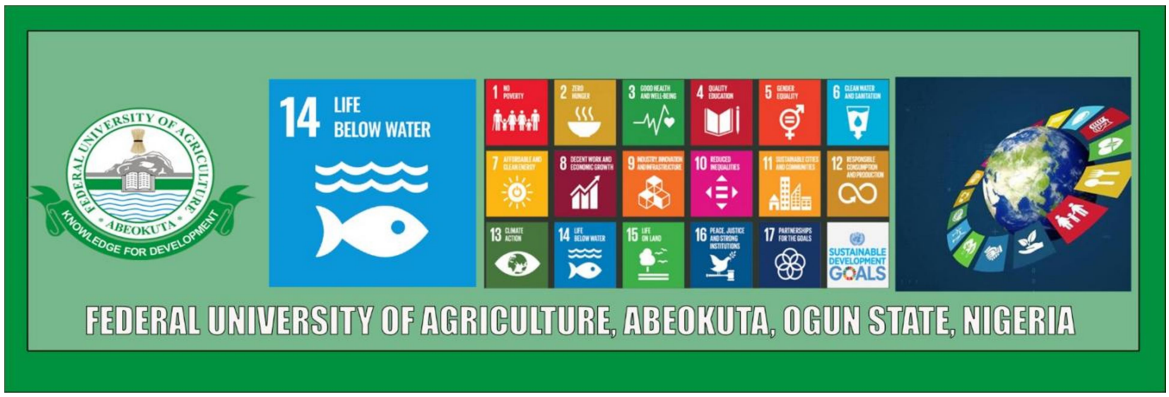








A - 2025/26 FUNAAB SDG14 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

PREAMBLE

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) is committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goal - SDG14 “LIFE BELOW WATER.”

SDG 14: Life Below Water implements integrated water resources management and programs to capture, treat and reuse urban wastewater runoff. It introduces and enhances value of ecosystem services as assets (e.g. mangroves).

This enhances integrated coastal zone management and conservation strategies, and cooperating across juris-dictions within a particular river basin or coastal area. It enforces regulations governing industrial, municipal and agricultural pollution as well as encouraging sustainable fishing practices through ethical municipal procurement

FUNAAB supports aquaculture and fisheries, contributing to the sustainability of marine life and water ecosystems. The University has her own dam and fish ponds.

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March 5, 2026
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November 13, 2025
https://funaab.edu.ng/funaab-uws-ajogbe-partnership-showcases-innovative-livestock-feed-breakthrough/

1. CENTS Director Meets Skill Leaders, Reaffirms Commitment to Strengthening Entrepreneurship Training

Published On:
March 5, 2026



The Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies (CENTS), Prof. Sakiru Akinbode held an interactive meeting with Skill Leaders and Facilitators of the Centre as part of efforts to strengthen the operations and activities of the Centre.

The meeting, which took place on March 5, 2026, at the CENTS Board Room, provided a platform for constructive dialogue between the Director and the facilitators responsible for coordinating the various entrepreneurial skills programmes of the Centre. In attendance were 16 Skill Leaders and 10 Facilitators.

The interactive session was organised to enable the Skill Leaders and Facilitators formally interface with the newly appointed Director, while also encouraging them to contribute more actively to the growth and development of the Centre, particularly in supporting its Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) initiatives. It also served as an avenue for participants to share ideas, raise concerns, and discuss areas requiring clarification in the execution of their vocational responsibilities.



Addressing the participants, the Director stated that his primary mandate was to move the Centre forward and build on its existing achievements.

The Director, a former Deputy Dean of the College of the Entrepreneurial and Development Studies (COLENDS), encouraged Skill Leaders to continually upgrade their knowledge and professional competencies in order to remain relevant in the rapidly evolving entrepreneurial landscape. He also stressed the growing importance of digital marketing and urged the facilitators to adopt digital tools and platforms in promoting their vocational activities and training programmes.

While acknowledging the significant progress made under the leadership of the immediate past Director, Prof. Emily Ayo-John, he assured participants of his commitment to consolidating the achievements already recorded by the Centre. According to him, the goal was to strengthen and expand the existing framework.

As part of measures to enhance efficiency and accountability, the Director disclosed plans to institutionalise a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team that would assess performance and ensure that activities of the Centre align with its mandate.

He further emphasised the importance of punctuality, diligence, and commitment among the Skill Leaders and Facilitators in the discharge of their responsibilities, noting that these values were critical to the continued growth and success of the Centre.

The meeting concluded with discussions and contributions from participants, who expressed their willingness to support the Director's vision for advancing entrepreneurship development at the University.

Mr. Olajide is a seasoned PR professional with over a decade of expertise in the fields of Public Relations, Reputation Management, Media Relations and Strategic Communications. He currently holds the position of Ag. Head, Directorate of Public Relations.



Last Updated on March 9, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Olasunkanmi Olajide & Raymond Osemene

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) has taken a significant step towards strengthening professional education by signing a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPM), paving the way for the University to serve as a Study Centre for the Institute.

The agreement, formalised today, March 5, 2026, was aimed at enhancing professional training, human capital development, and knowledge exchange for both students and staff of the University.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, described the collaboration as one that aligned with FUNAAB's core mandate of Teaching, Research, and Community Service. He noted that while the University was widely recognised for its agricultural specialisation, it also offered a wide range of allied academic programmes that support the sector and contribute to national development.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, these programmes include Engineering disciplines such as Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics, Mechatronics, and Civil Engineering, as well as courses in Entrepreneurship, Accounting, Business Administration, and Economics, all designed to complement agriculture and prepare students for diverse career opportunities.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde addressing the visiting CIPM officials

Prof. Kehinde also highlighted that FUNAAB pioneered the Department of Agricultural Administration to address the growing need for professionals capable of effectively managing agricultural enterprises and agribusinesses. He stated that the partnership with CIPM would enable students in relevant disciplines to obtain professional certifications alongside their academic degrees, thereby enhancing their employability and career prospects. The collaboration is also expected to provide academic and Non-Teaching staff with additional opportunities for professional development in personnel and human resource management.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed optimism that the agreement would translate into tangible outcomes, assuring the CIPM delegation of the University's commitment to ensuring the successful implementation of the partnership.

Earlier in his remarks, the President of CIPM and Chairman of the Governing Council, Mallam Ahmed Gobir, who was represented by the Institute's Vice President, Mrs. Chidinma Obiejesi, appreciated the University Management for the warm reception

extended to the delegation. He noted that a previous visit to FUNAAB had laid the groundwork for the collaboration.

Describing the partnership as strategic and mutually beneficial, Mallam Gobir emphasised that effective collaborations require deliberate effort and sustained commitment from all parties involved. He further commended the University's leadership for its proactive approach in preparing students not only for academic excellence but also for professional relevance and workplace leadership.

With the agreement in place, students of the University would now have the opportunity to graduate with both academic qualifications and professional certifications from CIPM.

Other dignitaries present at the event included the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), Prof. Olawale Dairo; Registrar, Dr. Titus Adeniyi; Dean, College of Agricultural Management and Rural Development (COLAMRUD), Prof. Emmanuel Fakoya; Head of Department, Agricultural Administration, Prof. Adefunke Ayinde and Prof. Oluwakemi Fapojuwo, among others.

Last Updated on October 6, 2026

2. FUNAAB Researcher Unveils Cost-Effective, Healthier Fish Feed Alternative

Published On: February 27, 2026



Last Updated on March 3, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Femi Dansu

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) has recorded another major research breakthrough with the unveiling of an innovative, cost-effective and sustainable fish feed alternative that promises to transform aquaculture production.

The study, presented at the February Monthly Seminar of the Institute of Food Security, Environmental Resources and Agricultural Research (IFSERAR), revealed that the partial replacement of conventional fishmeal with probiotic-fortified insect larvae significantly improves fish health while reducing feed costs.

Delivering the presentation, Dr. Nathaniel Bamidele, Programme Coordinator, Aquaculture and Fisheries Research Programme at IFSERAR, explained that the research was designed to tackle one of the most pressing challenges in global aquaculture, the high cost of feed. According to him, feed accounts for between 60 and 70 percent of total production expenses, with fishmeal alone constituting a substantial proportion of feed ingredient costs.

Dr. Bamidele noted that with declining wild fish stocks caused by pollution, climate change and overfishing, aquaculture must meet the protein needs of a rapidly growing global population projected to reach 9 billion by 2050. However, rising feed costs continue to limit the profitability and expansion of fish farming.

To address this, the research investigated the use of Black Soldier Fly Larvae Meal (BSFLM), derived from Hermetia illucens , as a sustainable substitute for fishmeal in the diet of Oreochromis niloticus (Nile tilapia), one of the world's most widely cultivated freshwater fish species. The insect larvae were reared at FUNAAB, while feeding trials were conducted at the University's Hatchery Unit in Abeokuta, Ogun State.



Director, IFSERAR, Prof. Kazeem Bello with the Chairman of the occasion, Prof. Wilfred Alegbeleye and some senior staff members of the Institute after the presentation

Five experimental diets containing approximately 35 per cent crude protein were formulated, replacing fishmeal with BSFLM at graded inclusion levels of 0, 25, 50, 75 and 100 percent. The feeds were pelleted, air-dried and properly stored. To address potential digestive challenges associated with high insect meal inclusion, particularly due to chitin content, probiotics were incorporated to enhance digestion, improve gut structure and promote a balanced intestinal microbiota.

Findings from the study showed that probiotic-fortified BSFLM improved fish carcass quality without adversely affecting blood parameters. Optimal growth performance and feed utilisation were achieved when 50 per cent of fishmeal was replaced with the fortified insect meal. Importantly, probiotic supplementation helped mitigate intestinal stress linked to moderate insect meal inclusion.

Describing the innovation as both economically viable and environmentally sustainable, Dr. Bamidele stated that probiotic-fortified insect protein could sustainably replace up to 50 percent of fishmeal in Nile tilapia diets without compromising fish health or productivity. He emphasised that the development holds significant potential for reducing production costs and improving profitability for fish farmers.

The researcher recommended further long-term studies to support large-scale commercial adoption of probiotic insect-based aquafeeds.

The seminar was attended by the Director of IFSERAR, Prof. Kazeem Bello; the Chairman of the occasion, Prof. Wilfred Alegbeleye; and other distinguished academic staff, including Prof. Victor Olowe and Prof. John Oyedepo, among others.

3. FUNAAB Expands Global Footprint with Strategic MoU with Swedish Institution

Published On: February 27, 2026



Last Updated on March 3, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Femi Dansu

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) has strengthened its internationalisation drive with the Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH), Karlskrona, Sweden. This agreement was reached by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, with the President of BTH, Prof. Henric Johnson, who was represented by the Institution's Country Director, Prof. Kayode Adekunle. The agreement in principle establishes a robust framework for collaboration in teaching, research, and innovation, underscoring both institutions' shared commitment to academic excellence and intercultural exchange.

Prof. Kayode Adekunle interacting with some students at COLENG

Under the terms of the agreement, the two institutions would explore opportunities for students and staff mobility across undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The partnership also provides avenues for joint research initiatives, collaborative academic programmes, and the exchange of scholarly publications. In addition, it supports the organisation of joint conferences, seminars, and other academic engagements aimed at deepening intellectual cooperation.



The Vice-Chancellor described the partnership as a reflection of FUNAAB's expanding global vision. He noted that although the University is relatively young, it is firmly committed to attaining international relevance through purposeful collaborations. According to him, the opportunity to partner with BTH was warmly embraced, as the University remains focused on initiatives that deliver tangible benefits to students and faculty members.

Ag. Director, DRIP, Dr. Oluwagbemiga Adeleye introducing Prof. Kayode Adekunle of BTH, Sweden to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde

Prof. Kayode Adekunle has been facilitat



ing academic linkages between Nigeria and Sweden since 2009, he expressed unwavering personal commitment to ensuring the success of the new partnership. He commended FUNAAB's infrastructural and academic strides, emphasising that the most enduring value of international collaboration lies in strategic investment in students and human capital development.

Also speaking, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Olusegun Idowu, highlighted integrity and trust as indispensable pillars for sustaining the partnership. He stressed that transparency, ethical leadership, and institutional responsibility must guide the collaboration to guarantee long-term success. He further observed that sustainable impact would be achieved through consistent intellectual contributions,

including virtual lectures, postgraduate mentorship, and collaborative research initiatives.



The exhaustive deliberations were attended by key University officials, including the Dean, College of Engineering (COLENG), Prof. Adedayo Badejo; Ag. Director, Directorate of Research, Innovations and Partnerships (DRIP), Dr. Oluwagbemiga Adeleye; Head, Office of Advancement, Mr. Olujinmi Ogundimu and Mr. Femi Pearce (from BTH), among others.

Highpoint was the tour of COLENG and the Centre of Execellence in Agricultural Development and Sustainable Environment (CEADESE).

Don Urges FG to Resuscitate Ajaokuta Steel Complex

Published On: February 25, 2026



Last Updated on March 2, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

... As FUNAAB Holds 109th Inaugural Lecture

By Olasunkanmi Olajide & Femi Dansu

A leading Corrosion and Materials Engineering expert, Prof. Olayide Adetunji of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering (COLENG), Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, has called on the Federal Government to urgently revive the long-dormant Ajaokuta Steel Complex, describing it as a strategic catalyst for industrial growth, foreign exchange conservation, and sustainable national development.

Delivering the University's 109th Inaugural Lecture today, February 25, 2025, Prof. Adetunji stated that resuscitating the steel complex would significantly boost local steel production, reduce Nigeria's heavy reliance on imports, and strengthen domestic manufacturing capacity. He emphasised that a functional steel industry remains fundamental to infrastructure development, energy systems, transportation, and national security.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde presenting a plaque to honour the 109th Inaugural Lecturer, Prof. Olayide Adetunji at the event

In his lecture titled "Combating the Hidden Menace of Metallic Materials: Panacea for Industrial Growth and Environmental Sustainability," the scholar identified corrosion as a major but often overlooked economic threat. He described corrosion as a "silent destroyer," capable of triggering structural failures, industrial accidents, chemical leaks, and environmental disasters if not properly managed.

According to him, corrosion affects critical sectors including infrastructure, transportation, manufacturing, and energy. He warned that neglecting corrosion management could result in catastrophic building and bridge collapses, equipment breakdowns, pipeline failures, and fire outbreaks, ultimately undermining public safety and environmental sustainability.



The immediate family members of the 109th Inaugural Lecturer at the event

To address the challenge, Prof. Adetunji outlined several mitigation strategies, including improved engineering design, appropriate material selection, protective coatings, and the adoption of cathodic protection systems, particularly in the oil and gas sector. He also stressed the importance of corrosion inhibitors and smart monitoring technologies to detect early signs of deterioration in buried facilities such as pipelines and storage tanks.

Specifically, he recommended that filling stations and fuel depots nationwide adopt sacrificial anode cathodic protection systems to prevent underground tank leakages and environmental contamination. He further urged the government, through the Council for the Regulation of Engineering Practice in Nigeria, to make corrosion resistance a mandatory requirement in public procurement processes and infrastructure design standards.


FUNAAB BULLETIN

A cross-section of the Procession at the event

The 109th Inaugural Lecturer also advocated the integration of Corrosion Engineering into university curricula to equip graduates with industry-relevant skills. He encouraged manufacturing firms and tertiary institutions to establish corrosion monitoring and control units to reduce maintenance costs and extend infrastructure lifespan. Strengthening collaboration between academia and industry through targeted research funding, he noted, would further stimulate industrial growth and deepen local content development.

In addition, Prof. Adetunji called on all tiers of government to officially recognise April 24 as Corrosion Awareness Day in alignment with the World Corrosion Organisation initiative, to promote public awareness and preventive best practices.



COLENG family at the event

Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, commended the 109th Inaugural Lecturer for his distinguished academic career and scholarly contributions. He noted that Prof. Adetunji's research interests span Corrosion Engineering, advanced materials development, machinery systems, energy materials, and nanotechnology, fields he described as critical to Nigeria's industrial transformation and sustainable development agenda.



The 109th Inaugural Lecturer, Prof. Olayide Adetunji with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, as well as Deans and Directors after the event

Published On: February 14, 2026



Last Updated on February 17, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

As a leading University of Agriculture in Africa, the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), has continued to translate knowledge into real-world experiences, where conservation, research, and experiential learning converge. In a bold stride that reinforces its pride in wildlife management and eco-tourism, the FUNAAB Zoo Park has completed a state-of-the-art elephant enclosure, signalling a new chapter in its ambitious revitalisation drive as it prepares to receive an elephant, set to become the Zoo's most iconic resident and a powerful symbol of its expanding vision.

Further strengthening its collection, the Zoo has also unveiled three new exotic animal species, marking a significant expansion of its wildlife inventory. The development underscores FUNAAB's strategic commitment to biodiversity conservation, hands-on training for students, and the adoption of global best practices in zoological management.

In this exclusive interview with Olasunkanmi Olajide and Emeka Oluka of FUNAAB Bulletin, the Zoo Park Director, Prof. Olufemi Sammy Sam-Wobo, shares insights into the new acquisitions, the inspiration behind the expansion, and the Zoo's preparedness to host its most anticipated addition.



The peafowls

Interview

FUNAAB Bulletin: Sir, the University Community has heard about new additions to the Zoo. Can you tell us what has changed?

Prof. Sam-Wobo: Yes, indeed. At the beginning of this month, we acquired three new exotic species: a breeding pair of Giant Desert Tortoises, a male and female Peafowl (commonly known as a peacock and pea-hen), and a male Civet cat. All the animals have undergone a thorough veterinary examination by our medical officer and are in excellent health.

FUNAAB Bulletin: What informed the decision to bring in these particular species?

Prof. Sam-Wobo: Visitors' feedback played a major role. Before I assumed office, tourists often complained about seeing the same animals repeatedly. We listened carefully. These new additions are part of our commitment to increasing variety and enhancing visitor experience. For instance, many people have only seen the Giant Desert Tortoise in pictures; now they can see one in real life. These species would certainly boost the Zoo's tourist appeal.



FUNAAB Bulletin: Were there institutional supports that made these acquisitions possible?

Prof. Sam-Wobo: Absolutely. We are grateful to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, the University Community, and the vendors who provided the animals at significantly reduced costs. The Management has been very supportive of our revitalisation agenda.

FUNAAB Bulletin: There are also reports about an elephant enclosure. What is the current status?

Prof. Sam-Wobo: I am pleased to confirm that the elephant enclosure is fully ready. This is a major milestone for us. We have written to the donors, and the Vice-Chancellor and his Management Team committed the necessary resources to ensure the facility meets required standards. As I speak with you, the enclosure is ready and waiting to receive the elephant.

FUNAAB Bulletin: Can you share when the elephant is expected to arrive?

Prof. Sam-Wobo: While I cannot give a specific date due to logistics, I can assure you that everything on our end is set. The facility is ready for pickup arrangements. By the grace of God, before I celebrate my second anniversary in office as Director, the elephant will be here.



Completed state-of-the-art elephant enclosure

FUNAAB Bulletin: What should the University Community and the public expect going forward?

Prof. Sam-Wobo: They should expect growth, improved biodiversity, and a stronger conservation footprint. These new acquisitions and the anticipated elephant, would significantly increase visitor turnout, enhance our educational value, and strengthen our role in wildlife conservation. We are positioning the FUNAAB Zoo Park as a leading destination for unique and diverse species in South-West Nigeria.

With these strategic additions and ambitious plans, the FUNAAB Zoo Park is steadily transforming into a premier hub for conservation, research, recreation, and environmental education.

4. Sstainable Blue Economy Key to Ending Fish Importation, Says Prof. Akegbejo-Samsons

Published On: February 9, 2026



Last Updated on February 13, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide
By Emeka Oluka & Femi Dansu

A Professor of Aquaculture and Coastal Fisheries Management in the College of Environmental Resources Management (COLERM), Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Prof. Yemi Akegbejo-Samsons, has called for the strategic harnessing of Nigeria's aquatic resources as a sustainable pathway to tackling food insecurity and strengthening the national economy.

Delivering a compelling lecture at the 2nd COLERM Leadership Lecture Series, titled "Nigeria's Blue Economy: Beyond Marine Transportation, Oil and Gas," Prof. Akegbejo-Samsons urged policymakers and stakeholders to rethink the Blue Economy as a primary driver of food security and economic resilience.

The renowned aquaculture expert argued that Nigeria's vast aquatic resources, if properly managed, possess immense untapped potential to significantly reduce fish importation, generate employment, and promote inclusive and sustainable development.

Reframing the concept of the Blue Economy beyond its conventional association with maritime transportation and petroleum exploration, he described it as a holistic development framework that must balance economic growth, social equity, and environmental sustainability.



Prof. Yemi Akegbejo-Samsons making salient points, while delivering the 2nd COLERM Leadership Lecture Series

Critiquing the nation's current approach, Prof. Akegbejo-Samsons observed that while the establishment of the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy in 2023 was a commendable step, it must be strengthened through clearer policy direction and stronger scientific grounding. He stressed the urgent need to ground decision-making in research, data, and long-term sustainability principles.

Positioning aquatic resources as both a national food basket and an economic engine, he called for a decisive shift from political rhetoric to science-driven action. According to him, achieving meaningful transformation requires stronger synergy between political will and scientific expertise, with universities playing a central role in this process.

"Universities must lead in manpower development, technology innovation, and evidence-based policy advisory," he stated, highlighting FUNAAB's interdisciplinary strengths in aquaculture, environmental management, agribusiness, and extension services as strategic assets in advancing the Blue Economy agenda.


A cross-section of COLERM Staff and other participants at the lecture

He further identified the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Development and Sustainable Environment (CEADESE) as a critical institutional platform capable of driving research, innovation, and policy engagement in the sector.

Earlier in his address, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Olusegun Idowu, reaffirmed the University's commitment to translating academic research into practical solutions for national development. He described the Leadership Lecture Series as a vital platform for aligning scholarship with national priorities, particularly in areas such as economic diversification, sustainability, and empowerment.

Commending COLERM for promoting intellectually relevant discourse, the Vice-Chancellor noted that FUNAAB's agricultural mandate naturally extends to aquatic systems and resource management. He urged researchers to ensure their work transcends academic publication and influences public policy and societal impact.

Earlier in his Welcome Address, the Dean of COLERM, Prof. Olusegun Oguntoke, underscored the College's commitment to leading conversations on resource governance, climate resilience, and sustainable development. He acknowledged the foundational contributions of pioneering scholars whose efforts have strengthened the College's academic standing.



VC's representative and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Prof. Olusegun Idowu with the lecturer, Prof. Yemi Akegbejo-Samsons and other Top Staff of the College after the lecture

The lecture attracted distinguished academics and stakeholders, including former Vice-Chancellor of Landmark University, Prof. Adeniyi Olayanju and former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Development, Kola Adebayo among others.

5. FUNAAB, TAGDEV 2.0 Conclude 2-Day Agricultural Capacity Training Workshop

Published On:
December 22, 2025



Last Updated on October 9, 2026 by admin

… Train over 400 Participants on Wealth Potential in Farm Waste

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), in collaboration with the TAGDEV 2.0 Programme of the University of Port Harcourt and with support from the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and the Mastercard Foundation, has concluded a two-day Agricultural Capacity Training Workshop aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and value addition.



According to the Ag. Head, Directorate of Public Relations, FUNAAB, Mr. Olasunkanmi Olajide, the workshop, which ended today, December 22, 2025, trained

over 400 participants and equipped them with practical skills and knowledge in climate-smart agriculture, sustainable production practices and innovative value-chain development capable of improving livelihoods, enhancing food security and driving inclusive development.



Mr. Olajide explained that the training featured expert-led sessions on wealth creation from farm waste, improved rice storage and processing, sustainable lowland rice production and climate change mitigation strategies, all tailored to address contemporary challenges in Nigeria's agricultural sector.



Delivering a presentation on "Opportunities and Prospects of Wealth Creation from Farm Waste," Dr. Risikat Akinbode encouraged participants to view agricultural waste as a valuable economic resource rather than refuse, identifying crop residues,

livestock waste and fish-processing by-products as viable materials for income generation, job creation and environmental sustainability.



She identified wastes from crop production, livestock rearing and fish processing, such as rice straw, maize stover, cassava leaves, poultry droppings, cow dung and fish remnants, as largely underutilised materials that are often burnt or discarded, leading to pollution and economic losses.



Citing national statistics, Dr. Akinbode noted that over 40.2 million Nigerian households depend on agriculture, generating huge volumes of farm waste with

significant wealth-creation potential. She outlined opportunities in animal feed production, organic fertiliser, briquettes and biochar, encouraging participants to assess locally available resources, adopt suitable value-addition models and begin on a small scale with expansion plans. She stressed that farm waste, particularly within rice–fish value chains, remains an untapped asset for income, sustainability and employment.



In her presentation on rice storage and processing for improved market patronage, the Ag. Head, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, College of Food Science and Human Ecology (COLFHEC), Dr. Oluwafunke Akinbule, highlighted the substantial nutrient losses associated with conventional rice milling methods. She emphasised the need for improved milling and parboiling techniques to enhance the nutritional quality of locally produced rice, especially Ofada rice.



Dr. Akinbule explained that conventional milling removes about 84–85 percent of the rice grain by stripping off the bran and aleurone layers, which constitute roughly 13 per cent of the grain and are rich in essential nutrients such as vitamins B1 and B2, phosphorus, fibre and moderate fat. She warned that such losses expose consumers who rely heavily on rice to nutrient deficiencies. To address this, she advocated under-milling, production of unpolished rice, effective parboiling techniques and rice fortification using premixed multivitamins and iron pyrophosphate coatings that withstand washing, cooking and storage.



Speaking on sustainable lowland rice production, Dr. Paul Soremi underscored the importance of diversification and climate-smart agriculture, cautioning that monoculture systems contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, declining yields and nutritional deficiencies. Drawing from global research, he noted that integrated farming systems, particularly rice–fish farming, could increase yields by up to 20 per cent through reduced production costs, natural weed control and improved soil fertility, while also promoting biodiversity and reducing reliance on chemical inputs.



On climate change mitigation, Dr. Soremi explained that integrated systems help reduce methane emissions from prolonged flooding and nitrous oxide emissions from excessive use of inorganic fertilisers. He described climate-smart agriculture as an approach that enhances productivity, builds resilience and lowers emissions, built on four pillars that are economic viability, environmental sustainability, food safety and quality, and social acceptability, adapted to local ecological and socioeconomic realities.



Speaking on the sidelines of the workshop, Miss Ajayi Temitope, a 400-level Microbiology student, and Mr. Olaoluwa Ogbeta, a 500-level student of Animal Production and Health, both differently abled persons, described the training as highly educative and impactful, pledging to apply the knowledge gained to their academic and professional pursuits.



Earlier, on Day One of the workshop, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, reaffirmed FUNAAB's commitment to advancing sustainable agriculture, food security and inclusive capacity development. He described the TAGDEV 2.0 initiative as fully aligned with the University's mandate of Teaching, Research and Community Development, noting that FUNAAB was keen to participate both as a receiving and sending University. He also highlighted the initiative's scholarship opportunities for undergraduate, Master's and PhD students across Africa.



The Vice-Chancellor commended the project partners for their vision and charged participants to maximise the training, stressing that good agricultural practices would

enhance productivity, improve livelihoods an



d strengthen resilient food systems.

Dignitaries at the workshop included the Provost, Federal College of Agriculture, Ibadan (FCAIB), Prof. Jonathan Atungwu; Dean, College of Plant Science and Crop Production (COLPLANT), Prof. Bolarinwa Senjobi, who represented the Vice-Chancellor on the 2nd day; the Director, Agricultural Media Resources and Extension Centre (AMREC), Prof. Jacob Olaoye; farmers from across Ogun State; commercial livestock keepers; and students from various Colleges, all of whom participated in practical sessions on converting agricultural waste into profitable ventures.

6. TAGDEV 2.0 Reinforces FUNAAB's Mandate on Sustainable, Inclusive Agriculture — FUNAAB VC

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By Olasunkanmi Olajide

The Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, has restated the University's commitment to advancing sustainable agriculture, food security and inclusive capacity development, describing the TAGDEV 2.0 initiative as fully aligned with FUNAAB's mandate of Teaching, Research, and Community Development.



Prof. Kehinde made the remarks today, December 20, 2025, while declaring open the Stakeholder Sensitisation and Training of Farmers on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Rice, Fish and Rice-Fish Systems Capacity-Building Workshop hosted by FUNAAB in collaboration with TAGDEV 2.0 Programme, University of Portharcourt with support from Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) in partnership with Mastercard Foundation.



The programme is designed to equip farmers, staff and students with practical skills in rice, fish and integrated rice–fish production systems under the Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDEV 2.0) framework.

He disclosed that FUNAAB was interested in participating in the initiative as both a receiving and sending University, noting that TAGDEV 2.0 offers scholarship opportunities for undergraduate, Master's and PhD students across Africa.



The Vice-Chancellor commended the project partners for their vision and urged participants to maximise the training, stressing that good agricultural practices would enhance productivity, improve livelihoods and strengthen resilient food systems.



Earlier in his Welcome Address, the Provost of the Federal College of Agriculture, Ibadan (FCAIB), Prof. Jonathan Atungwu, appreciated FUNAAB Management for

the leadership that facilitated the University's participation in the programme. He also acknowledged the Dean, College of Plant Science and Crop Production (COLPLANT), Prof. Bolarinwa Senjobi, for accepting to chair the Technical Session and commended the swift organisation of the workshop.



Prof. Atungwu described TAGDEV 2.0 as a transformative continental initiative, implemented in partnership with the (RUFORUM), the University of Portharcourt and the Mastercard Foundation, involving 12 universities across Africa. He explained that the programme builds on the successes of TAGDEV 1.0, with emphasis on strengthening agro-ecosystems in rice, fish and integrated rice–fish production.



According to him, the initiative integrates Technical and Business Education and Training (T-BET) Centres to boost vocational, entrepreneurial and digital skills, with a strong focus on youth development and women empowerment, operating a 70–30 percent gender balance in favour of women. He added that FUNAAB's roles include value chain analysis, youth engagement across the agri-food sector, capacity building for staff and farmers, and the deployment of digital innovations in agriculture.



During the Technical Session chaired by Prof. Senjobi, Dr. Omolola Ayodeji of the Agricultural Economics and Environmental Policy Programme, Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Development and Sustainable Environment (CEADESE), delivered a presentation on "Business Skills and Record Keeping as Tools for Boosting Agripreneurship and Wealth," while Miss Jemimah Atsu, an MSc student at the Department of Plant Physiology and Crop Production (PPCP), spoke on "Unlocking Entrepreneurial Opportunities in Ogun State's Rice Value Chain: Empowering Youth and Women in Agriculture."



Present at the event were the Ag. Head of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics (NTD), Dr. Oluwafunke Akinbule; Dr. Risikat Akinbode; Mr. Paul Soremi; other members of the Organising Committee; while participants included students, Academics, researchers and farmers' groups from Budo-Ayetoro; Agbedola, Owo, Idiroko; Ifekowajo and Abule-Agbo, underscoring the programme's strong community engagement focus.



7. VC Reiterates FUNAAB's Leadership in Agricultural Innovation

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… As DUFARMS Holds Yam Minisett Technology Field Day

By Olasunkanmi Olajide & Joy Adeyiga

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), today, December 9, 2025, reaffirmed its position as a trailblazer in agricultural research and innovation as the Directorate of University Farms (DUFARMS) hosted a landmark Yam Minisett Technology Field Day, a major step in advancing sustainable yam production in Nigeria.



In a vibrant gathering of researchers, farmers, students, and industry stakeholders at DUFARMS, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, represented by the

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), Prof. Olawale Dairo, commended the groundbreaking strides showcased at the event. He emphasised that the successful adoption of Yam Minisett Technology has demonstrated FUNAAB's unwavering commitment to solving real-world agricultural challenges with practical and innovative solutions.



The Vice-Chancellor hailed the technology as a transformative tool in yam production, noting that it underscored FUNAAB's identity as not only a centre of academic excellence but also a powerhouse for disruptive agricultural ideas. "The adoption of Yam Minisett Technology is a step in the right direction. We are excited about its potential to revolutionise yam farming here at FUNAAB and in surrounding communities," he remarked.



He encouraged farmers and stakeholders to adopt modern agricultural techniques, emphasising that innovation was crucial to overcoming current challenges and meeting increasing food demands. "This technology pushes us to rethink how we plant, manage, and improve yam production," he added.



Earlier in his Welcome Address, the Ag. Director of DUFARMS, Dr. Emmanuel Bankole, stated that although Yam Minisett Technology was developed in the 1980s, it remained underutilised nationwide. He noted that its introduction to FUNAAB was timely and strategic, offering students and farmers a robust platform for learning, experimentation, and commercial adoption. “We are committed to scaling up this technology within and beyond the University. Our target is to achieve even greater milestones next year,” Dr. Bankole affirmed.



Adding momentum to the initiative, the Director of the Agricultural Media Resources and Extension Centre (AMREC), Prof. Jacob Olaoye, announced a collaboration between AMREC and DUFARMS to produce a comprehensive training manual on the technology. The manual is expected to serve as a step-by-step guide for farmers ready to adopt the innovation.

Prof. Olaoye stressed the crucial role of proper storage in yam production, assuring that FUNAAB was equipped to produce high-quality, well-preserved yam seeds that would boost overall yield and sustainability.

Also lending his voice, the Head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering, Prof. Olayemi Adeosun, revealed that the College was developing a technology capable of preserving yam seeds for up to two months, an innovation set to further strengthen mechanised yam production.

Representing the Bursar, Mr. Ibukun Fadairo commended DUFARMS for its cost-effective production model, noting that the efficiency of the technology makes it attractive for widespread adoption among farmers.

As FUNAAB continues to lead in agricultural breakthroughs, the successful rollout of the Yam Minisett Technology signals a new dawn for yam farmers, students, researchers, and the wider agricultural sector. With sustained collaboration, innovation, and community engagement, FUNAAB is set to remain at the forefront of shaping the future of agriculture in Nigeria and beyond.

8. FUNAAB–UWS–AJOGBE Partnership Showcases Innovative Livestock Feed Breakthrough

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By Olaoye Oyewole & Bolanle Olawepo

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), in collaboration with the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) and Ajogbe Agro Allied Industry, has unveiled the remarkable achievements of the African Agriculture Knowledge Transfer Partnership (AAKTP) project. Themed "Developing Cost-Effective Nutritive Feeds from Locally Available Crop Residues and Agricultural By-Products for Livestock in Southwest Nigeria," the project represented a major stride in sustainable livestock production and innovation-driven agriculture.

The event brought together key stakeholders from academia, industry, and government to highlight the outcomes of the two-year research collaboration focused on addressing livestock feed challenges, enhancing productivity, and promoting technology transfer in Nigeria's agricultural sector.

Representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), Prof. Olawale Dairo, lauded the Project Team for translating research into tangible solutions. He noted that the tripartite collaboration,

linking Africa and Europe with active private sector involvement, clearly reflects FUNAAB's growing reputation for applied research and problem-solving innovation.
According to the Vice-Chancellor, "This partnership goes beyond theory; it is practical, impactful, and results-oriented. It exemplifies the synergy between academia, industry, and government, the true catalyst for meaningful change."



A cross-section of the participants at the workshop

Earlier in his Welcome Address, the Project Team Lead, AAKTP, Prof. Adebayo Shittu of FUNAAB, described the collaboration as a landmark initiative that effectively bridges the gap between research and industrial application. He emphasised that by connecting institutions across two continents, the United Kingdom and Nigeria, the project had created sustainable pathways for livestock feed development, while also addressing broader issues such as farmers and herders' conflict and feed scarcity.

Speaking on behalf of Ajogbe Agro Allied Industry, the Executive Chairman, Engr. Bosoye Olalere, shared insights into the company's integrated livestock and crop production model. He revealed that the partnership had significantly enhanced Ajogbe's technical capacity to produce quality ruminant feed using locally available agricultural by-products.

"Through this collaboration, we now possess commercial-level expertise in feed production, which strengthens our mission to build a viable beef ecosystem in Southwest Nigeria," Engr. Olalere stated.

He explained that Ajogbe's operational framework encompasses five interlinked components which were cattle breeding, feed production, crop cultivation, processing, and logistics, all geared towards creating a self-sustaining livestock value chain. He further noted that the collaboration had exposed the company to innovative breeding and feeding techniques that improve cattle weight and feed conversion efficiency.



The Principal Investigator of the project, Prof. Adebayo Shittu, delivering his Welcome Address

Delivering a Goodwill Message, Prof. Christian Harrison of the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) underscored the importance of academia–industry collaboration in shaping 21st-century leadership and driving economic growth through innovation.

In the same vein, the Programme Manager, Ogun State Agricultural Development Programme (OGADEP), Alhaji Akinlawon Olalekan, who represented the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, hailed the initiative as "a refreshing shift from traditional research practices." He commended the partnership for effectively linking research outcomes with real-world applications, reducing the burden on government in translating research into practice.

"This project has created a seamless connection between researchers and end users. It is a model worth replicating across Nigeria," he affirmed, assuring the State's readiness to collaborate on similar initiatives.

The FUNAAB–UWS –AJOGBE partnership stands as a shining example of how cross-continental collaboration and private sector participation can transform agricultural research into sustainable business solutions that are advancing food security, innovation, and rural prosperity across Nigeria.