



UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

BIANNUAL REPORT 2024



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DEAN'S STATEMENT



The report highlights key events and progress that shaped the Faculty, during the period under review. It is choreographed in seven sections that define our entrepreneurial Departments. Aligned with the University goal, the Faculty's strategic direction has focused tremendously on driving excellence in teaching & learning, research, and community development through outreach programmes, innovation, fostering collaboration, and ensuring the sustainability of faculty activities. During this period, significant progress was made in promoting interdisciplinary research, exchange and linkage programmes, strengthening partnership, and creating an enabling environment for research. Our priority as a faculty, hinges on innovative teaching and learning- and societal impact. Our scholarly engagement with governments, national agencies, academia (national and international) and the public, have been instrumental in shaping our initiatives and writing our successes.

Other noteworthy endeavours that spiced up our activities in the period under review, included webinars, array of workshops, seminars and networking events by the various Departments. These endeavours equipped participants with necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in the vibrant innovation ecosystem. In order to increase our visibility, we restored the Faculty website with a secured connection (<https://agric.uniport.edu.ng>), and it is on for our use. During this period, we were also privileged, to receive the Chairman of the University of Port Harcourt Governing Council (UPGC), Senator Mao Oluabunwa (PhD) and other council members in company of the University Management, led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Owunari Abraham Georgewill, on the Governing Council tour of University Facilities. On this visit, the Chairman, UGC, challenged the Faculty, to key into the drive to achieve food security and stamp out hunger (SDG1), by embarking on large-scale production to take care of the need of the University Community, with respect to rice production. To strengthen the task he bestowed on us, we were privileged to have him ask us to submit a proposal to that effect.

The partnership and collaborations forged, greatly facilitated innovations, knowledge exchange, thus leading to individual and our collective growth in the Faculty. As the Faculty continues to navigate in difficult economic times, we must remain steadfast in our commitments to prudent management of resources. The Faculty recognizes the importance of capacity building and staff development; hence we prioritise training and development opportunities for both academic and non-academic staffers.

Looking ahead, the Faculty will continue to strengthen its relationship with the University Management, promote interdisciplinary collaborations, and foster inclusivity and diversity in research and development. Similarly, we acknowledge the challenges before us, including the reduction in funding higher education and students' enrolment that negatively affect our spending on teaching, research, certain level of infrastructure and innovation drives.

Concluding, the Faculty would like to thank the University Management, under the leadership of our amiable Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Abraham Georgewill for the contributions to the growth of the Faculty. I am extremely proud of the achievements and events that characterized the year, 2024. It is through collective efforts with all Departments, and our stakeholders that we can make significant strides in our mission, working towards a prosperous and knowledge-driven UNIPORT. With this report, I express my optimism for the future of the Faculty.

Thank you for your continued commitment and collaboration as we strive to contribute to the prosperity and well-being of the Faculty and its staffers, through our steadfast commitment to research and innovation.

Professor Udensi E. Udensi



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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 second half of year 2024 (July – December) as presented below.

July 8th, 2024: Staff Physical Verification Exercise

The Faculty of Agriculture participated in a comprehensive staff physical verification exercise. The mandatory exercise, aimed at updating personnel records, required academic and non-academic staff to present original documentation including ID cards, appointment letters, confirmation letters and promotion letters. This verification is crucial for maintaining accurate staff records and ensuring efficient workforce management.

July 26th, 2024: Faculty Lecture Series

The poster is green and white. At the top is the Faculty of Agriculture logo and text: 'FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE' and 'CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO HER'. Below this is the main title '6TH FACULTY LECTURE SERIES' in large green letters. To the right, the topic is 'TOURISM AND WILDLIFE AT CROSSROADS'. In the center, a box contains the date '26TH JULY, 2024' and time '10AM'. Below that, the location is '@FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, BOARD ROOM, UNIVERSITY PARK'. At the bottom, there are two boxes: 'Host: Prof. Udensi E. Udensi, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture' and 'Chairman: Prof. Henry M. Ijeomah, Faculty Academic Planning Committee'. On the right side, there is a portrait of Prof. Henry M. Ijeomah in academic regalia, with his name and credentials below it: 'PROF. HENRY MMAADUABUCHE IJEOMAH, BSc. & Agriculture, MSc. PhD. Masters, MEd, PhD. Clinical Nutrition, Nutrition, MPhil, PhD. (Honorary) University of Agriculture & Forestry, 2012'.

Prof. H.M. Ijeomah, a seasoned Professor of Wildlife and Ecotourism Management of the Department of Environmental Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Port Harcourt delivered the 6th Faculty Lecture Series titled "Tourism and Wildlife at a Crossroads". The event took place in the Faculty of Agriculture Board Room, with a notable presence of esteemed individuals. The event attracted a high-profile audience, including the Chairman of the occasion, Prof. Ijeomah's lecture effectively addressed the critical intersection of tourism and wildlife, its plethora of economic benefits, challenges and the way forward captivating the audience and enhancing their understanding of the intricate relationship between these two domains. The lecture was succinctly delivered, leaving the audience enriched with profound knowledge on the subject while also giving an insight into the interplay of tourism and wildlife which consequently left a lasting impact on attendees.



Cross section of guests at the 6th Faculty Lecture Series held on July 26th, 2024. The 9th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Prof. Owunari A. Georgewill, was ably represented by Prof. I. Siminialayi, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Development. Also present were the Dean, Prof. U.E. Udensi, past Deans including Prof. E.S. Erondu and Prof. M.I. Godwin-Egein, the Faculty Officer, various Heads of Departments, distinguished professors, lecturers, non-teaching staff, guests, and students.

August 22nd, 2024: Visit to the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)

The Dean and some staff of the Faculty paid a scheduled visit to the NDDC Directorate of Agriculture and Aquaculture. The meeting which was facilitated by Prof. M. I. Godwin-Egein afforded the opportunity to discuss with the directorate on possible areas of collaboration and potential funding support for the Faculty.



At the left is the Director, Agriculture and Fisheries NDDC, Mrs. Madume Winifred C. (PhD) and on the right are group photos of the visiting Faculty of Agriculture team with the Director and some senior members of staff.



The Faculty delegates to the NDDC. Starting from the far left is Prof. M. I. Godwin-Egein, Prof. Adanna Henri-Ukoha, Prof. U.E. Udensi (Dean), Dr. Zelda Omasanuwa and Prof. J. Orluchukwu.

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September 30th, 2024: Team Agriculture to the ASUU Games 2024 Visits Dean

The Dean welcomed Team Agriculture when they visited to present the trophy won at the ASUU Games 2024. They also won individuals medals in various events and categories. The Team made the faculty proud by their impressive outing.



The Dean receiving the trophy worn at the ASUU Games from Team Agriculture at his office.

November 7th, 2024: Governing Council Visit

Tour of the University of Port Harcourt Governing Council (UPGC) to the Faculty of Agriculture took place on Thursday 7th November 2024. The tour was a resounding success paving the way for enhanced communication, dialogue and knowledge sharing. The Faculty was asked to start producing assorted quality products for consumers, and was charged by the Chairman of Council, to embark on commercial level production of their commodity enterprises.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Owunari Abraham Georgewill (top left) introducing the visitor and the Chairman UPGC, Senator Mao Oluabunwa, PhD, and the purpose of the visit. The Chairman, UPGC (top middle and right) addressing members of the Faculty. Below is a cross-section of the faculty members at the meeting.

November 19th – 20th, 2024: Agriculture Week 2024

The event organized by the Faculty of Agriculture was held at the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. The theme of the event was " Food and Nutrition Security in Nigeria: Rights to food for better life and better future". It aligned with the United Nations 2024 World Food Celebration theme of right to food for better life. The agriculture week programme featured lectures, interactive sessions, exhibitions, networking and collaboration among stakeholders in agriculture. It was inspiring having diverse participants such as researchers and policy makers from academia, industry, private businesses and government actively engaged in brainstorming on the best innovative pathways that will lead to sustainable food systems for food security in Nigeria. We believe that the application of knowledge gained will contribute to improving food security in our society. The Agriculture Week event highlighted:

**UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT
PORT HARCOURT**

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE
Cordially invites you to her

2024 AGRICULTURE WEEK

Theme:

**"FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN NIGERIA:
RIGHTS TO FOOD FOR BETTER LIFE
AND BETTER FUTURE"**

FEATURES: "LECTURES" "INTERACTIVE SESSIONS" "EXHIBITIONS & LOTS MORE."



Prof. Owanari A. Georgewill
Vice-Chancellor
(Chief Host)



Prof. U.E. Udensi
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture
(Host)



Prof. A.T. Ibin
(Chairman, Local Organizing Committee)



Dr. Taiwo Ghadcho Alahi
CEO Agro-vet Konsult, Rivers State
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DATE	VENUE	TIME
19th-20th NOV.,2024	Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, Abuja Campus, UniPort,	9.00am Prompt



- Cutting-edge research and technologies in agriculture
- Entrepreneurial initiatives in food processing and production
- Best practices in sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship
- Collaborations between academia, industry, and government

By bringing together students, researchers, farmers, policymakers, and industry experts, the Faculty of Agriculture reinforced its commitment to advancing agriculture and ensuring a food-secure future."



Agric Week Photo gallery. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Owanari Abraham Georgewill at Ebitimi Banningo Hall, where he declared the Agric Week, 2024, and its exhibitions open (Day 1, November 19, 2024).

November 21st, 2024: University of Port Harcourt Faculty of Agriculture Alumni Association Executives Inaugurated

In honour of the celebration, the Faculty of Agriculture Alumni organized a virtual training on Hydroponic farming after which the Alumni Excos were inaugurated into office.



Meet the Executives of the University of Port Harcourt Faculty of Agriculture Alumni Association (UPFAAA)
The President, Dennis Deinma Bipialaka (5th from right), National Secretary, Dr. Davies Ibienebo Chris (6th from right), National Financial Secretary, Joan Favour Onyeaghornim (3rd from right), National PRO, Jane Chinwenwa Nwachukwu (1st from left) and National Treasurer, Cynthia Ezefulukwe (2nd from left).

Faculty Board Meetings

During the period under review, the Board convened four meetings from August to December 2024. This consisted of two emergencies, and two regular board meetings (see table). These meetings serve as crucial platforms for the faculty to deliberate and make decisions regarding various matters, ensuring effective governance and strategic direction for the Faculty.

Furthermore, the Board engaged in constructive discussions and provides approval for several vital documents and policies. It is worthy of note that during the period under review, key approvals were granted that addressed significant issues.

Board meetings scheduled August to December 2024

Date	Edition	Category
5 th August	74 th	Regular
20 th September	75 th	Emergency
25 th November	76 th	Regular
9 th December	77 th	Emergency

Faculty Committees

The Faculty operates partly through committees, to facilitate certain activities, and mostly through staffers bestowed with designated responsibilities. This is to ensure effective governance and oversight. The Faculty has fifteen (15) committees, and all the committees performed creditably within this period. However, Annual Report and Newsletter Production, NUC Accreditation, ICT, Agric. Week/World Food Day and Welfare, were the Committees whose activities peaked at this period. They performed marvelously and recorded great success. I must commend the leaderships and members of these committees for their stellar performance, in the midst of several hurdles especially, the Agric Week/World Food Day Committee, with Prof. A.T. Ibim as the Chairperson.

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Furthering Collaboration and Partnership: July 16, 2024 - December, 2024

July 16th, 2024: The Dean received 15 copies of ADAN Journal, for distribution to the Departments, the Faculty Library, and the University Library, courtesy of the former Dean, Prof. Ibisime Etela.

August 12th-16th, 2024: Ruforum Triennial Conference



The Dean, Prof. U.E. Udensi participated at the 02ND Ruforum Triennial Conference, 12-16 August 2024, Windhoek, Namibia, with “Theme: Operationalizing Higher Agricultural Education and Research Ecosystems for Innovation, Industrialization and Economic Development in Africa. A call for Action”. L to R (A) the Dean, Prof. U.E. Udensi at the Exhibition Centre, and (B) A cross-section of participants at the opening ceremony on the 12th of August, 2024, with the Dean, seated (second row, First seat); (C) R to L: Prof. U.E. Udensi (Dean, Agric., UNIPOINT), Dr. Julius Ingweye (Agric., UNIPOINT), Prof. Folasade Ajayi (Agric., UNIPOINT), Prof. Ibisime Etela (Former, Dean, Agric. UNIPOINT), Dr. Blessing Odogwu (PSB, UNIPOINT), and other participants from Nigeria.

October 11th, 2024: A copy of ASUU Journal of Science was received, courtesy of ASUU UNIPOINT.

October 16th, 2024: Executive members of National Association of Agriculture Student, UNIPOINT visited the Dean.



Presentation of cheque to the National Association of Agriculture Students, UNIPOINT Chapter, in support of the hosting of their National Conference (Photo: L to R: Prof. J. Orlichukwu (Students' Advisor), Ms. Precious Okafor (NAAS, President UNIPOINT), Mr. Tokoni (Immediate Past, NAAS President), Prof. U.E. Udensi (Dean, Agric.), Immediate Past National President, NAASS), Mr. Barikpo, Nwikiri (Faculty Finance Officer) and Mr. Peter Jorbedon (Ag. Faculty Officer).

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October 16th, 2024: Meeting with Contac Global Nigeria Limited, to forge area of mutual interest and collaboration.



R to L: Mr Barikpoa (Faculty Finance Officer), Member of Contec Global Agro. Ltd, Dr. Dipankur Maini (Assistant Director, Contec Global Agro Ltd., PH), Dean, Prof. U.E. Udensi, a Rep of Contec Global (India), Prof. Chidi (AEB, UNIPOINT), an Officer of Contac Global and Mr. Peter Jorbedon (Ag. Faculty Officer).

October 30th, 2024: The Dean, Prof. U. E. Udensi, receiving three copies of the journal, Agricultural Economics and Extension Research Studies (AGEERS), for the Faculty Library, from the Managing Editor of the journal, Prof. Mercy E. Ndubueze-Ogaraku.



December 5th, 2024: Executive officers of Agricultural Social & Entrepreneurship Foundation (ASEF) visited the Faculty of Agriculture to discuss mutual area of collaboration.



R to L: (A) Prof. Adanna Henri-Ukoha, Prof. Orulchukwu Adebayo, Rosemary (CEO, ASEF), Prof. U.E.Udensi (Dean), Lt. Cdr. Azeez Oluwole (Rtd)(ASEF, President), Dr. Zelda Omasanuwa (Associate Dean) and Mr. Peter Jorbedon (Faculty Officer).

December 19th, 2024: Faculty Christmas Party

The Faculty of Agriculture concluded its academic year with a vibrant end-of-year celebration. The festive event, held at the Faculty's Board room, served as both a celebration of the year's achievements and an opportunity for collective fellowship. The entertainment segment included comedy skits, and dance presentations by Professors in the Faculty, led by the Dean of Faculty, Prof. U. E. Udensi, followed by dance sessions by other Academic Staff members and added to the evening's festivities, was a sumptuous dinner. This celebration served as a fitting end to the academic year, boosting morale and reinforcing the spirit of unity within the Faculty community.



All dancing at Faculty Christmas Party 2024.



Members of Academic staff having a relaxing time at the Faculty Christmas Party 2024.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT



Dr. H.C. Unaeze

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management is currently headed by Dr. Henry C. Unaeze.

The following key events were recorded at the Department in the period under review.

July 13, 2024: NUC Resource Verification

The Department successfully underwent the National Universities Commission Resource Verification Exercise.



The NUC Resource Verification Team of undergraduate programme in Agricultural Economics with the Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Udensi E. Udensi, Faculty of Agriculture Representative of Local Accreditation team, Professor Letorm Akinola, HoD Agric Economics & Agribusiness Mgt, Prof. Adanna Henri-Ukoha, senior members of the Department Prof. Peter A. Ekunwe, Prof. Anthony O. Onoja, Prof. Mercy E. Ndubueze-Ogaraku and Dr V.C. Ugwuja posing after the exit meeting of the Resource Verification team.



The NUC Resource Verification Team with the former Vice Chancellor, University of Port Harcourt, Prof. N.E.S. Lale, Director Academic Planning Prof. Eucharia Nwaichi and the Head of Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management, Prof. Adanna Henri-Ukoha.

August 1st, 2024: Unique Agribusiness Club, University of Port Harcourt

Meeting of the University of Port Harcourt Agribusiness Club coordinated at Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness Management held on August 1, 2024. In the Unique Agribusiness Club, University of Port Harcourt, we teach young people how to create wealth by growing ideas!! Unique Agribusiness Club!!



Members of the Agribusiness Club and some academic staff of the Department.

Thrilled by the 2024 final year students class initiatives during their presentation and demonstration of their business ideas of the course Principles of Cooperative Practice. Group 1 presentation was Students Entrepreneur Skill Development Cooperative Society. A group aimed to empower and support youths for successful agribusiness operations. Group 2 developed a business plan on promotion of edible nuts promotion and consumption for a healthy living while group 3 created a business interest in supporting cassava growers and value addition along the value for sustainable food production and security in our community.



2024 Final year students' class with Prof. Mercy Ndubueze-Ogaraku.

Conference and Workshop Participations

Prof. Mercy Ndubueze-Ogaraku participated in the workshop on Journal Editors Workshop with theme 'Strengthening Africa's Research Ecosystem' event held at the Abuja Continental Hotel on It was an enlightening training with emphasis on adopting global and ethical standards in research uptakes aimed at making research outcome visible in the global space. Higher education institutions in African must arise to build research structures that will support high quality research outcome and intentional improve the visibility of their research outcome. Thanks to the organizer, African Population and Health Research Centre.



Prof. Mercy Ndubueze-Ogaraku and Prof. Olufemi Adesope with other participants at the workshop on Journal Editors Workshop

August 2nd – 7th, 2024: Travel Grant Award from the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE)

Prof. Anthony O. Onoja, won a competitive travel grant from the International Association of Agricultural Economists which saw him through to New Delhi, India from 2nd to 7th August 2024 where he presented a paper titled: ~Long Run Implications of Livestock Production, Trade Openness and Fossil Fuel Consumption on CO2 Emissions in South African Economy~. The paper was well received during the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE), the biggest global gathering of international agricultural economists, organized triennially. The event, with the theme: @Transformation towards sustainable agrifood systems, was declared opened by the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. Available at: (<https://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india/pm-modi-inaugurates-32nd-international-conference-of-agricultural-economists-in-new-delhi-today-latest-updates-2024-08-03-945004>).



Prof. Anthony O. Onoja at the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE), New Delhi, India.

August 4th, 2024: Send Forth Party

The Departments of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness management and Agricultural Extension and Development Studies organized a send forth party in the honour of Prof. Data I Ekin on her retirement as an Adjunct

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Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness Management, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Port Harcourt.



A cross sector of the audience at the send forth party held in honour of Prof. Data I. Ekine

Appointment of a New Head of Department

August 13th, 2024: Prof Adanna Henri-Ukoha at the end of her tenure as the Head of the department handed over the baton of leadership to Dr Henry Unaeze as the newly appointed Acting Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management.



Handover ceremony of the baton of headship from Prof. Adanna Henri-Ukoha to Dr. Henry C. Unaeze while senior members of the department were present.

Grant Proposal Writing Workshop

August 28th - 30th, 2024: A 3-Day Workshop on Grant Proposal Writing for Early Career Young Academics and Researchers was organized by SAMS Grant Awardees (Prof. Mercy Ebere Ndubueze-Ogaraku and Prof. Adanna Henri-Ukoha), staff of the University of Port Harcourt in collaboration with the Society for the Advancement of Management Studies (SAMS) / Durham University Business School, UK. The event which held on August 28th-30th, 2024 at the NLNG Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Engineering, University Innovation Park, University of Port Harcourt, East-West Road, Port Harcourt, Nigeria was officially declared open by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research & Development Prof Iyeopu Siminialayi. A Representative of SAMS Dr. Mariano (Pitòsh) Heyden Professor of Strategy & International Business also presented short speech to the participants. The workshop was attended by 70 early career academia, researchers and PhD candidates selected from 100 applications through a google link registration platform. The participants were selected from five higher education institutions in Rivers State, Nigeria namely, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State University, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education Rumuolumeni Port Harcourt, Captain Elechi Amadi Polytechnic Port Harcourt and College of Health Technology, and Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute. Invitation to attend the training was communicated through the applicants' emails. Erudite scholars like Prof. Ibisime Etela, Prof. Olufemi Adesope, Prof. Ekunwe, Prof. Anthony Onoja, Dr. Esther Fomsi, Mr. Christian Barika Igbege among others highly experienced in writing grant winning proposals were selected as Resources Persons from the University of Port Harcourt. Key activities include; teaching, classwork, questions and responses, hands-on practical sessions by the resource persons with all participants.



The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research & Development Prof. Iyeopu Siminialayi declaring the workshop open and the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. U. E. Udensi giving his remarks at the workshop.

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Professor Olufemi M. Adesope Professor Ibisime Etela

Prof. Peter A. Ekunwe

Prof Anthony O. Onoja (Uniport)

Dr. Esthher Fomsi



Dr. Mariano (Pitsh) Heyden

Prof Mercy E. Ndubueze- Ogaraku

Prof Adanna henri-Ukoha

Mr. Christian Barika Igbege

Distinguished scholars who served as Resource persons at the 3-day workshop



A cross section of participants at the 3-day grant proposal writing workshop

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October 3rd – 6th, 2024: Prof. Anthony O. Onoja attended the EfD Annual General Meeting and Conference, Nairobi, Kenya. With travel grant from SIDA through Environment for Development (EfD), Sweden, to attend the 2024 EfD Annual General Meeting and Annual Conference 2024 with a paper presentation on Governance Impact on CO2 Emissions in ECOWAS Region.



Prof. Anthony O. Onoja at the EfD Annual General Meeting and Conference, Nairobi, Kenya.

October 4th – 18th, 2024: Prof. Mercy Ndubueze-Ogaraku participated at the virtual training sessions on grant winning proposal writing for 11 weeks, which started from August 4th to 18th October, 2024 organized by Virtual Institute for Capacity Building in Higher Education (VICBHE). Grateful to the Director General Professor Emeritus Peter A. Okebukola, facilitators and fellow participants for the impactful training. I'm prepared to apply knowledge and experiences gained during the training for excellent grant application procedures. Very optimistic that experiences gained will enhance my opportunities in securing grant funds that would support quality research activities that will impact my communities and society at large.

October 9th, 2024: Prof. Anthony O. Onoja, a gender expert, Director, Institute of Agricultural Research and Development, University of Port Harcourt, President, Agricultural Policy Research Network and Professor Extraordinarius at the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, University of South Africa, was among the invited key resource persons at the 3rd High-level Dialogue on gender and climate change in Nigeria held on October 9, 2024, at the Fraser suites Abuja. The event which was convened by HER+, the CGIAR Gender Equality Research Initiative, was aimed at addressing gender equality and climate resilience challenges in Nigeria's agrifood systems. (For more details, see: <https://www.cgiar.org/news-events/news/gender-and-climate-experts-come-together-to-address-inequalities-and-climate-resilience-challenges-in-nigerias-agrifood-systems/?crid=tonyojonimi@gmail.com&hem=557645efc2827334c963db500e5c339e5c8b4295aef44a0cbec3a17006ab6d3e>)



Prof. Anthony O. Onoja making a contribution at the event on gender and Nigerian Agrifood systems, during the event hosted by CGIAR at Frasier Suites, Abuja.

October 12th – 14th 2024: University of Port Harcourt Team for EU-Funded CREATE GreenAfrica consortium Project

The University of Port Harcourt Team along with other consortium member universities (University of the Free State, South Africa, University of Ghana, Mekelle University, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe Open University and the technical partners from the University of Denmark) was hosted by University of Dar Es Salaam team in a meeting held from 12th to 14th October 2024 at Double View Hotel in Dar Es Salaam to select successful candidates for the Postgraduate scholarship and mobility to the six African member universities. University of Port Harcourt will be expecting 4 Postgraduate students in four programmes at the Faculty of Agriculture, specifically to study Forest Economics and Resource and Environmental Economics at the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management this year. The Uniport team was led by the Project team lead, Prof. Anthony Ojonimi Onoja, Director, Institute of Agricultural Research and Development (IARD) in company of Professor Ibisime Etela, immediate past Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Uniport. (<http://research.uniport.edu.ng/the-2nd-ruforum-triennial-conference-at-the-hilton-hotel-windhoek-namibia/>)



Prof. Anthony O. Onoja, Team Lead, UNIPORT, for the EU Funded CREATE GreenAfrica Scholarship Project of African Consortium (2024-2027) poses for a shot at the University of Dar Es Salam, Tanzania after the selection team finished their work on the first cohort of the scholarship candidates.

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October 14th - 16th, 2024: Prof. Mercy E Ndubueze-Ogaraku, Prof. Brillant Agaviezor and Mr. Sam Nwokugha attended the 8th Annual Conference of the Association for Environmental Impact Assessment of Nigeria (AERIAN) held at the University of Port Harcourt on 14th -16th, October, 2024. It was insightful and enriching as the lead speaker unfolded the importance of AI tools in Environmental Impact Assessment process. The session will continue tomorrow as the research outcome on effects of illegal crude oil refining on fish species collection will be shared with conference participants. Thanks to the research team and conference organizers.



Prof. Mercy E Ndubueze-Ogaraku, Prof. Brillant Agaviezor and Mr. Sam Nwokugha at the 8th Annual Conference of the Association for Environmental Impact Assessment of Nigeria (AERIAN).

October 15th – 24th 2024: Sharing our research outcome at the 24th Annual Conference of Nigerian Association of Agricultural Economists at Owerri, Imo State from 15- 18th October, 2024. Deeply grateful to the organizers and host the Vice Chancellor of University of Agriculture and Environment Prof C.C Eze. Highly excited having highly distinguished scholars in the field of Agricultural Economists who made useful contributions to improve the quality of the research work.



Prof. Mercy Ndubueze-Ogaraku and other participants at the NAAE Conference held in Imo State.

October 23rd - 25th, 2024: Prof. Mercy Ndubueze-Ogaraku participated at the Triple Helix Nigeria Annual Conference held on 23-25th October, 2024 at National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) Abuja, Nigeria. The conference theme was "Fostering collaboration among academia, industry and government to enhance research innovation and policy integration" with the vision of 10:10:10 i.e. 10% equity in investment emanating from research outcome in 10 higher institutions in Nigeria in 10 years. Very inspiring and impactful experience, networking, knowledge sharing, poster presentation of research findings on exploring business opportunities in Cassava sector in Nigeria Delta Nigeria. Looking forward for future collaborations.



Prof. Mercy Ndubueze-Ogaraku participated at the Triple Helix Nigeria Annual Conference

November 12th, 2024: Draft of the First Ever National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for Nigeria (2025-2029).

Prof. Anthony O. Onoja, as the Team Lead, Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for Nigeria presented the Draft of the first ever National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for Nigeria (2025-2029) to the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy and wider relevant stakeholders for validation on 12th November, 2024 at Nicon Luxury Hotel in Abuja. The event was declared opened by the Honourable Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, His Excellency Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola, (CON). This feat was the culmination of a collaborative efforts between the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), WorldFish, the Federal Ministry of Marine & Blue Economy, Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security, the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet) and a dedicated team of experts (Policy Drafting Team) led by the President of Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet) and the Director, Institute of Agricultural Research and Development, University of Port Harcourt, Prof. Anthony Ojonimi Onoja (Professor Extraordinarius, University of South Africa). The CGIAR Initiative on Aquatic Foods funded this project which started in 2022. This is a laudable contribution to sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Nigeria with the overall aim of providing protein security (food security), job creation and poverty reduction for my country, Nigeria. The launching and successful implementation of this policy is expected by 2025.



From first right is the Hon. Minister for Marine and Blue Economy, H.E. Adegboyega Oyetola, (CON) cheering with stakeholders and other dignitaries at the event. At the far left is Prof. Anthony O. Onoja, the Policy Draft Team Lead who presented the Draft of the first ever National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for Nigeria (2025-2029) to the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy in Abuja.

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November 19th - 21st, 2024: Prof. A. O. Onoja was part of the NUC Team that assessed the B.Agriculture Programme at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He was invited by the National Universities Commission to join the NUC Accreditation Team that assessed the B.Agriculture Programme of the Department of Home Science and Management, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.



November 22nd, 2024: Prof. Anthony O. Onoja was a delegate representing Southern Nigeria to participate in the World Bank General Household Survey (GHS,) Panel (GHS Panel) Wave 5 LSMS report and data launch held today at Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS,). These data and the report will guide research and proper policy making to build resilience of households in Nigeria and Africa in line with SDGs and The Agenda 2063.



Prof. Anthony O. Onoja at the Launch of the NBS/World Bank launch of the General Household Survey Report and Data of the 5th Wave of the GHS Panel 2023.2024 at Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

Prof. Anthony O. Onoja, the Director, IARD, Uniport alongside with the immediate past dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Ibisime Etela facilitated a workshop organized funded by the federal Ministry of Environment via the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP)'s Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER). Prof Bassey Udom of the Department of Crop and Soil was one of the resource persons too. The workshop aims at providing Agri-Skill Enhancement and Economic Empowerment. It was held at two sites: City of Linus Hotel, Gbam, along East-

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West Road, Tai LGA and Nortem International Conference Centre, Bori, Khana LGA, Rivers State. The workshop was very impactful.



Prof. Anthony O. Onoja, the Director, IARD, Uniport alongside with the immediate past dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Ibisime Etela facilitated a workshop organized funded by the federal Ministry of Environment via the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project ((HYPREP)'s Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER).

Awards

Prof. Adanna Henri-Ukoha won the TechWomen Award of 2024 alongside with others. She received a book from Dr Reshma Singh at the Beckerly lab (October 3, 2024). On the October 12, 2024, team Nigeria received award for winning our pitch deck. A.so on the same date, team Nigeria posing with Techwomen General manager and impact coaches for Award (October 12, 2024). She received her fellowship certificate from Techwomen (October 17, 2024).

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Prof Adanna Henri-Ukoha receiving her awards.

November 19th – 21st, 2024: The Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management participated in the Agriculture Week celebration along with colleagues and other stallholders in agriculture.



Prof. Mercy Ndubueze-Ogaraku, Prof. Adanna Henri-Ukoha and others at the Agriculture Week Venue.

Staff Engagement in Community Services

December 3rd, 2024: Prof. Mercy Ndubueze-Ogaraku attended the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Unique Choba Amiable Cooperative Investment and Credit Society Limited (ASUU Cooperative) which was held at the ASUU Secretariat, Delta Park, Uniport. It was a fruitful meeting reflecting on the 2023 business operations and financial report of the society. Congratulations to all cooperators especially the management team for their commitments in upholding core values of cooperative society.



Prof. Mercy Ndubueze-Ogaraku and other officers at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Unique Choba Amiable Cooperative Investment and Credit Society Limited (ASUU Cooperative).

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



Dr Clara C. Ifeanyi-Obi

The Acting Head of Department during the period under review is Dr. Clara C. Ifeanyi-Obi. 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.

Quarterly Webinar Series

September 26th, 2024: The Department of Agricultural Extension and Development Studies held the second Edition of her Quarterly Webinar series with the Topic 'Relearning Agricultural Extension: Integrating Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Farming Solutions' on the 26th of September 2024. Prof. O.M. Adesope was Speaker at the 2nd Department of Agricultural Extension and Development Studies departmental webinar.

UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

PRESENTS
DEPARTMENTAL WEBINAR SERIES
2nd Edition

THEME
LEARNING, UNLEARNING AND RELEARNING EXTENSION SERVICES

TOPIC
RELEARNING AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION: INTEGRATING EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE FARMING SOLUTIONS

PROF. GEORGE WILL OWINARI
VICE CHANCELLOR
UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT
CHAIRMAN

PROF. U. E. UDEME
DEAN, FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT

DR. C. C. IFEANYI-Obi
Act. HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT
HOST

DR. U. R. ARINWOJU
UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT
MODERATOR

PROF. O. M. ADESOPÉ
UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT
SPEAKER

26TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 **1:00PM PROMPT WCA**

Register in advance for this meeting:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0oc-qvqjMsHtPzT_Yrue_5YS2dDIgKxNwr
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

clara.ifeanyi-obi@uniport.edu.ng **+234 803 339 7055**

Notice of second Edition of her Quarterly Webinar series

Donation of Departmental Signpost

September 30th, 2024: Both AED and AEA departments which emerged from the demerging of the defunct AEE department received a new signpost courtesy of the U2019 set of students admitted under AEE.



Unveiling of the new signpost by the Dean in the presence of staff and students of both departments.

Awards

September 2024: The Head of Department, Dr. C.C. Ifeanyi-obi won the CGIAR Gender & AWARD Gender grant to integrate gender dynamics into climate change policies and interventions in Nigeria - September 2024

Conferences and Workshops

October 21st - 25th, 2024: Prof O.M. Adesope presented a paper at the Niger Delta Climate Change conference emphasizing the urgent need for collaborative approaches to reduce carbon emissions in Nigeria. It highlights four scenarios depicting the challenges faced by different regions: pastoralists in the north dealing with climate impacts, industrial pollution in the west, farmers in the east affected by extreme weather, and fisherwomen in the south suffering from pollution. The paper presented was on the Collective Strategies to Promote Carbon Emission Reduction. Professor Adesope shared experience and strategies toward addressing the negative impact of climate change. This conference was held at the Justice Mary Odili Auditorium, Judicial Institute, 3 Bank Road, behind the State High Court, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.



Prof. O.M. Adesope and other participants at the Niger Delta Climate Change conference held in Port Harcourt.

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October 23rd, 2024: Dr. C.C. Ifeanyi-obi was an invited Stakeholder at the Stakeholders Consultative Workshop on Livestock Reforms in Nigeria organized by the Presidential Livestock Reforms Implementation Committee from the 23rd of October to 24th at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.



Dr. C.C. Ifeanyi-obi at the Stakeholders Consultative Workshop on Livestock Reforms in Nigeria held at Abuja.

September 24th, 2024: AED in collaboration with Dr. C.C Ifeanyi-obi hosted the Organization for Women in Science for Developing Countries (OWSD) UNIPOINT Chapter. Dr. C.C. Ifeanyi-Obi during this meeting presented the outcome of 19 agricultural policies co-reviewed with other AWARD Fellows from Kenya and Malawi.



Dr. C.C. Ifeanyi-Obi making a presentation at the OWSD meeting held at the Faculty of Agriculture.

November 15th, 2024: The Department of Agricultural Extension and Development Studies held External Examination for 41 Final Year Undergraduate students and launch the 2024 Yearbook for graduating students.



The Acting Head of Department, Dr. C.C. Ifeanyi-Obi, the External Examiner and academic staff with the final year students

Professor Adesope was among other State Coordinators involved in the International Foundation for Red Cross Humanitarian Needs Assessment Workshop for State Coordinators in South-South Nigeria. Prof Adesope is the State Coordinator of the Project for Cross River State. The training workshop held at the University of Calabar to conduct comprehensive humanitarian needs assessment South-South Nigeria.



Prof. O.M. Adesope and other State Coordinators at the International Foundation for Red Cross Humanitarian Needs Assessment Workshop held at the University of Calabar. Cross River State.

FARA/FAO FORESIGHT EXERCISE WORKSHOP IN ACCRA, GHANA

Prof. Adesope was a participant at the workshop on Foresight Exercise that held at FAO Regional Office, Accra Ghana. The workshop was done in preparation for foresight exercises in Nigeria, Kenya and Madagascar. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) conducts foresight exercises to anticipate future challenges, opportunities, and trends in agriculture, food security, nutrition, and environmental sustainability.



Prof. O.M. Adesope (sitting in the middle) at the FAO Regional Office, Accra Ghana.

Prof O.M. Adesope presented a paper at the 8th annual conference Association of Environmental Impact Assessment of Nigeria (AEIAN).



Prof. O.M. Adesope and Mr. Grant, a postgraduate student of AEA at the AEIAN Conference.

October 3rd, 2024: Prof. Adesope presented a lead paper on "Skilling for the Future Workforce: Leveraging AI, VR/AR, and Big Data in Vocational Training" at the inaugural conference and exhibition of the School of Secondary Education (Vocational) at the Federal College of Education on October 3, 2024.



October 8th – 10th, 2024: Prof. Adesope was Keynote speaker at the Waste to Wealth Summit at the Golden Tulip Hotel, Fmr L.A. Kings, No. 31 Stadium Road, Port Harcourt, Nigeria from October 8 to 10, 2024 where I was a keynote speaker. Key stakeholders of the waste management enterprise participated at the Summit.



Prof. O.M. Adesope and other participants at the waste to wealth summit at Golden Tulip Hotel, Port Harcourt.

October 15th – 16th, 2024: Prof Adesope presented a paper at the conference of the Centre for Gender, Conflict and Development Studies on Gendered Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity Conservation: A Systematic Review.



November 11th – 15th, 2024: Prof. Adesope co-presented a paper on Adaptation to Climate Change: An Assessment of Soybean Production and Sustainability in Bassa Local Government Area, Plateau State with Drs Mbube, B. H, and Momoh at the 7th International Annual Conference (SAEREM/Jos 2024) of the Society for Agriculture, Environmental Resources and Management which held between 11th- 15th November, 2024 at the Federal College of Forestry, Jos Plateau State, Nigeria

November 14th -15th, 2024: Foresight Exercise in Abuja, Nigeria

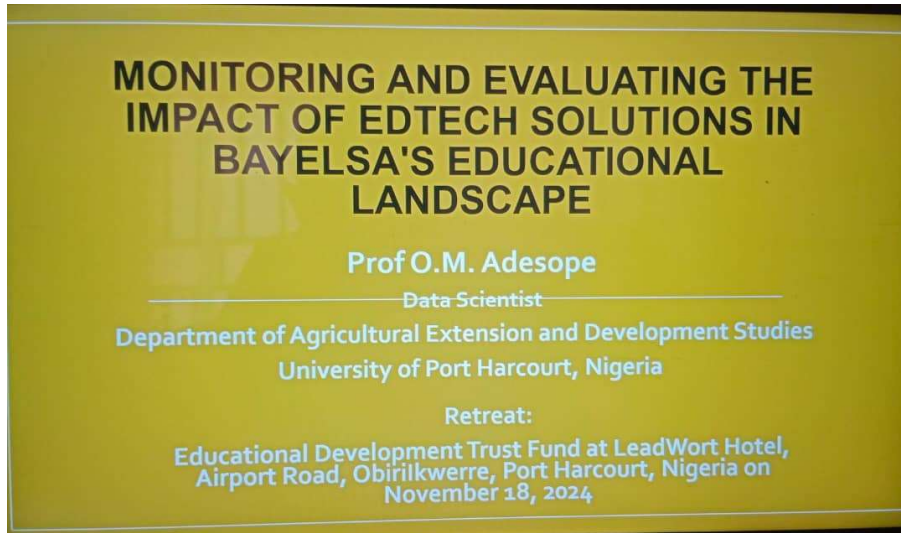
Prof. Adesope facilitating team at the country foresight analysis of drivers and triggers of transformation: experts' consultation workshop. The workshop was held from November 14 to 15, 2024 at BON Hotel Octagon, Jahi, Abuja, Nigeria. I worked with the main Country expert: Dr Nasiru and Prof. Julius Gatune (the Kenya Country expert), while I am facilitating Madagascar. The Workshop in Nigeria is a critical convening point at a unique juncture of challenges and opportunities, aimed at shaping the future of Nigeria & by extension Africa's agrifood systems. Under the guidance of FAO Regional Office for Africa, and country specific facilitators, the workshop embarked on a journey to address complex scenarios, emerging drivers, and to identify key triggers for sustainable solutions in the agrifood sector of Nigeria.



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November 17th – 23rd, 2024: Prof. Adesope & Dr C. C. Ifeanyi-obi were invited by the Bayelsa State Government as guest lecturers during the Retreat for Board members of the Bayelsa State Education Development Trust Fund held at the Lead Worth Hotel, Port Harcourt.

November 18th, 2024: Prof. Adesope presented a paper titled: Monitoring and evaluating the impact of EDTECH solutions in Bayelsa's education landscape during the retreat organized by the Bayelsa State Education Development Trust Fund (EDTF).



November 20th – 23rd, 2024: Dr. C.C. Ifeanyi-obi was elected Vice President South for the Nigerian Forum for Agricultural Advisory services (NIFAAS) during their Annual General meeting and Symposium held at the ARCN Abuja.

November 21st – 22nd, 2024: Country Foresight Exercise (CFE) In Madagascar

Prof. O.M. Adesope facilitated the Country Foresight Exercise (CFE) in Madagascar. The exercise was powered by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Regional Office, Accra, Ghana. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) conducts foresight exercises to anticipate future challenges, opportunities, and trends in agriculture, food security, nutrition, and environmental sustainability. The Foresight Exercises are domiciled in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome. However, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) is conducting this exercise for Africa and for strategic planning for Africa.



Prof. O.M. Adesope at the Country Foresight Exercise (CFE) held in Madagascar.

November 29th, 2024: The Department of Agricultural Extension and Development Studies held External Examination for an MSC. Candidate.

December 2nd, 2024: Prof. O.M. Adesope and Dr. C.C. Ifeanyi-Obi co-facilitated a pilot training with Dr. Blessing Odogwu to pre-test a training manual on 'Integrating gender into agricultural policy, extension services and climate

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actions'. This manual was developed Dr Clara Ifeanyi-obi, and three other AWARD Fellows: Grace Chilongo, Romana Mbinyanya and Aisha. The manual has seven very insightful modules covering topical areas like, gender dynamics in agriculture, gender integration into extension services, gender analytical tools, mainstreaming gender into climate actions, gender responsive budgeting, programming, monitoring and evaluation etc. It was fulfilling to receive commendations as well as meaningful contributions and observations from participants. The participants were drawn from the managerial cadre of the ministry of agriculture, environment and women affairs. There were also reps from ADP and FADAMA, Lead farmers, climate change expert, renowned extensionists on ground to critic the manual. Revision ongoing.



Participants at workshop on pre-testing manual on gender integration into Agricultural policies, extension services and climate Actions.

December 6th, 2024: Prof Adesope presented a paper titled: Enhancing awareness and knowledge of black soldier fly farming among agriculture undergraduates, University of Port Harcourt (Adesope, O.M., Angba, A.O., Ayi, N., Oniah, M., Ugwechi, P. & Enang, I.A.) at the University of Calabar conference.



December 7th, 2024: Prof O.M. Adesope participated in the cassava industry mentorship class.



December 11th, 2024: The Department of Agricultural Extension and Development Studies held her end-of-year party on the 11th of December 2024 for all members of the departments, alongside PG students and Course Reps of 200 and 500 level. It was a beautiful year to end a successful year



The Acting HoD of AED and Members of Staff at the Department End-of-Year Party 2024.



Mr. Brown D. Evans (second from left) who had served as the Secretary to the Head of Department of Agricultural Extension and Development Studies was on the 11th of December 2024 honored and celebrated by the Department for a successful civil service career in the University of Port Harcourt as he retires January 2025.

December 12th, 2024: The Department of Agricultural Extension and Development Studies held the third Edition of her Quarterly Webinar series with the Topic 'Relearning Agricultural Extension: Integrating Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Farming Solutions'.

UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT
Department of Agricultural Extension and Development Studies (AED)
DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERLY WEBINAR SERIES (3RD EDITION)

Theme:
Empowering Rural Voices:
TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES THROUGH GENDERED NARRATIVES

 PROF. GEORGEWILL OWUNARI VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT. CHIEF HOST.	 PROF. U. E. UDENSIL DEAN, FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE HOST.	 DR. C. C. IFEANYI-Obi AG. HEAD OF DEPARTMENT. HOST.	 DR. U. N. AKIWUN UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT MODERATOR.	 LILIAN TREASURE Natural Resources Institute, University of Glasgow, U.K. SPEAKER.
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You are invited to a Zoom meeting.
Date: Dec 12, 2024 Time: 01:00 PM London

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZyPceyvqjorGtz2Qx-mEPIF3nBAQ4VpucN>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Email: hodaed@uniport.edu.ng Contact: +234 08033397055

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December 13th, 2024: Prof. Adesope was guest speaker at the Researchment Academy webinar on December 13, 2024 and presented a paper on ensuring ethical integrity throughout all stages of scientific writing.

RESEARCHMENT ACADEMY
Mini-course | Webinar

RAW 2.1

ENSURING ETHICAL INTEGRITY THROUGHOUT ALL STAGES OF SCIENTIFIC WRITING

December 13, 2024 3.00 PM (WAT)

Virtually via Google Meet and YouTube

PROF. OLUFEMI M. ADESOPE
Department of Agricultural Extension, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria
GUEST SPEAKER

DR. FADLULLAH O. ISSA
Director, Researchment Academy
HOST

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December 21st – 22nd, 2024: Prof. O.M. Adesope was a guest speaker at an end of year webinar organized by Grace Hands Research Institute. He spoke on two topical issues: Translating from academic to research world and Top job opportunities available for a researcher in the 21st century globally.

POWERED BY: **GRACE HANDS RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

End of the year webinar

Becoming A 21ST CENTURY RESEARCHER

Mr. David Adewuyi
CEO of Grace Hands Research Institute
HOST

Prof. Olufemi M. Adesope
Department of Agricultural Extension & Development Studies, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria
Speaker

Mr. Idowu Omisile
Business Consultant & Brand Strategist
Project Partner: Goto Solutions
Speaker

For More Enquiry: +2348168181969, +2349076592681

Live stream on:

21st & 22nd December 2024 **7PM** GMT Daily

Other notable events of the Department:

- The Department of Agricultural Extension and Development Studies launched 22 videos on her Youtube (AED Virtual TV) Channel to publicize the practical activities of the students on Industrial attachment in the course Extension Practice. <https://youtu.be/kMI-QjDFadE?si=5WSd22Pzii5Y8CMK>
- Prof. S.O Olatunji was appointed External Examiner to the University of Eswatini (Swaziland), Department of Agricultural education and Extension (2023-2025)
- Prof. S.O Olatunji was invited to be an External examiner to University of Annamalai. Department of Agricultural extension, Tamil Nadu, India.
- Prof. S.O Olatunji was recommended for External Examination (MSc & PhD) at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and Niger Delta University, Bayelsa.
- Winner of the VICBHE Module 9: Prof. Olufemi M. Adesope and Mrs. Chinyelu Irene Nwokolo University of Port Harcourt) are among the Winners of the VICBHE Module 9 Professor Emeritus Peter Akinsola Okebukola Project Prize. Virtual Institute for Capacity Building in Higher Education (VICBHE) Module 9, a virtual comprehensive training programme on "writing grant-winning proposals and fundraising" which admitted 5002 applicants was designed to equip personnel from tertiary institutions (University, Polytechnics, Monotechnics and colleges of Education) in Nigeria with the knowledge, strategies, and practical skills needed to craft compelling proposals that stand out and secure needed fundings. TETFund is the funding partner of VICBHE Module 9 While Emeritus Prof. Peter Akinsola Okebukola OFR, is the Facilitator-General of VICBHE.

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE



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

Prof. Anthonia I. Ukanwoko

Departmental Board Meetings

July 23rd, 2024: The Departmental Board held a meeting on the to consider 2023/2024 First Semester Results.

September 12th, 2024: The Departmental Board convened for an emergency meeting to consider second semester 2023/2024 continuous assessment (CA) scores for all levels in the department. Following a successful review, the Board approved the continuous assessment scores for processing and incorporation into the semester’s final evaluation framework.

December 18th, 2024: The department met to consider 2023/2024 second semester results. Under the chairmanship of the Head of Department, Prof. A.I. Ukanwoko, the Board meticulously reviewed student’s performance across all levels and courses domiciled in and handled by the department. During the meeting, course coordinators presented detailed reports on their respective courses, highlighting performance trends, challenges encountered and recommendations for academic improvement. The board also addressed special cases requiring specific Board attention and resolution. Following the successful conclusion of the meeting, approved results were sent to the Faculty Board for further considerations.

November 19th – 21st, 2024: Agriculture week Celebration

The Department participated in the Faculty of Agriculture celebration of her annual Agriculture Week. Key highlights of the celebration included but were not limited to, lecture series, delivered by profound stakeholders in the Agricultural profession, exhibition of agricultural products by the different departments in the Faculty and interactive session and networking between the participants of the event, including students.



Animal Science exhibition stand during the Agriculture Week 2024.

SIWES Practical: students process broilers at poultry unit

400 level Industrial Training (IT) students successfully conducted a hands-on broiler processing session at the Poultry Unit of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching and Research farm. The exercise covered the complete processing chain from live bird handling to packaging, under the supervision of Prof. L.A.F. Akinola, Prof. O.A Ekine and Mr. H.N. Benneth. Students demonstrated practical skills in humane slaughtering methods, defeathering, evisceration, and proper meat handling and packaging techniques. This practical session forms part of the required industrial experience in modern poultry processing operations.



Prof L.A.F. Akinola and U2019 SIWES students having a practical session on broiler processing

November 14th, 2024: Members of Staff Show Solidarity at Head of Department's Father's Burial

In a remarkable display of institutional unity and support, faculty and departmental staff members turned out to attend the burial ceremony of late Pa Ezinna Francis Oruonye Ndubueze, father of Prof. A. I. Ukanwoko, Head of Department of Animal Science. The ceremony, drew colleagues from various departments in the Faculty of Agriculture. The ceremony concluded with a reception where staff members had the opportunity to personally convey their condolences to the HoD and other family members. The strong attendance and show of support underscored the importance of maintaining strong interpersonal relationships within the academic community. Prof. A.I. Ukanwoko expressed her profound gratitude for the overwhelming support from her colleagues.



Members of staff in attendance of the HoD's father's burial ceremony.

U2019 Students Leave Lasting Legacy with Billboard Donation

In a remarkable display of institutional pride and generosity, the 400 level Animal Science students, donated a modern billboard to the Department. The project was entirely funded through contributions from students in the U2019 set, showcasing their unity and dedication to leaving a positive legacy. The billboard will serve not only as an information hub but also as a testament to their commitment to departmental development.



Departmental Billboard donated by U2019 Students' set

Seminars and Research Presentations

August 29th, 2024: Undergraduate (final year) Seminar, Post-data and External examination

Final year undergraduate students of the Department of Animal Science successfully presented their seminar topics on the 29th of August 2024. During the seminar, students presented research findings from literature, covering diverse topics in animal nutrition, production, breeding and genetics as well as animal physiology and health. The presentations, which included question and answer sessions between staff and students respectively, are a crucial component of the final-year assessment.

November 5th, 2024: The final year students showcased their research findings from various experimental studies. The day-long session, which took place at the Departmental Auditorium, featured 68 undergraduate researchers presenting results from their field and laboratory investigations. The event concluded with lecturers providing valuable feedback to help students finalize their project write-ups in preparation for their external examination.

December 10th, 2024: The external project defense which occurred on the 10th of December 2024, marked a significant milestone in the academic journey of the final year students. The external examiner, Prof. S. N. Ukachukwu, from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, provided thorough assessments of the students' work, ensuring adherence to high academic standards and research quality. The interactive sessions included detailed questioning from the external examiner, testing students' depth of understanding and ability to defend their research methodologies and discuss their findings. The successful completion of this external defense marks the final major academic requirement for the graduating class, paving the way for their transition into professional careers or advanced studies.

December 18th, 2024: Graduate Students Showcase Research Progress in Seminar and Proposal Presentation Series

The Department's graduate studies program reached a significant milestone on the 18th of December, as Masters and Doctoral degree candidates presented their seminar reports and research proposals. The event, which took place in the departmental seminar room, featured comprehensive presentations by six (6) master's and six (6) doctoral students across various research specializations. During the intensive sessions, candidates presented their research proposals before a panel of distinguished academic staff members and fellow researchers. The presentations covered diverse topics from animal nutrition and production, animal breeding and genetics, animal physiology etc. Each presentation was followed by an interactive session between the lecturers and students after which research approaches were refined and potential challenges in the research were identified and corrected. Students were encouraged to proceed with their field work and laboratory experimentation, following these presentations.



Picture from seminar presentation.



Picture from post-data presentation.



Picture from external project defence.

December 10th, 2024: Students Showcase Industry Experience during Industrial Training (IT) Report Presentation

The industrial training program is an important component of the agricultural science curriculum, which serves as a bridge between academic learning and professional practice. In a demonstration of practical knowledge and professional growth, 400 level students presented their Industrial Training (IT) report on the 10th of December, 2024. The event took place at the departmental seminar room and featured comprehensive presentations from the students, detailing their hands-on experiences in various units of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching and Research Farm, including the livestock, crop production, mushroom and marketing unit among others. The students highlighted key learning outcomes, challenges encountered, and innovative solutions developed during their industrial training period. The assessment panel, comprising academic staff members of the department, evaluated students based on their technical knowledge, presentation skills, appearance and response to questions.



Pictures from Industrial Training Report Presentation.

Examinations

September 30th – October 31st, 2024: Second Semester Examinations for Undergraduate and graduate studies

The Department of Animal Science, University of Port Harcourt, conducted its second semester undergraduate examinations for 2023/2024 academic session between 30th September and 31st October 2024. Graduate second semester examinations on the other hand commenced between 13th and 20th of December 2024. During these examinations, the department witnessed excellent compliance with examination regulations from both students and invigilators and the Department's anti-malpractice measures ensured the integrity of the examination process, with no major incidents reported.



Pictures from undergraduate examination

Staff Promotions

The University Senate approved the promotion of Dr. O. S. George to the rank of Professor following a rigorous review of his academic contributions and scholarly achievements. Prof. George, a distinguished Lecturer and Researcher is recognized for his outstanding research in Animal nutrition and production, numerous peer-reviewed publications, and significant contributions to the Department, Faculty and University at large. The department also celebrated the promotion of Mrs. I.C Adje, Mr. B.V. Iriso and Mrs. A.A. Ere-Richard who were elevated to the Lecturer II Cadre.

Students' Achievements

200 Level Student Wins Grant from Essay Writing Competition

Miss. Chidiadi, Judith Nwanachindu, a 200-level student in the Department of Animal Science, was awarded first position, in an essay writing competition, organized by the Nigerian Women Association of Georgia (NWAG), winning a grant of 300USD.



Miss. Judith Nwanachindu

HoD's Cup Football Tournament

400 level students of the Department of Animal Science emerged victorious in the 2024 Head of Department Cup Football Tournament. The tournament, showcased an admirable level of sportsmanship among students. Exceptional players were recognized and awarded best player (male and female category), best goal keeper (male and female), and a few others.



Pictures from football tournament

Animal Science Students Association of Nigeria Celebrates Annual Awards Night

Animal Science Students Association of Nigeria (Uniport Chapter) hosted its prestigious Annual Award Night on the 21st of September 2024, recognizing outstanding academic achievements and leadership qualities among its students. The glittering ceremony, attended mainly by undergraduate students, celebrated excellence across all levels.

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of study, offering awards of recognition for Most Academic Conscious Student, Most Political Conscious Student, Male and Female Entrepreneur of the Year, among other notable awards.



Pictures from the Award Night Celebration.

Birthday Celebrations

We wished our beloved members of staff who celebrated their birthdays between the month of July and December 2024, a blissful birthday celebration and more prosperous years to come.



Prof. O.S. George (September 19th)



Prof. I. Etela (October 23rd)



Prof. F.O. Ajayi (November 2nd)



Prof. M. B. Nodu (December 11th)

DEPARTMENT OF CROP AND SOIL SCIENCE



Prof. A.A. Tanimola

The Department of Crop and Soil Science ensured a hitch-free academic and administrative activities therein. The Head of Department is Prof A.A. Tanimola.

This report from Department of Crop and Soil Science (CSS) summarizes the overall activities that took place within the period under review

Training Sessions

August 13th, 2024: The Department on the 13th of August had a research-training session on subject specific area, specifically nematology. The eye-opening session was led by Prof. A. A. Tanimola (HOD CSS) who presented the outcome of their research (from the Pathology-Nematology group on behalf of others, Prof. E. C. Wokoma, Prof. A. O. Asimiea and Miss E.T. Ajedafimu) on Plant-parasitic Nematodes Associated with Scent leaf (*Ocimum gratissimum*) in Rivers State. The occasion was chaired by Prof. A. O. Asimiea. In attendance were Profs. M.I. Godwin-Egein, U. Zakka, other lecturers of the Department and guest students of Post NCE programme from the Faculty of Education.

The Seminar Coordination Team (Dr. S.R. Atijegbe, Dr. H. I. Anozie and Dr. B. F. Sasanya) on 15th August ably represented by Dr. B. F. Sasanya trained the students on how to ensure good write up and presentations of their research output with a view to ensuring a good delivery of their projects/theses/dissertations for examination. Dr. O.J. Kamalu was the chairman of this training session. The staff and students in attendance were enlightened and we hope this translate to improvement in their submissions.

First Departmental Lecture Series

August 15th, 2024: The day, Thursday 15th August 2024 marked the commencement of the Department of Crop and Soil Science Lecture Series where Staff, students and guests were afforded the opportunity to add to knowledge. The HOD, Prof. A. A. Tanimola welcomed everyone to the inaugural lecture series of the Department and promised that these lecture series will be sustained over time. The Lecture, Environmental Pollution Status in the Niger Delta was delivered by an erudite academic, Dr. O. J. Kamalu and the session was chaired by Prof. A. O. Asimiea. The lecturer enlightened the audience on the present state of pollution in the Niger Delta, the challenges associated with the clean-up projects and the wakeup call for effective and honest collaboration among stakeholders in managing the pollution issues in the Niger Delta. He advocated the presentation of sincere reports from oil companies, communities, press and environment activists among others on evaluation of pollution issues and their management. Diverse suggestions were made by the attendees on how to encourage clean environment in the Niger Delta. In attendance at the Lecture were, Profs. D. A. Okpara (Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, O.M. Adedokun, Prof. J.A. Orluchukwu, Eminent guests such as Prof. M.E. Ogaraku of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management, Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. V.C. Wabali of Department of Food, Nutrition and Home Science amongst others. The Department looks forward to the next lecture in the first semester of the next session.



On the left, is the guest lecturer and attendees at the First Crop and Soil Science Departmental Lecture Series. On the right is the guest lecturer Dr. O.J. Kamalu.

September 23rd, 2024: Pepper and Tomato-in-Bag Production

The production of tomato and pepper in soil-filled bags was flagged off on the 23rd of September, 2024. The pepper seedlings were initially raised in nurseries prior to transplanting in these bags. The production objective is to raise tomato and pepper seedlings in 1000 bags. The bags are currently being raised on the platform for expected greenhouses at the back of the Department. We appreciate participation of Prof J. A. Orluchukwu, Mr P. O. Emobonavie and the SIWES students. It is our hope that the pepper, tomato and other crops' needs of the University of Port Harcourt community will be met by the Department of Crop and Soil Science very soon. The Department appreciate the motivation of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Owunari A. Georgewill and other management team on the need to improve production.



Pepper production in bags

June – July 2024: Spices and Vegetables for the Nations Production Programmes

The Department of Crop and Soil Science embarked on aggressive spices' production. The spices of interest include, Ginger, Tumeric, and Scent leaf. Before, the Department used to produce ginger and turmeric in commercial quantity under the coordination of Prof. U Zakka till some challenges retarded their production. However, with new and strong motivation, the Department has decided to achieve self-sufficiency in Ginger and Tumeric production, first for the

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University of Port Harcourt community within the next two years, then Rivers State till being either exported to other countries or processed into consumable products.

The Vegetables for the Nations Programme kicked off in July 2024 to address the demand for varieties of vegetables for consumption in Rivers State. The programme involves cultivation of some major vegetables across regions in Nigeria and some neighbouring countries in Africa. Notable in cultivation presently are *Corchorus olitorius* (Ewedu in Yoruba; Arira in Igbo), *Amaranthus hybridus* (Green), *Celosia argentea* (Soko), Uguwu (Fluted pumpkin), *Talinum triangulare* (Water leaf), Uziza, Oha amongst others. Our goal is to make all feel at home in Rivers state and to introduce vegetables that can add other benefits to residents in the state. The Department appeals to the University Community to make available vegetables from their towns and villages that are being underutilised for production, promotion and likely integration into leagues of major vegetables across the world. Sales of vegetables not yet in commercial scale have commenced in the Department and will hope to achieve commercial scale status in the next one year all things being equal.

Promotion of Staff to the Professoriate and Others

September 6th: The announcement of four (4) members of staff in the Department of Crop and Soil Science on the 6th of September to the full professoriate cadre was received with joy by all and sundry. The staff promoted were:

1. Prof. O.J. Kamalu
2. Prof. A. A. Efisue
3. Prof. B. E. Udom
4. Prof. J. A. Chukwumati

The students and staff took turn to celebrate these erudite scholars for the attainment of this enviable position in their academic career. Congratulations to these colleagues, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture and the entire University of Port Harcourt community under the management of our amiable Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari A. Georgewill and the Governing Council.



Celebrating the promotion to the rank of Professor. From the right: Prof. U. E. Udensi (Dean of Faculty of Agriculture), Prof. O.J. Kamalu (newly promoted), Prof. Henry Ijeomah (of Forestry and Wildlife Management), Prof. J.A. Chukwumati (newly promoted) and Prof. B. E. Udom (newly promoted).

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Other staff that benefitted from the promotion are Mr. G. J. Arthur and Mrs O. D. Olaoye who were promoted from the rank of Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II. Congratulations to them all.

November 19th – 20th, 2024: Post-Field Students' Seminar Presentation

The post-field seminar presentation for the final year students was held. The presentation afforded the Department opportunity to be intimated with the progress of each student and their readiness for the Project defence. Useful suggestions were made on each presentation to improve the final delivery eventually.



Post-field seminar presentation of undergraduate students.

November 21st, 2024: Undergraduate Final Year Project Defence

A total of 59 students (40 students from Crop Protection and Crop Production options, and 19 students from Soil Science option) of the Department of Crop and Soil Science participated in the Project Defense. The examiners were Prof. N.M. John from the University of Calabar, Cross River State and Prof. C.I. Duruigbo of Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Imo State. The examination was a huge success and the students were also able to learn from the wealth of experience of the two erudite Professors.



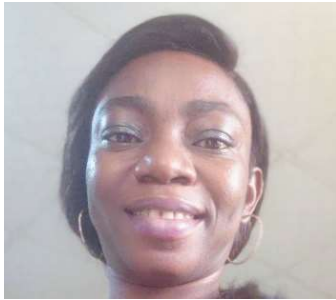
On the left, students of Crop Production and Crop Protection Options being examined by Prof. C. I. Duruigbo

On the right, students of Soil Science option being examined by Prof. N. M. John



Some members of staff in attendance at the project defence.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT



Dr. Funmi Eguakun

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the activities, events, and academic progress within the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management. The Acting Head of Department is Dr. Funmi Eguakun.

This period from July – December 2024 witnessed a blend of academic excellence, administrative strides, and professional activities at the department aimed at sustaining academic excellence, accreditation standards, and fostering research and student engagement.

Academic Activities and Special Events

July 23rd, 2024: Departmental Board Meeting was held to deliberate on 2022/2023 first-semester results and accreditation preparations. The department participated in the Faculty Board Meeting that held on August 5th, 2024.

August 2024: The department was officially renamed from Forestry and Wildlife Management to **Environmental Forestry and Wildlife Management**, marking a significant milestone and signifying its broadened academic scope and vision.

September 6th, 2024: The FWL 500.2 seminar presentation was held and it provided students with an avenue to discuss extensively the chosen topics.

October 23rd, 2024: An Emergency Departmental Board Meeting was held, to consider issues related to CCMAS submission to SCAPP.

October 28th, 2024: Post-field seminar presentations took place. It featured final-year students sharing field research experiences and their research progress.

October 31st, 2024: The 400-level viva defense was held to assess the academic growth and knowledge gained by the practical-year undergraduate students in the department.

November 28th, 2024: Final year external project defence was successfully completed with 26 students defending their projects. A total of 16-As, 7-Bs, 2-Cs and 1-D were scored by the students. The external examiner Prof. D.I. Edet, of the Federal University of Technology Owerri, commended the department for its excellent standards.



Final year students after their external project defence.

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December 16th, 2024: An Emergency Postgraduate Board Meeting was held to deliberate on postgraduate admissions and recommendations.

September 25th 2024: The Continuous Assessment (CA) scores for the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 session courses were submitted on September 25th, 2024, ahead of the commencement of exams, while answer scripts, attendance sheets, and marking guides were finalized in October to ensure readiness for the second-semester exams.

September 20th, 2024: The departmental examination timetable for the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 sessions was released and the examination commenced on September 30th, 2024

November 4th, 2024: Allocation of 2023/2024 Session Academic Session final year Project supervision was done by Dr F.S Eguakun the HoD of the Department.

November 21st 2024: Course allocations for the 2023/2024 session was released by Dr. F.S Eguakun the HoD of the Department. Also, the SIWES Schedule for the 2023/2024 session was released by Mr. A. Alex.

December 1st 2024: The departmental Lecture Timetable for the 2023/2024 Session Academic Session was released by the Timetable Officer of the Department, Dr C. Fredrick.

September 19th, 2024: Mock Accreditation

The department's Mock Accreditation was conducted by the University-wide Local Accreditation Committee. The department demonstrated high level of readiness and preparedness during the university's mock accreditation, reflecting its commitment to academic and operational excellence and professionalism.

NUC Accreditation Visit

The National Universities Commission (NUC) visited the department on November 19th, 2024, as part of the university's ongoing accreditation process and also to evaluate departmental compliance with national academic standards. The department efficiently prepared for and hosted the NUC accreditation team, reinforcing its reputation for quality education and commitment to operational excellence.



Prof. Owunari A. Georgewill, NUC Accreditation Team, HoD, and Staff of the Department during The NUC Accreditation Exercise.

Examination Policy Enforcement

The Faculty Quality Assurance and Control Committee (QA & QC) Committee introduced measures to ensure compliance during exams, including strict dress codes, trash management, and thorough invigilation. Examination halls were monitored to ensure adherence to guidelines with the department fully complying to the policies and implementations.

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Awards/Invitations/Recognitions/Appointments

- Prof. A. Aiyeloja, was appointed as a Professor of Forest Economics on a one-year Sabbatical in the Department Social and Environmental Forestry, University of Ibadan.
- Prof. G.E. Omokhua was appointed the Executive Chairman of Edo State Forestry by the Governor of Edo State, by H E Godwin N. Obaseki. Consequently, he took a leave of absent duly approved by the 9th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Prof Owunari A. Georgewill.
- Prof. B. A. Oyebade was invited as an External Examiner for the PhD and Final Year Students Thesis and project Examination by the Rivers State University.

Promotions and Accolades for Academic Staff

- Dr. U. D. Chima and Dr. F. S. Eguakun were elevated to the rank of Professor and Associate Professor respectively. in recognition of their academic contributions.
- Dr. C. Fredrick was also elevated to the rank of Senior Lecturer in the Department of Environmental Forestry and Wildlife Management.
- Dr. I.J. Amadi was converted from Wildlife Officer to Lecturer II.

Grant Awards for Scholarships and Research

December 2024: The department responded to the Faculty Call for Conference Support Stipends for Academic staff requesting the submission of evidence of conference participation from 2023–2024, on 10th December 2024 signaling institutional support for research and scholarly development. Consequently, on 11th December 2024, Staff received the Faculty's institutional encouragement to participate in conferences, with stipends allocated for 2023–2024 scholarly activities.

Workshops and Society Meetings

- PhD Faculty Seminar held on August 2nd, 2024, to provide postgraduate students and academic staff with an opportunity for scholarly engagement and peer review.
- Prof. H.M. Ijeomah attended the 6th WISON Annual Conference in Kano State held on 15th September 2024.
- Prof. A.A. Aiyeloja, Prof. H.M. Ijeomah, Prof. A.T. Oladele and Dr. G.A. Adedeji attended the 46th FAN Annual Conference in Osun State held on December 2024.

University Appointments of Department Staff

- Dr. F.S. Eguakun was appointed as the 8th Acting Head of the Department of Environmental Forestry and Wildlife Management by the 9th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Prof Owunari A. Georgewill.
- Dr. I.J. Amadi was appointed Lecturer II in the Department of Environmental Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Port Harcourt.

Other Success Stories in the Department

- Undergraduate students successfully defended their projects and participated in seminars, reflecting the department's focus on hands-on learning.
- Alumni Contributions: Alumni from both Nigeria and abroad actively supported the department through motivational speeches during orientation.
- Mr. Alex Amininim successfully defended his PhD thesis at Rivers State University on 12th December 2024.
- Department staff made vital contributions during the accreditation process, showcasing the department's collective effort.

Summarily, the Department of Environmental Forestry and Wildlife Management continues to excel in delivering quality education, fostering research, and preparing for accreditation milestones. The July–December 2024 period under review has been pivotal for the Department of Environmental Forestry and Wildlife Management. From academic milestones to accreditation successes, the Department demonstrated resilience and a commitment to excellence. The proactive contributions of staff, students, and alumni underscore a collective vision for growth and innovation. The period also underscores the department's proactive measures in addressing academic and administrative demands, with significant contributions from both staff and students driving its successes.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES



Dr. S.N. Nwafili

The Acting Head of Department of Fisheries is Dr. Sylvanus A. Nwafili. The following are activities that took place in the Department in the period under review.

July 9th, 2024: Graduate Board Meeting for the Consideration of First Semester Results

The Departmental graduate board meeting to consider the first semester results of the second SET (G2022) of four PG students was held. The meeting was chaired by the HOD, Fisheries Department (Dr. S.A. Nwafili) with members of the board in attendance.

September 6th, 2024: Promotion of Academic Staff

Following the consideration of the recommendations of the Faculty of Agriculture Appointment and Promotion Committee (A & PC) for confirmation and promotion of academic staff, the governing council of the University at its 185th meeting approved the promotion of Dr. Benjamin U. Akpoilih, to the rank of Senior Lecturer. Dr. Benjamin Akpoilih was appointed in 2011 as an Assistant Lecturer and specialises in Aquaculture Nutrition and Fish Physiology.

September 11th – 12th, 2024: Final Year Seminar Presentations

The undergraduate seminar series was held in the Department of Fisheries board room, and had in attendance all lecturers. A total of 62 students presented various topics in Aquaculture and Fisheries.

September 23^{re}, 2024: Appointment of Postgraduate Committee Board Chairman

The Departmental board unanimously announced the appointment of Prof. A.T. Ibim as the new chairman of the PG postgraduate committee. Prof A.T. Ibim took over from Prof. O.A. Olopade who left to join the service of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, after steering the committee meritoriously. Prof. Olopade took over from the pioneer chairman, Prof. E.S. Erondu.

September 24th, 2024: Appointment of Postgraduate Seminar and Project Defence Coordinator

The post graduate committee of the department approved the appointment of a new seminar and project defence coordinator, Dr. H.E Dienye as coordinator, beginning from the 2022/2023 session. He is to organise PG seminar and also coordinate their Pre-data and Post-data presentations simultaneously.

October 10th, 2024: Solemnization of Holy Matrimony

The marriage involving Chibanya Olumati, a member of staff (Graduate Assistant) of the Fisheries Department, and her partner, Emeka Woke, was held on 12th October, 2024 at Our Savours Chapel, University of Port Harcourt (Abuja Campus). Hosted by the Watchman Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement, Port Harcourt, Diocese, the occasion had in attendance staff members of the Fisheries Department, relatives of both couples and other invited guests.

October 24th, 2024: HYPREP/Department of Fisheries and NIOMR Research Collaboration

A research breakthrough for the breeding and culture of bloody cockle (*Anadara granosa*), an intertidal/mudflats shellfish (a bivalve), in the Niger Delta was struck through the collaboration of the hydrocarbon pollution remediation project with staff members of Fisheries Department, University of Port Harcourt, in conjunction with the Nigeria Institute of Oceanography Research (NIOMR), Buguma station, Rivers State, the host site for the take-off of the project. HYPREP, through its coordinator, Prof. N. Zabbey, gave its full support to the novel project to breed the highly endangered species and save it from the brink of extinction, having realized that these animals provide a huge means of livelihood to the people of the Niger Delta communities who derive a bulk of their protein source from aquatic living

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resources. Buoyed by the success of the pilot project it recorded in the ongoing project, the team members drawn from HYPREP, NIOMR and Fisheries Department, University of Port Harcourt, are living no stone unturned in ensuring that the laboratory scale project is poised to restore the heavily depleted population of bloody cockles with the hope that the ecosystems are fully restored to fulfil part of the mandate of HYPREP in remediating oil-degraded communities in the Niger Delta.



An infograph depicting the equipment, researchers, and their activities undertaking during the ongoing research to breed blood cockle (*A. granosa*), an endangered species of shellfish, in the laboratory in an effects to restore its natural populations. The effort to realise this objective is made through the partnerships of HYPRPER, NIOMR and Fisheries Department, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

November 22nd, 2024: NUC Accreditation Visit to the Fisheries Department

After several rounds of meetings of the Departmental committee of the Fisheries Department, culminating in a mock accreditation preparatory to the visit by the University, the NUC accreditation team of academics was at the Department to assess the facilities and programmes for the 2023/24 session. Received by the Dean, Faculty Committee members, the HOD Fisheries, as well as all staff members of the Department, the exercise held successfully, with members of the teams appraising necessary documents relating the programmes offered in the department. Based on the outcome of their report, it is expected that a full accreditation status be granted after the success of the previous one held in 2019/2020 session.



Photo A: Leader of the accreditation team from NUC in conversation with some members of staff Technologist; Photo B: Some members of the team inspecting laboratories in the Fisheries Department, while other lab. technologist is seen demonstrating the workability of some equipment in the Department, with some accreditation team member watching on (Photo C).

December 5th, 2024: External Defense for Pioneer Postgraduate (MSc) Students

The assessment of the first set of postgraduate students of the G2021 sets by external examiners was conducted in the board room of the Department of Fisheries. Witnessed by the Dean and faculty representatives on the board of postgraduate examination committee and attended by the HOD and academic staff members of the Department, examiners were thorough in their assessments, and the graduating students gave their utmost best with good presentations. The four PG students assessed were Odo Hycentha Ogochukwu and Ifeyinwa Joy, James (**MSc. Fisheries**), as well as Mavis Anthony Owhonda and Ukwubile Martins, Odekina (**MSc. Aquaculture**). The assessors were Prof. Tombarapagha Kingdom (Fisheries Biology and Mgt.) of the Fisheries and Aquatic Studies Department and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics), Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State, and Prof Donald I. Osuigwe (Aquaculture), who is from the Federal University of Technology, Owerri, specialising in Aquaculture in the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology.



Left Photo: Some members of staff, Faculty Dean and External Assessors after the oral defense, from left: Prof. A.T. Ibim, Mavis Anthony Owhonda (PG student), Prof. Udensi E. Udensi (Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Uniport), Joy Ifeyinwa James (PG student), Prof. Tombarapagha Kingdom (External Assessor), Prof Ebere Erondu, Okwubile Martins Odekina (PG student), Hycencha Ugochukwu Odo (PG student), Dr. S.A Nwafili (HoD, Fisheries Department), and Prof. Donald I. Osuigwe (External Assessor). Right Photo: From left; Mavis Anthony Owhonda, Joy Ifeyinwa James, Okwubile Martins Odekina and Hycencha Ugochukwu Odo.

December 5th, 2024: Final Year Postdata Presentation

The defense for the U2018 set of undergraduate students of the Fisheries Department was held, with many of the students presenting their completed project works in the board room of the department. Supervisors of these students, HOD, and students' supervisors were all in attendance. The external defense is expected to take place in January, 2025.

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD, NUTRITION AND HOME SCIENCE



Dr. H. Henry-Unaeze

The Acting Head of Department of Food, Nutrition and Food Science (FNHS) is Dr. Helen Henry-Unaeze.

July 22nd, 2024: The Department of Food, Nutrition and Home Science held a board meeting to review and present the first semester of 2023/2024 examination results. During the meeting, assigned lecturers also presented committee reports to enhance the department and Faculty's academic capabilities.

July 26th, 2024: The Department participated in the faculty lecture on titled Tourism and Wildlife Crossroads delivered by renowned expert Lecturer Prof. Henry Mmaduabuchi IJeomah. The lecture highlighted the significance of educational tourism, support local and economic development.

August 5th, 2024: The Faculty of Agriculture held a board meeting and all the departments in the faculty presented their first semester results. Prof. Eucharica O Nwaichi, the director of the Academic planning unit delivered a lecture on strategies for enhancing student's academic learning focusing on effective active learning techniques, technological integration and innovative assessment methods.

August 14th, 2024: The Department of Food, Nutrition and Home science got a report on the success of NUC accreditation exercise. Two programs of the department to the Glory of God received full accreditation. These achievements increased workforce, student's confidence and enhanced departmental reputation.

August 15th – 17th, 2024: Dr. Nwakanma Chidiebere Immaculeta, Mrs. Obichere Assumpta and two students from Food, Nutrition and Home Science attended a three days' workshop on first aid emergency skills training titled "You too can save a life" organized by the Nigerian Red Cross Society, UniPort Detachment. The workshop equipped participants with essential lifesaving skills that will help to promote a culture of safety and well-being in the Faculty of Agriculture and University at large.



Dr. Nwakanma Chidiebere Immaculeta, Mrs. Obichere Assumpta, students and others at the workshop on first aid emergency skills training.

August 19th, 2024: Department Engage in Interactive Discussion on SIWES Conduct and Ethics

Prof. Ifeanchu Mercy along with fellow Lecturers facilitated an interactive discussion with students of the department of Food, Nutrition and Home Science on the importance of student's industrial work experience Scheme (SIWES), conduct and ethics. The discussion was aimed at helping students to foster a culture of excellence and responsibilities.

August 28th- 30th 2024: Dr. O. Jike-Wai, Dr Chidiebere Immaculeta Nwakanma and Mrs. Assumpta Obichere attended a three days' workshop on grant proposal writing for early career academics and researchers, organized by the University of Port Harcourt in collaboration with the society for advancement of management studies Durham University business school. The workshop was great as it enhanced the participants in research funding skills.



September 2nd, 2024: The Department convened an emergency Board meeting marking a significant transition in leadership. Prof. Mercy Ifeanchu formally handed over to her successor Dr. Helen-Henry Unaeze. Prof. Mercy Ifeanchu's tenor was great. She empowered excellence, recorded innovative education, and students' development among others.



The outgoing HoD Prof. Mercy Ifeancho (left) formally handing over to her successor Dr. Helen-Henry Unaeze

September 17th, 2024: A departmental board meeting was held for consideration of continuous Assessment (CA). Examination matters were also discussed.

September 19th, 2024: The Department participated in the Faculty QAQC committee held a joint meeting to discuss examinations' preparation, procedures and quality assurance measures. Key decisions were made, and actions items were identified. The meeting yielded significant decisions that will help in academic excellence. Also, Dr. O. Salomi released the 2nd semester examination timetable for the department of Food, Nutrition and Home Science. This facilitates examination preparation and enhances smooth Examination for the students.

September 20th, 2024

- **Appointment of New Committee Members and Faculty Emergency Board Meeting**

The Head of Department appointed some lecturers to review CCMAS 30% departmental courses. Additionally, a quality assurance and quality control committee were reviewed to ensure effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of departmental activities for CCMAS, Prof. E.R Amakoromo was appointed as chairman for Food science, Prof. M.O Ifeancho was appointed as the chairman of Nutrition and Dr. O. Salomi was appointed as the chairman for Home Science. Also, Prof. Ifeancho was appointed to pilot the affairs of the QAQC department with other Lectures as members.

- The Department also participated in the Faculty Emergency Board meeting at the faculty board room for the consideration of second semester 2023/2024 continuous assessment (CA).
- The President of Home Economics Research Association of Nigeria Prof. Priscilla Ezema donated three academic Journals to the Department of Food, Nutrition and Home Science, Faculty of Agriculture University of Port Harcourt. This generous donation was received by Dr. Nwakanma Chidiebere Immaculeta on behalf of the Department during the Home Economic Research Association of Nigeria 2024 conference held at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike. The gesture aims to enhance sound academic learning and research development. It will also promote excellence in food, Nutrition and Home Science.

- **Sensory Evaluation Assessment Practical.**

The Department conducted a sensory evaluation assessment practical showcasing various traditional/Nigerian delicacy. Students prepared and presented an array of local palatable dishes which were assessed by experienced lecturers of the faculty of Agriculture



Students and Assessors at the sensory evaluation assessment practical.

September 26th, 2024: Year three Home Science students successfully completed the practical aspect of Food Service Systems and Administration (HEM 309.2) On Thursday September 26th, 2024. Students demonstrated competence in preparation of adequate diet and presentation of palatable food and service. Effective teamwork was acquired among others.



Year three Home Science students and their lecturers in a practical class of Food Service Systems and Administration.

September 30th, 2024: Examination commenced for the second semester.



Students at an examination hall.

October 16th 2024: World Food Day

The Department of Food, Nutrition, and Home Science, Faculty of Agriculture, commemorated World Food Day on October 16th, 2024. This year's theme, "Right to Food for a Better Life and Better Future," emphasized the importance of ensuring universal access to nutritious food. The event focused on food security, sustainable agriculture, and advocating for a hunger-free world. Dr. Salomi and other esteemed lecturers delivered insightful presentations, educating students on proper food selection and its significance in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. This enriching experience not only raised awareness about global food issues but also empowered students to make informed choices about their diet and contribute to a sustainable food for future."



Staff and students of the Department Commemorating World Food Day: Right to healthy food as a fundamental human right.

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November 19th – 20th, 2024: Agriculture Week

The Department participated in the Faculty Agriculture Week celebration. It was a vibrant event which showcased innovative food products and fostered connections among stakeholders to promote agricultural development, food security, and sustainability.



Staff and students of the department at the exhibition ground during the Agriculture Week 2024 celebration.

November 25th, 2024: The department participated in the Faculty Board Meeting held to discuss and review proposals and other pertinent matters affecting the faculty.

November 28th, 2024: The FNHS held a departmental board meeting. The meeting provided a platform for committee members to make informed decisions and shape the future of the Department.

November 27th – 30th, 2024: Afro Sense International Conference, Ghana

Drs. Salomi and Nwakanma attended the prestigious Afro Sense international conference in Ghana. This cutting-edge event focused on sensory evaluation techniques for food product development. The conference participants gained hands-on experience and in-depth knowledge on:

- Sensory evaluation methodologies
- Food product development strategies
- Innovative approaches to flavor profiling

This expertise will significantly enhance their practical skills, enabling them to make valuable contributions to the field.



Drs. Salomi and Nwakanma and other participants from Nigeria at the Afrosense 2024 Conference.

In addition to being at the Afrosense conference, while in Ghana, Drs. Salomi and Nwakanma visited the renowned MANE Flavouring Company in Accra, Ghana. There, they received specialized training on:

- Advanced flavor creation techniques
- Sensory analysis of flavor compounds
- Application of flavor technology in product development

The training session at MANE provided them with valuable insights and practical knowledge, further solidifying their expertise in sensory evaluation and food product development. The training experience at the Afro Sense conference and the MANE Flavouring Company has equipped Drs. Salomi and Nwakanma with the latest knowledge and skills, positioning them to drive innovation and excellence in their field.



Drs. Salomi and Nwakanma at the Sensory Evaluation Workshop at MANE, Accra, Ghana

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 public 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. Ogaga D. Efenakpo (Secretary)	-	Environmental Forestry and Wildlife Management
Dr. Benjamin Akpoilih	-	Fisheries
Dr. Chidiebere I. Nwakanma	-	Food, Nutrition and Home Science

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