



UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT

# FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

## BIANNUAL REPORT 2024



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### EVENTS LED BY THE FACULTY/DEAN'S OFFICE

The Dean's office, on behalf of the Faculty, participated in various activities in the first half of the year as presented below.

#### Deanship Election

The Faculty of Agriculture held its Deanship election on 24 January 2024. Professor U.E Udensi of the Department of Crop and Soil Science was elected as the 7th Substantive Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture after a keenly contested deanship election. The outgoing Dean, Prof. Ibisime Etela expressed his gratitude to the entire staff of the faculty of Agriculture for their cooperation with him while in the office and pledged his support to the incoming Dean, Prof. U.E Udensi. In his acceptance speech, Prof Udensi promised to give the Faculty of Agriculture a facelift in all ramifications and operate an open-door policy where everyone will be carried along with the affairs of the faculty.



The immediate past Dean (Prof Ibisimi Etela) handing over to the new Dean (Prof Udensi E. Udensi) and a group photo of the DVC, Academic with the Staff of the Faculty

#### Courtesy Visit to the Vice Chancellor of the University

Sequel to the election and formal appointment, the new Dean of the Faculty in the person of Prof Udensi E. Udensi along with the Heads of Department and other members of the Faculty Management paid a courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor (Prof Owunari Abraham Georgewill) on Friday 9th February 2024 at the CBN Centre of Excellence, Abuja Park.

## DEAN'S CORNER

*On behalf of the entire staff and students of the Faculty of Agriculture UNIPORT, it is my honour and privilege to welcome you to this maiden edition of the Faculty of Agriculture Biannual Report Volume 1, Issue 1. Here in Agric. UNIPORT, we are a team, where everyone is given opportunity to make a difference.*

*Our unique programs combine the core disciplines of agriculture that oversees production, with economics and agribusiness management of it, innovative extension delivery method for technology transfer, as well value-addition and nutritional components of our products. Our classes include lively discussions around current issues as well as hands-on learning in the classroom, the lab and the field, giving one a practical experience and a competitive advantage heading into careers on a local, national and global scale.*

*The report summarises key events that took place across the Departments of the Faculty. The report showcases the faculty's commitment to the University's mission and contribution to societal development.*

- Prof U. E. Udensi



Photo of courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor by the Dean, Prof Udensi E. Udensi and his team.



### Participation in Exhibition

The Faculty participated in the exhibition activity of 34th convocation ceremony of the university that held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 at the Convocation Arena of the University. The exhibition showcased the Faculty's research and innovative outputs in promoting the University's innovative and entrepreneurial nature.



Photo of the Dean and Staff at the exhibition of 34th convocation ceremony of the university on 22 February, 2024.

### Donation of a Mobile Farm Truck by the Faculty of Engineering

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, 2024, the Dean and some members of staff were at the Senate building to receive a mobile farm truck that was donated by the Faculty of Engineering. The truck was handed over by the Vice Chancellor of the University to the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. The Vice Chancellor charged the Dean and his team to make good use of the truck and ensure it served the purpose for which it was donated. In responding to the kind gesture, the Dean expressed his delight and appreciation on behalf of the Faculty and promising the Vice Chancellor that the Faculty would strive to ensure the efficient use of the truck.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof Owunari Georgewill receives the donated mobile farm truck designed and produced by the Faculty of Engineering and hands it over to the Faculty of Agriculture to enhance farm operational activities such as the movement of farm produce from the farm to required destination.

### Faculty of Agriculture Inter-Departmental Sports

The maiden edition of the Faculty of Agriculture inter-departmental games was held on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at the university of Port Harcourt. The various departments competed keenly in several sporting events. The exciting event had the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Udensi E. Udensi, in attendance, along with other lecturers, including Prof. A.T. Ibim, and Drs H. E Henry, B.U Akpoilih and I. C Davies (Fisheries). Others at the event were Prof J. O. Orluchukwu and Dr Henry Anozie, both of Crop and Soil Science Department, as well as Mr Samuel U. Nwokugha of the Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness Management.



Photo of the Dean, staff and students at the maiden faculty inter-department games held 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

#### **FACULTY FARM**

The activities of the farm are based on the respective farm units: However, the Faculty teaching and research farm provides a place of internships for students of the Faculty and elsewhere (within and outside the University) on Industrial Trainings. In the period under review, the farm hosted 26 students from the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology (PSB) and six students from the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology (AEB), University of Port Harcourt. These industrial trainee students are posted to relevant units of the teaching and research farm and work for a period of six months.

**Crop/Soil Unit** - 0.3 hectares were prepared and cassava /maize intercrop established. Also, a total of 0.2ha was used to establish vegetables and spices (turmeric, ginger, *telfairia spp*, okra and *Amaranthus*). 2700 nylon bags were planted with ornamental plants. 150 industrial trainees (I.T) students were trained in crop and ornamental production.

**Arboretum Unit** - Staff in the unit were trained on "plantation establishment and management". A total of 53 forest seedlings were planted to replace dead stands at the Arboretum.

**Livestock Unit** – Planting of fodder crops, especially guinea grass (*Panicum maxim*) were in progress. In order to enhance the nutrition of the pigs, blood meal have been introduced in the feeding of the pigs.

**Poultry Unit** – 153 industrial trainees (I.T) and B. Agric. students were trained on day old chicks sourcing and brooding, broiler stocking, feed formulations, processing, packaging, health management and vaccination exercises. Twenty-two final year and post graduate students of Animal Science started research experiments in the Units, 8 are at present ongoing, 14 have concluded their research work in this period. A total of 1066 birds were involved in the experiments.

**Forest Nursery Unit** - 38 third year students of the Forestry and Wildlife Management Department were trained on air layering plant propagation method. A total of 36 forest seedlings were raised consisting of *Mangifera indica*, *Irvingia gabonensis* *Donmettia trimetela*, *Annona squamosa* and *Arto earpus* and *carnans*.

**Mushroom Unit** - 120 industrial trainee (I.T.) students were trained on various stages of mushroom cultivation including tissue culture preparation, grain sterilization, substrate preparation, inoculation and colonization amongst others.

**Extension Outreach Unit** - The Unit conducted students from three schools on excursion to the respective units of the teaching and research farm. A total of 123 students and 11 teachers visited the Teaching and Research Farm.

The schools were Wise Heart International Academy, Eliozu, Port Harcourt, UDPS University of Port Harcourt and Ogedi International School Elioparanwo, Port Harcourt.



Secondary school students on excursion visit to the faculty farm

### **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management is currently headed by Prof. Adanna Henri-Ukoha. The following key events were recorded at the department in the period under review.

#### **External Examination for Final Year (U2017) Students**

The research project defense by U2017 final year students was held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2024. It was successfully held without glitches. The external assessor examined 41 undergraduate students. The examiner was highly impressed with the students' research outcomes and commended the students and their supervisors for their hard work towards the quality of research output.

#### **Initiation of International Collaboration**

Dr Zelda Omasanuwa was awarded as Cooperation Partnership by the German Research Foundation (DFG) in a research grant for research project on "Adoption of digital tools by African farmers for sustainable intensification of cropping systems: A case study of Nigeria". Dr Omasanuwa together with her project partners from Germany and Ghana organized a 3-day exploratory workshop with stakeholders (farmers, ministries, academics and industry) on 9-11 January 2024 at the ACE-CEFOR, University of Port Harcourt. The workshop featured group discussions, lectures and questions and answers interactive sessions. The main aim of the research was to investigate the adoption of digital tools by farmers using a case study of Nigeria.

It was noted during the workshop: that digitization of agriculture is a must for Africa and particularly for Nigeria, to achieve and sustain food security; utilization of digital tools is a major pathway for sustainable intensification of African agriculture; data was considered key for AI, but data repository in Nigeria is very poor due to numerous factors. Also, due to the existence of high variability within and across locations, available data must be big and long term if the benefits of AI are to be harnessed. More so, it is important for indigenous taxonomy and knowledge to be factored into the development of AI apps. Thus, involving farmers in data gathering is very essential for the availability of robust data for efficiency of AI usage. Consequently, there is need to enlighten and encourage farmers to participate in data collection through the provision of incentives.



Dr Fatima Lehnhardt, Zelda Omasanuwa and other members of research team visited the Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Development, University of Port Harcourt on 9 January before the commencement of the 3-day workshop.



Group photo of participants on first day of workshop held at the African Centre of Excellence, Centre for Oilfield Chemicals Research, University of Port Harcourt.



Cross section of participants at the workshop on adoption of digital tools by African farmers for sustainable intensification of cropping systems.

### Postgraduate Examinations

Post graduate MSc post data presentation was held on 31/01/2024. Two candidates successfully presented the field report of their research.

### Board meeting and undergraduate examinations

The departmental board meeting was held on January 17, 2024 to discuss issues relating to the process and programmes in the department.

The second semester examinations for undergraduate 200 level students for 2022-2023 academic session commenced on 08/02/2024 and lasted for two weeks.

On 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, an emergency departmental board meeting was held to inform members on the impending NUC Resource verification exercise for Undergraduate Agricultural Economics Programme for proper take off of the B. Agric degree programme.

### Agribusiness Workshop

An Agribusiness workshop was organized on the 27-28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 at the Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness Management, University of Port Harcourt. A total of 68 participants were in attendance on day one excluding students and 66 persons on day two excluding students. Groups and organizations that participated included:

- 1 International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
- Jeodia Nig Limited (Customized farm machinery equipment)
- Bank of Agriculture (BoA)
- Ministry of Agriculture (Federal or State?)
- Agricultural Development Programme (ADP)
- Zenith Bank
- SMEDAM
- ACE equipment Company
- Livestock / Crop farmers
- Farm organizations and private farms
- Researchers from institutions
- Federal Directorate for Youth Employment and Development
- Students and students' association and clubs
- Media (NTA)
- Friends of the Departments, etc.

*Workshop programme of activities;*

*Day 1:* The workshop, which started on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024, was chaired by Dr. Igwe Richardson Okechukwu. A welcome address was delivered by Prof. U.E. Udensi, the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. The Head of Department, Professor Adanna Henri-Ukoha also read an address to welcome participants into the Second in the Series of Agribusiness Workshops of the Department. Dr. Okechukwu presented the keynote address titled: "The need for smart technologies in agribusiness value chain". He stated that there are great potentials in Nigeria agriculture space because; the nation is blessed with 84 million hectares of arable land with only about 4% of it is under cultivation. He emphasized that value chain (agribusiness) begins with research, inputs suppliers, producers, processors, distribution to the last retail shop.

Another speaker at the event, Engr. Reginald Fienemika (MNSC) made a presentation on "Applications of Industry 4.0 digital tools in Smart Agribusiness value chain and expanding e-marketing frontiers in online platforms". He noted that developed countries have made significant progress in the adoption of technology in task execution in most of the sectors of their economy. According to Engr. Fienemika, application of such tools as internet of things, artificial intelligence technologies, robots, drones, among others are now visibly seen doing tasks originally meant for humans. This application could also be adopted in all the agribusiness value chain activities for greater productivity.

The representative of SMEDAN, Engr. Egbuna Iloba, in his goodwill message presented different opportunities for agribusiness owners in Nigeria and encouraged participants to visit their office in Port Harcourt. He promised further collaborations with the Department to improve income level of farmers, especially, women through training opportunities that are now available for women. Also, the representative of Jeodia Nig Ltd gave a presentation titled: "Driving agribusiness in Africa using Bricoe cost effective / customized smart machineries for sustainable productivity and growth". He showcased several customized farm equipment that farmers can use to boost their productivity thereby achieving food security in Nigeria. Representatives of the Bank of Agriculture and Zenith Bank PLC explained various funding opportunities that, farmers and agribusiness owners could access to expand and improve their businesses

After the presentations, awards were handed out in appreciation of those who were instrumental to the success story of the Department. The awardees included Prof. Owunari A. Georgewill, the 9<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor, University of Port Harcourt for his Excellent Leadership; Prof. Ndowa E. S. Lale, the 8<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor, University of Port Harcourt for his Passionate Leadership; Prof. Ibisime Etela, the Immediate Past Dean – Faculty of Agriculture for his Excellent Leadership and for his roles in supporting the vision of establishing the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management, and Engr. Precious Agwu, a friend of the Department who was recognized as a Unique Ambassador.

At the end of handing out the awards, the Unique Agribusiness Club was inaugurated by the representative of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Udensi E. Udensi who inaugurated the new club alongside the pioneer club executives. Thereafter, there was an interactive session, which involved experience sharing by participants including resource persons and researchers. Crop and livestock farmers, livestock producers and farm produce distributors shared both their positive and negative experiences.

*Day 2:* The second day of the workshop featured smart alternative livestock and poultry feed formulation. The resource person, Dr. Julius Ingweye, exposed participants to smart alternative methods of preparing healthy and safe feeds for fish and poultry to reduce cost of feed, which accounts for about 70% the total cost of production. Practical sessions featured sourcing, measurement and combination of different feed nutrients for healthy fish and poultry growth. Questions, contributions and responses were taken by the resource persons and participants. In addition, a representative of ACE Agri Equipment Company made a presentation and showcased various improved and indigenous automated livestock equipment available for production of livestock feeds. The company is newly established in Port Harcourt, is already making great impacts within the environs and very willing to collaborate with the Faculty of Agriculture.

In her closing remarks, the Chairman Agribusiness Workshop Committee, Prof. Mercy E. Ndubueze-Ogaraku expressed appreciations to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Abraham Owunari Georgewill, for supporting the hosting of the agribusiness workshop, the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture for all his support, Prof Ibisimie Etela, the immediate past Dean of the faculty for supporting the vision of the Department, Prof. Adanna Henri-Ukoha, the Head, Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness Management for the unrelenting efforts in actualizing the successful workshop. Appreciation was also extended to Joedia Farm Machinery Equipment for partnering with the Department and offering financial support and other stakeholders and the organizing committee for their commitment and participation.

The Department held a board meeting on March 7th, 2024 for the approval of outstanding results. It is worthy of note that the Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness Management recorded huge success in various activities undertaken because of the cooperation and support from staff and students.



Photo gallery of the Agribusiness Workshop 2024



Cross Section of Participants in the Agribusiness Workshop 2024 including the Unique Agribusiness Club, University of Port Harcourt



The Head of Department, Dr A. Henri-Ukoha making a presentation at a workshop on climate resilient modelling in a workshop organized by GIZ at Abuja on May 29, 2024.



Professor Mercy Ebere Ndubueze-Ogaraku and Professor Brilliant Agaviezor were Resource Persons for One day capacity building workshop on data analysis for the National Association of Academic Technologist (NAAT) Rivers State University on June 11, 2024. Highlights included; importance of data analysis skill in doing scientific research. Participants were taught on how to collect data, sort, arrange and analyze. Various applications in SPSS were deeply demonstrated and hands in practical experience was achieved. Interactive session was fruitful, as participants applied knowledge acquired in using SPSS tools in solving descriptive statistical problems, simple correlation, one-way Anova, simple regression analysis.

Career talk programme - The Department held a career talk programme at the University Demonstration Secondary School on 14 June, 2024.



The Head of Department and staff at the University demonstration secondary school



Emergency meeting of the Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness Management held on 16/06/2024 to consider the document of CCMAS curriculum for the year U2024 set for inclusion in their curriculum.

Community Development Outreach (Career Talk and Quiz) programme - In pursuance of zero hunger as part of 17 SDG- goals, the Department in partnership with the Nigerian Women in Agricultural Research and Development (NIWARD) Rivers State Chapter organized career talks and quiz competitions among various schools across the city. The first of the outreach programme held at the Community Secondary School Omuwhechi, Aluu, Ikwerre LGA, Port Harcourt on Tuesday 25th June, 2024. The programme featured career talk led by the Director of Regional Aquaculture and Oceanography, Aluu, Dr. Ebi Ansa, others included Prof. Adanna Henri-Ukoha, Prof. Mercy Ndbueze-Ogaraku and Dr V.C. Ugwuja who anchored the quiz competition. It was a successful outing.



Community Secondary School Omuwhechi, Aluu, Ikwerre LGA

Furthermore, the Department, on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024, embarked on career talk for sensitization and reorientation of mindset of vibrant youths on career opportunities in Agriculture. The following schools were visited; Community Secondary School Rumuapara Port Harcourt, Redeemer International Secondary School and Jephthah Comprehensive Secondary School. Highlights include; Importance of Agriculture in achieving SGDs, need for sustainable food production and safe career opportunities.



Community Secondary School Rumuapara Port Harcourt



Redeemer International Secondary School, Port Harcourt



Jephthah Comprehensive Secondary School

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

The Head of Department during the period under review was Dr. A. I. Emodi whose tenure ended in May, 2024 and Dr. Clara C. Ifeanyi-obi was appointed as the Head of Department. The chronicle of activities that occurred in the Department of Agricultural Extension are as presented. The Department engaged in various academic and administrative activities which has ensured the smooth running and improved visibility for the Department and University of Port Harcourt.

### Examinations

January 8 – 15, 2024: The Department ensured a successful conduct of the Second Semester Exams for 200 Level students during the period of 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, January.

### Awards/Invitations/Recognitions for International and National Scholarly Meetings



March 11-22, 2024: Dr C. C. Ifeanyi-obi was an invited speaker at a Side Event organized on the margins of the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68), in New York, USA, From March 11- 22, 2024. During the event, she shared her experiences in fostering gender responsiveness in climate change adaptation interventions and policies and as well attracted collaborators to her ongoing Policy Innovation Project which is targeted to developing a framework to track and access implementation of gender commitments in climate change related policies in the agricultural sector.



Dr C.C. Ifeanyi-Obi at 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) in New York, USA, From 11<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.

### Workshops and Society Meetings

**February 13-15:** Prof O. M Adesope facilitated, a LIFE-ND Project on Digital Literacy and Adoption of Digital Technologies for Youths in Agro-Enterprise Value Chain (trained youths of the Niger Delta) from 13 to 15 February 2024 at Yenagoa, Bayelsa State

**February 22, 2024:** Dr. C. C. Ifeanyi-Obi upon successful completion of the Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) grant activities in December 2023, was awarded an Add-on Grant of £10,000 BPS by same funder in January 2024 to further mainstream gender into Climate Smart Agricultural Advisory Services. Activities marking the Add-on grant were implemented in February 2024. Topical among them was a One-day Climate Smart training workshop for rural women and youths' farmers in Rivers and Enugu state targeted to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of these farmers on innovative crop and soil management practices for climate change adaptation. This was held at the Emerald Energy Institute, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State and Enugu North Local Government Headquarters, Enugu State on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2024. The training was done in collaboration with the Nigeria Meteorological Agency, International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA Onne Station) and the faculty. Through this activity, the climate resilience of over 200 rural women and Youths was strengthened. The training also gave birth to 12 rural women climate smart groups.



February 22, 2024: Climate Resilience Training for Women and Youth in Rivers State, Nigeria.

**February 28<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024:** Prof O. M. Adesope facilitated LIFE-ND Project on Digital Literacy and Adoption of Digital Technologies for Youths in Agro-Enterprise Value Chain (trained youths of the Niger Delta) at Prestige HOTEL, Benin City, Edo State.

**March 21-23, 2024:** Prof O. M. Adesope participated in the development of survey tool for the socio-economic study of Ogoniland, Nigeria. Strategic meeting which was organized by Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) for the Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria.

#### **Appointment of a New Head of Department**

Dr Clara C. C. Ifeanyi-Obi was appointed as the Head of Department (HoD) by the Vice Chancellor, Prof Owunari Georgewill. She took over from Dr Angela I. Emodi who was the pioneering HoD and who oversaw the successful birthing of the newly established department and whose tenure ended on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, 2024.

The Head of Department, Dr Ifeanyi-Obi noted that the Department of Agricultural Extension and Development Studies is a new department and by God's leadership and Staff commitment, it has been kept on the path of steady growth.

## DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE

The Head of Department of Animal Science during the period under review is Prof. Anthonia Ukanwoko.

### **Chronicles of activities**

January 8<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> - continuation of the 2021/2022 & 2022/2023 2nd semester examinations.

January 17<sup>th</sup> - External Examination for Final Year students (U2017 set).

January 18<sup>th</sup> - Appointment of Prof. Brilliant Ogagaoghene Agaviezor as the Director of the ODeL Centre, University of Port Harcourt. The appointment was effective from February 5, 2024.

January 24<sup>th</sup> - Sabbatical appointment of Prof. M. B. Nodu from the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island. Bayelsa State.

February 1<sup>st</sup> - Oral interviews to assess and recommend 5 PhD candidates for admission.

February 13<sup>th</sup> - External Examination for a PhD student and two Masters students: Ndukwu Edwin C (Pioneer PhD Graduate), Aboaja Chinwe R, and Chinwendu Jonadab C.

March 4<sup>th</sup> - Commencement of SIWES activities for 400L IT students.

March 6<sup>th</sup> - Investment in IT Poultry birds (first batch).

March 7<sup>th</sup> - Departmental Student's Project Proposal (Pre-data) presentation for 500L students.

March 13<sup>th</sup> - 71st Faculty Board Meeting.

March 23<sup>rd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> - The Department participated in the Nigerian Society for Animal Production (NSAP) Conference that held at the University of Ibadan.

March 29<sup>th</sup> – The Department paid a condolence visit to the family of Late Dr A. A. Lamidi at Badagry, Lagos State.

April 16<sup>th</sup> - The Department had a successful Year One Orientation Programme for 2023/2024 Freshers and also had an emergency Departmental Board meeting for consideration of 2023/2024 First Semester Continuous Assessment

April 18<sup>th</sup> - We attended the 72nd Emergency Faculty of Agriculture Board Meeting on consideration of 2023/2024 first Semester Continuous Assessment.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> - Departmental Appraisal/Promotion Exercise was held in the Department with all appraised colleagues (Dr. J. N. Ingweye for Professorial cadre, Mr. B. V. Iriso, Mrs. I. C. Adje and Mrs. A. A. Ere-Richard for Lecturer II cadre) successful.

April 26<sup>th</sup> - The Department received a Notification letter of the readiness of Nigerian Institute of animal Science (NIAS) to come to the Department for Professional Resource Verification visit.

May 2<sup>nd</sup> - We concluded the first batch of the Students' Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) Poultry Production

May 6<sup>th</sup> - The department began 2023/2024 First Semester Examination alongside other Department and faculties in University of Port Harcourt

May 7<sup>th</sup> - Departmental Accreditation Committee with Prof. F. O. Ajayi as the Chairman was constituted to help get the Department ready for Professional Resource Verification

May 22<sup>nd</sup> - Birthday celebrant in the Month of May was Prof L. A. F Akinola



Prof L. A. F Akinola

June 7<sup>th</sup> – The Department concluded 2023/2024 First semester Examination

June 15<sup>th</sup> – A staff of the Department (Prof. M. O. Ironkwe) currently the Commissioner for Agriculture in Abia State was appointed as Board Member, Governing Council, Federal University of Technology Owerri.

June 26<sup>th</sup> - Birthday celebrants for the Month of June (Mr. B. V. Iriso – June 4<sup>th</sup> and Prof. B. O. Agaviezor – June 26<sup>th</sup>).



Mr. B. V. Iriso



Prof. B. O. Agaviezor

### **DEPARTMENT OF CROP AND SOIL SCIENCE**

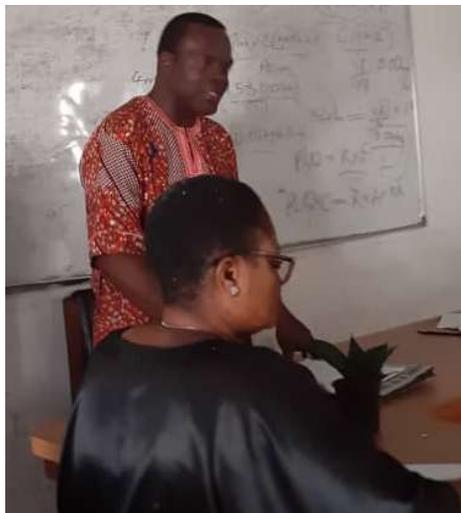
This report from Department of Crop and Soil Science (CSS) summarizes the overall activities that took place within the period under review at the Department of Crop and Soil Science to ensure hitch-free academic and administrative activities therein.

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2024 - Appointment of new Head of Department**

The incumbent Vice Chancellor of University of Port Harcourt, Professor Owunari Abraham Georgewill, appointed Professor A. A. Tanimola as the new Head of the Department. The immediate past HoD, Prof. E.I, Hamadina; expressed her gratitude for the opportunity given to her to serve and pledged her support to the newly appointed HoD in various capacities.



Prof. Hamadina, outgoing HoD, gives the handover documents to incoming HoD, Prof.A.A Tanimola.



Prof. A. A Tanimola, new HoD makes his acceptance speech after the handover exercises

**24<sup>th</sup> January, 2024: Professor U. E. Udensi of Department of Crop and Soil Science emergd the 7<sup>th</sup> Substantive Dean, Faculty of Agriculture**

Professor U. E Udensi of the Department of Crop and Soil Science was elected as the 7<sup>th</sup> Substantive Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture after a keenly contested deanship election.



Prof Ibisime Etela, (R) outgoing Dean hands over the documents to the incoming Dean, Prof U.E Udensi of CSS.

**26<sup>th</sup> January, 2024: Undergraduate Students' external Project Defense**

The students' undergraduate Project works for 2021/2022 academic session were examined by two External Examiners, namely Prof John Nkeruwem (Soil Science option) of University of Calabar, Cross Rivers State and Prof. D. T. Gungula (Crop Protection and Crop Production options respectively) of University of Modibbo, Yola, Adamawa State. The academic exercise was very successful and the examiners commended both the students and the Staff for the jobs well done. Furthermore, the Examiners made their observations and corrections to improve the students' work.



The two External Examiners flanked by the immediate past HoD and incumbent HoD.  
L-R: Prof J. Nkerewum, Prof E. I. Hamadina, Prof T. D. Gungula and Prof A. A. Tanimola

**29<sup>th</sup> January, 2024: Professor J. A. Orluchukwu of the Department of CSS was appointed as a member, Senate Business Committee**

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Owunari Abraham Georgewill, approved the reconstitution of the Senate Business Committee (SBC) of the University of Port Harcourt. Consequently, the Vice Chancellor appointed Prof. J. A. Orluchukwu of Department of CSS, as a member of the committee among others under the headship of Professor Onyemachi Udumukwu of the Department of English Studies. The appointment which takes immediate effect is for two (2) years in the first instance. Furthermore, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Georgewill congratulated the appointees and wished them well on their new assignment.



Professor Orluchukwu appointed as a member of Senate Business Committee of university of Port Harcourt

**15<sup>th</sup> February, 2024: Post-Graduate Pre-Field Seminar Presentation**

Needam, Great, a PhD student under the supervision of Dr O. J. Kamalu presented his Pre-field data proposal titled "Digital soil mapping and land evaluation of Tai area of Rivers State, Nigeria". Inputs, questions and corrections were taken to boost the quality of the project. Dr V. C. Okereke who chaired the occasion implored the presenter to effect all the necessary corrections and observations made in the course of his presentation. The HoD, Prof A. A. Tanimola expressed his gratitude to staffs who witnessed the presentation and advised students in attendance to improve their work using the latest acquired knowledge.



Post Graduate pre-field presentation by Mr. Needam

**23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2024: Convocation Ceremony**

Members of the CSS Department actively participated in the convocation ceremony. Graduands from the Departments were celebrated for such great life achievement.



Members of the Department celebrating convocation with one their graduands. L-R – Mr A. Alex (Dept of FWL), Mr M.E Ikiriko, Mr John Onoka (Graduand), Prof. A.A Tanimola and Prof. J.A Orluchukwu

**12<sup>th</sup> March, 2024: Matriculation Ceremony**

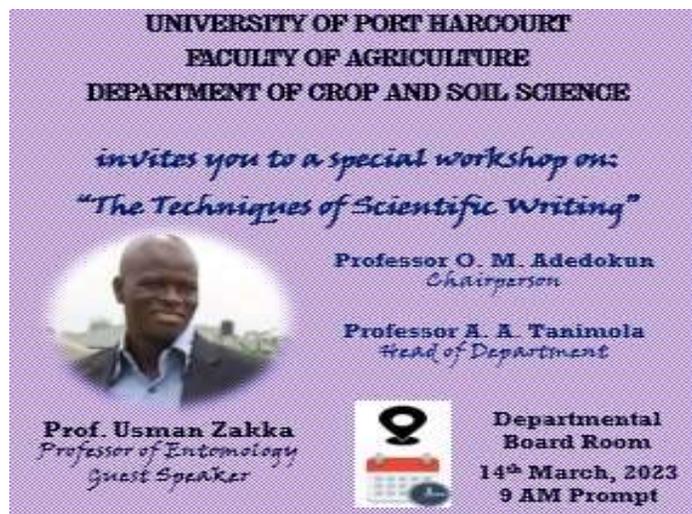
The staff of the Department joined the university community to mark the Matriculation ceremony.



Members of the Department in active participation of the Matriculation. L-R – Prof U. Zakka, Prof J.A Orluchukwu, Prof U.E Udensi (Dean), Prof G.E Omokhua (Dept of FWL) and Prof A.A Tanimola (HoD)

#### 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2024: Special Workshop/Training by Prof. U. Zakka

Prof. Usman Zakka presented a workshop/training titled "The Techniques of scientific writing" for undergraduate students to improve their writing skills. Prof. O. M. Adedokun chaired the occasion and she encouraged the students to improve their academic writing skills using the knowledge gained from the workshop. The training was very interactive and expository. Inputs, questions and observations were taken from attendees to demystify scientific writing among students and Researchers.



Workshop/Training by Prof U. Zakka

#### 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2024: Post-Graduate Pre-Field Presentation

Mrs Ogba, Chinonyelum Somtochukwu, a PhD student under the supervision of Dr A. Efiusue made a pre-field presentation titled "Genetic and heritability study of proteins in *Oryza sativa* under saline stressed conditions". Prof A. O. Asimiea who chaired the occasion implored the presenter to effect all the necessary corrections and observations made in the course of her presentation. The HoD, Prof A. A. Tanimola expressed his gratitude to staffs who witnessed the presentation and advised other Students in attendance to improve their work using the latest acquired knowledge.

University of Port Harcourt  
Faculty of Agriculture  
Department of Crop and Soil Science

# GRADUATE SEMINAR PRESENTATION

Presenter:  
OGBA, CHINOMYELUM  
SOMTOCHUKWU



Host: Prof. A. I. Asimiea (Chairman,  
Departmental Graduate Studies  
committee).

Chief Host: Prof. A. A. Tanimola (Head  
of Department).

Ph.D. PRE-FIELD PRESENTATION

Topic:  
Genetic and heritability study of  
proteins in *Oryza Sativa* and under  
saline stressed conditions.

Thursday, 14th March, 2024  
9 am  
Departmental board  
room

Your presence to contribute to  
knowledge will be highly appreciated

info.cass@uniport.edu.ng

Post Graduate pre-field presentation by Mrs Ogba

### 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2024: Special Workshop/Training by Prof. A. A. Tanimola

Prof. A. A. Tanimola held a workshop/training titled "Electronic Library Resources" for the undergraduate students to improve the quality of their research. Prof. J. A. Orluchukwu chaired the session and he encouraged the students to improve their academic writing skills using the knowledge gained from the workshop. The training was very interactive and expository. Inputs, questions and observations were taken from attendees to demystify electronic library usage among students and Researchers.



Prof A.A Tanimola after the workshop session

### 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2024: Non-Thesis Seminar Presentation

The U2018 sets of undergraduates took to stage and presented their non-thesis seminar. Inputs, questions and corrections were taken to improve their presentation skills. The HoD, Prof A. A. Tanimola, expressed his gratitude to all members of staff who graced the occasion and implore the students to improve their work using the lasted acquired knowledge.

### 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024: Students of CSS Department won the second position in Dean's Cup Games

The students from the CSS Department took overall second position in Dean's Cup organized for entire Departments in Faculty of Agriculture. The trophy was brought to the Department by the president of CASSA, Mr Arinze Owunna and his executives while the Students' Adviser, Dr H. I. Anozie ushered them into the office of the HoD. The HoD

expressed his gratitude to both the students who participated in the games, the executives and the Students' Adviser for a collective job well done.



The Students of CSS present their trophy to the HoD, Prof. A.A. Tanimola. L – R, 2<sup>nd</sup>; CASSA President Mr Arinze, 3<sup>rd</sup> HoD, Prof A. A. Tanimola, 4<sup>th</sup> Director of Sports, Mr Sunday Ebimo; 5<sup>th</sup> Students Adviser, Dr H.I Anozie

The Head of Department, Prof Tanimola noted that the Department demonstrated a strong commitment to academic excellence and administrative efficiency within the period under review.

### **DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES**

These key activities summarise the events which defined the activities that took place in the Department and are listed thus;

#### **Final year Project defence (25<sup>th</sup> January, 2024)**

The final year students of the U2017 set had their project defence successfully. A total of 34 students, comprising of five males and 29 females, were assessed and scored by the external supervisor, Professor F. G. Bob-Manuel from the Ignatius Ajuru University, Rumuolumeni, Rivers State. All the lecturers from the Departments were also present during the examination which took place in the conference room of the Fisheries Department.

#### **Selection of Dr H. E. Henry and Dr I. C. Davies for R4I Abuja (4-15<sup>th</sup>, March, 2024)**

The Fisheries Department was pleased to announce the selection of two of her staff members to participate at a two-week research for impact (R4I) at the innovation hub, FCT Abuja from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2024. Reacting to the news of the lecturers' selection for the training, an elated Vice Chancellor, University of Port Harcourt, Prof Owunari Georgewill, was optimistic that the lecturers, will positively impact the university through knowledge transfer to other members of staff and students to accelerate innovative research that can be commercialised for the growth of the university and the benefit of the society upon their return from the training.



From right, Dr H. E. Dienye, Dr.. I. C. Davies standing with some participants at the innovation hub, venue of the 2-week training (4<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March, 2024) on Research for impact (R4I), FCT, Abuja).

### First Faculty of Agriculture Inter-Departmental Sports (March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024)

The students of the Department of Fisheries emerged crown winners of the maiden edition of the Faculty of Agriculture Inter-Departmental Games while the Departments of Crop and Soil Science and Agricultural Economics and Extension (now defunct) emerged as the first and second runners up, respectively.



Students of the Fisheries Department in a celebrating mood after winning the maiden edition of the Inter Departmental sporting events, which held at the University of Port Harcourt Sports Complex on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2024



Prof A. T. Ibim (immediate past HOD, Fisheries) delivering her lecture, which explores the various areas fisheries experts are engaged in the Nigerian society.



Cross section of the newly-admitted students listening to the lecture by Prof A.T Ibim



Dr IC Davies delivering a lecture to the newly admitted students of Fisheries Department



A cross-section of Postgraduate students at the orientation for newly admitted student in the Department of Fisheries

**Commencement of 2022/2023 first semester examination (6th May, 2024)**

The first semester exam for all undergraduate students in the Department commenced on the 6th of May, 2024, beginning with Aquatic Toxicology (FSH 508.1), a final year course.



Some final students of U2018 set taking their first semester examinations during the 2022/2023 academic session

**Assumption of Headship of the Fisheries Department by Dr S.A. Nwafili (11th June, 2024)**

Dr S. A. Nwafili assumed office as the new Head of Department (HoD) after the completion of the two-year tenure of Prof. A.T. Ibim. In the first board meeting of the department, Dr Nwafili, while appreciating the out-gone HoD for putting him through on areas he needed clarifications as well as her commitment and dedication during her tenure, he assured members of staff that with their support he would lead the department to greater heights.



Prof A.T. Ibim (left) handing over the headship of the Fisheries Department to Dr S.A. Nwafili

**Appointment of Miss Doris Chibanya OLUMATI as Academic Staff (11th June, 2024)**

Miss Doris Chibanya Olumati, a first class graduate of the U2015 set (2019/2020) of the Department of Fisheries was among the newly employed academic staff by the university. She was employed as a Graduate Assistant.



Miss Chibanya Olumati present at the Department of Fisheries Board meeting marking the commencement of the 2022/2023 academic session

**Commencement of SIWES Programme for U2018 Set (May 21, 2024)**

The year 4 students of the Department commence their SIWES training at the Aqua Green Integrated service fish farm initiative (AGI), Eneka, Port Harcourt. The Departmental SIWES coordinator led the students on the visit to the innovative aquaculture facility. The visiting team was led by the host, Dr Yusuf Momoh to tour the farm and the students took some practical lessons on fish breeding, fish processing and pond management.



Students of the U2019 set (during their industrial training at the AquaGreen Integrated Farming initiative, AGI) in a group photograph (above), and with some of them posing with the facilitator of the training and director of AGI, Dr, Yusuf Momoh (below).

### **Other activities**

#### **Meeting of Accreditation Committee of the Fisheries Department**

The Committee headed by Prof Nene A. Jamabo was set up to plan for the upcoming accreditation of the undergraduate programme of the Department. The Committee met on 24<sup>th</sup> June and 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 and on both occasions, deliberated on the progress made so far regarding available resources in the various units including laboratory, library, and the fish farm.

#### **Departmental board for the consideration of first semester results (22nd July, 2024)**

The first semester result of 2022/ 2023 academic session was deliberated upon and submissions from the lecturers that taught the 15 courses for the semester were considered and approved.

In summary, the Department of Fisheries is poised to make giant strides in the coming days, weeks and months ahead.

### **DEPARTMENT OF FOOD, NUTRITION AND HOME SCIENCE**

The Head of Department of Food, Nutrition and Food Science (FNHS) is Prof M. O. Ifeanacho.

#### **Semester Examinations**

The semester commenced on January 8, 2024 with the year two examinations, which were conducted seamlessly. All invigilators were diligent in ensuring that the examinations went smoothly. This milestone marked the beginning of a productive Academic Journey for our students.

#### **Course Allocations and Board Meetings**

On January 11, 2024, the Head of Department of FNHS Prof M. O. Ifeanacho released both soft and hard copies of the course allocation for 1st and 2nd semester of the 2023/2024 Academic session. This timely release enabled our esteemed lecturers to prepare and deliver comprehensive lectures. The Department continues to maintain strong commitment to academic excellence. Lecturers are actively involved in teaching, research and community service.

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024: The year three Home Science students engaged in hands on practical sessions, exploring various recipes and cooking techniques. students were equipped with culinary skills and understanding of nutritional values. Students learned fundamental cooking methods, gained valuable experience in food preparation, cooking techniques and team work which was in line with their course titled "Food Preparation II" (HEM 301).



Samples of dishes prepared by the students with Dr. Onoriode Odehwoho Salomi on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



Students with Dr. Nwakanma, Chidiebere Immaculeta on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024



Students learning how to use labour saving devices in the laboratory on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### **Inauguration of the Association of Students of FNHS**

The Department of Food, Nutrition and Home Science **student union** held its inauguration on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at F.N.H.S. Hall. Ten students were sworn into office to help pilot the affairs of the Union. The inauguration brought together students, staff and lecturers to share ideas on how to progress in the Department and University at large. The Head of Department, Prof. Mercy O. Ifeanchio, gave the opening remarks, welcoming the new students and setting the tone for the Department's future growth and success. The new Departmental Students' President by name Michael A. Chisom also gave a speech at the event.



Ten students were elected and sworn into the office on Friday, March 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2024. The elected students were administered oath of office the same day.

**Participation in the Programme of the Home Economics Professional Association of Nigeria**

The Home Economics Professional Association of Nigeria held a program on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024, with the theme “Home Economics” the solution to present Socio-Economic and Digital Technology Challenges. In line with this great event, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education Department of Home Economic Hospitality and Tourism celebrated World Home Economics’ Day on 25<sup>th</sup> March and invited the Department of Food, Nutrition and Home Science, Faculty of Agriculture University of Port Harcourt. The HOD, some lectures and 30 students attended the occasion. The collaboration was great with activities like exhibition and others showcasing different skills and accomplishments enabling our students to acquire sound knowledge and hospitality skills. There were also cultural performance and entertainment.



Prof. Mercy O. Ifeanacho together with other lecturers and staff of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024



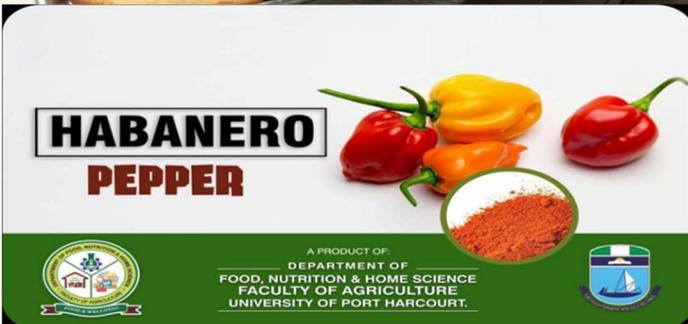
Dr. Nwakanma C. I. with some F.N.H.S students at Ignatuis Ajuru university of Education on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> march 2024. Students at the exhibition ground being excited.



The Vice Chancellor University of Port Harcourt Prof. Owanari Abraham Georgewill with Dr. Wilson Orunaboka during convocation week (exhibition ceremony) held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024



Food, Nutrition and Home Science products showcased at the exhibition held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024.



### Community Service

The year two students of the Department of Food, Nutrition and Home science on Saturday 18th May, 2024 participated in a Community Service. The event was a resounding success, with over eighty-five students joining forces with other Departments to tackle various tasks aimed at improving the environment. Students cleaned up litter and debris, clear grasses, planted beautiful flowers and filled pot holes in the Department's surrounding grounds. The event also demonstrated the University's commitment to social responsibility and community development.



Year two students of the Department of FNHS carrying out community service

### DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the activities, events, and academic progress within the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management for the first half of the year.

#### Semester Examinations

200 Level Second Semester Exams: These exams commenced on January 8, 2024.

#### Undergraduate Project Defense and Seminars

Project Submission and External Examination: The examination for undergraduate projects for the 2021/2022 session was scheduled for January 25, 2024, with most students submitting on time. One student was granted an extension under specific conditions.

Seminar Presentations: The department conducted seminar courses (FWL 500.2 on January 16, 2024 and post-field seminar presentations.

#### Postgraduate Activities

Post-Field Seminar Presentation was held on February 14, 2024.

PhD Graduations: The Department graduated two PhD students in Wildlife Management and Ecotourism on February 15, 2024. Pre-Field Seminar Presentation was scheduled for May 2, 2024 and PhD Candidate Interview for May 3, 2024.

### **Staff Promotion and Appointments:**

New SIWES Coordinator: Mr Alex was appointed as the new SIWES coordinator of the department of Forestry and Wildlife Management on February 5, 2024. The outgoing coordinator, Dr. Efenakpo O.D., ensured a smooth transition and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

Dr F.S. Eguakun was reappointed as the Examination Officer.

Prof G. E. Omokua was appointed by the Executive Governor of Edo State as the Chairman of the Edo State Forestry Board.

### **Student Field Trip**

The 400 Level Students went on field trip to Calabar from March 4, 2024, to April 20, 2024. The field trip provides students with practical experience in their field of study.

### **Matriculation Ceremony**

Professors of the Department participated in the matriculation ceremony which held on March 12, 2024.

### **Year One Student Orientation:**

The Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Port Harcourt held her year one Orientation for the U2023 set on 30th May 2023 at the Faculty of Agriculture Board Room.

The HoD of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Dr U. D. Chima gave the opening remark and welcomed students and staff present to the occasion emphasizing the need for the orientation. Prof A. Aiyeloja, the Pioneer HoD and current Head of Forest Economics and Management, educated the students about the history, philosophy, mandate and vision of the department since its inception. Dr F. S. Eguakun, the Examination officer explained the key requirements for admission and graduation to the students. Dr U. D. Chima talked on code of conduct of the University of Port Harcourt. Mr A. Alex talked on the career prospects in Forestry and Wildlife Management. Success stories and good will messages were received from Alumni of the department of Forestry and Wildlife Management in Nigeria and abroad. The following Alumni among others sent good will messages;

- Faith Enimie (United Kingdom)
- Kogbara Damilola (Akwa-Ibom)
- Festus Omuemu (Bayelsa)
- Onajite Okagbare (Cross River)
- Akah Praise (United Kingdom)

In the questions and answers section, students asked crucial questions which bordered on issues such as how to tackle challenges from course registration, advisers and supervisors. Questions and concerns raised by the students were well-addressed by the Head of Department and other staff present. The occasion concluded with HoD commending students and staff for being part of the orientation.

### **University Appointments of Faculty Staff in the Departments**

Dr. Funmilayo S. Eguakun was on June 19, 2024, appointed Acting Head of the Department after the tenure of Dr. U. D. Chima ended.

Dr. U. D. Chima was appointed Acting Executive Director University of Port Harcourt Foundation by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Prof. Owunari Georgewill.

### **Postgraduate activities**

On June 13, 2024, Dr Nwakaego Chijioke and Dr Ekpa Nsiong Ette successfully defended their PhD theses in Wildlife Management and Ecotourism, and Forest Measurements and Biometrics, respectively. Additionally, Mrs Chichedo Ijeoma Duru successfully defended her MSc dissertation in Silviculture and Forest Biology.

### **Staff and Departmental Meetings**

Academic Board Meeting held on March 11, 2024, addressing key issues like ratifications, semester results, accreditation, departmental demerging, and continuation of studies. Also, the department joined in the faculty board meeting conducted on March 13, 2024, discussing overall faculty progress and plans. The department held a Scheduled meeting on May 3, 2024, including staff appraisal and PhD candidate interviews and joined in the faculty

board appraisal scheduled on May 15, 2024. The department participated in the emergency faculty board held on June 21, 2024, to discuss the decision on CCMAS Courses - AGG 102 & AGG 112.

**Miscellaneous**

Staff Profile Database Update: The University of Port Harcourt, via the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor responsible for Research and Development, initiated an update of its staff profile database to ensure accurate records. Faculty and Department members were requested to submit their details via a Google Form by May 31, 2024.

Faculty A&PC Conversion Interview Meeting: Department Members of the Faculty A&PC joined the Scheduled meeting for June 14, 2024, to address faculty conversion interviews.

**Inference:** The Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management has shown a strong commitment to academic excellence and administrative efficiency over the past quarter. Despite challenges with postgraduate allowances, the department successfully conducted essential academic activities and maintained student engagement through seminars and field trips. The collaborative efforts of staff and students have been pivotal in achieving these outcomes.

**Conclusion –**

In the period under review, the Faculty of Agriculture as shown in the report witnessed lots of academic activities, grant awards, research uptakes and outreach programmes, training workshop participation in conferences and academic events, as well as community service and engagements. Notably, collaboration among other researchers and institutions and support from staff and management were key in the achievements recorded during the period.

**The report is compiled by:**

- Prof. Mercy E. Ndubueze-Ogaraku (Committee Chair) - Agric Economics & Agribusiness Management
- Dr. Uzoamaka.I. Akwiwu - Agric Extension & Development Studies
- Mrs Abigail A. Ere-Richard - Animal Science
- Dr Henry Alozie - Crop & Soil Science
- Dr. Benjamin Akpoilih - Fisheries
- Dr. Chidiebere I. Nwakanma - Food, Nutrition and Home Science
- Dr. Ogaga D. Efenakpo (Secretary) - Forestry and Wildlife Management

**Edited by:**

- Prof Udensi E. Udensi - Dean
- Dr Zelda A. Omasanuwa - Associate Dean

# FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

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