



INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING, OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, MOOR PLANTATION, IBADAN

IAR&T MONTHLY NEWS April, 2026

IAR&T.....Improving Farmers Productivity and Livelihoods

UPDATES:

- **Science Serving Society Featuring Livestock Improvement Programme**
- **Events & Activities**
- **IAR&T Broadcast on Radio**
- **Exclusive Announcements**

Science Serving Society

LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

The Livestock Improvement Programme (LIP) was created in 1976 as one of the seven Research Programmes of the Institute. The main purpose for the creation of the Programme was to improve the indigenous livestock breeds and to develop the livestock components of the Agricultural Development Programmes of SouthWestern States. The Programme has not deviated from this mandate and has been contributing to the practice of animal production in the Country through research and training. The Programme is also entrusted with improvement of livestock productivity for sustainable food security through research and training of farmers and other stakeholders in the livestock production industry. The improvement in livestock production is carried out through:

- (1) Genetic improvement of the indigenous breeds of livestock in the Country.
- (2) Feeding and housing management for improved productivity and
- (3) Ethno-veterinary medicine for healthy livestock production.

The Livestock Improvement Programme has facilities for livestock research, production and training of farmers. The various Units in the Programme are engaged in research on and production of poultry species (broiler chickens, layers, cockerels and Muscovy ducks), improved pigs (Landrace, Large white and Duroc), ruminants (cattle, sheep and goats), micro-livestock (rabbits, grasscutters and snails), livestock feed and pasture legume seed production. All the Units in the Programme play major roles in the delivery of proven livestock production technologies that help in the production of affordable quality protein by Nigerians.

The Programme currently led by Dr. B. A. Makanjuola boasts of Top Tier scientists with practical and theoretical knowledge in livestock production. Their disciplines are in animal breeding and genetics, animal nutrition with specialisation in ruminant, monogastric and micro-livestock nutrition, animal physiology, veterinary medicine, wildlife production, pasture production/ conservation and agricultural economics.

The objectives of the Programme are to:

1. Identify, evaluate and improve breeds of livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, rabbits, snails, grasscutters and poultry adapted to Southwestern agro-ecologies.
2. Develop appropriate low-cost and efficient feed resources for livestock.
3. Develop appropriate management/husbandry systems for livestock.
4. Develop appropriate low-input and cost-effective health package, including ethno-veterinary and indigenous technologies for

livestock production.

The focus of the programme is to improve livestock productivity for sustainable food security through research and training of farmers and stakeholders in livestock production value chain. This is done through three main research mandates which are livestock genetic Improvement, feeding and housing management and ethno-veterinary care.

The programme is currently undertaking the following research activities:

1. Development and evaluation of improved Fulani ecotype chickens for enhanced productivity and adaptability.
2. Genetic improvement of pigs for improved productivity
3. Development and evaluation of cattle hybrid of N'Dama and Muturu breeds for sustainable production.
4. Genetic improvement of rabbits through crossbreeding with exotic breeds for optimum productivity.

The Programme collaborates with other institutions in and outside Nigeria in order to continue proffering solutions to the challenges faced by livestock farmers and other value chain stakeholders. Some of such collaborators include the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), University of Ibadan, International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), National Animal Production Research Institute (NAPRI) and Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta to mention a few.

Achievements of the Livestock Improvement Programme

Registration and Release of the MoorBeta chicken

The Programme is still basking in the euphoria of the Registration and Release of the MoorBeta chicken. Our new meat-type chicken breed was approved for release and registration by the National Crop Varieties and Livestock Breeds Registration and Release Committee (NVRC) on March 26, 2026, at the National Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology (NACGRAB), Ibadan, Oyo State. MoorBeta was developed by our Poultry Research Team after more than a decade of breeding work involving indigenous and exotic meat-type chickens. Our chicken breed is suited for smallholder farmers, with the ability to perform well under different environmental conditions across the country. At 10 weeks, MoorBeta reaches an average live weight of about 2.8kg, with improved feed efficiency and survival rates above 95 percent. Beyond its impressive growth, the bird possesses qualities that make it attractive to both farmers and consumers. Its meat is tender, juicy, and retains quality with minimal

cooking loss. In appearance, it is predominantly white with speckles of brown, black, or red, features a large single comb, and has a well-developed body that supports higher meat yield. It also demonstrates tolerance to heat stress, making it well suited for poultry production in tropical climates. A 2025 partial cost analysis indicates that raising 100 of our birds can generate a net profit exceeding N278,000 within a 10-week production cycle, indicating strong economic viability and a compelling return on investment for both smallholder farmers and commercial operators. The release of MoorBeta supports the key mandate of the Programme to improve local livestock breeds, increase productivity, and strengthen food and nutrition security.



Figure 1: Grand Parent Stock of MoorBeta Chicken



Figure 2: Parent Stock of the MoorBeta Chicken

Winning and On-going execution of the Genetic Improvement of Muturu Breed of Cattle for Increased Carcass Yield and Productivity' by the Tertiary Education Trustfund (TETFund).

The Programme is also currently executing the National Research Fund Grant titled 'The Genetic Improvement of Muturu Breed of Cattle for Increased Carcass Yield and Productivity' awarded in 2025 by the Tertiary Education Trustfund (TETFund), Nigeria.



Figure 3: Muturu Cattles acquired from the TETFund Grant



Figure 4: Muturu Cattles acquired from the TETFund Grant

The Programme has also in the past won and executed grants from:

1. International Foundation for Science (IFS)
2. European Community (EC) Research Contract TS2 0248, Aberdeen
3. Stapledon Memorial Trust Fellowship, London
4. Japan Society for Promotion of Science Fellowship, Tokyo
5. German Foundation for International Development
6. Award from Commission of the European Communities Directorate General for Science, Research and Development Rue de la loi 200 – B – 1049
7. Royal Society for Developing Country Fellowship Scheme, London
8. Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP)
9. African Women in Agricultural Research and Development, Kenya
10. Poultry Science Foundation Travel Award
11. OXFAM GB, U.K. Award
12. International Atomic Energy Agency Grant
13. TWAS-ROSSA Grant Award
14. United Nations Environmental Protection Grant Award.
15. Korea-Africa Food & Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (KAFACI)

Development of Hybrid Pigs from Indigenous and Exotic Breeds

The Programme's Swine Research team also continues to intensify its efforts to generate:

- i. Hybrid pigs from Landrace pure line and indigenous pig
- ii. Hybrid pigs from Large white pure line and indigenous pig
- iii. Hybrid pigs from Duroc pure line and indigenous pig



Figure 5: Hybrid pigs from Duroc pure lines and indigenous pigs (NIP)

Ethno-veterinary mixture for livestock treatment

The Programme has also been able to develop an ecto-parasitic cream named 'Ectocure' which can be used for the cure of ecto-parasitic infection in small and large ruminant, swine, rabbits and grasscutters.



Figure 6: IAR&T Ectocure cream for small ruminants, swine, rabbits, grasscutters

The Future Plans of the Programme

The Programme remains committed to the delivery of products and services geared towards the:

1. The improvement of breeds of livestock species that are adaptable and disease-resistant.
2. Provision of least cost rations as feed packages for farmers in order to reduce cost of production.
3. Development of improved livestock housing models which are affordable to farmers.
4. Provision of ethno-veterinary packaged materials for the prevention and treatment of livestock ectoparasites.

Dr. B. A. Mekanjuola
Head, Livestock Improvement Programme

Activities and Events

NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR ASSUMES OFFICE

On April 1st, 2026, Prof. Dotun Joseph Ogunniyan assumed duties in the Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), Ibadan as Deputy Director. This was made known in a statement by the Public Relations Officer of the Institute, Mr. Ridwan Yusuff.

He confirmed the election of Prof. D. J. Ogunniyan as the new Deputy Director for an initial two-term of two (2) years starting April 1, 2026. The election followed the completion of the two-term tenure of four (4) years of Prof. J. A. Adetumbi, which ended March 31, 2026.

He stated that Prof. D. J. Ogunniyan, brings to this esteemed position a rich blend of administrative and academic experience, international exposure, and deep-rooted commitment to the advancement of agricultural research.

Prof. Ogunniyan, born 1968, obtained his B.Sc (Agric.) Agronomy; M.Sc. (Agronomy) from the prestigious University of Ibadan in 1999 and 2000, respectively before he proceeded to obtain his PhD in Plant Breeding from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta in 2017.

He joined the service of the Institute in 2011 as a Research Fellow and rose through the ranks to become a Research Professor in 2023. Prof. Ogunniyan is an expert in Plant Breeding and Seed Technology, with notable achievement of patent works, including breeding and release of high fibre yielding Kenaf Variety (ARTKEN 211); Fall armyworm Tolerant Maize Varieties (ARTMAZ 01 & 02) and recently released high grain yielding and high popping quality single cross hybrid Popcorn Maize Varieties tagged 'ARTPOP 001 and ARTPOP 002'. Prof. Ogunniyan has more than 70 publications in reputable local and international journals to his credit. He has won at least four (4) Research Grants amounting to over 10 million worth in Naira as both Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator.

Prior to his new role as Deputy Director, Prof. Ogunniyan has served the Institute in several capacities, including the Head of Seed Sub-Section & Seed Officer; Ag. Head of Kenaf and Jute Improvement Programme and; Head of Crop & Seed Production Unit between 2019 and 2026. He has equally served as Chairman and Secretary of several Committees within the Institute and the University. He is an active reviewer of reputable journals in Nigeria and abroad. He was the Coordinator of ASUU, IAR&T Unit from 2018 to 2022, and Assistant Secretary of ASUU, OAU Branch, between 2020 and 2022. Over the years, he has attended many Conferences, Seminars and Workshops that have shaped his career professionally and personally.

He is a recipient of many Awards, among which include, MASHAV, State of Israel Government Scholarship in 2011 and a Fellowship of the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education and Fellowship Programmes of the Netherlands Government. Prof. Ogunniyan is member of several professional bodies, including Horticultural Society of Nigeria (HORTSON), Ecological Society of Nigeria (ECOSON), Genetics Society of Nigeria (GSN), Association of Seed Scientists of Nigeria (ASSN) and Genetics Society of West Africa (GSWA). As a proud native of Ile-Oluji, Ondo State, Prof. Ogunniyan is widely respected for his humility, accessibility, and exceptional human relations, which many have described as a masterpiece.

Beyond his public service record, he is a devoted husband and father, whose family values and moral compass reflect the character and discipline he brings to leadership.

The entire IAR&T Community expresses confidence in his capacity to provide vision-driven leadership and to work in unison with other members of the Management team in advancing the mission and mandates of the Institute.

The Management and Staff of IAR&T congratulates Prof. D. J. Ogunniyan on this well-deserved victory and looks forward to a new era of stability, progress, and excellence under his leadership.

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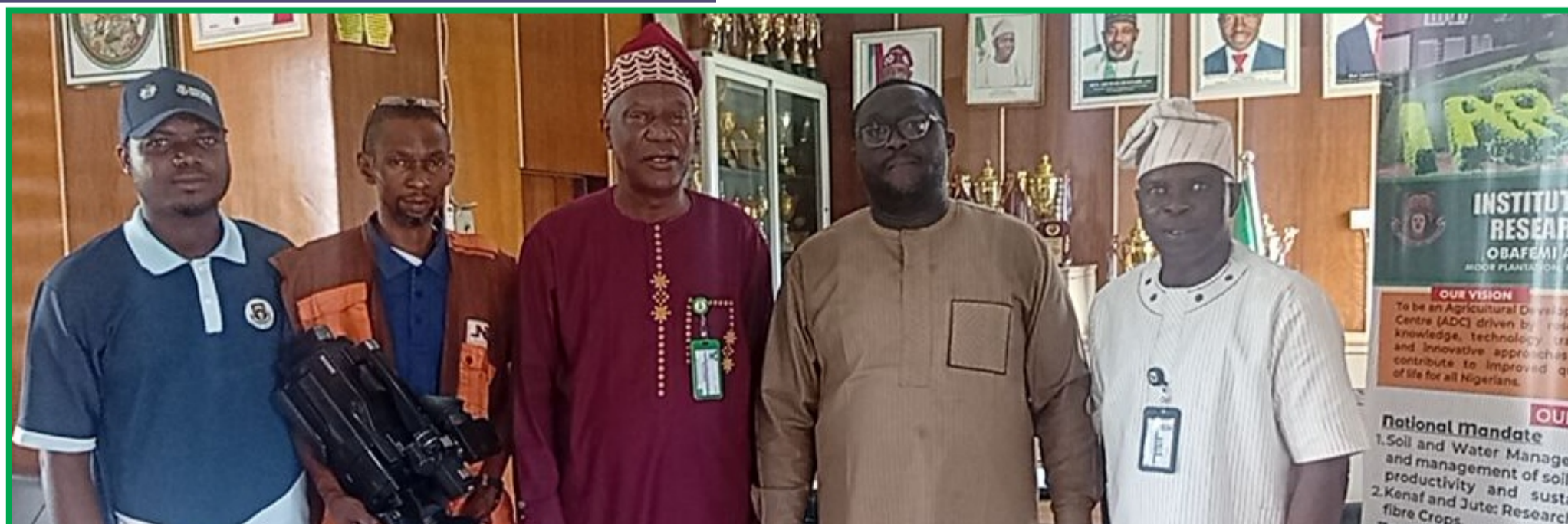
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Prof. D. J. Ogunniyan

IAR&T Director Features on Presidential Television Programme



The Executive Director, Prof. Gabriel Oluwatosin (M); the Deputy Director, Prof. D. J. Ogunniyan (R) and the Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ridwan Yusuff (L) in a group photograph with the CEO of Silvasun Communication, Mr. Oluwabunmi Seun (2nd Right) after a Media Chat

On Thursday, April 2, 2026, the Executive Director, Prof. Gabriel Oluwatosin featured on Presidential Television Programme, tagged 'Presidency This Week', which was covered by the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Network service.

The Media crew, led by Oluwabunmi Seun, was received by the Institute Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ridwan Yusuff, who ushered them to the Director's Office. During the media briefing, issues bordering on history, research operations, achievements and services of the Institute were shared. Additionally, insecurity, paucity of funds for research & training, erratic power supply and inadequate State-of-the-Art farm and laboratory equipment, among other Challenges were discussed, as they are considered impediments towards the advancement of research activities and goal of ensuring food security in the Country.

The Broadcast will be televised LIVE on NTADSTV Channel 369 on Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 8.00pm to 8.30pm, with over 50 million audience. Also in attendance for the Media briefing was the Deputy Director, Prof. D. J. Ogunniyan.

IAR&T Management Visits Proposed Site of New Outstation at Imesi-ile



The Executive Director, Prof. Gabriel Oluwatosin (2nd L) in a group photograph with HRM, the Owa-Ooye of Imesi-Ile, Oba (Engr.) Enoch Ademola Akinyemi, Oyoyo II (M) and the Traditional Council of Chiefs, the Institute Management Team and other Dignitaries in attendance



The Executive Director, Prof. Gabriel Oluwatosin with the Management team, Chiefs and other Dignitaries at the proposed site of the Station

History was made on Monday, April 6, 2026, when the Institute's Director, Prof. Gabriel Oluwatosin, accompanied by other members of the Management team paid a Working Visit to Imesi-Ile Community in Osun State.

The Institute Management was received by His Royal Majesty, the Owa-Ooye of Imesi Ile, Oba (Engr.) Enoch Ademola Akinyemi, Oyoyo II and the Traditional Council of Chiefs.

Following exchange of pleasantries and brief discussion, the Management was conducted round the building of the office and land of the Proposed Station at Imesi-Ile.

In his response to the welcome addresses of the hosts, the Executive Director stated that work would begin in earnest at the Station, and promised the presence of the Institute would bring an immense and valuable contribution and development to the Imesi-Ile Community.

Afterwards, the Management was entertained to a feast and Cultural Display at the Palace.

This development marks another significant milestone in the achievements of the Institute, as we extend the tentacles of our research activities and service delivery to another Community in the Country.

Also in attendance was the Immediate Past Deputy Director of the Institute, Prof. J. A. Adetumbi.

Exhibition Participation at the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) Library Week 2026



The Principal Librarian, Mr. S. A. Oluranti (M); Public Relations Officer, Ridwan Yusuff (R) and; Mrs. Bola Adegboyega (3rd L) in a group photograph during the Reading and Award Presentation Ceremony



The Institute Team, in a group photograph with the University Librarian, Dr. O. A. Fadehan (M) at the Exhibition Stand

The Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), Ibadan participated at the 2026 University Library Week Exhibition, themed "Building a Knowledge Society: Library and Information as Variables in Academia - Industry Performance" organized by the Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library, OAU, held at the Oduduwa Hall, OAU, Ile-Ife between April 20 and 23, 2026.

The event, which had in attendance Principal Officers of the University and Distinguished Guests, afforded the Institute the opportunity to exhibit/showcase its products and extend her research innovations and breakthroughs to the important stakeholders and general public. In the course of the exhibition, mandates and services of the Institute were shared with invited guests, industries, staff, students and entrepreneurs.

Given the theme of the event, the Institute's commitment to equipping and advancing the Library underscores the essential role of information in facilitating a seamless Academia and Industry synergy, which is believed to birth informed policies and improved academia-industry performance.

The event had exhibitors drawn from departments within the OAU Community, Research Institutes, Book Companies, Food and Industries.

Among other important personalities present at the event were the OAU Management, including Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A. S. Bamire; DVC (Academic), Prof. G. A. Aderoumu; DVC (Admin.), Prof. E. O. Akinfala; DVC (Research, Innovation and Development), Prof. A. I. Akinyemi; the Registrar, Mr. K. A. Bakare; the University Librarian, Dr. O. A. Fadehan and; the University Bursar, Mrs. O. I. Abogan. In addition, Council Members, Deans; Provosts; the Guest Reader and Chairman of Ovation Media Group, Chief Dele Momodu; the Guest Speaker, Dr. Idowu Olagunju (Secretary-General of Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO); Oba (Dr.) Adedokun Omoniyi Abolarin Aroyinkeye 1, the Orangun of Oke-Ila Orangun; Immediate Past University Librarian, Dr. Oguntuwase, among a host of others were equally in attendance.

The Institute team, led by the Principal Librarian, Mr. S. A. Oluranti comprised, the Public Relations Officer, Ridwan Yusuff; Mrs. Bola Adegboyega (L&DU) and; Mr. Yusuf Fatai (PRU).

IAR&T Participates in Sasakawa Workshop



The Executive Director, Prof. G. A. Oluwatosin addressing the gathering during the Workshop

The Executive Director, IAR&T, Prof. Gabriel Oluwatosin was in attendance for the 2026 Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) Annual Stakeholders' Workshop in Abuja on Friday, April 10, 2026.

As one of the important collaborators of the Association, the Institute's participation cannot be overemphasized, which aimed at strengthening the existing relationship between the Institute and the Association.

Visitation



The Director, Prof. Gabriel Oluwatosin (M) and Deputy Director, Prof. D. J. Ogunniyan (2nd R) in a group photograph with the delegation of ECOBasicSeed, Kaduna and the Africa Agriculture Technology Foundation (AATF), Abuja led by the Commercial Manager, West Africa, ECOBasicSeed, Mr. Moses Atewogboye (far R) during a Working Visit to the Institute, Tuesday, April 14, 2026

IAR&T Holds 2-Day Workshop on Livestock, Crops and Value Addition, educates farmers on Range, Pasture Establishment & Management and Kenaf Production



Group photograph of Management and other Resource Persons with the participants after the Opening Ceremony



Participants on field training during the Workshop



Cross Section Participants during the Opening Ceremony of the Workshop



Presentation of Certificates to participants after the conclusion of the Workshop

The Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), Ibadan, through its Entrepreneurship Centre, organized a 2-Day Workshop on Range, Pasture Establishment & Management of Cattle, Sheep & Goats and Kenaf Production, as well as Value Addition, held at the AVAEC Building of the Institute between 29th and 30th April, 2026.

The Opening Ceremony, which took place Wednesday, April 29, 2026, began with the welcome address delivered by the Training Coordinator/Head, Entrepreneurship Centre, IAR&T, Prof. A. J. Omole. In his remarks, he welcomed the participants and assured them of quality and practical training sessions during the Workshop.

Following the discussion on expectations by some of the participants, which centred on getting practical knowledge, the Deputy Director of the Institute, Prof. D. J. Ogunniyan, who represented the Executive Director, Prof. Gabriel Oluwatosin offered his remarks. He extended the greetings of the Director to the participants and seized the medium to intimate the gathering with services of the Institute, while reiterating the Institute's resolve and commitment to practical-oriented training exercise. He admonished the participants to make the most of the opportunity, assuring them of quality and efficient training by the expert facilitators the Institute boasts of, because 'you have come to the right place, at the right time to meet the right people', he said. He, therefore, formally declared the Workshop open.

The participants, after the in-door lectures, were coordinated to the field for practical knowledge. The 2-Day Workshop drew participants, mostly youth, from Oyo, Lagos and FCT respectively. The candidates were presented Certificates upon the conclusion of the Workshop on Thursday, April 30, 2026.

In attendance for the Opening Ceremony were, Zonal Coordinator, SW REFILS, Prof. F. T. Ajayi; Prof. Egbetokun (SWFSR&EP); Dr. Yemi Popoola (SWFSR&EP); Dr. Omotosho (LIP); Dr. Oduwaye (K&JIP); Mrs. Olalere (LIP); Miss Adedamola (LIP); Public Relations Officer, Ridwan Yusuff and; Miss. Arowosoge (PRU).

On Air and On Point: The Institute Broadcasts on Radio

IAR&T, being the Zonal Coordinating Institute of Research Extension Farmers Input Linkage System (REFILS) in the South West region, continues to sustain the Flagship Radio Programme “Agbe Asejere” (Profitable Farming) on five (5) stations spread across the South West geopolitical zone. Through this radio programme, Institute's innovations, research breakthroughs, newly developed and improved technologies are now better accessed by the end users, with positive feedback from listeners across the Zone since the programme's inception in 2019.

Currently, the weekly programme is being aired on the following radio stations:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| FRCN -Amuludun F.M. 99.1Mhz | – | Ibadan (Thurs. 8.45pm) |
| OSBC Osun Radio F.M. 104.5Mhz | – | Osogbo (Tues.7.15pm) |
| Paramount F.M. 94.5Mhz | – | Abeokuta (Thurs.8.45pm) |
| BCOS Ajilete F.M. 92.1Mhz | – | Ogbomoso (Tues.8.15pm) |
| BCOS Oke-Ogun F.M. 93.6Mhz | – | Alaga (Tues. 8.15pm) |

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Retirement



On April 14, 2026, Mr. Stephen Olawale OLABODE, a Chief Agricultural Technologist retired from active service of the Institute.

Until his retirement, Mr. Olabode was the Station Manager, Ibadan Station (HQs), having previously served in almost all the Institute's Outstations. His experience and valuable contributions to the Institute cannot be overemphasized. He was a dedicated and committed Staff, one whose values and ethical standards are worthy of emulation for many. In view of his dedication, he was celebrated during the 2025/2026 Annual Research Review Exercise as one of the Outstanding Staff in the Institute by the Management.

Mr. Olabode was greatly celebrated by the Institute's ‘Council of Chiefs’ and other Agricultural Technologists, with the support of the Management.

The Management of the Institute wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

IAR&T Appoints Seed Officer



Newly Appointed Seed Officer of the Institute

The Director and Management of the Institute approved the appointment of Dr. Solomon Tayo AKINYOSOYE as the new Seed Officer of the Institute with effect from April 20, 2026.

As an expert in Plant Breeding and Genetics, Dr. Akinyosoeye brings to bear valuable experience and professionalism to this position, as he aims to ensure good storage, quality/control testing of Seeds in the Institute.

The Institute Community congratulate and wish him success in this new role.

Promotions in the Institute

Name	Rank Promoted To	Grade Level
Dr. Y. A. Popoola	Principal Research Fellow	CONUASS 6

For more information, enquiries and partnership, visit our website: <https://iart.gov.ng/> or reach us via email: director@iart.gov.ng

Also, kindly reach and follow us on all our social media handles below:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>X (formerly Twitter)</i> | <i>- @iartnigeria</i> |
| <i>Instagram</i> | <i>- @iartibadan</i> |
| <i>Facebook</i> | <i>- IART Ibadan</i> |
| <i>LinkedIn</i> | <i>- Institute of Agricultural Research and Training, Ibadan</i> |