



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

IAR&T Monthly News May, 2026

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

Updates:

★ **Science Serving Society Featuring Maize Improvement Programme**

★ **Events & Activities**

★ **IAR&T Broadcast on Radio**

★ **Upcoming Event(s)**

Science Serving Society

MAIZE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN ECOLOGY

Mandate and Main Objective:

Maize Improvement Programme for Southern Ecologies, IAR&T has the mandate for genetic improvement of maize with resistance to pest and diseases (Fungal, Streak Virus, Armyworm, Stem borers, Vertebrate pest) and other constraints to its high productivity in the Southern agro-ecologies. The Programme also collaborates with other National and International Agricultural Research Institutes, to ensure great benefits to farmers in the zone. Continuous research into the development and release of new improved maize varieties for better production cannot be overemphasized, especially with biotic and abiotic challenges and impacts of climate change on food security in Nigeria. Biotic factors which affect maize (Pest and diseases) are bush fowls, Stem borers, Striga maize foliar diseases, Downy mildew, Stem rot just to mention a few in Southern and Northern guinea savanna while abiotic factors include drought poor soil nitrogen global warming and climate change.

In view of this broad mandate, the Programme's specific areas of focus were outlined. These include:

1. Crop varietal development and breeding to ensure sustainable yield increase
2. Development of specific maize varieties that can adapt to striga infested ecologies and soil acidic environment
3. Crop protection
4. Crop Utilization (value addition for End-users)
5. Impact assessment through effective information dissemination, monitoring and evaluation of released maize varieties

The aforementioned are summarized in the Programme's aim of genetic improvement of maize, and to successfully tackle the challenges of low yield, susceptibility to biotic and abiotic stresses through development of improved, stress resistant and adaptable maize varieties for increased production and better livelihood of farmers

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Improvement of a Quality Protein Maize (QPM) for tolerance to low soil nitrogen**

Three cycles of improvement of the QPM (ART/98/ILE 1-OB)- C1, C2, C3; the original ILE1-OB (Co); and two checks (LNTP-W and ART/98/SW6) were evaluated in the early season of 2025 under low nitrogen (30kgN/ha) and high nitrogen (90kgN/ha). Best variety to be identified after data analysis

- **Development of Fall armyworm (FAW) resistant maize for Southern ecology**

The two newly developed FAW resistant maize, one yellow, one white were evaluated along with two of the parents and two newly released FAW resistant maize (ARTMAZ 01 and ARTMAZ 02) as checks, in the early season of 2025 under natural infestation and protected conditions.

- **Development of high grain yield and high popping quality hybrids popcorn varieties**

The Maize Improvement Programme for Southern Ecologies successfully developed and released two high grain-yielding and high-quality popcorn single-cross hybrids into Nigeria's agricultural system in 2026. The newly released hybrids, ARTPOP 001 and ARTPOP 002, possess high yield potential and are well adapted to multiple agro-ecological zones across Nigeria, including the rainforest, derived savanna, and guinea savanna ecologies. These hybrids were specifically developed to address the scarcity of well-adapted improved popcorn varieties in Nigeria and to enhance domestic popcorn production through superior grain yield, popping quality, and flavour characteristics.



ARTPOP 001 has a potential grain yield of 4.0 t ha⁻¹



ARTPOP 002 has a potential grain yield of 3.9 t ha⁻¹

Expected Impacts:

The release of these hybrids is expected to contribute significantly to Nigeria's maize and popcorn value chain through:

- Increased and unrestricted access to seeds of improved popcorn hybrids for farmers and seed companies.
- Enhanced income generation opportunities for over 1,000 households involved in popcorn production, processing, and marketing across Nigeria.
- Improved livelihoods of farmers through reduced dependence on expensive, scarce, and poorly adapted imported popcorn varieties as well as low-yielding unimproved local landraces.
- Increased national popcorn production resulting from the superior grain yield potential and broad adaptability of the hybrids.
- Strengthening of the local popcorn industry through availability of high-quality grains with improved popping expansion and consumer appeal.

Commitment of the Programme:

The Maize Improvement Programme remains committed to conducting demand-driven and applied research aimed at addressing key production constraints in maize-based systems and improving the productivity, resilience, and livelihoods of farmers across Southern ecologies and beyond.

Professor Julius Oluseyi OLASOJI

Head of Programme

Exhibition Participation at the National Legislative Summit and Expo on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions



The IAR&T exhibition team



The exhibition stand of the Institute at the Summit



The exhibition stand of the Institute at the Summit

The Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), Ibadan, participated in an Exhibition during the National Legislative Summit and Expo on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions. The event was organized by the Senate Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions and held at the International House Conference Centre, IITA, Ibadan, between May 12 and 15, 2026. The maiden edition of the Summit and Expo was attended by dignitaries and principal officers of the Upper Chamber of the National Assembly (The Senate), IITA, CEOs of Federal Colleges and Research Institutions and other Distinguished Guests.

The event provided the Institute an opportunity to exhibit/showcase its products, disseminate developed/improved technologies and extend its research innovations and breakthroughs to the high-profile stakeholders and policymakers. During the exhibition tour, the Institute received commendation from the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions, Sen. Sharafadeen Abiodun Alli, PhD and his team, for its valuable contributions to and impact on food security through research, training, and service delivery. The summit aimed to unlock the great potential and

possibilities of Agricultural Colleges and Institutions through collaboration and innovation, thereby enhancing food security and job creation in Nigeria.

The event drew exhibitors from various Federal Colleges of Agricultural and Research Institutions across the nation, including the Federal College of Agricultural Produce Technology, Kano; Federal College of Land Resources, Kuru-Jos; Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB); NCRI, Badeggi; NIHORT, Ibadan; Federal College of Horticulture, Gombe; CRIN, Ibadan; PROSSIVA; IAR, Zaria; FCA, Ib.; IITA Cassava Breeding Unit; NRCRI, Umudike; NIFOR, Benin; NAERLS, Zaria; NSPRI, Ilorin; NCAM, Ilorin and; Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria, Benin.

Among the venerable and esteemed personalities present were, the Senate President, Sen. Godswill Akpabio, rep. by the Dep. Senate Majority Leader, Sen. Oyelola Ashiru; Hon. Minister of State, Agriculture and Food Security, Sen. (Dr.) Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, CON, rep. by the Executive Secretary, ARCN, Dr. Adamu Dabban Abubakar; the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Senate Committee on Agricultural Colleges and

Institutions, Sen. Sharafadeen Abiodun Alli, PhD and Sen. Titus Tatenger Zam, PhD respectively. In addition, the Director-General of International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Dr. Simeon Ehui; Clerk to the Senate Committee, Dr. Aturu Gbemisola and; CEOs of Agricultural Colleges and Research Institutions across the Country were equally in attendance.

The Institute delegation, led by the Director, Prof. Gabriel Oluwatosin, included Immediate Past Director, Prof. V. A. Obatolu and Deputy Director, Prof. J. A. Adetumbi.

The exhibition team comprised, the Head of Livestock Improvement Programme (LIP), Dr. B. A. Makanjuola; Dr. A. S. Amusat (Farming Systems Research and Extension Programme); Dr. Uthman (Land and Water Res. Mngt. Prog.); Alhaji Tihamiyu (LIP); Engr. Ahmed Yahaya (Agric. Engineering Unit); Public Relations Officer, Ridwan Yusuff; Mr. Emmanuel Adepoju (Agric. Value Addition Prog.); Mr. Tunde (L&WRMP); Mr. Yusuf (PR Unit) and Mr. Tolu Oladeji (BORA-LIP).

IAR&T Hosts and Trains Part-time SLT Students of EKSU, stresses the Importance of Practical Knowledge and Skills Development



Group photograph of the Director, Prof. Gabriel Oluwatosin rep. by the Head of Entrepreneurship Centre, Prof. A. J. Omole (M) with the Director of Part-time Programmes, EKSU, Prof. K. K. Arogundade, (5th R); the students and other resources persons after the Opening Ceremony



Cross Section of the Participants and Resources Persons



Cross Section of the Participants and Resources Persons

As a research and training Institution, the Institute of Agricultural Research and Training, Ibadan on Monday, May 18, 2026 hosted Part-time students of the Department of Science Laboratory Technology, Ekiti State University (EKSU), Ado-Ekiti for extensive practical demonstrations and training. The event was held at the Institute's Agricultural Value Addition and Entrepreneurship Centre (AVAEC) Building, Moor Plantation, Apata, Ibadan.

The welcome address was delivered by the Public Relations Officer, Ridwan Yusuff. The Director of Part-time Programmes, EKSU, Prof. K. K. Arogundade, in his remarks, appreciated the Institute's Management for the warm reception and promised to strengthen collaboration between the Institute and the University.

The brief ceremony gave opportunity to Heads and Representatives of Centres and Programmes in the Institute to share insights into the training with the students and pledged to offer quality training and services during the sessions. They urged the students to be open to learning, relearning and unlearning throughout the exercise.

While offering his remarks and declaring the Training open on behalf of the Director, Prof. Gabriel Oluwatosin, the Head of Entrepreneurship Centre, Prof. A. J. Omole stressed the importance and impact of the training in advancing the students' practical skills and knowledge. He said, 'students and youth are the drivers of the nation's economy, hence must be well-equipped with practical knowledge and effective skills'. He enjoined the students to take maximum advantage of the opportunity, remain attentive and committed and maintain good conduct. He

assured them of quality training from the array of experts and professionals the Institute boasts of.

Also, in attendance for the ceremony were, the Head of Life Science Centre, Dr. Omenna Emmanuel; Deputy Director (Laboratory Services), Mrs. Wuraola Olubadewo (Bio Science); Assistant Chief Laboratory Technologist (Soil Science), Mrs. Olagunju, Y. A.; Assistant Chief Laboratory Technologist (Biotechnology Lab), Mrs. Medupin, A. B.; Principal Agricultural Technologist (K&JIP), Mr. Adeniji Ayodeji and; Higher Laboratory Technologist (AVAP), Mrs. Ipede, A. O.

The students, led by the Coordinator of Part-time Programmes, Mr. Segun Dauda, were in the Institute till Thursday, May 21, 2026 for the training exercise. During this period, the students received training and gained hands-on experience in the Institute's relevant Laboratory Centres and Programmes.

IAR&T Director Holds Interactive Session to Mark One Year in Office



The Director (2nd R) and Management Team in a group photograph during the interactive session



Cross Section of the staff during the interactive session



Cross Section of the staff during the interactive session

On Friday, May 22, 2026, the Institute Management held an interactive session with all Staff to commemorate the one year anniversary of Prof. Gabriel Oluwatosin, who assumed office of the Director on May 20, 2025. The event was organized by the Institute's Seminar Committee, led by Prof. O. T. Ande and held at Prof. E. A. Adebowale Training Hall, Moor Plantation, Ibadan.

The opening remarks were delivered by the Secretary to the Institute, Mr. 'Boye Popoola. He appreciated the Staff for attending and traced the journey of the Director since assumption of office. He urged the audience to be attentive, as notable achievements and/or activities recorded during the period would be presented.

Following the opening remarks, the Director, Prof. Gabriel Oluwatosin delivered a robust, comprehensive and interesting presentation, highlighting notable and outstanding achievements/activities across research in Crops, Livestock, Value Addition, Extension services and training. He seized the medium to appreciate the tenacity and doggedness of the Research Scientists and entire Staff at both Headquarters and Outstations, especially with their cooperation and commitment in the face of funding challenges. He promised bountiful harvest of labor in the years ahead.

He highlighted some of the achievements recorded since his tenure began, including development and release of technologies (MoorBeta Chicken; Two High Yielding Popcorn Maize varieties and Patency of some Value Addition research on lima bean, pigeon pea and custard powder); improved healthcare facilities (such as, the newly established Diagnostic Laboratory in the Health

Centre and plans for more medical staff to strengthen the Centre); revamped Institute's website for increased visibility and easy accessibility for users locally and internationally as well as, reintroduction of monthly e-newsletter; Grant awards won by Scientists; strengthened security architecture of the community (involving the Colleges); Exhibitions participation within and outside the State; Personal and Institutional Awards/Recognitions and; beautification plan of the Campus environment.

However, to recognize the tremendous effort and contributions of the research teams in Crops, Livestock and Value Addition, the Director and Management presented Letters of Commendation to all team members. This gesture acknowledged their role in projecting the Institute on the global stage.

In addition, the Director recognized the effort, valuable contributions and sacrifices made by some past Directors and thus, honored them by naming some structures and buildings in the Institute after them. Honorees included Prof. Taylor, Prof. Adelana, Prof. Sobulo, Dr. Ojomo, Prof. Olaloku, Prof. Ojo Atere, Prof. Ogunbodede, Prof. J. A. Adediran and Prof. V. A. Obatolu.

He also renamed the roads within the campus, covering all roads linking the Institute, to commemorate his one year in office, ranging from Road 1 to 7. The event also featured the formal Inauguration of several Committees, chaired by able and competent members of Staff, including the Director and Deputy Director, Prof. D. J. Ogunniyan.

Members of staff offered their comments, observations, suggestions and questions, with detailed responses provided by the Director and Management.

The Deputy Director, while offering the vote of thanks, appreciated the Director for the opportunity, the Seminar Committee for a well-organized event, and the technical crew and all staff for contributing effectively towards the success of the ceremony.

The event was concluded with group photographs of the Management and all recipients of the Commendation Letter, as well as the planting of Purple Orchids trees at the Garri Processing area of the Institute, marking the start of the Campus beautification plan.

Also, in attendance were, the Head of Accounts, Mr. Michael Fadipe; Heads of Programmes/Units/Centres/Offices; Eminent Professors and other Staff members of the Institute.

Excursion Visit to the Institute



The Public Relations Officer, Ridwan Yusuff (M), in a group photograph with the students of EKSU, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology during an excursion visit to the Institute



Students of IAR&T Staff School during an excursion visit to the Institute



Students of IAR&T Staff School during an excursion visit to the Institute

As part of our commitment to training, students, ranging from elementary level to higher Institutions, visit the Institute for excursion purpose.

During these visits, students are guided on tour around relevant Programmes/Units, as well as Laboratory Centres.

Institute facilities are made open and accessible to these students as they are bequeathed practical training, hands-on experience and in-depth knowledge by our professional and seasoned experts.

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

- Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti (Department of Science Laboratory Technology) - May 18-21, 2026

- Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti (Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology) - May 19, 2026

- IAR&T Staff School, Moor Plantation, Ibadan – May 25, 2026



The Chairman of the Session, Prof. G. A. Oluwatosin (M); Deputy Director, Prof. D. J. Ogunniyan (L) and Prof. S. A. Olakojo (R) during the opening of the Seminar



Cross Section of the staff during the Seminar



Cross Section of the staff during the Seminar

The Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), Ibadan, through its Seminar Committee organized a Postgraduate Seminar for all Scientists and top-ranking Technologists in the Institute. The Seminar was held at Prof. E. A. Adebowale Training Hall, Moor Plantation, Ibadan on Tuesday, March 26, 2026

The Chairperson of the Seminar Committee, Prof. O. T. Ande gave the welcome address. In her remarks, she enjoined Scientists to make the most of the exercise, as the Seminar aimed to improve and better their research skills and dissertations across disciplines.

The Seminar, which was chaired by the Director, Prof. Gabriel Oluwatosin, saw three (3) presentations delivered by Scientists across Research Programmes of the Institute. Specifically, the presenters, Dr. Oladele-Bukola, Miss. O. T. Fafemi and Mr. Fasade Adeolu were drawn from the Livestock Improvement Programme (LIP), Maize Improvement Programme for Southern Ecologies (MIPSE) and South West Farming Systems Research and Extension Programme (SWFSR&EP) respectively.

The presentations were exhaustively reviewed and valuable contributions were made by Professors and Senior Scientists in attendance,

through questions, comments and suggestions. The Seminar ended with a vote of thanks offered by Prof. A. O. Oyegbami, on behalf of the Seminar Committee.

Also, in attendance were the Deputy Director, Prof. D. J. Ogunniyan; Heads of Programmes/Units/Centres; Professors; Scientists and Technologists.

VISITATIONS



Group photograph of the Institute Management, Prof. J. A. Adetumbi (R) and Prof. A. O. K. Adesehinwa (L) with an Official of the National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF), Barr. Oluwagbeminiyi Popoola during a working visit to the Institute, May 18 - May 19, 2026



The Institute Management and Prof. A. J. Omole (2nd R) in a group photograph with the Delegation of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), led by the Oyo State Coordinator, Mr. Oke Paul Adegbeye (4th R) during a working visit to the Institute, May 21, 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)
BCOSAjilete F.M. 92.1Mhz	–	Ogbomoso (Tues.8.15pm)
BCOS Oke-Ogun F.M. 93.6Mhz	–	Alaga (Tues. 8.15pm)

Upcoming Event(s):

Entrepreneurship Training:

The Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), through its Entrepreneurship Centre, is organizing a 2-day training on:

- ✓ Business opportunities in Crop and Livestock Farming (Poultry, Piggery, Fisheries, Rabbit, Vegetables, Maize)
- ✓ Writing Business Plan & How to Secure Loans & Grants from Banks.

The training exercise, which is to be conducted within the Institute premises, is scheduled to hold **June 24 – 25, 2026**. Registration fee is thirty thousand naira only (#30,000.00) for either category.

Further enquiries and sponsorship, kindly contact: 08033630017 or 08160177203

PRACTICAL WORKSHOP ON BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN CROP AND LIVESTOCK FARMING
(POULTRY, PIGGERY, FISHERIES, RABBIT, VEGETABLES, MAIZE)

2. WRITING BUSINESS PLAN & HOW TO SECURE LOANS & GRANTS FROM BANKS ETC

JUNE, 24TH - 25TH 2026

VENUE: Institute of Agricultural Research and Training, Apata, Ibadan

TARGET AUDIENCE: FARMERS, YOUTHS, RETIREES, AGRO-PRENEURERS

Prof. Omole Adeboye - Head, Entrepreneurship Centre. Prof. G.A. Oluwatolosi - The Director, I.A.R.T. Ibadan

For further details & SPONSORSHIP Call: 08033630017, +234 813 814 9252, 0816 017 7203

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