FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA







A - 2025/26 FUNAAB SDG2 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

PREAMBLE

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) is committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goal SDG2, "Zero Hunger." The university is engaged in a number of novel hands-on practical activities to promote sustainable agriculture and food security.

SDG2: Zero Hunger addressing hunger goes hand in hand with addressing poverty. At FUNAAB, the College of Agricultural Management and Rural Development (COLAMRUD), College of Animal Science and Livestock Production (COLANIM), the College of Plant Science and Crop Production (COLPLANT), Community Base Farming Scheme (COBFAS) and are at the forefront of tackling hunger through agricultural research and food production initiatives.

FUNAAB Farm Practical Year (FPY) program is a one-year program that requires all undergraduate students in agriculture related courses spend one year working on the farm and other agro – based enterprises within and outside the University. During this period, students are expected to acquire different skills in this area especially on production of crops, from planting to harvesting, processing, marketing and livestock management.

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1. FUNAAB Launches Community Farmers Market for Fresh Farm Produce

Published On:
June 29, 2026



Last Updated on July 3, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

... Market Holds Every Five Days

By Raymond Osemene

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) has officially commenced operations at its Community Farmers Market, marking another milestone in the University's commitment to promoting agricultural development, food security, entrepreneurship, and community engagement.

The market, situated along the University's 3rd Gate, began operations today, June 29, 2026. The market serves as a central hub for the sale of fresh agricultural produce and value-added products from the University Farms, researchers, students, and members of the adjoining communities. The initiative is expected to strengthen the agricultural value chain by connecting producers directly with consumers while ensuring access to affordable, high-quality farm produce.



Speaking on the development, the Chairperson of the FUNAAB Community Farmers Market, Mrs. Tawa Ayelotan, expressed appreciation to the University Management for bringing the long-awaited project to fruition, describing the opening of the market as a significant achievement for farmers, traders, members of the University Community, and residents of neighbouring communities. According to her, the initiative would improve access to fresh agricultural produce while creating opportunities for increased income and enhanced livelihoods.

She explained that while the market would operate daily, its major trading activities would take place every five days, in line with the traditional market cycle observed in many communities. She expressed confidence that the market would grow into a vibrant commercial hub that would stimulate local trade, promote agricultural development, and further strengthen the relationship between FUNAAB and its host communities.



Some of the traders who participated in the opening, including Mrs. Chinyere Ogunji, Mrs. Motunrayo Jimoh, and Mr. Akinlaja Ogunla, separately commended the initiative, describing it as a laudable effort towards strengthening the agricultural value chain and improving the livelihoods of farmers and traders. They noted that the market would provide buyers with convenient access to fresh farm produce and other goods directly from producers, eliminating the need to travel to neighbouring markets.

Also speaking, the Baale of the host community, Chief Folorunso Ajasa, described the Community Farmers Market as a timely initiative that would promote agricultural development, improve access to fresh farm produce, and expand economic opportunities for farmers and residents. He noted that the market provides a central location where farmers can sell their produce directly to consumers, thereby eliminating unnecessary middlemen and ensuring better returns on their agricultural products.



Meanwhile, the next major market day would be on Friday, July 3, 2026, beginning at 7 a.m.

2. COBFAS Reaps from Agricultural Innovation with Bumper Tomato Harvest

Published On:
June 22, 2026



Last Updated on June 28, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

... Expands Food Security Drive with 8-Hectare Maize Cultivation

By Olasunkanmi Olajide & Femi Dansu

The Centre for Community-Based Farming Scheme (COBFAS) of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) has recorded another significant milestone in its drive towards sustainable agriculture and food security with a bumper harvest of tomatoes.

The tomato production project, which commenced on April 4, 2026, yielded impressive results within three months, underscoring the effectiveness of modern agricultural practices and the value of strategic partnerships in boosting food production.



Staff members of COBFAS weighing and sorting freshly harvested tomatoes in preparation for sales

During a media tour of the farm, the Director of COBFAS, Prof. Dare Akerele, attributed the success of the project to the unwavering support of the University Management, the contributions of development partners, and the dedication of the Scheme's agricultural personnel.

According to him, the commitment of the Agricultural Officers to routine agronomic practices played a vital role in achieving the remarkable harvest. He also expressed appreciation to Soilless Farm for sponsoring the construction of the greenhouse facility, describing the partnership as instrumental to the project's success.

Building on the success of the tomato enterprise, COBFAS has intensified its food security efforts through the cultivation of maize on approximately eight hectares of land.

Prof. Akerele disclosed that the maize project received substantial support from the University Management as well as a donation of six 200-kilogramme bags of Oba Super-6 hybrid maize seeds from Premier Seed. He noted that the variety is a high-yielding hybrid enriched with Pro-Vitamin A and possesses drought-tolerant qualities capable of enhancing both productivity and nutritional value.



The 8 ha maize farm to be ready for harvest in three months

Expressing optimism about the project, the Director stated that the University could look forward to a bountiful maize harvest within the next three months, provided weather conditions remain favourable. He further commended the agricultural officers and tractor operators for their commitment and hard work in the successful establishment of the maize farm. Prof. Akerele also appreciated the Directorate of Public Relations for its consistent efforts in publicising COBFAS activities and keeping stakeholders informed of the Scheme's achievements.

Looking ahead, he revealed plans to strengthen dry-season farming operations to ensure a steady supply of farm produce to members of the University Community and residents of neighbouring communities.

Describing the achievements recorded so far as "just a tip of the iceberg," Prof. Akerele expressed confidence that greater support and investment would enable COBFAS to attain even higher levels of agricultural productivity and impact in the years ahead.

Meanwhile, freshly harvested tomatoes would be available for sale on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 1,500 per kg between 10 a.m. and 12 noon at the Bus Stop opposite the Directorate of Public Relations for the next one month.

3. FUNAAB Explores Partnership with German Agricultural Firm on Greenhouse Farming, Agricultural Development

Published On:
June 22, 2026



Last Updated on June 28, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Raymond Osemene

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), has expressed its readiness to collaborate with a German agricultural company, IAK Agrar Consulting, to advance greenhouse farming, agricultural research, extension services, and capacity development in Nigeria.

This was revealed today, Monday, June 22, 2026, during a courtesy visit by the Managing Director of IAK Agrar Consulting, Mr. Sven Gehlhaar, and his delegation to the University. The visit provided an opportunity for both parties to explore areas of mutual interest, including vegetable and fruit production, greenhouse technology, agricultural research, and training.

Speaking during the engagement, Mr. Gehlhaar disclosed that the delegation's visit to Nigeria formed part of a feasibility and prospect study aimed at identifying viable agricultural investment opportunities within the country. He noted that the company was particularly interested in evaluating high-value vegetable and fruit crops with strong market potential, as well as assessing greenhouse technologies and innovative agricultural practices suitable for large-scale production.

According to him, the visit also enabled the team to gain first-hand knowledge of FUNAAB's strengths in agricultural research, seed development, extension services, and human capacity development. He added that future collaboration could extend to the employment of FUNAAB graduates, joint research initiatives, student internship programmes, and on-farm studies focused on enhancing soil fertility, crop productivity, and sustainable agricultural practices.



Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde assured the delegation that the University possesses the requisite expertise, facilities, and human resources to support the proposed collaboration, particularly in greenhouse cultivation, vegetable production, and climate-smart agriculture.

Prof. Kehinde further disclosed that FUNAAB was strategically positioning itself as a leading centre for greenhouse farming and conservation agriculture in Nigeria. He revealed that the University has specialists in crop production, greenhouse management, and vegetable cultivation, adding that plans were underway to organise a major symposium and workshop on greenhouse farming to equip farmers and other stakeholders across Southwestern Nigeria with relevant knowledge and skills.

Highlighting the University's extension mandate, the Vice-Chancellor noted that the Agricultural Media Resources and Extension Centre (AMREC), has continued to play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between research findings and farming communities through the dissemination of agricultural innovations and technologies.

He further observed that Nigeria's rapidly growing population presents enormous opportunities for increased fruit and vegetable production, while FUNAAB's strategic proximity to Lagos, one of Africa's largest commercial hubs, provides a significant advantage for agribusiness development and commercial agriculture.

The Vice-Chancellor also noted the growing adoption of greenhouse farming across Ogun and Lagos States, driven by increased investments and heightened interest among farmers and agribusiness operators seeking efficient and sustainable production systems.

The meeting was attended by the Registrar, Dr. Titus Adeniyi and the Director, AMREC, Prof. Jacob Olaoye; among others.

4. Alternative Animal Feed Key to Food Security, Healthier Poultry Products — FUNAAB's DVC, Academic

Published On:
July 8, 2026



Last Updated on July 13, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

... As the University Holds 114th Inaugural Lecture

By Olasunkanmi Olajide & Joy Adeyiga

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Prof. Olusegun Mark Obafemi Idowu, has called for increased investment in alternative animal feed resources as a sustainable solution to Nigeria's food security challenges, rising livestock production costs, and the demand for healthier animal products.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, presenting a plaque to honour the 114th Inaugural Lecturer of the University, Prof. Olusegun Idowu

Speaking while delivering the 114th Inaugural Lecture of the University today, July 8, 2026, Prof. Idowu said his decades of research had demonstrated that locally available, non-conventional feed resources could significantly reduce the cost of livestock production while improving animal performance and the nutritional quality of poultry products.

Titled, “Feed to Food: Biological Machines in the Hands of a Monogastric Nutritionist,” the Professor of Monogastric Animal Nutrition explained that his research had successfully established the nutritional and economic value of alternative feed ingredients such as Cassava Root Sievate, Shrimp Waste nd Unpeeled Cassava Root Meal.



Immediate family members of the 114th Inaugural Lecturer led by his wife, Dr. Olubukola Idowu

According to him, the feed materials not only improve feed conversion efficiency but also reduce dependence on conventional feed ingredients that compete directly with human food consumption. Prof. Idowu disclosed that one of the landmark outcomes of his research was the ability to reduce cholesterol levels in poultry products through dietary manipulation.

He explained that incorporating alternative feed resources into poultry diets significantly lowered cholesterol concentrations in eggs, blood plasma and liver tissues, while dietary copper supplementation enhanced cholesterol excretion. He added that the combined use of copper and ascorbic acid effectively reduced cholesterol without causing excessive copper residue in chicken muscles.



UNILAG's Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Chief Wole Olanipekun, SAN, with the Olota of Ota, Oba (Prof.) Adeyemi Abdulkabir Obalanlege (Lanlege Ekun II) and other dignitaries at the Lecture

Prof. Idowu, a member of the Governing Council of the University of Lagos (UNILAG), described animal nutrition as a critical link between feed production and food security, stressing that sustainable feeding strategies enhance livestock productivity, improve animal welfare, promote environmental sustainability and deliver healthier food to consumers.

The Animal Nutrition expert urged governments, researchers, and private-sector stakeholders to invest in the production and processing of alternative feed resources, intensify research into non-conventional feed ingredients and agro-industrial by-products, strengthen collaboration among researchers, farmers, feed manufacturers, and policymakers, and prioritise continuous professional development for animal nutritionists.



A cross-section of the Procession at the Lecture

According to him, adopting innovative feeding strategies would improve the efficiency and competitiveness of Nigeria's livestock industry while making nutritious animal protein more accessible to the growing population.



Students' Union Executives led by the President, Com. Oluwatimileyin Soga at the event

Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor of FUNAAB, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, described the University's 114th Inaugural Lecture as another milestone in its commitment to advancing scholarship, innovation and research-driven solutions to national development challenges. He noted that the lecture was the fourth Inaugural Lecture from the Department of Animal Nutrition and the 14th from COLANIM.



FUNIS Students led by their Principal, Mr. Olusola Ilori at Lecture

Presenting the profile of the Inaugural Lecturer, Prof. Kehinde described him as a distinguished scholar who obtained all his Academic Degrees from FUNAAB, earning a Bachelor of Agriculture Degree in Animal Nutrition in 1994, a Master's Degree in Monogastric Animal Nutrition in 1999 and a Ph.D. in the same discipline in 2004.



FUNAAB Staff School pupils led by their Headteacher, Mrs. Florence Alade at the event

The Vice-Chancellor said Prof. Idowu joined the University's service as a Graduate Assistant in 1997 and rose through the ranks to become a Professor of Monogastric Animal Nutrition in 2014.

He highlighted the scholar's extensive administrative experience, having served as Acting Head of the Department of Animal Nutrition, Chairman of the University Timetable and Examination Committee (TIMTEC), Director of the FUNAAB Distance Learning Centre, Director of the Institute of Food Security, Environmental Resources and Agricultural Research (IFSERAR), and currently as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde with the 114th Inaugural Lecturer, Prof. Olusegun Idowu, including Principal Officers, Deans and Directors, after the Lecture

Prof. Kehinde also noted that Prof. Idowu has published more than 70 journal articles and over 20 conference papers, while attracting several national and international research grants from organisations including TETFund, DelPHE, the EDULINK ACP-EU Cooperation Programme and the West African Network of Organic Agriculture and Research and Training (WANOART).

5. FUNAAB Odeda Farmers' Cooperative Set for 2026 Produce Day on September 16

Published On:
September 14, 2026
Last Updated on September 14, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Olaoye Oyewole

The FUNAAB (Odeda) Farmers' Cooperative Multipurpose Society Limited is set to showcase its 2026 harvests at its Produce Day Programme scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2026.

The event, which would commence at 11:00 a.m., would take place at the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) Secretariat, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB).

A memo signed by the President of the Society, Mr. Isaiah Ayorinde, the programme would feature the presentation and sale of the Society's arable farm produce for the 2026 production year to members and the general public.

Mr. Ayorinde said the Produce Day was established to provide an opportunity for the Society to showcase the outcome of its agricultural activities, while making its farm produce available to consumers.

He noted that the event would be particularly significant as it represents the Society's first formal presentation of its farm produce to members and the general public since its registration in May 2025.

The President therefore called on members of the University Community and the general public to participate in the programme and support the Society's agricultural enterprise.

6. FUNAAB Receives 80 Bags of Poultry Feed from Hybrid Feeds to Boost FPY Training

... Over 1,800 Students to Benefit from Industry Partnership

By Femi Dansu & David Johnson

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), has strengthened its commitment to hands-on agricultural education and industry collaboration by receiving 80 bags of poultry feed from Hybrid Feeds to support the training and research activities of students participating in the Farm Practical Year (FPY) programme.



The donation, received on October 5, 2026, at the Centre for Community-Based Farming Scheme (COBFAS), FUNAAB, underscores the company's continued support for the University's enterprise training initiatives, providing students with opportunities to gain practical experience in poultry production and farm management.

Representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, the Director of COBFAS, Prof. Dare Akerele, expressed appreciation to Hybrid Feeds for its support and sustained partnership with the University.

Prof. Akerele noted that the initiative would enhance students' practical learning and research, while providing valuable support for the University's poultry farms. He added that more than 1,800 penultimate students were expected to benefit from the programme, describing the collaboration as a significant step towards strengthening University-industry relations and building a more robust partnership.



In his remarks, the Managing Director of Hybrid Feeds, Dr. Leye Alayande, represented by the company's Sales Representative, Mr. Kolawole Ololade, expressed delight at the opportunity to contribute to students' learning and research at FUNAAB.

He commended the University Management and students, reaffirming the company's readiness to support the University's academic programmes and practical training initiatives.

The event was attended by the Deputy Director II, COBFAS, Mrs. Bukola Fasae; Chief Agricultural Officer and Chairman, Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), FUNAAB Branch, Mr. Olugbenga Alayode; among others.

7. FUNAAB, INCSAN Deepen Partnership to Drive Nigeria's Cassava Revolution

Published On:
September 10, 2026



Last Updated on September 11, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Raymond Osemene

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) has stepped up its drive to unlock the agricultural and economic potential of cassava, deepening its partnership with the Industrial Cassava Stakeholders Association of Nigeria (INCSAN) to strengthen production, processing, seed development, marketing and youth agribusiness.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, disclosed this in his office today, September 10, 2026, while receiving the leadership of INCSAN, resource persons and participants in a cassava training programme at the University, stressing that stronger stakeholder collaboration was critical to turning Nigeria's cassava advantage into greater economic value.

According to Prof. Kehinde, Nigeria's status as one of the world's leading cassava producers must translate into increased productivity, value addition, industrial utilisation and improved livelihoods for farmers and young Nigerians.

He commended INCSAN, particularly Dr. Lawrence Kehinde, for driving closer collaboration with FUNAAB, noting that the relationship had received further impetus from the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by both organisations in September 2025.

As a practical demonstration of the partnership, the Vice-Chancellor said FUNAAB had provided land to INCSAN to establish a demonstration and training base. He described the initiative as a strategic platform for moving agricultural knowledge, research and innovation from theory to the farm, assuring the Association of the University's continued support through its land, expertise and personnel.



Prof. Kehinde stressed that transforming the cassava value chain required a united front among government agencies, research institutions, private organisations, development partners, farmers and other stakeholders. He called for continuous knowledge-sharing, training and mentoring, particularly for young farmers and professionals, to accelerate the adoption of improved practices and technologies.

Describing FUNAAB as a natural hub for agricultural innovation, the Vice-Chancellor said the University's specialised expertise in Crop Protection, Soil Science, Plant Physiology, Plant Breeding, Horticulture and other disciplines positioned it to provide multidisciplinary solutions to challenges across the cassava value chain.

He linked the University's cassava development agenda to its broader commitment to entrepreneurship and job creation, noting that FUNAAB graduates about 4,000 students annually. He said the University was strengthening entrepreneurship and career development to equip its graduates not merely to seek jobs, but to create enterprises and tap into emerging opportunities in agriculture and agribusiness.

Prof. Kehinde charged the organisers to make youth empowerment a central component of the training by exposing participants to opportunities in cassava seed production, cultivation, processing, marketing and enterprise development. He acknowledged the contributions of the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA), National Agricultural Seed Council (NASC), National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), PROSSIVA, agricultural extension personnel and other development partners.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed confidence that the expanding FUNAAB-INCSAN partnership would deliver measurable impact in cassava production, innovation, skills development and enterprise creation. He reiterated FUNAAB's readiness to work with stakeholders to transform Nigeria's cassava potential into sustainable opportunities for food security, youth empowerment, employment generation and agricultural prosperity.

8. DRIP, AMREC Train Farmers on Good Agricultural Practices for Sustainable Tomato Production

Published On:
August 28, 2026



Last Updated on August 31, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Raymond Osemene

The Directorate of Research, Innovation and Partnerships (DRIP), in collaboration with the Agricultural Media Resources and Extension Centre (AMREC), Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), today, August 28, 2026, organised a One-Day training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) to promote sustainable tomato production among farmers.

Held at the AMREC Training Hall, the programme brought together farmers and other stakeholders to enhance their knowledge and practical skills in improved tomato production techniques.

Declaring the programme open, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, commended the Principal Investigator, Dr. Bosun Soetan, collaborators and members of the project team for translating research outcomes into practical interventions capable of impacting farmers and the wider community.



Represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), Prof. Olawale Dairo, the Vice-Chancellor described the DRIP-AMREC collaboration as significant, stressing that research could only achieve meaningful impact when findings were effectively disseminated and translated into practical solutions that addressed farmers' needs. He expressed satisfaction with the practical component of the project, particularly the planned field activities and provision of improved tomato planting materials to beneficiaries.

According to him, improved tomato seeds could increase productivity and create additional income opportunities for farmers, noting that tomato production and processing offered considerable prospects for wealth creation. He described the Institution-Based Research (IBR) initiative as an important platform for supporting research and innovation at the University, while urging participants to maximise the opportunities provided by the training.

The Director, AMREC, Prof. Jacob Olaoye, said the project was initiated by the Principal Investigator, Dr. Bosun Soetan, to generate research-based knowledge capable of improving tomato production and delivering practical benefits to farmers. He explained that AMREC's involvement was critical to ensuring that research findings and improved agricultural practices reached farmers.



Prof. Olaoye added that the Centre had mobilised farmers from different Local Government Areas and adopted villages to participate in the initiative. He disclosed that improved tomato seedlings produced from the research activities would subsequently be distributed to selected farmers, who would be expected to adopt the production methods demonstrated at the University's experimental farm.

In his Goodwill Message, the Director, DRIP, Prof. Oluwagbemiga Adeleye, represented by the Principal Assistant Registrar in the Directorate, Mrs. Oluwayemisi Arigbede, described the training as a valuable platform for acquiring new skills and improving agricultural productivity. He urged participants to apply the knowledge gained to enhance productivity and contribute to the development of their communities, noting that the initiative aligned with FUNAAB's mandate of Teaching, Research and Community Engagement.

In his address, Dr. Soetan, emphasised the importance of validating and disseminating agricultural technologies to farmers to improve productivity and encourage the adoption of modern farming practices. He disclosed that the research team had identified and validated two key technologies considered relevant to farmers and agricultural development, stressing the need to move research outcomes beyond the laboratory to the field.



He further stated that extension activities, practical demonstrations and extension materials, including bulletins, would facilitate wider dissemination and adoption of the validated technologies. He expressed optimism that sustained collaboration among researchers, extension personnel and farmers would strengthen the adoption of improved agricultural technologies, enhance tomato production and contribute to food security.

9. FUNAAB Intensifies Agricultural Revitalisation, Food Security Drive as COBFAS Harvests 8-Hectare Maize Farm

Published On:
August 28, 2026



Last Updated on August 28, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Olasunkanmi Olajide & Femi Dansu

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, has highlighted FUNAAB's Agricultural Revitalisation Efforts, Food Security Drive, and Community Impact as the Centre for Community-Based Farming Scheme (COBFAS) commenced the harvest and sale of maize from its 8-hectare farm.



Prof. Kehinde disclosed this today, August 27, 2026, during the commencement of the sale of the freshly harvested maize, describing the initiative as a practical demonstration of FUNAAB's contribution to food security, agricultural revitalisation, student training and community development.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, the maize farm forms part of the Farm Practical Year (FPY) programme for 400-Level students, which exposes them to the realities of agricultural production and enterprise development across the value chain from production planning and cultivation to harvesting, marketing and commercialisation.



He explained that students had also been involved in the cultivation and marketing of vegetables, tomatoes under Greenhouse conditions and leafy vegetables in the field, stressing that such practical experiences were critical to producing graduates with the skills and entrepreneurial mindset required to drive Nigeria's agricultural transformation.

Prof. Kehinde noted that FUNAAB was also complementing the Federal Government's food-security efforts through the productive utilisation of its extensive land resources. He, however, observed that large-scale agricultural production required substantial funding and manpower, necessitating strategic partnerships.



He disclosed that between 5,000 and 6,000 hectares of the University's land were currently under cultivation through partnerships with several organisations, with about a dozen partners involved in various agricultural activities and some exploring agro-processing opportunities on campus.

The Vice-Chancellor further revealed that the FUNAAB Alumni Association had taken up approximately 2,000 hectares for cultivation, describing the development as a major outcome of the University's Agricultural Revitalisation Programme.



He stressed that FUNAAB's strategy was to transform its land resources into productive agricultural assets, while strengthening partnerships that would contribute to food production, employment, and enterprise development.

Corroborating the Vice-Chancellor, the Director of COBFAS, Prof. Dare Akerele, said the 8-hectare maize farm was being harvested in phases to ensure effective management and a steady supply of fresh maize. The freshly harvested maize is being sold at the Bus Stop opposite the Directorate of Public Relations to members of the University Community, market women and buyers from neighbouring towns and cities.



Prof. Akerele attributed the success of the project to the support of University Management, particularly the Vice-Chancellor, the expertise of COBFAS Agricultural Officers, favourable weather conditions and collaboration with Premier Seed, which supplied the improved, Vitamin A-rich maize variety. He added that the project was fully mechanised and the variety was also being evaluated for drought tolerance.

Looking ahead, he disclosed that COBFAS plans to cultivate about 10 hectares of maize during the dry season, with fertilisers and basic agrochemicals already procured. He said returning FPY students would participate in the project as part of their practical training, while the Centre would explore maize drying and threshing, animal feed production and poultry farming. Prof. Akerele expressed confidence that the initiatives would boost food security, entrepreneurship and local economic development, while calling for continued institutional support and collaboration.



The ongoing COBFAS initiative reinforces FUNAAB's multifaceted contribution to SDG 2 through food production, practical agricultural education, sustainable farming, value addition, entrepreneurship, research, strategic partnerships and community engagement. It also advances related SDGs, particularly SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals.

10. FUNAAB to Host Nigeria's First National Symposium on Greenhouse Cultivation

Published On:
August 5, 2026



Last Updated on August 5, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Raymond Osemene

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Nigeria's leading specialised University in agricultural education, research and innovation, is set to host the maiden edition of the National Symposium on Greenhouse Cultivation in Nigeria from October 20 to 23, 2026. The Opening Ceremony is slated for October 21, 2026 at the Red Chamber, while the Breakout Sessions would be held at the Career Services and Linkages Unit (CSLU) at the Academic Building II. The Exhibition is planned for the Foyer under the Red Chamber for the event.

According to the Convener of the symposium, Prof. Isaac Aiyelaagbe, the 4-Day event would bring together a broad spectrum of stakeholders in the greenhouse and protected agriculture value chain, including greenhouse input dealers such as SOLOKAD and AGROBOX, commercial growers including MIPAT, greenhouse fabricators, researchers, Academics, policymakers, agricultural experts, technology practitioners, students and industry players from across Nigeria.



The symposium is designed to promote sustainable greenhouse cultivation, stimulate innovation in protected agriculture, and strengthen collaboration among stakeholders working to transform Nigeria's agricultural sector through climate-smart production systems.

The programme would feature a Keynote Address by Mr. Debo Onafowora of BIC Farms Concepts, alongside technical presentations by Prof. Akinola Popoola, who would speak on integrated pest management in greenhouse production, and Dr. Simon Alpheus, a distinguished FUNAAB alumnus and greenhouse technology expert. In addition, six lead speakers with three on each of the first and second days would deliver presentations on emerging trends, technological innovations, and practical solutions for sustainable greenhouse farming.

The symposium is expected to provide a strategic platform for knowledge exchange, professional networking and policy dialogue, with discussions focusing on emerging technologies, best practices, investment opportunities and policy frameworks that can accelerate the adoption of greenhouse cultivation. The outcomes are anticipated to contribute significantly to enhanced agricultural productivity, climate resilience and food security in Nigeria and across Africa.

As a leading institution driving agricultural transformation, FUNAAB continues to champion initiatives that bridge research, innovation and industry, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable agriculture and global food systems.

11. FUNAAB Students Shine as Ultimate Agri-Contest 2.0, Uncovers Young Agricultural Innovators

Published On:
May 15, 2026



Last Updated on May 22, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Femi Dansu

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), today, May 15, 2026, hosted the presentation of winners of the Ultimate Agri-Contest 2.0, a youth-driven agricultural initiative aimed at identifying, empowering, and promoting young agriculturists with innovative ideas capable of transforming agriculture and agribusiness in Nigeria.

Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Olusegun Idowu, described the initiative as a visionary platform inspiring students towards excellence and innovation in agriculture. He commended the Convener, Mr. Sodiq Hassan, a 500-Level student of Animal Production and Health (APH), College of Animal Science and Livestock Production (COLANIM), for initiating and sustaining the programme.



According to the Vice-Chancellor, the Ultimate Agri-Contest had come to stay, expressing optimism that future editions would continue to expand in impact and relevance. He stated that every great idea begins with a dream and vision, noting that the initiative had already become a reality capable of inspiring students, staff, and stakeholders within and beyond the University Community.

He stressed that the programme reflected genuine engagement with the University system, demonstrating how students could contribute meaningfully to institutional growth while also being positively shaped by the University experience. He further remarked that the initiative showed that the convener and participants were truly making their impact felt within the institution.

The Vice-Chancellor, therefore, encouraged students not to underestimate the value and opportunities in agriculture, describing it as a globally respected and profitable profession. He also congratulated all participants, urging those who did not emerge victorious to see the experience as part of their growth process and to return stronger in future editions.



Earlier, the Convener, Mr. Hassan, revealed that the Ultimate Agri-Contest 2.0 commenced about two months ago with orientation and screening exercises, during which 25 participants were reduced to 10 finalists. According to him, contestants were later given time to develop and present innovative agricultural and business-oriented ideas capable of addressing real-life agricultural challenges.

Some of the projects showcased during the competition included a mechanised farming tool developed by a student of Agricultural and Bio-Resources Engineering, rabbit manure production, and the conversion of fresh tomatoes into tomato powder, among other innovative solutions aimed at improving agricultural productivity and sustainability.

The competition was sponsored mainly by NOLAP Farms Limited, with additional support from 5KG Farms. Mr. Hassan reiterated that the initiative had evolved into a movement that required sustained support through increased sponsorships and strategic partnerships to expand its reach and impact.



At the end of the contest, Dare-Ojo Victory Olumide, a 500-Level student of Agricultural and Bio-Resources Engineering, emerged overall winner and received a cash prize of N150,000. Agboola Isaiah Adebayo, a 300-Level student of Animal Breeding and Genetics, emerged first runner-up with N100,000, while Oniyide Kamaldeen Ayodeji, a 400-Level student of Animal Physiology, emerged second runner-up with N50,000.

Other participants received certificates of participation in recognition of their efforts and contributions. Among dignitaries present at the event was the Senior Deputy Registrar, Vice-Chancellor's Office, Mr. Moses Ayanda, alongside some other members of the University Community.

12. AGRECOFARM Cohort 2.0 Empowers Climate-Smart Farmers

Published On:
May 14, 2026



Last Updated on May 22, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

The AGRECOFARM Vocational Education Training Cohort 2.0 has successfully empowered participants with practical knowledge and skills in climate-smart and sustainable agricultural practices during the just-concluded training programme held at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB).

The Two-Day vocational training programme on Agroecology and Sustainable Food Production, which held from May 13 to 14, 2026, was organised in response to growing concerns over food insecurity, climate change, declining soil fertility, and the increasing demand for sustainable food production systems across Nigeria and Africa.

The training brought together farmers, students, agripreneurs, extension officers, and agricultural professionals for intensive practical sessions focusing on hydroponics, soilless farming systems, composting, integrated pest management, crop nutrition, and effective farm management techniques.

Speaking during the programme, the Team Lead of the AGRECOFARM Project, Prof. Adewale Dipeolu, stressed the urgent need for innovative and sustainable farming systems capable of addressing present-day food production challenges.

According to him, modern agriculture can no longer depend solely on traditional farming methods due to changing climate conditions, environmental degradation, and the increasing demand for food. He noted that farmers must embrace climate-smart technologies and sustainable solutions to remain productive and competitive.

Prof. Dipeolu explained that the training programme was conceived as a practical intervention aimed at equipping participants with relevant skills, innovative approaches, and modern agricultural knowledge capable of enhancing productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability.

He further disclosed that AGRECOFARM remained committed to bridging the gap between conventional agriculture and modern sustainable farming systems through practical exposure to

hydroponics, nutrient management, composting, integrated pest management, and effective farm management practices.

The Team Lead emphasised that the future of agriculture lies in innovation, sustainability, and knowledge-driven farming systems, while encouraging participants to apply the knowledge gained within their farms, businesses, and communities to improve food production and environmental protection.

Earlier in her Welcome Address, the Programme Coordinator, Dr. Folasade Oke, appreciated participants and facilitators for their commitment to promoting sustainable agriculture and youth participation in agribusiness. She described the initiative as a timely intervention aimed at addressing critical challenges confronting agriculture and food production systems in the country.

Dr. Oke further noted that the programme adopted an 80 percent practical and learner-friendly approach, allowing participants to engage directly in demonstrations and hands-on activities within an inclusive, non-examination learning environment that encouraged active participation, practical understanding, and knowledge sharing among participants.

13. IFSERAR, Alliance Farms Forge Strategic Partnership on Data-Driven Livestock Production

Published On:
April 30, 2026



Last Updated on May 18, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Femi Dansu

The Institute of Food Security, Environmental Resources and Agricultural Research (IFSERAR), today, April 30, 2026, paid a strategic visit to Alliance Farms, Oyo State, to deepen industry–academia collaboration and advance innovation in livestock and crop production systems.

Welcoming the delegation, the Chief Executive Officer of Alliance Farms, Mr. Oyekunle Ogunmola, highlighted his professional journey and the vision driving the enterprise. A Physics graduate of the University of Ibadan and a Chartered Accountant trained with KPMG, he noted that his transition into agriculture was motivated by a desire to strengthen Oyo State's agrarian economy and improve access to quality livestock systems.

He explained that the farm operates on a philosophy of efficiency and productivity, with a focus on high-performing pedigree animals to shorten production cycles. Central to its operations is a proprietary digital platform, "Farm OS," used to monitor reproductive performance indicators such as kidding rates, lambing intervals, and calving records.

Despite being less than a year in operation, the farm has recorded notable reproductive successes, including instances of triplets and quadruplets in goats. However, challenges persist, particularly high kid mortality rates and the limited effectiveness of some vaccines against Clostridium-related infections, attributed to inconsistencies in formulations and inadequate strain coverage.



On genetic improvement, Mr. Ogunmola noted that livestock are sourced locally, especially from northern Nigeria, and crossbred with imported pedigree stock. While this has yielded promising results, challenges such as quarantine mortality and the need for more scientific selection processes remain, even as the farm explores advanced reproductive technologies like artificial insemination and embryo transfer.

Addressing livestock nutrition, he emphasised the farm's commitment to precision feed formulation supported by laboratory analysis, while lamenting the high cost and occasional inaccuracies of commercial feed analysis services. He also noted the difficulty in sourcing quality mineral supplements locally, leading to reliance on imports.

To ensure feed sustainability, the farm cultivates maize, sorghum, and soybeans, alongside extensive forage development. It also adopts alternative forage crops such as Cajanus cajan for its high crude protein content, while implementing pasture management strategies and diversification efforts including teak cultivation.

In his remarks, the Director of IFSERAR, Prof. Kazeem Bello, described the visit as a vital step towards aligning academic research with real-world agricultural challenges. He underscored the importance of partnerships with commercial farms in driving solution-oriented research and strengthening engagement with national bodies such as the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN).

Prof. Bello added that the collaboration would include staff exchange, student industrial training placements, and joint research initiatives, while also exploring opportunities in fodder production, improved feed processing, and sustainable practices. He described the partnership as mutually beneficial in enhancing teaching, research, and extension services at FUNAAB, while supporting innovation at Alliance Farms.

14. DUFARMS Holds Pre-Season Seminar on Innovation, Revenue Generation

Published On:
April 8, 2026



Last Updated on April 13, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Olaoye Oyewole & Tayo Onayemi

The Directorate of University Farms (DUFARMS), Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), on April 8, 2026, organised its 2026 Pre-Season Farming Seminar, bringing together internal and external stakeholders to explore strategies for advancing agricultural innovation and boosting revenue generation within the University.

Declaring the seminar open, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, noted the significance of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and continuous learning in achieving institutional objectives, describing the seminar as both timely and essential.



The Vice-Chancellor emphasised that the University was established not only for teaching and research but also for meaningful community engagement, particularly in supporting farmers to enhance productivity.

Commending DUFARMS for its efforts, Prof. Kehinde lauded the Directorate's introduction of value addition initiatives and encouraged staff, especially in livestock production, to scale up activities in poultry, beef, pork, and egg production to improve the visibility and impact of the University Farms. He added that initiatives such as the revitalised Graduate Farmers Employment Scheme (GRADFES) reflects the University's commitment to graduate empowerment and agricultural development.

The seminar featured a keynote lecture delivered by Dr. Basiru Ojo, titled "The University Farm as an Incubation Ground for Innovation and Revenue Generation." In his presentation, Dr. Ojo noted that university farms have evolved from their traditional roles into dynamic centres for innovation, entrepreneurship, and industry collaboration.



He identified key areas where university farms serve as innovation hubs, including research and development, student entrepreneurship, technology transfer, and interdisciplinary collaboration. He further encouraged DUFARMS to explore opportunities in commercial agricultural production, value addition and agro-processing, consultancy services, research partnerships, agritourism, and intellectual property commercialisation.

Highlighting potential challenges, Dr. Ojo pointed to issues such as inadequate funding, weak industry linkages, climate change, environmental risks, and limited commercial orientation. He, however, proposed strategies for optimisation, including the adoption of agribusiness models, integration of modern technologies, strengthened partnerships, promotion of student-led enterprises, and the development of sustainable value chains.



Reflecting on the evolution of DUFARMS, Dr. Ojo paid tribute to past Vice-Chancellors, beginning with the pioneer Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nimbe Adedipe, whose vision led to the establishment of the University Farm. He also acknowledged milestones recorded under successive administrations, including the expansion of cashew and oil palm plantations, as well as the establishment of processing facilities for value addition.

He further commended the contributions of past and present staff, alongside former students who have attained notable academic positions. He encouraged staff to uphold discipline, integrity, and continuous professional development.

As part of his recommendations for future growth, Dr. Ojo proposed the establishment of crop collection plots, revival of underutilised crops, exploration of cashew nutshell liquid production for revenue generation, and expansion of tree crop plantations such as cashew and oil palm.



Earlier, the Ag. Director, DUFARMS, Dr. Emmanuel Bankole appreciated the participants for their presence, and called for more collaboration among farmers.

The seminar concluded with a renewed commitment by participants to reposition DUFARMS as a hub for innovation, practical training, and sustainable revenue generation, in line with global best practices.

15. FUNAAB Holds Workshop for 26 IBR Awardees

Published On:
April 7, 2026



Last Updated on April 8, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Olasunkanmi Olajide & Joy Adeyiga

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), today, April 7, 2026, held a One-Day Workshop for 26 beneficiaries of the Institutional Based Research (IBR), supported by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).

Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, emphasised the need for improved research quality, accountability, and strict adherence to global best practices during the execution of the project.



The Ag. Director, DRIP, Dr. Oluwagbemiga Adeleye addressing the beneficiaries during the Workshop organised for the IBR awardees

The Vice-Chancellor, whose address was delivered by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), Prof. Olawale Dario, noted that the initiative was timely, as it aimed to sensitise Academic staff on expectations, standards, and best practices required for conducting impactful and credible research. He assured that such engagements would be institutionalised and held regularly, particularly during the presentation of research award letters, to ensure alignment with the University's research culture.

Congratulating the beneficiaries, Prof. Kehinde also revealed plans to strengthen the University's Monitoring and Evaluation Unit to enhance effective tracking and assessment of research performance.

Earlier, the Ag. Director, Directorate of Research, Innovations and Partnerships (DRIP), Dr. Oluwagbemiga Adeleye, stated that the Workshop was convened to address observed gaps in the IBR Programme over the years. He noted that while many research outputs had been commendable, challenges remained in areas such as compliance with required formats, reporting structures, and inclusion of key components in project documentation.



A cross-section of the IBR recipients during the Workshop

Dr. Adeleye explained that the Workshop was designed to clarify expectations, demonstrate appropriate reporting formats, and deepen recipients' understanding of monitoring and evaluation processes.

He stressed the importance of proper documentation, noting that research reports must reflect credibility, structure, and alignment with established standards to enhance institutional visibility and recognition.

He observed the need for continuous monitoring throughout the lifecycle of research projects, rather than at the final stage, to improve outcomes and minimise last-minute challenges. On sustainability, he urged researchers to focus on producing impactful results that extend beyond the lifespan of funding, describing it as a core expectation of the IBR Programme.

Highlighting the focus of the Workshop, the Ag. Director identified three key pillars which were implementation framework, financial accountability, and reporting expectations, as essential for the successful execution of funded projects.



Awardees with the representative of the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Development, Prof. Olawale Dairo, including the Ag. Director, DRIP, Dr. Oluwagbemiga Adeleye after the Opening Session of the Workshop

As part of the Workshop, Prof. Issac Ayelaagbe delivered a lecture on Research Conduct, while Prof. Helen Bodunde spoke on Data Integrity and Publications, equipping participants with practical knowledge for effective research implementation.

16. FUNAAB Students Receive Food Support to Ease Economic Hardship

Published On:
March 11, 2026



Last Updated on March 16, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Patrick Erinoso

Students of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), have received garri support packages aimed at improving their welfare and cushioning the impact of prevailing economic challenges in the country.



The initiative, organised by the Agricultural Media Resources and Extension Centre (AMREC) in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS), was held today, March 11, 2026, at the AMREC Seminar Room on the University campus.



Representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), Prof. Olawale Dairo, commended the supporting organisations for the intervention. He encouraged students to maintain responsible conduct that would attract more partnerships and opportunities to the University.



Speaking earlier, the Director of AMREC, Prof. Jacob Olaoye, explained that the programme was designed to provide students with essential food items to help them remain focused on their academic activities despite the current economic realities. He noted that the initiative reflected the commitment of the University and its partners to promoting student welfare and ensuring that students receive the support needed to excel in their studies.



A beneficiary, Grace Olumide, a 500-Level student of the Department of Animal Breeding and Genetics, described the semester-based support as timely and beneficial. She expressed appreciation to the organisers, stating that the garri packs would help students maintain the energy required to concentrate effectively on their studies.



Also speaking, the Dean, Student Affairs, Prof. Festus Adeosun, appreciated the Federal Government for supporting the initiative and appealed for the inclusion of more food items in future distributions to enhance the programme's impact. He emphasised that welfare initiatives play a significant role in creating a supportive and conducive learning environment for students.



The event featured the presentation of the garri packs to beneficiaries and a group photograph with University officials and students, emphasising FUNAAB's continued commitment to student welfare and academic success.

17. FUNAAB Alumnus Endows Students with N2m

… As COLBIOS Holds 4th Biosciences Conference

Published On:
March 9, 2026



Last Updated on March 17, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Emeka Oluka & Joy Adeyiga

An alumnus of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Prof. Monsuru Adeleke, has endowed the College of Biosciences (COLBIOS), with the sum of N2 Million to support outstanding and financially-disadvantaged students in the College.



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Health Sciences, Ila-Orogun, Prof. Monsuru Adeleke, while delivering the Keynote Address during the Conference

Prof. Adeleke, who is currently the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Health Sciences, Ila-Orangun, Osun State, announced the endowment while delivering the Keynote Address

at the Opening Ceremony of the 4th COLBIOS Conference which began today, March 9, 2026, at the Red Chamber of the University.

According to him, the donation would fund two initiatives. The first is a N1 million endowment for the College's Best Graduating Student, with beneficiaries receiving N100,000 annually for the next 10 years. The second N1 million would support two indigent students over five years. The latter initiative was established in memory of his late father, Alhaji Adeagbo Adeleke, who passed away four months ago.



The conference, themed "Integrating Biotechnology, Artificial Intelligence and Genomics for Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Natural Product Discovery," brought together scholars, researchers, students and industry stakeholders to discuss innovative solutions to contemporary agricultural challenges.

Declaring the conference open, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Olusegun Idowu, described the conference as timely in view of the increasing pressures on agriculture caused by climate change, population growth, food insecurity and environmental degradation.



According to him, these challenges require integrated and technology-driven solutions. He noted that biotechnology, artificial intelligence and genomics represent powerful scientific frontiers capable of transforming agricultural productivity, improving crop varieties, enhancing understanding of disease mechanisms and promoting environmental sustainability.

Prof. Kehinde further stated that the conference sub-themes align with global priorities such as sustainable agriculture, food security, biodiversity conservation, natural product discovery and the One

Health approach, which recognises the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health.



He encouraged participants to actively engage in discussions, strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration and translate research findings into practical solutions capable of addressing Africa's agricultural, environmental and health challenges.

Earlier in her Welcome Address, the Dean, COLBIOS, Prof. Iyabode Kehinde, described the conference as an important platform for advancing scientific innovation and collaboration within the biosciences community.
She recalled that the maiden edition of the conference was held in 2017 with the theme "Biosciences for Economic Development," while the 2019 edition focused on sustainable science for human and agricultural development.



According to the Dean, the current theme reflects the growing importance of integrating biotechnology, artificial intelligence and genomics to tackle emerging challenges in agriculture, medicine and environmental sustainability.

She explained that biotechnology facilitates the development of improved crop varieties through genetic engineering, tissue culture and microbial biotechnology, while genomics enables scientists to understand genetic traits responsible for disease resistance, drought tolerance and increased crop yields.

Prof. Kehinde also highlighted the increasing relevance of artificial intelligence in biosciences research, noting that it enables scientists to analyse large datasets, accelerate natural product discovery and predict bioactive compounds with potential pharmaceutical and industrial applications.



In his Keynote Address, Prof. Adeleke stated that the present era was a digital revolution in biological sciences, driven by the integration of biotechnology, genomics and artificial intelligence. According to him, these technologies were transforming traditional biological research into data-driven scientific innovation capable of addressing major global challenges.

He highlighted the concept of precision farming, where artificial intelligence and machine learning analyse data on crop genetics, climate conditions, soil composition and pest patterns to guide agricultural decision-making. Such data-driven systems, he noted, help farmers determine optimal fertiliser application timing, detect crop diseases early and manage agricultural resources more efficiently while minimising environmental impact.



Prof. Adeleke further explained that the integration of digital technologies, biological sciences and data infrastructure is fostering what he described as a “circular bioeconomy,” where biological resources, technological innovation and data continuously interact to produce sustainable solutions for agriculture, health and environmental management.

The conference also featured the presentation of the COLBIOS Role Model and Ambassador Awards to individuals recognised for their contributions to research, innovation and the advancement of biosciences. Participants at the conference included scholars from various institutions, postgraduate students and young scientists, who engaged in discussions aimed at strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration and promoting sustainable solutions for food security and global health.

18. DUFARMS Launches Value-Added Products, Records Bumper Sales

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March 9, 2026



Last Updated on March 9, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Olasunkanmi Olajide, Femi Dansu & Tayo Onayemi

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) has expanded its agribusiness portfolio with the official launch of value-added food products under the Directorate of University Farms (DUFARMS), recording impressive sales at the event.



Ag. Director, DUFARMS, Dr. Emmanuel Bankole awaiting the arrival of the Vice-Chancellor at the launch

The initiative, unveiled today, March 4, 2026, at the DUFARMS AGROMAT, marks the University's strategic transition from primary agricultural production to processing and value addition, aligning with global trends in agribusiness sustainability and food systems development.



Declaring the sales open, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, commended DUFARMS for advancing beyond raw produce to processed and branded food products.



"DUFARMS has long been known for quality farm produce. Today, we are consolidating that reputation by adding value, enhancing shelf life, and meeting evolving consumer preferences," he said. He emphasised the importance of food preservation and local processing, particularly in enhancing food security and minimising post-harvest losses. The product line also included traditional Nigerian staples, such as original elubọ iṣu and lẹbu, among others, catering to both domestic consumers and diaspora markets interested in authentic traditional cuisine.



Earlier, the Ag. Director of DUFARMS, Dr. Emmanuel Bankole, noted that the expansion was driven by rising consumer demand and the need to reinforce trust in locally processed foods. Newly introduced products included Certified Yellow Flour, professionally packaged melon seeds, Vitamin A–fortified yellow garri, water yam, fresh pineapples, and other farm-fresh produce.



According to Dr. Bankole, all items have undergone strict quality control procedures and were clearly labelled to guarantee safety, authenticity, and nutritional integrity.

The launch attracted strong stakeholder participation, including industry representatives and University officials, like the Director, Directorate of Technologists and Technical Staff (DITTECS), Dr Wunmi Abimbola-Okuneye; Prof. Kayode Bamgbose; President, FUNAAB Odeda-Farmers' Cooperative Multipurpose Society Limited, Mr. Ayorinde Isaiah and the Managing Director, Nourished Foods Ltd, Mr. Olabode Orolu, among others.



Meanwhile the launch recorded robust sales, an indication of growing market confidence in the University's agribusiness model.

19. FUNAAB Opens Applications for Phase V of Graduate Agripreneurship Programme

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By Femi Dansu

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), has opened applications for the fifth phase of its flagship Graduate Agripreneurship Programme, offering a grant of ₦1.5 million to selected young alumni to establish and scale agricultural enterprises.

The initiative, launched in 2022 through a partnership between FUNAAB and the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATNF), was aimed at addressing youth unemployment by empowering graduates with the resources and support required to build sustainable agribusiness ventures.

Under the programme, successful applicants in Phase V would receive a ₦1.5 million grant to establish and develop their agricultural enterprises on or around the University campus. The funding is intended to support key start-up needs, including procurement of inputs and operational setup.

According to an official announcement by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), Prof. Olawale Dairo, he described the programme as part of the University's strategic commitment to nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship among young graduates.

He said that the programme seeks to identify and support young innovators who view agriculture not merely as a traditional practice but as a viable and profitable business venture capable of driving economic growth.

Since its inception, the programme has successfully produced 16 agripreneurs across four phases, creating a growing network of young agricultural entrepreneurs contributing to food production and agribusiness development.

To be eligible for the fifth phase, applicants must be graduates of FUNAAB from the Colleges of Agricultural Management and Rural Development (COLAMRUD), Animal Science and Livestock Production (COLANIM), Environmental Resources Management (COLERM), or Plant Science and Crop Production (COLPLANT). Applicants must also have graduated within the last four years, completed the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), fall within the age bracket of 21–35 years, and demonstrate a strong interest in agribusiness. Evidence of prior engagement in agricultural activities would be considered an added advantage.

Interested candidates are required to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) accompanied by a detailed business plan outlining how the ₦1.5 million grant would be utilised to develop a sustainable agribusiness venture. Applicants are also expected to include a personal essay explaining why they are suitable for the programme.

Successful candidates would be required to establish their agribusiness enterprises within the vicinity of the University and comply with the programme's stipulated terms and conditions. All applications must be submitted electronically to the Office of the Vice-Chancellor via dvcd@funaab.edu.ng on or before Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

20. FUNAAB, Agri-Tech Firm Partner to Drive Agricultural Innovation

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March 5, 2026



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By Olasunkanmi Olajide & Raymond Osemene

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Agri-Tech practitioners to strengthen collaboration aimed at promoting agricultural innovation, research, and national food security.



The MoU was formalised during a meeting held today, March 5, 2026, where the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, expressed appreciation for the longstanding relationship between the University and Agro Allied Services Limited (ABEO FARMS).

Prof. Kehinde explained that the formalisation of the partnership was designed to deepen the existing collaboration for mutual benefit, noting that FUNAAB remains committed to ensuring that such partnerships contribute significantly to its three-fold mandate of Teaching, Research, and Community engagement.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, collaborations with industry players are essential for expanding the practical impact of research and for addressing real-world agricultural challenges.



He particularly highlighted the importance of community service, stressing that the University has been extending its impact beyond the campus to benefit society at large.

Prof. Kehinde further emphasised the role of modern technologies in improving agricultural productivity, noting that initiatives such as precision agriculture and other innovative farming practices are critical to enhancing food production in Nigeria. He added that effective utilisation of both human and material resources would enable the country to maximise its agricultural potential.



Earlier in his remarks, the Team Lead of the visiting Agri-Tech practitioners, Mr. Tolu Eko, assured the University of their commitment to strengthening the partnership and working collaboratively to advance agricultural development. He also noted that the collaboration would help address emerging challenges affecting food production, particularly climate change and its impact on agriculture.

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

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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.

22. Prof. Fakoya Delivers FUNAAB's 110th Inaugural Lecture

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… Launches ₦1 Million Prize for Best Farm Practical Year Student

By Emeka Oluka & Joy Adeyiga

Prof. Emmanuel Fakoya, a distinguished expert in Agricultural Extension and Rural Development at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), has announced the establishment of a ₦1 million annual prize to reward the University's Best Farm Practical Year student in honour of his late father.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde presenting a plaque to honour the 110th Inaugural Lecturer of the University, Prof. Emmanuel Fakoya

The announcement was the highpoint of the University's 110th Inaugural Lecture, delivered today, March 4, 2026, at the Prof. Oluwafemi Balogun Ceremonial Building. The prize, which would run for the next 10 years and to begin at the 34th Convocation Ceremony of the University, is aimed at promoting excellence in hands-on agricultural training and motivating outstanding performance among students enrolled in FUNAAB's Farm Practical Year Programme.



The immediate family members of the 110th Inaugural Lecturer and other guests at the event

Delivering the Lecture titled "Measurement and Scaling: Bedrock of Robust Agricultural Extension Research Analysis," Prof. Fakoya advocated a paradigm shift in the formulation of agricultural policies in Nigeria. He emphasised that interventions must be anchored on rigorous empirical evidence rather than anecdotal accounts to ensure effectiveness and sustainability.



A cross-section of the Procession at the event

According to him, critical sectors such as land management, livestock production, conflict resolution, and women's empowerment continue to face challenges due to the absence of

standardised measurement frameworks. He stressed that without accurate and reliable tools, it would be difficult to objectively assess the true impact of extension programmes on rural livelihoods.



Former Vice-Chancellor of FUNAAB, Prof. Felix Kolawole Salako with the Vice-Chancellor, Alletheia University, Ago-Iwoye, Prof. Olukayode Akinyemi and other eminent guests at the ceremony

The 110th Inaugural Lecturer called for the development of national and regional frameworks to establish uniform metrics for evaluating key variables, including adoption rates, empowerment indices, and conflict intensity. He maintained that participation, access, and empowerment must be measured using valid and reliable indices to guarantee inclusiveness and gender responsiveness in agricultural interventions.



ICGNS and COLAMRUD families at the event

Prof. Fakoya further underscored the need for a multidisciplinary approach, encouraging collaboration among agricultural economists, sociologists, statisticians, and extension

experts. He proposed that universities and research institutes should establish specialised centres dedicated to measurement and scaling studies to drive innovation and standardisation in research methodologies.

Highlighting the importance of advanced quantitative techniques, he recommended the institutionalisation of tools such as Likert scaling, factor analysis, and regression modelling to enhance predictive accuracy in extension research. He added that sustained capacity building in data analytics and psychometrics for both professionals and students would be essential to achieving this goal.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde with the University's 110th Inaugural Lecturer, Prof. Emmanuel Fakoya, including Principal Officers and Top Officials of the University, after the event

Earlier in his Introductory Remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, commended Prof. Fakoya for his scholarly contributions and described the lecture as timely and impactful. He noted that strengthening research methodology and ensuring data credibility remain pivotal to advancing Nigeria's agricultural transformation agenda.

Prof. Fakoya currently serves as the Dean of the College of Agricultural Management and Rural Development (COLAMRUD), and he is a member of the University's Governing Council, as well as Chairman, Committee of Deans and Directors.

23. AGRECOFARM Begins 3-Day Vocational Training on Agroecology, Sustainable Food Production

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By Joy Adeyiga & Raymond Osemene

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), through its AGRECOFARM, has commenced a 3-Day vocational education training workshop on agroecology and sustainable food production. The programme, which brought together farmers, students, extension agents, agribusiness operators and other stakeholders across the agricultural value chain, began today, Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

Delivering the Opening Remarks, the Team Lead of AGRECOFARM FUNAAB, Prof. Adewale Dipeolu, represented by Prof. Oladapo Fasae, described the initiative as a carefully structured platform designed to address pressing challenges in education, financial empowerment, and community development. He noted that beyond learning from facilitators, participants would also benefit from peer-to-peer engagement through interaction, demonstrations and shared experiences throughout the 3-Day programme.



Director, CEADESE, Prof. Adeboye Fafiolu addressing the participants of the workshop

Prof. Dipeolu emphasised that sustainable progress can only be achieved when opportunities, resources and financial support are equitably distributed across society. According to him, meaningful transformation occurs when support systems are strengthened and individuals are equipped with the necessary tools to succeed.

In his remarks, the Director of the, Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Development and Sustainable Environment (CEADESE), Prof. Adeboye Fafiolu, reiterated the need for innovative and knowledge-driven approaches to farming, particularly in the face of rising global food demand. He stressed that modern agriculture requires more than traditional practices, highlighting efficient water usage, soil rejuvenation and sustainable land management as critical components of productive farming systems.



The AGRECOFARM Programme Coordinator, Dr. Folasade Oke delivering her Welcome Address at the workshop

Prof. Fafiolu further explained that whereas land reclamation previously took up to 15 years before degraded land could become suitable for cultivation, recent research breakthroughs and emerging technologies have reduced the process to as little as one year. He restated that efficiency in irrigation, soil regeneration and overall resource management remains essential for maximising productivity while safeguarding the environment.

Earlier in her Welcome Address, the Programme Coordinator, Agroecology FUNAAB, Dr. Folashade Oke, expressed delight at the impressive turnout and diversity of participants. She noted that the training, organised under the AGRECOFARM initiative and hosted by CEADESE, attracted smallholder and large-scale farmers, youths, women, students and farm service providers.



Participants and Facilitators after the Opening Ceremony of the 3-Day Vocational Training Workshop

According to Dr. Oke, the programme reflected FUNAAB's commitment not only to teaching and research but also to translating knowledge into practical skills that enhance livelihoods, strengthen food security and promote environmental sustainability.

She revealed that the workshop was deliberately structured to be 80 per cent practical, enabling participants to engage in hands-on sessions covering sustainable land preparation, soil testing, greenhouse and hydroponic crop production, product processing, feed pellet production and farm record keeping.

Dr. Oke added that the initiative represented a shared commitment to advancing sustainable agriculture, livestock production and innovative farming solutions that directly address the needs of farmers and agribusinesses across the country.

24. FUNAAB Set to Partner AltBank, Tulima on AI-Enabled Hydroponic Farming Campus Project

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By Olasunkanmi Olajide

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), has further strengthened its reputation as a leading African hub for global agricultural innovation as it advanced high-level discussions with Sterling Financial Holdings Company Plc ('Sterling HoldCo') and Egypt-based Tulima Farms and Agri-Processing LLC on the establishment of an AI-enabled hydroponic farming ecosystem on campus.

The initiative, spearheaded by Sterling HoldCo's subsidiary, The Alternative Bank ('AltBank'), is conceived as a commercially viable, technology-driven agricultural venture integrating Artificial Intelligence with precision hydroponic systems to cultivate select exotic vegetables and staple crops under climate-controlled conditions. Designed to operate at scale, the project reflects a new generation of smart farming models that combine finance, innovation, and research expertise.

Abeokuta has been identified as a high-potential investment destination, with FUNAAB recognised as a strategic anchor institution due to its robust agricultural research ecosystem, expansive farmlands, innovation-driven centres, and access to highly skilled human capital. The University's longstanding leadership in agricultural science, enterprise development, and sustainable farming solutions places it at the forefront of Africa's transition towards technology-enabled agriculture.

Welcoming the delegation, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, affirmed the University's readiness to host and drive the partnership, emphasising that FUNAAB possesses the institutional capacity, technical depth, and enabling infrastructure required to successfully launch and sustain the project. He reiterated the University's commitment to fostering impactful industry collaborations capable of delivering measurable economic and developmental outcomes.

The proposed AI-enabled hydroponic initiative is in sync with broader efforts to strengthen food systems through import substitution, year-round productivity, and enhanced climate resilience. By leveraging data-driven nutrient management, optimised water use, and controlled-environment agriculture, the project aims to ensure consistent high yields while minimising resource waste. Beyond boosting domestic food production, the initiative is expected to contribute significantly to agribusiness growth, job creation, and economic diversification, while serving as a scalable model for smart agriculture across the African continent.

As part of the technical and commercial due diligence process, the joint team undertook site inspections within the University to assess infrastructure availability, climatic suitability, and preliminary water and soil nutrient profiling.

The engagement provided an opportunity to review identified locations, align operational expectations, and advance discussions towards a structured and mutually beneficial partnership framework.

Mrs. Ugonwa Ikegwuonu, Head of Agric Finance at The Alternative Bank led the delegation and provided strategic insights into the rationale behind the project. Mr. Mohamed Salama, Founder/CEO, Tulima Farms, Cairo, Egypt delivered a comprehensive technical presentation outlining the production model, investment structure, operational framework, and proposed risk-sharing architecture. He underscored the importance of constituting a cross-functional University team comprising experts in agriculture, engineering, research, infrastructure, and enterprise development to deepen technical collaboration and accelerate implementation.

Meanwhile, Tulima Farms and Agri-Processing LLC is internationally reputed for its sustainable, high-tech indoor farming systems, utilising climate-controlled greenhouses and modular container farms to produce pesticide-free, nutrient-dense crops within an integrated farm-to-table value chain. The delegation's tour of FUNAAB's Automated Greenhouse facility, Musarchy Farms, and the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Development and Sustainable Environment (CEADESE) experiential farms further demonstrated the University's preparedness to host advanced agricultural technologies and scale commercially viable agribusiness ventures.

Senior University officials present at the meeting included the Registrar, Dr. Titus Adeniyi; the Bursar, Mr. Olukayode Osinuga; the Director, CEADESE, Prof. Adeboye Fafiolu; the Acting Director, Directorate of Research, Innovations and Partnerships (DRIP), Dr. Oluwagbemiga Adeleye; the Principal Assistant Registrar, Vice-Chancellor's Office, Mr. Adekunle Adebiyi, and the University Legal Officer, Mrs. Olanrewaju Tanimowo. They were joined by Dr. Hatem Elmedalaa, the resident Agronomy Consultant in Tulima Farms, among others.

With this prospective partnership, FUNAAB is reinforcing its global outlook and strategic commitment to integrating finance, research excellence, and emerging technologies in building resilient and sustainable food systems for Africa and beyond.


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25. FUNAAB Odeda Farmers Cooperative Receives Federal Empowerment

Published On:
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The FUNAAB Odeda Farmers Cooperative Multipurpose Society Limited has received empowerment support from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) to enhance agricultural productivity and strengthen the capacity of its members.

Items presented to the Cooperative include a power tiller, water pump, knapsack sprayers, fertilizer, pepper and tomato seeds, a grinding machine, planter, Ultimate Plus, insecticides, and fungicide.

While receiving the items, the President of the Cooperative, Mr. Ayorinde Isaiah, expressed appreciation to FMAFS for the support, noting that the equipment would be judiciously utilised to boost food production and improve members' livelihoods.

The intervention is expected to strengthen mechanised farming operations and significantly improve crop yield among members of the Cooperative.

26. DIGISOL Project Concludes 2-Day Capacity Building Workshop

Published On:
February 20, 2026



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The DIGISOL Project at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) successfully concluded its 2-Day Capacity-Building Workshop on February 20, 2026, an initiative aimed at enhancing the use of digital tools for agricultural extension service delivery. The workshop, held at the CEADESE Lecture Hall, assembled extension agents, facilitators, and critical stakeholders dedicated to strengthening digital-driven agricultural practices.

In his Opening Remarks, the Project Team Lead, Mr. Addy-Nayo, welcomed participants and reflected on the project's progress since its inception in 2023. He noted that sustained collaboration among partner institutions across Imo, Kwara, and Ogun States over the past three years had yielded operational guidelines, comprehensive reports, and measurable impacts for farmers. He disclosed that several beneficiaries had received enterprise-support grants through funding provided by the European Union. He expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, and the Zonal Coordinator, Prof. Adewale Dipeolu, for their consistent support, assuring participants that the project would continue to consolidate its achievements and improve farmers' livelihoods.

Earlier, the National Coordinator of the DIGISOL Project, Prof. Chinasaokwu Onyemuwa, described the workshop as a vital step toward achieving the project's objectives. He emphasised that contemporary agriculture was increasingly driven by data, connectivity, and real-time information systems. According to him, extension agents remain the indispensable link between research and farmers, while digital tools serve as complementary instruments designed to enhance their effectiveness rather than replace them. He encouraged facilitators to ensure that the sessions were practical and impactful.

Delivering a presentation on digital inclusion strategies for young and female farmers, Dr. Chinwe Nwogu underscored the vulnerabilities faced by rural women, including restricted access to farmland, heavy domestic responsibilities, and information gaps. She explained that the DIGISOL Project deliberately prioritises women and youths by enhancing their productivity through accessible digital tools while harnessing the technological adaptability of young people. She advocated rebuilding digital market infrastructure to curb middlemen exploitation, promoting gender-responsive advisory services, and strengthening financial systems tailored to farmers' realities. She concluded that meaningful inclusion of women and youths would significantly boost agricultural productivity in Nigeria and beyond.

Speaking on human-computer interaction for low-literacy and rural users, Dr. Olaleye stressed that technology must be people-centred. He observed that poor usability often results in the abandonment of digital tools despite ongoing digitisation efforts. Describing farmers in the region as predominantly smallholder operators with mixed literacy levels, shared mobile device usage, intermittent connectivity, and a preference for oral and demonstration-based learning, he urged developers and extension agents to simplify interfaces, reduce text density, avoid abstract icons, and build trust through accessible design.



Participants were subsequently taken through practical demonstrations of the DIGISOL App and associated platforms by Dr. Orji, who described the solutions as indigenous and farmer-focused. He explained that the platform features a mobile-based advisory system capable of delivering timely information to farmers with limited internet access, alongside a Digital Knowledge and E-Book Platform containing agronomic guides and climate adaptation resources. He added that enterprise and grant components embedded within the system have empowered farmers to diversify and strengthen their livelihoods.

Resource persons provided guidance on irrigation planning, organic pest control strategies, offline accessibility options, and the use of voice messaging and local languages to enhance outreach. They emphasised the need for adaptive approaches, noting that no single digital solution can address all contexts.

In her presentation, Dr. Esther Tolorunju addressed participants on technology acceptance and adoption strategies for Non-Technical users in underserved communities. She explained that genuine adoption extends beyond initial usage to consistent application that yields improved livelihoods. She

identified barriers such as language constraints, low trust in technology, literacy limitations, and the exclusion of women and elderly farmers. She encouraged extension agents to co-create locally relevant solutions and engage community champions to drive acceptance.

Mr. Obasa Ridwan shared practical insights on the challenges and prospects of digital extension services, observing that annual agricultural losses persist due to systemic weaknesses in research and extension institutions, inadequate funding, and insufficient welfare for extension workers. While noting that other African countries are advancing in digital agricultural extension, he urged Nigeria to intensify efforts to mainstream digital solutions within its agricultural framework.



A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Chikamso Apeh featured Dr. Nwogu, Dr. Tolorunju, and Mr. Ridwan, who identified mobile phones, voice notes, and radio as effective tools for extension service delivery. They cited poor connectivity, high data subscription costs, affordability constraints, and trust deficits as major operational barriers. To strengthen trust, the panel recommended consistent demonstrations, bottom-up engagement strategies, and hands-on approaches that clearly showcase tangible benefits. Contributions from the audience highlighted youths' natural adaptability to digital tools, the influence of farm scale on adoption rates, and the importance of simplified interfaces and visual aids.

In his closing remarks, Prof. Adewale Dipeolu, commended participants for their active engagement and urged them to translate the knowledge acquired into practical action within their communities. He reaffirmed FUNAAB's commitment to leveraging digital innovation to transform agricultural extension services in Nigeria and encouraged extension agents to further explore resources available on the DIGISOL platform.

The workshop concluded with the presentation of certificates to participants, marking a significant milestone in the University's continued drive toward digitally empowered agricultural development.

27. FUNAAB Hosts DIGISOL Workshop on Digital Tools for Agricultural Extension

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By Femi Dansu

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) has commenced a Two-Day Capacity-Building Workshop under the DIGISOL Project, aimed at strengthening agricultural extension services through digital innovation. The workshop, which began today, February 19, 2026, brought together agricultural officers, ICT experts, policymakers, and other stakeholders to explore the deployment of digital tools for improved service delivery.

Declaring the workshop open, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, represented by the Director, Directorate of Academic Planning, Prof. Olajide Sogunle, commended the DIGISOL team and partner institutions for sustaining the collaborative initiative. He noted that similar workshops held at partner universities had underscored the project's relevance and impact.

The Vice-Chancellor described Extension professionals as key drivers in translating agricultural research into practical solutions, bridging the gap between innovation and farmers in remote communities. He urged participants to maximise the training to ensure effective knowledge transfer to grassroots farmers, stressing that stronger research–farmer linkages would enhance productivity and innovation. He also highlighted the cross-cutting importance of digital capacity building across agricultural sub-sectors.



Earlier in his Welcome Address, the DIGISOL Zonal Project Coordinator at FUNAAB, Prof. Adewale Dipeolu, stated that the workshop reflected the University's commitment to building resilient, technology-driven agricultural systems. He explained that the DIGISOL Project seeks to strengthen extension systems through context-specific digital solutions anchored on research, innovation, capacity building, and policy engagement.

Describing the programme as a "train-the-trainer" initiative, Prof. Dipeolu noted that participants were being equipped with practical skills to deploy digital platforms for farmer engagement, improved market access, climate-smart practices, and alternative livelihoods.



Also speaking, the DIGISOL Project Manager, Prof. Christopher Eze, highlighted the importance of digital transformation in addressing contemporary agricultural challenges. He noted that the FUNAAB workshop was the third and concluding session in the series, following earlier trainings at the University of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Umuagwo and Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, demonstrating the project's multi-institutional approach.

Providing an international perspective, DIGISOL Project Team Leader, Mr. Chris Addy-Nayo, emphasised the role of digitalisation in expanding agricultural opportunities across West Africa. He advocated for indigenous digital applications tailored to local realities, noting that Nigeria has the capacity to lead ICT-driven agricultural transformation in the sub-region.



Delivering the Keynote Address, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Forestry, Ogun State, Dr. Adekunle Oyesanwen, described agricultural extension as a critical bridge linking research, policy, and farmers. He observed that extension delivery has evolved from labour-intensive methods to technology-enabled, data-driven systems supported by mobile platforms, GIS, remote sensing, and interactive communication tools.

While acknowledging challenges such as infrastructure gaps and limited digital literacy, he stressed that initiatives like DIGISOL are vital for building the digital competence of frontline extension workers and ensuring sustainable impact.



Technical sessions featured presentations by the Dean, College of Computing Sciences, Prof. Oluwasefunmi Arogundade, on digital platforms for extension delivery; Engr. Bolaji Ogidan on global best practices; Mr. Olufemi Akinniyi of OGADEP on the evolution of extension systems; Dr. Olorunjube Falana on content creation for digitised extension; and Dr. Chikamso Apeh on climate-smart agriculture and digital advisory tools.

Dignitaries in attendance included the Director, Agricultural Media Resources and Extension Centre (AMREC), Prof. Jacob Olaoye; DIGISOL Team Members, Dr. Adetayo Aromolaran and Dr. Folasade Oke; and the National Coordinator of the DIGISOL Project from the University of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Prof. Chinasaokwu Onyemauwa.

28. Sustainable 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.

29. FUNAAB Scholars Strengthen Climate-Smart Aquaculture Collaboration at UNESP, Brazil

Published On:
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Researchers from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Nigeria, are deepening international collaboration in climate-smart aquaculture through a research and capacity-building visit to the Centre of Aquaculture at São Paulo State University (UNESP), Brazil.

The visit, involving Dr. Mathew Wheto, Dr. Ikililu Abdulraheem and Dr. Oluwaseun Ojelade, is being conducted under the UK–Brazil–Africa Climate-Smart Agriculture Innovation Programme. It is aimed at advancing scientific cooperation and knowledge exchange among leading institutions in Nigeria, Brazil and the United Kingdom.

During a guided tour of UNESP's world-class aquaculture facilities, the FUNAAB scholars engaged with key research and production units, including fish reproduction, health and welfare laboratories, nutrition and feed development facilities, and limnology systems. The interactions offered practical insights into integrated aquaculture models that emphasise sustainability, animal welfare and enhanced productivity in the face of climate variability.



The exposure was particularly relevant to tropical aquaculture systems in Nigeria, where climate pressures continue to challenge food production and aquatic ecosystems. Lessons drawn from UNESP's research approaches are expected to inform adaptive strategies for resilient and sustainable aquaculture development in Africa.

The engagement was part of a broader collaborative project coordinated through Harper Adams University, United Kingdom, titled "Building Collaborative Research Partnerships in Fish Breeding, Health and Welfare Management to Enhance Sustainability, Productivity and Resilience of Aquaculture Production in Nigeria."

The visit underscored FUNAAB's growing international profile and its commitment to global partnerships, applied research and capacity building aimed at advancing climate-smart aquaculture and strengthening sustainable food systems across regions.

30. Top Investment Banker, Aig-Imoukhuede Urges Nigeria to Reimagine Agriculture as the Engine of the Future of Work

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… As FUNAAB Holds 33rd Convocation Lecture

By Olasunkanmi Olajide & Femi Dansu

Nigeria's pathway to sustainable jobs, inclusive growth and long-term national resilience lies not in fear of automation, but in the deliberate reinvention of agriculture as a coordinated, system-driven engine of work. This was the central argument advanced by a world renowned banker, investor and philanthropist, Barr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, CFR, at the 33rd Convocation Lecture of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), held on January 30, 2026, at the Red Chamber.



Speaking on the theme "Agriculture, the Future of Work, and the University as Catalyst," Barr. Aig-Imoukhuede challenged policymakers, universities and graduates to look beyond traditional narratives of farming and recognise agriculture as Nigeria's most scalable platform for dignified employment, innovation and national transformation, if properly governed and coordinated.



The lecture formed a central intellectual pillar which has reinforced the University's growing reputation as a global thought leader at the intersection of agriculture, governance and development.



In the Lecture, Barr. Aig-Imoukhuede noted that while global discourse on the future of work was dominated by automation and artificial intelligence, Africa's more urgent challenge is the creation of productive, sustainable and large-scale employment for its youthful population. Agriculture, he argued, offers a unique comparative advantage. "Agriculture is not merely about farming," he said. "It is a complex system encompassing science, engineering, logistics, finance, technology, regulation and trade. No other sector matches its capacity to create jobs across skill levels, income bands and rural–urban divides while strengthening food security and national resilience."



Drawing lessons from the biblical account of Joseph in Egypt and Brazil's agricultural transformation, he emphasised that agriculture becomes truly transformative only when treated as an integrated system rather than a series of isolated interventions. Turning to Nigeria, he observed that despite vast arable land, human capital and a large domestic market, the country remained a net food importer due to weak coordination rather than a lack of ideas or effort. "Nigeria's agricultural story is not one of failure," he stated, "but one of unfinished architecture."



He urged graduates to see agriculture as a modern, technology-enabled and value-chain-driven career space, noting that the most significant employment opportunities lie beyond the farm gate, in storage, processing, logistics, quality assurance, branding and export markets. He also cautioned against over-reliance on technology without strong institutions and governance, stressing that enduring transformation required patient capital, credible systems and consistent leadership.



Addressing the graduating class, directly, Barr. Aig-Imoukhuede called for adaptability, lifelong learning and civic responsibility, reminding them that Nigeria's future depends on builders of systems, not spectators.



Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor of FUNAAB, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, welcomed guests and described the Convocation Lecture as a celebration of excellence, learning and institutional pride. He noted that the Lecture remained a defining intellectual tradition of the University, providing a platform for critical engagement with national and global challenges. He, however, expressed confidence in FUNAAB's commitment to excellence, innovation and national development.



The lecture was chaired by the Chairman of the Federal Civil Service Commission, Prof. Tunji Olaopa, who called for a fundamental rethinking of Nigeria's University education system, particularly universities of agriculture. He urged such institutions to align more deliberately with national development priorities and the future aspirations of Nigerian youth. He raised concerns over youth unemployment and unemployability, warning of their implications for social stability and national cohesion.



He advocated a balanced educational model that combines manpower development with character formation and urged universities to embrace emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, robotics, drones, GIS and the Internet of Things, to drive smart agriculture and innovative agribusiness. He also called for sustainability-driven research, innovation hubs and community-focused solutions, particularly for rural development.



In his concluding remarks, Prof. Olaopa identified key reforms needed to reposition Nigeria's university system, including greater institutional autonomy, improved funding through public-private partnerships and a more developmental approach to industrial relations.



The 33rd Convocation Lecture thus underscored FUNAAB's role as a global knowledge hub and catalyst for ideas capable of reshaping agriculture, governance and the future of work in Africa, while positioning the University at the forefront of debates shaping Nigeria's long-term development trajectory.

31. FUNAAB, Austria's Peace Eye Partner on Digital Tool to Address Farmer–Herder Conflict

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January 19, 2026
Last Updated on October 9, 2026 by admin

By Olasunkanmi Olajide

In a bold move to resolve the lingering farmer-herder crisis in Nigeria, the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), today, January 19, 2026, entered into a strategic partnership with PeaceEye FlexCo, an Austria-based geospatial intelligence and digital innovation company, to develop a technology-driven Farmer–Herder App aimed at preventing and mitigating conflicts across Nigeria.

The partnership formalised with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), marked a significant step towards deploying research-led, inclusive digital solutions to one of sub-Saharan Africa's most persistent socio-economic and security challenges.



Farmer–herder conflicts have intensified across Nigeria in recent years, driven by climate change, declining land productivity, water scarcity, and shifting migration patterns. These pressures have heightened competition over land and natural resources, resulting in recurring violence, displacement, and economic losses. The FUNAAB–PeaceEye collaboration seeks to address these challenges through innovation, data-driven planning, and community engagement.

PeaceEye FlexCo, headquartered in Salzburg, Austria, specialises in applying Earth Observation (EO), Artificial Intelligence (AI), satellite imagery, and open-source intelligence to geospatial risk analysis for public good. Under the partnership, both institutions would co-design and deploy a Farmer–Herder App that is accessible, user-friendly, and adaptable regardless of literacy or educational background.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, PeaceEye's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Andreas Papp, commended FUNAAB's strong ties to local communities and its practical understanding of the realities faced by farmers and pastoralists. He described the initiative as a collaborative, bottom-up process that prioritises community participation over externally imposed solutions.

“This partnership goes beyond technology,” Mr. Papp said. “It is about building trust, enabling dialogue, and co-creating digital tools that help communities agree on grazing routes, land use, and peaceful coexistence. FUNAAB’s research capacity and grassroots engagement make it an ideal partner.”

Welcoming the PeaceEye delegation, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, described the collaboration as timely and strategic, noting that “The farmer–herder crisis is not merely an agricultural problem; it is a complex socio-economic and cultural issue,” Prof. Kehinde said. “Beyond pasture provision, sustainable solutions must account for social dynamics, cross-boundary movements, and community perceptions. FUNAAB is well positioned to integrate these dimensions into a scalable, evidence-based model.”

Meanwhile, the Farmer–Herder App would leverage geo-fencing technology to provide farmers and nomadic herders with real-time access to mapped farmlands, designated grazing areas, and approved migration corridors. By promoting transparency, coordination, and shared understanding of land use, the app is expected to significantly reduce conflict risks and support sustainable resource management.

The brief ceremony was attended by the Ag. Director, Directorate of Research, Innovations and Partnerships (DRIP), Dr. Oluwagbemiga Adeleye; Caribbean Countries Desk Officer for FUNAAB, Prof. John Oyedepo and the immediate past Director, DRIP, Prof. Mutiu Busari, including the University Legal Officer, Mrs. Olanrewaju Tanimowo, among others.

32. 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 and 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.

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

Published On:
December 20, 2025



Last Updated on December 23, 2025 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

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.



34. FUNAAB, NSPRI Host Workshop on Reducing Post-Harvest Losses

Published On:
December 18, 2025



Last Updated on December 23, 2025 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Femi Dansu

In furtherance of their ongoing collaboration, the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), through its Agricultural Media Resources and Extension Centre (AMREC), has partnered with the Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute (NSPRI) to host a One-Day Capacity-Building Workshop on post-harvest losses management.



Director, AMREC, Prof. Jacob Olaoye delivering his Welcome Address at the One-Day Capacity Training Workshop

Titled “Handling Post-Harvest Losses of Tomato and Leafy Vegetables,” the workshop was held today, December 18, 2025, at the AMREC Seminar Room. It was designed to address Nigeria’s persistent post-harvest challenges by equipping farmers and other stakeholders with practical skills in handling, processing, storage and value addition to reduce wastage and enhance profitability.



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Prof. Olusegun Idowu delivering his Goodwill Message at the Workshop

Opening the workshop on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), Prof. Olawale Dairo, commended the impressive turnout of participants, describing it as a reflection of shared commitment to strengthening Nigeria’s agricultural value chain. He noted that agriculture remains central to the nation’s economy, yet poor post-harvest practices account for losses of between 30 and 50 per cent in perishable crops such as tomatoes and leafy vegetables, largely due to inadequate handling, storage, transportation and limited processing.



Participants at the Workshop

He described the workshop as timely and urged participants to actively engage through questions, experience sharing and collaborative learning to ensure the adoption of practical and sustainable solutions.



Participants, Facilitators and Frontline Officers of the University after the Opening Session of the AMREC's One-Day Capacity Training Workshop

In his Welcome Address, the Director, AMREC, Prof. Jacob Olaoye, described the programme as a significant milestone in FUNAAB's contributions to food security and sustainable development, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He emphasised the focus on affordable and scalable techniques for waste prevention, value addition and improved produce quality and nutrition, while commending the University Management for its continued support.



Delivering a Goodwill Message, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Olusegun Idowu, commended the initiative for effectively bridging research with practical, on-the-ground solutions that reduce post-harvest losses and improve farmers' incomes.



The Keynote Address, titled "Agricultural Post-Harvest Management," was delivered by the Zonal Coordinator, NSPRI Ibadan Office, Dr. Mariam Aremu, on behalf of the NSPRI Executive Director, Prof. Lateef Sanni. She discussed crop categorisation, handling, transportation, primary processing, drying technologies and storage, stressing the need to prioritise post-harvest practices to ensure food quality and safety, improve returns, reduce losses, enhance year-round availability and promote wealth creation.



Dr. Aremu also led practical demonstrations on the production of dried leafy vegetables, onion rings and powder, dried okra, and tomato-based value-added products. She highlighted value addition as a viable agribusiness opportunity, especially for youth and women, and underscored the importance of cost-benefit analysis in making informed agribusiness decisions.

Participants at the workshop included AMREC and some Academic staff of the University, members of Farmers' Associations from Ogun State, and other key stakeholders in the agricultural value chain.

35. FUNAAB Concludes 2-Day Training on Automated Greenhouse Operations for Staff

Published On:
December 16, 2025



Last Updated on December 23, 2025 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Raymond Osemene

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), has advanced its commitment to technology-driven agriculture through a hands-on training programme on automated greenhouse operations for members of staff.

The 2-Day Training, which concluded today, December 16, 2025, was facilitated by the Project Coordinator, Prof. Isaac Aiyelaagbe, alongside Mr. Hilary Michael. The training was designed to equip participants with practical competencies in the safe operation, programming and optimisation of computerised greenhouse systems.

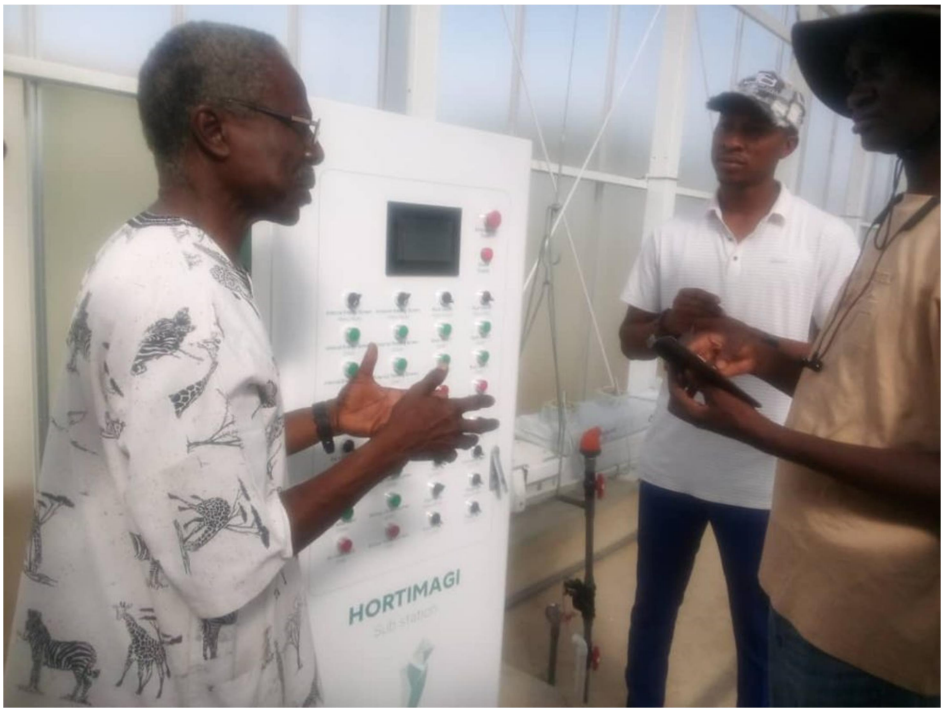


Trainees received detailed instruction on critical operational components, including power supply control, emergency stop functions, screen programming, auto and manual operation modes, as well as sensor override mechanisms. Emphasis was placed on the importance of understanding the system beyond its automated features, particularly in emergency situations or during unexpected shutdowns that could affect plant growth and system efficiency.



The facilitators further explained the integrated functioning of key greenhouse components such as fogging systems, shading nets, ventilation structures, transparent roofing materials and internal climate control mechanisms in regulating temperature and supporting plant health.

Participants were also introduced to the concept of combining multiple control options, described as a “cocktail” of solutions for effective temperature management, with an optimal target of about 29°C identified for improved crop performance.



Discussions equally focused on the roles of light intensity, carbon dioxide (CO_2) enrichment and environmental sensors in enhancing plant physiology and productivity. While some sensors are already installed at the facility, the facilitators stressed the need for additional external instruments to ensure accurate calibration, particularly for crop-specific light measurement.



According to the instructors, a sound knowledge of manual operations remains essential, as over-reliance on automation may limit timely responses to system faults or challenges associated with off-site monitoring. Trainees were therefore, encouraged to actively engage with the system, maintain detailed operational records and understand how programming decisions directly influence greenhouse performance.



Staff members in attendance included Dr. Abiodun Akinbule and Messrs Funso Oladipo, Afolabi Oluwasanmi and Felix Omotosho.

36. FUNAAB Wraps Up Two-Day DIGISOL Digital Innovation Hub Workshop

Published On:
December 16, 2025



Last Updated on December 23, 2025 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

... Showcases Technology-Driven Solutions for Agriculture, SMEs

By Joy Adeyiga

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), today, December 16, 2025, concluded a two-day DIGISOL Digital Innovation Hub Workshop, reinforcing its commitment to leveraging digital technologies and strategic partnerships to drive sustainable agriculture and strengthen Small and m
Medium-scale Enterprises (SMEs).

Speaking at the Closing Ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, who was represented by the Director, Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Development and Sustainable Environment (CEADESE), Prof. Adeboye Fafiolu, urged stakeholders to rethink conventional approaches to achieve more impactful outcomes. He disclosed that FUNAAB has invested significantly in the project and expects innovative outputs that would deliver tangible benefits to society.

He commended the University's approach to research and development through private-sector collaboration, noting that such partnerships were critical for translating academic research into practical solutions that address real-world challenges in agriculture and enterprise development.



DIGISOL Zonal Coordinator, Prof. Adewale Dipeolu delivering his Welcome Address at the event

The two-day workshop was structured to address different participant groups, while the first day focused on foundational engagement, the second day, themed "Digital Innovation Hub and Startups," brought together tech hubs, SMEs, cooperatives, academic institutions, and local authorities. At the closing session, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Umuagwo, Prof. Christopher Eze, highlighted the pivotal role of universities in generating research-driven innovations. He stressed that collaboration with tech hubs and SMEs was essential for transforming research outputs into viable solutions that promote entrepreneurship, sustainable development, and stronger links between academia and industry.

Presenting the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) Dashboard, the Permanent Secretary, Ogun State Ministry of Forestry, Dr. Augustine Oyesanwen, represented by the Management Information System (MIS) Officer, Mr. Adefisayo Adebayo, underscored the dashboard as a digital platform that provides timely, accurate, and transparent agricultural market data, including prices, production, supply, demand, and trade of key commodities. Its interactive features were highlighted as tools for reducing information gaps, minimising price volatility, and improving coordination along the agricultural value chain.

Further discussions on digital innovation in agriculture were led by the Director, Directorate of Innovations and Partnerships (DRIP), Prof. Mutiu Busari. He explained how mobile advisory services, digital extension platforms, and precision agriculture tools are empowering farmers and SMEs with timely information, optimised input use, and climate-smart practices, thereby enhancing productivity, resilience, and sustainability.

The AKILIMO Digital App was presented by the Director, Agricultural Extension Services, Ogun State Agricultural Development Programme (OGADEP), Mr. Olufemi Akinniyi. He described the app as an innovative decision-support tool that provides site-specific recommendations on crop varieties, fertilizer application, planting density, and weed management. According to him, the farmer-friendly

interface supports informed decision-making, reduces production risks, and boosts farm income, contributing to sustainable food systems.

In a presentation on Digital Access and Innovation for SMEs in Ogun State, the Special Adviser, Bureau of Information and Technology, Ogun State, Mrs. Olatundun Adekunte, highlighted how digital platforms are transforming SME operations through expanded market access, streamlined processes, and improved customer engagement. She emphasised that promoting digital literacy and access among SMEs was vital for inclusive growth, economic resilience, and stronger food systems.

Dr. Saidat Onikosi-Aliyu of Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, Kwara State, examined gender perspectives in digital innovation, stressing the need to integrate gender considerations into digital agricultural tools to ensure equitable participation and benefits for women, who play critical roles in farming but often face barriers to accessing technology, finance, and information. She noted that gender-sensitive approaches enhance productivity, strengthen decision-making, and build resilient food systems.

Similarly, Dr. Tajudeen Ajala of Al-Hikmah University presented a Practical Public–Private–Academic–CSO Partnership Model, drawing from best practices in Kwara State. He explained that collaborative frameworks involving government agencies, private sector players, academic institutions, and civil society organisations promote mentorship, capacity building, and access to innovation hubs, thereby strengthening agricultural value chains and fostering inclusive growth.

Earlier, in his Opening Remarks, the Zonal Coordinator of the DIGISOL Project, Prof. Adewale Dipeolu, expressed appreciation to the European Union for its support of inclusive, sustainable, and innovation-driven development. He described Digital Innovation Hubs as platforms for collaboration, experimentation, learning, and scaling of climate-smart solutions that connect farmers, innovators, researchers, policymakers, and investors while remaining responsive to local needs and contexts.

37. FUNAAB Begins 2-Day Training on Computerised Greenhouse Operations

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By Raymond Osemene

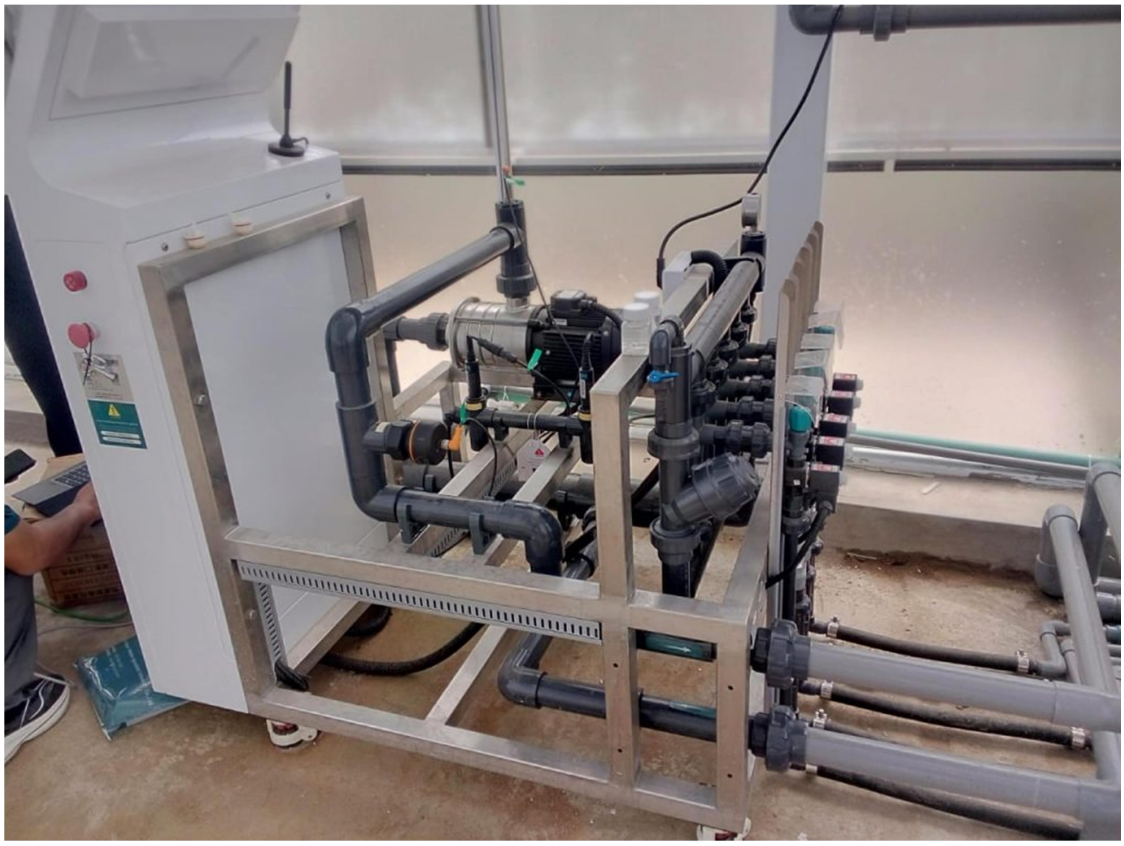
The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), on December 15, 2025, commenced a Two-Day Capacity-Building Training for its staff on the operation and management of computerised greenhouse systems, as part of efforts to strengthen modern agricultural practices within the University.



The training, held at the University's Research Greenhouse facility, was designed to equip trainees with hands-on skills in the use of computerised technologies for efficient vegetable production and cutting-edge agricultural research.



Speaking on the initiative, the Project Coordinator, Prof. Isaac Aiyelaagbe, explained that the training aims to enhance staff competence, promote innovation, and ensure the optimal utilisation of the Research Greenhouse donated by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).



Prof. Aiyelaagbe added that the facility is expected to function as a hub for training, research, and income generation, with proceeds channelled towards its maintenance and sustainable operation. The training continues today.





38. FUNAAB Hosts DIGISOL Workshop to Advance Climate Finance for Small-Scale Agro Enterprises

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By Femi Dansu

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), has reiterated the pivotal role of small-scale agro enterprises in enhancing food security, sustaining rural livelihoods, and driving inclusive economic growth, while stressing the urgent need to strengthen their resilience to the impacts of climate change.

This was underscored at the Opening Session of the 2-Day DIGISOL Workshop on December 15, 2025, a capacity-building initiative focused on exploring sustainable climate finance solutions for small-scale agricultural enterprises.



Declaring the workshop open on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Olusegun Idowu, noted that despite their importance, small-scale agro-enterprises remained highly vulnerable to climate change and are often excluded from conventional financing systems. He explained that sustainable climate finance offers a critical pathway to unlock innovation, enhance resilience, and scale up climate-smart investments across the sector.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, the DIGISOL Project has provided a unique platform for knowledge sharing, capacity development, and collaboration among policymakers, financiers, researchers, practitioners, and agro-entrepreneurs. He expressed confidence that the workshop's interactive sessions would expose participants to innovative financing mechanisms, risk-mitigation strategies, and policy frameworks capable of attracting and sustaining investments in small-scale agro enterprises.



He encouraged participants to engage actively, share experiences, and explore partnerships that would translate deliberations into actionable outcomes capable of strengthening climate resilience, promoting sustainable agriculture, and delivering measurable socio-economic benefits to communities.

Earlier in his address, the DIGISOL Coordinator at FUNAAB, Prof. Adewale Dipeolu, disclosed that the workshop was the third in the DIGISOL series, following earlier editions hosted by the lead partner, the University of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (UAES), Owerri, Imo State, and Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, Kwara State.



Prof. Dipeolu observed that climate change was no longer a distant threat but a present reality with far-reaching implications for agriculture, Nigeria's economic backbone and the primary source of livelihood for millions. He identified challenges such as erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, flooding, and declining soil fertility as major threats to food security and rural incomes. He emphasised that climate finance presents an opportunity to transform agricultural systems through investments in climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land management, renewable energy for agro-processing, improved irrigation, and early-warning technologies.

He, therefore, called for strengthened partnerships among government, academia, the private sector, financial institutions, and development partners to ensure that climate finance effectively reaches farmers, agribusinesses, and rural communities.

Delivering a keynote presentation, a finance expert, Dr. Chinedum Anowuru, spoke on accessing the Green Climate Fund (GCF), explaining that the fund supports farmers in adopting climate-resilient practices that enhance productivity and reduce climate risks. He outlined eligibility requirements and stressed the need for governments to establish Climate-Smart Agriculture frameworks, strengthen institutions, promote digital solutions, and foster strategic collaborations.



Another keynote speaker, Dr. Issa Adeleye, Director of Forestry, Non-Timber Forest Programmes, Wildlife and Ecotourism, Ogun State, spoke on Climate Change and Climate Finance Concepts, emphasising the need to build resilience, attract and efficiently manage climate finance, and achieve a food-secure Ogun State.

In a separate keynote address, Dr. Chikamso Apeh, UAES Youth Expert, spoke on Accessing Agricultural Finance Initiative (AgriFI) and Local Climate Adaptation Living (LoCAL). He urged the government to align financing with climate realities through integrated AgriFI–LoCAL frameworks, invest in youth capacity development, and position Ogun State as a national model for youth-led, climate-resilient agriculture.



From a gender perspective, Prof. Petra Abdulsalam-Saghir, a Gender Specialist at FUNAAB, delivered a presentation titled Exploring Climate Finance Options under EDFI: Accessing AgriFI and LoCAL from a Gender Perspective. She advocated inclusive policies that remove barriers for women and youth, gender-responsive financial products, and locally driven climate finance models, noting that mainstreaming gender enhances the effectiveness and sustainability of climate finance.

Other presentations included sessions on accessing green finance products, such as green loans, grants, and carbon credits by Mr. Aluko Adebowale, State Coordinator and Climate Finance Blending Facilities, focusing on intra-credit products and energy financing, by Mr. Olugbenga Adelana.

The workshop attracted researchers, and academic staff from within and outside FUNAAB.

39. FUNAAB Hosts Maiden International Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture, Champions Global South Innovations

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Last Updated on October 9, 2026 by admin

By Joy Adeyiga

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), today, December 10, 2025, hosted the maiden edition of the International Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture (ICCSA), convening global researchers, policymakers, development partners and practitioners to advance resilient and productive agricultural systems in the face of climate change.

Declaring the conference open, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), Prof. Olawale Dairo, described the gathering as more than a routine academic engagement, but a mission-driven response to the growing threats posed by climate change to food security and livelihoods. He noted that the conference theme, “Advancing Climate-Smart Innovations for Resilient and Productive Agriculture in the Third World,” aptly reflected the urgency of translating research into practical solutions.



A cross-section of participants at the maiden International Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture

Commending the Institute of Food Security, Environmental Resources and Agricultural Research (IFSERAR) for initiating the conference, the Vice-Chancellor emphasised that Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) offers a viable pathway to boosting productivity, strengthening resilience and reducing emissions. He urged participants to engage in open, collaborative discussions capable of generating real-world impact, while also highlighting the strategic importance of the conference in strengthening international partnerships, influencing policy and positioning FUNAAB as a hub for climate-focused innovation.

Delivering the keynote lecture titled "Building a Resilient Agricultural Future," Prof. Ademola Braimoh stressed that the conference was designed to reshape the future of agriculture. According to him, the ultimate goal was to equip farmers not only with hope, but with practical tools and innovations that can sustain food systems amid escalating climate challenges.



The Conference Facilitator, Prof. John Oyedepo giving his remarks at the Opening Ceremony

In a goodwill message on behalf of the Director-General of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet), Mrs. Mutiat Solademi charged participants to become champions of climate-smart

agriculture. She called for stronger policies, increased investment in research and the empowerment of farmers with climate information and adaptive tools, stressing that sustainable agriculture must be both resilient and economically viable for future generations.

Similarly, the Executive Director of the Environmental and Economic Resource Centre (EERC), Dr. Oluwatoyin Adeyanju, represented by the Programme Manager, Mrs. Ronke Adeniyi, highlighted Nigeria's growing exposure to climate risks and the need for long-term food system resilience. She outlined EERC's interventions, including support for strengthened local seed systems in Northern Nigeria, distribution of organic fertilisers and biogas technologies to over 7,000 farmers, and the deployment of the Sapelli digital tool to enhance farmers' access to climate and extension services.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Local Organising Committee (LOC), Prof. John Oyedepo, described ICCSA 2025 as a defining moment for Africa's agricultural future. He explained that the conference was conceived in response to persistent climate-induced challenges such as soil degradation, erratic rainfall, pest infestations and dwindling water resources. He disclosed that activities lined up include keynote lectures, policy dialogues, exhibitions, hands-on demonstrations and technical sessions on regenerative agriculture, precision irrigation, climate finance, digital agriculture, early warning systems and clean energy innovations. He added that ICCSA is expected to become a biennial global event rotating across Africa and other developing regions.



VC's representative and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Development, Prof. Olawale Dairo with some participants and Facilitators after the Opening Session

Welcoming participants, the Director of IFSERAR, Prof. Kazeem Bello, represented by Prof. Tolulope Oyekale, reaffirmed the Institute's leadership in climate-resilient agricultural research. He highlighted flagship initiatives such as the Muturu and Kalawad livestock improvement projects, the Urban Agriculture Project, and the Early Warning and Geospatial Laboratory with satellite data capabilities. He also cited advances in climate-smart crops, including FUNAABOR 1 rice, improved oilseed varieties, aquaculture, biotechnology, remote sensing, drone monitoring and value-chain optimisation, while calling on agritech firms, investors and policymakers to partner with IFSERAR in scaling these innovations.

Overall, presentations at ICCSA 2025 underscored the urgent need for collaboration, innovation and sustained investment to safeguard agricultural productivity under climate pressure. The conference is expected to yield actionable frameworks, cross-border partnerships and climate-smart networks linking researchers, extension systems and farming communities, with technical sessions and exhibitions continuing over the coming days.

40. FUNAAB Strengthens Partnership with Germany as New Consul General Visits

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By Olasunkanmi Olajide & Tofunmi Adebayo

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) has reiterated its commitment to deepening its longstanding collaboration with the Federal Republic of Germany during a working visit by the newly appointed Consul General in Lagos, Mr. Daniel Krull.



The visit, which signalled continuity of the warm relationship established by his predecessor, Mr. Weert Borner, opened new opportunities for joint initiatives in agriculture, renewable energy, technology transfer, and sustainable development.



Prof. Olawale Dairo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), who received the Top Diplomat on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, expressed delight at the visit and reaffirmed FUNAAB's readiness to expand existing partnerships with German institutions. He highlighted the

University's keen interest in solar-powered agricultural systems and small-scale funding opportunities available through the German Embassy.



In his response, Mr. Daniel Krull appreciated FUNAAB for the warm reception and pledged to build on the solid foundation laid by his predecessor. He underscored Germany's expertise in food processing, tropical agriculture, and coffee value chains, while stressing the importance of private-sector involvement in research.



Mr. Krull drew particular attention to innovative research from the University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, on agrivoltaics, the dual use of land for solar energy generation and crop production. He noted that while limited sunlight restricts the technology's effectiveness in Germany, Nigeria's abundant solar radiation makes it highly promising.



“The shade provided by solar panels can reduce heat stress on crops and, in many cases, increase yields in tropical environments,” he explained, pledging support to explore pilot projects at FUNAAB.



In his speech, Prof. Olufemi Ojo, FUNAAB’s Desk Officer for the German Consulate, also reaffirmed the University’s strong institutional memory of cooperation with Germany and guided the delegation through the day’s programme.



Speaking also, the Director of the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Development and Sustainable Environment (CEADESE), Prof. Adeboye Fafiolu described the visit as a welcome continuation of productive German–Nigerian academic ties. He highlighted FUNAAB's pool of German-trained researchers and the University's engineering capabilities, expressing optimism for collaboration in solar farming, equipment donation, technology transfer, and student training programmes.



The working session was followed by guided tours of FUNAAB's solar farm, Greenhouse complex, and the World Bank-supported CEADESE. Researchers engaged directly with the German delegation, identifying concrete areas for future joint projects.



Both parties expressed confidence that the renewed engagement would lead to impactful initiatives that further position FUNAAB as a leader in agricultural innovation and sustainable development in Africa.








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ABEOKUTA (FUNAAB)
OGUN STATE, NIGERIA.








1ST INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE-SMART
THEME
ADVANCING CLIMATE-SMART INNOVATION
FOR A RESILIENT AND PRODUCTIVE
AGRICULTURE IN THE THIRD WORLD"

41. 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.

Pictures are attached below

Credit: Tofunmi Adebayo

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

Published On:
November 13, 2025



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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."



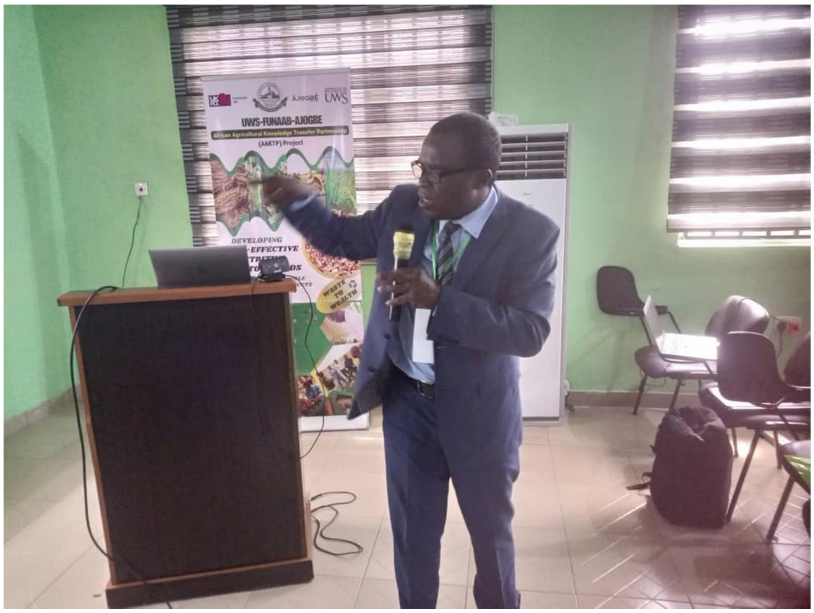
A cross-section of the participants at the workshop

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.