eventual fruiting body formation.

Highlighting mushroom production in the agricultural industry, Dr O. O. Idowu emphasised its potential for economic growth, food security, and sustainable farming. The cultivation process involves controlled environments tailored to various species, meeting rising global demand. The seminar also explored the multifaceted benefits of

mushrooms: economic empowerment through income generation, environmental sustainability, and notable medicinal properties. Rich in selenium, fibre, and calcium, mushrooms offer anticancer, antioxidant, cholesterol-lowering, and bone health benefits, while also aiding diabetes prevention.

Attendees learned about mushroom categories—edible, medicinal, and poisonous—with a cautionary note on the severe health risks of consuming uncertified varieties, including nausea, hallucinations, and even death. Challenges such as diseases and pests were discussed, underscoring the need for research, optimal cultivation practices, and capacity building. The seminar concluded with a call to action for increased interest and collaboration in mushroom farming to harness its full potential.



From Classroom to Field: NOUN Educational Tour at NIHORT



Group Photograph of NOUN Students with NIHORT Staff

The Institute proudly welcomed enthusiastic students from PEN Group of Schools and Triolas School of Science, Ibadan, for an engaging educational tour on 30th June 2025. The visit began with a warm reception by NIHORT's Extension Programme team, who provided insightful briefing on the institute's mandate and the pivotal roles of its principal departments in advancing Nigeria's agricultural development.

Discovering the Fascinating Mushroom Unit

Students eagerly explored the Mushroom Unit, where they experienced firsthand the intricate process of mushroom cultivation and harvesting. A practical session emphasised the nutritional benefits of mushrooms, sparking keen interest and active participation among the learners.

Immersed in the World of Floriculture

In the floriculture segment, the students were introduced to the vibrant world of flowering plants.



Dr O. M Adewale, Head of NIHORT Extension Programme addressing the students



Cross section of NOUN Students

Exploring Agricultural Innovations: PEN Group and Triolas School of Science Visit NIHORT

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Immersed in the World of Floriculture

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plants. They learned how to nurture plants, the science behind flower colours and fragrances, and the critical role of floriculture in environmental beautification.

Young Scientific Minds

The tour provided a unique opportunity for students to connect closely with nature, appreciate the marvels of modern farming practices, and understand the vital contribution of agricultural research institutes like NIHORT to national progress.

Planting Seeds for Future Agricultural Leaders

This inspiring day of exploration, motivation, and knowledge sharing planted the seeds of scientific curiosity and agricultural passion in these young minds. NIHORT remains committed to nurturing the next generation of agricultural leaders by promoting early agricultural education and looks forward to welcoming more schools for similar transformative experiences.



Mr Kunle Alabi presenting NIHORT brochure

Exploring Agricultural Innovations: PEN Group and Triolas School of Science Visit NIHORT

Cont'd.



Students of PEN Group and Triolas School of Science



Group photograph consisting NIHORT Team, staff and students of PEN Group and Triolas School of Science

Inspiring Young Minds: Abby's Cradle Montessori School Explores NIHORT

NIHORT HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE HEADQUARTERS IBADAN.



Group Photograph consisting NIHORT Team, Staff and Pupils of Abby's Cradle Montessori School

The Institute proudly hosted an engaging educational excursion for pupils and teachers from Abby's Cradle Montessori School on Friday, 7th March 2025. The delegation, comprising approximately 60 eager pupils and 8 educators, arrived promptly at 10:00 a.m. for hands-on learning.

A Hands-On Journey into Horticultural Science

This visit provided the students with firsthand exposure to critical areas of horticultural research and innovation. Warmly welcomed by NIHORT's administrators, the group was taken on a detailed tour of the institute's experimental fields, laboratories, and ornamental gardens.

Learning Through Discovery

During the tour, students were introduced to diverse plant species, modern cultivation techniques, and several ongoing research projects at NIHORT. This practical experience significantly boosted their understanding of agricultural science, plant biology, and the

essential role of horticulture in everyday life. Meanwhile, teachers engaged with NIHORT experts to explore ways of integrating more practical agricultural concepts into their classroom teachings.

Curiosity and Collaboration in Action

The pupils displayed remarkable enthusiasm, actively participating with questions and keen interest in the experiments demonstrated. Educators appreciated the warm reception and highlighted the value of such hands-on experiences in complementing theoretical knowledge gained in schools.

A Fruitful Partnership for Future Growth

The excursion was both enlightening and memorable, fulfilling NIHORT's mission to bring practical agricultural knowledge beyond the classroom. Committed to fostering partnerships with educational institutions, the Institute looks forward to continuing its role in inspiring the next generation of agricultural scientists and enthusiasts.

Inspiring Young Minds: Abby's Cradle Montessori School Explores NIHORT Cont'd.



Celebrating Academic Excellence: Completed Doctoral Theses 2025



S/N	Date	Names	Department/ School	Thesis Title
1.	March, 2025	Dr Akinpelu Catherine Adeola	Agricultural Economics/ University of Ibadan	Producers' Preference for Selected Tomato Varietal Attributes in Southwestern Nigeria.
2.	May, 2025	Dr Akinwunmi Gbenga Sunday	Agronomy/ University of Ilorin	Variability of Selected Soil Properties and Crop Yield under Ginger-Legume Cropping System in a Typical Derived Savannah, Nigeria

Coverage of NIHORT Activities in the Press

NEWSPAPER	NEWSPAPER CAPTION	DATE PUBLISHED
Nigerian Tribune	NIHORT Graduates Youth trainees,	5th November, 2024
Nigerian Tribune	FG Empowers Adamawa Women Youth with Skills in Tomato, Pepper Production.	7th January, 2025
Nigerian Tribune	NIHORT, 2025 Procurement Activities.	17th March, 2025
Nigerian Tribune	NIHORT Intensifies Efforts on Tomato Variety Resistant to Tuta Absoluta Virus.	27th April, 2025
Nigerian Tribune	A Picture of the Minister's One Day Working visit to NIHORT.	29th April, 2025

Lagos Business School Partners with NIHORT to Drive Strategic Agricultural Innovation

A delegation of 25 executives from Lagos Business School's 24th and 25th Agric Business cohorts visited NIHORT on March 14, 2025. The delegation was led by Dr Jide Adedeji, Director of Academics for the Agric Business Programme. The visit aimed to foster strategic collaboration and strengthen ties between academia, business, and agricultural research for sustainable development.

Welcoming a Shared Commitment to Nigeria's Food Security

Prof. M. L. Attanda, ED/CEO of NIHORT, warmly received the LBS team, highlighting the Institute's mandate under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and underscoring the vital role of partnerships in achieving national food security goals.

Showcasing LBS's Impactful Agric Business Curriculum

Dr Jide Adedeji presented LBS's three-module Agric Business Programme,

designed to transform mindsets, promote entrepreneurship, and link agricultural executives with technical initiatives that enhance value chains and operational excellence.

NIHORT's Innovations: From Research to Market

NIHORT's Head of Extension Research Programme, Dr Oluyemisi Adewale, showcased the Institute's horticultural innovations, including the Hortitom tomato varieties, value-added tomato products, bio-pesticides, improved vegetable varieties, and diverse products from horticultural waste. She also highlighted capacity-building programs such as the Horticultural Academy for Youths and empowerment initiatives for women and farmers. A mini exhibition of NIHORT's research outputs captivated visitors.

Fostering Dialogue and Expanding Networks

The question and answer session served as a valuable platform to enhance mutual



Arrival of Lagos Business School Delegation at the Office of the NIHORT Executive Director

Lagos Business School Partners with NIHORT to Drive Strategic Agricultural Innovation

Cont'd.

understanding between the parties. During this engagement, LBS extended an invitation to NIHORT to showcase its research at forthcoming forums. Leveraging LBS's extensive network of over 9,000 executive alumni, this opportunity is poised to significantly elevate NIHORT's visibility and amplify its impact within the field.

Charting a Path Forward

Prof. M. L. Attanda emphasised enhancing NIHORT's global footprint and leveraging its spin-off, Hort Consult, to forge new business collaborations. He reiterated commitment to transparent communication with stakeholders and expressed optimism for a thriving partnership. The visit concluded with a tour of NIHORT's facilities, inspiring all participants.

Celebrating Strategic Partnerships for Nigeria's Agricultural Future

NIHORT News applauds this milestone collaboration, affirming Prof. M. L. Attanda's conviction that robust partnerships are critical to advancing Nigeria's agricultural innovation and food security agenda. We eagerly anticipate continued productive alliances that will drive national progress.

Celebrating Collaboration as a Catalyst for Success

NIHORT News congratulates the Institute's leadership and staff for fostering yet another promising partnership. This engagement reasserts the ED/CEO Prof Attanda's earlier assertion that quality collaborations are pivotal to NIHORT's achievements. We look forward to continuing fruitful alliances that advance Nigeria's agricultural innovation and food security.



Lagos Business School Team visiting the Executive Director



Lagos Business School Team visiting the Executive Director



Lagos Business School Team Visiting the Executive Director



Lagos Business School executives alongside NIHORT staff

Lagos Business School Partners with NIHORT to Drive Strategic Agricultural Innovation

Cont'd.



Group Photograph of Event Participants



Biotechnology Laboratory Tour and Demonstration



Guided Tour of the Screen House



Visit to the Product Development Programme



Tour of the Genetic Resource Unit



Visit to the Mushroom Unit



Guided Tour of the Livestock unit

Distinguished Visit of the Former Minister of Agriculture, Equatorial Guinea to NIHORT

The Institute hosted His Excellency, Victor Grange, former Minister of Agriculture for Equatorial Guinea (2016-2018) on January 10 2025, marking a pivotal step in strengthening Nigeria-Equatorial Guinea agricultural ties. This visit followed President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's diplomatic mission to Equatorial Guinea in August 2024, aimed at exploring collaborative opportunities for economic growth and diversification.

Executive Director/CEO Prof M. L. Attanda warmly welcomed His Excellency, emphasising the robust bilateral partnership as a foundation for future collaborations. Highlights included presentations by Dr Dorcas Ibitoye on NIHORT's crop improvement programs focusing on plantains, bananas, egusi, and peppers and Dr Funmilayo Olajide-Taiwo's overview of the Horticultural Academy for Youths (HAY),

which champions youth involvement in horticulture.

Mr Grange was impressed by NIHORT's innovations in developing new crop of tomato, value-added products such as plantain composite flour, mushrooms, Musana soap and gel from plantain and banana wastes. In addition, job creation in upland and lowland vegetable production while identifying promising areas for collaboration centred on youth empowerment and income generation.

The visit was concluded with an insightful tour of NIHORT's Mushroom Production House, rapid multiplication facilities for banana and plantain, and the nursery for plant hardening showcasing the Institute's dedication to agricultural innovation and inclusive development for youth and women. This engagement sets a dynamic course for enhanced cooperation and shared prosperity between the two nations.



Distinguished Visit of the Former Minister of Agriculture, Equatorial Guinea to NIHORT *Cont'd.*



His Excellency, Mr Grange with NIHORT Team



The Former Minister of Agriculture, Equatorial Guinea at the micro-propagator



NIHORT ED/CEO presenting NIHORT souvenir to H. E. Victor Grange



Micro-Propagation of plantain



Mr Caleb A. Otunia showcasing the mushroom production set up to H. E. Victor Grange



Micro Propagation Nursery



Mushroom Production



The Former Minister of Agriculture, Equatorial Guinea with NIHORT Team

Elevating Research Through Strategic Excellence: Sahel Consulting

During a recent collaboration with NIHORT on May 13, 2025, Sahel's experts, Ms Hauwa and Mr Noah, shared their deep expertise in designing comprehensive strategies that align institutional goals with dynamic research environments. Sahel Consulting is an advisory firm dedicated to empowering research institutes with visionary strategic planning. With a commitment to fostering innovation and sustainable growth, Sahel partners with organisations to shape tailored five-year road maps that drive impactful results. Guided by a mission to unlock potential and a vision to advance knowledge ecosystems, Sahel Consulting ensures that every plan is both actionable and resilient, positioning research bodies for long-term success and meaningful contribution to society.

Laying the Foundation: Understanding Institutional Goals and Capacity

Sahel Consulting emphasised a phased approach, particularly crucial for Institutes embarking on their first strategic plan. The process starts with in-depth consultations with NIHORT's management and staff to grasp their aspirations and operational realities.

This foundational step involves a thorough review of NIHORT's history, mandate, and achievements to set a clear vision for where the institute aims to be in five years. Central to this vision is internal capacity building; strengthening NIHORT's core competencies to enable self-reliance before expanding its external impact. Engaging diverse stakeholders ensures the plan's objectives are both realistic and impactful.

Enhancing Visibility and Relevance: From Internal Strength to Global Recognition

Sahel Consulting noted that the success of a strategic plan hinges on strengthening NIHORT's internal structure. To this end, the plan incorporates a targeted communication

strategy designed to amplify NIHORT's milestones and activities. This proactive storytelling not only elevates the institute's national and global profile but also positions it to attract funding and partnerships, showcasing its commitment to advancing horticultural research and innovation.

Ensuring Accountability: Monitoring and Evaluation through Independent Oversight

A standout feature of the strategic plan is the recommendation to establish an independent steering committee. Sahel Consulting explains that this committee, comprising representatives from organisations such as the World Bank, Gates Foundation, and Consultative on Internal Agricultural Research (CGIAR), will provide unbiased oversight and diverse perspectives. The committee will rigorously track NIHORT's progress against defined milestones, fostering transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement, which are key factors for the plan's long-term sustainability.

Navigating Challenges: Leadership, Uncertainty, and Funding

Sahel Consulting addresses common obstacles faced by research institutes during implementation of plans. Challenges include leadership transitions, unforeseen events like the COVID-19 pandemic and inadequate funding. Despite these hurdles, Sahel Consulting remains optimistic, affirming that with strong governing structures and commitment, these challenges can be managed.

Sahel Consulting offers a valuable blueprint for research institutes to enhance their impact through resilient planning.

Fostering Partnerships: NIHORT Hosts IITA and SLARI for Impactful Exchange

The Institute had the honour of hosting a delegation from the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI) on May 20, 2025. This visit marked a significant step in fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among leading agricultural research institutes in West Africa. The delegation, led by Mrs Christiana Okoruwa and Mr. Oladipo John from IITA, alongside Mr Moses Fayie, Communications Manager of SLARI, arrived with a clear mission: to explore and benchmark communication and library systems within Nigerian federal agricultural research institutes.

The visit commenced with a warm welcome from Prof. M. L. Attanda, Executive Director/CEO of NIHORT, who provided a comprehensive overview of the Institute's mandate, its strategic presence across

Nigeria's diverse agro-ecological zones, and the organisational structure. This set the stage for an in-depth exploration of NIHORT's Information and Documentation Department, where Dr M. T. Oladunjoye, Acting Head of Information and Documentation, detailed the integrated functions of the Library, ICT, and Public Relations Units, as the pillars that drive the Institute's documentation and communication excellence.

The delegation was guided through a tour of the NIHORT Library, revealing a blend of traditional and digital resource management. Despite the global shift toward digitisation, the Institute's commitment to preserving hard copy materials underscores her enduring value for research integrity and historical reference. The ongoing digitisation initiatives, including the compilation of a comprehensive



Fostering Partnerships: NIHORT Hosts IITA and SLARI for Impactful Exchange *Cont'd.*

bibliography and plans for full library automation and public e-library access, showcase NIHORT's forward-thinking approach to information accessibility.

Integral to this transformation is the seamless collaboration between the Library, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and Public Relations (PR) Units. The Library and ICT team's support in digitisation efforts and infrastructure development complements the PR Unit's role in synthesising research outputs into accessible publications and outreach materials, reinforcing institutional branding and stakeholder engagement.

Reflecting on the visit, SLARI representative acknowledged the invaluable insights gained, particularly regarding the critical balance

between maintaining physical archives and embracing digital innovation. He expressed optimism that the knowledge acquired would enhance the establishment of a dedicated library system in Sierra Leone, inspired by the exemplary models of NIHORT and IITA.

The delegation expressed profound gratitude for NIHORT's hospitality and openness. The fruitful discussions and immersive tour have laid a robust foundation for future collaboration, promising enhanced documentation and communication frameworks that will benefit agricultural research communities across the region. The visit will strengthen institutional ties, bilateral relationship and also improve pathways for shared growth and innovation in agricultural knowledge management.



NIHORT Team with Representatives of IITA and SLARI

NIHORT Champions Innovation at HortiFair 2025

The Institute hosted the much-anticipated HortiFair 2025 at the headquarter in Ibadan on March 24, 2025. This program convened more than 15 agribusiness leaders, key industry stakeholders, and representatives from the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This flagship event highlighted NIHORT's pivotal role in promoting sustainable horticulture and strengthening strategic Dutch Nigerian collaborations.

Driving Sustainable, Inclusive Development

HortiFair 2025 is a key milestone within HortiNigeria, a transformative four-year initiative (2021-2025) funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and implemented by a consortium including IFDC, East-West Seed Knowledge Transfer, Wageningen University & Research (WUR) and KIT Royal Tropical Institute. The programme aims to build a resilient, gender- and youth-inclusive horticulture sector that enhances food and nutrition security nationwide.

Visionary Leadership and Strategic Partnerships

Dr. Sunday O. Akinyemi, NIHORT's Director of Research, delivered the opening address on behalf of the Executive Director/CEO, Prof. M.

L. Attanda. He highlighted NIHORT's mission, national reach across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones, and innovations in crop varieties and value-added products. Ms Inge Tenniglo, Agriculture Counsellor for Nigeria and Ghana, and Ivo Demmers, Executive Director of the Netherlands Food Partnership, remarked that the event was a catalyst for deepening collaboration and leveraging shared knowledge to transform Nigeria's agribusiness landscape.

Confronting Challenges, Crafting Solutions

Panel discussions revealed critical industry challenges such as obsolete farming tools, inadequate access to quality seeds, poor irrigation, post-harvest losses, high input costs, financing hurdles, market access difficulties, and infrastructural deficits. Participants expressed gratitude to the Dutch Embassy for ongoing support and called for intensified partnerships to overcome these barriers.

Connecting Stakeholders and Celebrating Excellence

The event's second session featured targeted match-making activities addressing sector priorities, alongside awards recognising outstanding partners. Attendees also engaged in guided tour of NIHORT's facilities and an open-air exhibition showcasing innovative technologies and products from farmers and agribusiness executives.



Registration of participants at event



Panel session

NIHORT Champions Innovation at HortiFair 2025 *Cont'd.*

Looking Forward

NIHORT was honoured to have hosted HortiFair 2025, reaffirming its commitment to innovation, capacity building, and sustainable growth in Nigeria's horticultural sector. NIHORT News wished all participants safe journey and anticipates continued collaboration for a thriving agribusiness future.



Cross section of participants at the event



Exhibition of horticultural cold products



Exhibition of horticultural products



Group photograph of the participants and the Executive Director

Welcoming the Future: NIHORT's 2025 New Staff Orientation

The Institute warmly welcomed its new cohort of staff through an engaging and informative orientation program on April 24, 2025. Anchored by Mrs Dolapo Shitta and Mr Samuel Odanike of the Protocol unit. A heartfelt welcome from Dr. M. V. David, Director of Administration, who conveyed the Executive Director's encouragement for the new staff to contribute their utmost towards advancing NIHORT's mission.

A comprehensive overview of NIHORT's departments, units, and programme were presented by each head. Dr A. O. Akinpelu of the Vegetable Research Programme highlighted the variety of vegetables cultivated; Dr Olofintoye of Fruits Programme discussed the types and benefits of fruits; Dr Layade, representing the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation department, shared its vision and mission; Mr. Otunla of the Mushroom Research Unit emphasised the nutritional benefits and varieties of mushrooms;

Dr O. Kenneth-Obosi of the Farming System Research Programme introduced the concept of integrated farming systems; Mr Alabi of the Extension Research Programme outlined the scope of extension services; and Dr O. Y. Akinkumi of the Floriculture Research Programme showcased ongoing research efforts.

Additional presentations from the Information and Documentation Department, led by Dr M. T. Oladunjoye, underscored the importance of library, ICT, and public relations units. Union presidents from Academic Staff Union of Research Institutes (ASURI), Senior Staff Association of Universities, Teaching Hospitals, Research Institutes and Associated Institutions (SSAUTHRIAI) and Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU) also introduced their unions,



Welcoming New Staff 2025: Registration in Progress

encouraging new staff to engage actively. The orientation concluded with Dr M. V. David detailing administrative units and civil service guidelines, followed by a guided tour of the institute. This comprehensive introduction set a strong foundation for the new staff's successful integration into NIHORT's environment.



Interactive Moments: New Staff Clarifies Key Points at Orientation



NASU Chairman Engages New staff with Insightful Union Briefing



NIHORT Staff gather at 2025 New Staff Orientation

Navigating Growth and Transition: NIHORT Staff Recruitment and Employee Retirement

At the heart of NIHORT's dynamic progress is a dedicated team that continuously evolves to meet emerging horticultural challenges. As we strengthen our workforce through strategic recruitment and thoughtfully manage employee exits, we ensure the Institute remains vibrant, innovative, and mission driven. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to building a resilient institution that nurtures both individual careers and collective success.

Mid-Year Staff Update: Staff Recruitment

The Institute's staff recruitment process attracts top talent committed to advancing research excellence. During the reporting period, NIHORT recruited 50 new employees, reflecting diverse demographic characteristics across gender, grade, qualifications, and disciplines. Males constituted 80% (40) of the cohort, while females accounted for 20% (10). The workforce spanned various grades, with Agricultural Field Overseers forming the largest group at 58% (29 employees), followed by Research Officers on Grade levels 7 and 8 at 22% (11 employees). In terms of educational qualification, 44% held O/Level certificates, 34% possessed bachelor's or higher degrees, while HND and ND holders made up 12% and 10%, respectively. Academically, approximately 60% specialised in agricultural sciences, supported by 10% from allied sciences, 12% in business and management, 8% in

technical or ICT fields, and 10% in general support roles, highlighting NIHORT's multidisciplinary staffing approach.

NIHORT Workforce Transitions: Employee Exit

The Institute's employee exit practices uphold professionalism and foster constructive transitions. Between January and June 2025, NIHORT experienced a notable workforce transition marked by the departure of six esteemed staff members. This period reflected both change and continuity within our team. Two of these professionals resigned voluntarily, seeking new career paths and fresh opportunities for growth. Meanwhile, four dedicated employees retired after reaching the Institute's mandatory retirement age, concluding their distinguished careers.

The Management of NIHORT wishes to extend heartfelt gratitude for the invaluable contributions and steadfast dedication these individuals provided throughout their tenure. Their collective efforts have played a crucial role in advancing the Institute's mission. As we bid farewell, we remain inspired by their legacy and unwavering professionalism. The Institute warmly wishes each of these former staff members continued success, fulfilment, and prosperity in all their future endeavours. Their commitment will remain a lasting part of NIHORT's story.

Navigating Growth and Transition: NIHORT Staff Recruitment and Employee Exit Cont'd.

Statutory Exit

S/N	Title	Full Name	Last Designation	Date of Exit	Length of Service (Years)
1	Mrs	AKINKUOROYE Folake Rebecca	Chief Agric. Field Overseer	03/01/2025	19
2	Mr	OYINBO Omotayo Abiola	Assistant Chief Data Processing Officer	12/02/2025	33
3.	Mrs	ADEKANMBI Aduke Olufunke	Principal Technical Officer I	03/02/2025	21
4	Mr	AKINTUNDE Mutiu	Chief Agric. Field Overseer	5/03/2025	20

Voluntary Exit

S/N	Title	Full Name	Last Designation	Date of Exit	Length of Service (Years)
1.	Miss	AMADI Blessing	Research Officer II	31/01/2025	3
2	Mr	OJEI Samuel Tochukwu	Admin Officer I	13/03/2025	3

Energising Steps: NIHORT Staff Embrace Walking Fitness for Wellness and Team Spirit

In a display of unity and commitment to health, the staff of NIHORT participated in the much-anticipated walking fitness exercise on Wednesday, 4th June 2025. This event was designed not only to promote physical well-being but also to rejuvenate the entire NIHORT family through shared activity and camaraderie. The Institute's sports committee led participants on a five-kilometre walk, journeying from the administrative building in the institute through the staff quarters to the Eleyele-Ibadan bus stop and back to the administrative building.

This initiative resonates deeply with earlier insights shared during the capacity building programme held on 23rd October 2024, where Mrs Shade Olatunji and Dr Toyin Aniagwu from the School of Occupational Health

Nursing, University College Hospital, Ibadan, highlighted some psychosocial challenges impacting mental and emotional health in the workplace. Their enlightening discussions underscored how factors such as long, unsocial, or inflexible work hours contribute to workplace stress. They advocated for strategic interventions including planned breaks, happy hours, and physical fitness activities to foster a healthier work environment.

The walking exercise vividly brought these recommendations to life, achieving its goal of enhancing staff disposition and morale. NIHORT News Lens was on hand to capture these uplifting moments. We eagerly anticipate more of these events that blend health, happiness, and team spirit.



Cross section of NIHORT staff during the walk

Energising Steps: NIHORT Staff Embrace Walking Fitness for Wellness and Team Spirit *Cont'd.*



Energising Steps: NIHORT Staff Embrace Walking Fitness for Wellness and Team Spirit Cont'd.



Innovation in Payroll, Planning, Tax Adaptation and Financial Integrity

Introducing the streamlined Monthly E-Payslip Alert System for all NIHORT Staff

The pilot launch of the E-Payslip alert system commenced in October 2024 and achieved full stabilisation by January 2025. The Institute has successfully implemented electronic payslip distribution via the Integrated Payroll Personnel Information System (IPPIS), in collaboration with the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) unit. This innovative solution ensures timely delivery of salary alerts directly to all staff via their registered email addresses, thereby eliminating the traditional challenges associated with manual payslip collection and significantly reducing stationery expenses.

Beyond convenience, the E-payslip system enhances confidentiality and facilitates prompt resolution of payroll concerns, reflecting NIHORT's commitment to transparency and employee satisfaction. Staff members have warmly welcomed this advancement, expressing appreciation to the Executive Director/CEO and management team for championing this improvement. The Finance and Accounts Department, led by Mrs V. A. Adedipe, oversees the monitoring of this initiative, with Mr L. A. Ogunsanya managing payroll variations and related correspondence.

Financial Insights and Developments

The fiscal year 2024/2025 witnessed strategic financial management and robust accountability. The Head of Accounts, Mrs V. A. Adedipe delivered a comprehensive financial report detailing subvention allocations, consultant fees, and general expenditures processed through Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) and Remita payment platforms. All activities complied fully with government rules and regulatory frameworks, underpinning NIHORT's commitment to transparency and prudent resource utilisation.

Empowering Planning through the Bottom-Up Approach

The Bottom-Up budgeting system, pioneered by the Federal Government of Nigeria, remains a cornerstone for effective expenditure planning. This operational framework encourages Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to project their financial requirements based on anticipated goods and services each month by the 15th deadline, enhancing precision and responsiveness in resource allocation.

Adapting to Tax Reforms for Enhanced Compliance

In response to recent Federal Government tax reforms affecting withholding tax and value-added tax regimes, NIHORT proactively equipped its finance personnel with updated knowledge via trainings at the Federal Inland Revenue Service and State Revenue Services. These sessions focused on new tax rates and exemptions, enabling the institute to maintain exemplary compliance as a government tax agent.

Ensuring Accountability through Stocktaking and Post-Audit

Mr E. I. Babatunde, the Internal Auditor, spearheaded the institute's audit activities in strict adherence to financial regulations. The annual audit plan guided thorough stocktaking, inventory reviews, and fund monitoring across all projects, assuring that allocated resources are effectively deployed to meet government objectives.

Investing in Professional Excellence: Conference and Training Highlights

NIHORT demonstrated its commitment to continuous professional development by sponsoring members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria to attend their respective annual conferences and mandatory training programs. These initiatives expose staff to accounting technologies and best practices in both public and private sectors, boosting institutional capacity.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

S/ N	TOPIC	ABSTRACT	PRESENTER	DATE
1.	Importance of Horticultural value chains	<p>The programme highlighted the Institute's mandate, focusing on key crops: fruits, vegetables, spices, and ornamental plants. It showcased the Institute's achievements in vegetable and fruit value chains, alongside advancements in pest and disease management. Highlights included NIHORT's biopesticides and innovative value-added products such as tomato and pineapple wine, as well as pawpaw and pineapple slices.</p> <p>Stakeholders were introduced to the new tomato varieties HORTITOM 1, 2, and 3. These varieties are noted for their tolerance to Fusarium wilt and shoot knot nematodes. They also offer high yields and an extended shelf life.</p> <p>The programme also spotlighted the Horticultural Academy for Youths (HAY), which empowers unemployed women and youth, and detailed capacity-building initiatives across Nigeria's geopolitical zones. Additionally, it reinforced the Minister of Agriculture's call for mass production of foundation and breeding seeds.</p>	Prof. M. L. Attanda	1 st February , 2025
2.	Land Preparation and Soil Nutrient Management in Horticultural Crops Production	<p>The programme provided an in-depth guide on site selection and soil fertility management provides an in-depth guide for optimal agricultural practices. It emphasises critical factors such as soil type, climate, topography, accessibility, and crop suitability to enhance productivity. The programme highlighted essential land preparation techniques including tree felling, ploughing, harrowing, and ridging. It also highlighted the importance of sustainable soil fertility management</p>	Dr O. O. Olufunmi Dr O. Olaleye	8 th February , 2025

RADIO PROGRAMMES *Contd.*

S/N	TOPIC	ABSTRACT	PRESENTER	
		<p>through organic and inorganic amendments, soil conservation, and integrated nutrient management.</p> <p>Fertilizer application methods, including broadcasting, placement, drilling, foliar spraying, and fertigation, are detailed with timing considerations. This programme underscores the need for stakeholders to support infrastructure development, promote sustainable soil management practices, and facilitate access to quality inputs, thereby fostering resilient agricultural systems and food security.</p>		
3.	Quality Seeds for Horticultural Crops Production	<p>The Yoruba outreach programme emphasised the importance of quality seeds, defined as any plant part capable of producing a new plant. These seeds are foundational to successful crop production, linking breeders and farmers. The discussion clarified horticultural crops to include fruits, vegetables, and spices, highlighting benefits of quality seeds such as higher germination rates, increased yields, shorter maturity, reduced labour, and longer shelf life. Challenges of low-quality seeds and relevant seed laws by the National Agricultural Seed Council were addressed. The programme concluded with practical advice for farmers to source certified seeds from NIHORT, underscoring the need for policy support to enforce seed quality standards and enhance stakeholder collaboration for sustainable horticulture.</p>	Mr O. A. K. Olomide Ms. O. K. Babalola	15 th February , 2025

RADIO PROGRAMMES Contd.

S/N	TOPIC	ABSTRACT	PRESENTER	DATE
4.	Tomato Production in Southwest Nigeria: NIHORT Tomato Varieties for Rainy Seasons	<p>Highlighting tomatoes as a vital nutrient-rich crop with significant economic value, Dr A. M. Abdul-Rafiu emphasised the region's improving yet suboptimal production levels across various scales and systems. He stressed the importance of quality seeds such as NIHORT's HORTITOM varieties, alongside optimal soil, temperature, sunlight, and moisture conditions for enhanced yields. Key production steps include proper nursery management, transplanting, and field practices. Challenges identified include pests, poor seeds, and limited technical knowledge. This programme underscores the need for targeted research, stakeholder collaboration, and policy support to boost productivity, ensure food security, and enhance livelihoods in the horticultural sector.</p>	Dr A. M. Abdul-Rafiu	22 nd February, 2025
5.	Tomato Pest and Disease Management	<p>The programme underscores the critical need for effective pest and disease control to sustain Nigeria's tomato industry, a vital crop rich in nutrients and economic value. The discussion highlights integrated pest management strategies as essential for controlling pest populations. These strategies include selecting certified seeds, preparing the site properly, practicing crop rotation, and using biological controls. Together, they help keep pest levels below damaging thresholds.</p> <p>Key diseases such as bacterial wilt, early blight, anthracnose, and physiological disorders including blossom end rot are examined in detail. Practical measures for prevention and management are emphasised throughout the examination.</p>	Dr E. O. Oyedele	1 st March, 2025

RADIO PROGRAMME Contd.

S/N	TOPIC	ABSTRACT	PRESENTER	DATE
6.	Tomato Post-Harvest Handling, Packaging and Value-Addition	<p>The programme comprehensively addressed post-harvest management of tomatoes, emphasising critical interventions to curb losses. Key practices highlighted include pre-cooling using Zero Energy Cooling Chambers (ZECC) to extend freshness up to 31 days, and the use of durable packaging such as plastic and wooden crates to maintain quality during transportation. Proper sorting, grading, and storage in shaded, cool environments were identified as essential for market appeal. The programme also promoted value addition through processing tomatoes into paste, juice, dried slices, and powder, enhancing shelf life and reducing waste. These insights advocate investment in post-harvest infrastructure, training, and support for smallholder farmers to boost food security, reduce economic losses, and increase farmers' incomes.</p>	Dr T. M. Fasuan Mrs O. A. Olatunji	8 th March, 2025
7.	Management of Fruits Drop in Mango and Citrus	<p>The radio programme addressed fruit drop in mango and citrus crops, a significant issue causing economic losses for Nigerian growers. Fruit drop, the premature detachment of fruit, is triggered by factors such as unfavourable climatic conditions, water stress, nutrient deficiencies, pests, and diseases. NIHORT emphasised integrated management strategies including maintaining optimal soil moisture, using potassium-rich nutrients, applying auxin-based phytoregulators, pruning, orchard sanitation, and environmentally friendly pest control. The programme highlighted the need for policy support to promote research-backed agro-techniques and extension services, ensuring farmers adopt these practices. Stakeholders, including</p>	Dr O. Y. Akinkunmi Mrs V. C. Ozorchukwu	15 th February , 2025

RADIO PROGRAMMES Contd.

S/N	TOPIC	ABSTRACT	PRESENTER	DATE
8.	Pest and Diseases Management in plantain Production	<p>The radio programme addressed integrated pest management (IPM) strategies, emphasising soil treatment, cultural practices, physical barriers, chemical and biological controls. It highlights the critical role of crop rotation, sanitation, and monitoring in disrupting pest life cycles and preventing infestations. The programme also focuses on managing Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV) through combined cultural, biological, and chemical approaches. For policymakers and stakeholders, these insights underscore the necessity of promoting IPM adoption, investing in farmer education, and supporting research on resistant varieties and eco-friendly pesticides. Implementing these measures enhance sustainable agriculture, reduce reliance on harmful chemicals, and improve crop yields, ultimately benefiting food security and rural livelihoods.</p>	Mr Abiola Oladigbolu	22 nd March, 2025
9.	Pineapple Production in Nigeria: Enhancing Sprouting and Growth	<p>The programme highlights innovative propagation techniques to overcome challenges in pineapple cultivation. Emphasising improved selection, treatment, and nursery management of planting materials. The programme underscores optimal environmental conditions and nutrient management to accelerate growth and fruiting. These insights advocate for support in quality planting material distribution, farmer training, and research funding to enhance productivity. Stakeholders, including farmers and agribusinesses, are encouraged to adopt these practices to ensure sustainable, high-yield pineapple production, boosting local economies and export potential. The</p>	Mr G.S. Akinwunmi Mr A. J. Adeyemi	29 th March, 2025

RADIO PROGRAMMES *Contd.*

S/N	TOPIC	ABSTRACT	PRESENTER	DATE
11	Marketing Strategies for Plantain in Nigeria	<p>This radio programme emphasised effective marketing strategies for plantain farmers and stakeholders, including understanding customer needs, selecting appropriate marketing channels, conducting market research, and maintaining accurate records. Also, the programme highlighted that Nigeria ranks among the world's leading plantain producers, with an annual output of 2.8 to 3.1 million metric tons. Key challenges such as post-harvest losses, inconsistent pricing, and limited market access were thoroughly discussed. Additionally, the programme highlighted the diverse uses of plantain including boiling, frying, roasting, and processing into flour, chips, and porridge. This highlights its significant economic value. For researchers, stakeholders, and policymakers, these insights stress the need for targeted interventions to improve marketing efficiency, reduce losses, and enhance value addition, ultimately supporting sustainable growth in Nigeria's plantain sectors.</p>	Dr A. A Layade Mr K. B Iliasu	26 th April, 2025
12	Opportunities for youths in horticultural value chain	<p>This programme explored the vast opportunities for youth within the horticultural value chain, encompassing the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, spices, and ornamental plants. The horticulture value chain offers diverse entrepreneurial avenues. It encompasses input supply, production, post-harvest handling, processing, transportation and marketing. The Horticultural Academy for Youth (HAY), initiated by NIHORT, equips young people with practical skills in vegetable production and related enterprises.</p>	Dr O. O. Oyedele	19 th April 2025

RADIO PROGRAMMES *Contd.*

S/N	TOPIC	ABSTRACT	PRESENTER	DATE
		<p>This highlights areas for innovation in sustainable practices and value addition. Stakeholders benefit from enhanced youth engagement, boosting economic growth and job creation. Policy makers are encouraged to support frameworks that facilitate youth participation, improve infrastructure, and promote market access, thereby strengthening the horticultural sector's contribution to food security and rural development.</p>		
13	<p>Report on Promotion of Food Security Through Horticultural Value Chains: Recent Varieties Developed by NIHORT</p>	<p>The programme highlighted NIHORT's mandate to enhance food security via horticultural value chains. Emphasis was laid on the development of new tomato: HORTITOM 1-5 and pepper: HORTIPEP 1 and 2 varieties, emphasising improved yield, nutritional content, and shelf life. These innovations offer significant benefits for researchers, stakeholders, and policymakers by advancing sustainable agriculture, addressing malnutrition, and creating job opportunities. The programme also stressed NIHORT's commitment to farmer education through seminars and mass seedling production. Engagement with local farmers demonstrated demand and accessibility of seedlings, encouraging youth participation in modern farming. For further inquiries, NIHORT remains accessible to support stakeholders in adopting these advancements.</p>	<p>Prof M. L. Attanda represented by Dr I. B. Adeoye</p>	<p>21st June, 2025</p>

RADIO PROGRAMMES *Contd.*

S/N	TOPIC	ABSTRACT	PRESENTER	DATE
14	Promotion of NIHORT Facilities, Opportunities and Training: The Vital Role Of The Horti Consult In Promoting Horticultural value chains	<p>The programme showcased the pivotal role of HortiConsult in advancing modern agricultural practices. By harnessing cutting-edge research, this initiative provides practical training to farmers and community groups both within and beyond the institute. Key highlights included training on pineapple juice production, innovations that have shortened orange seed germination from five to two years, and the tissue culture propagation of bananas and plantains. Dr Akinfasoye also emphasised fruit processing techniques, such as transforming tomatoes into paste and pineapples into chips. He reassured stakeholders of NIHORT's unwavering commitment to accessibility, including the provision of seedling delivery services. This programme exemplifies NIHORT's vital contribution to strengthening food security through capacity building and innovative horticultural solutions.</p>	Dr J. A. Akinfasoye	28 th June, 2025



BIRTHDAYS

January Celebrants

Adisa, Oluwafemi Jimoh	January	1	Sani, Isah	January	13
Odeyinka, Bukola Esther	January	1	Emenike, Okpara Dauphine	January	13
Busari, Abiodun Moses	January	1	Oshopo, Monday Emmanuel	January	15
Adamu, Abdulhazeez	January	1	Adeledeji, Johnson	January	17
Ikoro, John Idam	January	2	Jeje, Peter Oluwafemi	January	18
Adebayo, Aderonke Ayodele	January	3	Jolayemi, Bosede Victoria	January	18
Alkinkuoroye, Folake Rebbecca	January	3	Ayelabola, Ojo Patrick	January	19
Iyanda, Abass Abiodun	January	3	Ajoba, Francis Bamidele	January	19
Adeoye, Bosede Iyabo	January	4	Amoo, Adelimumpe Rebecca	January	20
Njoku, Omoyosoria Josephine	January	5	Umar, Abubakar	January	20
Hamisu, Saleh Habu	January	5	Bolorunduro, Olumuyiwa Alkinyemi	January	21
Saadu, Kolawole Sikiru	January	5	Ogunkeye, Abraham Albidemi	January	21
Adelani, Modinat Adejoke	January	6	Lawal, Sakiru	January	21
Egberongbe, Kehinde Rafiat	January	7	Lawal, Adetunji Musiliu	January	22
Orkpeh, Uverdzua	January	7	Oladosu, Bolanle Omolade	January	22
Adeyi (Eyebiokin), Fumilade Adejoke	January	7	Abdullahi, Mohammed Yakubu	January	22
Fapohunda, Michael Oyeniji	January	7	Yakub, Abdullahi Muhammad	January	22
Oziegbulam, Lois L	January	8	Aminu-Taiwo, Rukayah Bukola	January	23
Muhammad, Abdulganjuu Bamidele	January	9	Olagunju, Yemisi Omobonike	January	23
Badeniyi, Ronke Oluwabukola	January	9	Abdulrazak, Khalifa Babba	January	23
Taminu, Hadiza	January	9	Aliu, Fareeda	January	23
Badmus, Adepeju Muslihah	January	10	Adebayo, Rotimi	January	23
Uwanaka, Chukwudi Emmanuel	January	10	Quadri, Olubunmi Oluwinka	January	25
Adebayo, Yusuf Idris	January	10	Idowu, Omowumi Olufunmilayo	January	26
Imam, Bashir Alaba	January	10	Ojo, Omolara Florence	January	26
Ibrahim, Alabi Abdullahi	January	11	Umeh, Chukwuemeke Vincent	January	27
Adesina, Stephen Oluwale	January	11	Oseni, Albideen Babatunde	January	27
Mukaila, Ali Yahaya	January	11	Adewuyi, Damilare Olaleye	January	27
Alkinkunmi, Yetunde Olukemi	January	12	Olofinroye, Joseph Temidayo	January	29
David, Modupe Victoria	January	13	Lawrence, Emmanuel Kehinde	January	29
Ebre, Onah Vincent	January	13	Adepoju, Mercy Bosede	January	30
Bello, Bolanle Rukayat	January	13	Bankole, Ademola Zephaniah	January	31
Zakari, Musa	January	13	Olakunmi, Grace Olapeju	January	31
			Adeyemi, Sunday Joshua	January	31



BIRTHDAYS

February Celebrants

Onyema, Uzondu Uchechukwu
(Uwalaka) Obi, Nnenna Christiana
Adeleke, Oluwaseun Enitan
Ekuma, Ndukwe Emmanuel
Ngbede, Ochoche Samson
Osundu, Wagalance Joshua
Abubakar, Abubakar
Olutayo, John Gbenga
Adekanmbi, Aduke Olufunke
Akinleye, Omolara Christianah
Suleiman, Babasallah
Onyegbule, Nkemdirim Ugochukwu
Odosin, Oladunke Jumoke
Ogunsanya, Adebayo Leo
Adeledeji, Isaiah Kolawole
Oyeniyi, Oluwafeyikemi Adepeju
Ejukwu, Christian Echukwu
Akinyemi, Oreoluwa Oluwayemisi
Ahmed, Rabiat Shola
Bala, Magaji Hafsat
Akinbobola, Christianah Omolola
Adeniyi, Adesola Bukola
Ariise, Olukemi Ademorin
Adeyi, Ezekiel Olugbenga
Adeyemo, Funmilayo Oluvakemisola
Adewoyin, Mololola Olusayo
Aiao, Blessing Akinah
Ibrahim, Aliyu Jibrin
Alawusa, Rebecca Foluke
Adamu, Abubakar
Oyinbo, Abiola Omotayo
Adegboye, Oluwayemisi Elizabeth
Dabo, Bello.M.

February 1	Wada, Yahaya	February 12
February 1	Makanjuola, Okunade Abiola	February 14
February 1	Sanni, Itunu Alderonke	February 14
February 2	Oseni, Abass Ayodeji	February 14
February 2	Obire, Joy	February 16
February 2	Orukutan, Raphael	February 17
February 2	Adelekan, Olaniyi Ademola	February 18
February 3	Effi, Mercy Ogochukwu	February 18
February 3	Farinmakin, Idovu Isaac	February 18
February 3	Jiriba, Andrew Onwudiegwu	February 19
February 4	Ebenezer Babatunde, Oluvakemi Omolara	February 20
February 4	Ayodeji, Olusola Olayemi	February 21
February 5	Taofeek, Harazim	February 21
February 5	Arogundade, Olawale	February 22
February 5	Oyekunle, Florence Ikeola	February 22
February 5	Abegunrin, Joel Alaba	February 22
February 5	Okedara, Olawagbemiga Wasiu	February 22
February 5	Rafiu, Oladele Mutiu	February 22
February 6	Bashiru, Babatunde Dauda	February 22
February 6	Abdullahi, Idris	February 23
February 7	Adebayo, Alisafe Gbenga	February 24
February 7	Akinfasoye, Joel Akindele	February 24
February 8	Mohammed, Nil Adamu	February 24
February 9	Chukwu, Ephraim Chinedu	February 25
February 10	Oke, Olufunke Abiola	February 27
February 10	Ayodeji, Omotayo Aina	February 27
February 10	Ojo, Olajide Dada	February 27
February 10	Olajide, Moradeke Comfort	February 28
February 10	Lasisi, Oluwaseun Aliu	February 28
February 12	Abdulraheem, Ibrahim Raheem	February 28
February 12	Adeniji, Isreal Oluwasegun	February 28
February 12	Cole, Benjamin Oluwafunmi	February 28



BIRTHDAYS

March Celebrants

Igbegwu, Francia Chimezie	March	1	Osoba, Temitope Yemisi	March	12
Albert, Odunlade Joshua	March	1	Opayemi, Christianah Oyindamola	March	12
Akinloye, Anthony Idowu	March	1	Agbagbe, Adebayo Olukemi	March	13
Omololu, Bukola Deborah	March	2	Ajiboye, Michael Adegboyega	March	13
Muhammed, Ibrahim O	March	2	Ogundiya, Bamidele Temitope	March	13
Olakinye, Olayemi Olayinka	March	3	Olaniji, Anthony Kehinde	March	13
Taiwo, Olasunkanmi Stephen	March	3	Oyebisi, Oyesina Ebenezer	March	14
Ojo, Janet Oluwatosin	March	3	Olowojoye, Bolaji Risikat	March	15
Sulymon, Ibrahim Folarunsho	March	3	Akinbile, Hikmah Temitope	March	15
Adesola, Isiaka Olanrewaju	March	3	Adeolu, Nicholas Olaniyi	March	15
Albert, Odunlade Joshua	March	4	Atobatele, Dolapo Abigail	March	16
Adewole, Adedeffi Sunday	March	5	Oduntan, Opeyemi Olorunjuwon	March	16
Salawu, Philip Onimisi	March	5	Adeleke, Oluwatosola Adewale	March	16
Oye, Dupe Rachael	March	5	Onwumere, B.C.	March	17
Akintunde, Kolawole Mutiu	March	5	Agbo, Idowu Mumini	March	18
Mbonu, Confidence Chinaleobi	March	5	Rasheed, Olalekan Ibrahim	March	19
Akinpelu, Adeola Catherine	March	6	Adeyemi, Adegoke	March	20
Ojo, Chidinma Chinyere	March	6	Onyeanyi, Hillary Chukwuemeka	March	20
Usiagwu, Clement Ebo	March	6	Yusuf, Robinson	March	20
Taiwo, Ohunene Aisha	March	6	Ojo, Olubiyi David	March	21
Igberaese, Perpetua Ose	March	7	Adeolu, Olusegun Rotimi	March	21
Olusanya, Aderonke Tayo	March	7	Bello, Hannah Funmilayo	March	21
Fatokun, Olasunmade Mojeed	March	7	Esuola, Oluwakemi Catherine	March	22
Adedosu, Oladimeji Monsuru	March	7	Agbabi, Adeniji Adebola	March	22
Odubanjo-Francis, Olaneye Abidemi	March	8	Fabiyi, Grace Olusola	March	22
Adeosun, Olukunle	March	8	Nwagwu, Godday Lucky	March	22
Akinleye, Isreal Oluwemi	March	8	Egbekunle, Oluwafisayo Kikelomo	March	23
Anyaoha, Okechukwu Christian	March	9	Ogunkeye, Olusola Aderonke	March	24
Oyelakin, Akinlolu Tubosun	March	9	Fagbola, Oluyemisi Bolanle	March	26
Basiru, Haruna	March	9	Nnaji, Anayo Ndubueze	March	26
Muhammed, Umar	March	10	Olaniji, Abosede Mercy	March	27
Usman, Waheed Alorede	March	10	Kenneth-Obosi Olusimbo	March	28
James, Israel Emenekpe	March	11	Agbass, Joy Adewumi	March	28
Olayemi, Kayode Olawale	March	11	Sunday, Solomon Udoh	March	28
Akpan, Susan Oluwakemi	March	12	Nwaeke, Obaji Francis	March	28
Ajaji, Olakunle Opeyemi	March	12	Adedeffi, Olaniyi Olugbenga	March	29
			Famosinpe, Olawale Oluyemi	March	31



BIRTHDAYS

April Celebrants

Attanda, Muhammed Lawal	April	1	Dauda, Yusuf Victoria	April	14
Bolaji, John Olatunbosun	April	1	Uwaoma, Olaoluwa Mary	April	16
Ojeka, Onah Francis	April	2	Aligbedion, Atalar Pascal Osassahiemien	April	16
Aldekola, Funke Roseline	April	2	Adediji, Oluwaseye Esther	April	18
Eteng, Hyacinth	April	2	Odubanjo, George Olubodunrinwa	April	18
Obinwa, Ifemenam Ernest	April	3	Aduloluju, Ayodeji Oluwaseyi	April	18
Aboaba, Michael Gbenga	April	3	Abdullahi, Hussaini	April	18
Matinja, Yohanna	April	3	Matthew, Joshua Olumide	April	20
Nshiegb, Azubuike	April	5	Adebiyi, Opeyemi Emmanuel	April	20
Aparishile, Sunday Jacob	April	5	Abdulrahman, Salihu Toyin	April	20
Abubakar, Hudu Hudu	April	6	Adekanle, Bernardine Bidemi	April	21
Osuji, Mgbojikure Ernest	April	7	Jamzat, Olabisi Fatzat	April	22
Akintoye, Febisola Emmanuel	April	7	Durojaye, Ayodele Williams	April	23
Obafaye, Joshaya Ojo	April	7	Onyia, Vivian Amaka	April	23
Deborah, Bukola Omololu	April	9	Owolabi, Julianah Folashade	April	24
Bejide, Oluwabukola Deborah	April	9	Fadare, Fausat Abiola	April	24
Olofin toy, Jochebed I	April	10	Joseph, Julianah Taiye	April	24
Amao, Oluwaseun Ifeoluwapo	April	11	Akanmu, Adebayo Wale	April	25
Olatunji, Onaolapo Adeola	April	11	Davies, Adeosun Caleb	April	26
Akinwole, Solomon Olubode	April	11	Ajijola, Racheal Wuraola	April	26
Olawale, Olubayo Johnson	April	12	Olaniran, Florence Abosede	April	26
Aliyu, Ibrahim	April	12	Uwalaka, Anozie Onyekachi	April	28
Oyedele, Omotola Eniola	April	13	Daniel, Dishon	April	28
Sotola, Oladapo	April	13	Ajetunmobi, Oluwaseunmi Temitope	April	30
Fahuwa, John Bamidele	April	14	Adebisi-Shittu, Kemi Bukola	April	30
Aransi, Kolawole Abideen	April	14	Adesida, Adewumi Tolulope	April	30
			Olaivale, Christiana Fumilola	April	30
			Osewa, Felix Oluwagbeniga	April	30





BIRTHDAYS

May Celebrants

Olaleye, Oladiran	May	2	Akinleye, Rebecca Adenike	May	16
Bamidele, Iyabo Yetunde	May	2	Ogunmola, Olayemi Christianah	May	16
Danjuma, Yaro Sanda	May	2	Popoola, Bolanle Mariam	May	17
Adegahi, Elizabeth	May	5	Ajeigbe, Oluwafomi Oladapo	May	17
Nnaji, Ikem Ikemuefla	May	5	Akoffe, Olufemi Josiah	May	19
Raphael, David Olamide	May	5	Fade-Iluko, Ayodeji	May	19
Onyemakonor, Chinedu Monday	May	5	Daropale, Muritala Olasunkanmi	May	20
Abdulmalik, Yusif Haruna	May	5	Haladu, Uba	May	20
Bulus, Timothy	May	6	Adedipe, Victoria Akinuwe	May	21
Akinloye, Akinwale Dokun	May	7	Odey, Eje Lawrence	May	22
Akinwumi, Sunday Gbenga	May	8	Ikhecho, Osememen Otekpen	May	22
Babaalaaya, Fatai Iyanda	May	8	Olojede, Ayodele Samson	May	24
Solarin, Blessing Olugbenga	May	9	Iyama, Gabriel Temitope	May	24
Adejirumi, Iboronke Hannah	May	10	Fadoyin, Olufunmilayo Grace	May	25
Ogunwale, Olayinka	May	10	Adebusoye, Tosin Raphael	May	25
Onagwa, Femi	May	10	Adebisi, Ronke Christianah	May	25
Oladipupo, Kazeem Olawale	May	10	Okorie, Ogochukwu Rosemary	May	25
Paul, David Echu	May	11	Onwudiwe, Chigozie Casmir	May	25
Bello, Omotayo Semiat	May	11	Adeigbe, Fatimat Olanrewaju	May	25
Ibrahim, Ismail Adigun	May	11	Oyewale, Toheeb Tunde	May	25
Adebayo, Florence Oluburumi	May	12	Ajobieve, Suberu Williams	May	25
Aderibigbe, Ruth Olaide	May	13	Akin-Idowu, Eloho Pamela	May	26
Akinrinsola, Oluwakemi Folasade	May	13	Adebola, Matthew Kehinde	May	26
Omiwade, Olusegun	May	13	Alba, Olorunsemi	May	27
Layade, Abiona Adejumo	May	14	Adebiyi, Timothy Kehinde	May	27
Aduroja, Mary Titilayo	May	14	Muo, Eucheara Ngozi	May	27
Egbere, Maduabuchi	May	15	Adeoluwa, Oluyinka Olusola	May	28
Azeez, Surajudeen Olatunde	May	15	Ibidapo, Femi Francis	May	28
Babalola, Oreoluwa Khadijat	May	15	Olabawonrinu, David Ilesanmi	May	28
Salami, Adisa Tajudeen	May	15	Adeyemi, Saheed Kolawole	May	29
Egu, Taupo Samuel	May	15	Akinpelu, Ayodele, Nneamaka I.	May	30
Yekeen, Adekunle Saheed	May	15			
Osademe, Emmanuel	May	15			



BIRTHDAYS

June Celebrants

Nzeagwu, Christian Chijioke	June 1	Busayo, Sogo	June 14
Mayo, Abdulkadir Olanrewaju	June 1	Shuaibu, Yusuf	June 14
Adenigbo, Kehinde Samson	June 1	Babatunde, Ebenezer Idowu	June 15
Eghierua, Oyareye Pius	June 1	Alamu, Olalekan Olawale	June 15
Omokhagbor, Justina Olufunke	June 2	Ogunbowale, Adisa Albideen	June 15
Okoyo, Erimie Mercy	June 2	Iyanda, Seun Dupe	June 15
Amao, Emmanuel Aldebayo	June 2	Abdulhakeem, Jamiu	June 15
Ogundele, Abidemi Ifeoluwa	June 2	Ojide (Aneke), Cynthia Oyinyechukwu	June 15
Andrew, Atinuke Sarah	June 2	Danbinni, Kabai	June 15
Makana, Surajo	June 2	Aljani, Gabriel Oluwagbemiga	June 16
Olumaiyegun, Oyenike Folusho	June 3	Olatoye, Ojo Jerome	June 16
Awakan, Adesoji Aldebayo	June 3	Adeniyi, Alderonke Bukola	June 16
Anibaloye, Olunwafolakemi Oluwayemisi	June 3	Fajirimi, Bosede Omolara	June 18
Oyegoke, Olabode Noah	June 3	Aljibade, Lukman Adeyinka	June 18
Haruna, Abubakar	June 4	Adeniran, Grace	June 18
Yakub, Vivian Lydia	June 5	Chukwu, Kenneth Echezonahi	June 19
Adeojo, Olusoji Phillips	June 5	Akabueze, Chukwuma Simeon	June 19
Badmus, (Areola) Theresa Omolewa	June 5	Bolorunduro, Abimbola Patience	June 20
Owoeye, Monday Joseph	June 5	Friday, Udoekoh Ekpenyong	June 20
Adeogun, Temitope T	June 5	Idris, Gargai Isyaku	June 20
Ibrahim, Mele	June 5	Adeleke, Ojewale M	June 21
Idowu, Agida, Oluwakemi Oladayo	June 6	Olatunde, Olufunke Elizabeth	June 22
Akinyemi, Samuel	June 6	Ngbede, Peter	June 22
Idowu, Olarewaju	June 6	Agunbiade, Bosede Ifedapo	June 23
Akintunde, Akinade Albideen	June 6	Oyeniyi, Moses Oluseyi	June 23
Abdulhamid, Saleh	June 7	Okorie, Ekedirima Christiana	June 24
Olayiwola, Abiola Albiadun	June 7	Kenan, Leah	June 24
Hassan, Abdulazeez Olawale	June 8	Olaadejo, Olusola Abiola	June 24
Shittu, Sadiat Olubukola	June 9	Odeyemi, Joshua Olusola O.	June 25
Majekadegbe, Adeola	June 10	Ibrahim, Abdulhakeem	June 25
Ojei, Tochukwu Samuel	June 10	Inimashaun, Opeyemi M	June 25
Gbadamosi, Idiat Kunbi	June 11	Oladele, Adewale Mudashiru	June 27
Mustapha, Dahiru Mustapha	June 11	Owijo, Adeyemi Itunu	June 28
Giginyu, Danlami Yahaya	June 12	Abubakar, Hafsat Ahmad	June 28
Yusuf, Ibrahim Khaleel	June 12	Adewola, Kayode Matthew	June 30
Mukaila, Hudu	June 12		
Oladejo, Babatunde Ezekiel	June 12		

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