

**GIANT STRIDES AND FOOTPRINTS
ON FUNAAB SOIL: PART I**



Prof. Felix Kolawole SALAKO, *FSSSN FASN*

Vice-Chancellor

NOVEMBER 1, 2017 - OCTOBER 31, 2022

Federal University of Agriculture

Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First, I wish to state that I could not have achieved anything as the sixth substantive Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria (FUNAAB) without the Grace of God. All the achievements chronicled in this document amazed me because the enabling conditions and environment to work on them were there without even my expectation in some cases. All Glory to God, Almighty.

Second, people worked with me; people worked for FUNAAB. It is difficult to have an exhaustive list here because these people are very many. They cut across all strata of stakeholders and society. Therefore, I seek the indulgence of all to place them in various groups.

The Chancellor, His Eminence, Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V, the Obong of Calabar was a father to me as the Vice-Chancellor. He was frank when the need arose to correct observed anomalies but never held anything against me or the University administration during my tenure. Each time the Principal Officers visited him in Calabar, we were warmly received. I was privileged to have him appointed for two terms.

I served as Vice-Chancellor under the sixth Governing Council chaired by Dr. Aboki Zhawa (OON) and for one month under the seventh Governing Council chaired by Alhaji Umar Ahmed. The Council chaired by Dr. Zhawa appointed me as the Vice-Chancellor in 2017. I remain grateful for the opportunity given me to serve FUNAAB, the country and humanity. My one-month stint under Alhaji Ahmed came with its positive lessons. I cherish such lessons, which are not taught in formal classes.

The Principal Officers of the University constituted the core University Management team. I am grateful for their contributions when running the affairs of the University. Statutory bodies such as the University Senate Congregation and Convocation contributed to my achievements through robust discussions and contributions. In discharging their duties as they should, I was able to discharge my duties as I should. I thank all the members of these bodies.

There were non-teaching staff who did not belong to these statutory bodies but discharged their duties diligently at individual levels. Making the University function properly was a major reason for success. I thank them all for their diligence.

The students of the University were considered very critical in the running of the University. They were not under-estimated in decision making, when such decisions affected them directly. They reciprocated by understanding the fact that dialogue was better than violence in achieving lofty goals. I appreciate them for ensuring flow of information from them to me and vice-versa. This helped in amicable settlement of contentious issues, making peace to reign in FUNAAB during my tenure. All FUNAAB students remain dear to me, always.

Third are the external communities. My gratitude goes to all security agencies in Ogun State, particularly, the Nigerian Police and the Directorate of State Service (DSS). The peace experienced during my five-year tenure can be partly attributed to their efforts in nipping emerging crises, usually involving our students living outside the campus, in the bud.

Traditional rulers in Ogun and other States lent their support for the progress of the University. The Alake of Egba land, Oba Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo II, deserves special mention. He was a father too.

Fourth are agencies that provided funds for the University. The Federal Government of Nigeria takes the lead in this regard because it is the regulator of all the agencies. I acknowledge that funds received through Capital Fund, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), NEEDS Assessment, National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) were very significant in the provision of infrastructure, staff development, teaching facilities including laboratory equipment, research grants, medical equipment and community development grants. The World Bank and some other international donor agencies are well appreciated for the funds received during my tenure.

It is one thing to receive funds, it is another thing entirely to utilize them judiciously. I am grateful to God for creating the enabling environment for the utilization of inherited unspent funds in the University coffers when I became the Vice-Chancellor. This grace extended to the

attraction of different funds into the University during my tenure and all were judiciously utilized, as shall be reported in the Parts I and II of this documentary.

Fifth and finally, I thank my family members who were very wonderful in supporting me. Being a Vice-Chancellor came with the charm and vagaries. My family members were always sources of inspiration to me. My, wife children, in-laws and grandchildren were always around to encourage me to forge ahead with my responsibilities during the occasional vicissitudes of office, brought about by adversarial activities of some individuals. My wife, Mrs. Mabel Obehi Salako, is a pillar of strength and support. The peace in the home-front translated to the peace at my workplace. I must also thank God for this.

Please permit me to state that I take responsibility for my actions (or perceived inactions) during my tenure as the sixth substantive Vice-Chancellor of FUNAAB.

CONTENTS

	Acknowledgement	2
1.	Introduction	8
2.	Summary of my vision and mission statement as presented in 2017	10
2.1.	My vision	10
2.2.	My mission	10
2.3.	My core values	10
3.	Leadership	11
3.1.	Consultation and decision-making	11
3.1.1.	The principal officers	13
3.1.1.1	Membership of the board of trustees of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria	13
3.1.1.2.	Principal officers from November 1, 2017 to October 31, 2022	14
3.1.1.3.	Strategic plan 2021-2025	15
3.1.2.	The governing council	15
3.1.2.1.	Audited accounts	15
3.1.2.2.	Appointments and promotions	16
3.1.3.	Honourary awards and naming of monuments	18
3.1.3.1	Honourary degrees	18
3.1.3.2.	Appointment of professor emeriti and naming of monuments	20
3.1.4.	University senate	21
3.1.4.1.	Student population growth	21
3.1.4.2.	Establishment of the Department of Geology	22
3.1.4.3.	Virtual classes in response to COVID-19 pandemic of 2020	22
3.2.	Academic standard and quality assurance	22
3.2.1.	World ranking in 2022	23
3.2.2.	Accreditation of courses by National Universities Commission	23
3.2.3.	Accreditation by professional bodies	26
3.2.4.	Postgraduate student accreditation	26
3.3.	Visitation panel	27
4.	Promoting research and scholarship	28
4.1.	Academic staff development	28
4.2.	Non-teaching staff development	31
4.3.	Laboratory and field equipment, and other facilities in CEADESE, Colleges, DUFARMS, COBFAS, University Library and ICTREC	32
4.4.	TETFund research grants	36
4.5.	TETFund Centre of excellence in cassava and poultry innovations	36
4.6.	Other research grants	37
5.	Teaching and learning environment	41
5.1.	Teaching facilities	41
5.2.	Computer desktops	42

5.3.	Refurbishment of buildings	43
5.4.	Laboratories and hostels	43
5.5.	Installation of generators and solar panels	44
5.6.	Farm and ground maintenance implements	45
5.7.	Roads	45
6.	Entrepreneurship	48
6.1.	Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies	48
6.1.1	Photo studio	51
6.2.	FUNAAB integrated ventures	51
6.2.1.	Cassava processing factory	52
6.2.2.	Bakery, cashew nut and palm wine processing factories	52
6.2.3.	Oil Palm processing factory	53
6.2.4.	Table water factory	53
6.2.5.	Poultry processing unit	55
7.	Community development and relationship	56
7.1.	Traditional rulers, personalities and agrarian communities	56
7.2.	Corporate social responsibilities	57
7.2.1.	Roads and culverts	57
7.2.2.	Boreholes in Mawuko and Olorunshogo Tigba in Abeokuta	58
7.2.3.	Capacity building in Abeokuta and Sagamu	58
7.2.4.	Community policing and security	58
7.2.5.	Intervention of the University to mitigate hunger during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic	59
7.3.	Endowments	61
7.4.	Gender inclusivity	61
8.	Infrastructural development and maintenance	64
8.1.	Construction of university dam	64
8.2.	Generators for electricity supply	65
8.3.	Buildings	66
8.3.1.	Inherited buildings completed	66
8.3.2.	Newly completed buildings between 2018 and 2022	67
8.3.3.	Ongoing building projects nearing completion	68
8.3.4.	Renovation of existing buildings and other infrastructure	70
8.4.	Internet facilities	71
8.5.	FUNAAB Radio	72
8.6.	Maintenance of infrastructure	72
9.	Health and sports	73
9.1.	Health services	73
9.2.	Sports	73
9.3.	Staff club	75
9.4.	Provision of space for meetings and extra-curricular activities	75

10.	Security, Welfare and Income Generation	76
10.1.	Security	76
10.2.	Staff and student welfare	77
10.3.	Income generating units	78
10.3.1	Institute of Human Resources and Development	78
10.3.2.	The FUNAAB schools	79
10.3.2.1.	The secondary school: FUNAAB International School	79
10.3.2.2.	The pre-primary and primary school: Staff School	80
10.3.2.3	UNAAB microfinance bank	80
11.	Concluding remarks	82

1. INTRODUCTION

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria (FUNAAB) has its vision and mission statements from inception, in 1988. However, I developed a vision and mission statement when I applied to be the sixth substantive Vice-Chancellor of the University. This was to serve as a guide for me to count the milestones during the anticipated five-year tenure. The document titled “EXCELLENCE CANNOT BE COMPROMISED” encapsulated the framework with a twelve-point agenda (Figure 1).

I was the Vice-Chancellor between November 1, 2017 and October 31, 2022. This documentation is to highlight the various achievements and challenges during this period of service to FUNAAB and humanity. This scorecard is in two parts: Part I being this text document and Part II, a pictorial document to complement Part I.

I decided to focus on my achievements despite occasional adversarial activities of few individuals on the campus. The two Parts of this documentary report the values added to the University at national and international levels. Reporting these achievements suggest that they outweigh any negative challenge which constituted a potential impediment. In any case, that I completed my five-year tenure successfully and had a very large number of University stakeholders appreciating the works done under my administration demonstrate the need to focus on the achievements.

Part I of this documentary is divided into Chapters and sections based, mainly, on the twelve-point agenda. Part II does not follow the sequence of the agenda but it is largely dependent on the milestones listed (Figure 1). I worked with teams, committees and statutory units of the University to obtain the results reported herein. Therefore, I took cognizance of some specific contributors to my achievements as the Vice-Chancellor.



Figure 1: Outline of the twelve-point agenda developed as framework of administration of the University between 2017 and 2022.

2. SUMMARY OF MY VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT AS PRESENTED IN 2017

2.1. My Vision

To promote scholarly contributions for positive impact on mankind and environment, particularly, in the areas of food security and export-driven agriculture.

2.2. My Mission

- Creation of an enabling environment for staff productivity and learning
- Promotion of research-for-development activities in all areas of competence within the University
- Expand the frontiers of knowledge by consolidating existing knowledge in accessible media while promoting innovations
- Ensure equity and fair-play in all relationships with stakeholders such that every stakeholder is committed to the advancement of the University
- Promote self-esteem among all stakeholders and friends of the University through laudable achievements.
- To increase the revenue base of the University.

2.3. My Core Values

- ❖ Respect for humanity and society
- ❖ Integrity
- ❖ Justice and Fair Play
- ❖ Productivity
- ❖ Harmony without compromising discipline.

3. LEADERSHIP

As the Vice-Chancellor, I was statutorily responsible for the day-to-day running of the University. Leadership style matters in driving achievements in any organization. I provide in this chapter my style and actions when taking administrative decisions.

3.1. Consultation and Decision-Making

One index of collective responsibility with purposeful leadership is the wide consultation made before decisions were taken and implemented. Critical stakeholders (Table 1) were engaged without me compromising leadership. Paraphrasing the former US President, Harry S. Truman, “the buck stopped on my table”. I took decisions and took responsibility for taking them.

During my 5-year tenure, about eight months were spent either on industrial actions by Staff Unions or COVID-19 pandemic (lockdown) in 2020. Again in 2022, there were industrial actions for eight months by a Staff Union and less than eight months by other Staff Unions. These limited Council, Senate and Congregation meetings but did not stop Principal Officers from continuing to work with zeal.

The current seventh University governing Council was inaugurated on Thursday, September 8, 2022, one and a half years after the completion of the tenure of the sixth governing Council which was chaired by Dr. Aboki Zhawa, *OON*. The seventh Council is chaired by Alhaji Umar Ahmed.

Having been a Deputy Vice-Chancellor under two previous Council Chairmen, namely, Chief Lawrence Osayemi and Senator, Sir (Dr.) Adeseye Ogunlewe, I had a very good understanding of the relationship between the Council and the core University Management.

I attended the Governing Council meeting chaired by Alhaji Umar Ahmed from Tuesday, 4th to Friday, 7th October, 2022, as an outgoing Vice-Chancellor. Thereafter, the Chairman of the Council led some of us on his maiden courtesy visit to His Eminence, Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V, Obong of Calabar, who is the Chancellor, serving a second term since 2021.

Table 1: Number of meetings held by or with statutory bodies between November 1, 2017 and October 31, 2022

Statutory Body	Number of meetings
University Governing Council	20
Principal Officers' Meetings	
<i>a. Principal Officers only</i>	75
<i>b. With Academic Staff Union of University (ASUU)</i>	10
<i>c. With National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT)</i>	13
<i>d. With Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU)</i>	15
<i>e. With Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU)</i>	12
<i>f. With Student Union</i>	11
Senate meetings	26
Congregation meetings	04
Total	186

There were no strained moments. Stating this is important because the sixth Governing Council led by Dr. Zhawa, which also appointed me as the sixth substantive Vice-Chancellor, came into being during the 2016/2017 crisis which engulfed the University. I promised to maintain peace on campus by not leaning on partisan interests but ensuring fairness and justice. This position posed its challenges from partisans who would not accept my position, but I held on to affirmative leadership, without compromising excellence.

3.1.1. The Principal Officers

Although the day-to-day running of the University is the responsibility of the Vice-Chancellor, there were other Principal Officers to support the Vice-Chancellor in managing the University. The Vice-Chancellor was first among equals.

3.1.1.1. Membership of the Board of Trustees, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria

By virtue of being FUNAAB Vice-Chancellor, I became a member of the Board of Trustees of International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, Nigeria in April 2021 for two years. This was by a rotational arrangement among the Vice-Chancellors of Federal Universities of Agriculture only. As an ex-officio member, I represented the interest of the Federal Government of Nigeria, along with the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Agriculture. IITA belongs to the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers, formerly the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

The Governing Council of approved the completion of my appointment, till April 2023, during its inaugural meeting in October, 2022. This was at the behest of IITA because I was involved in

the process of the selection of a new Director General (DG) for the Institute. Furthermore, the newly appointed DG would double as the first Regional Director for Africa under the new One CGIAR system.

This transition coincided also with the expiration of the tenure of the Chairman of the IITA Board of Trustees. Again, I was privileged to be involved in the process of appointing the new Chairman. Both responsibilities spilled beyond October 31, 2022. The Council was magnanimous in extending my representation beyond my tenure. My best by the time the assignments would be completed.

3.1.1.2. Principal Officers from November 1, 2017 to October 31, 2022

Some Principal Officers completed their tenures within my five-year tenure. These were the Deputy Vice-Chancellors, who had a two-year tenure each. Prof. Catherine Oluyemisi Eromosele continued from the previous administration, Profs. Lateef Oladimeji Sanni, Morenike Dipeolu, Clement Olabinjo Adeofun and Bolanle Idowu Akeredolu-Ale were appointed during my tenure and each completed a two-year tenure.

By the time I left on October 31, 2022, Prof. Olusola Babatunde Kehinde was Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development) and Prof. Christian Obiora Ndubuisi Ikeobi was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). The University Governing Council, at its maiden meeting between October 4 and 7, 2022, approved the appointment of Prof. Olusola Babatunde Kehinde as the Acting Vice-Chancellor. He assumed office on November 1, 2022.

The University Librarians were Dr. Mulikat Salaam and Prof. Fehintola Onifade (appointed on June 7, 2018, as the University Librarian). The Registrar was Dr. Bola Adekola, and the Bursar was Mr. Chukwunwike Ezekpeazu. Both the Registrar and Bursar assumed office in October, 2017.

I wrote to the Honourable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu (CON), through the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC), Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, to extend the tenure of both principal officers so that the exit of the three of us in October 2022 would not lead to a potential lacuna in the University administration. This request was graciously approved with the Registrar having a one-year tenure extension and the Bursar a ten-month extension.

3.1.1.3. Strategic Plan 2021-2025

Our administration ensured that the Strategic Plan of the University from 2021-2025 was published in 2021. Many staff of the University participated in preparing this document through a thorough revision of the previous one, to chart a fresh path of progress for the University. Prof. Olusola Babatunde Kehinde was the Chairman of the Committee before he became the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development).

3.1.2. The Governing Council

The University Governing Council took conclusive decisions on policy matters within its purview. Robust discussions were held and decisions were based on objectivity and merit.

3.1.2.1. Audited Accounts

The Finance and General Purpose Committee (F&GPC) of Council considered and recommended to Council matters relating to the administration of the Finances of the University. I met a backlog of un-audited accounts of the University. I took a decision to clear this speedily, making the University Management to first update the audited reports from 2015 to 2017.

Thereafter, I proceed to also certify audited accounts from 2018-2020 before October 31, 2022. The draft of audited account for 2021 was ready in October 2022 but needed painstaking editorial work which extended beyond my tenure.

The implication of these accounts being certified and submitted to the appropriate Ministries and Agencies is the credibility it gives to our University. They count in national and international financial relations. Donors or anyone dealing with FUNAAB on financial matters would be interested in the certified audited accounts. The availability of the Audited Account reports was very important in supporting the applications of scholars for research grants as well as for the transaction of various financial matters.

3.1.2.2. Appointments and Promotions

Despite delays caused by industrial actions in 2020 and 2022, promotion exercises were held and the Council approved recommendations in each year of my five-year tenure (Table 2). The Council, chaired by Dr. Aboki Zhawa, was responsible for the appointment, promotion, transfer of service, conversion, upgrading and redesignation of staff, as well as all matters appertaining to these between 2018 and 2022. In October 2022, Alhaji Umar Ahmed-led Council approved the recommendations of Management and appropriate Council Committees on such matters at its maiden meeting.

Promotion examinations were conducted for qualified CONTISS 13 staff expected to be promoted to CONTISS 14. These exercises led to promotions into CONTISS 14 in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

For the seventh Council under Alhaji Umar Ahmed, the following number of staff had their positions enhanced: 23 non-teaching staff were converted from one cadre to another; 65 junior staff were upgraded to higher levels based on recognized additional educational qualifications;

Table 2: Appointments, promotions, conversion and transfer of service between 2018 and 2021

2.1. Academic and Non-Teaching Staff				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Academic Staff				
Promotion	87	72	85	76
Conversion to Academic Staff	0	0	0	49
Recruitment/Transfer	6	113	0	5
Non-Teaching Staff				
Promotion	514	256	325	407
Senior Staff Conversion	6	25	48	61
Recruitment/Transfer	250	211	0	0
Total	863	677	458	598

2.2. Summary for both Academic and Non-Teaching Staff				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total for Promotion for Academic and Non-teaching Staff	601	328	410	483
Total for Conversion/Redesignation for Academic and Non-teaching Staff	6	25	48	110
Total for Recruitment/Transfer of Service for Academic and Non-teaching	256	334	0	5

Source: University Registry

311 senior non-teaching and 202 junior staff were promoted. Upgrading of junior to senior staff was preceded by a competency test in which 200 staff participated. The upgrading of junior to senior staff was based on a computer-based competency test. Another round of examination was conducted for those seeking promotion from CONTISS 13 to 14 in 2022. Then, the 21 staff who qualified were approved by the Council in October 2022.

Two staff on level 14 were promoted to 15 in 2020. Despite obstacles related to industrial actions, available documents of academic staff due for promotion to the professorial rank were processed.

Still on promotion, it was during my tenure that Professors were appointed for the University Library for the first time in FUNAAB. The University Librarian, Prof. Fehintola Onifade, is the first FUNAAB University Librarian to be so appointed in 2019. Prof. F. Ajegbomogun also became a Professor in 2019 whereas Prof. O. Bamgboye was appointed in 2020.

3.1.3. Honourary Awards and Naming of Monuments

Honouring deserving individuals from within and outside the University was considered very important. This was done conscientiously so that qualified people were honoured based on merit only. From within, we honoured retired staff of the University.

3.1.3.1. Honourary Degrees

The Council, acting on the recommendations of the Senate approved the conferment of honorary degrees (Honoris Causa) on Professors Wole Soyinka (Nobel Laureate) and Toyin Falola, two renowned scholars in Humanities, and Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, a former Minister of Agriculture and the current President of the African Development Bank.

Let me take the liberty to quote copiously from my speech at the 26th Convocation Ceremony (held in November, 2018) on the two Honorary degree awardees, then:

“The University celebrates the academia, today, by conferring Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters on **Professors Wole Soyinka** (Nobel Laureate and a distinguished Nigerian) and **Toyin Falola** (a Distinguished Professor of History of at the University of Texas at Austin, Texas, USA). We had no doubt in our mind when selecting them that they were ‘ready-made’ men of Honour, with many Honours already earned by them.

However, the difference here is very clear: this is the first time they are taking an Honorary Degree from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria. Ladies and Gentlemen, **‘only the deep can call to the deep’**, borrowing words, again, from Chief Obafemi Awolowo.

There is a nexus between Science and Humanities; we are emphasizing this as we confer the Honorary Degree of today on men who made their marks in Humanities. Even at this Convocation Ceremony, Professor Toyin Falola, who doubled as our Convocation Lecturer demonstrated this in the Lecture titled **“Food and Us: Poverty, Policies and Politics”**.

We feel honoured to project *“Ake; the Years of Childhood”* to *“Ake; the Year of Honorary Degree Award”*. Scientists, Engineers, Architects, Philosophers, Social Scientists, Historians, Archaeologists, Literary and Humanity Experts, etc. need imagination to bring forth reality.

Dr. Akinwumi Adesina (OFR) was conferred Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa by the University at the 27th Convocation Ceremony in January 2020.

Prof. Wole Soyinka stated, when receiving his award, that it would be the last honorary degree he would receive. It was befitting for FUNAAB to honour him in Abeokuta (*Ake*), the town that is regarded as the ‘cradle’ of his formal education.

The broad-mindedness of our administration made FUNAAB a beneficiary of Wole Soyinka’s “Ijegba Abode or Ari Forestage”, the residence and workspace of the Nobel Laureate. He accommodated international visiting scholars prior to the handing over to FUNAAB in May

2022. Prof. Wole Soyinka officially ceded virtually the whole estate to FUNAAB with the understanding that “FUNAAB shall ensure the preservation of the structures, the entire ground and the forest of the Ijegba Abode”. The place is being used as an intellectual resource centre.

For instance, it hosted more than 60 secondary school students for three days (September 21-23, 2022) to a “Reading Hour” during which the “The Trials of Brother Jero”, one of Soyinka’s Plays was read by students from different schools, including FUNAAB International School (FUNIS). More than 60 students participated in the programme.

On the first day of the “Reading Hour”, there was a unscheduled visit by the outgoing IITA Director General, Dr. Nteranya Sanginga, to me, also an outgoing Vice-Chancellor. He gave an impromptu talk on why the youths should embrace agriculture.

3.1.3.2. Appointment of Professor Emeriti and Naming of Monuments

For the first time in FUNAAB, retired Professors were appointed Professor emeriti. These were Professors Julius Amioba Okojie, Ayoka Olufunmilayo Adebambo (emerita), Michael Tunde Adetunji, and late Prof. Israel Folorunso Adu. For Profs. Okojie and Adu, the award took place in January, 2020. Profs. Adebambo and Adetunji received their awards in May, 2021.

Also, monuments of the University were named after individuals who have made their marks, either outside or within the University. Such individuals included Chief (Dr.) Olusegun Aremu Obasanjo (*GCFR*), Profs. Wole Soyinka, Oluwafemi Olaiya Balogun (former Vice-Chancellor, FUNAAB), Elias Bogoro (former Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Timothy Olurotimi Tayo (former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, FUNAAB), late Prof. Israel Folorunso Adu (former Vice-Chancellor, FUNAAB) and Princess Bisi Soboyejo (pioneer

Registrar, FUNAAB). The naming of a monument after the pioneer Registrar was the first of such to be bestowed on a retired non-teaching staff in FUNAAB.

Commissioning of various infrastructural facilities was carried out by notable stakeholders of the University: the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Alhaji Sabo Nanono; the Executive Secretary of NUC, Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed; the Chancellor, His Eminence, Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V, Obong of Calabar; the Alake of Egba land, Oba Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo II; the Agura of Gbagura, Oba Saburee Babajide Isola Bakre; the Council Chairman, Dr. Aboki Zhawa; Chief (Dr.) Olusegun Aremu Obasanjo; Chief Kola Jamodu; Prof. Adewale Musa Olomu, Chief Medical Director (CMD), Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Idi Aba, Abeokuta; some retired FUNAAB Professors, namely, Professors Olusegun Ayodeji Osinowo, Ishola Adamson, Segun Toyosi Olaiwola Lagoke.

3.1.4. University Senate

The University Senate met on academic matters, particularly on Curriculum, University Academic Calendar, Lectures, Examinations, Admission and Student Discipline, Postgraduate matters and election of Senate members into Statutory Committees of the University. By 2020/2021 academic session, there were 189 Professors, who were members of Senate.

3.1.4.1. Student Population Growth

The student population by 2020/2021 was 20,233 (sub-degree students was 291 and postgraduate students were 1252) with 43% being female and 57% male. Our full-time undergraduate student population rose from 15,493 in 2017/2018 session to 18,517 in 2020/2021 session. Population of students for the agricultural programme rose from 6,184 in 2017/2018 session to 8,077 in 2020/2021 session.

The 28th and 29th Convocation Ceremony was held in March, 2022. For the first degree, 3,202 individuals graduated in 2018/2019 academic session whereas 2,696 graduated in 2019/2020 academic year. Postgraduates with various degrees and diploma, who graduated in 2018/2019

session, were 450, with 123 earning Ph.D. In 2019/2020, 272 graduated with postgraduate degrees and diploma, with 75 earning Ph.D.

The Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Development and Sustainable Environment (CEADESE) graduated international postgraduate students in 2021: 6 from Gambia, 5 from Republic of Benin and 2 from Liberia. It also graduated 10 Nigerians that year.

3.1.4.2. Establishment of the Department of Geology

The Senate approved the proposal for the creation of the Department of Geology during my tenure. This paved the way to process the desire for approval by the National Universities Commission (NUC). Through a letter dated 27th October, 2021 (NUC/AP/F22/VOL.I/36), the University received the approval to run Geology as a full-time programme. The first set of the students were billed to be given admission in 2022/2023 session.

3.1.4.3. Virtual Classes in response to COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020

The University Senate approved hybrid delivery of lectures through physical contact and virtual learning/e-teaching. This was mandatory then because one of the protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 was social distancing by ensuring prescribed space between any two individuals. The vision of the University administration to build more lecture theatres and rooms became a very big advantage in accommodating different numbers of students for both physical and e-learning by January 2021. This was further facilitated the provision of electronic equipment, including smart and interactive boards, for lecture delivery.

3.2. Academic Standard and Quality Assurance

Academic standard and quality assurance are major pillars in the assessment of any University or academic institution. The administration focused on improving laboratories, particularly, the as a

Central Laboratory in the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Development and Sustainable Environment (CEADESE). Teaching facilities were installed in IT-compliant lecture rooms and theatres. These included existing auditoria and newly constructed ones.

3.2.1. World Ranking in 2022

In October 2022, the Times Higher Education ranking body released the ranking results for 2023. The University was ranked high in Life Sciences. Two months earlier, FUNAAB was rated first in Veterinary Medicine in Nigeria and listed among the top ten Universities in the country.

These rankings reflect the quality of the academia and facilities provided, particularly in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) and the College of Veterinary Medicine (COLVET). Both VTH and COLVET were given adequate attention for laboratory equipment and farm facilities during my five-year tenure.

3.2.2. Accreditation of Courses by National Universities Commission

The National Universities Commission (NUC) accredited our courses in 2019 and 2021 (Tables 3 and 4). In 2019, out of 19 courses, only one had “Interim” accreditation (Table 3). In 2021, this course, Mechatronics Engineering, had “Full” accreditation (Table 4).

Just like VTH and COLVET, special attention was given to Mechatronics Engineering Department and the College of Engineering (COLENG) during my tenure as Vice-Chancellor. Equipment were purchased for their laboratories and the College Extension, Chief (Dr.) Olusegun Obasanjo Building was constructed and equipped.

Out of 6 courses considered for accreditation in 2021, five had “Full” accreditation with only Zoology earning “Interim” accreditation (Table 4). Courses under “ADMINISTRATION” were the residual courses of the defunct College of Management Sciences (COLMAS), being offered to students who were yet to graduate. The College has transformed now to College of Entrepreneurial and Development Studies (COLENDs) since 2021, as approved by NUC.

Table 3. Results of accreditation exercise conducted by the National Universities Commission (NUC) in October and November, 2019

PROGRAMME	ACCREDITATION (NOVEMBER, 2019)	STATUS
AGRICULTURE		
1. Agriculture	Full	
2. Aquaculture and Fisheries Management	Full	
3. Forestry and Wildlife Management	Full	
4. Nutrition and Dietetics	Full	
5. Water Resources Management and Agro- Meteorology	Full	
ENGINEERING		
1. Agricultural Engineering	Full	
2. Civil Engineering	Full	
3. Electrical and Electronic Engineering	Full	
4. Food Science and Technology	Full	
5. Mechanical Engineering	Full	
6. Mechatronics Engineering	Interim	
SCIENCE		
1. Biology	Full	
2. Chemistry	Full	
3. Computer Science	Full	
4. Environmental Management and Toxicity	Full	
5. Mathematics	Full	
6. Physics	Full	
7. Statistics	Full	
VETERINARY MEDICINE		
1. Veterinary Medicine	Full	

Table 4. Results of accreditation exercise conducted by the National Universities Commission (NUC) in November, 2021

PROGRAMME	ACCREDITATION STATUS (NOVEMBER, 2021)
ADMINISTRATION	
1. Accounting	Full
2. Banking and Finance	Full
3. Business Administration	Full
ENGINEERING	
1. Mechatronics Engineering	Full
SCIENCE	
1. Botany	Full
2. Zoology	Interim

Botany and Zoology went through accreditation in 2021, for the first time, as independent courses under the recently established College of Biosciences (COLBIOS).

3.2.3. Accreditation by Professional Bodies

Professional bodies also accredited our courses. For instance, the Veterinary Council of Nigeria at its 112th Regular Meeting, approved “Full Accreditation” for COLVET as stated in its letter dated January 9, 2022 (VCN/UNAAB/III/5). The Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) also approved our engineering programmes during my tenure.

Accounting Department of the defunct COLMAS was granted full accreditation by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) in April 2019. Also, Department of Banking and Finance got “Full Accreditation” of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) on August 23, 2019. The College produced ICAN best qualifying candidate and best qualifying female candidate in May 2019 diet ICAN exam. Many of the students, across defunct COLMAS Departments qualified for ICAN before graduation.

3.2.4. Postgraduate Programme Accreditation

In March 2018, I took a decisive action by appointing Professor Olukayode Dewumi Akinyemi as the Director of the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Development and Sustainable Environment (CEADESE). There was a need to re-position the Centre, according to an earlier NUC assessment and feedback. This, the University did.

The University blazed the trail as the first public University in Nigeria to obtain International Accreditation for its postgraduate programmes. The Agency for Quality Assurance System, Germany, based on the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area, accredited the following Programmes for six years on February 26, 2019:

- M.AgSE Livestock Science and Sustainable Environment
- M. AgSE Crop Pasture Production and Sustainable Environment
- M.AgSE Agriculture Economics and Environmental Policy

- Ph.D. AgSE Agriculture Economics and Environmental Policy.

The other 8 Programmes of CEADESE subsequently obtained international accreditation on February 17, 2020, for six years as follows:

- Ph.D. AgSE Livestock Science and Sustainable Environment
- Ph.D. AgSE Crop Pasture Production and Sustainable Environment
- M.AgSE Environmental Systems and Climate Change
- Ph.D. AgSE Environmental Systems and Climate Change
- M.AgSE Food Processing and Value Addition
- Ph.D. AgSE Food Processing and Value Addition
- M.AgSE Agricultural Mechanization and Sustainable Environment
- Ph.D. AgSE Agricultural Mechanization and Sustainable Environment

The international accreditation was after the NUC had accredited twelve CEADESE Programmes for five years in 2018. The University also obtained NUC accreditation for MBA professional programme with a letter referenced NUC/ES/330 VOL.1/305 dated 18th January 2019.

3.3. Visitation Panel

The Federal Government of Nigeria sent Visitation Panels to various Federal Universities in 2021. The Panel which arrived in FUNAAB in the last week of April 2021 was led by Prof Akanrenem Essien. They were to cover the activities of the University for the previous ten years. Invariably, the Panel covered the tenures of two previous Vice-Chancellors, and my tenure from November 1, 2017 to the time of its presence in 2021.

The University administration provided unfettered access to books, invited stakeholders, security agencies and community leaders. The Panel concluded its work on June 11, 2021. The government white paper on its findings was yet to be published by the time I completed my tenure.

4. PROMOTING RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

In order to promote research and scholarship, emphasis was on (i) staff development, (ii) purchase of state-of-the-art equipment for laboratories and farms, (iii) renovation or upgrading of existing laboratory and farm facilities and (iv) competition for grants. I realized from onset that the University had a substantial amount of fund for the training of academic staff, either for higher degrees or bench work. This was largely untapped because the University already had a very high percentage of Ph.D. holders.

For this reason, the administration focused more on the employment of non-Ph.D. holders in 2019. Many of these have been sponsored to earn higher degrees or do bench work in advanced countries

4.1. Academic Staff Development

For the 2020 merged TETFund grants, the University received approval for eight academic staff to pursue postgraduate degrees as follows:

- Ph.D. (Foreign) - 3
- Bench work - 4
- Masters - 1

Benchwork is usually for those carrying out their postgraduate studies locally, needing to utilize specific equipment in advanced countries. The following are some of the beneficiaries of the Academic Staff Development efforts during my tenure:

1. OGUNSOLA, Isqeel Adesegun obtained an M.Sc. Statistics from University of Leeds, United Kingdom and returned in 2022 to the University
2. OYENEKAN, Iskil Oladehinde went for Bench work in University of Liverpool, UK. Returned in 2022

3. ADEWUMI, Taiye Samson attended University of Kwazulu – Natal, South Africa for Bench work. Returned to FUNAAB in 2022.

For 2021, some funds were also merged, with the commencement year of study being 2022 for the ten candidates approved. The distribution was as follows:

- Ph.D. (Foreign) - 1
- Bench work - 4
- Postdoctoral - 5

This was the first time FUNAAB would be awarded grants for postdoctoral training. The following were the beneficiaries:

1. OJELADE, Oluwaseun Christianah (Fishery) carried out her postdoctoral fellowship in University of Glasgow, UK
2. DUROSARO, Samuel Olutunde (Animal Breeding and Genetics) in Purdue University, USA
3. ADELEYE, Tolulope, Modupeoluwa (Microbiology) in University of Oxford, UK
4. BADMOS, Amina O. (Microbiology) in University of Ghent, Belgium and
5. ADELEYE Olushola Emmanuel (Veterinary Parasitology) in King's College, London.

Under the Academic Staff Training and Development Fund of TETFund, there were ten staff awarded the grants under the previous University administration. Four of them completed their studies and returned to the University by 2022. An unfortunate trend is the unwholesome tendencies of a few of the University staff who benefited from these training funds but absconded. Each of such staff placed a burden on both the University and their individual guarantors.

In 2020, during the lockdown, the University Management responded to a call to recommend ten candidates for master's degree programme in Brazil under the Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)/TETFund initiative, named Agricultural Research and Innovation Fellowship for Africa (ARIFA). Rather than submit ten, the University Management recommended fifteen to have nominees from each College.

All the fifteen recommended were awarded the study grants six candidates rejected the offer because they had already completed their M.Sc. degrees in FUNAAB. Those who accepted the offer received virtual lessons in 2021 because of the travel restriction imposed due to COVID-19 pandemic. By 2022, all of the traveled at different times to Universidade Federal De Vicosa UPV, Brazil to complete their training.

The TETFund/FARA ARIFA programme has led to the establishment of TETFund Centre of Excellence (TCoE) in the University in 2022. Two Innovation Platforms (IPs), Cassava and Poultry, were identified. For these, eight (8) new set of ARIFA scholars (four under each IP) have been nominated and would train in Brazil with respect to the IPs. After their training, they are expected to return to FUNAAB to continue their research at the new Centre.

The University nominated two academic staff for Commonwealth Scholarship in 2021. Mrs. Ayodeji Abiola Oyeboade of the Department of Agricultural Administration was selected. She is currently in the UK for her PhD. Two were also recommended in 2022 but the result was not out by the time I completed my tenure. Overall, more than 70 academic staff were granted study leaves for various studies during my tenure as Vice-Chancellor.

Conference grants were also approved for some Academic Staff by TETFund, up to 2019; TETFund reviewed funding in 2019 with regards to Conference grants. A major challenge brought to the attention of the University by TETFund was the non-submission of reports by the beneficiaries. These included those who benefited before and during my tenure.

The University Administration recognized the need for internal workshops for all staff. Internal and external resource persons with cognate experience on the subject-matter were engaged to speak at such workshops. In April 2018, a retreat was organized for Professors. In January/February 2021, there was an internal training for FUNAAB Academic Staff on virtual

learning solutions. Also, in June 2021, a training was organized for academic staff on the theme “University Ethics, Culture and Service Delivery”.

4. 2. Non-Teaching Staff Development

Non-teaching staff play roles in the administration of research and scholarship. These roles manifest in the laboratories, farms, administration, accounting and computing. Their development was, therefore, important. However, acquisition of higher degrees is not sponsored by donors, and it is left as a matter of choice for the individual.

As stated earlier, TETFund conference grants were reviewed in 2019, limiting the opportunities of the non-teaching staff. However, the University Management encouraged non-teaching staff who applied for improvement of their academic qualifications through self-studies. There was hardly any application that was turned down in this respect, if the specific Head of Unit approved. Many of these staff benefited after acquiring better qualifications by being converted from one cadre to the other or upgraded from one level to a higher level during different promotion exercises conducted between 2018 and 2022 (Table 2).

Based on TETFund regulation, we continued with the existing practice of sharing TETFund Conference grants at a ratio of 70:30, Academic : Non-teaching Staff. Non-teaching staff received approvals from TETFund for workshops and conferences which covered subjects that included security and conflict resolution, secretariat studies and office administration, leadership, accounting, computing and management. Thus, staff of different Units were aided to apply appropriately for TETFund approval. In 2018, only 13 non-teaching staff were approved. In 2019, about 100 staff were approved, some of them in batches due to a review by the Staff Development Committee.

The University, also, organized internal workshops or sponsored staff to attend such at different places within the country. Such workshops included the one in which University Rules and Regulations were discussed by resource persons selected from and outside the University in July 2021. It was still under the broad theme of “University Ethics, Culture and Service Delivery” but the topics and resource persons were different, even for senior and junior non-teaching staff.

Thus, the University Management took cognizance of the needs of each category of staff to select topics and resource persons.

4.3. Laboratory and Field Equipment, and Other Facilities in CEADESE, Colleges, DUFARMS, COBFAS, University Library and ICTREC

My focus in 2018, with regards to research and scholarship, was to establish a Central Research Laboratory with emphasis on the state-of-the art equipment. I observed that the University could acquire such equipment to ensure easier accessibility by researchers, who hitherto, traveled overseas for their utilization. I had a personal experience in 2017 when I visited the University of Venice, Venice, Italy to use Isotope Analyzer. Subsequently, a Ph. D. student of mine then, Dr. Mutiu Abolanle Busari, travelled to the same place with samples from Nigeria for analysis. Today, FUNAAB has the isotope analyzer for hydrological studies.

Also, having a Central Laboratory would reduce unnecessary replication of same equipment in several Departments. This would ensure cost-effectiveness and efficient resource utilization. Among the equipment for cutting-edge research installed in CEADESE Laboratory were:

1. X-ray diffractometer; Angstrom ADX2700
2. High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC, Angstrom 500)
3. XRF-EDS
4. GCMS, Angstrom 8000A (Gas Chromatography)
5. Sykam Amino Acid Analyzer,
6. Dissolved Oxygen Meter
7. Isotope Analyzer (supplied in October, 2022).

The Centre has a large array of other equipment for measurements in the laboratory and the field, in addition to farm implements. I have only listed here the state-of-the-art equipment purchased under our Administration, some of them not available elsewhere in Nigeria.

I acknowledge, again, the role of the Director, Prof. Olukayode Dewumi Akinyemi who worked assiduously to make the Centre, a Centre of Excellence, which it was billed for from onset.. He

shored up the image of the Centre at national and international levels, since he assumed the office of the Director in March, 2018.

In the College of Veterinary Medicine (COLVET) and Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH), such state-of-the-art equipment for teaching, research and service delivery. Equipment and facilities provided for COLVET and VTH included:

1. Ultrasound machine in Veterinary Surgery Department
2. Digital X-ray machine with automatic film processor
3. Automatic X-ray machines
4. Animal Patient Monitor
5. Diathermy Machine
6. Hydraulic Surgical tables for large and small animals
7. A four-wheel vehicle
8. An ambulance
9. Holding yard for cattle
10. Borehole for animal use.

The borehole dug for the College provided a lot of relief for people and animals.

For the College of Engineering (COLENG), equipment included:

1. Steam generator and service module S200
2. Extensometer for use with SM1000
3. SM1001 tension testing machine
4. DLFA-321 design training equipment
5. PLC Control training system
6. Communication training system process control
7. 3-D Robot (including APPLIC-37), Mobile robot, robotic arms training system and other equipment for robotic laboratories in Mechanical and Mechatronics Departments
8. Solar energy transfer equipment

9. Wind energy transfer equipment
10. Electricity and semi-Conductors training systems and others for Electrical and Electronics Department
11. Basic air conditioning and refrigeration equipment

College laboratories were refurbished. Furthermore, some Departments benefited from the World Bank-African Centre of Excellence interventions to get their laboratory and farm facilities refurbished. These included the Departments of Animal Nutrition, Environmental Management and Toxicology, Agricultural & Bioresources Engineering, Food Science and Technology, Plant Breeding and Seed Technology, and Physics.

Livestock pens, crop farms and fishponds were refurbished. The indoor tanks and external concrete fish ponds in the renovated ETF Fisheries Building were re-stocked to commercial levels after the refurbishment of the ponds.

Among the equipment and facilities provided for the University Farms were:

1. A seed processing and storage equipment for different types of grain
2. Combine harvester
3. Refurbished seed processing building
4. Tractors with implements such as tipping trailers, ploughs, harrows, cassava planter and harvester etc.
5. Boom sprayer
6. Four-wheel (4WD) pick-up vans
7. Pivot irrigation system completed in 2022 along with the University dam.

These farm equipment improved mechanized agriculture and went a long way in training the Farm Practical Year (FPY) Students modern approaches to agriculture. The retired Director of DUFARMS, Mr. Joseph Olobashola (retired in 2021) must be commended for his contributions to mechanized agriculture in DUFARMS. He took over from Mr. Michael Jayeola who retired in 2018, also after a meritorious service to the University.

In training students mechanized agriculture, I wish to express my gratitude to Prof. Sunday Adigbo, the Director, COBFAS who was responsible for the training of the University FPY students in COBFAS. The students were trained to acquire skills in different agricultural enterprises using the various mechanical equipment provided for them by the University.

The University purchased equipment and books for the University Library on all subject-matter relevant to the Courses offered as a University. These included:

1. Supply and Installation of RFID Tags Book, RFID Detection Gate, Antenna Conversion Station and self-check Station
2. Supply and Installation of All-In-One Desktop- HDD; 1TB RAM; ProLiant DL380 Gen 8 EPSON
3. Power lite 740HD and DVD/CD Duplicating Machine
4. Supply of Books for Veterinary Medicine, Agricultural Management, Engineering, Animal Science,
5. Crop Science, Soil Science, Environmental Management, Forestry and Wildlife. Food Science,
6. Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences and Management Sciences.
7. Supply of Journals in different subject-matter areas
8. Supply and Installation of Book Eye Scanner
9. Supply of about 80 desktop computers for the purpose of making the Library IT-compliant

The Information and Communication Technology Resource Centre (ICTREC) was also revitalized with inverters, various fiber optic and radio links to buildings on campus and purchase of computers to support access to internet on campus. This was done gradually, every year, during our tenure.

For all equipment and facilities provided, the University administration expected that they would be shared for utilization, irrespective of the Directorate, College or Unit they are domiciled. It is hoped that this 'shared value' concept will be imbibed to minimize or eliminate wastage.

4.4. TETFund Research Grants

Academic staff of the University were encouraged to compete for grant opportunities that came at different times during my five-year tenure. Worthy of note are the TETFund Research Grants announced during industrial actions in 2020 and 2022 but were won by academic staff who braced the odds to compete. Their applications were fully supported by the University Management. These were the:

1. 2019 TETFund National Research Fund (NRF): Seven research teams of the University won the award
2. 2020 TETFund National Research Fund (NRF): Five research teams won
3. 2021 TETFund National Research Fund (NRF): Five research teams won.

The Fund also announced the availability for Institution Based Research (IBR) Grants for 2017/2018 and 2018-2022. Twenty-one research teams won the 2017/2018 IBR grants whereas 37 research teams won the 2018-2022 IBR grants.

It needs to be emphasized that the University Management went an extra length to support the Acting Director of Research, Innovations and Partnerships, Dr. Mutiu Abolanle Busari, to ensure proper and adequate processing of documents for these feats to be achieved. We cannot but appreciate the intellectual capacity of members of the research teams in writing the award-winning proposals. Most of these activities occurred when there was paucity of funds for both the institution and individual staff.

4.5. TETFund Centre of Excellence in Cassava and Poultry Innovations

As mentioned earlier, the Tertiary Education Trust Fund in conjunction with Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) also established in FUNAAB a Centre of Excellence in Agriculture. The Centre is specifically called TETFund Centre of Excellence in Cassava and Poultry Innovations (TCoE-CAPI). The pioneer Director is Prof. Adeboye Olusesa Fafiolu, and

it is located close to FUNAAB Ventures. The TCoE-CAPI is to engage in developing technologies for national/community development and capacity building, with focus on cassava and poultry.

The establishment of this Centre also went with the challenges of overcoming logistic and financial impediments, posed by industrial actions. Furthermore, the building it is occupying today was rehabilitated from the status of an abandoned building (since 2006) to a rebuilt building in 2021.

4.6. Other Research Grants

There were research grants won by several academic staff which enhanced scholarship, teaching, infrastructure and facilities. These included the Bill and Melinda Gates-supported projects, namely:

1. The FUNAAB Alpha-Chicken, an improved indigenous breed patented (Registration Number – NGGGD-18-02; National Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology, Ibadan, Nigeria)) for the University in 2018 with Professor Emeritus Ayoka Adebambo as the lead investigator while collaborating with other institutions in Nigeria and Africa. She had been on this line of research, individually, for more than three decades as a staff of FUNAAB. The legacy of this project, apart from the technologies developed, included a hatchery and several poultry pens for raising birds. Prof. Emeritus Adebambo was encouraged to voluntarily continue work on the project.
2. Cassava-Adding Value for Africa (C:AVA) which ran for about a decade, terminating in 2018. Apart from the technologies developed, the cassava/*fufu* processing factory is a legacy of this project. This project was, also, supported by Natural Resources Institute (NRI), Greenwich, UK. Principal Investigators in FUNAAB included Profs. Lateef Sanni and Kola Adebayo
3. The Africa Cassava Agronomy Initiative (ACAI) was led in FUNAAB by Prof. Felix Kolawole Salako, Dr. Mutiu Abolanle Busari, Dr. Florence Olowokere and Prof.

Jacob Olaoye with institutional support from the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, Nigeria. Community development with improved agronomic practices in different parts of southwest were hallmarks of this project, apart from laboratory equipment and a vehicle (4WD) handed over to the Department of Soil Science and Land Management (SSLM). It terminated in 2022.

4. Cassava Weed Management Project also ran in conjunction with IITA by Prof. Segun Toyosi Olaiwola Lagoke and Dr. Patience Olorunmaiye. Like ACAI, legacies of community development, provision of equipment and 4WD vehicle for the Department of Plant Physiology and Crop Production (PPCP) were left. It terminated in 2022.

There were other projects not connected to Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation but sponsored by other donor agencies. The included:

1. In 2022, the project titled “Digital Soil Mapping for Optimal Agricultural Yield and Sustainable Soil Biodiversity Management in Southwest Nigeria Using Artificial Intelligence (FUNAAB SMARTSOIL PROJECT)” was approved for FUNAAB through a grant. The objective is to “Improve sustainable soil management for agricultural production in Southwest, Nigeria” Prof. Olusegun Folorunso of Computer Science Department is the Principal Investigator with Dr. Mutiu Abolanle Busari of Soil Science and Land Management Department as a co-investigator in FUNAAB
2. National Water Resources Network
3. Castor Collaborative Research Trial, NCRI, Badeggi
4. Design, Deployment and Adoption of an Intelligent Animal Monitoring and Tracking System and Range Management
5. Transforming farming value-chains in sub-Saharan Africa through social and economically inclusive sustainable energy solutions (TRANSFARM)
6. Future Leader- African Independent Research (FLAIR) Fellowship
7. UFAW Grant to support Workshop.
8. Enabling hybrid Autonomous Non-Conventional Energy Integrated Water System (DMU-GCRF Project)

9. Application Development Project (ADP)
10. Climate Change and Climate Justice: Gender Analysis of REDD+Piloted site in South-South of Nigeria
11. Measure Fresh Cassava and *Garri* Post Harvest Loss Assessment in Nigeria
12. Sustainable ruminant livestock systems
13. Farm Production Diversity, Sustainable Agricultural Land use practices and Nutrition security among Farm Households in Nigeria.
14. G-Market Project
15. GRATITUDE
16. CASSAVA G MARKET
17. Rockefeller Cassava Challenge
18. ACAI-CAVAII NIG.
19. AfDB TAAT Project titled: IITA Cassava Compact
20. Multi-Hazard Survey for Nigeria
21. M-Boss Millet Sourdough Project(Up- scaling Millet Grain Sourdough Technology and Extruded for Sustainable Livelihood in West Africa)
22. Research Supplies for use in the Applicant's Home laboratory
23. DOLF- Next-Gen: Next Generation studies to optimize chemotherapy for elimination of lymphatic filaria
24. Insecticide Resistance In *Anopheles gambiae* Complex and *Anopheles funestus* Group In Nigeria
25. The 2021 African Plant Nutrition Outreach Fellowship.
26. Accelerating Inclusive Green Growth Through Agri-Based Digital Innovation in West Africa (AGriDI)
27. Soils of Forest Island in Africa (SOFIIA)

For each of these projects funded through grants, capacity building for students and community members were the integral components. Various postgraduate theses and undergraduate projects were supported.

Individual academic staff also made their marks when it mattered. Prof. Olaniyi Mathew Olayiwola was awarded the Royal Statistical Society 2020 Mardia Prize for his model which addressed the spread of COVID-19 in Nigeria. He obtained this award during the International Conference of the Royal Statistical Society in Manchester, England, UK on September 7, 2021. The research was encouraged by our administration in 2020 as part of our institution's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Every section of this document relates to “Teaching and Learning Environment”. Therefore, this section is laying emphasis on achievements that are not distinctly covered in other sections. In the provision of infrastructure, I operated with the principle “build and equip” to make buildings constructed under our administration functional. Furthermore, existing College auditoria and classrooms were refurbished and fitted with modern gadgets for lecture delivery.

5.1. Teaching Facilities

The University Administration distributed 95 projectors, 131 white boards, 6 digital classroom systems, 15 professional wireless public address systems and 11 interactive boards to different auditoria and classrooms. These exclude similar gadgets already fitted inside CEADESE building. Among the new buildings with these equipment were:

1. Prof. Elias Bogoro twin 250-seater auditoria and lecture theatres
2. Wole Soyinka Library
3. Chief (Dr.) Olusegun Obasanjo COLENG Phase II
4. COLPLANT Phase II
5. Academic Building Complex and
6. Prof. Timothy Olurotimi Tayo Agricultural Laboratory.
7. Prof. Israel Foluruso Adu Lecture Theatre

Existing auditoria or buildings such as COLPLANT auditorium and ICTREC were also fitted with these equipment.

The deployment of these lecture delivery equipment and expansion of classroom/seminar space made it easy to transit from all-time physical lecture delivery to a hybrid of physical and virtual delivery from January 2021 till date. Invariably, the University was proactive in meeting up the

challenge of minimal human contact imposed by the COVID-19 mitigation protocol in 2020 and 2021.

Each classroom, seminar room or auditorium of new buildings was furnished with befitting seats. Such rooms or auditoria have the capacity to accommodate 50 to 300 students, with numbers consciously designed to accommodate various needs. Existing auditoria, such as Mahmoud Yakubu, Julius Amioba Okojie and COLPLANT Phase I were refurbished with seats either replaced or repaired.

The new Senate extension, having a capacity for more than 300 seats already fitted into it, has modern multi-media equipment for effective delivery of sound and visuals. The building was re-connected with fiber optics.

5.2. Computer Desktops

More than three hundred computer desktops were distributed to various Colleges, Departments, Directorates and Units for both academic and non-teaching staff. The number given to some Departments or Units took care of peculiar needs. For instance, the Computer Science Department had 8 desktops allocated; all other Departments in COLPHYS except one and in COLENG except one too had 6 desktops allocated to each of them. There was no College or Department that did not have an allocation of desktop for academic activities.

The 250-seater Computer Laboratory was also equipped with laptops, an action that has made it attractive for external bodies to approach the University for computer-based examinations. Besides, computers were purchased independently for different units, depending on needs.

A mini-recording studio was set up in ICTREC in June 2021. The studio allows to record contents using the studio built-in gadgets. The use could also be extended to students, if needed. It includes a complete set of recording and streaming gadgets. Fibre optics which were damaged were replaced for internet connection to Senate Building and 250-seater computer laboratory and the lodges. Wireless communication equipment were provided for various for the existing Council Chamber.

5.3. Refurbishment of Buildings

Among the existing buildings renovated and equipped with furniture and some laboratory facilities were:

1. College of Engineering (COLENG) Building, Phase I
2. College of Animal Science and Livestock production (COLANIM) Building, Phase I
3. College of Environmental Resources Management (COLERM) Building, Phase I
4. College of Plant Science and Crop Production (COLPLANT) Building, Phase 1
5. Agricultural Media Resources and Extension Centre (AMREC) Building
6. Institute of Food Security, Environmental Resources and Research (IFSERAR) Building
7. Mahmoud Yakubu 2000-Capacity Auditorium Complex
8. Julius Amioba Okojie Lecture theatre
9. Livestock Processing Building
10. The 500-Seater Central Computer Laboratory.

5.4. Laboratories and Hostels

Fume cupboards in existing laboratories were replaced or repaired. Apart from furniture, air-conditioning systems were installed in auditoria and lecture rooms. Both postgraduate and undergraduate hostels constructed were furnished with beds and mattresses, as well as furniture for reading. There was the rehabilitation of a female hostel (Iyalode Tinubu Hostel (IYAT), a

male hostel (Umar Kabir Hostel) and a postgraduate hostel. They were major civil, mechanical, and plumbing works, as well as replacement of beds and mattresses. Boreholes were reactivated in these hostels for adequate supply of water.

Apart from the rehabilitation of hostels carried out mainly in 2020 and 2021, all hostels were fumigated when the students vacated them in February 2020. The purpose was to exterminate rodents and bugs. Mattresses were also replaced.

However, in March 2020, a dire need for fumigation of all buildings in the campus arose due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, worldwide. Somehow, Ogun State recorded its first case by the end of February 2020. This fumigation was carried out several times and in all FUNAAB buildings between March 2020 and April, 2021.

5.5. Installation of Generators and Solar Panels

For electricity, the Management met the inadequacy of government provision of electricity with the use of generators, which eventually turned out to be the main source of electricity supply. The consequence of this, inevitably, was spending enormous amounts of funds on diesel supply and maintenance of generators. The University must be run with provision of energy.

At different times, the Administration purchased and installed 800, 650, 550, 220 and 150, 100 30 and 20 kVA generators. These were located in various places, including the Central Power Station at Works and Services, Senate Building, ICTREC, Health Services Unit, ETF Fisheries Unit, Livestock Processing Building, Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies (CENTS) and Vice-Chancellor's lodge.

One hundred and thirty five solar panels were installed in the to provide street light. They covered the core area, outskirts of the core area such as Staff School, FUNIS, International Scholars Centre and Lodges, as well as far places like IFSERAR and INHURD.

5.6. Farm and Ground Maintenance Implements

Along with farm equipment and implements, ground maintenance equipment were purchased. These included mowers, tractors with trailers, hand-held equipment and others for the maintenance of lawns and the campus environment in its entirety. These purchases and supplies were repeatedly done between 2018 and 2022.

For instance, in May 2019, equipment for the Directorate of Environmental Management (DEM) included twenty 20 lawn mowers, 20 brush cutters, and a trailer. Then, DUFARMS and COBFAS had one vehicle (4WD) each, a tractor each, two trailers, a planter and a harvester. Also, in December 2021, the University distributed 14-meter-high scissors sky-lift for maintenance of tall facilities, many knapsack sprayers, brush cutters, push mowers, slashers, riding mower, 75 hp tractor, tree trimmers and motorized prayers to DEM, DUFARMS and Directorate of Works and Services

5.6. Roads

Intra-campus roads were rehabilitated to ease vehicular movement and ensure safety. This implies the ring road encircling the core area (Senate building, COLVET, COLPLANT, COLANIM, COLENG, Hostels, COLFHEC, Postgraduate School, Anenih Lecture Theatre, Union buildings back to “Olumo rock”); the road to the main gate from “Olumo rock”; the road from the Health Centre to the International Scholar Centre, going further as a ring road to the

Lodges. Also, rehabilitated were the roads from COLFHEC/Biotechnology Centre junction to FUNAABOT bus park, and to AMREC building.

Besides, new and existing buildings were complemented with external works which included roads, drainage facilities and car parks. Such buildings were:

1. Senate Extension
2. COLPLANT Phase II
3. T. O. Tayo Agricultural Laboratory/COLANIM Phase II building
4. Academic Building Complex
5. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo Building
6. Wole Soyinka Library
7. Oluwafemi Balogun Ceremonial Building
8. Academic Maintenance Building
9. Existing COLBIOS/COLPHYS

These roads have made accessibility to offices and other workplaces very convenient.

A road was constructed from FUNIS Gate to the Staff School gate in 2020. This was constructed about a year after rehabilitating Camp-Alabata road. This intra-campus road remained solid by the time my tenure ended.

On Camp-Alabata road, the University undertook extensive rehabilitation of the road in 2019 up to the University main gate. In 2021, another rehabilitation was carried out from the main gate up to the gate leading to the new Chief Olusegun Obasanjo Engineering and Olufemi Balogun Ceremonial Buildings.

The Camp-Alabata road is a government road, not directly within the purview of the University for either construction or maintenance. The intervention of the University was based on the fact that all individuals coming to or going out of the campus must ply the road.

Unfortunately, the rehabilitation done increased the surge of heavy lorries and trucks plying the road to places around Alabata village. They accessed quarry sites for loading or go for excavation of gravel and soil. The road was in a deplorable state again by the time I completed my term as the Vice-Chancellor.

Furthermore, residents opposite the campus contributed to the deplorable state of the road by dumping refuse into the stream close to the GTB, FUNAAB branch. This eventually clogged the culvert rings installed by the University for unhindered flow of the stream. The University evacuated these wastes from the stream and inner parts of culverts, five times. It was the fifth time during my tenure that the stream would be cleared of refuses with an excavator on September 12, 2022. At this point, the University erected more refuse stoppers along the stream and other inlets of refuse, to prevent the refuse from reaching the culverts.

I commend the dedication and commitment of the Director of Works and Services, Engineer Olawole Akinyele and his crew on the maintenance of this road, and, indeed, other University facilities. Engineer Akinyele was employed during my tenure; he lived up to expectations.

6. ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Entrepreneurial studies have been emphasized in the curriculum of undergraduates over the years, leading to the establishment of the Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies (CENTS) in FUNAAB. In order to strengthen these, the Administration equipped and strengthened CENTS, and FUNAAB Integrated Ventures, previously referred to as the Industrial Park Unit (IPU). The

The FUNAAB Integrated Ventures was incorporated by Corporate Affairs Commission in December 2021 to include FUNAAB Enterprises (palm wine, honey, cashew nut, palm oil production and cassava chicken processing), Royal Green Guest House, The International Scholar Guest House and FUNAAB Table Water Factory.

In July, 2022, we unbundled the various enterprises migrated to the new FUNAAB Integrated Ventures by making them self-sustaining in terms of production and payment of staff salary. The Ventures continued to serve the University for industrial training of FUNAAB students and those from other tertiary institutions. They also serve as a training hub for skills development for interested stakeholders.

6.1. Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies

The Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies (CENTS) was under the Directorship of Profs. Babatunde Adewale Adewumi and Festus Idowu Adeosun during my tenure. Equipment were recommended and procured for various skills development.

The following were purchased and installed for fashion design and shoemaking:

1. Seven industrial straight sewing machine, high speed lockstitch
2. Four industrial whipping (3 thread over Locking) machines
3. Twenty-three straight sewing machine (auto & manual) complete with sewing pedal, adapter and motor, 200-250 V
4. Italian scissors size 10, stainless steel, with magnetic tips

5. Computer embroidery machine; Sagacity 8300,536 patterns
6. Three LZ-small double-headed grinder/filing machines 200 V 50 Hz
7. Five plastic shoe moulds (different sizes)
8. Five cast Iron cobblers shoe lasts
9. Four eclipse lasting pliers
10. Four draper 63637 expert revolving punch pliers 2.0 – 4.5 mm

The following equipment were purchased and installed for catering and hospitality services:

1. Two Vasconia pressure pots – 8 litres
2. Two Vinod pressure pots – 10 litres
3. Two Kenwood MW598 electric microwave ovens
4. Two 5-burner inbuilt electric ovens; ck 9426 Ne Beige-coffee electric oven
5. Two transparent freezers, showcase cooler model RP-2365C.
6. Four smoothie makers (2litres)
7. Two grill, char-boil American gourmet offset smokers: standard
8. Two food processors; 12-cup stack and snap food processor (70725A)
9. Two Blenders; power Elite multi-function blender with glass jar and chopper (58149)

For Computer training, the Administration purchased and installed:

1. Ten computers; HP Pavilion 15 intel Pentium quad Core-500GB HDD 4GB RAM Windows 10, 2.66GHz Processors, Screen-15.6 HD BV Led-backlight display.
2. Ten software; HP DC 5800 MT-Win 10 and MS Office 2016 Preloaded
3. Five Samsung wireless Xpress Color laser printers – C410W
4. Ten Bluegate 653VA UPS
5. Two Luminous 5KVA/96V cruze inverters

A 30 kVa generator was purchased to provide electricity for the building for effective utilization of these equipment.

Agri-preneurship was also supported with the following equipment:

1. Two Kenya top-bar hives, with 20 Top bars backyard Bee-keeping hives

2. Two Langstroth hives; Ag MEDBOX, 10 honey, sugar hive frames (10 packs) medium.
3. Three Langstroth hives; Ag MEDBOX, 10 honey, sugar hive Frame (10 packs) medium
4. Two beeswax extractor 35 x 74 cm; Two- frame honey extractor, spinner, stainless steel beekeeping equipment
5. Two honey extractor (centrifugal)
6. Two honey presses; 304# stainless steel honey household manual honey press wax press beekeeping tool
7. Five honey sleeve; 200-micron mesh fibre beekeeping honey strainer filter net; newborn sleeve, net detachable
8. Ten buckets; ½ gallon plastic bucket handled, NRC-0.075
9. Four high quality reinforced tarpaulin mobile fishponds; 3.05 x 3.05 x 1.2 m, 11.326 litres
10. Two collapsible mobile fishponds; size 16.84 x 41.95 x 50.29 cm
11. Two smoking kilns; double cabinet 300 kg/batch
12. One stainless steel working table; size 91.44 x 60.96 x 86.36 cm
13. Two hutches; Advantek the stilt house rabbit hutch size 63.5 x 121.92 x 91.44 cm
14. Five feeders; little giant rabbit feeder, galvanized, 5” with lid, 13.97 x 18.03 x 12.95 cm, 453.6 grams
15. Forty drinkers; 1 herdsman rabbit hutch drinker bowl for rabbits; size 20 cm x 20cm x 15 cm
16. One shed, pets fit, rabbit hutch bunny cage bunny hutch wood for indoor use size 91.44 x 55.88 x 76.2 cm
17. One kindling box, ware wooden nest box for chickens and rabbit
18. One EBB and flow hydroponic system, H2O to DWC self-watering bubbler Hydroponic system size 50.49 x 30.48 x 23.34 cm
19. One portable farm aquaponic system
20. One crusher stainless pineapple, Kiwi fruit crushing machine/all-purpose grinding miller capacity 30-200 kg/h, speed 5700 r/min, size 910 x 835 x 870 mm

21. One pasteurizer, 24 litre; Stainless steel sterilizer automatic-factory direct over pressure auto discharge 0.145-1.65 MPa, highest working temperature 126-128 degree Celsius
22. One semi-auto filling machine, 20-60 ml nozzles CE ISO honey/fruit juice/soy sauce/liquid filling machine
23. One capping machine high quality commercial auto sealing machine cup sealing machine PP PET PE copper capping machine 90 95mm cup size 25 x 62 x 40 cm.
24. One hydraulic press juicer, Welles or people juice presser by Samson brands
25. One Shrinking wrapper, KPAK Supper sealer shrink wrap machine, gun and film.

For each of the skills, manuals and workbooks were purchased for effective training. There were twenty-five titles on topics ranging from catering, fashion design, dressmaking, beekeeping, hydroponics, aquaculture, etc. with two to five copies for each title.

6.1.1. Photo Studio

An ultra-modern photo studio was established in CENTS with the state-of-the art equipment installed in August, 2022. The equipment included camera, camera accessories, computers for photo processing and other complements. This was to boost the skill of our students in photography and cinematography. An ace cinematographer, *Alagba* Tunde Kelani, who was a Fellow in CENTS on part-time basis was charged with training FUNAAB staff to handle the studio.

6. 2. FUNAAB Integrated Ventures

The Integrated Ventures was incorporated in December 2021, with a very significant contribution from Prof. Petra. B. Abdulsalam-Saghir, who was then the Director, FUNAAB Consultancy Services (FUCONS). The following enterprises were placed under the Ventures:

1. Cassava processing factory
2. Bakery
3. Honey production unit

4. Palm wine production unit
5. Table water Factory
6. Oil Palm production unit
7. Cashew nut production unit
8. Royal Green Guest House
9. International Scholar Guest House

6.2.1. Cassava Processing Factory

The University Management upgraded the equipment in the cassava processing factory with support from Cassava: Adding Value for Africa (C:AVA) project in 2018 and 2019. Modern equipment which met industrial standards for *garri*, *fufu* and high quality cassava flour production were installed in the factory. Such equipment also included flash dryers.

These energy-consuming, which depended on electricity became prohibitive with high cost of diesel to run generators. On economy of scale, the output from the factory needed to be competitive in terms of price. There, cheap alternatives were adopted in 2022.

6.2.2. Bakery, Cashew Nut and Palm Wine Processing Factories

In the old bakery, the building was refurbished. Old bakery pans and trays were replaced. A confectionery factory constructed in 2018/2019 has a modern bakery component.

A cashew nutshell liquid extraction plant was commissioned by the Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC), Abuja on April 2, 2021. For the Palm Wine factory, a new pasteurizer was installed, and the cold room was repaired. Also, a coding machine was purchased for the unit.

6.2.3. Oil Palm Processing Factory

The largely manual processing method of palm fruits to palm oil was upgraded with the construction of an oil palm processing building, which contains the following mechanical equipment, powered with electricity:

1. Fresh fruit bunch (FFB) stripper 1m diameter rotary type FFB stripper, built 37mm x 37mm x 3 mm M/S Angles, with fruit cleanser and including a 7.5 hp geared motor as prime mover.
2. Bunch sterilizer system with steam boiler incorporated one ton per batch capacity sterilizer with in-built steam boiler bottom, supply steam cooked the loose fruits. Bottom fire case built in 6mm M/S Plate, 4mm thick M/S sterilizer outer wall with, temperature gauge, chimney and valves
3. Digester screw press (DSP)1t/h Capacity DSP, combining two operations (pounding and oil expelling, powered by 7 hp electric motor, and 100 liters capacity stainless steel crude palm oil (CPO) receptors drum with a sludge screener with receives the extracted palm oil from DSP
4. Clarifier 2-Stages clarifier and drying drum; 400 liters capacity clarifiers (drum) in stainless with; 2 mm SS oil collector, pump and fire bottom with 3mm ss (chamber/furnace). Clarified oil enters the second drum also in Stainless, with steam supply heater element and finally discharges the pure, dried palm oil through the collector drum into the product (storage) tank.
5. Nut fiber separator 1 ton per hour self-loading fiber separator, built in 6 mm thick M/S pipe, powered by 5 hp electric motor and installed for simultaneous nut and fiber separations

Hopefully, a palm kernel sheller domiciled in CENTS will be accessible for further processing of the kernels.

6.2.4. Table Water Factory

There were concerted efforts by Prof. Petra B. Abdulsalam-Saghir, Director, FUCONS to improve and expand the bottle and sachet water factory. The earlier factory located at INHURD

campus, Mawuko was expanded with another bigger factory located in an existing building near DUFARMS building.

Among steps taken which made FUNAAB bottled and sachet water sustainable in terms of production and competitiveness were:

1. Establishing a new water factory at DUFARMS area by converting a building and its premises to a water factory. The factory was fenced, and additional facilities were put in place within the premises.
2. Registration with National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), as FUNAAB water with pack size- 50 cl sachet (**NAFDAC NO. 01-3592L**), 75 cl pet bottle (**NAFDAC NO. 01-6952**) This was revalidated in 2021 and the licenses are valid till 13th December, 2023 and 2026 respectively
3. Purchase and installation of water quality assurance system at the water factory
4. Reverse osmosis machine for water treatment, with industrial pump
5. Four highly functional automatic Liquid Packaging Machines
6. FUNAAB customized Bottle Moulds of 35cl, 50cl, 75cl and 1.5 l
7. Newly acquired Semi-automated bottle filling line that washes, fills and caps twelve (12-1) bottles per minute
8. Treatment plant which consists of 4,000 litres tank (2pcs), 5,000 litres tank (1 piece), 7,500 litres Tank (2pc) and 3 composite (Stainless Steel), sand carbon and resin.
9. Nineteen litres washing, rinsing, filling, cap puller and brusher machines.
10. Sachet-filling machine with inside UV light (four pcs); consists of 3 stages micron filter and Stainless pump 1 HP (horsepower) 2 pieces
11. Acquired Semi-Auto pet bottle blowing machine.
12. Bottle Filling Line (12-12-1) consist of bottle washer, filling and bottle cupper, label shrink, conveyor and 3 stages micron filter.
13. Coding machine HP-24IC
14. Air-Compressor
15. Pet bottle blowing chiller component

16. A shed was constructed to accommodate the blowing machine and other equipment (and other heavy factory equipment such as the three (3) power generating sets.

The water factory provided the following services, apart from commercial sales:

- i) an avenue where students of the University carry out their internship and SIWES programmes;
- ii) opportunity for students to develop their entrepreneurial skills in line with the new government policy.
- iii) tourism services to the University Community with the University witnessing increase in the influx of both primary and secondary school students coming around to witness production and processing of table water using various 'state-of-the-art' equipment for processing and packaging.

6.2.5. Poultry Processing Unit

The poultry processing unit located in the Livestock Processing building was equipped with the following:

- 1) Scalding machine
- 2) Killing cones
- 3) Chicken hangers
- 4) De-feathering machine
- 5) Cutting machine
- 6) Dressing table
- 7) Washing tomb
- 8) Cutting knives
- 9) Deep freezer
- 10) Cold room
- 11) A dedicated generator

The Unit, which was hitherto moribund, started producing dressed chicken for sale after being equipped.

7. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIP

I have been involved in relating with traditional rulers and community leaders before becoming the Vice-Chancellor. This was by virtue of my official responsibilities, since 2008. It was, therefore, not difficult to build on these relationships targeted at meeting the expectations of external stakeholders.

7.1. Traditional Rulers, Personalities and Agrarian Communities

I remain grateful to all the traditional rulers in Egba land for seeing FUNAAB as a University that must advance to a world-class standard. The Alake of Egba land, Oba Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo III supported our administration, intervening in matters relating to community development or curbing infractions by dwellers in the neighbourhood.

The University had harmonious relationship with traditional rulers outside Egba land, particularly in our extension villages and those designated for Community-Based Farming Scheme. In this case, we can readily mention the Alake of Odogbolu, Oba Adedeji Atanda Onagoruwa Elesi 1; Onimeko of Imeko, Oba Benjamin Alani Olanite, Akanku IV; Ooye of Iwoye Ketu, Oba Joel Alake, Alaja IV. The Olu of Ilaro, Oba Kehinde Gbadewole Olugbenle, Asade Agunloye IV provided fatherly support for our administration.

Cordial relationship was also maintained with different communities outside Ogun State. These relationships helped identify the areas of need for FUNAAB to make impact through agricultural research and extension in Nigeria.

In February 2020, the University graded the access road from Imeko-Afon to Iwoye Ketu as part of our community development efforts. Unfortunately, the university was compelled to discontinue sending students to these communities in 2021 due to heightened insecurity all over the country.

Among the personalities the University got his support was Chief (Dr.) Olusegun Aremu Obasanjo who received both members of the seventh governing Council in October, 2022. The Alake of Egbaland also welcome them in his palace. Chief Obasanjo commissioned the University dam on October 14, 2022.

7.2. Corporate Social Responsibilities

The Corporate Social Responsibilities during my tenure included road maintenance and grading, provision of boreholes and interventions to mitigate hunger during the 2020 worldwide lockdown premised on COVID-19 pandemic. The University engaged in capacity building activities in various communities and these were anchored by professionals in the University.

7.2.1. Roads and Culverts

In 2020, the road from the GTB, FUNAAB branch junction through Harmony Police Station to the junction of Abeokuta-Ibadan road was graded, with culverts built over streams on the road. A similar grading was carried out from Imeko to Iwoye Ketu, Ogun State to facilitate the transportation of our students carrying out farm practicals there, then.

In September 2021, students of the Civil Engineering Department engaged in community service by putting palliative measures on Camp-Alabata road with the support of the University management. They were provided with equipment and supervised by Engineers of the Directorate of Works and Services, led by Engineer Olawole Akinyele. As indicated above, the maintenance of Camp-Alabata road was carried out five times during my tenure.

Some students of the College of Engineering took advantage of the massive construction which took place on campus between 2018 and 2022 to learn. Out of their own volition, they approached site engineers and other professional to allow them participate in construction activities. They were not denied.

7.2.2. Boreholes in Mawuko and Olorunshogo-Tigba

In January 2021, boreholes were drilled in Mawuko and Olorunshogo-Tigba Communities by the University as part of its corporate social responsibility. This was in response to the water shortage in the communities where some of the pre-degree or pre-University students live.

7.2.3. Capacity Building in Abeokuta and Sagamu

There was a capacity building for women and youths in value addition, processing of agricultural commodities and cassava production in 2020 in Abeokuta. In 2021, training was held for women on snail-rearing, with participants coming from Ikenne and Sagamu at a location in Remo North.

7.2.4. Community Policing and Security

In August 2018, our administration commissioned the Police Divisional Headquarters in Harmony Estate, close to FUNAAB main gate. The Commissioner of Police then, Mr. Ahmed Illiyasu described the action of the University Management in ensuring the completion of the project, built by FUNAAB as a “revolutionary move in Community policing”.

The security and relative peace enjoyed in FUNAAB neighbourhood and adjoining communities are connected to the presence of this divisional headquarter. This manifested in the rapid response of the police both from Harmony and the State Headquarters, Eleweeran whenever there were threats or emerging crises. Such threats were heightened in 2018 and 2019 but were nipped in the bud.

The University management gave the police logistic and moral support for efficient delivery of services. Apart from the police, we ensured cordial relationship with other security agencies like the Directorate of State Services (DSS).

7.2.5. Intervention of the University to Mitigate Hunger during the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic

The world was at a standstill, particularly from March to December 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic was ravaging the whole world and no government seemed to understand its nature. This necessitated restriction of movements and physical contacts. Ogun State reported its first index case by the end of February, 2020. Meanwhile, I had directed that student hostels be fumigated, earlier in February 2020, against rodents and bugs due to reported cases of Lassa fever, outside Ogun State. Then, the lockdown started in March.

I called a meeting of Deans and Directors to inform about steps to be taken to follow the COVID-19 protocol as being discussed worldwide then. The following actions were subsequently taken:

1. Ensuring placement of water, soap and sanitizers at entrances of functional buildings during the lockdown. Students and staff were largely away. Therefore, many buildings were not occupied. The sanitizer was made by the Biotechnology Centre, FUNAAB
2. Fumigation of all buildings in FUNAAB (including Staff School, FUNIS and INHURD) about twelve times between March 2020 and January 2021. The University ensured that any theatre used for group meetings was fumigated after each meeting. Vehicles were also fumigated.
3. In March, 2021 the University cooperated with Ogun State Fire Service to fumigate roads in the core area of the campus.
4. Ensuring social distancing in sitting arrangements during meetings or any other event
5. Embarked on an intensive effort to mitigate hunger by directing CEADESE, COBFAS and DUFARMS to cultivate cassava, maize, rice and other crops. The Staff of these Directorates faced the odds to get this done despite the restriction on movement which made transportation very difficult. I acknowledge their sacrifices and that of the University Security men. Ten hectares of cassava was cultivated by CEADESE. In DUFARMS 40 ha of maize; 12 ha of cassava and 3 ha of soybean were cultivated. COBFAS cultivated a large area of rice.

6. Food was scarce or inaccessible due to the lockdown. People were also cash-strapped during the period. Therefore, the University took food stuffs from its Ventures (IPU, then) and farms to distribute to various groups and communities in Ogun State.

Food stuffs distributed were *garri* (2 kg each), *fufu* loaves of bread, crates of eggs, gallons of palm oil, pineapples, cashew and FUNAAB water. The University also gave sanitizers and nose masks.

The following Communities or groups were reached with the palliatives in 2020:

- FUNAAB Security Unit
- FUNAAB Health Services
- Casual workers working in the DEM.
- Final year students through the Student Union Executive members
- Staff who produced the food stuffs (DUFARMS and the Ventures)
- Harmony Police Divisional Headquarters
- Police Headquarters, Eleweeran, Ogun State Command
- Egba Community through the Alake of Egbaland
- The Ilaro Community through the Olu of Ilaro
- Ishaga Orile Community through the Onisaga of Ishaga
- Imeko Community through the Onimeko of Imeko
- The Iwoye Ketu Community, through the Ooye of Iwoye Ketu
- The Odogbolu Community, through the Alaaye of Odogbolu
- The Ode Lemo Community through the elders
- Nigerian Union of Journalists through its Ogun State Executives at Iwe Iroyin

FUNAAB was the first in Ogun State to provide palliatives for the Nigerian Police (Eleweeran State Command and Harmony Divisional Headquarters, FUNAAB) in recognition of their sacrifices during the lockdown.

7.3. Endowments

Strengthening the relationship of the University with notable individuals and corporate bodies was paramount in my agenda. This yielded positive results in terms of endowments. There was also a strong relationship with the FUNAAB Alumni Association which had as Presidents, Mr. Olusola Tobun and Dr. Olusegun Ogundiran, during my tenure as the Vice-Chancellor.

Among the endowments we had were:

1. Two thousand five hundred stands of citrus for 10 hectares, and 1120 avocado seedlings donated to our farms by an alumnus, Mr. Ayopo Somefun. Mr. Somefun who graduated from FUNAAB in 1997 has mentored other 256 graduates of the University in agricultural enterprises.
2. The Lekki Urban Forest Animal Sanctuary Initiative through Dr. Desmond Majekodunmi donated seedlings of f Tenera oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*), Ekki trees (*Lophira alata*), and Gmelina (*Gmelina arborea*) to the university in conjunction with the Nigeria Conservation Foundation.
3. Professor Wole Soyinka “Ari Forestage” has been graciously endowed to FUNAAB.
4. Some individuals came forward to support students with cash endowments. These included Prof. Adu, Prof. Oluwatosin, Fawole Caroline, Pastor Adeboye and Chief. Majekodunmi.
5. The Alumni Association donated funds for the purchase of computers to boost the operations of the Exams and Records Unit of the Registry in 2018 and 2019 during its 20th and 21st annual conventions. Mr. Olusola Tobun was the President of the Alumni Association then

7. 4. Gender Inclusivity

I strengthened the participation of women in Administration by appointing them into positions of authority and working with them effectively. The following women participated in managing various units under during my tenure:

1. Prof. Catherine Oluwayemisi Eromosele who I met as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) when I assumed office as the Vice-Chancellor.
2. Prof. Morenike Dipeolu, who was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
3. Prof. Bolanle Idowu Akeredolu-Ale, who was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and is the first Principal Officer to be appointed from COLAMRUD.
4. Dr. Mulikat Salaam, who was University Librarian when I became the Vice-Chancellor
5. Prof. Fehintola Onifade, who was appointed University Librarian, and became the first Professor to head the Library
6. Mrs. Oluwatoyin Morufat Dawodu, who I met as the Director Vice-Chancellor's Office and was retained in that position till September, 2022. Eight women worked under her supervision in the Vice-Chancellor's Office.
7. Dr. Linda Onwuka who was appointed as the Head, Directorate of Public Relation
8. Prof. Petra. B. Abdulsalam-Saghir, appointed as the Director of FUNAAB Consultancy Services but focused effectively on FUNAAB table water factory. She turned around the water factory for the better with a lot of personal sacrifices.
9. Dr. Florence Olowokere who was Deputy Director of FUCONS
10. Prof. Dorcas Adegbite, appointed as the Director, AMREC
11. Prof. Alaba Jolaosho, appointed as the Director of IFSERAR.
12. Prof. Bamidele Omonuwa Oluwatosin was Director of IFSERAR when I assumed office.
13. Prof. Iyabo Adekemi Kehinde was appointed the Director, Academic Planning
14. Prof. Adebukunola Mobolaji Omemu, appointed as the first female Dean of Student Affairs, a role in which to bear the motherly touch when relating with our students.
15. Prof. Olubunmi Temilade Agbebi appointed Deputy Director, INHURD
16. Dr. Elizabeth Olufunmilayo Oluwalana (now Professor) was appointed a Deputy Director in CENTS
17. Dr. Joy Nwakaego Odedina was appointed Deputy Director, COBFAS
18. Dr. Justina Boloebi Porbeni was appointed Hall Warden

19. Mrs. Margaret Abosede Omisope was appointed as the Acting Managing Director of UNAAB Microfinance Bank at a time when the bank needed to be salvaged. She did a wonderful job in turning the bank around with her team.

They were dedicated to duty, bringing passion and stability, for efficient service delivery in their individual units.

8. INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

I stated earlier that sections in this document are inter-related but shall make each distinct in terms of content. Infrastructural development has been discussed in the various sections above and will still be mentioned later. However, they were discussed relative to utilization and services provided. This section shall focus on constructions carried out between 2018 and 2022, and those started just before the end of my tenure, which were described as on-going projects.

A Project Management Unit was established in 2019 to drive infrastructural development. This contributed immensely to the achievements on procurement process, infrastructural development, monitoring and evaluation, and project completion. I must acknowledge the commitment, efficiency and professionalism of the following staff who worked closely with me in this respect:

- 1) Quantity Surveyor Dauda John Karik
- 2) Engineer Babatunde Oluseun Otesile
- 3) Mr. Olukunle Ayodele Elijah

8.1. Construction of University Dam

In 2019, our administration embarked on the construction of a University dam in Mawuko-Opeji axis. This project, funded with the Federal Government Capital funds, had different components which included piping of raw water to the main campus; the upgrading of the existing waterworks and rehabilitation of the two existing reservoirs.

On October 14, 2022, Chief (Dr.) Olusegun Obasanjo commissioned the water dam which was estimated to have the capacity for 7 billion litres of water. The dam site is equipped with a pumping house, generator and pipes to convey water to the water treatment plant on campus, about 12 km away.

Close to a part of the dam where water is to be drawn from a pumping station is also the newly constructed Centre Pivot Irrigation System for dry season agriculture. The ancillaries include the pumping station, which is dedicated to it. The farmland has been cleared and would only need appropriate land preparation for cultivation.

On campus, the existing water treatment building was renovated and all old equipment there replaced with modern equipment for water treatment. A generator was also dedicated to the treatment plant.

Two old reservoirs for storage of treated water were renovated and upgraded with modern equipment. Each has the capacity for about 3 million litres of water.

At the end of my tenure, the only major outstanding work on the dam was reticulation of raw water to the water treatment plant, and subsequently, the reticulation of treated water to buildings and other places on campus. The process of getting these done was in an advanced state by the time I handed over.

8.2. Generators for Electricity Supply

As mentioned earlier, several generators were purchased to “complement” supply of electricity by the government agency charged with this responsibility. Unfortunately, the generators turned out to be the main source of electricity, with enormous cost to the University, in terms of fuel consumption and maintenance.

The old generators available at the Central Power station were replaced in March and May, 2021 with 800 and 650 kVA generators, in the respective months. Also in May, 2021, the Senate a 500 kVa generator was installed for the Senate building, both old and new. The generators in the Central Power station provided most buildings with electricity, although, they were complemented by other generators dedicated to specific buildings.

Solar panels and inverters were provided for ICTREC and CEADESE. Also, solar panel streetlights as earlier mentioned. The participated committedly in the Energizing Education

Programme of the Rural Electrification Agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria from 2018 to 2022. By the time I handed over in October, 2022, the process of providing the University with a 3 MW hybrid solar power plant had reached an advanced stage. The provision of this plant would hopefully be complemented with a dedicated line for the supply of electricity as earlier promised by the Agency in 2019.

8.3. Buildings

There were uncompleted, and indeed, abandoned buildings when I became Vice-Chancellor. Abandoned in the sense that contractors had left site for some of them.

I made a commitment to complete these and build new ones to expand learning space, meeting rooms and offices. Also, the principle of “build and equip” was adopted to make each building constructed functional.

All buildings completed or constructed under our Administration can be distinguished easily with colours, except a few which were inherited for completion. External walls were off white; columns and fins, lovat green; external skirting, pale grey, internal walls, light cream; burglary proof bars, dove grey; aluminum window profile; white and roof covering, green.

8.3.1. Inherited Buildings Completed

The completion of the construction of the following buildings was carried out, mainly, between 2018 and 2020:

- 1) Academic building complex, Block A
- 2) Academic building complex, Block B
- 3) COLPLANT Phase II
- 4) COLFHEC Phase II
- 5) Male hostel complex, Block A
- 6) Male hostel complex, Block B
- 7) Female hostel complex, Block A

- 8) Female hostel complex, Block B
- 9) Post-graduate hostel I (completed in 2018).
- 10) The 250-Seater computer laboratory equipped with laptops
- 11) Abandoned Grandstand (for more than 10 years) at FUNAAB stadium was completed in 2022
- 12) Abandoned building (since 2006) housing the newly created TETFund Centre of Excellence (TCoE-CAPI) was re-structured and completed in 2022.

Also, Postgraduate hostel 2 which was determined due to constraints of the original contractor was re-awarded in 2022 and was an ongoing project by the time I completed my tenure. The Student Union called on the University Management to support in completing an abandoned relaxation centre. The Administration responded positively in 2021.

The ability to complete these buildings, despite inflation, was due to principled renegotiations and the magnanimity of the contractors involved.

8.3.2. Newly Completed Buildings Between 2018 and 2022

The constructions of the following buildings were started and completed before the end of my tenure:

- 1) CEADESE Complex with offices, seminar rooms, video conference/board room and laboratories
- 2) Confectionery Production Factory, with modern equipment for various confectioneries.
- 3) Wole Soyinka Library with reading and seminar rooms, offices and IT equipment
- 4) Chief (Dr.) Olusegun Obasanjo Engineering Building II with classrooms, seminar rooms and laboratories
- 5) Prof. Timothy Olurotimi Tayo Agricultural Farm Laboratory Complex with offices
- 6) A well-equipped oil palm processing factory; electrical and mechanical in operation

- 7) Prof. Elias Bogoro Twin 250-Seater Capacity Lecture Theatre (that is, total of 500 seats, split into two buildings with each having 250 seats) with offices.
- 8) Prof. Israel Adu 250-seater auditorium with offices
- 9) College of Physical Sciences Building
- 10) Works and Services, and Directorate of Physical Planning Building (Academic maintenance building)
- 11) Extension of Senate Building
- 12) Maternity Building in Health Services Centre
- 13) Digital X-ray machine building
- 14) Construction of a generator and bottle-blowing building for water factory
- 15) Five Comfort Stations (i.e., toilets) at strategic locations in campus as mentioned earlier.
- 16) Six (6) Units of Security Posts Campus along DUFARMS-IFSERAR road
- 17) A dual Swine Pen at FUNAAB Zoo Park
- 18) A screen house.

A digital X-ray machine was installed in the X-ray building an ambulance was purchased in 2019, both for the Health Services Centre. The Maternity building is equipped with beds.

In a public-private partnership initiative, FUNAAB Zoo Park was to have Omu Resort. It was a partnership with Woodfields Farms Limited and was aimed at having an amusement park in the Zoological Garden. This was nearing completion by the time my tenure ended.

8.3.3. Ongoing Building Projects Nearing Completion

By the time I handed over on October 31, 2022, the following buildings have been constructed beyond 80% completion:

1. Administrative Block of the New Senate Building
2. College of Animal Sciences and Livestock Production (COLANIM) Building Phase II
3. Two-hundred capacity undergraduate

4. Two-hundred capacity postgraduate hostel
5. Animal Demonstration Laboratory for cattle processing
6. Construction of Student Hostel 1
7. Construction of Student Hostel 2
8. 300-seater Lecture theatres I
9. 300-seater Lecture theatres II
10. 300-seater Lecture theatres III
11. Construction and Furnishing of Academic Office Complex with Seminar Rooms and e-Library.

Related to the buildings were facilities provided to make them functional

12. Reticulation of raw water from the dam to campus
13. Treatment of raw water
14. Reticulation of treated water to buildings on campus
15. Purchase of equipment for cattle slaughtering and processing

The construction of the following buildings started in October, 2022, just before I exited as the Vice-Chancellor:

1. Construction and furnishing of Extension to COLAMRUD (Phase II) Building
2. Construction and furnishing of Block of Offices and Information Centre with Furnishing

Under the “build and equip” principle, all the buildings constructed during my tenure were furnished or had provision for furnishing in their contracts. Laboratories were equipped for functionality. Air conditioners were fitted in new buildings and some existing ones. Boreholes were drilled to provide water in all the buildings.

8.3.4. Renovation of Existing Buildings and Other Infrastructure

Existing buildings were renovated massively, with works covering civil, mechanical and electrical components. Buildings were re-designed if necessary; electrical works were carried out with new wiring and furniture; toilet facilities were replaced, and boreholes drilled. The buildings were:

1. Agricultural Media Resources and Extension Centre (AMREC) Building
2. Existing College of Engineering (COLENG) Building
3. Institute of Food Security, Environmental Resources and Research (IFSERAR) Building
4. College of Plant Science and Crop Production (COLPLANT)
5. College of Environmental Resources Management (COLERM) Phase I,
6. College of Biosciences (COLBIOS) Auditorium
7. College of Animal Science and Livestock Production (COLANIM) building
8. Julius Amioba Okogie Lecture Theatre
9. Mahmoud Yakub 2000-Capacity Auditorium Complex,
10. Livestock Processing Building,
11. Five hundred (500)- Seater Central Computer Laboratory
12. Fishery Unit in the Farms: Building housing fish tanks and the external concrete ponds,
13. Iyalode Tinubu (IYAT) Female hostel
14. Umar Kabir Female Hostel
15. Existing Postgraduate hostel adjoining Umar Kabir
16. Existing Senate Building
17. FUNAAB International School (FUNIS) Senior Students' Hostel
18. FUNAAB Staff School Classrooms
19. Royal Green Guest House
20. Student Union Building
21. Upgrading of Goat and Sheep House (Kalahari)
22. Upgrading of Layers, Cockrel and Grower Poultry Houses
23. Conversion of a Seminar Hall to CEADESE Laboratory

24. Refurbishment of Post Graduate Laboratories at (EMT, FST and Physics Departments)
25. Refurbishment of Post Graduate Laboratories in ANN, and Agricultural and Bioresources Engineering Department.
26. Existing roads within and outside the campus as mentioned earlier.
27. External works were carried out for both new and existing buildings. This has led to availability of many car parks close to locations desired by car and other vehicle owners or users. These works also included the rehabilitation of degraded old intra-campus roads.

8.4. Internet Facilities

The ICTREC was supported with equipment for improved power supply. These included inverters and solar panels, high-capacity UPS and air-conditioners for the server rooms. Servers were upgraded. Also, fibre optics damaged during construction were quickly restored and new ones were laid for efficient internet provision in buildings. Among equipment under the purview of ICTREC were:

1. ICT Gear International Computer Driving License (ICDL) Training of University Personnel and Upgrade of Website
2. ICT Multimedia Equipment at Auditoria and Lecture Rooms
3. Upgraded Research Equipment and Digital Teaching Aids Lots
4. Desktop Computers and Laptops in 250 -and 500-seater Computer Laboratories
5. Installed solar powered system for ICTREC.
6. Fibre optics links
7. Internet transmission facilities

There is still a need to strengthen the Directorate. A situation where IT facilities or equipment are shut down or not maintained during union strikes does not help the visibility of the University in a world that things change rapidly.

8.5. FUNAAB Radio

The University radio station, FUNAAB Radio, 89.5 FM radio, started broadcasting on March 20, 2018. It was a dream come true, having been part of its establishment since the time I was Director of AMREC, and through concerted efforts to bring it to life when I was Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development). Mr. Ayo Arowojolu played a prominent role in the establishment of the Radio Station and was the pioneer Head.

From November 1 to October 31, 2022, more than 70 prominent individuals featured on the Radio Personality Interviews. It has lived up to its billing of being a medium for education, agricultural extension service and entertainment.

8.6. Maintenance of Infrastructure

The Directorate of Works and Services is statutorily responsible for the maintenance of infrastructure and facilities on campus. The Academic Maintenance Building in the premises of the Directorate of Works and Services is serving the Directorate, and Physical Planning. The facilities in the building should make job performance better.

The following major equipment were purchased for the Directorate:

1. A 3500 litres capacity diesel dispensing truck.
2. Scissors lift personnel carrier for working at elevated heights, e.g., for street light maintenance, story-buildings, etc.
3. A 4-WD pick up for field work.

Protective kits were provided for workers as needed. On October 19, 2022 the scissors lift made clearing of debris on the rooftop of COLFHEC very easy and efficient.

9. HEALTH AND SPORTS

9.1. Health Services

The need for an additional ambulance for Health Centre was quickly recognized and one was purchased. Furthermore, the need for an X-ray machine was painstakingly followed until the X-ray machine building was constructed and equipped with a modern digital X-ray machine in October, 2021. Also, the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) had its own X-ray machine purchased and installed in 2021.

The Maternity building with beds is now ready for use. Both the X-ray machine and maternity buildings were intended to serve all stakeholders within and outside the campus. A new 150 kVA generator was installed in 2022 to replace the old generator at the Centre. Furniture for staff was replaced and air conditioners were provided as available.

A major challenge in Health Centre is the dearth professional personnel in all fields. This has been due to retirement, resignation and bureaucratic bottlenecks that must be overcome before personnel could be employed or replaced. Dr. Abiodun Amusan, the Director of the Centre, is appreciated for his efforts.

9.2. Sports

Sports among staff and student teams were encouraged either for competitions or well-being. The Director, Dr. Samuel Olabanji and other staff of the Directorate of Sports were encouraged to perform with available resources and they did. They were so committed that the University was better for it in sports.

On October 20, 2021 there was Staff Unity Games with friendly interactions among all categories of staff who participated in the games, including the spectators. On March 14, 2022, there was a novelty match between the “University Management” (Principal Officers, Deans,

Directors etc., all men) team and FUNAAB Falcons (FUNAAB female team). As I stated then, these activities were to create a sense of belonging among various stakeholders in the University.

The Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) flagged off a “Walk to Sustain Good Health” programme on September 15, 2021. The University Management supported this and participated in the Walk. The SSANU Chairman, Mr. Rotimi Fasunwon stated that the Union initiated the Walk because he observed increasing health challenges among staff, which could be addressed by simple body exercises. He acknowledged that the laudable initiative came from the Women Wing of SSANU.

Miss Olayinka Olajide, a 300-level Student in the Department of Chemistry, COLPHYS represented Nigeria at the World Junior Athletic Championship in Nairobi, Kenya between August 17 and 21, 2021 and won a Bronze medal at the championship. She also participated in the 4 x 100 m relay race at the championship, an event with 116 countries in which Nigeria came third after Finland and Kenya.

Team FUNAAB participated at the 26th edition of Nigerian University Games Association (NUGA) hosted by the University of Lagos (UNILAG), Akoka, Lagos State in 2022. Our University recorded unprecedented achievements when previous participations in NUGA Games were compared with the 2022 participation. The 2022 performance was the best performance of FUNAAB Team at any NUGA game. The University finished in the 11th position out of the 78 Universities that participated.

At NUGA Games 2022, the University won 3 Gold, 4 Silver and 9 Bronze medals. Quzeem Ajiboye won Gold in Taekwondo and Kamal Obe was awarded the most valuable player in Squash.

All these achievements in Sports were attributed to various intercollegiate competitions encouraged by the University and the discipline instilled in our young sports men and women by staff of the Directorate of Sports during preparations or camping. The leadership role of Dr. Samuel Olabanji is well acknowledged.

9.3. Staff Club

The University Management re-activated the Staff Club on November 1, 2021 after relocating it to the Zoological Garden. Prof. Clement Adeofun, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development) played a prominent role in making this possible, on the instruction of the Council under Dr. Aboki Zhawa.

Among the activities promoted by the Club were indoor games. The University Management supported the Club with some indoor sporting facilities while individuals and two Unions, namely, National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT) and SSANU donated facilities. The NAAT-FUNAAB donated a dozen plastic chairs whereas SSANU donated a sound system.

Unfortunately, the laudable involvement in sports and social interactions were always truncated industrial actions.

9.4. Provision of Space for Meetings and Extra-Curricular Activities

The Administration ensured that for every meeting with more than 30 persons in an auditorium, fumigation of the hall or auditorium used was carried out after such meetings in 2020. Access to auditorial and rooms was unhindered for staff and students.

In this regard the University hosted the Association of Registrars of Nigerian Universities (ARNU) in October 2021. This was the 16th Annual Meeting and 70th Business meeting, which was graced by the Deputy Governor of Ogun State, Engineer Noimot Salako-Oyedele on 14th October, 2021. Various staff Unions had various meetings which attracted delegates from other Universities/. For instance, SSANU held its western Zonal meeting on November 18, 2021. The National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT held its National Executive Council (NEC) meeting from June 21-25, 2021 in FUNAAB.

10. SECURITY, WEFARE AND INCOME GENERATION

This chapter is going to focus on achievements that have not been emphasized earlier, although, some are going to be re-emphasized for clarity. For instance, income generation is an integral part of FUNAAB Ventures. Also, security has been mentioned under provision of facilities and community policing, but the operations of the internal security unit will be emphasized here.

10.1. Security

The internal security system headed by Mr. Bolarinwa Peter was strengthened with the provision of some facilities. Surveillance was enhanced by installing CCTV cameras in strategic places. The data collected were regularly analyzed by the Security Unit.

The University Management raised the maximum payable overtime hours from twenty-five to forty-five hours to motivate the Security Staff. This was in recognition of their sacrifices. Unfortunately, paucity of fund limited the translation of these acknowledgments to monetary values most of the times. The provision of palliatives during the 2020 lockdown, provision of furniture and renovation of facilities in the security offices, provision of a patrol vehicle, bathrooms/toilets etc. were some of the ways the Administration appreciated the Unit.

One of the five Comfort Stations (i.e., bathroom and toilets) is located at the Isolu Gate entrance to the Lodges purposely for the Security men posted there. It was the first time the security mem would be provided this facility. It serves both staff and students (COLBIOS, FPY students etc.) who use that gate for access into the campus. Solar panel light was installed at the entrance, making visibility easier at night.

Additional Security posts were constructed on the road from DUFARMS to IFSERAR. Drones were engaged when necessary to monitor activities of FUNAAB land. The relationship between our Security Unit and external Security Agencies remained cordial under our administration.

In order to tackle the menace of land encroachers, a surveillance was carried out with drones in 2020 to assist the Security Unit in evicting the squatters on University land. This has not been achieved completely due to some not-too-clear legal claims. The Administration re-constituted the Security Committee to support the Security Unit.

The Administration countered false allegations made in online media by some students and staff with truth and facts by calling Press Conferences and using some online media. These helped to douse tension among staff and students. A new and more befitting office was allocated to the Head of the Security Unit, Mr. Bolarinwa Peter, in the new Senate Building extension.

10.2. Staff and Student Welfare

I came on board, meeting a range of promotion arrears paid by the University through internally generated revenue but were yet to be reimbursed because requests were not sent to the Federal Government. The Bursar and I made strident efforts to receive the reimbursements from 2013 to 2017 in 2018. Before I left on October 31, 2022, all due and processed promotion arrears had been paid by government.

Regular promotion exercises were carried out annually between 2018 and 2022. Staff were either given annual increments, promoted, converted or upgraded. Self-study by staff was encouraged and appropriate TETFund grants were facilitated for easy access by staff.

The Student Union building was renovated. As mentioned earlier, an abandoned Student Union Relaxation Centre received the support of the Management by complementing the efforts of the Student Union Executives led by Mr. Michael Oloyede (the Union President). It was commissioned on September 10, 2021. Apart from Mr. Oloyede, his predecessor Miss Tawakalt Adeola, the first female Student Union leader who emerged in 2018/2019 session election, was also constructive in her engagements with the University. I can also say this for Mr. Seyi Ale who was the Student Union President by the time I left office. By extension, the members of the Union Executives, and indeed, most of our students, had the advancement of FUNAAB as their core agenda.

Financial support was given to more 102 individuals comprising staff families, staff and students., between November 2017 and September, 2022. Forty-five percent of these individuals were staff families who were supported financially for the demise of their loved one. Thirty-nine percent were staff who were given financial support for healthcare; 6% of the number were staff who were supported for recognized social functions.. Ten percent was for student-related support.

10.3. Income-Generating Units

The FUNAAB Ventures is one of the income generating units mentioned earlier. There are other Units which will be presented here.

10.3.1 Institute of Human Resources and Development

The Institute of Human Resources and Development (INHURD) is for pre-degree or pre-University education. Its capacity to generate income dwindled when FUNAAB was stopped from offering Management Courses by the Federal Government just before I became the Vice-Chancellor. However, through concerted efforts of the INHURD Management team, led by the Directors, the Institute tried to shore up revenue through vigorous campaign to attract students for pre-degree, GCE A-Level, London, and Joint Universities Preliminary Examinations Board (JUPEB).

These Directors were Profs. Oluwasanmi Moses Arigbede with Deputy Director, Prof. Festus Adeosun, Professor Adewale Talabi Oladele with Profs. Festus Adeosun and Olubunmi Agbebi as Deputy Directors. From comments by the external administrators of JUPEB, FUNAAB is operating it very well and profitably.

10.3.2. The FUNAAB Schools

The schools are run independently but were supervised by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal Officers. Therefore, the FUNAAB International School (FUNIS) and Staff School came under close monitoring and evaluation during my tenure as the Vice-Chancellor.

10.3.2.1. The Secondary School; FUNAAB International School

The current Principal of FUNAAB International School (FUNIS), Mr. Isaac Ogunbunmi was employed on January 21, 2021, taking over from an Acting Principal, Mrs. Emily Okpete. Mrs. Okpete succeeded the substantive Principal who left after the expiration of her tenure. I had the privilege of having the three Principals serve the school during my tenure.

The performance of the school has been more of success stories in academics, irrespective of few moments when we observed weaknesses in performance, usually in few courses. These were promptly addressed, and we got better results subsequently. In August 2020, FUNIS was listed among the top 13 best schools in Ogun State by a body called EDUSKO.

Also, in August 2020, the State Government monitoring team during COVID-19 lockdown rated FUNIS among the best schools complying with COVID-19 protocol in preparation for external examinations for the exit classes. In terms of administration, the School commenced Day School in September 2020.

In 2021, Master Awodele Tamiloore and Soyeme Ireoluwa came top at NCS Whizkid Competition. A student of FUNIS, Precious Oyedele emerged the grand final winner in a TeensThink National Essay Competition on July 26, 2022 among 17 students across the country who participated in 2022 (The Punch Newspaper, 29th July 2022). Master Adebisi Damilola and Sobowale Benedict came top at Maths week held at Salawu Abiola Secondary School, Osiele The Physics National Olympiad and Students' Chemical Society of Nigeria Quiz Competitions came up in 2022 with FUNIS students winning prizes. These were Miss Jolaoso MojolaOluwa

and Master Adebisi Damilola in Physics and Miss Ogunsina Toni and Miss Akin-Adeyi Fisayomi in Chemistry.

The School was active in sports too during my tenure and attention was paid to hostel facilities, hygiene and healthcare. An interhouse sport competition was held on June 17, 2022. Staff welfare was also paramount to the University Management.

10.3.2.2. The Pre-Primary and Primary School; Staff School

Mrs. Florence B. Alade, the current Head teacher was there throughout my 5-year tenure. She worked with dedicated teachers and staff who took good care of the children in the school.

Classrooms, offices and toilets were renovated during my tenure. Furthermore, the University provided furniture and desktop computers for the school. There were limited interventions regarding transportation. The University will need to improve on this

The FUNIS Gate to Staff School Road was constructed in 2019. Students from the School graduated to various Secondary Schools performing excellently well. Interhouse Sports were held regularly.

The Administration did its best to make the School operational during difficult times. If the Staff of the school did not cooperate, the efforts would have been null. I thank them for the sacrifices even when salaries were not forthcoming.

10.3.2.3. UNAAB Microfinance Bank

The Vice-Chancellor is the Chairman of the Board of UNAAB Microfinance Bank. I did not take over this role until the last quarter of 2018, having allowed the arrangement made by the previous University Administration to subsist till then. Immediately I took over, some drastic

measures were taken through the Board to reposition the bank for better service delivery and recapitalization. These were:

- Appointing an Acting Managing Director, Mrs. Margaret Omisope. She was to be assisted by Alhaji Ismail Ewedairo. Both were deployed from the Bursary Department in September, 2018. It turned out to be a sound decision with the turnaround experienced under their leadership.
- The bank was re-capitalized, overcoming what appeared to be insurmountable hurdle before I took over leadership of the Board.
- Mr. Ayoade Adebisi, assumed office on February 1, 2022 as the substantive Managing Director. He has proven himself to be a right choice for the months few months I observed his performance.

11. CONCLUDING REMARKS

I completed my five-year tenure as the sixth substantive Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria (FUNAAB) on October 31, 2022. It was neither by might nor by power, but by the Benevolence and Grace of God. To God be the Glory.

