

**ACADEMIA/INDUSTRY SYNERGY FOR NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS: RE-ENGINEERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE PALMS AND
SHEA TREE AGRICULTURAL SUB SECTOR OF THE NIGERIA ECONOMY**

Date: 6th August, 2019.

Venue: Igbinedion University Okada

The Vice Chancellor,
Principal Officers,
Members of Senate,
Staff and Students of Igbinedion University Okada,
All Invited Guests to this Occasion,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

**ADDRESS DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE IGBINEDION UNIVERSITY
OKADA RESEARCH DAY BY THE AG. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO NIGERIAN
INSTITUTE FOR OIL PALM RESEARCH (NIFOR) BENIN CITY, NIGERIAN**

The Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) is proud to be associated with Igbinedion University Okada on the part of advancing research for development in our country. The benefits of this RESEARCH DAY concept as conceived and implemented by the University are quit enormous. One outstanding dividend is the exposition of indigenous and local content research findings for Industrial application.

NIFOR was founded in 1939 when it was then known as the Oil Palm Research Station (OPRS). The institute has the mandate to conduct research for development in the following crops : Oil Palm, Coconut, Date Palm, Raphia and Shea Tree.

Over the years, NIFOR has achieved giants strides through its committed research scientists with the use of both indigenous and acquired technologies.

Achievements

Notable achievements include:

- Extensive germplasm collections which have been planted in gene pools at the Main Station and the Substations
- Varieties developed from breeding programmes and distributed to farmers
- Large scale seed germination which facilitate nursery establishment and production of planting materials. In the special case of Shea, grafting and budding techniques have been developed.
- In vitro multiplication of oil palm and date palm
- Sustainable agronomic packages for nursery establishment and field planting for the different crops
- Fertilizer and soils management recommendations
- Major pests and diseases have been identified with control measures proffered including integrated pest management control packages
- A large number of machines and tools for processing, prime among which is the world famous small scale processing equipment for oil palm processing
- A growing number of end users of the products of these commodities with very significant value addition
- Establishment of demonstration plots at various locations and organization of farmers as well as processing groups.
- Production and distribution of 9Million sprouted seeds in the Agricultural Transformation Agender (ATA) Programme of the Federal Government

These achievements have contributed to the development and enhancement of the Agricultural sector of the Nigerian Economy.

However, with Dwindling Financial resources available to research, coupled with attendant Fast growth in applied sciences and innovative technology, there is need to collaborate with the academia in the Universities. This synergy will ensure the wise use of limited financial resources and optimization of manpower proficiency.

Areas of joint research collaboration/synergy between NIFOR and IUO for re-engineering of the palms and Shea Tree Agricultural sub-sector of Nigeria's economy Include

- **Plant Breeding/ Molecular Biology**
- **Biotechnology and Tissue Culture**

- **Soils and Land Management**
- **Plantations Establishment and Agronomic best Practices**
- **Value addition and Product Development**
- **Extension and Economics**
- **Oil Processing Equipment**
- **Climate change and Modelling for Improved Crop Production.**
- **Plant Pathology**
- **Entomology**
- **Mechanized Harvesting Techniques**
- **Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing**
- **Agricultural Investment Portfolio Management**

The Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) is very willing to Partner with Igbinedion University Okada, Nigerians Foremost private University in the areas of research for development just highlighted. Together we can re-engineer the palm and Shea Tree Industry for economic development, employment and wealth creation and with creation and National Security

Thank you.

Dr. C.E. Ikuenobe
AG. Executive Director/CEO,
Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR)
Benin City, Nigeria.