



Campus News

Federal University of Technology, Minna

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PROF ODOFIN MAKES CASE FOR CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

In view of the need to increase food security as well as manage agro-ecosystems for improved and sustained productivity, Prof. Ayodele Joshua Odofin of the Department of Soil Science and Land Management, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT) has made case for the conservation of agriculture in order to ensure the survival of Nigerian soil resources.

The don stated this yesterday when he delivered the 56th Inaugural Lecture of the Federal University of Technology, Minna titled: *Nigerian Soil Resources: The*



Prof. Odofin presenting his lecture

Neglected Base of Our National Development at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

The Professor of Soil Science and Head of Department, Soil Science and Land Management stated that conservation of agriculture would increase profits, food security, preserve, and enhance the resource base of the nation as well as its environment.

Prof. Odofin disclosed that conservation of agriculture centres around three inter-related core practices namely; continuous no-or minimal mechanical soil disturbance, maintenance of a permanent organic soil cover and mixing or rotating at least three different crops, with a balanced mix of legume and non-legume crops.

According to the don, the thrust of the lecture was to draw attention to soil management techniques which majority of Nigerian farmers must embrace if the nation's soil resources are to be exploited in a

sustainable manner to supply enough food for the teeming population and reposition the agricultural sector as a base for national development.

Prof. Odofin stated that before independence, agriculture was the most important sector of the economy and accounted for more than 50% of GDP and more than 75% of export earnings. However, with the rapid expansion of the petroleum industry, agricultural development was neglected due to inadequate funding and massive importation of food items.

This he said has given rise to high food prices, hunger, domestic inflation, depletion of foreign reserves and rural-urban migration.

The HOD noted that intensification of agriculture and agro-industrialization remains the only logical option for food import bills to be reduced.

In conservation agriculture, Prof. Odofin said planting holes are made in line with cutlass, dibble stick or jab planter for direct sowing (zero tillage) and the advantages of conservation agriculture are erosion control, time saving and labour, timely planting, elimination of tillage machinery expenses and profitability.

He, therefore, enjoined farmers to switch from tillage agriculture to conservation agriculture and recommended that government should officially recognize conservation agriculture as a production system to be actively promoted and supported. This he said would enhance food production and sustainability.

He also recommended that conservation agriculture should be added to the schedule of Director in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and the appointment of Desk Officers for conservation agriculture which should also be replicated in all the States and the Federal Capital Territory.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji *FAS, FNSBMB*, commended the Inaugural Lecturer for his presentation. He also thanked all invited guests for attending the event.

SEET HOLDS 2ND INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

School of Engineering and Engineering Technology (SEET), Federal University of Technology, Minna has held its 2nd International Engineering Conference (IEC) 2017.

The conference with the theme: **“Green Research,**



The University POs flanked by Keynote speaker, Engr. Nwosa and other staff of the University in a group snap shot

Innovation and Sustainable Development in Engineering and Technology: A Means To Diversification of Mono-Cultural Economies,” was held from 17th - 19th October, 2017 at the PTDF Lecture Theatre, Chemical Engineering Complex, Minna Main Campus.

Declaring the conference open, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, *FAS, FNSBMB*, said the theme of the conference was very apt as Nigeria require diversification from petroleum that require concerted effort from government to encourage innovative research in green technologies.

This he said can be followed up with spin off companies which can generate the much needed employment opportunities for the teeming population and improve the economy.

Prof. Akanji disclosed that FUT, Minna is at the forefront in the area of green research and the University would continue to support research that will promote innovation in green research.

The Keynote Speaker, Engr. Joseph Nwosa, Director, (Technology Acquisition and Research Coordination) National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) said Nigeria has all that is needed to effectively transit from a developing to a developed country.

He noted that until our industries and policy makers begin to work with the academia, there will be no diversification rather only propaganda.

Engr. Nwosa pointed out that the key issues in Nigeria have been; weak industrialization strategy (Policy, Planning, Implementation, M&E) Industrial innovation,

support, weak technology acquisition and transfer strategy (Academia - industry links) weak strategic business management and weak intellectual property creation and management system.

According to the NOTAP Director, the desired development include modernised economy, global competitiveness, science technology, innovative system, excellent research, sound education and effective technology transfer.

Engr. Nwosa disclosed that acquiring and transferring technology innovatively through research and development for sustainable national development is the main option for sustainable development of Nigerian economy by 20-2020.

He noted that NOTAP has introduced the intellectual property technology and transfer offices which is expected to evolve efficient knowledge transfer mechanisms that will transfer credible research results into products and services which will transform the national economy.

57TH INAUGURAL LECTURE

The Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, *FNSBMB, FAS*, cordially invites the University community and the general public to the **57th Inaugural Lecture of the University** slated as follows:

Theme: ***“Predictive Stochastic Modeling Of Leprosy Disease, Human Health Condition And Desertification In Nigeria: The Untapped Open Secret Ingredients.”***

Lecturer: **Prof. Usman Yusuf Abubakar**, *B. Ed. (ABU), M.Sc. (Jos), PGD, Ph.D. (FUT, Minna). Professor of Mathematics*

Chairman: **Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji**, *FNSBMB, FAS*, Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna.

Date: Thursday, October 26, 2017.

Time: 2:30pm prompt.

Venue: Caverton Lecture Theatre, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology, Main Campus.

FUTMINNA MICROFINANCE BANK HOLDS AGM

- Declares N10.9m Profit
- Prof Akanji Commends Acting MD

Despite the well documented economic challenges witnessed in the year 2016, the Federal University of Technology, Minna Microfinance Bank has posted an impressive N10,980,407 profit after taxation with improvements



The Board members of the bank supported by other invited guests, external auditors and others cutting the ceremonial cake to commemorate the Bank's 3rd AGM

across different departments of the bank.

This disclosure was made known by the acting Chairperson, Board of Directors of the bank, Mrs. Hajara Kuso Abdullahi during the 3rd Annual General Meeting of the bank held on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at the CPES Hall, Bosso Campus.

Delivering her address, Mrs. Abdullahi who is also the Bursar of the University commended the bank's shareholders and customers for being loyal and committed to the bank despite the attendant challenges witnessed in the year under review.

The acting Chairperson said despite the difficulties witnessed in the year 2016 as a result of the economic recession; that the bank was able to deliver on its promises to the bank's customers and stakeholders, adding that the bank's operation methods were impressive, purpose-driven and surpassed the expectations of the bank customers.

She disclosed that the year 2016 Portfolio at Risk (PAR) of the bank stood at 10.28 percent due to non-performing status of some of the bank's loans while stating that the bank has been able to recover some loans from its debtors based on the aggressive loan recovery strategies introduced by the bank.

On the bank's liquidity ratio, the Bursar of the University noted that the bank's liquidity ratio stood at 75.93 percent as at December 31st 2016, saying that it was an indication that the bank is highly liquid and can meet its financial obligations to its creditors at any point in time.

Mrs. Abdullahi further stated that the bank has invested massively in information and communication technology in view of its importance in financial transactions, noting that the bank had upgraded and converted its banking application software from Cutebanker II to Cutebanker Lite in order to meet the

online banking transaction needs of its customers.

"We are presently working on our banking mobile app and it will soon be launched", she stated.

She thanked the University Management for supporting all the activities of the bank.

Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, *FAS, FNSBMB*, expressed appreciation with the performance of the bank and urged the bank management to maintain the tempo in order to justify the University's investment in the bank.

The Vice-Chancellor who was represented at the event by the University Librarian, Dr. Jubril Attahiru Alhassan said the University management is proud of the bank's achievements under the present acting Managing Director of the bank, adding that the bank needs to be innovative in order to remain afloat in business.

Prof. Akanji assured the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) that the bank would adhere with the tenets of its operational license and thanked them for providing the enabling environment for the bank to operate.

In her goodwill message, the Head, Bank Examination Unit, (NDIC), Mrs. Adaku Onyekwere applauded the bank for operating within its license, stating that the AGM is a sign that the bank is performing.

She assured shareholders that their investment in the bank is well protected because the bank is fully insured by NDIC.

In an exclusive interview with the acting Managing Director of the bank, Mal. Aminu Mohammed Ashafa said the success recorded by the bank in the year under review was due to the innovation and life changing schemes introduced by the bank.

Mal. Aminu stated that the consistency of the bank's performance demonstrates strong resilience and determination to win despite the attendant economic challenges witnessed in the financial sector of the country in 2016.

He further reiterated the bank's commitment to quality service delivery to its customers and assured shareholders of continued focus on core business drivers to ensure sustained growth in the bank's business strategies to enhance its returns on investments.

"My dream is to see FUT, Minna Microfinance Bank become a State MFB in order to expand its services beyond Bosso community," he enthused.

FUT, Minna Microfinance Bank was incorporated on the 4th of October 2011 with a license issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) on the 8th of March, 2012 to operate as a unit Microfinance Bank. The bank commenced operation on July 1, 2012.

VC HOSTS NIGER STATE CORRESPONDENTS EXCOS

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, *FAS, FNSBMB*, recently played host to the newly elected officials of the Correspondents Chapel of Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), Niger State in the Council Chamber at the University's Main Campus.



PO's and Correspondents Chapel excos in a group photograph after the visit

The Chairman of the Chapel, Mr. Aideloje Ojo of the Blueprint Newspaper accompanied by other members of executive council informed the Vice-Chancellor that the purpose of the visit was to introduce the newly elected executive members to the University Management.

He commended the University for maintaining mutual understanding with the Correspondents Chapel.

Mr. Ojo who thereafter enumerated some of the assistance the Chapel has enjoyed because of the importance the present University administration attached to the media further appealed to the VC designate to extend hands of fellowship to them to ensure the smooth running of their job.

Responding, Prof. Akanji felicitated with the Executive members and appreciated them for the visit.

He assured the Chapel of Management continuous support. "If there is anything you feel we can do to make your job easy, be rest assured that the University is ever ready to assist you. Please continue to get our own side of the story before going to the press for fair and balance reportage," he reiterated.

Prof. Akanji who prayed that the friendship should go beyond official relationship said before he leaves office, he would introduce his successor to the Chapel.

Other members of the Executive Council are Abdul Moh'd Isa (Vice-Chairman), Yakubu Mustapha (Secretary), Obinna Unaeze (Treasurer), Samson Mathew (Financial Secretary) and Mathew Jwantu (Auditor).

UNIT 13 ORGANIZES SEND OFF FOR PROF SALAMI

Members of the Federal Road Safety Special Marshal (FRSSM) have organized a send off ceremony for Prof. Kazeem Adebayo Salami who served as the Unit Coordinator of FRSSM. The event took place on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at the Physics Laboratory of the Bosso Campus.

Speaking at the event, the Chairman of the occasion, Engr. Ahmed Bandeji Sule praised Prof. Salami for his relentless service to the Unit and commended Unit 13 generally for being the most active Unit in Minna.

He tendered the Vice-Chancellor apology for his inability to attend the occasion and equally thanked him for his numerous support and contributions to FRSSM.

The Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Niger State Command, Susan Ada Ajenge who was represented by the Deputy Route Commander (DRC) Yahaya Yusuf, said the distinction between a regular marshal and a special marshal is that regular marshals are paid while the special marshals are volunteers. He wished Prof. Salami a peaceful retirement and praised the Unit for doing well while charging them to do more.



Members of FRSSM presenting gift to Prof. Salami

Also at the event, the Zonal Coordinator Prof. Samuel Bankole Oyeleke commended Prof. Salami for his outstanding performance and tasked members of the Unit to wake up and do more by supporting their leaders. He also prayed for God guidance and good health for Prof. Salami.

Responding, Prof. Salami thanked Almighty Allah for his life, good health and opportunity to carry out his duties. He assured the Unit of his continue support and cooperation.