

## PROF SAIDU TASKS FG TO ESTABLISH MEDICINAL PLANT HUBS

**D**isturbed by the rising cases of diabetes in Nigeria, Prof. Abubakar Ndaman Saidu, Department of Biochemistry, School of Life Sciences, Federal University of Technology, Minna has called on the Federal Government to set-up medicinal plant hubs at different locations in the country.

Prof. Saidu stated this yesterday when he delivered the 62<sup>nd</sup> Inaugural Lecture of the University titled: **Therapies for Diabetes Mellitus: My Role** held at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT).



Prof. Saidu delivering his lecture

The don said the establishment of the medicinal plant hubs would help boost research in the area of alternative medicine to combat the effect of diabetes in the country, adding that India and China have established such hubs with huge success recorded.

Prof. Saidu stated that diabetes is a non-communicable disease of endocrine origin and metabolic disorder that affects both adults and children of all races.

"Heredity plays a prominent role in determining one's risk of diabetes, but only as a predisposing factor and not an absolute determinants. Genetic factors play more important role in the diabetes Type 2 than the Type 1", the scholar disclosed.

The professor of Biochemistry listed Insulin therapy,

oral therapy and phytotherapy as the three main approaches available as medications for the management or treatment of diabetes mellitus.

The Inaugural Lecturer maintained that diabetes as a disease undermine output in the society in terms of service delivery and may lead to undesirable ill effects and called for synergy between the World Health Organisation (WHO), International Diabetes Foundation (IDF) and World Diabetes Foundation (WDF).

On the need to find a lasting solution to the ravaging effect of diabetes, the former Dean, Students' Affairs of the University noted that there is need for policy makers and health intervention agencies to refocus on a workable or realizable policy on the non-communicable diseases as against the current trend where the focus is mainly on communicable diseases.

He further called for collaboration between the pharmaceutical industries and Universities in Nigeria to work together in the area of antidiabetic drug development.

Addressing dignitaries at the event, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala fsssn, expressed delight with the presentation of the Inaugural Lecturer and commended staff and other guests for attending the event.

# PROF BALA REITERATES FUTMINNA COMMITMENT IN NATURAL PLANTS RESEARCH

The Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala fsssn, has reiterated the commitment of the University in the areas of research and development, most especially in the field of natural plants for the production of medicines for the treatment of diseases.

The Vice-Chancellor made this disclosure on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 when the Director General, Nigerian Natural Medicine Development Agency (NNMDA), Dr. Sam Oghena Etatuvié paid him a courtesy visit at the Senate Building.



The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Bala, DG NNMDA, Dr. Etatuvié (8<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> from right) POs, staff of the University and the Agency in a group snapshot.

Prof. Bala disclosed that many staff of the University have conducted researches in the area of natural plants geared at proffering solutions to some well-known diseases in the country and urged the Agency to show strong commitment by investing in those researches so that they would lead to products.

“We have many technologies in the area of natural plants on our shelves that will need the Agency to provide the platform for our researchers to excel”, the VC reiterated.

The VC advised the Agency to look into investing in the cultivation of some medicinal plants that are predominant in each geo-political zone while noting that planting should be done during the rainy season.

The Vice-Chancellor called for speedy renewal of the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Agency and the University to address some new areas for the development of the nation.

“The existing MoU has elapsed since 2015 and there is urgent need for us to renew the MoU in order to address some areas and if possible add

new things to the MoU to broaden the scope of the document”, he advised.

Prof. Bala expressed optimism that the renewal of the MoU would further strengthen the existing collaboration between the two parties, adding that the issue of water scarcity at the Agency’s farm within the University Campus has been addressed with the drilling of borehole at the farm through the Federal Government Needs Assessment Funds.

Speaking earlier, the DG, NNMDA, Dr. Etatuvié congratulated the Vice-Chancellor on his appointment, adding that the Agency has been following the University’s progress with keen interest.

The DG said the visit was in line with the present administration’s desire to diversify the economy as well as the national strategic competitiveness in raw materials for products development while stating that such has necessitated the Agency to look critically into natural plants for the production of medicines for treating diseases.

He frowned at the fact that Nigeria is not making enough money from the cultivation of natural plants for medicinal purposes like China and India and tasked researchers to look into the area.

The helmsman of NNMDA revealed that the Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu has directed the Agency to revive all its farms and to use science, technology and innovation to carry out scientific analysis of plants that could be used to cure diseases.

He assured the University Management that the Agency would do everything possible to renew the MoU.

# ANNOUNCEMENT! ANNOUNCEMENT!! ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

This is to inform all staff of the Federal University of Technology, Minna that the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala FSSSN, has given approval to the University Sports Committee to organize the maiden edition of FUT, Minna Staff Inter-Departmental/School/ and Unit Football Championship. In view of this, all interested staff are advised to liaise with the designated Coordinator in charge of their respective Schools, Departments or Units to commence preparations and other logistics for the smooth kick-off of the Championship.

The Coordinators are as follows:

- i. School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT), Dr. Peter Eze
- ii. School of Electrical and Engineering Technology, Dr. Alkali Babawuya
- iii. School of Infrastructure and Processing Engineering Technology, Engr. Mohammed Bello
- iv. School of Entrepreneurship and Management Technology, Dr. Mukaila Ijaiya
- v. School of Environmental Technology, Dr. Chukwudi Ohadugha
- vi. School of Information and Communication Technology, Dr. Morufu Olalere
- vii. School of Life Sciences, Mr. Adelere Isiaka Adedayo
- viii. School of Physical Sciences, Dr. Bolarinwa Gbolahan
- ix. School of Science and Education Technology, Dr. Rabi Bello
- x. The Vice-Chancellor's Office, Prof. Ibrahim Adai
- xi. Works Department, Mr. James Nwanpa
- xii. Physical Planning & Development Unit, QS Mohammed Saba
- xiii. Registry Department, Mal. Abubakar Aliyu
- xiv. Microfinance Bank/ CPES, Mr. Mohammed Babatunde Jibril
- xv. University Health Services, Mr. Abdulwaziu Kolawale
- xvi. University Security Services, Mr. A. K. Abiodun
- xvii. Audit/ Bursary, Mr. Abiodun Fawole
- xviii. University Library, Mustapha Gana

It promises to be fun; let's make it happen...

For more details: Call 07036862826, 07032086217, and 08033883137. Coming Soon!