



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

IAR&T MONTHLY NEWS FEBRUARY, 2026

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

SCIENCE SERVING SOCIETY

Land and Water Resources Management Programme:



Scientists in the Programme on Field Research

The Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), Ibadan, plays a crucial role as the National Coordinating Centre for Soil and Water Research through its Land and Water Resources Management Programme. The institute conducts research on efficient use and management of soil and water resources for increased productivity. The Institute also provides the scientific foundation for sustainable land use, fertilizer policy, and climate-smart agriculture. With its extensive contributions to soil mapping, fertility management, and conservation research over the decades, IAR&T has significantly shaped the nation's soil information system and agricultural productivity.

Focus Areas of Soil Research

a) Soil Characterization and Mapping

Conducts soil survey, classification, and mapping to determine soil types, fertility levels, and land suitability for different crops.

Provides soil data to national agencies and extension systems for land-use planning.

Developed soil information databases and maps that guide fertilizer blending and land-use decisions and soil correlation in Nigeria.

b) Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management

Developed site-specific fertilizer recommendations for major crops such as maize, rice, cassava, cowpea, kenaf and jute, cocoa, oil palm, coconut, orange, among others.

Conducts trials on Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) and regenerative agriculture using combinations of mineral fertilizers, crop residues, compost, and green manures to sustain soil productivity.

Research on organic amendments practices and innovations in compost production for improved soil structure, carbon sequestration, and water-holding capacity.

c) Soil and Water Conservation

Designs and evaluates erosion control technologies such as vetiver grass strips, veticompost, intercropping, and cover crops.

Studies the size distribution and nutrient enrichment of eroded sediments to understand nutrient loss pathways in sub-humid agro-ecology.

Promotes conservation and regenerative agriculture techniques that minimize runoff and preserve topsoil fertility.

d) Soil Testing and Analytical Services

Operates a Soil and Plant Analysis Laboratory, providing analytical services to farmers, researchers, and fertilizer companies.

Generates soil test data for fertilizer calibration and supports national-level fertilizer recommendation systems.

e) Soil-Water Relationship and Irrigation Management

Investigates soil moisture dynamics, infiltration, and water-use efficiency under different tillage and cropping systems.

Develops guidelines for efficient irrigation scheduling and rainwater harvesting for dry-season farming.

Contribution to Soil Information Development in Nigeria

• Soil Resource Inventories:

Provided baseline soil data for some Local Government Areas in Oyo, Ekiti, Ogun, Osun, Lagos, Edo, Ebonyi, Taraba, Kebbi, Niger, Kwara, and Benue States among others.

• Support to the National Variety and Technology Releases:

Soil research underpins crop variety testing (e.g., maize varieties) and management packages released to farmers, ensuring varieties are evaluated with appropriate nutrient and soil management recommendations

• National Soil Fertility Atlas Inputs:

Contributed datasets for Nigeria's Soil Fertility Atlas and Digital Soil Map initiatives.

• Fertilizer Recommendation Frame-works:

Developed regional fertilizer use guides and calibration protocols used by ADPs and fertilizer blending companies.

• Soil Conservation Technologies:

Promoted environmentally friendly soil conservation and erosion control methods adapted to smallholder conditions.

• Training and Capacity Development:

Trains students, farmers, and extension workers on soil sampling methods, soil quality indicators, fertility evaluation, conservation practices, and sustainable soil management.

• Publications and Technical Bulletins:

Produced soil research reports and farmers' guides widely used by farmers, researchers and agricultural agencies.

Current & Emerging Research Priorities

- Mapping and monitoring soil organic carbon for climate-smart agriculture.
- Mapping agrarian soils for sustainable land use and policy recommendations for preservation.
- Evaluating and monitoring soil degradation and restoration methods in intensively cropped areas.
- Promoting precision nutrient management using digital soil information tools.
- Integrating biochar, compost, and residue recycling to enhance soil resilience under climate change.
- Offering technical support for advisory services to boost soil fertility and farmer's profitability across the country
- Strengthening soil data sharing with the Nigeria Soil Information System (NiSIS) and support the presidential initiative of the Nigeria Farmers Soil Health Card Scheme (NFSHCS)

Partnerships & Collaborations

- **National:** National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs), State ADPs, and Universities.
- **International:** International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), FAO, AGRA, OCP Africa, CORAF/WECARD, and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

For more information, please contact: Land & Water Resources Management Programme via lwrm@iart.gov.ng

Prof. K. S. Are

Head, Land and Water Resources Management Programme

IAR&T Administrators Attends ANUPA Meeting with OAU Registrar



Senior Administrators in a group photograph with the OAU Registrar, Mr. K. A. Bakare (M)

On Monday, February 9, 2026, Institute Administrators led by the Secretary to the Institute, Mr. 'Boye Popoola, attended the Special Meeting of the University Registrar with all Members of Association of Nigeria University Professional Administrators (ANUPA), Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife Chapter at the Oduduwa Hall, O. A. U., Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

In his welcome address, the Chairman, ANUPA OAU Branch, Mr. K. F. Ejiwumi appreciated the members for their presence, specifically recognizing the Institute and Centre for Distance Learning, OAU Contingents for making it to the meeting. He also acknowledged the steadfast contribution and support of members towards to development of the Association. He, therefore, seized the moment to enumerate the activities of the Association for the year and charged all members to take maximum advantage, as he noted they are geared towards engendering professionalism and effective service delivery in the University administration system.

The University Registrar, Mr. K. A. Bakare also addressed the members. In his remarks, he noted with great enthusiasm the monumental efforts put in by members of the Association, despite the prevailing challenges faced in the dispensation of their respective duties. He emphasized on the giant strides made by the University Registry in the past year, in comparison with target objectives, with measurable indicators revealing significant achievements recorded. While leveraging on the togetherness of the forum, the Registrar highlighted and addressed some issues relating to Staff disposition to duty. Finally, he enjoined all members of the Association to embrace self-investment as a point of duty, which he believed would aid the limited resources provided by the Federal Government.

Senior IAR&T Administrators in attendance for the meeting were, the Deputy Registrar, Mr. T. A. Sule; Principal Asst. Registrar, Mr. Jide Oladipo; Principal Asst. Registrar, Mrs. Y. M. Bamiro; Principal Asst. Registrar, Mr. Awogbile Jimi and; Asst. Registrar, Mr. Suleiman Yusuf. Additionally, Administrative Officers I & II in the Institute were equally in attendance.

The event was well attended by members of Staff from the Home Campus and Centre for Distance Learning, O.A.U., Ile-Ife.

An official Release by the Public Relations Unit, in conjunction with the Publications Unit of the Institute.



IAR&T Administrators in a group photograph with the Secretary to the Institute, Mr. 'Boye Popoola (M) after the meeting

IAR&T hosts ADPs, NARIs across South West for 2-Day REFILS Sectoral Review Meeting



IAR&T hosts ADPs, NARIs across South West for 2-Day REFILS Sectoral Review Meeting



Head, Maize Improvement Programme, Prof. J. O. Olasoji (L) and Zonal Coordinator, SW REFILS, Prof. F. T. Ajayi chairing a Technical Session during the meeting

As part of the preparation for the Annual REFILS Workshop, the Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), Ibadan played host to Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs) and National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs) across the South West region for a 2-Day Sectoral Review Meeting of Research Extension Farmers' Input Linkage System (REFILS).

The 2-Day meeting, which started on Tuesday, February 10 and concluded on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 had its Opening Ceremony held at the AVAEC Building of the Institute.

As the Zonal Coordinating Institution for REFILS in the region, the meeting was chaired by the Director, IAR&T, Prof. G. A. Oluwatosin, who was ably represented by the Secretary to the Institute, Mr. 'Boye Popoola and presided by the Zonal Coordinator, SW REFILS, Prof. F. T. Ajayi.

The meeting drew participants from across ADPs and NARIs in the South West region, with specific focus on the review of 2025 Extension and OFAR reports and Proposals for the year 2026 respectively.

Among other personalities in attendance were, the former ZC, SW REFILS, Prof. A. O. Oyegbami; Secretary, SW REFILS Committee and Team Leader (Osun), Prof. O. A. Aluko; The Head, Maize Improvement Programme, IAR&T, Prof. J. O. Olasoji. In addition, other Team Leaders of SW States were equally present, including Dr. Uthman (Lagos); Dr. Oloyede Kamiyo (Ogun); Dr. Popoola Yemi (Oyo); Dr. S. Ajijola (Ondo); Dr. S. O. Omotoso (Ekiti).

IAR&T holds In-House Seminar for Staff



L-R: The Presenter and Institute's PDO, Mr. Jide Oladipo; The Director, Prof. G. A. Oluwatosin, rep. by Prof. D. J. Ogunniyan and The Secretary to the Institute, Mr. 'Boye Popoola during the Seminar



Cross Sections of Participants during the Seminar

The Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), Ibadan held a new edition of the Institute Seminar Series organized by the IAR&T Seminar Committee under the leadership of the Chairperson, Prof. O. T. Ande, with the theme “Emerging Issues on Pension Matters”. The Seminar was chaired by the Director, IAR&T, Prof. Gabriel Oluwatosin, ably represented by the Head, Crop & Seed Production Unit, Prof. D. J. Ogunniyan, at the Prof. E. A. Adebawale Training Hall, Moor Plantation, Ibadan on Wednesday, February 11, 2026.

Following the welcome address by the Chairperson, IAR&T Seminar Committee, presentation was delivered by Mr. Jide Oladipo, a Principal Asst. Registrar, who doubles as the Institute's Pension Desk Officer (PDO).

The presentation hinged on sensitizing members of Staff on emerging issues on Pension matters, as well as highlighting some key developments recorded in the industry. The Institute's PDO, while delivering his presentation noted with great concern some challenges employees face in this regard, hence necessitating the importance of the Seminar.

During the presentation, the Institute's PDO elaborated on diverse issues concerning pension matters, including Gratuity and Pension of employee transiting to the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) as of the cut-off date of 30th June, 2004, monthly contributions through various platforms since 2004, increment of employer and employee contributions from 7.5% and 7.5% to 10% and 8% respectively, effective monitoring of Pension remittance in the Retirement Savings Account, and Professors' entitlement under the Universities Miscellaneous Provisions (Amended) Act (UMPAA), 2012.

In addition, the Institute's PDO noted key developments in the pension industry, including approval of #758 billion Bond by the Federal Executive Council to settle pension liabilities, pension payment as and when due, introduction of Health Insurance Scheme for RETIREES, an ONGOING one-off enrollment for Federal workers in service before 30th June, 2004 and consideration of Federal Government to implement Section 4(4)a of the Pension Reform Act 2014, which made provision for EMPLOYERS to pay additional benefits to EMPLOYEES upon retirement, with the Annual Gross Salary to be considered.

While rounding off his presentation, the Institute's PDO charged all members of Staff to ensure their personal data record in the Office correspond with their data with Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs) and on their NIN and emphasized that where lapses are evident, Staff should make amend at the earliest possible time.

Also in attendance for the Seminar were, officials of Stanbic IBTC Pension Managers; the Secretary to the Institute, Mr. 'Boye Popoola; The Head of Accounts, Mr. Michael Fadipe, represented by Mr. Adenose; Heads of Programmes/Units/Centres; Eminent Professors and other members of Staff across different Cadres and Levels.

Secretary to the Institute Meets Staff on Executive Officer Cadre



Group Photograph of Institute's Senior Administrators with Staff on Executive Officer Cadre after the meeting



Cross Section of the Participants during the meeting

On Thursday, February 19, 2026, the Secretary to the Institute, Mr. 'Boye Popoola held a special meeting with the Institute Staff on Executive Officer Cadre at the Prof. E. A. Adebawale Training Hall, Moor Plantation, Ibadan.

The general meeting was hinged on a call to duty for the Staff to improve their ability and commit themselves more to the service of the Institute.

The welcome address was delivered by the Deputy Registrar, Mr. T. A. Sule. In his remarks, he welcomed the members of Staff to the meeting and seized the moment to appreciate their steadfast commitment and support towards the growth of the Institute's administration system. He further encouraged the audience to take advantage of the special meeting by being attentive and asking questions relevant to their schedule of duties across various Programmes/Units/Centres.

Following the welcome address, the Secretary to the Institute, Mr. 'Boye Popoola addressed the gathering. He declared that the meeting was borne out of several conversations held with the University Registrar in the course of promotions of the Executive Officers during Review Meetings at the Home Campus (OAU). While delivering his speech, he noted with great concern on areas of development to be explored by the Cadre of Staff, because according to him 'you are the representative of the Registry in your respective departments and you should do better'. Among the issues addressed were, familiarization with the University Regulations and Condition of Service, general improvement and development on the job, and reorganization of Staff.

By and large, the Secretary to the Institute called on all the Staff on the Cadre to see the meeting as a medium of training for improvement, development and dedication in the course of discharging their duties. He also admonished them to desist from the act of equating personal relations to official call, and any staff found wanting by disrespecting hierarchy would be punished duly.

In addition to the Secretary's Address, other Principal Asst. Registrars (PARs) offered their comments and urged the Staff to capitalize on all the ideals, opinions and information shared in a bid to improve their capacity and development.

Questions were asked across areas of discussion including, training/capacity-building for the Executive Officers in the Institute and management of ideas/perspectives in the course of collaboration while carrying out official assignments. The Secretary, as well as other Senior Administrators provided adequate response where necessary and took note of others for further Management decision.

Also in attendance for the meeting were, the PARs, Mr. Jide Oladipo, Mrs. Y. M. Bamiro and Mr. Jimi Awogbile; Asst. Registrar, Mr. Suleiman Yusuf and; other Administrative Officers I & II in the Institute.

Excursion Visit



Students of Emirate Muslim Schools, Ibadan during an excursion visit to the Institute



OAU Students (Department of Crop Production and Protection) on an excursion visit



Students of Quest Schools, Ibadan during an excursion visit



Students of Fountain Model College, Ibadan during an excursion visit to the Institute



Students of Eminent Scholars College, Ibadan during an excursion visit to the Institute



Students of Brainyville School, Oluyole Extension, Ibadan during an excursion visit to the Institute

In line with the Institute's commitment to one of its tripartite focus (that is, training), students, ranging from elementary level to higher Institutions, visit Institute for excursion purpose.

During these visits, students are guided on tour around relevant Programmes/Units/Centres, as well as Laboratories as may be considered necessary. Institute facilities are made open and accessible to these students as they are bequeathed practical training and in-depth knowledge by our professional and experienced facilitators/trainers.

In February, the following schools visited the Institute for excursion:

- > Emirate Muslim Schools, Olorunda-Abaa, Ibadan – February 10, 2026
- > Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (Department of Crop Production and Protection) – February 12, 2026
- > Quest Schools, Alakia, Ibadan – February 17, 2026
- > Fountain Model College, Omi-Apata, Ibadan – February 18, 2026
- > Brainyville School, Oluyole Extension, Ibadan – February 25, 2026
- > Eminent Scholars College, Olonde, Eruwa Road, Ibadan – February 26, 2026



L-R: Mr. Ifidon's friend; Deputy Director, Prof. J. A. Adetumbi; Business Development Manager, OER Farms Ltd., Mr. Ifinidon Okaisabor; Secretary to the Institute, Mr. 'Boye Popoola and Head, Crop & Seed Production Unit, Prof. D. J. Ogunniyan during the Working Visit of the OER Farms Ltd to the Institute, February 5, 2026



IAR&T REFILS Team led by the Secretary, Prof. O. A. Aluko to the Alawowo of Awowo Kingdom, Oba Abdulgafar Olasunkanmi Tijani (4th L) in Ogun State during a Courtesy Visit, February 24, 2026. Dr. Mrs. Oloyede-kamiyo (TL, Ogun State), Dr. S. Ajijola (TL, Ondo State), and Mr. Olufade (DR&T, OGADEP) were present.



The Director, Prof. G. A. Oluwatosin (M) in a group photograph with the Delegation of Sasakawa Africa Association led by the Country Director, Dr. Godwin Atser (R) during a Courtesy Visit to the Institute, February 24, 2026.



IAR&T REFILS Team led by Secretary, Prof. O. A. Aluko to the CEO of the Young Agroservice, Mr. Johnson Ajibola (4th L) in Ogun State during a Courtesy Visit, February 24, 2026

Award and Recognition



The Director, Prof. G. A. Oluwatosin (L) receiving a Prize for Excellence Award presented by the President of Grow Africa Youth Initiative, Comrade Ozim Temple (R) during a Courtesy visit to the Institute, February 23, 2026



The Institute Management in a group photograph with the Delegation of Grow Africa Youth Initiative after receiving the Corporate Award presented to the Institute by the NGO during a Courtesy call to the Institute, February 23, 2026

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:

Entrepreneurship Training:

The Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), through its Entrepreneurship Centre, is organizing a training on Computer-Based Test for students registering for 2026 UTME and WASSCE. Registration fee is five thousand naira only (#5,000)

The training exercise, which is to be conducted within the Institute premises, is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2026.

For further details, enquiries and sponsorship, call: 08033630017 and 08160177203

2026 In-House Review:

The Institute's Seminar Committee under the leadership of the Chairperson, Prof. O. T. Ande has announced the dates of the Annual In-House Review program. The 2026 edition is scheduled to take place between March 10 and 11, with the theme “Cultivating Resilience: Research for Development in a Changing World”, featuring one of the Institute's academic juggernauts and eminent Professors, Prof. S. A. Olakojo as the Lead Paper Presenter and the Honorable Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Sen. (Dr.) Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, CON as the Special Guest of Honor. The event features presentation of research reports, outputs and activities across all Programmes/Units/Centres in the Institute. Members of Staff are enjoined to keep the dates opened.

37th South West REFILS:

As the Zonal Coordinating Institution for Research Extension Farmers Input Linkage System (REFILS) in the South West region, the Institute's REFILS Committee under the Chairmanship of the Zonal Coordinator, Prof. F. T. Ajayi has announced the dates of the 37th South West REFILS scheduled for March 24 – 26, 2026.

This year's edition is themed “*Transforming Agriculture through Innovations, Climate Resilience and Value Chain Development for Food Security*” featuring Prof. Lateef Oladimeji Sanni, the Executive Director of Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute, Ilorin as the Keynote Speaker and His Excellency, Mr. Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, the Executive Governor of Ondo State as the Special Guest of Honor.

The annual program draws participants from farmers' groups/associations, ADPs, NARIs, government officials, private sector, media and other relevant stakeholders. The event also features exhibition/display of products from across participating institutions/organizations. Members of Staff and the general public are hereby advised to look forward to the dates.

For more information, enquiries and partnership, kindly 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:
X (formerly Twitter) - @iartnigeria*

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