

WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROF. J. A. ADEDIRAN, THE DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING, OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, MOOR PLANTATION, IBADAN DURING THE 2018 ANNUAL IN-HOUSE REVIEW EXERCISE

His Excellency, The Executive Governor of Oyo State, Senator, Abiola Ajimobi,
Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Chief Audu Ogbe,
The Vice-Chancellor, Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Prof. Eyitope Ogunbodede,
All Invited Dignitaries and Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am highly delighted to welcome you all to this year's Annual In-House Review Exercise of the Institute. I would like to sincerely express my unreserved appreciation to all our highly placed individuals for finding time to be present in today's occasion. I am using this opportunity to commend the efforts of our highly admired and indefatigable Vice-Chancellor and our able Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, OAU, for making the Institute their 'heart beat'. Since resumption, the Vice-Chancellor has continued to make significant achievements in the area of maintaining industrial harmony and effective, focused leadership in the Institute and University at large. He has been an advocate of progress, hard work and self-sustainability of our Institution and that is why he is visiting the Institute twice within the last one and an half months. The Vice-Chancellor has consistently taken necessary steps to integrate the Institute with the home University more than ever before. The University is very fortunate to have a principled and hardworking leader like him at this time of history. We sincerely appreciate you Sir, Mr. Vice Chancellor. May the Almighty God continue to guide you, increase your wisdom and enlarge your coast. The representative of the Honorable Minister of Agriculture, Executive Secretary, ARC and other dignitaries here present are highly welcome to this annual event. We appreciate you for your support always.

The Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), Obafemi Awolowo University, Moor Plantation, is a multi-commodity Research Centre. It is one of the four National Agricultural Research Institutes affiliated to a University. The IAR&T is the only unique research centre which has inclusion of both crops and livestock components in its mandate area. It is also the only institute saddled with the responsibility of carrying out research into soil management across the country. Thus, the Institute has both national and zonal mandates for some food and fiber crops, livestock and soil researches, viz:

1. (i) National mandate for Soil and Water management for sustainable agricultural productivity in Nigeria; (ii) National mandate for Kenaf and Jute improvement
2. Zonal (Southwest/Southern ecology) mandates include; (i) Maize improvement; (ii) Legume crops improvement; (iii) Farming systems research and extension; (iv) Livestock improvement.
3. The Institute has been given a mandate to coordinate Research, Extension Farmers Input Linkage Systems (REFILS) in the Southwest zone.

During the year under review, some achievements have been recorded in areas of Research and Human Resource Development as well as Infrastructural growth. Some are as highlighted below:

Research Activities:

The Institute has conducted a good number of research projects which were demand driven and market oriented in the year under review. These are mainly in the area of development of land information system and integrated soil management; varietal development in maize and kenaf; integrated pest and disease management in cowpea and maize; genetic improvement of pigs and local chicken through artificial insemination; multilocational trials to develop/evaluate new technologies; improving diet to reduce incidence of diabetics in human; improving storage and quality of soya products; development and evaluation of small holder drip fertigation system; development of protocol for screening crop lines and livestock species; etc. The Institute also participated in various externally funded projects with good outcome. Some improved varieties of maize, cowpea and soybean seeds have been provided for farmers and other stakeholders.

Trainings and Workshops Organized:

The Institute successfully trained over 700 unemployed youths including women from different parts of the country in livestock production such as piggery, poultry, sheep and goat and artificial insemination in pigs and poultry; exotic pigs and chickens distributed to farmers; trained 18 out growers and 36 youths on kenaf production and processing respectively; trained Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) personnel on cassava production and its value addition; 54 farmers were trained on control of fall army worm of maize; 70 farmers were trained on improved soil water management techniques for crop production; etc. The objective of the

above was enhance the capacity of youths, women and farmers in agricultural production, create jobs, wealth and reduce poverty.

Seed Production:

The Institute has six research and production outstations in three agro-ecologies (Rainforest, Derived Savannah and Southern Guinea Savannah) of Nigeria. The Outstations are located in several states where large quantity of breeder, foundation seed and certified seeds (by BANL) of maize, cowpea and soya bean are produced annually.

Excursion/Industrial Training:

A large number of students from both secondary and tertiary institutions visited the Institute on excursion to upgrade their knowledge in our various production and research units. Likewise, we receive quite a number of polytechnic and undergraduate students on industrial training. Over 50 youth corpsers completed their national youth service in the Institute last year.

Human Resource Development:

This year, very few of our Scientists and Technical staff attended international training while over 75% of our staff participated in local training workshops, seminars and conferences. Over 150 staffs were promoted, with emergence of three additional Professors and six Principal Research Fellows (Associate Professor).

Infrastructure:

- 65% of the Institute Laboratories and staff offices were renovated and beautified;
- Three additional vehicles were purchased for research and administrative purposes;
- Two new tractors with ploughs, harrows and other accessories were procured
- Two produce/fertilizer stores and Kenaf processing unit are under construction
- Procurement of kenaf processing line for pilot scale production of bags
- Institute major road is also under construction and about to be completed
- A standard earth dam that will provide water for irrigation is under construction
- Purchase of laboratory equipment, glass wares, chemical and reagents

- Purchase of farm tools/implements, and agrochemicals (fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and fungicides)
- Computerization of Administration, Account, and Audit Departments

We appreciate the Federal Government for making funds available to carry out the projects undertaken during the year under review. I assure the Federal Government that much more would be achieved if adequate and timely funds could be released to the Institute in the year 2018 fiscal year. Our technologies have assisted farmers in the country by improving their productivity to generate more income and better their livelihood.

The Theme for this year's In-House Review Exercise "AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND RAW MATERIALS PRODUCTION: THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE" is apt and germane. There is no way adequate and appropriate food and raw materials productivity can be sustained without demand driven agricultural research towards climate smart agriculture. The theme is therefore appropriate and relevant in this period of economic recession which calls for diversification of Nigerian economy especially to Agriculture.

The present regime under President Muhammadu Buhari and with the support of HMA Chief Audu Ogbe has been putting in a lot of efforts towards increased productivity in agriculture. The Research Institutes, Extension Agents, Inputs Suppliers and farmers must work together in order to achieve the set-goals for agricultural development in the country. Research Institutes must continue to embark on demand driven, climate smart and market oriented projects that will solve problems of farmers and industries. There must be proper and appropriate dissemination of research findings by Agricultural Extension and Advisory services Support Experts. The State Governments must also revive the Agricultural Development Programmes which serve as bridge between the Research Institutes and the local farmers. The Research Institutes must be well funded with appropriate and conducive environment created for effective research and innovations. All these will promote economic growth and development in the country.

Immediately after this Opening ceremony, the theme and Institute's activities in year 2017 will be discussed by this gathering, and this will last till tomorrow. Scientists will be presenting the

outcome of their research findings in different areas of agriculture. Please feel free to express your opinions and contribute positively to agricultural development in the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you are urged to take time to visit our laboratories, farms and workshops located within the Institute premises. The Artificial Insemination and Breeding Centre at Ikenne is equipped with modern facilities and we have pure lines of Duroc, Large white and Landrace. Many farmers in the countries are benefiting from the programme. Kindly visit the exhibition of scientific breakthroughs located within the venue of this occasion.

This year, we will continue with our on-going projects and proposed new ones. We are hoping to make more impact on dissemination of our findings to the end users. Finally, we are also focusing on income generation activities that are sustainable, including transfer of improved technologies to promote entrepreneurship in agriculture.

Once again, I want to appreciate the Governor of Oyo State, Hon. Minister of Agriculture and the Vice-Chancellor for attending today's occasion. I also thank the Executive Secretary, ARCN, the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, OAU, all our distinguished guests and other important dignitaries present. It is again my pleasure to welcome you all to this great Institute – “The IAR&T.”

Thank you.

PROF J. A. ADEDIRAN