



PLANT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA
in Collaboration with
Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi

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THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE MAIDEN
HYBRID ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF PLANT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
OF NIGERIA

Theme:

**Plant Breeders, the Roadmap to Food Security
and Sustainable Livelihood in Nigeria**

Wed. November 29th to Fri. December 1st, 2023

Editors

Vange, T.
Ochigbo E. A.
Maga, T. J.
Nwadike, C.
Godspower Ekeruo

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HYBRID ANNUAL CONFERENCE
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of

PLANT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (PBAN)

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JOSEPH TARKA UNIVERSITY MAKURDI

Date:

WED. NOVEMBER 29TH – FRI. DECEMBER 1ST, 2023



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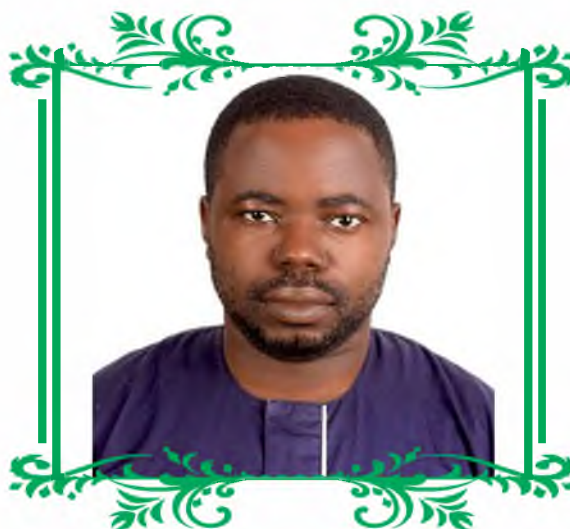
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*Dear President,
and local Organizing Committee
(LOC) Chairperson /entire membership
of Plant Breeders Association of Nigeria (PBAN)*

***GOODWILL MESSAGE OF OUR HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS ON
YOUR MAIDAN WORKSHOP***

I hope this communication finds you all in good health. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Plant Breeders Association of Nigeria for organizing a session that is very important on behalf of the Center for Carbon Literacy and Sustainable Education Initiative.

Our shared vision for a healthy and ecologically conscious future is perfectly aligned with your dedication to expanding knowledge and competence in plant breeding. We are grateful for your commitment to promoting creativity and quality in the industry.

Your workshop is an essential forum for knowledge sharing and collaboration, as plant breeders are critical in tackling global concerns relating to food security, climate change, and biodiversity. Your efforts are beneficial to Nigeria's agriculture sector as well as the larger global movement towards a more sustainable and greener world.

May this workshop be an enormous success, creating valuable relationships and igniting fresh concepts that will open doors to a more sustainable and resilient future. We have faith that the Nigerian Plant Breeders Association will always be a leader in innovation and advancement in the field of plant breeding.

We applaud you once more on this remarkable initiative. We are eager to observe the beneficial outcome that will surely result from your combined efforts.

Best regards,

Chinadike

Secretary.



Tribute

HONOURING THE LEGACY OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: PROFESSOR MALACHY

OGHENOVO AKORODA IN MEMORIAM (1953- 2023).

The Plant Breeders Association of Nigeria (PBAN) Community received the news of the passing of Professor Malachy Oghenovo Akoroda with profound sadness. As one of the founding elder statesmen and a pioneer Board of Trustees member of the Association, his demise left the community in a state of shock.



Born in 1953, Professor Akoroda was a distinguished scholar in Agronomy with a specialization in Seed Production and Plant Genetics Breeding. His educational journey began at Academy Primary School, Urban Area, Sapele, and continued to Malachy's Secondary Grammar School, Ugbeyiyi, Sapele, Delta State, and Kings College, Onikan, Lagos. He graduated from the University of Ibadan with a BSc. in Agriculture/Crop Science in 1975 and a PhD in Agronomy/Plant Breeding in 1981.

Throughout his career, Professor Akoroda demonstrated expertise in Plant Breeding, Farming Systems, Genetics, Statistics, and a variety of crops including Cassava, Sweet

Potato, Soybean, Yams, Okra, Cochorus, and Fluted Pumpkin. He commenced his scientific journey at the National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT) from 1981 to 1983 and later joined the Department of Agronomy at the University of Ibadan, where he rose through the ranks to become a Professor in 1994.

His contributions extended globally, working with renowned international organizations such as IITA, USAID, IFAD, FAO, CGIAR, SARRNET, NRCRI, FACU, PCU, EARRNET, NIHORT, RTEP, CMP, ADPs, IFC, TAC, SPG, TRIPP, AFNETA, VITAA, ISTRC-AB, among others. Professor Akoroda served in various capacities, including as a consultant, principal investigator, project coordinator, collaborator, team member, reviewer, and editor.

From July 2012 to December 2015, he served as the Executive Director of the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria, Ibadan. Over his career, he authored over 100 publications in journals, books, and technical reports, leaving an indelible mark on academia. Professor Akoroda supervised over 120 students at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels since 1980.

He was a family man survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, and other family members. Professor Akoroda's warm, affectionate, and thoughtful nature endeared him to many. He played a pivotal role in steering the growth and development of PBAN, providing invaluable advice that kept the association resilient in the face of challenges.

In the words of Albert Pike, "What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal." Professor Malachy Oghenovo Akoroda's contributions will forever remain immortal, and he will be greatly missed by all. May his gentle soul rest in the peace of the Lord. Adieu, Prof

Signed,

C.Nwadike

**C.NWADIKE – (MPBAN)
FOR: BOT & PBAN.**

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PLANT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (PBAN) AT THE GROUND BREAKING HYBRID CONFERENCE, HOSTED AT J. S. TARKA UNIVERSITY MAKURDI, NOVEMBER 29, 2023, ANANDE KIMBIR SENATE CHAMBERS, J. S. TARKA UNIVERSITY MAKURDI.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I extend warm greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Protem officers of the Plant Breeders Association of Nigeria (PBAN), as well as the Local Organizing Committee. It is indeed a pleasure to welcome all of you to the historic maiden hybrid conference of Plant Breeders at JS Tarka University, Makurdi, held today, November 29, 2023, at the Anande Kimbir Senate Chambers.

Benue State, renowned as the food basket of the nation, provides a fitting backdrop for this significant event. The theme of the conference aligns seamlessly with our mission, as plant breeders converge in Benue State to safeguard the food basket and ensure its sustainability through environmentally friendly approaches.

The Uniqueness of Makurdi

Makurdi, our chosen venue, boasts unique attributes as Nigeria's agricultural hub. Home to institutions like the Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Benue State University, University of Mkar, and other esteemed bodies, Makurdi is surrounded by the historic River Benue and hosts a variety of agro-allied companies. The rich ethnic diversity and cultural wealth, coupled with abundant agricultural produce like soybean, sesame, yam, cassava, rice, and more, make Makurdi an ideal setting for this groundbreaking conference.

Objectives of the Conference

The primary objectives of this maiden National Conference are vast but not limited to:

1. **Knowledge Sharing and Advancement:** Providing a platform for researchers, scientists, educators, policymakers, and industry stakeholders to share knowledge and breakthroughs in plant breeding, fostering discussions, and contributing to sector advancement.
2. **Capacity Building:** Offering specialized workshops, training sessions, and seminars conducted by national and international experts to enhance the professional and technical skills of participants.
3. **Networking and Collaboration:** Facilitating connections and collaborations among attendees for research projects, resource sharing, and addressing industry challenges.
4. **Policy Awareness and Advocacy:** Engaging with policymakers, government bodies, and industry stakeholders to address crucial issues, advocate for favourable policies, and shape the future of plant breeding practices in Nigeria.

We are delighted to witness your participation in this historic event, the maiden Hybrid Annual Conference of the Plant Breeders Association of Nigeria, organized in collaboration with Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi. This three-day conference, starting today and concluding on December 1, 2023, marks a significant milestone in our journey, which began in 2017, and reflects our collective dedication to advancing the field of plant breeding.

As we strive for sustainable food security, we encourage every individual with postgraduate training in plant breeding to join hands with us. Together, let us mentor the next generation of students who will continue our legacy.

I extend heartfelt thanks to renowned plant breeders, research administrators, and the dedicated individuals who played pivotal roles in making this conference a reality. Your efforts are truly commendable.

I express my gratitude to all paper presenters for undertaking the significant responsibility of furthering the objectives of plant breeding and pushing the boundaries of agricultural research in our nation. May you be blessed abundantly.

To all participants, presenters, special guests, and the audience, your presence is invaluable, and we express our gratitude.

In closing, I extend my appreciation to the Vice-Chancellor of this esteemed university for graciously agreeing to host a conference of such distinguished personalities.

I thank everyone who responded to our call to attend this conference, even in these challenging times. May your dedication and labour of love be abundantly rewarded. With over 50 abstracts and numerous scientific papers, we anticipate an enriching exchange of ideas. Special appreciation goes to our paper presenters and special guests.

Thank you all, and may God bless us abundantly.

Terkimbi Vange.

(Professor of Plant Breeding and Biometrics)

President Plant Breeders Association of Nigeria (PBAN)

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF THE HON. MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND SANITATION, ENGR. PROF. JOSEPH TERLUMUN UTSEV, FNSE, FNICE, FNIWE, FICEN, FNIAE, FIIL, BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF LOWER BENUE RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, MAKURDI, ENGR. MOHAMMED O. ADRA, FNSE, AmbP, ON THE OCCASION OF THE MAIDEN NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE PLANT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA, HELD AT THE JOSEPH SARWUAN TARKA UNIVERSITY, MAKURDI, FROM 29TH NOVEMBER – 1ST DECEMBER, 2023, WITH THE THEME, PLANT BREEDING: THE ROADMAP TO FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD IN NIGERIA.

Protocol

I feel highly privileged to deliver this short speech on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation, Engr. Prof. Joseph Terlumun Utsev, FNSE, FNICE, FNIWE, FICEN, FNIAE, FIIL, (who is unavoidably absent), on the occasion of the Maiden National Conference of Plant Breeders Association of Nigeria, held at the Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi, with the theme, Plant Breeding: The Roadmap to Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood in Nigeria.

Before I go any further, let me make haste to commend the Plant Breeders Association of Nigeria, for organizing this maiden National Conference, aimed at bringing all the critical stakeholders together to cross-breed ideas with the hope of coming up with resolutions that would impact positively on the agricultural sector and ensure food security in Nigeria. Let me in my own way specially welcome all the participants, in all your professional and technical backgrounds, to this very important Conference. To be honest, I make bold to say that with this giant initiative, and with the caliber of participants that are expected at this Conference, there is hope for Nigeria.

Let me remind all of us that one of the 8 key areas of focus of Mr. President's Renewed Hope Agenda is Food Security, and this platform wouldn't have come at a better time. I hereby wish to categorically state that the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, which was created to provide sustainable access to safe and sufficient water to meet the cultural and socio-economic needs of all Nigerians in a way that will enhance public health, food security and poverty reduction, while maintaining the integrity of fresh water ecosystem of the nation, is willing and ready to support any initiative and effort geared towards ensuring food sufficiency in the country.

As you may have been aware, one of the greatest challenges the whole world is grappling with is the issues of Climate Change and Global Warming, which has taken its toll on Nigeria and Africa in general. Today, rainfall shortage, flooding and the gradual destruction of the Ozone Layer, leading to harsh weather, are all having profound negative effect on plants and crop production in Nigeria. What remains pertinent therefore, is to

find ways of breeding new plants and crops that would be both resilient and also able to adapt to the changing climatic conditions, which course this Association is out to chart.

Your request for partnership with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation is therefore apt and would be given every attention that it deserves. I believe that the interaction between this Association and the Ministry wouldn't end at this Conference alone but would continue even after, where specific areas requiring partnerships and support of the Ministry would be looked into, and deliberately too. The various Technical Departments of the Ministry and the 12 River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs) in the country (including Lower Benue River Basin Development Authority, Makurdi) would be repositioned and strengthened for effective collaboration and partnerships so as to provide a coordinated and comprehensive efforts at tackling food insecurity, ensuring sustainable livelihood and poverty reduction in the country. I want to assure you that, as a government, we will do our utmost to ensure that this project succeeds.

Before I conclude, let me commend the past and present Management of Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University (which is both my Alma-Mata and my career Start-Point), for ensuring that the university continue to play its leading role in the areas of agricultural research, production and documentation, and for hosting the maiden Annual Conference of this noble Association.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I wish all the participants at this Annual Conference a robust participation and contribution, and being a maiden Conference, I also pray that a strong foundation would be laid at the end, for posterity to build upon.

Thank you for your audience, and may god bless you.