

# **BEYOND EXPECTATIONS:**

**THE ANNALS OF PROF. CORDELIA EBENEKE DEANSHIP TENURE**

By

**Prof Cordelia Ifeyinwa EBENEKE**

Dean, Faculty of Agriculture,  
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria  
(8<sup>th</sup> June, 2023- 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2025)

## REPORT ON MY TWO-YEAR DEANSHIP

### 1. Election

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, 2023, Prof. Cordelia Ifeyinwa Ebenebe was elected as the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture in free and fair election conducted by the Vice Chancellor between Prof C.I. Ebenebe and Prof. Charles Ishiwu. Prof Ebenebe emerged as a winner with seventy-two votes while Prof. Ishiwu got fifty votes. Dr. Uko was later elected as the Subdean of the Faculty in a context between him and Dr. Iwuagwu.

### 2. Plan for my two years tenure Submitted to the Former Vice Chancellor: (Prof. Charles Esimone)

Following my election, I marshalled out my plan for leadership of the faculty titled “**The Pressing Challenges in the Faculty of Agriculture and My Plan for Self-Sustaining Faculty of Agriculture**” submitted to the former Vice –Chancellor, Prof. Charles Esimone

#### **The Challenges Listed in the Letter and Strategies Applied to Surmount the Challenges**

i. **Poor Utilization of the Vast land Resource at Ifite –Ogwari and Umueje:** The vast area of land at Ifite-Ogwari and Umueje is enough for sustaining the Faculty, but was grossly underutilized for many reasons. I therefore presented my ideas of the land utilization to the Faculty board and with ratification from Faculty board, the land utilization is predicated on two modalities: 400 level practical year cultivation; designed in such a way that each student should have has a 50 x100ft for planting of crop picked on ballot with a sharing formula of 70:30 for the proceeds. The Faculty provides the planting material while the student provides labour of planting, weeding and harvesting. The student gets 30% of proceeds and Faculty gets 70%.

Secondly, the Faculty intends to go into commercial agriculture whereby a vast area of land will be used for commercial production of Cassava, Rice, Okro and plantain. To achieve this, the Faculty negotiated with National Root Crop Research Institute Umudike, and Ministry of Agriculture Anambra State and National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT) for this purpose. Dr. Ndukwe Okorie was appointed as the Chairman of the Committee to establish the commercial Agriculture

#### **ii. Human Resources Required for Self-Sustaining Faculty of Agriculture**

Survey on money yielding agricultural ventures showed that Seed production generates more money than production of grains. i.e. production of rice seed (Planting material) generates more money than planting of rice grain (for food). However, only few companies are registered with National Seed Centre as certified seed producers. Seed

production is an area of agriculture that requires a lot of training. On this note the Faculty selected two technologists and one lecturer to be sent to NIHORT/ Songhai Farms in the Republic of Benin for training, while we negotiate to become out growers for already registered and certified seed producers. **We will therefore require the University Management to grant us repayable loan, to enable us send the three selected persons for these training. The details of the requirement will be forwarded to the Vice Chancellor**

### **iii. Installation of Money Spinning Equipment / Machineries Purchased via NEEDS Assessment Funds**

The Faculty has so many laboratory equipment purchased by NEEDS ASSESSMENT during the last accreditation a lot of these equipment are money spinners, I asked the Sub dean to give a run- down of these equipment (Attached forthwith is his submission). Installation of these equipment will position the Faculty to generate income from them. Our students do go to other Universities for proximate, mineral and phytochemical analysis, installation of these equipment will mean that we generate funds for the Faculty. For some of the equipment, the suppliers are obligated to install and train users and operators of the facility, for those that do not have these conditions in their warranty, arrangement can be made for installation and training at minimal cost to the University.

The pressure on the University management to accomplish this task is still on, I pray the new Dean to continue, but may I inform you that the Faculty has gotten to the root cause of the delay of the installation and the current Vice Chancellor is doing everything necessary not only for the installation of equipment and facilities but also furnishing of the laboratory spaces at Ifite-Ogwari.

### **iv. Fund Limitation/Fund Raising Banquet**

The Faculty organized a fund-raising banquet tagged “**Repositioning of Faculty of Agriculture for Greater Productivity**” aimed at generating funds for development of the Faculty for productivity and greatness. In line with this the Faculty Management had meeting with the President General of Ifite - Ogwari Engr. Peter Muonye and the executives and a Committee with membership from both sides was established to develop modalities for the banquet which held on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2023. The event was so grandiose with two Senators (Sen. Tony Nwoye, Sen. Victor Umeh), a member of House of Rep, Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Anambra State Hon Eze-Golden Iloh and many other dignitaries in attendance. The occasion was also used to give award to the best performing students in all the departments in the Faculty and the academics with the highest Google Scholar citations. Exhibition of products from each of the department and launching of bread from the Faculty added glamour to the event. Report of monetary

generation from the banquet is attached forthwith in this document while the pictorial album of the event is archived in the Faculty.

#### **v. Home Coming of the Faculty Alumni**

The Faculty has never had Home Coming programme, while in other Faculties, Alumni constitute the backbone of the Faculty and the drivers of Faculty Development. The Faculty therefore started organizing the Faculty Alumni chaired by Dr. Anitie Ansa. There were lots of clogs in the wheels of this project, but towards the end of my tenure, the entire hindrances were dismantled as some of our noble Alumni in Nigeria and Diaspora organized themselves and established a relationship aimed at contributing their quota to the development of the Faculty. Thus, the first webinar aimed at exposing Faculty of Agriculture students to Grants/ Scholarships/ Opportunities abroad was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, 2025, though rescheduled with a physical meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> of May, 2025. It is on this premise, that the Home Coming for all her Alumni in support of the Faculty will soon be a reality.

#### **v. Inspiring Students Academic Performance**

The Faculty made plans of inspiring students **with the highest CGPA in each level and in each Department with N20,000** (7 department with 5 levels of academic studies at N20, 000 per winner amount to N700, 000). We therefore approached a number of Philanthropists and many pledged to contribute to the funds. The funds were distributed to students concerned on the day of our Banquet. Surprisingly, a company VetSerk chose to give financial awards to academic resilient students, so they presented award to best improved students who started out with very poor academic performance.

Besides, the Faculty gave Faculty Prize of a hundred thousand Naira (N100, 000) to the overall best student in the Faculty. The Faculty also encouraged departments to give cash awards to the best graduating student in each department. The first of this cash award was presented to the awardees on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, 2025.

#### **vi. Achievers' Award for Academic and Non – Academic Staff**

The Faculty also planned to reward lecturers who meet the following criteria

- Publishing two papers in renowned Scopus indexed journals
- Attracting Research Grant from noble organizations
- Attracting Funds for Faculty development to the tune of N500,000 and above
- Donating or Attracting donations of equipment, machinery worth over N500, 000 to the Faculty.
- Sponsoring/ Attraction of sponsors for our students to attend International Conferences

Though, number i and ii were not accomplished in this administration, but during the Third International Conference, people who attracted funds and other services for the development of the Faculty were publicly honoured with Awards.

**3. Committees to actualize my plans:** To actualise my dreams for the Faculty, I quickly set up committees (**See Attached- Appendix 2**), a lot of the Committees successfully delivered on their mandates, some had some issues that necessitated either change of the Committee leadership or reconstitution of the entire Committee. The committees formed are listed in the memo below

#### **- Appointments and Terms of Reference for Faculty Offices/ Committees**

##### **I. Appointments**

##### **a). Faculty ICT Officer/ Social Media Manager: Mr. Onyekachi Chukwu**

All departmental ICT officers were assigned to work with Dr. Onyekachi Chukwu to handle all matters pertaining

- Uploading of Departmental/ Faculty results and so must be present in all Departmental/Faculty result moderation
- ICT related matters in the University
- Management of Faculty page in the University Websites and uploading of all Faculty activities/ achievements on the site
- Managing of all Faculty social media platforms

##### **b). Faculty SIWES Coordinator: Mr. Christian Ekugba**

- To liaise with Chairman Commercial Agriculture and Tractor Management on the modalities for development of Umueje land
- Map out land for practical year students 100/100 plot per students
- Organize ploughing and harrowing of students farm
- Source and provide planting materials for students
- Organize ballot choice of crops and monitor planting activities
- Organize harvesting activity and 70:30 sharing of farm produce

##### **c). Quality Assurance Chairman: Dr. Cecilia Nwigwe**

- Maintain quality in teaching, examination questions, marking scheme development and result presentation
- Each departmental quality assurance will ensure coverage of topics in the course allocation schedule (Randomly pick notes from students for assessment)
- Ensure exam questions are moderated in his/her department
- Give detailed report on quality assurance from each department at the end of each semester.

d). **Faculty Student Advisory team: Mmaduabuchi JohnBosco**

- Help students organize the Student week and election into executive offices
- Discover agricultural related grants that students can apply and train them on how to apply and utilise grant for developmental purposes
- Help students organize and register NGOs for grant application
- Organize students into cooperatives for agricultural business
- Organize training for students on the importance of finishing in flying colour
- Organize trainings for final year students on facing the world as they exit the university
- Submitting detailed report of their activities on quarterly basis

## **II. Committees**

### **1. Journal and Book Publication**

**Chairman**

**Prof. Ernest Igwe**

**Members**

Nwankwo Chidimma Gift  
Ndulue Nkolika Benedeth  
Muojama Stella  
Umeh Onyebuchi  
Ositanwosu Chukwunonso  
Nwosu Tochukwu  
Nwankwo Chinedu  
Sunday Kalu Okocha

#### **Terms of Reference**

- Production of Faculty Journal that covers all Faculty wide courses
- Establishment and management of Faculty Journal Office
- Handling of Faculty Journal: including online and hard copy Publishing, ensuring proper indexing, enhancing its impact factor
- Attraction of TETFUND support for Faculty Journal

### **2 Linkages and International Relations**

**Chairman**

**Prof. Charles Onugu**

**Members**

Prof. Nkiru Meludu  
Adeyemisi Tope Victor -Aduloju  
Ejivade Oyisi Mercy  
Nwaiwu Chinelo J  
Komolafe Joseph Oluwaseun  
Obasi Chiamaka Chinaza  
Ogbodo John Agbo

#### **Terms of Reference**

- Source for institutions/organizations abroad that will collaborate with our Faculty in Research, Grants, Postdoctoral positions, Scholarship and exchange of students for period of learning.

- Document a database of institutions/ Organizations relating with our Faculty in all or any of the above.

### 3. Commercial Agriculture

**Chairman**

**Dr Ndukwe Okorie/ Chinedu Nwankwo**

**Members**

Sunday Kalu Okocha  
Nwankwo Chinedu  
Dr. Emmanuel Nnabuihe  
Chilaka Precious Chibeze  
Adejoh Sunday Onalo  
Iheaturu Donald  
Adeyemi Mohammed A

#### **Terms of Reference**

- Establish commercial rice, cassava, potato farm and vegetable farms
- Establish standard livestock (Piggery, Poultry, Rabbitry, Snailery, Grasscutter and Cattle) farm
- Give accurate report on profitability of the business
- Absorb Faculty students for SIWES

### 4. Ifite Qgwari/ Tractor Management

**Chairman**

**Dr. Ndukwe Okorie**

**Members**

Dr. A.E. Egwunatum  
Dr. Patrick Okeke  
Mr. Clement Chinedum Ezegbe  
Dr. Ugwumba Isaac  
Mr. Ibingweh Magnus  
Mr. Akaninye Obot  
Dr. Okolie Henry

#### **Terms of Reference**

- Manage the use of the Faculty tractor and other farm equipment
- Maintain the Dean's policy of hiring out Faculty tractor and equipment
- Ensure proper usage and maintenance of tractor and equipment

### 5. Faculty Welfare

**Chairman**

**Dr. Onunwa Akudo**

**Members**

Mrs. Benedeth Ezenyilimba  
Ogonna Olive Osuafor  
Ahaneku Chinwe  
Nwafor Ifeoma Chiazokam  
Umeh Chisom Laetitia  
Evulobi Onyedikachi Okeoma  
Sabina Chinenye Anarado

### **Terms of Reference**

- Organize the Faculty welfare committee into three groups : Group A, B and C , such that every group will attend to welfare concerns in a rotational manner
- Review the Welfare constitution to align with the realities of the times
- Handle the selection of Uniform for Welfare matters

## **6. Faculty Lecture Series**

### **Chairman Members**

**Prof. Ngwuja Ishiwu**  
Mary Ann Nkemakonam Anene  
Dr. Ansa Anietie  
Ibeh Chukwu Ebuka  
Ositanwosu Chukwunonso  
Anarah Samuel  
Dr Jane Mbadianya  
Onyekachi Chukwu

### **Terms of Reference**

- Develop roster for Faculty lecture series
- Organize Faculty lectures as appropriate
- Publish Faculty lectures in form of salable booklets
- Organize young Geniuses Lecture

## **7. Curriculum Development**

### **Chairman Members**

**Prof. Caleb Ezeano**  
Prof. James Obiegbunam  
Prof. J.C. Okonkwo  
Prof. Caleb Ezeano  
Prof. Umebali  
Dr. Patrick Okeke  
Dr. Onunwa Akudo  
Dr. Onunwa Akudo

### **Terms of Reference**

- Handle all curriculum related matters in the Faculty including bifurcation of departments, change of course code/ course title/ course content, addition of new courses
- Assist departments concerned in any of No I in achieving their interest
- Documenting any of such endeavours for future reference



**8. Endowment/stakeholders fund committee**

**Chairman**  
**Members**

**Prof. Charles Onugu**  
Dr. Ngozi Obiekwe  
Dr. Chika Ikeogu  
Dr. Helen Obioma Agu  
Mr. Chinedu Nwankwo  
Dr. Eucharia Obidiebube  
Dr. Onunwa Akudo  
Dr. Chika Ikeogu

**Terms of Reference**

- Source for good spirited individuals/ organizations that will institute endowment funds, buildings, equipment for the growth of the Faculty.
- Search for Philanthropists that will provide funds for Faculty projects
- Recommend such individuals to University for honorary doctorate degree, commendation etc

**9. Office Spaces**  
**Chairman,**

**Members**

**Prof. J.C. Okonkwo / Ag Chair**  
**Dr. Helen Obioma Ag**  
Okafor Mmaduabuchi Johnbosco  
Christian Ekugba  
Theophilus Ikegwu  
Dr. Emmanuel Nnabuihe  
Dr. Samson Ohaturuonye  
Dr. Kate Okonkwo-Emegha  
Odey Paschal

**Terms of Reference**

- Handle office sharing matters
- Handle any disputes that might arise from office sharing
- Propose new office spaces that the Faculty can pick up from the University

**10. Certificate Courses**

**Chairman,**  
**Members**

**Dr. Chinyere Okeke**  
Chika Ukamaka Obiora  
Benedeth Ndidi Ezenyilimba  
Nwaiwu Chinelo  
Rev. F. Maurice Ozor  
Dr. Christian Iwuagwu  
Ndulue Nkolika Benedeth

**Terms of Reference**

- Establish Certificate program as a strategy for providing a means of livelihood for academically backward
- Generate additional funds for running Departments and Faculty
- Document certificates issued to trainees

**11. Coordinator, Student Excursion**  
**Chairman**  
**Members**

**Hon Patrick Obot**  
Christian Ekugba  
Samuel Anarah  
Clement Ezegbe  
Ibeh, Chukwuebuka  
Nwankwo Temple  
Apalawo Orulopo Ayorinde  
Umeh Chisom Laetitia  
Evulobi Onyedikachi

**Terms of Reference**

- Organize student's excursion to standard farms / organization/ industries that will contribute to students knowledge and mastery of their course of study
- Plan for transportation and student's safety in such trip
- Give accurate report of such a trip to Faculty management

**12. Coordinator, Achievers board**

**Chairman**  
**Members**

**Dr. Ogechi Umeh**  
Dr. Eunice N. Ezembu  
Dr. Chidi Ugwuowo  
Dr. Annunciata C.Isibor  
Dr. Ikeokwu Kalu Okore  
Dr. Nneka Okoli  
Dr. Chika Ikeogu  
Dr. Jacinta Ezenwenyi

**Terms of Reference**

- Take cognizance of Achievers in the Faculty and publish their names both on the Faculty WhatsApp and on the Achiever's board as way to inspire people for more achievements.
- Document achievements of our Faculty academic staff everywhere in the World

**13. Field School**

**Chairman**  
**Members**

**Mr. Magnus Ibingwe**  
Hon Obot Akaninyene  
Obiajulu I. Samuel  
Chilaka P. Chibueze  
Kalu Okocha  
Onoja Clement  
Dr. Ansa Anitie  
Dr. Henry Okoli  
Robinson Ike Chiedozie

**Terms of Reference**

- Establish field school for skill acquisition training on innovative agriculture for Ifite-Ogwari indigenes
- Establish demonstrations farm for the indigenes to appreciate the impact and effect of such innovation

**14. Centre for Vegetable Research**

**Chairman**  
**Members**

**Dr. Henry Okolie**  
Dr. Eucharika Obidiebube  
Agunwa Uwaoma  
Apalawo , Oluropo Ayorinde  
Stella Muojama  
Osita Nwosu Chukwunonso  
Helen Ezejesi  
Berna Ezentilimba  
Chuks Chumaijem  
Tochukwu Nwosu

**Terms of Reference**

- Establish vegetable farm as demonstration farm that showcase the capability of the Faculty
- Generate fund for the Faculty management

**15. Centre for Artemisia and other Medicinal Plant Production and Research**

**Chairman**  
**Members**

**Dr. Christian Iwuagwu**  
Dr. Ngozi Obiekwe  
Dr. Kate Emegha  
Mary Ann Anene  
Nwankwo Chinedu  
Dr. Nunwa Akudo  
Umeh Chisom Laetitia  
Chidimma Gift Nwankwo  
Odey Paschal

**Terms of Reference**

- Establish Artemiasia and other medicinal plant farms
- Generate fund for the Faculty management
- Liaise with registered already Registered Cooperative on Artemisia production in the University for off take.

**16. Grant Proposal**

**Chairman**

**Dr. Nneka Okoli**

**Terms of Reference**

- Sensitize members of staff on Grant opportunities
- Organize trainings on Grant Proposal writing
- Organize members and other Faculty members on to develop Winning Grant proposals and sending same to funding agencies

**21 Second International Conference Committee**

**Dr. E. A. Obidiebube**

All members of the committee in the last conference

**22. Third International Conference Committee**

**Dr. N. J. Obiekwe**

**23. Faculty Inaugural Lecture Committee**

**Prof. Nkiru Meludu**

**Terms of Reference**

- Organize financial support for any Professor from the Faculty scheduled for inaugural lecture
- Organize subcommittees to handle all aspects of the inaugural lecture especially food sharing and distribution/ sale of inaugural lecture booklet

**23 Staff Development Matters**

**Prof. E. E. Umebali**

**24. Faculty Alumni Relations**

**Dr. Anitie Ansa**

**25. Dean's List Committee**

**Dr. Emilia Okafor**

**26. Dress Code Committee**

**Arch Deacon Dr. Enwelu**

**27. Library Affairs**

**Rev. Fr. Dr. Maurice**

**28. Exam Misconduct**

**Prof. James Obiegbona**

**29. Ceremonials (Matric and Convocation)**

**Prof. Caleb Ezeano**

**30. Sports Committee**

**Dr. Isaac Ugwumba**

**31. Environment Committee**

**Dr. Anselm Egwunatum**

### Changes in some Committees and Committee Leadership

- In the course of my the leadership, **Quality assurance committee Chairman** was later changed and Prof. Helen Agu became the new Quality Assurance Chairman.
- **Journal and Publication Committee** was later unbundled into two separate committees, Dr. Onyekachi Chukwu became the new Journal Committee Chairman and the editor in Chief of the Journal. Publication Committee is headed by Dr. Eucharika Obidiebube,
- **The Certificate programme committee** was completely dissolved and Chiamaka Obasi became the new Certificate Committee Chairman.
- Agribusiness and Market Garden Committee was later created with Prof. Helen Agu as the Chairman

### 4). Achievements Beyond the Plan

### *Highlights of My Achievement*

- Utilization of land resources at Ifite Ogwari and Umueje (Establishment of one hectare of Cassava, Forage farm and Potato farm establishment)
- Raising funds for Faculty Development: The unforgettable Banquet
- Harnessing relationship with the Ministry of Agriculture for Development
- Memorandum of Understanding with Organizations that help in utilization of land Ifite-Ogwari and Umueje (Tombomik, NIHORT, Von Food and Farms, R and G Farms, Global Forum for Sustainable Rural Development)
- Initiation of Guest lecture and Young Geniuses lecture
- Successful Second International Conference that resulted in Scholarship to over 85 individuals to undertake three months training at Songhai Farms at Owerri and Abakaliki and start up packs for our students to start their farm
- Successful Third International Conference that resulted in the establishment of Expert Farmers relation ship
- Attraction of seven million Naira Worth Raymond Isiadinso Market Garden
- Staff Development (i. AI training for Research development ii. Grant Proposal Training, iii. Quality Assurance Training iv. Boot Camp on Publish with Confidence and Promote with Ease)
- First Technologist Training Workshop
- First Administrative Staff training

- Establishment of Faculty Alumni Relation (Connecting our students with the established alumni within Nigeria and those in Diaspora for motivation unto greater heights)
- Creation of new Faculty journal with a new website, ISSN and a full blown editorial committee
- Establishment of Certificate Programme
- Bifurcation of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Extension
- Establishment of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
- Student Development: Scholarship Opportunities with Taiwanese Agricultural University being harnesses presently
- Restructuring of SIWES programme to align with the demands of various professional requirements
- Successful resource verification of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Animal Science programmes
- Develop the template for Movement to Ifite-Ogwari

### *Other Grace Attractions*

- Construction of dual carriage tarred roads with drainage systems around the Faculty at Ifite Ogwari
- Metrological Station at Ifite Ogwari
- One thousand Coconut seedlings and one thousand seedlings of Oil palm from the State Government
- Beefing of Faculty library with high tech equipment
- School Fees for ten Indigent students in the Faculty of Agriculture by JohnBosco's Mother-in-law
- Replacement of Old Fans in all the Lecture halls by Dr. Ikeogu's brother
- Cash Award of over N1M to Faculty students that Attended Flag off Farming System in Onitsha
- Cash Award of over N300k to Faculty students that Attended Seed Distribution of the State Government at Amansea programme
- Cash Award of N1M to Mr. Stephen Ozoagu (Recommended by Prof. Ebenebe) for making a speech on the importance of Agriculture in the Economic Development of the State
- Job opportunities for Graduates
- Job opportunities for students that are not yet cleared for youth service
- Initiation of Merit Cash Award for Best Student of Each Department

## *The Details:*

### **i. Utilization of the Vast Land Resources at Ifite-Ogwari and Umueje**

- The vast land resource at Ifite Ogwari has been put to use, though not fully, but to a very large extent. The student did not get as much as 50 x 100ft land as stated but the student did massive farming of
  - Cassava processed to Garri which was sold by the Faculty
  - Potato yet to be harvested
  - Ugu
  - Forage plant obtained from Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Awka Branch
  - Coconut (1000 coconuts)
  - Plantain (104 stands of plantain)
  - Economic trees (Including bitter cola and Breadfruit trees)
  - Oil Palm (1000 Oil Palm trees)
  - Plantain plantation on 30 hectares of Umueje land by Tombomik (MOU attached) for 5 years
  - Planting of economic trees on 30 hectares of Umueje land by Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) (MOU attached)
  - Planting of cassava on 120 hectares of Umueje land by Von Food and Farms (MOU attached)
  - Planting of coconut on twenty (20) hectares of Umueje land by the Centre for Agroprenuer, and Cooperative Research/ Practice (CACORP) (University Communication Attached)

### ➤ **Contributions of State Government to the Development of the Faculty**

The State government through the Ministry of Agriculture has contributed immensely to the development of the Faculty, first is the gifting of one thousand coconut seedlings, followed by six hundred seedling, four hundred and one thousand oil palm seedlings. Though the first batch of coconut seedlings planted were gutted by fire, with the second and third plantings we now have a large number of coconut trees growing at Ifite-Ogwari and fifty oil palm trees growing in the faculty. Besides, the State government has always involved our students in all agricultural programmes in the State. The Commissioner of Agriculture has always thrown his arm of support in all the programmes in the Faculty by gracing the occasion with his presence and giving speeches that encourage staff and students in the pursuit of the gains of agriculture. The good relationship finally led to the co-hosting of African Palm Weevil and Water Snail Farming Workshop from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of May, 2025.



**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE  
NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY, AWKA**  
In collaboration with  
**THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANAMBRA STATE**  
Invites you  
**TO A THREE-WEEKS CERTIFICATE COURSE ON**  
**AFRICAN PALM  
WEEVIL AND  
GOLDEN APPLE  
SNAIL FARMING**

**Date:** 6th-24th May, 2025 (Opening Ceremony: 6th May  
@ Commissioner's Conference Hall)  
**Venue:** Commissioner's Conference Hall  
**Time:** 10:00am Daily  
**Practical Training holds @** Ministry of Agriculture, Awka

**Contact:** 08033924529

**Dr. Foster Ihejiofor**  
Mr. Commissioner for Agriculture

**Prof. C.I. Ebeneke**  
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Nnamdi  
Azikiwe University, Awka

**Barr. Madala Chandra Sekhar**  
Red Palm Weevil and Golden Apple  
Snail farmer, Andhra Pradesh, India

### ➤ Contributions of Ifite-Ogwari Community

The Ifite-Ogwari community has also contributed immensely to the development of the Faculty, the most remarkable is their financial support for the Banquet and their instrumentality in bringing two senators: Sen. Victor Umeh and Sen. Tony Nwoye to grace the occasion and the donations from their friends and well-wishers as well as cash award to students resident at Ifite-Ogwari. The most striking of it all is the construction of dual carriage road at the entrance of the University and drainage system attracted by Engr. Paul Okafor.



## **2). Exquisite Banquet and Exhibition**

On assumption of duty, I was determined to raise funds for the development of the Faculty. I communicated my idea to Ifite-Ogwari community and they were very supportive, we had joint committees in the planning of the auspicious event, so on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, 2023, the Faculty had a grandiose, Exquisite banquet tagged **“Repositioning Faculty of Agriculture for Greater Productivity”**. His Royal Majesty Igwe Ofuebe (Ogidiga of Ifite-Ogwari), His Royal Majesty Igwe Benjamin Okeke (Ezedioramma of Omasi) were both present, Two Senators: Senator Tony Nwoye and Sen. Victor Umeh were also present. A member of the House of Representative Hon. Peter Aniekwe (Mac-Pee) was also present as well as Chairman House Committee on Agriculture, Hon. Eze Golden Iloh and other dignitaries. Exhibition of products from the seven departments in the Faculty added to the glamour of the event. Another very important highlight of the event was award to the

- Three academics with the highest Google Scholar Citation sponsored by the then DVC Administration Prof. Joseph Ikechebelu (Dr. Helen Agu took the first position, Prof. J.C. Okonkwo Second position and Prof. Caleb Ezeano Third position)
- Award to the best performing students in each department with CGPA of 4.0 and above
- Award to the Best Improved students in each department sponsored by VetSark

First Faculty made BREAD, Packaged Oil Palm and Insect-Based Livestock Feed were launched by many dignitaries present at the banquet.

#### 4). First Faculty Guest Lecture

The first Guest Faculty Lecture was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, 2023. **On the topic “Export for Survival: Making Agricultural Export Attractive for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.** The Speaker Mrs Esther N. Ikporah , the Regional Coordinator South East Nigerian Export Promotion Council ably represented by..... It was an eye opener, people were shown opportunities to turn their research products into export goods that will improve their well-being. I became so excited when the Keynote address speaker at the Animal Science Association of Nigeria (ASAN) and Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) 2023 JAM displayed the flier for this event as a way of directing academics to take their research products to export business. It was very impressive.

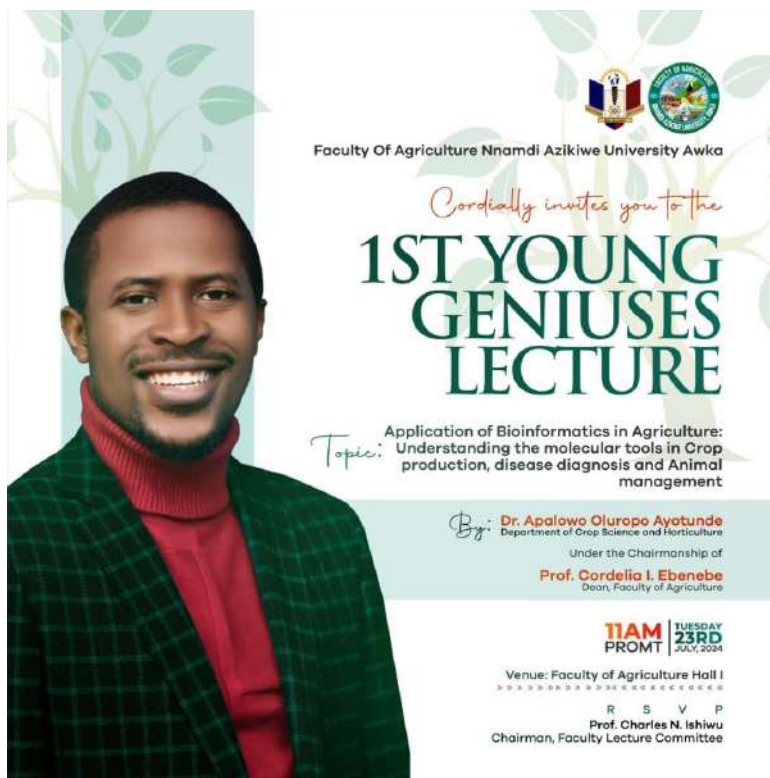


#### 5). First Young Geniuses Lecture

A lot of young people in the Faculty have high scholarly output, geniuses in their various disciplines. The Dean discovered these potentials in the young lecturers and therefore organized the first young geniuses' lecture and the 9<sup>th</sup> Faculty Lecture that held on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2024, the pioneer lecturer in this category was **Dr. Apalowo Oluropo Ayotunde** who spoke on the topic **APPLICATION OF BIOINFORMATICS IN AGRICULTURE: UNDERSTANDING THE MOLECULAR TOOLS IN CROP PRODUCTION, DISEASE. DIAGNOSIS AND ANIMAL MANAGEMENT**

The highlights of the lecture are as follows:

- **Genomic Analysis:** Enables the analysis of complex biological data to enhance understanding of plant and animal genomes.
- **Trait Identification:** Aids in identifying beneficial traits for the development of improved crop varieties and livestock through genetic engineering and marker-assisted selection.
- **Optimization of Practices:** Integrates genomic data with environmental factors to optimize agricultural practices for better yield and sustainability.
- **Disease Management:** Facilitates the study of plant-pathogen interactions, leading to more effective disease management strategies.
- **Innovation and Efficiency:** Fosters innovation and efficiency in agricultural research, contributing to food security and resource conservation.



The impact of the Genius lecture

- **Increased awareness:** it helped the students, staff and everyone within the University community to know the role of bioinformatics in agricultural productivity by making the audience to know it's significance in Crop and livestock management
- **Inspiration and engagement:** The lecture helped to inspire the interest of many students and young lecturers to pursue a career in bioinformatics and molecular biology in relation to Agriculture. This will also foster a new generation of innovators in the field
- **A call to action for the Faculty to establish molecular laboratory**

## 6). Second Young Geniuses Lecture

The 10th Faculty Lecture and 2nd in the Young Geniuses Series was delivered at the Faculty of Agriculture, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria On Tuesday, 28th January, 2025, titled:

**BEYOND THE NUMBERS: REFINING METHODS AND OUTPUTS IN FORESTRY AND ECO-BIO SCIENCES** by **Dr. Onyekachi CHUKWU**, (A Lecturer and Head, Department of Forestry and Wildlife, Faculty of Agriculture, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria).



### Highlights of the lecture

- **Importance To Forestry, Agriculture and other Eco-Bio Sciences**
- **Advancing Forest Biometrics:** Introduced improved statistical models for predicting tree growth variables, which are essential for sustainable forest management. It also provides tools for estimating illegal logging impacts, aiding conservation efforts and legal frameworks.
- **Sustainable Forest Management:** Highlights the role of precise and reliable data in assessing forest health, green spaces for ecological stability, climate regulation, aiding in resource allocation and long-term sustainability planning.

- **Technological Integration:** Promotes the use of advanced tools like remote sensing and GIS for forest monitoring and management.
- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Demonstrates the interconnectedness of forestry with agriculture through shared principles of resource sustainability, soil health, and carbon sequestration. Hence, promotes collaboration across fields like ecology, biology, and technology for holistic problem-solving
- **Green Space Connectivity:** Highlights the role of trees and vegetation in enhancing agricultural landscapes, improving soil fertility, and providing ecosystem services.

### **Impact of the Second Young Geniuses Lecture Series**

#### ✓ **General impact:**

**Promotion of Young Academic Talent:** It encourages the intellectual capacity and contributions of emerging scholars, inspiring younger academics and students to engage in innovative research. It also provides a platform for showcasing groundbreaking work, encouraging the pursuit of excellence in research and teaching

#### ✓ **Specific impacts:**

- **Refinement of Research Methodologies:** The lecture introduced advanced statistical and biometric tools for improving the accuracy and reliability of data in forestry and ecological research.
- **Practical Contributions to Forestry:** It provided models for estimating tree growth variables, aiding in sustainable forest management and combating illegal logging.
- **Promoting Interdisciplinary Approaches:** Demonstrated the value of combining technology, statistical modeling, and eco-sciences to address global challenges. Hence, sets the stage for a hybrid niche that bridges academic research with industry needs.
- **Inspiration for Problem-Oriented Research:** Encouraged students, young researchers and the university community on the need to focus on impactful studies, integrating modern technology and cross-disciplinary collaboration



## 7. Third Young Geniuses Lecture

**Dr. Ogechukwu Anulika Umeh** of the Department of Crop Science and Horticulture on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 delivered the 11<sup>th</sup> Faculty lecture and the third in the Young Geniuses Series of the Faculty of Agriculture lecture series. She spoke on the topic **“Improving Underutilised Indigenous Crops in South Eastern Nigeria: A Panacea to Food Security**. Her lecture pointed each of the following:

NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY, AWKA, NIGERIA  
THE DEAN, FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE  
PRESENTS  
**11TH FACULTY LECTURE & 3RD IN THE YOUNG GENIUSES SERIES**  
*Topic:* **IMPROVING UNDERUTILIZED INDIGENOUS CROPS IN SOUTH EASTERN NIGERIA: A PANACEA TO FOOD SECURITY**  
*By:* **DR OGECHUKWU ANULIKA UMEH**  
B.Sc (Botany), M.Sc; PhD (Plant Genetics and Breeding), FIPMD  
Under the Distinguished Chairmanship of **Professor Gabriel Onyenegecha Ihejirika.**  
Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Imo State.  
Host **Prof. Cordelia I. Ebeneke**  
Dean, Faculty Of Agriculture  
**13TH MAY, 2025** **11am** **FEG Hall**

- True definition of Food security by WHO
- Various terminologies used in describing underutilized crops- unexploited, marginalized, undeveloped etc
- Nutrient composition of many underutilized crops-including castor seed, kidney beans, “anyu”, cocoyam etc
- Health benefits of underutilized crops
- Climate resiliency of some underutilized crops
- Four Challenges facing production and consumption of underutilized crops
- Strategies to improve production and consumption of underutilized crops including promotion at family level, community engagement, awareness creation, farm support and training, seed systems and access (i.e. well-structured seed bank both in-situ and ex-situ for the conservation and

preservation of genetic diversity of underutilized indigenous crops, focus of research torch light on indigenous crops, establishment of indigenous food restaurants, market gardens , serving of indigenous foods in social events.

## 8). Second International Conference

The second International Conference of the Faculty of Agriculture with the theme “**Digitalization of Agriculture and Bio Conservation for Food Security**” was held on 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 with Dr. Eucharia Obidiebube and Dr. Onyekachi Chukwu, as local Organising Chairman and Secretary respectively. It was a display of spiritual

corundum that helped us see the truth of what real agriculture is, where we are and what we ought to do to get to where we ought to be. The gemstone with which we saw through our realities and our aspirations was Rev. Fr. Prof. Godfrey Nzamujo, the founder and Director of the famous Songhai Integrated Farms, in Port Novo, Republic of Benin. The marvel of the third International conference was that the hard-to-get, Rev. Fr. Nzamujo graced

Faculty Of Agriculture,  
Nnamdi Azikiwe University,  
Awka, Nigeria

PRESENTS

FAIC-UNIZIK 2024

2nd Faculty of Agriculture International Conference  
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria (Hybrid)

Theme:  
*Digitalization of*  
**AGRICULTURE &  
BIO-CONSERVATION  
FOR FOOD SECURITY**

12th-14th  
March, 2024  
TIME:  
10:00AM  
Daily

IMPORTANT DATES:

Arrival: 12 March, 2024

Opening Ceremony & Farmer's Summit: 13th March, 2024  
(University Auditorium)

Plenary session continues/Closing: 14 March, 2024  
(Ekwueme Center for Multidisciplinary Research)

Venue:

Physical: Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria

Virtual: Zoom Meeting

CHIEF HOST

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

LEAD PAPER PRESENTERS

HOST

Prof. Charles O. Edimona  
Vice Chancellor, UNIZIK

Dr. Yemi Akinbami  
Former Director, Forum for  
Agriculture Research in Africa  
(FARA), Ghana

Prof. S.O. Akindele  
Vice Chancellor Redeemer's  
University, Nigeria

Rev. Fr. Prof.  
Godfrey Nzamujo O.P.  
Director of Songhai Centre,  
Porto Novo,  
Republic of Benin

Prof. Cordelia I. Ebeneke  
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Dr. Eucharia Obidiebube  
Chairperson LOC,  
+234(0)8033230276

Dr. Onyekachi Chukwu  
Secretary LOC  
+234(0)8032633835

<https://journals.unizik.edu.ng/faic/about>

the occasion with his life transforming, mindset changing power-point presentation with all pictorial evidences that showed even a blind man that agriculture is indeed a lucrative business and can be done conservatively without the use of agrochemicals whose residues in food are implicated by a number of life challenging ailments. The choice of

Rev. Fr. Prof. Nzamujo as a keynote address speaker by the third International Conference Committee was heralded by all invitees as a major definer of the conference overwhelming success.

Apart from Rev. Father Nzamujo, three other academic gurus that dazed the audience with their wealth of knowledge, research and exposure were Dr. Yemi Akimbamijo, former Executive Director of Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) Ghana, Prof. S.O. Akindele, Vice Chancellor Redeemers' University and Prof....., Canada. Prof. Yemi Akimbamijo spoke on **"Big Data Science and the Application of Digital Twins: Imperatives for Africa's Agriculture"**, while Prof. S.O. Akindele dealt on **"Exploring Trends of Digitalization in Natural Resources and Bioconservation Management"** Of the numerous papers received for the conference fifty- two were accepted for publication in the proceedings of the conference. The E- Proceeding can be retrieved from <https://journals.unizik.edu.ng/faic>, thanks to Dr. Onyekachi Chukwu the Chairman, Editorial Committee and Chief Editor of the Faculty Journal.

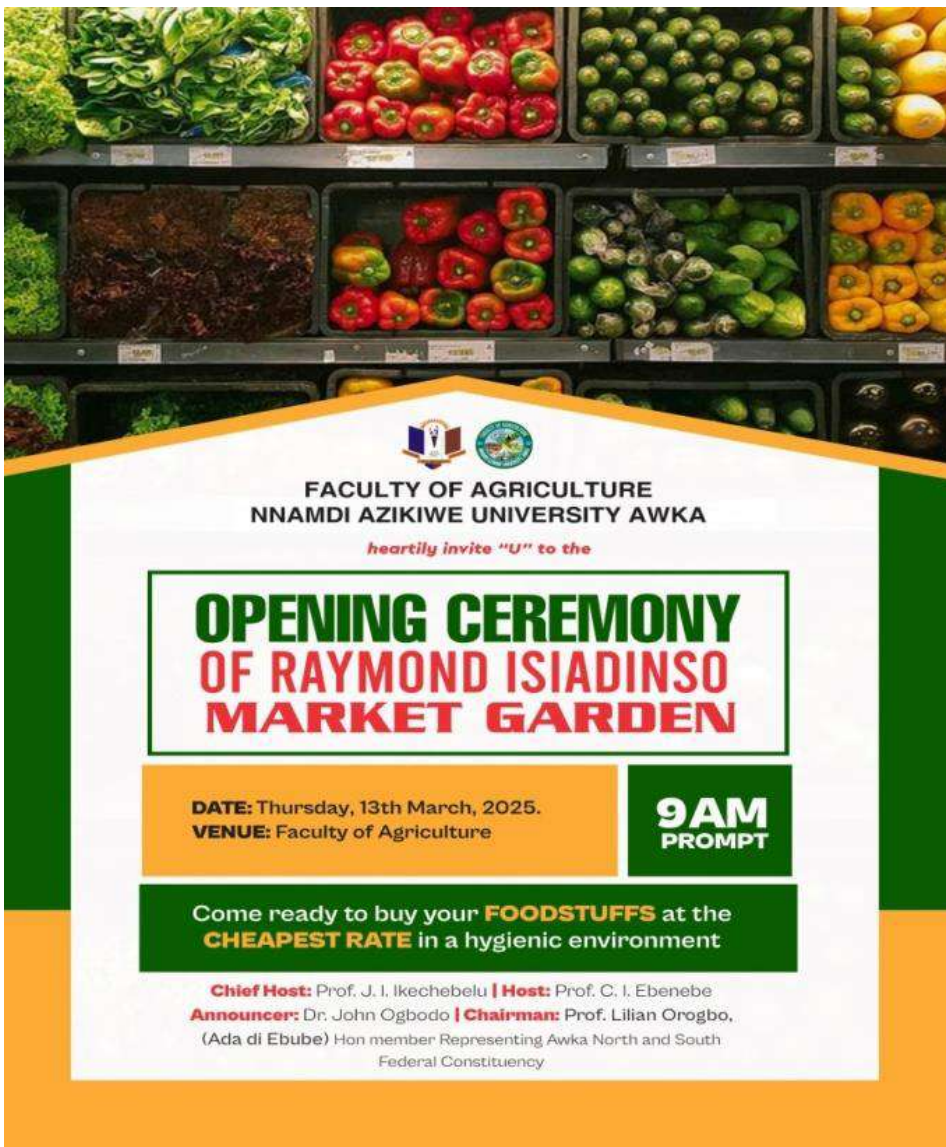
### **Harnessing the Outcome of the second International Conference**

- **Scholarship for sixty students of the Faculty of Agriculture** for training at Songhai Farms at Owerri and Abakaliki by Mastercard under the auspices of Rev. Fr. Prof. Nzamujo
- **Scholarship for twenty-five young people from Ifite-Ogwari community** Agriculture for training at Songhai Farms at Owerri and Abakaliki by Mastercard under the auspices of Rev. Fr. Prof. Nzamujo
- **Scholarship for five Anambra Indigenes** nominated by Dr. Forster Ihejiofor, Hon. Commissioner of Agriculture Agriculture for training at Songhai Farms at Owerri and Abakaliki by Mastercard under the auspices of Rev. Fr. Prof. Nzamujo
- **Start-up Kit/ Empowerment of trained students:** A number of our students have received the start-up kit worth ..... And have started their farms even as students. **This is in addition to the fact that they were paid, accommodated and fed for the three months period they stayed in the training.**



### 10). Third International Conference/ Opening of Raymond Isiadinso Market Garden

The third International Conference of the Faculty of Agriculture with the theme “**Sustainability of Food Systems and Natural Resources Management in the Era of Artificial Intelligence**” was held on 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 with Dr. Ngozi Obiekwe and Dr. Ogechi Umeh, as local Organising Chairman and Secretary respectively. The event had some accoutrements that did not just make it grandiose but also memorable. The event started with opening ceremony of market garden worth seven million naira graciously donated by Mr. Raymond Isiadinso, the National president of Raymond Isiadinso Market Garden.



The Market Garden Committee Chairman, Dr. John Ogbodo made the event a deluxe and exceptionally splendid. The grand event was chaired by Prof. Lilian Orogbo, ably represented by Barr. Nwaeze. The occasion attracted the Deans, Directors, Professors of the University and many government functionaries including the Commissioner of Agriculture, Amb. .... And Director of Research, Nigerian

Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT). The Vice Chancellor was represented by SAVC on Academics Prof. Ada Omenyi. The occasion started with a cultural display that eulogized the donor. Mr. Raymond Isiadinso. Following many speeches from very

important personalities, the benefactor Mr. Raymond Isiadinso cut the tape to declare the Market Garden Open for business and the guests went en masse to make purchases of the goods displayed on the shelves.

The market garden opening ceremony was immediately followed by the opening ceremony of the third International Conference, declared open by SAVC on Academics Prof. Ada Omenyi while the Commissioner for Agriculture Dr. Forster Ihejiofor chaired the occasion and also related to participants on what Mr. Governor Prof. Chukwuma Soludo has done and is doing in promoting agriculture in the State. The Dean, Prof. Cordelia Ebeneke, presented an awe-inspiring welcome address, while the keynote address speaker Mr. Raymond Isiadinso gave a never-to-forget address on the theme **“Sustainability of Food Systems and Natural Resources Management in the Era of Artificial Intelligence”**. It was a stirrer of people’s interest in sustainable food systems and natural resources management. Great, mindset changing presentations were made by other plenary speakers.

**Faculty of Agriculture, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka in Collaboration with Global Forum on Sustainable Rural Development**










**Invites you to the**

**3RD FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (FAIC)**

**- Theme -**

**SUSTAINABILITY OF FOOD SYSTEMS AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN THE ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

**DATES:** 12th March, 2025 - (Arrival)  
13th March, 2025: Opening ceremony & Technical session  
14th March, 2025: Farmer's Forum & Technical Sessions  
**TIME:** 10am Prompt | **VENUE:** ASUU Secretariat

 <b>PROF. JOSEPH IKECHEBELE</b> (Sp. Vice-Chancellor) <i>Chief Guest</i>	 <b>PROF. CORDELIA EBENEKE</b> (Dean, Faculty of Agriculture) <i>Host</i>	 <b>DR. NGOZI OBIEKWE</b> L.O.C., Chairman	 <b>DR. OGECHI UMEN</b> L.O.C., Secretary	 <b>MR. RAYMOND ISIADINSO</b> (President, Animal Science Association of Nigeria) <i>Keynote Address Speaker 1</i>	 <b>DR. VIVIAN IWAR</b> B/COWs Regional Director, Animal Health Centre (Barnabes, PHN)	 <b>PROF. MAMSAN MOHAN ADHIKARY</b> Joint Hon. Member, Bihar Chanda Sanshodhan Mandal (Joint Agricultural University India)	 <b>DR. VIN UMEH</b> Director of Research, National Horticultural Research Institute (NHIHORT), Ibadan	 <b>DR. WINNIE LAI-SOLARIN</b> Director General, National Horticultural Services, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Abuja
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A large turnout of agro-based companies/departments that were on ground for exhibition of agricultural equipment and products added glamour to the event.

- Dr. Vin Umeh, Director of Research, National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT) spoke on Food Systems and Natural Resources Management: Positioning the Horticultural Industry for a Sustainable Crop Production and Economic Empowerment
- ii. Prof. Mansan Mohan Adhikary, Former Vice Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (State Agricultural University), India

On the second day, Dr. Vivian Iwar ECOWAS Regional Director, Animal Health Centre, Bamako, Mali presented keynote address that heralded the technical session, while the plenary speaker Marian Peters presented the paper titled Insect Production in Africa, Small, Simple and Significant. Over fifty research papers were presented with each discipline chaired by a professor in the area (Prof. James Obiegbuna, Prof. J.C. Okonkwo) and the Faculty Administrative officer Mrs Esther Ezekwem and her team functioned. as Rapporteurs.

The second day also had a great and remarkable event tagged Special Farmers' Forum: an interactive session between farmers and experts in all areas of agriculture. It was chaired by the Dean, Prof. Cordelia Ebeneke, while Hon. Bridget Obi, former Commissioner of Women Affairs, Mr. Emeka Okoli of..... and Mr. Chike Okonkwo the founder and CEO of Lynden Farms, Igbariam facilitated the forum.

**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY AWKA**  
*Invites you to the*

**SPECIAL FARMERS' FORUM**  
**(Town & Gown Interactive Session)**

**Theme**

**IN TIMES LIKE THIS (ECONOMIC CRISIS, CLIMATE CHANGE, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE), FARMERS COPING STRATEGIES**

**DATE:** 14 March, 2025  
**VENUE:** ASUU Secretariat

**9AM PROMPT**

**NOTE**

Farmers' Association that come in their Uniform will be given Special Recognition

**PROF. C. I. EBENEKE**  
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Chairperson/Moderator

**HON. BRIDGET OBI**  
Former Commissioner for Women Affairs

**MR. EMEKA OKOLI**  
CEO, Ecco Gardens Nigeria Ltd (Discussant)

**MR. CHIKE OKONKWO**  
Founder and CEO, Lynden Integrated Farm, Igbariam (Discussant)

A very remarkable thing about the forum is the fact that the Igwe of Ifite Dunu Igwe Emeka Ilouno came to the event with over fifty members of his community in their Uniform eager to learn, similarly SWOFON led by Mrs. Akunyiba came in their Uniform with over

thirty of their members in their Uniform, the widows farmers' cooperative (Rod of Moses) led by Barr. Ujunwa Rita Ezeani. also came in large numbers. Other farmers group and farm's representatives were also present. The Chairmen of many agro commodities were also present. A lot of farmers questions were answered leading to establishment



of Farmers/ Experts relationship concluded with Lecturers/ Farmers WhatsApp platform managed by Dr. Onyebuchi Umeh and Dr. Emilia Okafor.

## 11. Staff Development

The administration of Prof. C.I. Ebeneke took staff development to another level, in her administration was marked with the first technologist training workshop and the first administrative and secretarial staff training. She however started with the training of administrative staff.

### 1). Academic Staff Development

#### a). Artificial Intelligence Training

In a bid to bring the academics in the Faculty at par with their contemporaries on knowledge Artificial Intelligence and its use in research; the Faculty entered into agreement with Davak Consult in Lagos and collaborated with them in organizing one day training on Artificial Intelligence tagged “**Application of AI in Teaching, Learning and Research**”. Three Speakers from Davak Consult: Faith Adepoju, Akinsola Mosobaleje and Ifeoluwa, all certified AI trainers were the resource persons. The training opened the eyes of lecturers on the use of various AI (Chat GPT Open AI, Copilot, Meta AI) in teaching, research proposal and grant proposal writings. It was a hilarious event. It was both thrilling and enlightening as academics tried practical use of AI in learning, research and teaching.

Faculty Of Agriculture, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria  
In Collaboration With Davak Consults, Lagos.

Presents

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TRAINING

Title: Application of AI in Teaching, Learning & Research

**Faith Adepoju**  
Certified AI Trainer,  
Davak Consult

**Prof Cordelia L. Ebeneke**  
Dean, Faculty Of Agriculture  
Host

**Dayo Akindubi**  
Facilitator (Training),  
Davak Consult

**7th NOV 2023**  
**10:00AM**

Venue: FEG Hall, Faculty of Agriculture, UNIZIK

REGISTRATION - **N2,000**  
STUDENTS - **N1000**

Certificate of Participation will be available

- For participation, Register via the link below:  
<https://forms.gle/rqMtsEW5SHsqd8Cw5>
- Make a transfer or bank payment to:  
Account No. 1228954210 | Bank: Zenith Bank PLC  
Account name: FAC OF AGRIC INTL CONFERENCE-UNIZIK
- Forward your evidence of payment via  
WhatsApp to: +234 803 323 0276

**Onyekachi Chukwu**  
Head, ICT & Media Team,  
Faculty of Agriculture, UNIZIK

## b). Grant Proposal Writing Training

The Faculty had a very impactful Grant Proposal Writing hands on training on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December, 2024, sponsored by Tetfund Centre of Excellence for Bio-medical, Engineering, and Agricultural Translational Studies (TCE-BEATS) with the theme 'Empowering Future Scholars: Postgraduate Students and Teachers Grant Proposal Writing Training' held on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 by 10 am at FEG Hall.

### Resource persons

- **Prof. Irene Ijeh, a Professor of Biochemistry and Director, Centre for Molecular Bioscience and Biotechnology, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike.**
- **Dr. Blessing Nonye Onyima, an Associate Professor of Anthropology with a specialization in Medical and Cultural Anthropology**
- **Prof. I. K. Okoli, Director, Tetfund Centre of Excellence for Bio-medical, Engineering, and Agricultural Translational Studies (TCE-BEATS), Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka**

**tetfund**  
TETFund Centre of Excellence for Biomedical, Engineering and Agricultural Translational Studies (TCE-BEATS) in Collaboration with Faculty of Agriculture Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka

**ONE DAY HANDS-ON WORKSHOP**

**- Theme -**

**EMPOWERING FUTURE SCHOLARS: POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS GRANT PROPOSAL WRITING TRAINING**

**PROF. CORDELIA EBENEKE**  
(Dean, Faculty of Agriculture)  
Host

**PROF. I.K. OKOLI**  
Tetfund Centre of Excellence (TCE-BEATS)  
Co-Host

**PROF. JOSEPH IKECHEBELU**  
(Ag. Vice Chancellor)  
Chief Host

**ASSO. PROF. BLESSING NONYE ONYIMA**  
Speaker

**PROF. IRENE IJEH**  
Speaker

**DR. NNEKA OKOLI**  
Chairman, Grant Proposal Writing Committee

**Date:** 4th December, 2024  
**Time:** 10am Prompt

**Venue:** Chem Hall

Dr. Blessing Onyima tutored Writing a Grant Winning Proposal, Eligibility status and practical application of Mendeley while Prof Okoli trained the scholars on general grant assessment and guidelines and encouraged the scholars to keep trying until they achieve a success.

One hundred and twenty (120) staff and students were present for the training which started from 10 am and ended by 6 pm. Welfare packages for the program included snacks, foods, water, plastic file and writing materials.

### c). Boot Camp on Publish with Confidence and Promote with Ease

#### i. Introduction

The Faculty of Agriculture at Nnamdi Azikiwe University (UNIZIK), Awka, UNIZIK's TETFund Directorate of the University and Boldscholar Research Limited in Abuja jointly organized a one day Staff Capacity Training Boot Camp on December 17, 2024 from 10.45 AM until 5.10 PM. The colourful event which was held at the Prof. Charles Esimone Hall of the UNIZIK Business School in Awka.

ii. **Event theme:** The Boot Camp was themed "Publish with Confidence, Promote with Ease".

**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE**  
NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY, PMB 5025,  
AWKA, ANAMBRA STATE.

*Organizes a*  
**One Day Staff Capacity Training Boot Camp**

*Theme:* **Publish with Confidence and Promote with Ease**

**Aims at Mastering Academic Writing and Presentation for Scopus and Clarivate Journals**

CHIEF HOST	CHAIRPERSON	GUEST OF HONOUR	HOST	CO-HOST
 Prof. Joseph I. Ikechebelu Ag. Vice Chancellor, Nnamdi Azikiwe University	 Prof. Chinwe Anunobi Chief Executive Officer of National Library of Nigeria Distinguished Guest of the Occasion	 Chukwuemeka Fred Agbata (CFA) MD, Anambra State ICT Agency	 Prof. Cordelia L. Ebeneke Dean, Faculty of Agriculture	 Dr. Prof. Ikenna Okeke Director, TETFund, NAU

Scan to Register

UNIZIK Business School  
Hall, NAU Awka.

17TH DEC. 2024  
9:00AM - 5:00 PM

**Note: Come with your individual Laptops**

For Enquiries:  
0702-593-5139 (John Ogbodo)  
0806-662-5331 (Godswill Chukwuemeka)

Announcer:  
Central Planning Committee

**Partners:**

iii. **Event Aim:**  
The aim of the Boot Camp was to equip participants with the skills and knowledge necessary for mastering academic writing and presentation techniques tailored for publication in Scopus and Clarivate journals.

• **Dignitaries:**  
The training event was chaired by Prof. Chinwe Anunobi, the National Librarian

and CEO of the National Library of Nigeria, Abuja. The Vice Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University and Chief Host of the event, Prof. Joseph Ikechebulu was represented by the Special Adviser to the Vice-Chancellor (SAVC) on Academic Matters, Prof. Fredrick John Odibo. The Host and Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Cordelia I. Ebenebe was represented by Prof. Caleb I. Ezeano of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension. The Co-Host was the Director of TETFund in UNIZIK, Rev. Fr. Prof. Ikenga Kenneth Emeka Oraegbunam, Esq. The Resource Persons were the University Librarian in UNIZIK, Prof. Stella Ngozi Ifeoma Anasi, CLN; Prof. Okorie Okoro Ndukwe, the Managing Editor of the defunct UNIZIK's Faculty of Agriculture's International Journal of Agriculture, Food and Biodiversity (IJAFAB); Chief Executive Officer of Boldscholar Research Limited, Abuja - Mr. Godswill Chukwuemeka; and Dr. Ir. John Agbo Ogbodo of the Faculty of Agriculture. The event was moderated by Mr. Alfred Ajayi of Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN); and attended also by the MD/CEO Anambra State ICT Agency, Awka, Mr. Chukwuemeka Agbata, who was represented by the Special Assistant to the Governor on MDA support, Hon. Castro Ideke. The Anambra State Council Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Comrade Dr. Odogwu Emeka Odogwu was represented by Comrade Dr. Mrs. Tochukwu Ifejika, the Anambra State Chairperson of the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ). Also, the event was attended by Prof. (Assoc.) Ibeabuchi Uko, Sub-Dean of the Faculty, along with the Heads of Department from Animal Science and Technology, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Soil Science and Land Resources Management, Forestry and Wildlife, and Crop Science and Horticulture, as well as other faculty professors including Prof. Dignitaries and selected trainees shortly after the opening ceremony of the Boot Camp at UBS, NAU James E. Obiegbuna, Prof. Helen Agu, Prof. Canon Innocent A. Enwelu, Prof. (Assoc.) Prof. (Assoc.) Chika Florence Ikeogu (Fisheries and Aquaculture) and Prof. (Assoc.) A. E. Egwunatum (Forestry and Wildlife).

- **Overall Participation at the event:** A total of 91 participants attended, with 50 females and 41 males participated in the training and were presented with certificates. These participants were drawn from staff of the Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU) Igbariam (3 staff), Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Arts, College of Health Sciences, Nnewi, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences Agulu, Faculty of Technical and Technology Education, Faculty of Education, Department of Industrial and applied Chemistry, Department of Computer Sciences, Chisco Institute of Transport Studies, UNIZIK.

**vi. Welcome Address by the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture – Prof. C. I. Ebenebe** The welcome address of Prof. Cordelia Ebenebe, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, was delivered on her behalf by Prof. (Assoc.) Chika Florence Ikeogu. In her remarks, the Dean welcomed participants to the training on academic writing and



publication, aligning it with the faculty's roadmap to boost visibility through quality research. She extended greetings to esteemed guests, including Prof. Chinwe Anunobi, Prof. Frederick Odibo (representing Prof. Joseph Ikechebulu), and Rev. Fr. Prof. Ikenga Kenneth Emeka Oraegbunam, Esq. The Dean highlighted the training's objectives, focusing on equipping staff with skills to publish in reputable journals and navigate academic publishing challenges. She expressed confidence in the training's potential to enhance research output and faculty visibility. She also acknowledged resource persons Prof. Stella Ngozi Ifeoma Anasi, Prof. Okorie Okoro Ndukwe, and Mr. Godswill Chukwuemeka; moderator Mr. Alfred Ajayi; and special guests Hon. Castro Ideke and Comrade Dr. Mrs. Tochukwu Ifejika, wishing everyone a productive session.

- **Chairperson's Welcome Remarks** –Prof. Chinwe Anunobi, the National Librarian and CEO of the National Library of Nigeria, delivered an address titled "Ensuring Accessibility and Affordability: Nigerian Digital Repository in the Era of Rising Publication Cost." Represented by Dr. Ngozi Osuchukwu, she underscored the library's pivotal role in advancing academic research development. emphasized Prof. Anunobi training's significance in equipping teaching staff with essential skills in scholarly writing, property, intellectual and publishing in reputable journals, particularly open-access journals affordable publication fees. With advocating for open access to academic works, she highlighted platforms like international repositories, Google Scholar, and Wikipedia, which facilitate wide and free dissemination of knowledge. She concluded by thanking the event organizers and encouraging all participants to apply the knowledge gained from the Boot Camp.

**Opening Remarks by the Vice Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka – Prof. Joseph I. Ikechebulu:** The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Ikechebelu, declared the event open, commending the Faculty of Agriculture for organizing the academic program. Represented by Prof. Frederick Odibo, he stated that the Faculty was at the forefront of achieving the university's core mandate of teaching, research, and community service through the capacity-building workshop on academic publication. Prof. Odibo emphasized the importance of producing quality research publications and citations for the university to reach its desired goals. He urged participants to focus on impactful research that solves real-world problems and to have confidence in their writing

**Goodwill messages.** The Managing Director/CEO of the Anambra State ICT Agency: The MD/CEO delivered a compelling presentation on the Agency's initiatives in advancing digital libraries and academic repositories. He underscored technology's transformative role in academia, praising Governor Chukwuma Soludo's focus on technology under the Solution Agenda. Highlighting the agency's efforts to integrate research with digital infrastructure, Mr. Agbata noted key initiatives such as high speed



broadband, cloud-based digital libraries, and capacity building programs. The MD/CEO of the Anambra State ICT Agency, Mr. Chukwuemeka Fred Agbata was represented at the Boot Camp by the Special Assistant to the Governor on MDA support, Hon. Castro Ideke. These efforts, complemented by public Wi-Fi and strategic partnerships, aim to provide equitable access to digital tools, enabling researchers to publish and promote their work globally.

**Chairman of the NUJ Anambra State Council:** Comrade Tochukwu Ifejika, Chairperson of the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) represented the Chairman of the NUJ Anambra State Council – Comrade Dr. Odogwu Emeka Odogwu at the event. She encouraged academics to collaborate with the media and further emphasized on the importance of strategic communication and media engagement to broaden the reach of lecturers' work and an impact on a wider global outreach and audience.

**Chief Executive Officer of Boldscholar Research Limited, Abuja:** Mr. Godswill Chukwuemeka expressed gratitude to the Faculty of Agriculture, Nnamdi Azikiwe University (UNIZIK), for partnering with Boldscholar to host the training Boot Camp. He also commended the university's management for fostering a culture of academic excellence, noting that Boldscholar is proud to collaborate in this endeavor.

**The Hands-on Trainings:** CEO of Boldscholar - Mr. Godswill Chukwuemeka

ORCiD and Mendeley Referencing Desktop Apps: Prof. Okorie O. Ndukwe led a 45-minute training session on utilizing ORCiD and Mendeley desktop apps for enhanced research visibility and organization. Participants learned step-by-step how to:

- Create an ORCiD account, ensuring unique identification and global recognition
- Link ORCiD accounts to their online publications and academic profiles.
- Install and use Mendeley desktop for efficient referencing and citation management.

Prof. Ndukwe's training emphasized ORCiD's role in

- Increasing research visibility,
- Simplifying publication tracking,
- Facilitating collaboration.

Overall, the participants gained practical experience in setting up their ORCiD and Mendeley accounts, streamlining their research workflow.

**Setting the Stage for Academic Writing Success:** Prof. Stella Ngozi I. Anasi, University Librarian at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, led a session on academic

writing fundamentals and research ethics. The training included practical hands-on exercises, focusing on:

- Familiarization with Scopus-indexed journals portal
- Identifying and accessing relevant
- Effective search strategies for literature review

**Writing and Revenue Generation on Boldscholar Portal:** Mr. Godswill Chukwuemeka, CEO of Boldscholar, led a training session on uploading creative materials to the Boldscholar platform for revenue generation. Key steps included:

- Registering as an author on (<https://boldscholar.com/>).
- Signing in and completing a CIP (Catalog in Publication) form
- Uploading eBooks after confirmation
- The platform offers additional features such as journal publishing, peer review, and access to prizes and competitions. A detailed tutorial is available on YouTube (<https://boldscholar.com/>), providing step-by-step guidance on getting indexed and publishing on Boldscholar.

Guide on How To Sell Your Books On Boldscholar.com is available at: <https://www.nairaland.com/4692829/how-sell-books-boldscholar.com>

**Hands-on learning how to select the right journal for your manuscript in Clarivate indexed journals Master portal:** Due to time constraints, the session on selecting the right journal for manuscripts in Clarivate-indexed journals was condensed. Dr. John Agbo Ogbodo shared his training material, "Clarivate (Web of Science) - Your essential guide to finding the right papers, journals and researchers in a research field," with participants for future reference. i. How to find top journal articles: Here are the key steps every researcher should take to find relevant journal articles in your field.

♣ Step 1: Choose the right database for your search, which is: <https://mjl.clarivate.com/home>

♣ Step 2: Create free account to login into the portal or by using your OrCiD account or your preexisting account on the Clarivate Portal.

♣ Step 3: Master the keyword search with our top tips on finding the material most relevant to you. Clarivate Quick Reference PDF Guide is accessible from [https://clarivate.libguides.com/ld.php?content\\_id=35888196](https://clarivate.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=35888196) to help participants get started with searching the literature on the Web of Science portal.

♣ Step 4: Filter your results and analyze for trends to optimize the overall relevancy and efficiency of your efforts.

<https://videos.clarivate.com/watch/NqbQxhsTAHF8vb5xYnAiC4> . Therefore, analyze your results tool (watch video tutorial at <https://videos.clarivate.com/watch/NqbQxhsTAHF8vb5xYnAiC4>).

♣ Step 5: Explore the citation network to identify seminal and relevant research, and to track the advancement of ideas forwards and backward through time.

♣ Step 6: Save your searches and set up alerts to save time keeping abreast of new research. ii. Clarivate archive videos and training session/live training dashboard can be accessed at: <https://share.vidyard.com/watch/vww15ZsPGsJWzkQZT2t1cq>

## Conclusion

The climax of the event was the presentation of awards to the following organizations:

- National Library of Nigeria – Congratulatory Award @60
- Anambra State ICT Agency, Awka Nigeria Union of Journalists,
- NUJ, Anam
- Boldscholar Research Limited, Abuja

## d). Quality Assurance Training

To improve on the quality of teaching, the Faculty organized quality assurance training on..... Chaired by Dr. Cecilia Nwigwe. Three renowned scholars made very impactful teaching that became a turn-around for the pedagogy and result presentation in the Faculty. First was Prof. Uche Ekpunobi, Director, Quality Assurance and Certificate verification, who taught on “**Indices of Academic Exceptionalism**”,

### Highlights

To develop an internal quality culture, where quality is a primary focus of the institution and where quality permeates all institutional undertakings



The poster is for a 'Quality Assurance Workshop Seminar' held at the Faculty of Agriculture, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria. The title is 'Quality Assurance: An Index of Academic Exceptionalism'. The event is scheduled for 7th Nov 2023 at 10:00am. The Chief Host is Prof. Cordelia L. Ebeneke, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture. Four speakers are listed: Prof. Danice U. Ekpunobi (Director of Quality Assurance, UNIZIK), Dr. Azubulike N. Aniedu (Professor of CPE, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, UNIZIK), Dr. Cecilia A. Nwigwe (Associate Professor, Faculty of Agriculture, UNIZIK), and Prof. Nkechi Patricia Mary Esomelu (Faculty of Education). The event is held at Chem Hall, Faculty of Agriculture. Admission is free, and a certificate of participation will be available on request (N1000 only). Registration is via the link: <https://forms.gle/79W2AvLPDVe2nGdH9>.

## **INGREDIENTS OF EXCEPTIONALISM**

### **5 Cs of Exceptionalism**

#### **Character/Culture:**

- What do you stand for?
- Courage: Ability to overcome!
- Creativity: Novelty, ability to create
- Commitment: Dedication
- Collaboration: Your team

## **INDICES OF EXCEPTIONALISM: CREATIVE OUTPUTS**

### **Research**

- What Research and why?
- What resources/facilities?
- Quality of Research output?
- What impact? Social, Technological, Economic, etc
- SWOT analysis
- Collaboration

### **Books and Monographs**

#### **Journal articles:**

Where to publish? WoS, Scopus, Scimago, Google scholar, etc. (High impact factor)

Quality of research outputs.

Vitality of research instrument and environment.

#### **Technical Reports**

#### **Conference Attendance / Paper presentation**

### **Inventions**

#### **Academic Leadership:**

- Teaching and Supervision (B.Sc, M.Sc & Ph.D)
- Article Reviewing
- Attraction of Grants & Editorship

## The 5Ds of Success

- Desire, - Discipline, - Determination, - Diligence, Prov. 22:29, - Dutiful



The second paper was by Prof. Nkechi Esomonu, former Dean, Faculty of Education who took academics on a practical journey on the topic “**Indices of Quality Teaching, question setting, marking scheme preparation and marking**”.

## Highlights

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Pedagogy

- The aim is to develop the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in work, life and citizenship.
- It is embedded in 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.

#### ***The 21<sup>st</sup> century skills include:***

- Problem solving,
- Creativity,
- Critical thinking,
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Ethics and action
- Accountability

The 21<sup>st</sup> century skills can be applied in all subject areas and in all educational career, and civic setting.

- The aim is to develop the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in work, life and citizenship.
- It is embedded in 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.

#### ***Teaching Methods***

- Learner Centered Teaching Method are emphasized.
- Examples: Problem-based learning, project-based learning, inquiry-based learning.
- Most learner centered methods:
  - Encourage active learning and prompt feedback
  - Provide explicit skill instruction

- Directly engage students in the hard work of learning
- Encourage student to reflect on the process of learning and what they are learning
- Hands-on are emphasized in teaching.
- The learner requires individualization, interaction and integration

### ***Learning***

- Learning is a relatively permanent change in behaviour through experience or practice.
- Some principles of learning include the law of readiness, law of use and law of maturity.
- Learning is what a child can only do for **themselves**.
- Teaching quality refers to what teachers do in the classrooms to foster students learning.

### ***Teaching – Learning Process***

- It is a complex interaction between and among the teaching activities and the learning activities which should result in learning.
- State learning outcomes for every lecture.
- Teaching skills are important and should be used in lesson presentation.

### **Results of Quality Teaching**

Quality teaching should result in learning: i. High achievement ii. Resolve learning difficulties iii. Learners develop confidence iv. Reduce cheating and other misconducts v. Inculcation of 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills vii. Improved personality traits: positive attitude, interest, self-efficacy, self-esteem etc. viii. Social integration and engagement

### **Words Used to Assess Responses at Different Levels of Educational Objectives**

<b>Remembering:</b>	List, Define, Outline, Recall, Label, Identify, Quote, Name, Recall. State, Mention
<b>Understanding:</b>	Extend, Explain, Describe, Discuss, Draw, Review, Report, Locate, Restate, Translate
<b>Applying:</b>	Operate, Practice, Dramatize, Demonstrate, Use, Solve, Show, Modify, Compute, Manipulate.
<b>Analysing:</b>	Distinguish, Differentiate, Debate, Breakdown, Discriminate, Relate, Separate, Examine.
<b>Evaluating:</b>	Assess, Judge, Appraise, Criticize, Justify, Argue, Conclude, Support, Defend, Revise.
<b>Creating:</b>	Compose, Construct, Assemble, Design, Generate, Plan, Propose, Produce, Invent, Build, Formulate

### **1. Selection Of Test Type/ Format**

- The test type will depend on the level of the students, the content and the educational objectives covered during teaching.
- Will the test format be subjective or objective or both
- If it is essay (subjective test), what type?
- If it is Objective type, what type?

### **2. Essay (Subjective) Test**

- Essay test requires students to give answers of some reasonable length in their own words.
- Students are allowed to select, organize, integrate and synthesized their thoughts, and present their ideas in their own ways.
- **There are two types: extended-response essay item and restricted-response essay item**

#### **Extended-Response Item**

- It gives the students the freedom to select any factual information related to the question and organize the answer according to his judgment.
- Illustration:
- Compare and contrast ranching and pastoral farming systems
- Discuss the policies of the ruling political party in Nigeria

#### **Restricted-Response Item**

- In restricted-response essay item both the content and pattern of students' responses are limited. There is reduction in the scope of the response.
- Explain four functions of food.
- Discuss in not more than three pages why every lecturer should undergo training in pedagogy.

### **3. Objective Test**

An objective test is a test in which the scorer does not need to use judgment to determine whether a student's answer is right or wrong. The answers are simply compared with an answer key.

Types of objective tests:

- Multiple-choice item,
- Alternative response item
- Matching item
- Completion test

### **Multiple-Choice Item**

- Multiple-Choice item consists of a stem and options. The stem presents the task or problem to be responded to. The options which are usually four or five. One of the options will be the Key which is the answer and the others are distractors.
- Multiple-Choice test is versatile and can be used to set questions in all levels of cognitive domain.

### **Guidelines For Constructing Multiple-Choice Items**

- The stem should be meaningful and contains the task.
- All distractors should be plausible or equally attractive.
- All options for single stem should use the same grammatical form The options should be grammatically consistent with the stem.
- Avoid options like '**all of the above**' '**None of the above**' or determiners like **always or Never**.
- The key/answers should be randomly located within the options

### **4. Practical Test**

- A practical test is a test that assesses practical skills and techniques in laboratory or field settings.
- They are performance tests that measures motor and manipulative skills
- Credibility of the courses we teach often depend on what students can do in the workplace.
- Practical tests should measure both the process and the product of the skill being Assessed.

### **5. Marking Scheme**

- Marking scheme comprises of model answers to the test items indicating points that should score and marks allotted to each point.
- Marking scheme is best prepared when a test is being constructed. This will enable the teacher to frame questions that will clearly convey to the students the type of answers expected of them.

### **Model Answer to a Question**

- When you set a question, answer it the way you would expect a student to answer it to earn the maximum possible mark. This is a Model Answer.
- The model answer should show all characteristic that are consider important e.g. spelling, organization of facts, accuracy of information.
- It should be exhaustive enough to contain all alternatives or arrangements or methods to the questions.
- It should contain all possible points to earn the possible maximum score.



### **Marking Scheme Preparation**

To prepare a marking scheme:

- Prepare a model answer to each question.
- Identify all possible points to earn the maximum score.
- Allocate scores to all the relevant points.
- All issues considered important for points to earn maximum score must be stated e.g. Correct spelling, diagrams.

### **PROCEDURE FOR MARKING ESSAY TEST**

- Before beginning to mark, one should glance through a few scripts randomly selected. Make adjustment on the marking scheme if necessary.
- Scripts should be anonymously score.
- Strictly mark with marking scheme.
- Mark one question across scripts. Do not mark script by script.
- Mark consistently until you finish one number across scripts
- Reshuffle scripts before starting to mark any number.
- While marking make comments and correct errors on the scripts

### **Causes of Poor Marking of Essay Questions**

- Marking without marking scheme
- Poor model answers
- Lack of details in allocating marks to points
- Scoring script by scripts
- Lack of commitment and deliberate dishonesty on the part of lectures

### **Causes of Delay in Meeting the Deadlines in Marking Essays**

- Failing to prepare marking scheme when the test items were being constructed
- Large classes
- Distraction of lecturers by other official responsibilities.
- Social and family distractions
- Stamping down on the welfare of lecturers

Finally, Dr. Azubike Aniedu, Director of ICT (Software Services) at Nnamdi Azikiwe University took the lecturers on the topic “Uploading and Downloading Results”. His was full practical training on how to upload results to university portals such that students can view their result

- **Accreditation Preparation Training for HODs and Departmental Reps:** The Dean Prof. C.I. Ebeneke happened to chair NUC accreditation in two Nigerian University (University of Calabar and University of Uyo) and discovered reasons why some Universities fail accreditation. She therefore formed Accreditation Committee comprising all the Heads of Departments and Departmental Accreditation Committee Chairman and taught on the rudiments of documentation, proper planning in a successful accreditation and reasons some programmes fail. The Committee heralded the training which lasted for a whole day. It was an eye opener to every participant. The Dean finally admonished that while accreditation for most departments except Fisheries is in 2026, proper documentation should start now.

## B). First Technologists Training Workshop

### 1.Tech. Temple Sam Onwukwe M.ed, A.slt,Fismi) Presentation

#### The Role of Technologists in Academic Development

(The role of Technologists is embedded in the tripod stand of the educational system – the triangular-partnership (classroom, lab/w/shop and office)

#### a). Who is a Technologist?

- The Technologists contributes to preparing students to be applied, critical thinkers and problem solvers through innovative teaching and research. – American University of Nigeria (AUN)

**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY, AWKA**

*Presents*

**1ST TECHNOLOGISTS WORKSHOP**

**THEME**

**THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGISTS IN ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT**

 Prof. Cordelia I. Ebeneke Dean, Faculty of Agriculture (Host)	 Tech. Temple Sam Onwukwe M.ED Chief Technologist, UNIZIK (Keynote Speaker)	 Mr. Akwulo Muzalliba Deputy Coordinator, Equipment Maintenance & Repair Centre, UNIZIK (Guest Speaker)	 Enr. Arnold Ewewke, JAGUL, SEU CEO, Arnold & Associates (Guest of Honor)	 Engr. Chinodu Unomahama Coordinator, Equipment Maintenance & Repair Centre, UNIZIK & Chairman NISAT-NSU (Guest of Honor)	 Mrs. Teshima Oshesoma Member, Senate & Vice-Chancellor's Committee, UNIZIK (LOE Chairman)	 Mrs. Adachukwu C. Onyiah Head, FOM Unit (LOE Secretary)
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**Chem Hall, Faculty Of Agriculture, Unizik, Awka**

**Thurs. & Fri. 3rd & 4th April, 2025**

**11am prompt**

**Organizing Committee: All FAG Unit Heads**  
Certificates will be issued at the end of the workshop

- Technologist typically supports teaching and research by preparing and maintaining equipment, conducting experiments, assisting students, and ensuring lab safety, while also contributing to innovative teaching and research practices.

- According the NISLT – A Technologists play a crucial role in advancing the science laboratory technology profession, ensuring ethical standards, and managing laboratories effectively within the National Science Technology and Innovation System.

## **b). Responsibilities of a Technologist**

### **i. Managerial and leadership**

- Hiring, training and retraining of personnel
- Documentation and record keeping
- Involved in policy making and review
- Technical
- Perform laboratory tests, experiments, and analyses in accordance with established protocols and procedures.
- Prepare and maintain laboratory equipment, instruments, and materials for experiments and testing.
- Calibrate and operate laboratory equipment and instruments, ensuring accuracy and reliability of results.
- Collect and process samples, specimens, and data for analysis, recording observations and findings accurately.
- Assist with the development and validation of laboratory methods, procedures, and protocols.
- Conduct quality control checks and assurance procedures to ensure accuracy and reliability of test results.
- Troubleshoot and resolve technical issues and problems related to laboratory equipment, procedures, and processes.
- Follow safety protocols and procedures to ensure a safe and secure working environment for laboratory staff and stakeholders.
- Comply with regulatory requirements, quality standards, and laboratory policies and procedures.
- Collaborate with laboratory staff, scientists, and researchers to support research projects and studies.
- Provide technical support and assistance to laboratory staff, students, and other stakeholders as needed.
- Participate in laboratory meetings, trainings, and professional development activities to stay updated on industry trends and best practices.
- Contribute to the maintenance and cleanliness of the laboratory facilities and workspaces.
- Designing and producing manuals for practical teaching.
- Participation in academic publication (journals, conference papers, technical papers, etc.).
- Involvement in procurement of laboratory, workshop and studio equipment.
- Committee assignments and others responsibilities as may be assigned by Management, Faculty or Department.

## ii. The Evolving Role of Technologists in Higher Education

### Enhancing Teaching Methodologies

- Gone are the days of static, one-dimensional or routing teaching methods. With the integration of artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and interactive learning tools, technologists must redefined pedagogy to follow up with the global best practices. Smart classrooms, learning management systems (LMS), and AI-driven personalized learning platforms have enabled educators to cater to diverse learning styles and needs.
- Revolutionizing Research and Innovation
- The role of technologists extends beyond laboratory and workshop management to the very core of academic progress—research.
- Ensuring Academic Integrity and Security
- Technologists play an indispensable role in safeguarding academic institutions from compromise in standards, data breaches and securities, and intellectual property theft. By implementing robust security protocols, encryption techniques, and secure authentication systems, they ensure that the integrity of research, assessments, and academic records remains intact.

## 2). Mr. Jacob Mbazulike Akwuba's Presentation (Second Resource Person)

The second speaker Mr. Jacob Anakwuba started off the discussion by quoting the dictum of **Lord Kelvin, who manufactured the thermometer that has his name as the unit of the scale**

(degree Kelvin) thus

***“Science and Technology never rest, the restlessness is the vehicle of advancement of learning which the Skilled Technologist Lubricate its wheels of research, development and impacting the empirical knowledge to the insatiable, Curious minds of the learners or tyros.”***

Thus, he reiterated on the thought what then is the clear role of the technologist in advancement of learning/Academic Development and responded as follows”:

In the first place, I will haste to query who is a technologist? Technologist is a professional who specializes in applying the prior acquired scientific knowledge, theories and principles of science to the practical applications of Sciences and Engineering research, interrogations and the hand on teachings of the acquired knowledge to learners in real time in the lab or studio. They work in fields of Medicine (Med Tech) Surgical (theatres), Radiology, Engineering, Aviation, Physics, Chemistry, Biology,

Agriculture and other fields of knowledge that are too numerous to nation owing to paucity of time and Space.

He related the story of United Araba Emirate that studied the job of Technologist and the lecturers and come to the Conclusion that to be amongst the developing comity of nations, the UAE adopted the aspect of method of delivery and practices to be used in classroom teaching of science courses by effecting a drastic change in her educational system in terms of Teachers qualification and classroom practices. To be a teacher in science, one must have ten years and above experience as a Laboratory Technologist So that s/he may teach the Science principles s/he can demonstrate in practice and what s/he has in dept understanding of and not theoretical knowledge alone.

In elucidating the role of technologist in academic development, Mr. Anakwuba stated that

**Firstly, technologist play significant role in effectiveness of understanding of the topics.**

It was Lord Kelvin who developed Kelvin Scale of temperature measurement who aptly stated that **"If you as a scientist knows something and is unable to express it in numbers, figures and can not demonstrate it in repeatable manner, the person has nothing but meager knowledge of the subject"** A mechanical Engineer who do send his car to the roadside artisan mechanic has nothing but a meager knowledge of mechanical engineering. It is widely believed that practical work, data collection by technologist is essential in teaching and learning in the field. S/He must also ensure that good practical work helps develop students in dept understanding of science course, theories, principles, processes and Concepts, these undoubtedly have effect on the attainment of Scores of Students in examination and proficiency in field work or practices.

**Secondly, Technologist work in configuration of practical work**

The theoretical traditional course works focuses solely on enlarging the language register of Students on terminologies and oral explanations of concepts, theories, principles etc. Students do learn the associated skills from technologists by following instructions written in laboratory manual step by step which will give the students training on creativity that will develop their Cognitive knowledge of the topic/principle, theory etc. If the student Studies a Course without connecting it to real life experimentations under the technologist, then the knowledge will be of no value.

***In Law, green horn lawyers do pupilage under seniors who have practiced for ten years and above as it is understood that without subjecting theoretical knowledge to practical skills, the knowledge is only half baked meager and useless . One***

***cannot learn X-ray Imaging without studying the use of the X-ray machine and interpretation of the results from Radiologist/X-ray Technologist.***

**Thirdly, Technologists work in fields of Chemistry, Biology, Medicine, Physics, Engineering etc.** The fields of chemistry and Biology are important fields of Science course that examine the structure of matter, composition, properties and interaction between constituent atoms. The technologist in these fields enables the learners to See in real time and understand the above information. These fields are deemed difficult to learn by students in the absence of practical work with technologist in the laboratory. To overcome the perceived difficulty, and understand the properties of all materials and changes that occur when interaction take place, Many practical applications of works and experiments designed by technologist in academic must take place in course of study, so that the perceived difficulty in learning the course will disappear. The traditional teachers do teach how to assay the presence of, and count of bacteria, fungi, viruses in blood as theoretical explanation in class room but in the laboratory technologists show different methods of assessing the presence of the microorganisms by real time and hands on learning and assessments.

**Fourthly, numerous and diverse methods are used in teaching and learning.**

There is a theory of learning developed by Edgar Dale, Known as Dale's Cone of learning. According to the cone's theory, students' learn, retain and remember only 10% of what they read, 20% of what they hear (class room lectures). 30% of what they see, 50% of what they see and learn, 70% of what they say and write and 90% of what they hear and do. According to the Dale's Cone, the least effective method of learning is through written and verbal Symbols or explanations while the most effective method involves direct, purposeful learning Such as hands on or laboratory work or field experience. The experience in each stage can be mixed and are interrelated. Direct hands on learning in the Laboratory represent reality of things in everyday learning. This has been adopted by Advanced Countries of America, Europe, China and other developed Countries while we in Africa deride this global best practice for paper qualification and pedagogy.

**Fifthly, in Academic Research Design:** The Laboratory Technologist equipped with background knowledge of the course do design research methodology that will suit the investigation and interrogation of the logical Concept or hypothesis. The technologist apply the knowledge based on the available equipment in this singular function. Researches, in some cases are novel practical work which requires lots of Cognitive and Conceptual Knowledge to design the method of obtaining the desired result. The result thus obtained shall be subjected to algebraic treatment and good logic to formulate a principle, concept, theory or hypothesis by the Technologist.

**Challenges technologists face in discharging of their duties in academics:**



The primus is that a Technologist shall undergo a requisite training in the chosen field sponsored by the academic or research institution so that s/he will learn how to operate, calibrate and maintain any equipment or teaching aid s/he shall use in hands on teaching of the learners. Also, the equipment Suppliers must present an UL Certified equipment that meet global specification in generating accurate and the validated result so that results can be reproducible in all sister laboratories. Technologists being the end users of the equipment shall be made to make an input in the design and Construction of the Laboratory where s/he will work. These have been the arm twisting acts by non professional technologists who carry out the purchase of equipment and the consumables, design and Construction of the place of work. The greatest challenge is the gas lighting by the lecturers.

**In Conclusion**, the technologist is charged with ensuring that UL equipment are purchased, s/he shall Calibrate the equipment, know how to operate or use the equipment in hands on teaching, perform routine servicing and the repairs of equipment, be verse in designing standard operation procedures for carrying out research, and above all, ensure that six foot rule is applied in the energizing of the Laboratory. All these make the technologist an indispensable tutor and the resource person in the academic research and the teaching world.



### c). Administrative / Secretarial Staff

Mrs. Stella Ifeyinwa Okeke, Deputy Registrar 1, School of General Studies, presented the paper titled:

#### The Impact of Effective Administrative Staff in Achieving Leadership Goals

It is an honor and my pleasure to be here today to address such a vital segment of our university—the administrative staff. Often referred to as the *backbone* of an organization, administrative professionals play a crucial role in ensuring smooth operations, facilitating leadership success, and driving organizational goals.

Today, we will explore:

- The critical role of administrative staff in leadership success.
- Key qualities of effective administrative professionals.
- How administrative efficiency impacts leadership and organizational growth.
- Strategies for maximizing administrative effectiveness.

#### The Critical Role of Administrative Staff in Leadership Success

Administrative staff are the bridge between leadership and execution. Their contributions include:

**Coordination & Communication:** Ensuring seamless flow of information between leadership, teams, and external stakeholders.

## Why Is this Important?

In **When information flows efficiently**: A university system like **UNIZIK**, smooth communication is the **life-blood** of operations (essential for operations).

- **Leadership (VC, DVCs, Deans, HODs)** can make **faster, better decisions**.

**Example:** When the **VC approves a new academic policy**, the **Registry** ensures:

- Memos are **circulated promptly** to all faculties.
- HODs **acknowledge receipt** (avoiding the *"I wasn't aware"* excuse).
- **Follow-up reminders** are sent before deadlines

- **Staff & Lecturers** stay aligned with policies and deadlines:

Example when the Senate approves a new academic calendar or exam timetable, the administrative staff acts as the vital link that turns decisions into action. The Registry ensures the memo reaches every faculty and department, while local admin staff relay the details to lecturers and students through notices, emails, or even quick hallway reminders. If this chain breaks—say, a department misses the update—lecturers might plan lessons based on old dates, exams could clash with unfinished syllabi, and frustrated students may protest "surprise" deadlines. Smooth operations hinge on admin staff not just sending information, but making sure it sticks.

With this I can say that: *"Policies only work when they reach the people who need them. That's where you come in—connecting the Senate's decisions to the classrooms and corridors where they matter."*

**Students** get timely updates (admissions, exams, fees): This still aligns with the previous example I gave regarding timely dispatch of memos and information.

**External stakeholders (NUC, JAMB, TETFund, parents)** trust the institution: *When administrative staff promptly submit accurate accreditation reports to NUC, process JAMB admissions without delays, and transparently communicate TETFund project updates, it builds trust with these stakeholders—ensuring continued approvals, funding, and parental confidence in the university's standards. You see that as an admin staff your efficiency directly shapes how external partners view your institution.*

As admin staff there are various **Tools for Smooth Information Flow. Most of these tools we already know. They include:**

**Memos & Circulars** – Use **signed, stamped copies** (not just verbal instructions), this shows how official and reliable the information is.

**Emails & SMS Alerts** – For urgent updates (e.g., **rescheduled exams**).

**Portals/Apps** – UNIZIK's **student portal** reduces physical enquiries.

**Meetings & Minutes** – Document key decisions (e.g., **Faculty Board resolutions**). To create an official record that prevents disputes, ensures accountability, and maintains

institutional memory when staff change or policies are reviewed.

**Feedback Channels** – Suggestion boxes/online forms to **report gaps**. A feedback channel like an online survey can help admin staff identify bottlenecks and strategize to fix the issues.

What Happens When Communication Fails?

- **Leadership frustration** (e.g., VC's directive ignored by departments): **When administrative communication fails, leadership directives get lost in transit—delaying decisions, creating confusion, and frustrating management at all levels**
- **Student unrest** (e.g., protests over unannounced fee hikes).
- **Reputation damage** (e.g., NUC downgrading UNIZIK for poor data submission). When administrative staff submit incomplete, late, or inaccurate data to regulatory bodies like NUC (National Universities Commission), it can lead to: Loss of Accreditation, Funding cut by bodies like TETFund, Questioning of the Universities credibility by students and parents

Pro Tips for Admin Staff

- **Never assume "someone else will inform them."** Confirm delivery.
- **Use Standardize templates** for memos/reports to avoid confusion.
- **Use WhatsApp groups or other social media platforms for urgent alerts** (e.g., HODs' group for policy updates).
- **Document everything** – Avoid *"he said/she said"* disputes.

Other Critical Roles include:

**B Time & Resource Management:** Administrative staff help leaders (like VC, deans and HODs) manage their time and resources better by organizing their schedules, reminding them of important tasks, and handling routine work—so leaders can focus on big decisions.

**C Problem-Solving:** Anticipating challenges and providing solutions before they escalate. For example:

**Student Clearance Bottlenecks**

- *Problem:* You notice 500 students crowding the registry for clearance on the first day, creating chaos.
- *Your Action:* You immediately implement a departmental scheduling system (Arts on Monday, Sciences on Tuesday), set up a help desk for missing documents, and deploy extra staff from quieter units.
- *Result:* Clearance becomes orderly and finishes 3 days faster, preventing student frustration.

## Payroll Errors Prevention

- *Problem:* You spot that new staff bank details weren't properly captured during recruitment.
- *Your Action:* You create a verification system where all new staff must confirm their account details in person with Bursary staff before first payment.
- *Result:* Eliminates the monthly "missing salary" complaints that delay work.

*I will end this aspect by saying "as an admin staff you should be able to See problem  
→ Create system → Prevent future repeats"*

**D Representation:** Acting as the first point of contact, shaping the organization's image. Administrative staff are often the **first people** students, parents, visiting professors, or government officials interact with at every institution. How you handle these interactions—whether in person, on the phone, or via email—directly shapes their **perception of the university or any other institution**.

*"A great leader needs a great support system—administrative staff make leadership possible."*

## Key Qualities of an Effective Administrative Staff

To be truly impactful, administrative professionals should cultivate:

✓ **Organizational Skills** – Managing files, schedules, and workflows efficiently.

✓ **Communication Excellence** – An Admin Staff should be able to communicate in a clear, professional, and diplomatic manner.

✓ **Adaptability** – Handling unexpected changes with composure. means quickly adjusting to sudden changes (like policy shifts, tech failures, or urgent requests) without panic. It involves staying calm, thinking on your feet, and finding solutions even when plans fall apart. In a university like UNIZIK, this skill keeps operations running smoothly during strikes, last-minute Senate directives, or system crashes.

✓ **Discretion & Confidentiality** – Trustworthiness in handling sensitive information. **Discretion and confidentiality here means safeguarding sensitive university information—like student records, exam materials, or staff details—by never sharing it carelessly, securing documents properly, and maintaining trust so UNIZIK operates with integrity and avoids legal or reputational harm.**

✓ **Tech-Savviness** – Proficiency in office software and digital tools. This **means efficiently using digital tools like Microsoft Office, email systems, and university portals to streamline tasks—ensuring faster document processing, smoother**

communication, and fewer errors in UNIZIK's daily operations. With this an admin staff will ensure a high efficiency in carrying out their job.

✓ **Proactiveness** – Taking initiative to improve processes. This means anticipating problems before they arise and taking action to improve systems—whether by simplifying a slow clearance process, fixing recurring errors in student records, or suggesting better tools to save time, all without waiting for directives.

### 3. How Effective Administrative Staff Impact Leadership Goals

- **Enhances Productivity:** By managing logistics, leaders focus on strategic decisions.
- **Improves Decision-Making:** Providing accurate data and timely reports aids leadership choices.
- **Boosts Employee & Client Satisfaction:** Smooth operations lead to better stakeholder experiences.
- **Cost Efficiency:** Reducing redundancies and optimizing resources saves time and money.

*Example:* A well-organized admin team ensures that the leaders (like VC, Deans and HODs) time is spent on growth strategies rather than fixing avoidable operational gaps.

### 4. Strategies for Maximizing Administrative Effectiveness

- **Continuous Learning:** Stay updated on best practices and new technologies.
- **Feedback Mechanism:** Regularly seek input from leadership and colleagues for improvement.
- **Process Automation:** Use tools (e.g., scheduling software, digital filing) to minimize manual work.
- **Networking:** Build strong professional relationships across departments.
- **Stress Management:** Maintain work-life balance to sustain high performance.

### Conclusion

Leadership success is not achieved in isolation—it is a collaborative effort. As administrative professionals, you are strategic partners in driving organizational success. By refining your skills, staying proactive, and aligning with leadership visions, you contribute directly to achieving key goals.

*"Behind every great leader is an exceptional administrative team making things happen."*

Let's take this session as an opportunity to reflect on how we can further enhance our impact. I look forward to your thoughts and experiences.



### **13). Students' Development**

**i. Heart to Heart with Dean:** Upon assumption of office, the Dean, Prof. C.I. Ebenebe called for an interactive meeting first with student leaders at the Departmental level, then Faculty and later with the entire students to communicate her intentions on students' development in three spheres of life: academic, financial and spiritual. She emphasized that while a lot of students by reason of peer pressure see education as a scam the same education has put children of poor men in positions of authority, she recounted the story of Distinguished Sen. Binta Masai Garuba whose father was one of IBB's driver but rose to position of authority by reason of education. She therefore urged the students to take their studies seriously. She also mentioned that the reason a lot of students get entangled into internet fraud as a ladder to a good life is because they are not exposed to grant opportunities that will make their lives better. She therefore promised to train the students on grant proposal writing and scholarship opportunities, which she consistently posted to the student's platform. Secondly, the Dean highlighted her intention to institute cash awards for best performing students and those on the Dean's list for having highest CGPA.

**ii. Memorandum of Cooperation with Chung Hsing University, Taiwan for Agricultural Scholarship:** In line with Dean's promise to the students' body, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 2024, the Faculty hosted delegates from Chung Hsing University, Taiwan for Taiwan Agricultural Scholarship Project provisions and memorandum of Cooperation in the training of best performing Agriculture students promoted by Food for the Hungry International, Taiwan. The team first went on a courtesy call to the Acting Vice Chancellor Prof. Carol Arinze-Umeobi who received them warmly on behalf of the University and pledged the University fair disposition to the memorandum. The team were later hosted to grandiose reception by Igwe Ofuebe (Ogidiga of Ifite-Ogwari) in his palace at Ifite- Ogwari. By February 2025, the Scholarship opportunities were thrown open to the students for application. A number of them have applied and we are looking forward to a favourable outcome.

This noble cause was initiated by Apostle Amalu Obinna Malachi, the executive Director Food for the Hungry International (FHIT) in Nigeria and Bishop O.C. Dominic, General Superintendent, National Evangelism Mission, Patron, Food for the Hungry International (FHIT), Nigeria. The leader of the team Rev. William Tseng, the Chief Executive officer Food for the Hungry International (FHIT) Taiwan, and Vision of Community Fellowship (VOCF) led the team from Taiwan. The Dean of the Faculty, Prof. C.I. Ebenebe, signed the Memorandum of the Faculty on behalf of the Faculty while Rev. William Tseng signed on behalf of Food for the Hungry International (FHIT), Taiwan.

- **Cash Award to Best Performing Students/ Most Resilient Students**

During the second International Conference, best performing students and best improved students were given cash awards for academic excellence:

Animal Science

- Ogene Ruth Odinaka
- Orji Divine Dabrechi

Agric Econs and Extension

- Okolo Victory Chioma
- Aniedu, Anita Chiamaka

Crop Sc and Horticulture

- Nnanatu Emmanuella Chidimma
- Wilson Emeka Okpala

Soil Science

- Okoye Judith Chidera

iv, **Grant Winning/ Grants:** A number of students won various forms of Grants in my two years tenure

v. **Involvement in State Activities:** The Dean through her relationship with the Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ihejiofor, got the Faculty involved in all the State activities that bothers on Agriculture. The first is flagging off of Farming Season by Mr. Governor Prof. Charles Soludo at Fegge Stadium Onitsha, our students did not only participate but also presented drama clip on the gains of farming. The cream of Anambra State stalwarts of Mr. Governors developmental projects and all the traditional rulers, president generals, who is who in Anambra State were present at the event. **Our students were given over one (N1M) as stipends, while the four lecturers who organized them received over three hundred thousand Naira.**

Secondly our students were also invited to Mr. Governor's launch of seeds and seedlings distribution at Amansea and received **over three hundred and fifty thousand (N350, 000) as stipends.** On that same day one of our students **Mr. Stephen Ozoagu who promoted the gains of agriculture to the governor's admiration was given One million Naira (N1M) Cash Award.**

- **Restructuring of Industrial Training**

The structure whereby students of agriculture stay at Ifite-Ogwari for six months of Industrial training was disrupted by the seven months industrial strike by the academic staff. The Dean therefore wrote to Management and received approval for the students to undertake part of their industrial training in the first semester when the dry season would not encourage farming at Ifite-Ogwari. Following the Vice Chancellor's approval, the Faculty structured the Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme in such a way that students go to standard farms in the first semester and work in our farm land at Ifite-Ogwari in the last three months.

- **Engaging of Students that are not Cleared for NYSC:** Students who for some reasons did not pass one or two courses and those for one reason or the other did not receive Call up letter for NYSC were not left out in this gracious administration, rather such students were organized to work in farms where they receive monthly stipends while they prepare to clear their issues. Examples include: Ojukwu, Ihuoma (09039425117), Udobi David Tochukwu (09024763843), Adaora Okafor (09065330131) assigned to LongBen Oranto Farm at Ukpo and Taiwo Olaitan Victoria (08138917283), Destiny Okunsuiyi (09019187547), Isiam Chizoba (08104439062), Enwelani MaryAnn Ujunwa (09032811788) and Anekwe MaryCynthia (09063403499) to R&G Farms Nando, where the students are already working for a monthly stipend to support themselves financially.

#### **14. Faculty Alumni/ Contribution to Faculty Development**

It was the desire of this administration to establish Faculty Alumni relations that will help in the development of the Faculty. Initial efforts at this failed for the reasons but God in his own magnanimity graciously perfected this dream using two alumni: Orji Chidiebere, South East Regional Manager, AgroFeast Nigeria and also PhD student of Crop Science Department and Agbaka JohnPaul who read Food Science and currently a PhD student of Development Studies at Agricultural Universities China to actualise this dream. Thus, the first Faculty Alumni programme bothered on teaching the undergraduates the rudiments of research that can build a better future outside "Yahoo Yahoo" was organized by these two gentlemen and held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May at Chem Hall. The topics on the training modules are shown on the flyer below:

- Setting the Stage: Why Research matters
- Laying the Foundation: Understanding the Research Process
- Leveraging AI for Smarter Research
- Research Tools and Techniques
- Writing and Presenting like a Winner
- How to Write and Present Research with Confidence

- Panel Talk / Q &A: Lessons from the Field



The Alumni,  
Faculty of Agriculture, Nnamdi Azikiwe University

# RESEARCH SEMINAR

UNDERSTANDING THE FUNDAMENTALS OF RESEARCH: BASIC STEPS  
TO FINDING A RESEARCH TOPIC



**Modules:**

- Setting the Stage – Why Research Matters
- Laying the Foundation – Understanding the Research Process
- Leveraging AI for Smarter Research
- Research Tools and Techniques
- Writing & Presenting Like a Winner
- How to Write and Present Research with Confidence
- Panel Talk / Q&A: Lessons from the Field

*Note: Modules would be treated on rolling basis*

 **Date: 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2025**

 **Time: 11am prompt**

 **Venue: FAG Hall beside Dean`s office**

**Endorsed by: Prof. Ebeneke C.**

**Moderator:**

**Orji Chidiebere**



- B.Agric (Crop Science and Horticulture, NAU)
- M.Sc (Horticulture, NAU)
- PhD in-view (General Horticulture, NAU)
- South-East Regional Manager, AgroFeast Nigeria Ltd

**Keynote Speaker:**

**Agbaka JohnPaul**

- B.Sc. (Food Sci. & Tech, Nnamdi Azikiwe University)
- M.Sc. (Food Sci. & Engn., China Agriculture University, CSC Scholarship)
- M.A (AgriFood Business Management, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Erasmus+ Scholarship)
- PhD in-view (Development Studies, China Agricultural University, CSC Scholarship)
- Over 12 SCI publications; SCI Journal Editor and Reviewer.

## 15. Faculty Journal

### ***Introduction***

The Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Journal (AFNRJ), an esteemed journal under the officially published by Faculty of Agriculture at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, was established with the aim of advancing the scientific discourse in agriculture, food systems, and natural resource management. The journal is designed to provide a platform for high-quality, peer-reviewed research in these fields, fostering both local and international collaborations. The second Editor-in-Chief and pioneer in the current name and his team have worked to establish a robust editorial structure, operational workflows, and a comprehensive submission system to ensure the journal's success.

Upon appointment of **Onyekachi Chukwu, PhD** as the **Editor-in-Chief**, the terms of references were to:

- Establish a clear editorial process for submissions, peer reviews, and publications.
- Build a strong editorial board that reflects the journal's mission.
- Enhance the journal's visibility and credibility within the academic and research communities.
- Index journal in relevant repositories and indexing/abstracting bodies

### ***Activities and Milestones***

#### **• Journal Establishment**

The journal was preciously titled (2022-2023) International Journal of Agriculture, Food and Biodiversity (IJAFAB) and had produced Volume 1 and 2 under the leadership of the Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Ernest C. Igwe. **The IJAFAB was modified as it was not registered with the National Library, hence, Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Journal (AFNRJ).** The process of establishing AFNRJ began with a clear vision to contribute to the development of the agricultural, food, and natural resource sectors in Africa and beyond. This was achieved through:

Securing an ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) from the National Library for the journal to enable its proper identification and citation in academic circles. ISSN: 1597-7153 (electronic) and 3043-5420 (print).

- Developing comprehensive editorial policies, including author guidelines, review processes, and ethical standards to ensure integrity in publishing.
- Building a robust website. The Open Journal Systems (OJS) software developed by the Public Knowledge Project (PKP) was utilized and integrated into the UNIZIK databased. **Website:** <https://journals.unizik.edu.ng/afnrj>
- Launching the journal with a call for submissions and announcing the editorial board to the wider academic community.
- Indexing the journal and provision of Digital Object Identifier (DOI):

AFNRJ is currently listed in

- Google Scholar,
- OpenAIRE
- Zenodo
- CERN Open Science
- UnizikSpace
- Nnamdi Azikiwe University Repository

The first issue of AFNRJ (Volume 3 Issue 1) was successfully published on the 31st March within three months of its establishment.

- **Editorial Board Formation**

The editorial board was carefully selected to ensure a diverse and expert representation in the areas of agriculture, food, and natural resources. The board consists of:

- Leading academics from various disciplines within the journal's scope.
- Experts with international experience in the relevant fields.
- A balanced mix of professionals with research, policy, and practical knowledge.

### **Editorial Team**

- Editor-in-Chief:** Dr. Onyekachi CHUKWU, Faculty of Agriculture, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, NIGERIA
- Deputy Editor-in-Chiefs:**
  - Prof. Helen Obioma AGU, Faculty of Agriculture, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, NIGERIA
  - Dr. Ya-Ping LIN, World Vegetable Center, Headquarters 60 Yi-Min Liao, Shanhua, Tainan 74151, TAIWAN
  - Dr. Emmanuel AMPONSAH ADJEI, Savanna Agricultural Research Institute, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Tamale, GHANA
  - Dr. Chika Florence IKEOGU, Faculty of Agriculture, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, NIGERIA
- Business Editor/Secretary:** Chiamaka Chinasa OBASI, Faculty of Agriculture, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka,
- Section Editors:**

***Biotechnology and Breeding:***

Dr. Ahmed Mohamed ABDELMOGHNY, Professor of Cotton Breeding, Cotton Breeding Department, Cotton Research Institute, Agricultural Research Centre, Giza, EGYPT



***Climate Change***

Razak KIRIBOU, Transformative environmental research pathway, African Center of Excellence for Climate Smart Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation, Haramaya University, ETHIOPIA

***Animal Science***

Dr. Emilia Chibuzor OKAFOR, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Nnamdi Azikwe University, Awka, NIGERIA

***Crop Science***

Dr. Eucharia Adaobi OBIDIEBUBE, Department of Crop Science and Horticulture, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, NIGERIA

***Agricultural and Bio-Environmental Engineering***

Engr. Dr. Babagana SHERIFF, Faculty of Science and Engineering, University of Wolverhampton, UNITED KINGDOM

***Forestry and Wildlife***

Dr. Jacinta Ukamaka EZENWENYI, Department of Forestry and Wildlife, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, NIGERIA

***Food Science and Technology***

Dr. Clement Chinedum EZEGBE, Department of Food Science and Technology, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, NIGERIA

***Medicinal plant, Ethnobotany, Ethnobotany & Pharmacognosy***

Pharm. Dr. Henrietta Chinenye NEDUM, Department of Pharmacognosy and Traditional Medicine, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, NIGERIA

***Wood Science and Bio-waste Utilisation***

Dr. Gloria Titi ANGURUWA, Principal Research Fellow, Department of Forest Products Development and Utilisation, Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria, Ibadan, NIGERIA

***Agricultural Economics and Business***

Dr. Temple Nneamaka NWANKWO, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, NIGERIA

***Soil Science***

Dr. Nathaniel Sunday OBASI, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, National Open University of Nigeria, Kaduna, NIGERIA

***Fisheries and Aquaculture***

Dr. Ojo AKINROTIMI, Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research, Lagos, NIGERIA

***Applied Microbiology***

Dr. Onyekachukwu I. UDEMEZUE, Department of Applied Microbiology and Brewing, Faculty of Biosciences, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, NIGERIA

**Advisory Editors:**

- Prof. Cordelia Ifeayinwa EBENEKE, Department of Animal Science, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, NIGERIA
- Dr. Gazali MUHAMMED, -Special Advisor to the President on Development Finance, Abuja, -Pioneer Chief Executive Office/Executive Secretary, National Agricultural Development Fund, NIGERIA
- Prof. Okorie Okoro NDUKWE, Department of Crop Science and Horticulture, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, NIGERIA

**Managing Editors:**

- Dr. Josiah Thomas Bitrus RIKI, Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Federal University Wukari, NIGERIA
- Dr. Onyekachi CHUKWU, Faculty of Agriculture, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, NIGERIA

This board was formed through a transparent selection process based on merit and expertise. The editorial board's role is to ensure high-quality publications, oversee the peer-review process, and advise on journal development. The board is still not complete; however, the editors are gradually reviewing the CVs of applicants and will enlist other editors as soon as they are cleared.

• **Submission and Publication Workflow**

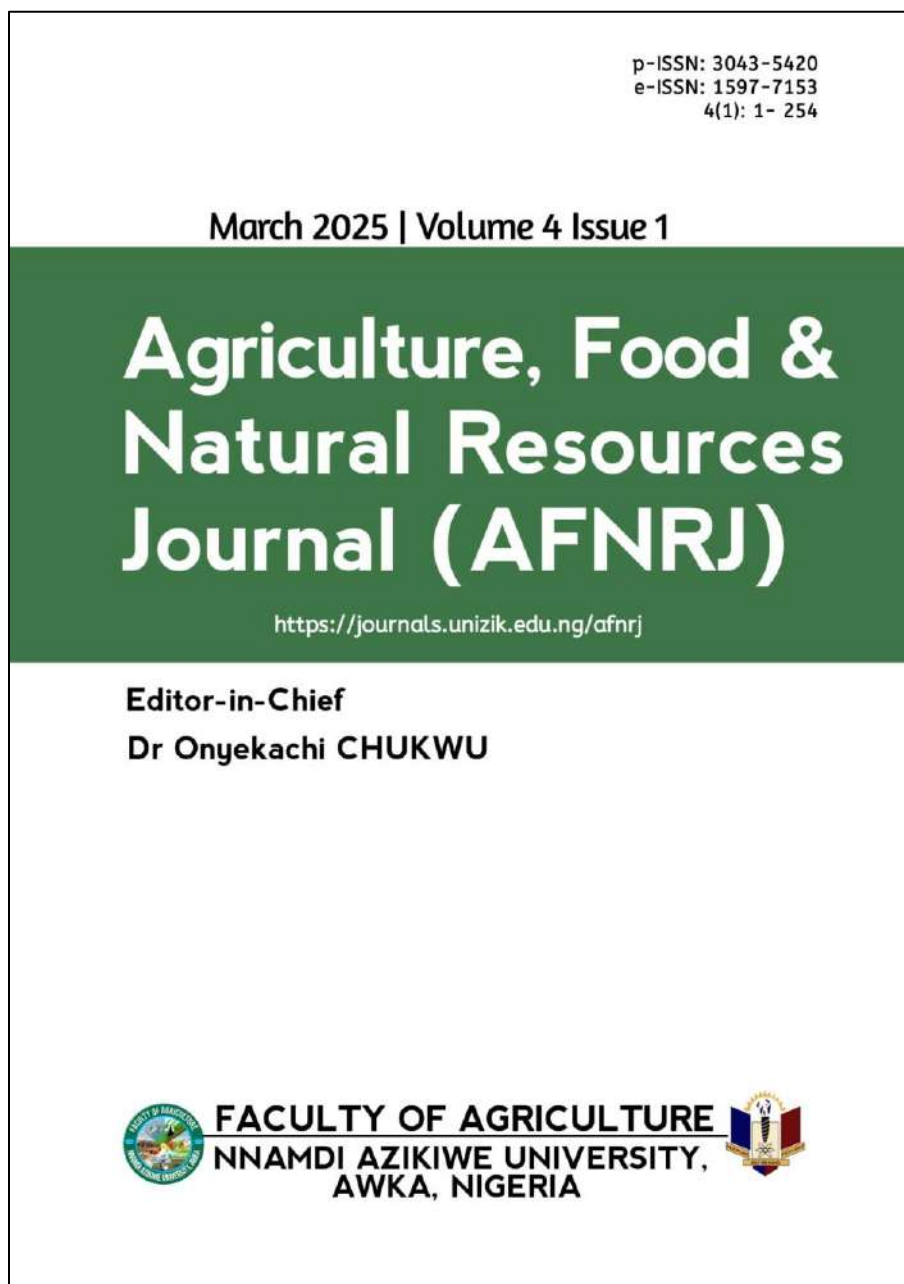
Articles for volume 3 and 4 were submitted using the journal official email. However, to facilitate smooth operations, we established an online submission system through the journal's website. Submission currently is both via email and website. The journal intends to begin sole submission via the website from October 2025 for the Volume 5 (2026). This system allows for:

- Easy manuscript submission by authors.
- A peer-review process where manuscripts are reviewed by experts in the field.
- A transparent and efficient communication channel between authors, reviewers, and editors.

Statistics so far indicate 105 submissions, with 91 articles accepted and published. This is a promising start that suggests an increasing interest in the journal.

### Published Issues

So far, the journal has published 4 Volumes from inception. From January 2024 the journal has published 3 issues. Notable articles include:



- AKINYEMI et al. Effects of different organic manure on growth, yield and quality of garden egg (*Solanum melongena*) in Ondo State, Nigeria, with a total of Abstract view of 235 and File view of 334.
- OLADEJI et al. Assessment of the supply chain of soursop (*Annona muricata* L.) fruit and leaves in Ibadan, Nigeria, with a total of Abstract view of 306 and File view of 194.
- MOJEKWU et al. Mozambique Tilapia *Oreochromis mossambicus* (Peters 1852) and the threat from *Oreochromis niloticus* (Linnaeus 1758) in South Africa: A review- with a total of Abstract view of 195 and File view of 192.

These publications have covered diverse topics within agriculture, food security, and natural resources management, with a particular focus on regional challenges faced in tropical environments, which align with the journal's mission.

## 15. Certificate Programme

In a bid to scout for other sources of revenue for the development of the Faculty and in tandem with what obtains in other institutions, the Dean initiated the idea of short courses especially Certificate programme aimed at skill development in entrepreneurial areas of agriculture as a means of empowering people unable to gain admission into degree programme for better livelihood. The curriculum for Certificate programme was developed by a number of departments: Agricultural Economics and Extension, Soil Science and Land Resources

Management, Fisheries and Aquaculture and Animal Science Department.

However, only the curricular of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Management and that of Animal Science department have received senate approval, when the initial Committee on Certificate

programme failed to deliver on the assignment, the Dean appointed a new Committee led by Mrs. Chiamaka

Obasi, therefore Certificate programme for the two departments has taken off in earnest.



**16. Bifurcation of Agricultural Economics Department:** Following the resource verification of the Agricultural programme in 2011 and establishment of the programme, the academic staff in the department of Agricultural Economics and Extension has been having problems/ conflicts as the ideas / description of concepts, research methodologies and approach to research differs in the two areas of studies. As the conflicts deepens and the lingering problems elicited personal misunderstandings among academics, the Faculty realised the only way out is the bifurcation of the department into Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Extension Departments respectively. The department was therefore given the mandate to develop separate

curriculum for the two departments. The two curricula were presented and got approval of the University Curriculum Committee and later ratified by the University Senate. The two separate departments will therefore undergo resource verification this academic year.

### **17. Creation of Veterinary Programme**

The Faculty in a bid to increase the student and staff population at Ifite- Ogwari, supported the bid to create Faculty of Veterinary medicine as another Faculty to be situated at Ifite- Ogwari. Following the Dean's approval, Dr. Ikeogu set out to develop the curriculum for the new Faculty. It was presented to University Curriculum Committee and later received Senate approval (Approval letter is Attached) on the ground that it starts first as a programme in the Faculty of Agriculture, so we look forward to the resource verification and complete take off of the programme.

### **18. Management of Raymond Isiadinso Market Garden**

The Dean in a bid to increase internally generated revenue for the Faculty established a market garden for the sale of agricultural inputs and products as well as other necessary commodities. The Market Garden named after the benefactor, Mr. Raymond Isiadinso was launched on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March, 2025 as a prelude to the Third International Conference. The market garden business was handed over to FAG Agribusiness committee lead by Prof. Helen Agu as the Chairman, Dr. Chuks Chukwumaijem as the Vice Chairman and Mrs. Onyinye Anyanebechi as the secretary. Other members of the committee include Prof. James Obiegbuna, Prof. Ndukwe Okorie, Dr. Leonard Ugwuowo , Okafor Mmaduabuchi, Dr. Henry Okolie, Dr. Uko Ibeabuchi , Dr. Chika Ikeogu and Mrs Esther Ezekwem.

### **19: Cash Award to Best Student of Each Department and Overall Best Student of the Faculty**

The Faculty initiated cash award to the best student of each department and the overall best student in the Faculty i.e best students of the 2023/2024 academic year. The students' were issued with the University merit awards and cash awards from the departments while the overall best student got cash award of hundred thousand Naira from the Faculty. Each department gave award of fifty thousand Naira to her best student

*BEYOND EXPECTATIONS: THE ANNALS OF PROF. CORDELIA EBENEKE DEANSHIP TENURE  
(JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> 2023- JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> 2025)*

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| • Agric, Econs and Ext.    | Chioma Rita Nwosu                       |
| • Animal Science           | Kamsiyochukwu Cynthia Odibe             |
| • Crop Sc. & Hort          | Abidakun Peace Ayomiposi                |
| • Fisheries & Aqu, Mgt.    | Chisom Paschaline Atuili (Overall Best) |
| • Food Sc. & Tech.         | Onyinye Jennifer Obidike                |
| • Forestry & Wild. Mgt.    | Chidera Lilian Mbagha                   |
| • Soil Sc. & Land Res. Mgt | Adeyemo Ojo Miracle Oluwaseun           |

Department of Forestry and Wildlife management added twenty thousand Naira to their best student for being the first to obtain First class position in the department and internship position with their partners and partial sponsorship of her Master's degree programme.

## 20. Food Festival

Rounding off in grand style, the Dean in Collaboration with Tetfund Centre for Biomedical, Engineering and Agricultural Translational Studies (TCE- BEATS) organized a Food Festival. A programme intended to enhance the livelihood of participants as they are trained on

- ✓ Mushroom production
- ✓ Yam minisett technology
- ✓ Compost making
- ✓ Writing Business proposal

The programme was spiced up with Cooking competition with a price tag for 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners

Food Festival (Food Fest)



THE TETFUND CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON BIOMEDICAL,  
ENGINEERING AND AGRICULTURAL TRANSLATIONAL STUDIES  
*In collaboration with*  
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY, AWKA

**Invites**

**PROSPECTIVE TRAINEES & CONTESTANTS TO A 2-DAY  
TRANSLATIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP/AGROPRENEURIAL  
SKILLS TRAINING/COOKING CONTEST FOR WOMEN & YOUTHS**

*For Women & youth age 15-40 years old*

**- Theme -**

**"EMPOWERMENT FOR ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION"**



**PROF. HELEN AGU**  
*Director, TCE-BEATS  
Chief Host*



**PROF. CAROL  
ARINZE-UMEGBI**  
*(Ag. V.C. MAU Awka)  
Chairman of the Occasion*



**PROF. CORDELIA  
EBENEKE**  
*(Dean, Faculty  
of Agriculture)  
Host*

**Dates/Activities**

■ **May 21, 2025:** The Hand-on Trainings on:  
Mushroom production, Yam minisett  
technology, Snailery, Herbal tea production,  
Composting, Agribusiness plan drafting, etc.

■ **May 22, 2025:** Cooking Contest and Product  
Showcasing

📍 **Ekwueme Centre For Multidisciplinary Research,  
Opp. Faculty Of Environmental Sciences, MAU  
Awka.**

Announcer: **Dr. John Ogbodo**  
Chairman, Planning Committee

**Application Fee: #10,500 | Application Deadline: May 15, 2025**

**Use Link Below to Apply: <https://paystack.com/pay/unizik-foodfeast>**

For enquires: 📞 09099853404



## 20. Students population

### 1. Students' Population (Undergraduates)

S/N	Departments	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total	Grand Total
I	Agric, Econs and Extension	120	140	131	136	207	734	
li	Animal Science	84	19	45	27	20	195	
lii	Crop Sc. & Horticulture	30	36	40	22	16	144	
Iv	Fisheries and Aquaculture	45	12	55	25	8	145	
V	Food Sc. And Technology	266	245	209	128	154	1002	
Vi	Forestry and Wildlife Mgt	53	25	21	11	44	154	
Vii	Soil and Land Res. Mgt	27	32	39	25	17	140	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>466</b>		<b>2514</b>

### 2.Students' Population (CEP)

S/N	Departments	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Total
I	Agric, Econs and Extension	10	13	8	19	19	3	6	78
li	Animal Science	0	0	0	12	2	0	0	14
lii	Crop Sc. & Horticulture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iv	Fisheries and Aquaculture	0	0	0	0	2			2
V	Food Sc. And Technology								
Vi	Forestry and Wildlife Mgt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Vii	Soil and Land Res. Mgt								

### 3.Students' Population (Postgraduate)

S/ N	Departments	PhD (No. Graduated )	No. PhD in view	MSc. (No. Graduated	No. M.Sc. in View	PGD (No Graduated)	No PGD in View
i	Agric, Econs and Extension	6	1	13	15	3	1
ii	Animal Science	Nil	Nil	5	20	Nil	2
iii	Crop Sc. & Horticulture	2	1	4	6	1	2

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Iv	Fisheries and Aquaculture	1	3	3	6	0	0
V	Food Sc. And Technology						
Vi	Forestry and Wildlife Mgt	0	0	0	0	0	0
vii	Soil and Land Res. Mgt	0	0	0	4	0	4

## 21. Staff Population

S/N	Department s	Staff Strength							
		Academic	Prof	Reader	SL	L1	LII/GA	Admin Staff	Tech
I	Agric, Econs and Extension	28	7	1	5	11	4	2	13
li	Animal Science	11	2	2	Nil	5	2	2	6
iii	Crop Sc. & Horticulture	18	2	3	4	6	2 AL1	5	7
Iv	Fisheries and Aquaculture	11	Nil	2	Nil	6	2/1	12	3
V	Food Sc. And Technology	22	4	1	3	3	5 AL 6	6	15
Vi	Forestry and Wildlife Mgt	11	Nil	1	2			4	11
vii	Soil and Land Res. Mgt	11	1	1	Nil	5	3 AL 1	4	8
viii	Deans Office	7						7	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>63</b>
	<b>Grand</b>								<b>217</b>

## 22. Accreditation Status

S/N	Department s	Accreditation Status	Year of Accreditation	Date Due for Accreditation
I	Agric, Econs and Extension	Full	2021	2026
li	Animal Science	Full	2021	2026
lii	Crop Sc. & Horticulture	Full	2021	2026
Iv	Fisheries and Aquaculture	<b>Yet to be accredited</b>	<b>Resource Verification Successful</b>	<b>2025</b>
V	Food Sc. And Technology	Full	2021	2026
Vi	Forestry and Wildlife Mgt	Full	2021	2026
Vii	Soil and Land Res. Mgt	Full	2021	2026

## 23. Promotions

### a). Academic staff

S/N	Departments	Professors	Readers	Snr Lecturers	Remark
I	Agric, Econs and Extension	i. Prof. Ann Isibor ii. Ven. Prof. Enwelu iii. Prof. Charity Okeke	Dr. Sunday Adejo	i. Dr. Temple Nwankwo ii. Dr. Chukwunonso Nwosu	2023/2024  2024/2025
li	Animal Science	Nil	i. Dr. Leonard Ugwuowo  ii. Dr. Isaac Ugwumba C		2023/2024  2023/2024
lii	Crop Sc. & Horticulture	Prof. Okorie Ndukwe		Dr. Jane Mbadianya	2023/2024
				i. Dr. Eucharia Obidiebube  ii. Dr. Donald Ezechukwu Iheaturu	2024/2025

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Iv	Fisheries and Aquaculture		i. Dr. Okeke Patrick ii. Dr. Ikeogu C. F.		2023/2024
v	Food Sc. &Tech	Prof. Helen Agu	Dr. Tope Victor-Aduloju	i.Dr. Clement Chinedum Ezegbe ii. Dr. Theophilus Ikegwu	2023/2024 2024
Vi	Forestry and Wildlife Mgt		Dr. A.E. Egwunatum	Dr. Jacinta Ezenwenyi	2023
Vii	Soil and Land Res. Mgt	Prof. Okore Ikokwu Kalu	Onunwa , Akudo Ogechukwu		2023

**b). Technologists**

S/N	Departments	Tech 1	Snr/ Principal	Chief Tech	Remark
I	Agric, Econs and Extension	i.Ude Sabastine C. ii.Godwin, Chinwe Maureen iii. Nwankwo Georgina iv.Ezeude, Nwando Assumpta v.Okoli , Kenechukwu Chidi			
li	Animal Science	Bello Zaynab			
lii	Crop Sc. & Horticulture	i.Mr Charles Onwuchekwa Uche ii. Mrs. Chioma Loveth Anya			2023
Iv	Fisheries and Aquaculture				
V	Food Sc. And Technology	Igwe Ngozi Paige Chukwurah Somto	Nwabude Chilota		

Vi	Forestry and Wildlife Mgt	i. Nnedimma Adum ii. Onaga Onyinye iii. Olawale Saheed Olalekan iv. Ibe Chidubem v. Nzekwe, Joy Chinwe vi. Eya Elina Uloma  vii. Nkem Treasure C.	1. Onyili Adachukwu Consolata		2023
Vii	Soil and Land Res. Mgt			i. Tochukwu Chukwuma	2024

## 24. Collegiate Status

Upon the request of Senator Tony Nwoye and Ifite-Ogwari community the Faculty developed a proposal for her transformation to Collegiate status with Prof. J.C. Okonkwo as the Chairman of the Committee. The proposition was presented to Faculty board where approval for writing of program for a number of programs was given. A number of curricular for a number of programmes were developed and forwarded to the Senator. The legal aid to the senator informed us that our proposal has passed the first and second reading. **(Appendix 4)**

## 25. Movement to Ifite-Ogwari

Following pressures mounted by Ifite-Ogwari community, was determined to move the students and staff of the Faculty to Ifite-Ogwari. Series. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, 2025, the Vice Chancellor, together with SAVC on Special duties Prof. AU. Nonyelu, the director Physical Planning, Dean of Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Cordelia Ebeneke and all HODs of department visited Ifite-Ogwari to chart the way forward in complete moving of staff and students of Agriculture from Awka to Ifite-Ogwari. This was also followed by a meeting at the Vice Chancellors conference hall. To facilitate the discussion, the Vice Chancellor requested the following information

**Briefs from Departments (See Appendix 1) (Attached)**

**a). Classroom and Staff Offices on Ground**

S/No.	Description	Numbers	Remarks
1	Classroom	5	4- Small final year classrooms and 1- Big Practical year/SIWES classroom
2	Offices	29	The Dean, Sub-dean, Faculty Admin & Finance Officers, 7 for seven HODs, Departmental general offices, Professors and other lecturer's offices are included. Needs refurbishing and furnishing. The large number of offices are partitioned and they need to be rewired, fans, ceiling and lights fixed. Some part of the roofs have openings resulting to water leaks during the rainy season.
3	Library	Nil	Partitioned space available. Not furnished. No Book shelves, reading tables, chairs, computers, etc

**b). Laboratories on ground at Ifite-Ogwari**

S/No.	Description	Numbers	Remarks
1	Laboratory	Nil	1- Medium sized open space for laboratory, electrical installations required. Not furnished, some equipment available not installed
2	Studio	Nil	Partitioned medium sized space only available, electrical installations required and furnishing required

**c). Other Infrastructure on ground at Ifite-Ogwari**

S/No.	Description	Numbers	Remarks
1	Weather Station	1	20m x 20m NIMET enclosure. Partially equipped
2	Generator house	1	Not functional because the cable was stolen
3	Solar panel inverter	1	Only Phase I installed is functional
4	Wifi facility/units	1	There is no internet access

**d). Drawing of Buildings and Farm structures**

<b>S/No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1	Male hostel	250 Room capacity	Already drawn by Physical Planning Unit
2	Female Hostel	250 Room capacity	Already drawn by Physical Planning Unit
3	Animal Houses Poultry, Piggery,		Already drawn by Physical Planning Unit
4	Fish ponds		Already drawn by Physical Planning Unit

**e). What you need at Ifite-Ogwari Premises to move all Students & Staff to Ifite-Ogwari.**

<b>S/No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1	Student Hostels	2000 Capacity student hostel	
2	Staff quarters	i. 25 4- Bed room duplexes ii. 35 4 flat 3- bedroom blocks iii. 30- 3-bedroom semi detached iv. 3 Blocks of ten 2- Bedroom flats v. 3- Security houses vi. Perimeter fencing for the staff premises vii. Asphalt Road networks along the street and neighbourhood	As recommended by Physical Planning Unit
3	Faculty Admin Block	2	One will be for the Deans Office, the other will house all the Departments
4	Classrooms and staff offices	i. 2 Large Classrooms for Faculty wide courses ii. CBT Centre for Computer based	Large capacity Auditorium/ Theatre For year one class, workshops/seminar, faculty lecture series and other conferences



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		iii. Faculty wide Exams 5 Classrooms per Department making 35 Classrooms	
		iv. Boardroom	
5	Standard library	1	For all Departments
6	Security house and more safety officers	3	Police / Military Post At the entrance and at the farms
7	Barricade	1	For the protection of our road
8	Laboratories	14	For all the departments
9	Bore holes/source of water	1	
10	Animal Houses	8	Poultry, Piggery, Rabbitry, Snailery, Sheep, Goat, Grasscutter, Cattle
11	Fish Ponds	6	Three earthen ponds, 3 Concrete pond
12	Feedmill	1	Animal Science and Fisheries
13	Cold Room	1	Animal Science and Fisheries
12	Green Houses	4	For Crop Science and Soil Science
13	Screen Houses	2	Crop Science and Soil Science
14.	Irrigation Facility		
15	Bakery	1	Required Food Science
16	Oil Processing mills	1	Machines available in the University Store
17	Garri Processing Mill	1	
17	Shuttle buses	7	One for each department
18	Farm truck	1	
19	Tractors	1	
20	Farm Shed	1	

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21	Farm machineries ( i Plough ii. Harrow iii. Planters	1 1 1	
22	Studio	1	Agric Econ and Extension

**f). Departmental Coordinators**

S/N	Departments	Coordinator	Other staff
1	Agricultural Economics	Dr. Ume Onyebuchi Jonathan	-Mr.Kingsley Emeka Emecheta
2	Agricultural Extension	Dr. Adejo Omalo	-Mr. Divine Onyema Ogunlewe - Dr. Ngozi Obiekwe
3	Animal Science	Dr. Anietie Ansa	- Ms Ndareke Uduak Okon - Dr. Isaac U.C. -Prof. C.I. Ebenebe - Mr. Okpara Onyebuchi
4	Crop Science and Horticulture	Dr. Henry Okolie	-Prof. O.O. Okorie - Dr. Eucharua Obidiebube -Mr. Bonny Nwosu - Mr. Charles Onwuchekwa
5	Fisheries and Aquaculture	Dr. Ikechukwu Chukwumaijem	-Mr. Tochi Amalu -Echezona Cynthia
6	Food Science and Technology	Prof. Charles Ishiwu	-Igwe Paige Ngozi -Felix Omologbe -Prof. Helen Agu -Mr. Sylvester Orjiakor
7	Forestry and Wildlife	Dr. Anselm Enwelu Egwunatum	-Mr. E. Eleh -Mrs N.N. Adum -Mrs Nkem Okafor -Dr. O. Chukwu
8	Soil Science and Land Resource Management	Mr. Mmaduabuchi Okafor	-Mrs. Chioma Igboka -Dr. Emmanuel Nnabuihe -Mrs. Tochukwu Chukwuma -Mr. Emmanuel Nwosu

## **Findings**

Some illustrious Ifite-Ogwari sons have built hostels for students. Thus, UNIZIK Vice Chancellor and his team were led by the community to a hostel built which has one hundred and sixty rooms (168), though the student were on vacation but the team met one of the female students who gave information about the rent quoted at N100,000 per annum. The second hostel visited had 78 rooms. The team also visited Dr. Chima Onuekwe's country side hostel that has 40 rooms, which was proposed to be used as temporary staff quarters. The team was later led to a Catholic hospital with a number of hospital equipment and medical laboratory facilities expected to give at least first aid treatment to ailing staff and students. The team finally retired to Igwe's palace for refreshment.

## **Resolutions**

The following resolutions are the outcome of the meeting

- Dr Uko / the next subdean will be resident at Ifite-Ogwari and function as Faculty manager at Ifite-Ogwari
- Every Department in the Agric programme must have at least five resident staff and one of them should be Departmental Administrator
- The University will pay for at least twenty rooms (20) to accommodate the resident staff
- Staff and students of the Agriculture programme will kick start the resolution of being resident at Ifite-Ogwari from this academic session 2024/ 2025
- With the exception of this academic session, hence forth the hostels built by private individual will be managed by our University hostel management committee
- Students are to pay compulsorily for hostel as they pay for school fees
- Arrangement is on top gear with the man to furnish the laboratories
- Ifite-Ogwari community will collect and handover the University survey plan and hand it over to the Chief Vigilante to ensure the community no longer trespass on University land.

## **26. Library Development**

The Faculty library according to the Faculty librarian (Mrs. Roberta Anwaebgu) has continued to play a pivotal role in supporting the academic and research needs of students, Faculty and staff. Her report highlighted the achievements, challenges and goals of the Faculty library in the two years of the Deans's stewardship.

### Key Achievements

- ✓ Reception of books, journals, conference proceedings, manuals donated to the Faculty library by **Prof. C.I. Ebenebe, Prof. T.N. Meludu, Prof. Tony Ibeh, Dr. Ibeawuchi Uko and Dr. Onyekachi Chukwu** tailored to the needs of Agriculture
- ✓ The Faculty library subscribed to 3-Online databases through the University's digital library to provide access to global research in Agriculture though expired at the end of 2024
- ✓ The Faculty library received in its collection the following equipment from the DAP and University library in February 2025, thus
  - HP laptop
  - Printer
  - HP Photocopy machine
  - Projector and Screen
  - 7 HP Desktop computers
  - 8 in 1 Computer table
  - 8 Computer Chairs
  - 7 Binatone UPS
  - 2 Extension Wires
  - MTN Router
  - 7 Wireless USB cords
  - 16 GB Flash drive
  - SPSS disc
  - File Cabinet
  - Fridge
  - Librarian's executive table with chair
  - 2 Staff tables and 2 armed chairs
- ✓ **Support for the training of Faculty librarian at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike**

Thus, the Faculty library is good to go both as E-library and traditional library making it easy for Animal Science and Fisheries and Aquaculture to scale through Professional and NUC Resource verification respectively.

- ✓ **Library Usage**
  - The library has a record of four hundred and fifty (450) users per year reflecting a 15% increase compared to what was recorded previously
  - The library also provided study and research materials for over 300 students during examinations and research project writing and their reference questions were efficiently handled
  - All the students and staff that needed digital services were efficiently served from the University digital library

✓ **Challenges**

- The librarian reported that though the Dean ran an all-inclusive administration and set up Committee for all programmes and activities in the Faculty including the library, the library committee chairman never called for a meeting and the committee never met
- The Heads of department failed to respond to DAP's call for Faculties to put up requisition for books during the 2024 accreditation exercise. I pray the HODs should not miss the opportunity again.
- Space constraint is a major constrain as the faculty library shares space with a classroom hall, making the library space tight, equipment supplied cannot be displayed for use
- Need for additional library support staff

## 27. Financial Account

To facilitate the fast rate of growth in the Faculty, the Dean initiated opening of accounts to service each of the committees that needed financial transactions

S/N	Committee	Acct. Name	Account Details		Signatories
			Bank	Account Number	
1	Journal	Agric, Food & Nat. Resources Journal	Zenith	1312857748	Dr. Onyekachi Chukwu, Prof. Helen Agu, Dr Chika Ikeogu & Chiamaka Obasi
2	Conference Account	Faculty of Agric. Intl Conference UNIZIK	Zenith	1228954210	Dr. Obidiebube and Prof. Ebenebe
3	Lecture Series	Faculty of Agriculture Lecture Series Committee, UNIZIK	Zenith	5700148365	Pro. Ishiwu
4	Dean's List	Faculty Endowment Fund	Zenith	1228842924	Dr. Emilia Okafor and Prof. C.I. Ebenebe
5	Certificate Programme	Faculty of Agriculture Cert. Course- Unizik	Zenith	1312501481	Chiamaka Obasi and
6	Market Garden	Faculty of Agric Work Services	Zenith	1229521220	Prof. Helen Agu and Dr. Chuks Chukwumaijem

## Challenges

**i. Building at Ifite Ogwari (Mortgage bank):** Though the drawings for hostel accommodation and staff quarters as well as supporting farm structures (Piggery, Poultry, Fish ponds, Screen house and Greenhouses) have been drawn by the physical planning unit, the University is yet to start of these buildings. However, the Acting Vice Chancellor has promised the Faculty and Ifite-Ogwari community that the University focus will now be on the erection of these buildings

**ii Faculty Cooperative:** The Faculty Cooperative has not functioned as expected as the issue of refund of borrowed funds crippled the Cooperative. I pray that the next Dean should look into this anomaly and bring perpetrators to book as a measure to revive our Cooperative.

**iii. Damage to the tarred road at Ifite-Ogwari:** A long lorry from Ibeto Gas station drove into the University premises and damaged the roads. I personally brought the manager to the then Acting Vice Chancellor on discussion Wooden Gas Station owned by Ibeto Group will repair the roads. The Manager, agreed that their organization will repair of the road and pleaded for their vehicle to be released. The costing for the repair of the road was done both by works Department and FERMA, Anambra State, the entire reports were sent to management. However, the incessant changes in the leadership of the University have not allowed any of the transient Vice Chancellor to deal with the matter decisively. I pray the incoming Dean to pick up this matter as the University is likely to have a substantive Vice Chancellor this June.

**29. Security Issues (Ifite-Ogwari and Awka):** The Faculty faced serious issues with security both at the Faculty at Awka (including the Annex) and Ifite-Ogwari Annex. A lot of offices were burgled and important electronic equipment and other important equipment stolen. Several letters were written to the former Vice Chancellor, but nothing serious was done to stop the theft. The worst was the theft of underground armoured cable at Ifite –Ogwari, however, in this case, the thieves were caught by the bravery act of the security officer in charge at Ifite Ogwari (Comrade Emmanuel Ndubisi Nwaka). The matter is in court and the University is represented in court by lawyers from the Legal Unit (Letters attached)

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1**

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY, AWKA**

**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE**

<i>Internal Memorandum</i>		
<b>To: The Vice Chancellor</b>		<b>From: Prof. C. I. Ebenebe,</b>  <b>Dean, Faculty of</b> <b>Agriculture</b>  <b>Date: 22, December, 2023</b>

**REQUEST FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ENTRANCE GATE AT IFITE OGWARI ANNEX**

Compliments of the season Sir. I write to inform the Vice Chancellor of the beautiful road construction and drainage work at Ifite-Ogwari that is near completion at this moment (See Attached).

Vice Chancellor Sir, this work represents another feather to your numerous achievements and is also in line with PROJECT 200, however, to enhance the beauty and value of these infrastructural developments, a befitting gate is required. It is on this note, I write to request that the Vice Chancellor to cap this beautiful road and drainage system with a beautiful gate.

**ACTION SOUGHT**

The Vice Chancellor is graciously requested to direct the physical planning unit to draw and design a befitting gate for the Faculty Annex at Ifite-Ogwari, so the construction will be followed up by the University procedure of undertaking such construction

**Prof. C. I. Ebenebe**  
**Dean, Faculty of Agriculture**



**Appendix 2**

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY, AWKA**

**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE**

<b>INTERNAL MEMORANDUM</b>		
<b>To: Vice Chancellor</b>  <b>NAU</b>		<b>From: Prof. Ebenebe, C.I.</b>  <b>Faculty of Agriculture</b>  <b>Date: 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2024</b>

**UPDATE ON THE CASE OF VANDALISATION OF AMOURED CABLES AT THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE IFITE- OGWARI ANNEX**

Vice Chancellor Sir, I received a mail from the Security officer in charge at Ifite-Ogwari Annex (see attached) concerning the suspect arrested for the vandalization of the amoured cables and other electrical installations at Ifite -Ogwari that the suspect was arraigned in court where he pleaded not guilty to the charges and was granted bail.

This is an aberration and perversion of justice, the suspect was caught right in the act and pleaded guilty before the entire community and even mentioned one Mr. Peter Onwurah still at large as the leader of their gang. Besides, the Director of works and his team visited the site and costed the stolen items to the tune of six million, two hundred and sixteen thousand Naira (N6, 216,000). How can he be released on bail when the ring leader has not been arrested and goods stolen not replaced?

**Action Sought**

The Vice chancellor is graciously requested to direct the legal unit to represent the Faculty on this matter and in all the court sessions to ensure justice for the University. The next court session is scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> of June at Omor Magistrate court

**Prof. C.I. Ebenebe,**

**Dean, Faculty of Agriculture**

**Appendix 3**

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY, AWKA  
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE**

<i>Internal Memorandum</i>		
<b>To: The Vice Chancellor</b>		<b>From: Prof. C. I. Ebenebe, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture</b>
		<b>Date: 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2023</b>

**REPORT ON RECENT THEFTS AT FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE ANNEX AT  
GARUBA SQUARE AND DEMAND FOR FACULTY SECURITY POST AT THE  
ANNEX**

Vice Sir, I wish to report the unabated theft at Faculty of Agriculture annex at Garuba Square.

The use of “unabated” may appear strong but the loss of the following items

- i. Air conditioner and Plasma TV at Prof. James Obiegbuna’s office
- ii. Air conditioner attached to Mr. Onyedikachi Evulobi
- iii. Air conditioner attached to Forestry departmental office
- iv. Air conditioner at Fisheries department mini laboratory
- v. Cutting of burglary proof at the entrance on the FST axis
- vi. Clearing of grasses to create pathway for their nefarious acts and leaving of equipment to be used in cutting burglary proof, all point to the fact that the theft is not only planned but carried out without any concern of being challenged by the University security patrol team.

Lecturers who occupy offices not- yet- invaded have pulled down their air conditioners and taken them to other areas for security, meaning the aim of providing the air conditioners for these senior academics is now defeated. In each of the theft incident, I called the Chief Safety Officer, but the incidences are becoming too much for the concern of all.

**Action Sought**

The Vice Chancellor is gratefully requested to direct the Chief Safety Officer create a security post at Faculty of Agriculture Annex at Garuba Square and to designate capable security officers to man the post.

**Prof. Cordelia Ebenebe  
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture**

**Appendix 4**

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY, AWKA**

**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE**

<b>INTERNAL MEMORANDUM</b>		
<b>To: Vice Chancellor</b>  <b>NAU</b>		<b>From: Prof. Ebeneke, C.I.</b>  <b>Faculty of Agriculture</b>  <b>Date: 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2024</b>

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This is an aberration and perversion of justice, the suspect was caught right in the act and pleaded guilty before the entire community and even mentioned one Mr. Peter Onwurah still at large as the leader of their gang. Besides, the Director of works and his team visited the site and costed the stolen items to the tune of six million, two hundred and sixteen thousand Naira (N6, 216,000). How can he be released on bail when the ring leader has not been arrested and goods stolen not replaced?

**Action Sought**

The Vice chancellor is graciously requested to direct the legal unit to represent the Faculty on this matter and in all the court sessions to ensure justice for the University. The next court session is scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> of June at Omor Magistrate court

**Prof. C.I. Ebeneke**

**Dean, Faculty of Agriculture**

## Appendix 5

### Proposal for Conversion of the Faculty of Agriculture to College of Agriculture

#### Preamble

Agriculture plays a fundamental role in the economy, food security, and sustainable development of every nation. In Nigeria in particular, it is the life wire of most rural dwellers. Recognizing the significance of Agriculture particularly in Ifite Ogwari an agrarian region of Anambra State known for production of many food crops: rice, yam, potato, okro, banana, plantain, pigeon pea and even sesame seed. A lot of these crops fall within the crops listed in the agricultural transformation agenda of the Federal Government. There is need for improvement of the indigenous technology used in the production of food and economic crops in this region with modern technologies that will increase yield, appropriate processing and storage. Besides, the water resources provide by the famous Omambra river from which Anambra State is named means possibility for fisheries and aquaculture development, possibility for year-round farming using the water resources. It is on this premise and on account of 319 hectares of land on which the Faculty is situated that we propose the conversion of **the Faculty of Agriculture, NAU, Awka to College of Agriculture, NAU, AWKA**. The College when established will harness the land and water resources to increase food production in the State and other communities. The College will also be dedicated to excellence in agricultural education, research, and outreach which is in line with the University Vision and Mission. In addition, the college will foster innovation, collaborate with other agricultural research institutes to promote sustainable practices aimed at ensuring food security and address the evolving challenges facing the agricultural sector in Eastern part of Nigeria, and beyond.

#### Mission

The mission of the College of Agriculture is to educate future leaders in making agriculture the base of Industrial development, conduct cutting-edge research, and engage with stakeholders to advance agricultural practices and products that will attract investors, improve the livelihoods of people generally, and through interdisciplinary collaboration, the college will strive to address key challenges such as food security, climate change resilience, and sustainable resource management.

#### Objectives

The objectives include but not limited to:

01. Providing high-quality education and training programmes in various fields of agriculture: agronomy, animal science, agricultural economics, horticulture, fishery and aquaculture, forestry, home economics, food science and nutrition, wild life and ecotourism, agricultural extension, among others.

02. Conducting innovative research to develop solutions for enhancing agricultural productivity, sustainability, and resilience to climate change.
03. Fostering partnerships with industry, government agencies, and community organizations in developing marketable products that will attract investors, promote technology transfer, knowledge exchange, and adoption of best practices.
04. Empowering students with practical skills, critical thinking abilities, and entrepreneurial mindset to excel in diverse careers within the agricultural sector.
05. Promoting outreach and extension programs to disseminate research findings, provide technical assistance, and support the development of rural communities.

### **Benefits**

Converting UNIZIK Faculty of Agriculture to a College of Agriculture can offer several benefits, including:

01. **Heightened Emphasis and Visibility:** Establishing a stand-alone College of Agriculture in Nnamdi Azikiwe University will emphasize the university's commitment to agricultural development in terms of education, research, and outreach. This increased focus can enhance the visibility of the agricultural programs and attract more students, faculties, and resources dedicated to the field.
02. **Increased Autonomy, Self-sufficiency and Flexibility:** As a separate body, the College of Agriculture will have greater autonomy in policy making regarding academic programs, research priorities, and resource allocation. This flexibility allows the college to adapt more readily to the evolving needs of the agricultural sector and pursue innovative initiatives.
03. **Enhanced Resource Provision and Distribution:** With its own administrative structure, the College of Agriculture can source and allocate resources more efficiently and effectively to support agricultural education, research, and extension activities. This may include dedicated funding, facilities, and staff tailored specifically to the needs of the agricultural programmes.
04. **Greater Opportunities for Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** While maintaining a focus on agriculture, a College of Agriculture can foster interdisciplinary collaboration with other colleges or departments within and outside the university, such as engineering, environmental science, management science and public policy. This collaboration can lead to innovative solutions to complex agricultural challenges and provide students with a broader educational experience.
05. **Strengthened Partnerships and Outreach:** As a stand-alone entity, a College of Agriculture may have increased opportunities to establish partnerships with industry stakeholders, government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations. These partnerships can facilitate technology transfer, knowledge exchange, and collaborative research projects, while also enhancing the college's impact on agricultural development and sustainability initiatives.

06. **Improved Academic Reputation:** A College of Agriculture with a distinct identity and focus can enhance the academic reputation of the institution overall. By offering high-quality education, conducting impactful research, and engaging with stakeholders, the college can build a reputation as a leader in agricultural innovation and contribute to regional and global agricultural development efforts.

**Strengths**

01 **Academic Staff:** The Faculty has about eighty-five academic staff: 14 professors, 7 Associate professors, 10 Senior Lecturer,

02 **Technologist**

03 Administrative staff

04. Library

05. Clinic

06. Land Resources

07. Laboratory resources

07. Other resources

**Opportunities**

**a) Collaborations**

01. Nigerian Conservation Foundation

02. NIHORT

03. Songhai Farm

**b). Competencies of our Staff**

01. Research Grants Opportunities of Academic Staff and Technologists

**Parallel Bodies/ Existing Universities with Colleges of Agriculture**

01. ABU, Zaria has Division of Agricultural Colleges dated back to 1921 with three colleges namely College of Agriculture and Animal Science, Mando, Kabba College of Agriculture, and Samaru College of Agriculture.
02. Osun State University

**Prospects**

01. The Distinguished Senator representing Anambra North senatorial zone has made several contacts in order to move the motion in the house of senate, however, he needs Nnamdi Azikiwe University Faculty, Senate and Council approval to carry out this noble task.

**Action Sought**

The vice-chancellor is graciously requested to approve the Conversion of UNIZIK Faculty of Agriculture to a College of Agriculture seeing the several benefits we stand to gain.

**Appendix 6**

**DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)  
FOR  
ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND PRACTICAL AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS  
COLLABORATIONS**

**BETWEEN**

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY (UNIZIK)**

**AND**

**RESILIENT GRACE (RG) INTEGRATED FARMS**

**THIS AGREEMENT FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND PRACTICAL  
AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS COLLABORATIONS IS DATED THIS  
\_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2024**

**BETWEEN**

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY (UNIZIK)**, a Nigerian Federal University of Learning involved in teaching, research and community service with its main campus at Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria.

**AND**

**RESILIENT GRACE (RG) INTEGRATED FARMS**, a farm with the mission to increase agricultural productivity, integrate sustainable practices and explore innovative solutions to food production challenges in the world.



**A. OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTNERSHIP**

- i. Enhance Agricultural Productivity: Develop and implement innovative techniques to increase crop and livestock yields.
- ii. Promote Knowledge Exchange: Facilitate the transfer of scientific knowledge from academia to practical farming and vice versa.
- iii. Foster Sustainability: Advance environmentally friendly farming practices and promote resilience to climate change
- iv. Support Education and Training: Provide students and researchers with hands-on experience in farming operation
- v. Strengthen Regional Agriculture: Address critical gaps in food production and agricultural efficiency within Anambra State.

**B. SCOPE OF COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE**

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY and RESILIENT GRACE (RG) INTEGRATED FARMS** hereby enter into this general agreement to foster and promote **collaborations/partnership in Academic Research and Practical Agricultural Operations**.

UNIZIK and Resilient Grace Integrated Farms collaboration will foster on research, technology, testing, and data collection to advance sustainable farming. The partnership will therefore offer student internships, community training, and outreach programs to empower local farmers and promote innovative agricultural practices.

**C. PROPOSED AREAS OF PARTNERSHIP**

Both parties in order to promote **Academic Research and Practical Agricultural Operations Collaborations** agree as follows:

- i. Empowering Communities: Workshops and outreach programs to educate and empower farm staff and local farmers
- ii. Student Internships and Fieldwork: Opportunities for UNIZIK students to gain practical experience through internships and farm visits.
- iii. Data Sharing and Monitoring: RG Integrated Farms will serve as a model for data on crop performance, soil health, and climate resilience.
- iv. Research and Technology Testing: Introduction and testing of innovative farming technologies from UNIZIK on RG Integrated Farm
- v. Introduction and testing of innovative farming technologies from UNIZIK on RG Integrated Farm
- vi. Access to real-world data and exposure to integrated farming operations.
- vii. Joint development of monitoring frameworks to track project outcomes.
- viii. Feedback loops to improve and refine these technologies.

**D. UNIZIK's Obligations**

- a) Provide agricultural experts for workshops trainings and outreach programs for innovative solutions to farming challenges in RG Integrated Farms, Nando and Anambra State.
- b) Facilitate the transfer of scientific knowledge from academia to practical farming i.e. to offer research-driven recommendation to optimize yields while reducing cost of production.
- c) Introduction and testing of innovative farming technologies that will provide solutions for crop and livestock health management, pest management and climate resilience as well as feed solutions for livestock
- d) Provide talented interns and graduates to support farm operations in RG Integrated Farms.
- e) Incorporate RG Integrated Farms and her staff in grant proposal writing and funding initiatives.

**E. Resilient Grace Integrated Farm's Obligations**

- a) Provide platform and support for workshop trainings in Nando community and her environs as well as Anambra State
- b) Provide opportunity for internship and graduate work program
- c) Sharing of Farm Data and Key Performance indices for analysis and inference on crop livestock, soil health, and climate resilience.
- d) Provide the platform for testing of innovative farming technologies from UNIZIK
- e) Provide real-world data and exposure to integrated farming operations for UNIZIK researchers to analyze and interpret as a model ready-made document that facilitate farm decision
- f) Provide feedback loops to improve and refine these technologies.
- g) Incorporate academic staff of Faculty of Agriculture, UNIZIK into their Grant Proposal Writing.

**F. COMMENCEMENT/REVIEW/RENEWAL/TERMINATION**

- a) This Agreement shall be effective when executed by the parties and shall remain in force until terminated either for non-performance of the goals and objectives of the Centre or on mutual agreement of the parties subject to clause C (2) below.
- b) This Agreement and the collaboration and exchange activities envisaged therein, shall be reviewed and renewed every two (2) years by the parties to ascertain the performance progress and prospects of the goals and objectives envisaged under the Agreement and also to map out ways of improving the cooperation/exchange.
- c) The outcome of the Agreement review and evaluation shall constitute the basis for the renewal or termination of the Agreement.
- d) Either party might terminate the Agreement by giving at least ONE (1) year notice to the other party.

- e) On the issuance of notice for termination referred to in clause C (4), either party shall discharge all outstanding obligations arising from this Agreement within the notice period or at most THREE (3) months after expiry.
- f) *Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted to preclude either party from entering into similar agreement with third party.*

**D. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

- a) The parties agree that any copyrightable subject matter (*except privately created subject matter or materials*), including not limited to training, educational or informational materials or software, published Journal articles, created jointly by the parties from the activities conducted under this Agreement will be placed in public domain.
- b) The parties agree that all Journal articles, presentations and other communications created jointly by the parties from the activities conducted under this Agreement need to be reviewed and approved in accordance with the policies of both parties prior to publication or presentation.

**E. POINTS OF CONTACT**

**Hereunder are the designated points of contact for the MoU:**

**a) NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY**

**THRU:**

The Vice Chancellor,  
Nnamdi Azikiwe University  
P.M.B 5025,  
Awka, Anambra State

**b) RESILIENT GRACE INTERGRATED FARMS**

**THRU**

**The Chief Executive Officer,**  
**Resilient Grace Integrated Farms,**  
Nando, Anambra East L.G.A  
Anambra State, Nigeria

**IN WITNESS WHEREFORE** the parties hereto have caused their respective Common Seal to hereunto affixed the date first above written.

FOR THE UNIVERSITY

The Common Seal of the within named **NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY** was Affixed hereunto in the presence of:

-----

-

Vice Chancellor, UNIZIK

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Registrar, UNIZIK

FOR RESILIENT GRACE INTEGRATED FARMS

The Common Seal of the within named **RESILIENT GRACE INTEGRATED FARMS** was Affixed hereunto in the presence of:

-----

-

Chief Executive Officer  
(RG Integrated Farm)  
Farm)

-----

Director, Research  
(RG Integrated

**Appendix 7**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY**

**[NAU] AWKA**

**ANAMBRA STATE**

***THE INSTITUTION***

**DILIMSON HOLDING LIMITED**

***THE COMPANY***

**Prepared by:**

***MUDI MUDIAGA AND  
CO***

***PLOT 525 AMINU KANO  
CRESCENT***

***WUSE 2 ABUJA-FCT***

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THIS Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] is entered into by and between

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY, Awka, Anambra** State hereinafter referred to as "NAU", with a registered address at Along Enugu Onitsha Expressway, Ifite Road, Awka 420110, Anambra State.

And

**DILIMSON HOLDINGS LTD** hereinafter referred to as "DHL" with a registered address at Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, ADP Building, Off Kwata Junction, 420102 Awka, Awka South, Anambra State with the aim of establishing and developing a strategic collaborative relationship in order to promote academic and cognitive developments between the university and Public Private Partnership.

### 1. AREAS OF COOPERATION:

This MoU will serve as a general framework for institutional cooperation through an integrated strategy on Aid for Trade and other broad range of activities defined by the OECD AfT for Trade group [WTO] in the following chapters and codes particularly as it relates to Agriculture - livestock:

1. Economic infrastructure related to trade - 22040
2. Information and Communication Technology
3. Production capacity building – 25010
4. Business support services

### 2. PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION:

- 2.1 This MOU sets forth the partners' understandings and intentions regarding collaboration in areas of mutual concern.
- 2.2 The partners further specifically acknowledge that this MOU does not create an obligation to commit funds, nor does it constitute a legally binding commitment by any of the partners involved, given the above.
- 2.3 The terms of cooperation for each specific activity implemented under this MOU will be mutually discussed and agreed upon in writing by both parties in a separate agreement before the initiation of that activity.
- 2.4 Signatories to this agreement are indemnified from any financial or funding commitment. This is to say that financing and or funding of any specific

subject of this MOU shall be discussed separately and mutually before implementation.

### **3. THE PROJECT**

- 3.1. The project has a technical component (for the creation of the e-commerce portal), a regulatory harmonization component as well as a logistical and dissemination component.
- 3.2. At the level of "proof of concept" would be a functional platform, actors registered in the system, and collaborations with public authorities and/or profile and professional associations and Institutional bodies.
- 3.3. The platform will be accessible and the clearing will be only for registered users, endorsed by digital certificates. We have to highlight that this project will be fully financed 100% by our company.

### **4. ROLE OF THE COMPANY DILIMSON HOLDING LIMITED [DHL]**

- 4.1 To provide and assemble all the expertise, skills, manpower, equipment, materials, and every other technical input, necessary for the execution of the project and carry out and supervise the project for a minimum period of five years.
- 4.2. To provide all needed Information and Communication Technology tools for learning towards motivating students in building high responsibility and capacity of understanding of the right economic infrastructure for trade and business support services after schooling.

### **5. ROLE OF NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY [NAU], AWKA, ANAMBRA STATE**

- 5.1 To facilitate and assist in the supply of researchers who will gather the information and data and subjects to analysis and to do all such things as may be necessary and expedient in the smooth execution of the project.
- 5.2 To participate in information dissemination activities [publications, workshops, and conference paper development and presentations].
- 5.3. To build students' capacity with conceptualism and cognitive development using digital technologies to create more efficient, sustainable, and profitable agricultural enterprises. This also represents the future of farming, where technology plays a crucial role in solving the challenges of modern agriculture, such as resource scarcity, climate change, and food security.
- 5.4 With the emerging Trends in Digital Agripreneurship and the use of school curricula to develop e-learning technology Startups equip students academically

and knowledge-based towards qualifying them as dependable Advisory Service providers.

## **6.0 NON-CIRCUMVENTION**

- 6.1 No Party shall during the pendency of this Memorandum circumvent or obviate the other concerning all interests and rights arising out of or connected to this Memorandum or any business venture under this Memorandum.
- 6.2 The parties will not in any manner solicit, nor accept any business in any manner from sources or their affiliates, which sources were made available through this Memorandum, without the express permission of the party who made available the source.
- 6.3 That in the event of the circumvented party, it shall be entitled to a legal monetary penalty equal to the maximum service it should realize from such a transaction plus any expenses, including but not limited to all legal costs and expenses incurred to recover the lost revenue.
- 6.4 All considerations, benefits, bonuses, participation fees, and/or commissions received as a result of the contributions of the parties in the Memorandum, relating to any transactions will be allocated as mutually agreed.
- 6.4 For purposes of this Agreement, the term Proprietary Information is defined to mean all proprietary, confidential, and/or trade secret information disclosed by either party:
  - a. All information provided to either is presumed to be Proprietary Information;
  - b. Proprietary Information will not include information that demonstrates to be either already in the public domain or known to either party (rightfully and without restriction, as established by written records) when first received from either Party; and
  - c. Proprietary will lose its status as Proprietary information if, and as of the date when, it becomes part of the public domain through no wrongful act of either Party, is received by either Party without restriction from a third party who had the right to disclose it, or is developed by either Party entirely independently of any disclosure hereunder and of any information or materials not properly in either Party's possession (all to be demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence).
- 6.5 It is agreed that a confidential relationship exists between the Parties, and both parties agree that it will be preserved in confidence, not disclosed to others, and not use any Proprietary Information. Both parties further agree to disclose proprietary Information to their employees only on a need-to-know basis.



- 6.6 Materials and information provided under this Agreement are licensed to either Party for a limited purpose and no disclosure or physical transfer of any materials or information covered by this Agreement will be construed as granting (a) license under any patent, patent application, or copyright or (b) any right of ownership in such materials or information.

## **7.0 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

- 7.1 The parties shall not, during the pendency of this Memorandum and after its termination reveal or otherwise disclose any confidential information revealed to it by the other party. "Confidential information" shall for this purpose include, without limitation, any technical, commercial, or financial information, processes, and data in whatever form.

## **8.0 NON TRANSFER**

- 8.1 Either Party shall not relinquish, transfer, or assign its interests under this Memorandum without the written consent of the other party first had and obtained.

## **9.0 LIMITATION**

- 9.1 The relationship between the Parties shall be limited to the performance of the terms and conditions of this Memorandum. Nothing herein shall be construed to create a general partnership between the Parties to authorize any Party to act as a general agent for another or to permit any Party to bind the other except as outlined in this Memorandum.

## **10.0 DURATION AND TERMINATION**

- 10.1 This Memorandum shall remain in force for a period of [5] five years from the date of the last signature and shall be terminated in writing, upon mutual consent of the Parties. The MOU may be extended or amended by mutual written consent of the parties

## **11.0 DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

- 11.1 Any dispute, controversy, or claim arising out of, or in connection with this Memorandum and the performance there under, shall if not settled amicably between the parties, be referred to mediation; provided that where mediation fails, either party may enforce its claims by other means of dispute resolution.

- 12.0 During the pendency of this Memorandum, the provisions of the Memorandum can only be altered upon prior written consent of the parties hereto.

13.0 This Memorandum shall be construed and interpreted by Nigerian laws and the Rules of Interpretation for the time being in force.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties herein have executed this Memorandum in the manner appearing hereinafter the day and year first written above.

THE COMMON SEAL OF THE WITHIN-NAMED  
**DILIMSON HOLDING LIMITED** WAS CAUSED TO BE AFFIXED

.....  
*MANAGING DIRECTOR*

*In the presence of:*

Name .....  
Address .....  
Occupation .....  
Signature .....

THE COMMON SEAL OF THE WITHIN-NAMED  
**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY [NAU].** WAS CAUSED TO BE AFFIXED

.....  
*PROF. JOSEPH IFEANYI IKECHEBELU*  
*THE AG. VICE CHANCELLOR NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY*  
*In the presence of:*

Name .....  
Address .....  
Occupation .....  
Signature .....

## Appendix 8



**DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**  
**FOR**  
**ACADEMIC/RESEARCH COLLABORATION AND EXCHANGE**  
**BETWEEN**

**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY (NAUAND**  
**GLOBAL FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR ACADEMIC/RESEARCH**  
**COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE IS ENTERED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF**  
**\_\_\_\_\_, 2025**

Between

**The Global Forum for Sustainable Rural Development (GFSRD), Bolpur, West**  
**Bengal, India (hereinafter referred to as “GFSRD”).**

And

**Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, P.M.B. 2025, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria**  
**(hereinafter referred to as UNIZIK)**

## **WHEREAS**

The Global Forum for Sustainable Rural Development (GSFRD) is registered as Not-For-Profit Company under Section 8/15 under Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. GFSRD is also ISO 9001: 2015 certified Not-For-Profit Organization with a mission to create a platform to bring and link Rural Development Research, Policies and Practices in one umbrella and advocate for Sustainable Rural Development globally. The global network spans over 8500 individuals and organization across 129 countries, and currently working with 100+ organization and educational institutions. With 06 continental offices and 18 Global Knowledge Centres led by eminent subject experts, we are registered under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, India and ISO certified. We are proud to have representation from each state of the country and determined to address the gap that exists between Rural Development Research, Policies, and Practices.

## **WHEREAS**

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY (NAU)**, a Nigerian Federal University involved in teaching, research and community service with its main campus at Awka, Anambra State, and an Annex for Faculty of Agriculture at Ifite -Ogwari sitting on 119 hectares of land freely donated by the community to the University and an additional 200 hectares of land freely donated to the University by Umueje community both in the agrarian region of Anambra State, Nigeria.

**WHEREAS** GFSRD and UNIZIK (hereinafter individually referred to as the “Party” and collectively as the “Parties” where the context so admits) wish to establish MOU to foster cooperation for the development and implementation of collaborative programs.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Parties have decided to enter this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the “MoU”), which defines the framework for the cooperation of the two organizations.

## **ARTICLE ONE**

### **Objective**

The objective of this MOU is to set establish the terms and conditions under which the Parties hereto shall cooperate in carrying out projects of mutual interest.

UNIZIK, Nigeria and GFSRD, India realized that collaborative partnership of this nature will facilitate educational exchange, participation in joint academic and other educational ventures, research activities, actualization of each institution’s vision and mission and promote cross-cultural understanding. Thus, programs and activities associated with this collaborative partnership shall be consistent with the missions of the respective

institutions especially as the Faculty of Agriculture UNIZIK intends to establish a Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (CeSARD)

## **ARTICLE TWO**

### **Nature of the MoU**

This agreement shall be effective when executed by the parties and shall remain in force until terminated either for non-performance of the goals and objectives of the Centre or on mutual agreement of the parties subject to statements below

- a). This Agreement and the collaboration and exchange activities envisaged therein, shall be reviewed and renewed every two (2) years by the parties to ascertain the performance progress and prospects of the goals and objectives envisaged under the Agreement and also to map out ways of improving the cooperation/exchange.
- b). The outcome of the Agreement review and evaluation shall constitute the basis for the renewal or termination of the Agreement.
- c). Either party might terminate the Agreement by giving at least ONE (1) year notice to the other party.
- d). On the issuance of notice for termination referred to in clause C (4), either party shall discharge all outstanding obligations arising from this Agreement within the notice period or at most THREE (3) months after expiry.
- e). Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted to preclude either party from entering into similar agreement with third party.
- f). Parties further agree that nothing in this MoU shall suggest any financial commitment on the part of either Party. Parties agree to proceed at their own expense regarding the subject matter of this MoU until the execution of a definitive Agreement setting out financial terms.
- g). Parties agree that this MoU is not an exclusive arrangement and either Party may collaborate with 3<sup>rd</sup> Party (ies) on similar subject matter.

## **ARTICLE THREE**

Subject to availability of funds, both Parties agree to provide reasonable cooperation in a variety of joint academic and educational activities that shall include (but may not be limited to):

- a) providing exchange internship opportunities for qualified students of both institutions;
- b) facilitating staff (e.g, sabbatical) exchange programmes for knowledge exchange on best practices related to rural development;
- c) facilitating and coordinating joint research cooperation and curriculum development;

- d) organizing seminars, academic interactive sessions, and other professional development activities;
- e) exchanging academic materials and other relevant educational information;
- f) coordinating special short-term academic programs, including short-term seminars to introduce faculty, staff, students and friends of the institutions to general cultural activities and other areas of specialized learning;
- g) serving on joint Editorial Boards of official and recognized Journals of both institutions;
- h) collaborating on research grants initiatives that address challenges in sustainable rural development

Both institutions agree to make special efforts, individually and in concert to secure appropriate financing from private, state, provincial, national and international sources to support the activities contemplated in this Memorandum of Understanding. The agreed (activities) are to be carried out after mutual consultation between the two Parties.

#### **ARTICLE FOUR**

##### **Specific projects:**

1. Parties shall jointly agree on collaborative research projects of mutual interest. The specific projects shall fall within the terms of this MoU, stating in each case precisely what is being proposed, how it shall be executed, responsibilities and obligations of each Party, source of funding, duration, and other pertinent matters. Each project proposal shall follow the internal approval policies of both institutes.
2. This MoU does not preclude project proposal development by either Party alone; neither does it preclude inclusion of other interested parties as appropriate.

#### **ARTICLE FIVE**

Each Party agrees to nominate the following authorized representatives as the primary point of contact for the accomplishment of the objectives of this MoU:

##### **GFSRD**

###### **Dr Jayanta Choudhury**

Founder,  
Global Forum for Sustainable Rural  
Development (GFSRD), Bolpur, West  
Bengal, India  
Telephone: +91 9436123886  
[gfsrd.international@gmail.com](mailto:gfsrd.international@gmail.com)

##### **UNIZIK**

###### **Prof. Joseph Ikechebelu**

The Ag. Vice Chancellor,  
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka  
PMB 5025 Awkka, Anambra State  
+234 703 108 4046  
[ji.ikechebelu@unizik.edu.ng](mailto:ji.ikechebelu@unizik.edu.ng)

## **ARTICLE SEVEN**

### **Independence of Parties**

Neither Party shall be considered a joint venturer of the other, nor can either Party act as an agent for the other for any purposes whatsoever. No Party has the authority, either expressed or implied, to enter into any agreement, incur any obligations on behalf, or commit the other Party in any manner whatsoever, except as may be provided in this MoU and as may be agreed upon from time to time in writing.

## **ARTICLE EIGHT**

### **Communications, Confidentiality**

- (1) **Press Releases** - Neither Party shall make or issue any public statements, press releases, or communications regarding the collaboration of the Parties without consultation with, and the prior written consent of, the other Party, as regards the contents of such public statement, press release or communication. This clause does not prohibit the disclosure of the existence of a collaboration between the Parties but requires consultation as to the content of public statements regarding the collaboration.
- (2) **Logo** - Neither Party shall use the other Party's logo for any purpose without obtaining prior written consent. A Party may give continuous consent to use its logo for a certain type of communication, but this shall only apply where expressly stated.
- (3) Each Party shall maintain the confidentiality of any non-public information pertaining to or provided by the other Party relating to the other Party's business and/or products. The receiving party shall not disclose such information to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Each Party shall use such information only for purposes of this MOU and not for any commercial or private advantage.

## **ARTICLE NINE**

### **Intellectual Property/Global Access**

1. Parties recognize the importance of Intellectual Property as a component of the Agricultural Research Agenda. Parties jointly own all rights, titles, and interests in the data and works they create under this MoU. Each joint owner can use or disseminate the jointly owned Intellectual Assets on a non-exclusive basis as long as such use or dissemination doesn't restrict the ability of the other joint owner to do the same. Parties acknowledge that knowledge, data, and know-how gained under the MoU shall be made available to the National Agricultural Research Systems, available for humanitarian purposes, and the benefits of any intellectual property created as part

of this MoU shall be made accessible to the public throughout the developing countries of the world ("Global Access").

2. The exchange of materials for research under this MoU shall be carried out following the Material Transfer Agreements (MTA), if applicable.
3. Any technology transferred under this MoU shall be carried out following appropriate Technology Transfer Agreements (TTA) if applicable.
4. All intellectual properties generated outside collaborative research belong solely to the Party conducting such research.
5. Nothing in this clause or MoU shall be read, interpreted and or construed as a license, conveyance, permission or otherwise a waiver of either party's prior intellectual property and results therefrom.

## **ARTICLE TEN**

### **Publications**

Any publications from the collaboration (collaborative research) shall show, through joint authorship where appropriate, the contributions of those involved in the research from both Parties. Each Party can publish these findings independently with due recognition of the contributions of the other Party. If publishing independently, the Party doing so, should inform the other Party of this in writing two months before publication. The manuscript review process prior to publication shall follow the internal policies of both organizations. The fund provider shall be appropriately acknowledged.

## **ARTICLE ELEVEN**

### **Student Exchange and Supervision**

Student exchange and supervision shall fall under the conditions of this MoU. Each individual student placement in either institution shall be agreed in writing on a case-by-case basis, stating in each case precisely the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the student, responsibilities and obligations of each Party, source of funding, duration, and other pertinent matters. Thesis supervision conditions, if applicable, will be part of the written agreement.

## **ARTICLE TWELVE**

### **Indemnification and Liabilities**

Subject to other provisions in this MoU, each Party shall indemnify and hold harmless the other Party's employees, representatives, and executive officers, from and against any liability, damages, costs, or expenses, or any claim, action, suit, or other proceeding arising out of the execution or implementation of this MoU, except to the extent that

- such liability, damages, claim, action, suit or other proceeding is caused willfully by



the Party being held liable, or

- such liability, damages, costs or expenses, claim, action, suit or other proceeding is caused by or results from negligence on the part of such a Party.

### **ARTICLE THIRTEEN**

#### **Notices**

All notices, requests or demands under this MoU shall be in writing in English and shall be given by delivery to the premises of the Parties or by registered mail, telex, facsimile, or electronic mail. All notices shall be effective when received by the receiving Party. Electronic mail shall be deemed to be received within twenty-four (24) hours after being sent to the email address provided by the receiving Party where such twenty-four (24) hour period ends on a business day or failing that, on the next business day.

### **ARTICLE FOURTEEN**

#### **Laws, Rules and Regulations**

The parties agree to comply with the export control laws of each government (Government of Nigeria and Government of India) which are now or may become applicable to operation covered by this memorandum of understanding or arising out of the performance of such operations. If either party is required to pay any fine or penalty resulting from other party's failure to comply with such laws, rules or regulation, this party failing to comply shall immediately reimburse the other for such payment.

### **ARTICLE FIFTEEN**

#### **Non discrimination**

The management of both parties is committed to complying with applicable laws, rules and regulations governing equal opportunity and non-discrimination requirements. The liability for breach of the operational details of this MoU shall be the forfeiture of the benefit supposedly accruing to either of the defaulting party. Additional details may be spelt out in other implementing protocols arising from this MoU

### **ARTICLE SIXTEEN**

#### **Disputes**

1. Any disputes or differences of any kind arising between the Parties in connection with the interpretation of this MoU shall be settled amicably upon consultation between all Parties in accordance with tenor and intent of this MoU.
2. Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this MoU, or the breach, termination, or invalidity thereof which cannot be resolved by amicable settlement between the Parties within fifteen (15) days after one Party first notified the other

Party that a dispute has arisen shall be settled by a sole arbitrator in accordance with the UNCITRAL Rules. The expenses of such arbitration shall be borne by Parties to this MoU

## **ARTICLE SEVENTEEN**

### **Force Majeure**

For the purposes of this Article "Force Majeure" shall mean any event beyond the reasonable control of the Party claiming the occurrence of Force Majeure:

1. If either Party is temporarily unable by reasons of force majeure to meet any of its obligations under this MoU, and if such Party gives the other Party written notice of the event within thirty (30) days after its occurrence, such obligations of the Party as it is unable to perform by reason of the event shall be suspended for as long as the inability continues.
2. Neither Party shall be liable to the other Party arising from any event referred to below or delays arising from such event.
3. The term "force majeure" as used herein shall mean Acts of God, strikes, lockouts or other industrial disturbances, acts of public enemy, wars, blockades, insurrection, riots, epidemics, lightening, floods, washouts, civil disturbances, explosions and other similar events not within the control of either Party and which, by the exercise of due diligence, neither Party is able to overcome.

## **ARTICLE EIGHTEEN**

### **Effective Date and Duration of the MoU**

This MoU shall be effective upon signature by the two Parties and shall remain in force for a period of 5 years. Thereafter it may thereafter be renewed from year to year subject to agreement of the Parties.

## **ARTICLE NINETEEN**

### **Amendment and Termination of MoU**

1. The terms of this MoU can be amended, by a written amendment signed by the authorized representatives of both Parties.
2. This MoU may be terminated by either Party by giving thirty (30) days prior written notice of intent to terminate the understanding.

## ARTICLE TWENTY

### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- c) The parties agree that any copyrightable subject matter (*except privately created subject matter or materials*), including not limited to training, educational or informational materials or software, published Journal articles, created jointly by the parties from the activities conducted under this Agreement will be placed in public domain.
- d) The parties agree that all Journal articles, presentations and other communications created jointly by the parties from the activities conducted under this Agreement need to be reviewed and approved in accordance with the policies of both parties prior to publication or presentation.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, in the interest of implementing a program of technical cooperation of mutual benefit to the contracting Parties, this MoU is signed by the respective officers on the day, month and year indicated above:

**GLOBAL FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**NNAMDI  
UNIVERSITY, AWKA** **AZIKIWE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Dr Jayanta Choudhury**  
Founder, GFSRD

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Prof. Joseph Ikechebelu**  
The Ag. Vice-Chancellor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### POINTS OF CONTACT

**Here under are the designated points of contact for the MOU:**

**c) NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY**

*THRU:*

The Vice Chancellor,  
Nnamdi Azikiwe University  
P.M.B 5025,  
Awka, Anambra State

**b). GLOBAL FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT (GFSRD)**

**Founder/ Designate**

*Global Forum for Sustainable Rural Development (GFSRD)*

**IN WITNESS WHEREFORE** the parties hereto have caused their respective Common Seal to hereunto be affixed on the date first above written.

FOR THE UNIVERSITY

The Common Seal of the within named **NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY** was Affixed hereunto in the presence of:

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Vice Chancellor, UNIZIK

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Registrar, UNIZIK

**FOR**

The Common Seal of the within named **GLOBAL FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT (GFSRD)** was Affixed hereunto in the presence of:

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**Dr Jayanta Choudhury**  
Founder, GFSRD

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Vice President, GFSRD

**Appendix 9**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**

**FOR**

**PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP**

**BETWEEN**

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY (UNIZIK)**

**AND**

**VON FOOD AND FARMS Ltd**

**THIS AGREEMENT FOR PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP IS DATED THIS**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **DAY OF** \_\_\_\_\_, **2024**

**BETWEEN**

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY (UNIZIK)**, a Nigerian Federal University of Learning involved in teaching, research and community service with its main campus at Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria.

**AND**

**VON FOOD AND FARMS**, a Nigerian company with focus of producing high quality cassava starch for industrial uses, cassava and plantain flour with the principal address at Plot 157 Azikiwe Road, Aba, 450101, Abia State, Nigeria.

**A. SCOPE OF PARTNERSHIP**

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY** and **VON FOOD AND FARMS** hereby enter into this general agreement to foster and develop innovative Agricultural products in cassava production and value chain, creating platform for research and practical training of students and driving profitability for the Von Food and Farms as well as the University.

## **B. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP (PPP)**

Both parties in order to promote **partnership** agree as follows:

### **1. UNIZIK's Obligations**

- f) Provide 120 hectares of land at Umueje, Ayamelum L. G. A.
- g) Appoint a Committee to oversee and provide oversight on the project.
- h) Establish social laboratories whereby UNIZIK students (Faculty of Agriculture) will be in communities of Ayamelum L.G.A to learn their indigenous methods of cassava cultivation, plant protection (pest and disease control) so as to enable efficient and effective research.
- i) Establish social responsibility structures whereby the Faculty of Agriculture pays back the communities by training the unemployed youths under the auspices of Youth Academy.

### **2. VON FOOD AND FARM's Obligations**

- h) Von Foods and Farms shall be in charge of the Project as regards land clearing and development, purchase of cassava planting materials, planting, general management of the farm, harvesting, processing and marketing.
- i) Von Foods and Farms shall complete or cause the completion of the setting up and operation of the Project in accordance with the relevant regulations of the Federal Government of Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Nnamdi Azikiwe University.
- j) Von Foods and Farms shall be responsible for providing all round security for the cassava farm enterprise.
- k) Von Foods and Farms shall make accessible the plantation and expertise for research purposes for the student of the Faculty of Agriculture, as this is the fundamental reason for the plantation.
- j) Assist UNIZIK to establish social laboratories where by UNIZIK (Faculty of Agriculture) students will be in communities of Ayamelum L.G.A to learn their indigenous methods of cultivation, plant protection and pest and disease control in cassava so as to enable efficient and effective research.
- k) Assist in establishing social responsibility structures whereby the University (Faculty of Agriculture) pays back the community by training the unemployed youths under the auspices of Youth Academy.

### **3. Description and Use of Premises**

- a) The University hereby lets and allots to Von Food and Farms a land area measuring 120 hectares located at Umueje, Ayamelum L. G. A for the purpose of establishing Cassava farm under a Private Public Partnership.

- b) Von Food and Farms shall only use or cause to be used, the allotted land for the purpose of cassava production under Private Public Partnership arrangement, as stated and specified herein.
- c) This Memorandum shall be for an initial period of five (5) years from commencement date after which both parties may renew the Agreement.

#### **4. Revenue Sharing**

The revenue sharing ratio is agreed at 90:10 between Von Food and Farms (90) and the University (10), respectively.

#### **C. COMMENCEMENT/REVIEW/RENEWAL/TERMINATION**

- g) This Agreement shall be effective when executed by the parties and shall remain in force until terminated either for non-performance of the goals and objectives of the Centre or on mutual agreement of the parties subject to clause C (2) below.
- h) This Agreement and the partnership envisaged therein, shall be reviewed and renewed every two (2) years by the parties to ascertain the performance progress and prospects of the goals and objectives envisaged under the Agreement and also to map out ways of improving the cooperation/exchange.
- i) The outcome of the Agreement review and evaluation shall constitute the basis for the renewal or termination of the Agreement.
- j) Either party might terminate the Agreement by giving at least ONE (1) year notice to the other party.
- k) On the issuance of notice for termination referred to in clause C (4), either party shall discharge all outstanding obligations arising from this Agreement within the notice period or at most THREE (3) months after expiry.
- l) *Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted to preclude either party from entering into similar agreement with third party.*

#### **D. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

- e) The parties agree that any copyrightable subject matter (*except privately created subject matter or materials*), including not limited to training, educational or informational materials or software, published Journal articles, created jointly by the parties from the activities conducted under this Agreement will be placed in public domain.
- f) The parties agree that all Journal articles, presentations and other communications created jointly by the parties from the activities conducted under this Agreement need to be reviewed and approved in accordance with the policies of both parties prior to publication or presentation.

**E. POINTS OF CONTACT**

**Hereunder are the designated points of contact for the MoU:**

**d) NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY**

*THRU:*

The Vice Chancellor,  
Nnamdi Azikiwe University  
P.M.B 5025,  
Awka, Anambra State

**e) VON FOOD AND FARMS**

*THRU*

The Chief Executive Officer,  
Von Food and Farms,  
Plot 157 Azikiwe Road,  
Aba, Aba State, Nigeria

**IN WITNESS WHEREFORE** the parties hereto have caused their respective Common Seal to hereunto affixed the date first above written.

FOR THE UNIVERSITY

The Common Seal of the within named **NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY** was Affixed hereunto in the presence of:

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Vice Chancellor, UNIZIK

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Registrar, UNIZIK

**FOR THE VON FOOD AND FARMS**

The Common Seal of the within named **VON FOOD AND FARMS** was Affixed hereunto in the presence of:

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Chief Executive Officer  
Production  
(Von Food and Farms)  
Farms)

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Director,  
(Von Food and  
Farms)



**Appendix 10**

**DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**

**FOR**

**ACADEMIC/RESEARCH COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE**

**BETWEEN**

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY (UNIZIK)**

**AND**

**NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (NIHORT)**

**THIS AGREEMENT FOR ACADEMIC/RESEARCH COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE IS DATED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2023**

**BETWEEN**

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY (UNIZIK)**, a Nigerian Federal University of Learning involved in teaching, research and community service with its main campus at Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria.

**AND**

**NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (NIHORT)**, a Federal Government of Nigeria research institute with the mandate to conduct research into genetic improvement, production, processing, storage, utilization and marketing of tropical fruits, vegetables, spices and ornamental plants of both nutritional and economic importance, the principal address at Jericho Reservation Area, Idi-Ishin, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

## **A. SCOPE OF COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE**

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY** and **NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE** hereby enter into this general agreement to foster and promote **Academic/Research Cooperation and Exchange**.

## **B. ACADEMIC/RESEARCH COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE**

Both parties in order to promote **Academic/Research Cooperation and Exchange** agree as follows:

### **1. UNIZIK's Obligations**

- l) Offer Sabbatical appointment to qualified staff of NIHORT as the needs arise.
- m) Incorporate NIHORT and her staff in grant proposal writing.
- n) Incorporate qualified NIHORT staff in Postgraduate (PG) supervision, that is, as Co- Supervisors. PG Students can execute part of their research work using NIHORT facilities.
- o) Give opportunity to Senior Directors of NIHORT, who have the necessary requisite qualifications, to rise up to the level of Professor under an arrangement mutually agreed with UNIZIK.
- p) Establish social laboratories whereby UNIZIK students (Faculty of Agriculture) will be in communities of Ayamelum L.G.A to learn their indigenous methods of cultivation, plant protection and pest and disease control so as to enable efficient and effective research.
- q) Establish social responsibility structures whereby the Faculty of Agriculture pays back the communities by training the unemployed youths under the auspices of Youth Academy.

### **2. NIHORT's Obligations**

- l) Supply all planting materials needed for 400 level students of B.Agric, Faculty of Agriculture.
- m) Assist in developing Okra production and its value chain at Ifite-Ogwari with improved variety.
- n) Train UNIZIK staff and students on tissue and molecular culture for the development of fruit, vegetables and other tree crops.
- o) Incorporate academic staff of Faculty of Agriculture, UNIZIK into their Grant Proposal Writing.
- p) Supply tissue cultured plantain and banana planting materials to UNIZIK and help develop plantain plantation with scientifically proven varieties.
- r) Assist UNIZIK to establish social laboratories where by UNIZIK (Faculty of Agriculture) students will be in communities of Ayamelum L.G.A to learn their indigenous methods of cultivation, plant protection and pest and disease control so as to enable efficient and effective research.
- q) Assist in establishing social responsibility structures whereby the University (Faculty of Agriculture) pays back the community by training the unemployed youths under the auspices of Youth Academy.

- r) Help UNIZIK (Faculty of Agriculture) develop fruit orchards for export purposes.
- s) Incorporate UNIZIK (Faculty of Agriculture) staff in their Grant writing Proposal.
- t) Accept UNIZIK (Faculty of Agriculture) students during their Industrial attachment especially those that can provide their accommodation.
- u) Teach UNIZIK (Faculty of Agriculture) staff and students the multiplication and certification for all seeds within their purview.

**C. COMMENCEMENT/REVIEW/RENEWAL/TERMINATION**

- a) This Agreement shall be effective when executed by the parties and shall remain in force until terminated either for non-performance of the goals and objectives of the Centre or on mutual agreement of the parties subject to clause C (2) below.
- b) This Agreement and the collaboration and exchange activities envisaged therein, shall be reviewed and renewed every two (2) years by the parties to ascertain the performance progress and prospects of the goals and objectives envisaged under the Agreement and also to map out ways of improving the cooperation/exchange.
- c) The outcome of the Agreement review and evaluation shall constitute the basis for the renewal or termination of the Agreement.
- d) Either party might terminate the Agreement by giving at least ONE (1) year notice to the other party.
- e) On the issuance of notice for termination referred to in clause C (4), either party shall discharge all outstanding obligations arising from this Agreement within the notice period or at most THREE (3) months after expiry.
- f) *Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted to preclude either party from entering into similar agreement with third party.*

**D. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

- a) The parties agree that any copyrightable subject matter (*except privately created subject matter or materials*), including not limited to training, educational or informational materials or software, published Journal articles, created jointly by the parties from the activities conducted under this Agreement will be placed in public domain.
- b) The parties agree that all Journal articles, presentations and other communications created jointly by the parties from the activities conducted under this Agreement need to be reviewed and approved in accordance with the policies of both parties prior to publication or presentation.

**E. POINTS OF CONTACT**

**Hereunder are the designated points of contact for the MoU:**

**NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY**

**THRU:**

The Vice Chancellor,  
Nnamdi Azikiwe University  
P.M.B 5025, Awka, Anambra State

**NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
THRU**

**The Executive Director,  
National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT),**  
Jericho Reservation Area,  
Idi-Ishin, Ibadan,  
Oyo State, Nigeria

**IN WITNESS WHEREFORE** the parties hereto have caused their respective Common Seal to hereunto affixed the date first above written.

**FOR THE UNIVERSITY**

The Common Seal of the within named **NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY** was Affixed hereunto in the presence of:

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Vice Chancellor, UNIZIK

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Registrar, UNIZIK

**FOR THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

The Common Seal of the within named **NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE** was Affixed hereunto in the presence of:

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Executive Director (NIHORT)

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Director, Research (NIHORT)