FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA





A - 2025/26 FUNAAB SDG5 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

PREAMBLE

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) is committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goal SDG5, "Gender Equality."

FUNAAB is committed to promoting gender equality by supporting women, children, and youth. The University implements policies and programmes that ensure equal opportunities for all genders.

CONTENT LINK

1. **NAUW-FUNAAB Chapter to Host 2-Day Hybrid International Conference on Sustainable, Equitable Development**

   https://funaab.edu.ng/nauw-funaab-chapter-to-host-2-day-hybrid-international-conference-on-sustainable-equitable-development/
2. **FUNAAB Wins ACM-W Nigeria Women in IT Hackathon**

   https://funaab.edu.ng/funaab-wins-acm-w-nigeria-women-in-it-hackathon/
3. **FUNAAB, ACM-W Celebrate Women in Computing, Advocate Greater Inclusion**
   https://funaab.edu.ng/funaab-acm-w-celebrate-women-in-computing-advocate-greater-inclusion/
4. **FUNAAB Partners Rotary to Equip FUNIS Girls, Others with Menstrual Health Knowledge**
   https://funaab.edu.ng/funaab-partners-rotary-to-equip-funis-girls-others-with-menstrual-health-knowledge/
5. **COLPLANT Holds Maiden Lecture Series on Academic Leadership, Followership**
   https://funaab.edu.ng/colplant-holds-maiden-lecture-series-on-academic-leadership-followership/
6. **FUNAAB Drives Global Push for Women's Inclusion in Science**
   https://funaab.edu.ng/funaab-drives-global-push-for-womens-inclusion-in-science/
7. **FUNAAB Hosts Maiden International Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture, Champions Global South Innovations**
   https://funaab.edu.ng/funaab-hosts-maiden-international-conference-on-climate-smart-agriculture-champions-global-south-innovations/
8. **2-Day Maiden Career Fair Records Huge Success at Closing Ceremony**
   https://funaab.edu.ng/2-day-maiden-career-fair-records-huge-success-at-closing-ceremony/

1. Emerging Technologies Key to Empowering Women, Households, Says Women Affairs Minister

Published On: September 17, 2026



Last Updated on September 19, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

... As 27th HERAN Conference Begins in FUNAAB

By Olaoye Oyewole, Joy Adeyiga & David Johnson

The Honourable Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Hajiya Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, has called for the adoption of effective, technology-driven strategies to strengthen Nigerian families and empower households to respond to emerging social and economic challenges.



The Minister made the call today, September 17, 2026, at the Opening Ceremony of the 27th International Annual Conference of the Home Economics Research Association of Nigeria (HERAN), hosted by the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), with the theme, "Family Empowerment Strategies and Emerging Technologies: Viable Options and Research Imperatives."

Represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mrs. Olufunso Obianu, who also presented the Minister's Keynote Address, Hajiya Sulaiman-Ibrahim described the family as fundamental to societal development, stressing that sustainable national development begins with strong, resilient and empowered households.



She noted that the conference was particularly timely as its theme aligns with the Ministry's focus on family empowerment, especially through the development of effective strategies, supportive policies and appropriate technologies capable of strengthening families and improving household wellbeing.

The Minister emphasised the need for stakeholders to explore emerging technologies as instruments for empowering women, youths and families, while ensuring that technological advancement is matched with research, appropriate policies and responsible application.



Earlier in his Opening Remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, FUNAAB, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Olusegun Idowu, commended HERAN for selecting FUNAAB as host of the 2026 conference, highlighting the growing relevance of innovation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to family and social development, particularly in equipping young adults, youths and women with knowledge and opportunities to thrive in an increasingly technology-driven society.

He urged participants to engage actively in the conference and use the platform to develop practical, research-based interventions capable of addressing contemporary challenges confronting families and society.

In her Address, the Dean, College of Food Science and Human Ecology (COLFHEC), Prof. Adebukunola Omemu, expressed delight at hosting the international gathering, highlighting the College's expertise, facilities and academic resources. She assured participants of the University's hospitality and encouraged them to take advantage of the available support throughout their stay.



In her speech, the President of HERAN, Prof. Priscilla Ezema, appreciated the Management of FUNAAB, COLFHEC, the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and the Local Organising Committee for their contributions towards the successful hosting of the conference.

Prof. Ezema recalled that HERAN was established in 2000, with Prof. Elizabeth Anyakoha as its founding President, noting that the Association had remained committed to promoting professional excellence, research capacity and the advancement of Home Economics and other family-oriented professions.

She described the 2026 conference theme as highly relevant, observing that emerging technologies provide significant opportunities for family empowerment, while simultaneously presenting new challenges requiring research-driven and responsible responses.



Delivering the lead paper, Prof. Kolawole Soyebo examined the imperative of empowering the next generation in a rapidly evolving technological environment. He stressed the need to equip Generation Z and Generation Alpha with relevant knowledge, skills and competencies to navigate emerging opportunities and challenges.

Prof. Soyebo further noted that Home Economics had evolved beyond its traditional perception as a discipline centred on domestic activities, emerging as a dynamic field contributing to empowerment, digital competitiveness, innovation and sustainable development.

A major highlight of the conference was the presentation of awards to the Senator representing Ogun West Senatorial District and the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate for the 2027 Ogun State gubernatorial election, Senator Solomon Olamilekan Adeola (Yayi), CON; Executive Director, Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute (NSPRI), Prof. Lateef Sanni; and the Vice-President of Operations at the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID), Dr. Olagunju Ashimolowo, in recognition of their contributions and achievements.

The conference also featured a cultural presentation by the FUNAAB Theatre Troupe, adding colour and cultural expression to the international gathering.

2. FUNAAB Wins ACM-W Nigeria Women in IT Hackathon

Published On: September 11, 2026



Last Updated on September 14, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) has emerged as the winner of the hackathon organised as part of the ACM-W Nigeria Celebration of Women in Information Technology (IT), further demonstrating the University's growing strength in technology, innovation and digital skills.

The hackathon, which focused on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML) using live datasets, brought together students from leading tertiary institutions across the South-West, including FUNAAB, the University of Ibadan, Osun State University (UNIOSUN), Anchor University, Lagos (AUL), Lead City University, Ibadan, Chrisland University, Abeokuta, Bells University of Technology, Ota, Redeemer's College of Technology and Management, Mowe, and Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso.

At the keenly contested competition, FUNAAB emerged first, with UNIOSUN and AUL finishing second and third, respectively.

The closing and award presentation ceremony was held on September 10, 2026, at the Green Chamber, attracting participants, Academics and technology enthusiasts from participating institutions.

Declaring the University's support for initiatives that promote technological advancement, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, represented by the Director, Directorate of Academic Planning, Prof. Biodun Badmus, commended the Dean of the College of Computing Sciences, Prof. Oluwasefunmi Arogundade, for hosting the programme, as well as the keynote speaker, Prof. Audrey Julia Waleghwa Mbogho of Kenya, and all participants for contributing to its success.

The Vice-Chancellor also highlighted the impact of FUNAAB's solar farm project on the University's operations, noting that improved power supply and campus electrification had strengthened the institution's capacity to support technology-driven initiatives and innovation.

A major highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of awards to outstanding contributors to the celebration. Prof. Mbogho was honoured for her contributions to advancing women's participation in Information Technology.

The organisers also conferred a Distinguished Award of Excellence in Innovation on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kehinde, in recognition of the University's innovative strides, particularly in sustainable campus infrastructure.

The ACM-W Nigeria Celebration of Women in IT has continued to provide a platform for promoting women's participation in technology, nurturing innovation and digital competence, as well as fostering healthy academic competition and collaboration among tertiary institutions.

3. FUNAAB, ACM-W Celebrate Women in Computing, Advocate Greater Inclusion

Published On: September 9, 2026



Last Updated on September 11, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Raymond Osemene

The College of Computing Sciences (COLCOMPS), Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), in collaboration with the Association for Computing Machinery for Women (ACM-W), Nigeria Professional Chapter, has held the maiden Celebration of Women in Information Technology (CWIT), with a call for greater participation and leadership of women in computing and the digital economy.

The conference, which began today, September 9, 2026, at the Green Chamber, was themed "Bridging the Gender Gap in Computing" and brought together Academics, Non-Teaching staff, students, invited schools and other Information and Communication Technology (ICT) stakeholders.



Representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, the Director, Directorate of Academic Planning, Prof. Biodun Badmus, described the theme as timely, noting that computing had become a major force shaping the modern world through developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI), data science, cybersecurity, software engineering, robotics and digital agriculture.

The Vice-Chancellor stressed that closing the gender gap was essential to building an innovative, inclusive and sustainable digital future. He reaffirmed FUNAAB's commitment to academic excellence, research, innovation and entrepreneurship, while calling for practical measures, including mentorship, scholarships, sponsorship, leadership opportunities and stronger industry partnerships, to support women in technology.



Prof. Kehinde further charged stakeholders to make the celebration a platform for sustained collaboration and measurable progress, urging participants to share experiences, build partnerships and develop concrete initiatives capable of increasing women's participation and leadership in computing beyond the event.

In her Welcome Address, the Chairperson of ACM-W, Nigeria Professional Chapter, Prof. Oluwasefunmi Arogundade, said the programme was designed to celebrate women in IT while inspiring young girls and women to consider computing as a viable and rewarding career. Prof. Arogundade, also the Dean, COLCOMPS, noted that although computing had traditionally been perceived as male-dominated, women's creativity, perspectives and skills were increasingly important to technological development and solving societal challenges. She also highlighted ACM-W's role in advancing professional development, research, mentoring and dialogue across academia, industry and the wider computing community.



Delivering the keynote lecture, “Breaking Barriers, Building the Future: Women Leading the Next Digital Revolution,” Prof. Audrey Waleghwa Mbogho of the School of Science and Technology, United States International University-Africa (USIU-Africa), Kenya, observed that women remained substantially underrepresented in technology, particularly in senior leadership and Artificial Intelligence. She said the disparity was not merely a social concern but also an engineering, investment and leadership challenge requiring collective action.

Prof. Mbogho also highlighted Africa’s digital gender gap, particularly among rural women, and called for efforts to expand internet and technology access beyond universities and urban centres. She stressed that improved access to digital technologies and AI could enhance the livelihoods of rural women in agriculture, healthcare, entrepreneurship and other sectors, while urging male entrepreneurs and investors to deliberately create more inclusive technology teams and funding opportunities.



In the second keynote, "AI Innovation and the African Woman," the Chief Executive Officer, Testify Group, Miss Ibironke Yekinni, urged African women to move beyond being consumers of AI to becoming builders, professionals and shapers of AI governance. She identified innovation, ethical regulation, data quality, information governance and the development of African-language technologies as areas where women could play significant roles in shaping the continent's AI future.

The event featured discussions on professional development, networking, mentoring and emerging technologies, with participants encouraged to promote sustained collaboration towards gender inclusion in computing.

4. FUNAAB Partners Rotary to Equip FUNIS Girls, Others with Menstrual Health Knowledge

Published On: March 16, 2026



Last Updated on March 17, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Femi Dansu

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Abeokuta Prestige, has taken a significant step towards addressing menstrual health awareness among young girls through the second phase of the Red Safe Project.

The event, held today, March 13, 2026, at the FUNAAB International School (FUNIS), was designed to empower schoolgirls in Odeda Local Government Area with the knowledge, confidence, and resources needed to manage menstruation with dignity.



Speaking at the Opening Ceremony, the President of the Rotary Club of Abeokuta Prestige, Rtn. Adedayo Ayegbokiki explained that the project was deliberately extended to schools within the Odeda Local Government Area to reach girls in underserved communities. According to him, the theme of the programme, "Empowering Girls with Knowledge and Confidence to Manage Periods Effectively," was carefully chosen to address the silence and misconceptions often associated with adolescent reproductive health.



He noted that limited access to accurate information, societal stigma, and inadequate sanitary materials frequently contribute to school absenteeism and reduced self-confidence among female students.

Rtn. Ayegbokiki stated that the project was designed to tackle these challenges by combining education with practical support, stressing that no girl's education should be disrupted by a natural biological process. He explained that the reusable pads were hygienic, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective, noting that they had been tested and approved by relevant State agencies to ensure their safety and quality.

The programme featured expert-led sessions facilitated by specialists from the University's Agricultural Media Resources and Extension Centre (AMREC). In the first presentation, Dr. Oluwatosin Adeyeye delivered a session on menstrual hygiene management, educating the students on the importance of planning for their menstrual cycles by ensuring access to sanitary pads and maintaining proper personal hygiene.



Similarly, Mrs. Rukayat Abdulsallam addressed issues relating to self-esteem and body confidence, encouraging the students to value themselves based on their character and abilities rather than unrealistic standards often portrayed on social media. She reminded them that being a girl is a source of strength and encouraged the development of positive self-esteem and supportive friendships.

In another session, Dr. Olubukola Idowu spoke on personal safety and boundaries. She also guided the students on tracking their menstrual cycles, proper disposal of sanitary materials, and the importance of hand hygiene, while encouraging them to remain confident and resilient.



A major highlight of the event was the distribution of reusable sanitary pads to 200 senior secondary school girls drawn from four schools: FUNIS, Muslim High School, Isolu; Salawu Abiola Comprehensive High School; and Nawair-ud-Deen Grammar School, Obantoko. The project was implemented in collaboration with international partners, the Rotary Club of Whitburn and the Rotary Club of Livingston, both in Scotland, United Kingdom.

The event attracted notable personalities, including the Director of AMREC, Prof. Jacob Olaoye; Dr. Olamide Adeosun; former Rotary Club President, Mr. Adewole Oduwole; and Chief Jimoh Lateef (Jimlat), among others. The programme also featured interactive sessions, testimonies from participants, and engaging discussions.

5. COLPLANT Holds Maiden Lecture Series on Academic Leadership, Followership

Published On: February 18, 2026



Last Updated on February 19, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Durodola Makinde and Femi Dansu

The College of Plant Science and Crop Production (COLPLANT), today, February 18, 2026, hosted its maiden Lecture Series, marking a historic milestone in the College's academic journey. The event, themed "Complexities of Academic Leadership and Followership: Nexus for Success," brought together staff, students, and distinguished guests for an engaging and intellectually stimulating discourse.

The lecture was delivered by Prof. Francis Abayomi Showemimo, Head of the Department of Plant Breeding and Seed Technology (PBST), who explored the intricate dynamics between leadership and followership within academic institutions.

In his Opening Remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, expressed appreciation to staff and guests for witnessing the lecture. He described the theme as highly germane to both the newly employed and present staff members, stressing its relevance to strengthening institutional systems, enhancing impact, and deepening community engagement.



Former Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ololade Enikuomehin (Right), presenting a plaque to honour the Lecturer, Prof. Francis Showemimo

The Vice-Chancellor urged staff to remain diligent, disciplined, and punctual in the discharge of their duties, encouraging them to lead by example and embrace positive change. According to him, meaningful transformation in Nigeria must begin within institutions such as FUNAAB.

He also acknowledged members of the Abeokuta Club for their presence, noting that their participation had enhanced the University's strong Town-and-Gown relationship. Prof. Kehinde emphasised the need to uphold the legacy of sound leadership and responsible followership established by the University's founding fathers and successive administrations, which has contributed to FUNAAB's strong standing nationally and internationally.

He concluded by challenging staff to project exemplary leadership beyond Nigeria's borders, ensuring that the global academic community continues to recognise the high standards of governance, discipline, and excellence synonymous with FUNAAB.

Earlier in his Welcome Address, the Dean of COLPLANT, Prof. Bolarinwa Senjobi, described the occasion as a historic achievement for the College. While noting that seminar presentations and scholarly engagements have been part of the College's tradition since its early days at the Isale-Igbein campus, he explained that the newly inaugurated Lecture Series represents a structured, management-supported, and formally recognised institutional platform.

Prof. Senjobi revealed that the initiative was first conceived in 2016 during his tenure as Deputy Dean, and was aimed at creating a forum for deep intellectual engagement on leadership, scholarship, policy, and institutional development. He acknowledged that earlier efforts, including proposals by the Pioneer Dean, could not materialise due to logistical constraints. Expressing gratitude to God, University Management, and members of staff for their support, the Dean noted that the realisation of the Lecture Series reflected collective perseverance, patience, and shared purpose.



The former Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ololade Enikuomehin with the Dean, COLPLANT, Prof. Bolarinwa Senjobi and others Deans and Directors, including the Lecturer, Prof. Francis Showemimo after the event

He outlined the objectives of the initiative to include promoting robust intellectual engagement, mentoring emerging academic leaders, strengthening understanding of leadership and followership, fostering unity, and ensuring institutional continuity within the College. He described the theme of the maiden lecture as timely and strategic, emphasising the interdependence of leadership and followership in achieving institutional success.

Delivering the lecture, Prof. Showemimo highlighted that the success of any institution depends largely on the optimal utilisation of resources that are financial, infrastructural, informational, and, most importantly, human capital. He underscored the significance of strong interpersonal relationships, transparency, empathy, and emotional intelligence in fostering institutional growth.

According to him, effective leadership and responsible followership are indispensable in overcoming organisational challenges and achieving set objectives. He further emphasised the importance of structured reward systems, recognition, and mentorship in boosting staff motivation and engagement, advocating deliberate and systematic approaches to leadership development within the University.

Among dignitaries in attendance were the former Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ololade Enikuomehin; Chairman of the Lecture, Prof. Akinola Popoola; Deans and Directors; Heads of Units, staff members of COLPLANT, and other members of the University Community.

6. FUNAAB Drives Global Push for Women's Inclusion in Science

Published On: February 17, 2026



Last Updated on February 18, 2026 by Olasunkanmi Olajide

By Olasunkanmi Olajide, Joy Adeyiga & Raymond Osemene

As a leading institution advancing agricultural innovation and scientific excellence on the African continent, the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) has reinforced its global leadership by hosting the 2026 edition of the Global Women's Breakfast (GWB), a worldwide initiative championing gender equity and collaboration in science.

Held under the theme "Many Voices, One Science," the event convened female Scientists, Academics, researchers, and students from diverse disciplines and institutions, positioning FUNAAB as a dynamic hub for inclusive scientific dialogue in Africa. The gathering emphasised the transformative power of science and the urgent need to ensure that innovation remains representative, equitable, and widely accessible.



Participants and Facilitators with the VC's representative and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Prof. Olusegun Idowu during the GWB 2026 workshop

Addressing the participants, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Olusegun Idowu, highlighted the indispensable contributions of women to scientific advancement, while acknowledging that their work has historically been under-recognised and under-supported. He stressed that meaningful breakthroughs in science and academia are driven not by chance, but by deliberate mentorship, institutional commitment, advocacy, and sustained collaboration.

Reaffirming FUNAAB's strategic vision, the Vice-Chancellor assured participants that the University remains committed to cultivating an ecosystem where women in science can thrive, from students discovering research pathways to early-career scholars navigating academic leadership and established experts shaping global scientific agendas.



VC's representative and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Prof. Olusegun Idowu with Facilitators at the event

The programme was hosted by Prof. Caroline Akinremi, who explained that the Global Women's Breakfast was part of a worldwide initiative inspired by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). She noted that the initiative was aimed at building a vibrant international network of women and allies working collectively to dismantle barriers to gender equality across all STEM disciplines. According to her, the objectives remained consistent: expanding mentorship, strengthening professional networks, providing access to global memberships, and fostering collaborative research platforms for emerging female scientists.

Prof. Akinremi also noted the growing importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other frontier technologies, encouraging participants to embrace innovation while ensuring their perspectives shape technological advancement.



Participants and Facilitators with VC's representative after the event

In her Keynote Lecture titled, "Integrating AI and Machine Learning to Advance Women in STEM" and delivered virtually, Dr. (Engr.) Olusola Abayomi-Alli spotlighted accessible digital learning pathways, including free Python programming courses and supportive technology communities that lower entry barriers for beginners in coding and data science.

She stressed that digital literacy now extends beyond foundational computer skills to encompass data interpretation, statistical reasoning, ethical AI development, and interdisciplinary collaboration, urging participants to seek mentorship in statistics and machine learning, while actively engaging in small-scale, cross-disciplinary projects to build practical expertise.



“Artificial Intelligence is transforming every sector,” she noted. “To apply AI meaningfully in our various fields, we must equip ourselves with the right skills.” Importantly, she warned that technological systems risk reinforcing inequality if diverse voices are excluded from their design and governance. Inclusive participation in AI development, she argued, was not an act of benevolence but a benchmark of excellence, credibility, and innovation.

In her paper presentation titled “Be the Voice that STEM Needs,” the Coordinator, Part-Time Degree Programme, Dr. Enovwo Odjegba charged women to speak up, and lead boldly in any responsibility entrusted into their hands. Likewise, the National Coordinator, Women in Chemistry of Nigeria, Prof. Iheoma Adekunle, represented by the Head, Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Prof. Abideen Adeogun congratulated the women for the bold steps, she noted that women’s voice in science cannot be whisked away as they play a vital role in National Development.

Participants were encouraged to lead conversations, challenge structural barriers, and contribute to the creation of ethical, accurate, and transformative AI solutions.

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

Published On: December 10, 2025



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.

8. 2-Day Maiden Career Fair Records Huge Success at Closing Ceremony

Published On: November 26, 2025



Last Updated on October 9, 2026 by admin

By Olasunkanmi Olajide & Femi Dansu

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) has reaffirmed its standing as a national leader in youth development, innovation, and industry-responsive education as it successfully concluded Day Two of its maiden Skill-Driven Career Fair in partnership with the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and the Skills Development for Youth Employment (SKYE II) Programme, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and implemented in Nigeria by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)

Day Two and Closing Ceremony of the Career Fair, held on November 26, 2025, at the Prof. Oluwafemi Balogun Ceremonial Building, continued to equip final-year students with the necessary skills, industry exposure, and career insights required to thrive beyond graduation.

Representing the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Chairman, Benchmarking and Employability Committee, Prof. Olukayode Akinyemi, the Dean, College of Agricultural Management and Rural Development (COLAMRUD), Prof. Emmanuel Fakoya, encouraged students to maximise the opportunity, describing the Career Fair as a timely platform for enhancing their professional development. He commended the organisers and wished participants fruitful engagements.

Delivering the first keynote address, the General Manager of WAFROEX/GOLDSWARM Ltd, Mr. Abdulrahman Shomala, an alumnus of FUNAAB, spoke on the distinction between a job and a career. Drawing from his personal experiences spanning banking, insurance, and e-commerce, he emphasised that modern career success is driven by curiosity, innovation, and problem-solving rather than credentials alone. He urged students to invest deeply in self-development, explore diverse opportunities, and build purpose-driven careers. Citing The Black Swan by Nassim Taleb, he highlighted the evolving, unpredictable nature of life and encouraged students to think beyond conventional career pathways.

Also speaking, Mr. Godwin Obhiyeghobu, Vocational Training and Labour Market Advisor at GIZ, representing the Component Manager of GIZ – SKYE II, Ms. Svjetlana Djokic, explained that the SKYE II Programme supports partners like FUNAAB in enhancing skills development for youth employability and employment. He encouraged students to engage with industry representatives present, build a network, and develop transferable skills for their career path, understand labour-market realities, and pay attention to global drivers such as technological advancements, demographic shifts, economic trends, and the green transition. He emphasised the importance of educational institutions strengthening cooperation with the private sector and employment service agencies (job centres) to improve graduate employability and labour market participation, contributing to sustainable economic development.

In his presentation, Mr. Olabode Orolu, Managing Director/CEO, Nourished Choice Agro-Allied Foods, described the theme of the Career as a call to narrow the gap between academic knowledge and industry-ready skills. Drawing on over 15 years of experience across technology and agribusiness sectors, he noted that employers now seek problem solvers, innovators, and adaptable young professionals.

In his remarks, Mr. Dimeji Kayode of Assetrise Limited applauded FUNAAB for its leadership role. He noted that the company has successfully merged agriculture and real estate, delivering over three million tubers of yams in four years and managing more than 8,000 hectares of oil palm plantations across four states. He revealed ongoing collaborations with FUNAAB through the Smart Agropreneurship Project (SAP), which has benefited 20 final-year students and three graduates. Assetrise, he added, is seeking to employ 10–20 FUNAAB graduates to support its operations.

The Founder, Rexayo Concepts, Mr. Alli Ayobami, facilitated a session on the "CV Clinic Diet," where he emphasised the need for students to tailor their CVs for remote job opportunities. He stressed the importance of demonstrating independence, communication competence, and relevant digital skills.

Meanwhile, in the students' prototype pitching session, WAFROEX sponsored the first-place prize of ₦200,000 won by Adeboye Oluwagbemiga Kolawole of the Department of Agricultural and Bio-Resources Engineering; Dodopho (Glo) supported the second-place prize of ₦100,000 won by Iyanuoluwa Afolabi of the Department of Soil Science and Land Management; while Nourished Foods funded the third-place prize of ₦80,000 won by Opeifa Sumayya Morenikeji of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics.

The event was attended by over 1,000 students and 20 industries, including the Alternate Chairperson, Employability and Benchmarking Committee and Dean, College of Biosciences (COLBIOS), Prof. Iyabode Kehinde, and her team, as well as industry partners like Alhaji Ibrahim Aliyu, TVET Advisor/State Coordinator, GIZ-SKYE, among others.