

CAMPUS NEWS

ADOPT TECH FOR IMPROVED YIELDS, PROF ISAH CHARGES FARMERS

By Ugboaja, Stanley U.



Professor Isah delivering his lecture.

Photo Credit: Elijah Yisa

As part of efforts to boost food production, poverty reduction and ensure food security in Nigeria, Prof. Umar Sheshi Isah has called for the adoption of agricultural technologies by farmers.

Prof. Isah who is a lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT) stated this when he delivered the 99th inaugural lecture of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, titled: Adoption of Agricultural Technologies: How Far Have Farmers Gone? held on

Thursday, February 10, 2022 at the University Auditorium, Main Campus, Gidan Kwano.

The University don disclosed that the major sources of awareness for the adoption of agricultural technologies were non-professionals such as village heads, friends, and cooperative society members than the extension agents, adding that the adoption of the software components of agrotechnologies by farmers in Nigeria is still at its lowest ebb.

Further, the scholar stated that farm-level characteristics, cosmopolitaness, educational

level, higher income, cooperative membership, extension contract, incentive, and appropriate awareness time were some of the factors that would enhance the adoption of technologies by farmers in the country.

"Major constraint to the adoption of agricultural innovations was inadequate extension services in terms of coverage and frequency of service. There were little or no extension services by the public sector extension services on post-harvest technologies", Prof. Isah revealed.

Contd on Page 2

On how to improve food production through the adoption of hi-tech methods, he advised that extension agents should provide timely information to the farmers to educate them on the software components of improved varieties such as plant spacing, planting depth, and appropriate planting time.

Other scholarly recommendations made by Prof. Isah at the well-attended lecture include the development of improved seed varieties by researchers that target both quality grains and

straw yield to meet farmers' needs, time of awareness by extension agents or promoters should be synchronised with the time or season of the use of the improved varieties, and agricultural extension organisations should offer incentives to farmers in terms of improved varieties.

Prof. Isah's contributions to knowledge over the decades as an expert in the field of agricultural extension and rural development include identifying the factors influencing the adoption of technologies,

sources of awareness for the adoption of technologies, coverage areas of agricultural extension services, perceived effects of technology adoption on the livelihood of farmers, constraints to the adoption of agricultural technologies amongst others.

Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, applauded Prof. Isah for delivering a very educative lecture and thanked dignitaries for attending the event.

FUTMINNA TO ACCESS AMERICAN E-LIBRARY FOR FREE

By Abdullahi U. Danbakaba



FUT, Minna Principal Officers in a group photograph with US Embassy officials. Middle, VC, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, 3rd from left, Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer, Mr. Burba Peter.
Photo Credit: Elijah Yisa

The United States Embassy in Nigeria has expressed readiness to, through American Spaces, provide a window for the library of the Federal University of Technology, Minna with a view to affording both the staff and students the opportunity to access stock of resources, collections and data of its e-library for free.

This was disclosed by the Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer, Public Affairs Section, US Embassy, Abuja, Mr. Burba Peter when he led a delegation on a courtesy visit to the University Management on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at Main Campus.

Mr. Peter who rated Nigeria

among the top 10 countries in the world in terms of foreign students in the US also stressed that their visit to the University was to further explore more ways of facilitating students' exchange between the University and the US, adding that the opportunity would enable the students to have access to scholarships.

Contd on Page 3

Receiving the delegation in his office, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, said that the visit came at the right time owing to the fact that most students are now focussing on Canada for their post graduate studies instead of

America.

He expressed hope that the visit would further strengthen the relationship that already exist between the Embassy and the University, adding that, the interaction with the potential candidates would result to

reconsideration of the US as a destination of choice.

Prof. Bala thanked the delegation for the kind gesture and expressed optimism that the window would not only be useful to the university community but also the immediate host communities.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRE ORGANIZES PITCHING, AWARD CEREMONY

By Winifred Oritogun



Prof. Kuta and other officials of the University in a group photograph with the participants.

Photo Credit: Elijah Yisa

The Entrepreneurship Centre, Federal University of Technology, Minna has organized the fourth season of the Business Ideas Competition, pitching and award ceremony.

The event took place on February 11, 2022 at the Entrepreneurship Centre, Gidan Kwano.

In her opening remark, the Director of the Centre, Dr. Caroline Alenoghena, said there will be a lot of pitches as a lot of grants and international bodies are ready to put their money into

some businesses.

While encouraging the participants not to get tired when asked to send a pitch, she added that the students had undergone a one-week boot camp, where they were taught business idea valuation, customer acquisition and have also practised how to pitch.

Dr. Alenoghena expressed appreciation to the judges and consultants as well as other team members for organizing the competition.

She disclosed that the 40 participants that pitched have all passed and have been admitted into the full tech incubator hub.

She said that last year, the target was to have 100 incubates in a year but they could not meet up by December as, instead, they had 63 incubates, so the new 40 incubates when added will make it 103.

The Director said the centre is moving to the next level and the next level for the full tech incubators hub is getting mentors, forming a

Contd on Page 4

community, investments and spin offs (starting companies on campus).

In his remark, the Vice-Chancellor of the University who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Faruk Adamu Kuta appealed to the participants to tap from the skills they are enhanced with, adding that they need to be on top of their toes to identify their skills.

"There is a large market for everyone as the population of the world is increasing," he stated.

Prof Kuta said he will not encourage them to rely solely on white collar jobs, adding that, this sort of exercise requires tenacity and

endurance to get it right.

He advised the participants to go back to their grassroots and encourage their colleagues to also participate in the programme.

The former Registrar of the University, Mrs Victoria N. Kolo who was also at the event said she was overwhelmed by crowd at the event. She advised that apart from their degrees, students should have a side business.

Mrs. Kolo said the Students Support Unit was established with the aim of ensuring that students stay in FUT, Minna is memorable and that they are successful in their endeavours.

The immediate-past Director of the Centre, Prof (Mrs) Zinash

Osunde in her remark congratulated the participants on the bold step they took. She said nowadays cash comes and cash goes out but ideas and how to structure and make those ideas presentable is much more important which will in turn give millions of naira in the future.

Prof. Osunde added that there are lots of opportunities out there especially for the youths.

She advised the participants to be serious in whatever they are taught at the Centre, which will give them more opportunities in life.

At the ceremony, cash prizes were presented to the best three participants, namely: Adesina Oluwatobi, Dalok Pana David and Innocent Illiih.

UPGRADING

The Vice-Chancellor has approved the upgrading of Audu Muhammad Abba Isah, Department of Animal Biology; Musa Suleiman Tenimu, Department of Geology and Ahmed Tukur, Department of Science Education from Graduate Assistant to Assistant Lecturer with effect from 15th December, 2021; 27th October, 2021; and 17th November, 2021 respectively.

WITHDRAWAL OF SERVICE

The Vice-Chancellor has approved the Withdrawal of Service of Yusuf Ibrahim, Department of Architecture from the University with effect from 18th April, 2022.

COUNSELLING TIPS

Cultivate the habit of SELF-CONTROL, it is a virtue of maturity and godliness. It is not what happens to you that determines your mood: Its what happens in you! Its not about controlling the world on the outside – its controlling the world on the inside. A proverb says: **"A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls"**.

Guidance and Counselling Unit,
Students' Affairs Division.

MONEY MATTER

Weekly Financial Digest for 31st January - 4th February 2022

N/S	RECEIPTS	N
1	Transcript	628,360.00
2	Certificate (under-graduate)	1,691,000.00
3	Certificate (Post-graduate)	997,000.00
4	Clearance Fees	27,000.00
5	Semesterial Result	300.00
6	Prepaid Meter	68,100.00
7	I.T.S Diploma Certificate	3,500.00
8	Verification of Result	55,000.00
9	SIWES Log Book	604,400.00
10	Motorcycle (Registration Fee)	32,000.00
11	Transcript (Students Copy)	52,000.00
12	Registration Fees-pre-degree	249,750.00
13	Post-graduate School fees	1,461,750.00
14	Sales of forms- pre-degree	30,000.00
15	Under-graduate School Fees	78,350.00
16	Post UTME Fees	42,000.00
	TOTAL	6,020,510.00
17	Contractors/Suppliers	
	(i) Staff	
	(a) Advance	2,917,000.00
	(b) Refund /Payment to Staff	13,013,344.00
	(ii) Contractors/Suppliers	
	(a) Pioneer Int. Services Ltd. - Service	333,500.00
	(b) Essences Global Risk and Benefit - Insurance	1,097,900.00
	(c) Capital Express Assurance LTD - Insurance	8,234,250.00
	(d) Princess Az-zahra Lodge - Hotel Bill	75,750.00
	(e) Mohammed Agro Chemical & Allied Prod. Ltd - Supply	4,754,241.25
	(f) New Complex Nig. Ltd. - Construction	8,881,091.60
	(g) New Complex Nig. Ltd. - Construction	26,547,542.24
	TOTAL PAYMENTS	65,854,619.09