

# ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA



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## **COMMUNIQUE OF THE 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA HELD AT UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA FROM 7-10 OCTOBER, 2014**

The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Entomological Society of Nigeria held at Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Abuja, Abuja FCT on the theme “Insect Resurgence: Implication for Agriculture, Health and Sustainable Environment.

Keynote address on the theme was given by Professor Hayward Babale Mafuyai, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Jos after the Conference was declared open by Professor M. U. Adikwu, the Vice Chancellor, University of Abuja. The Conference also attracted other dignitaries such as the Minister of National Planning – Dr. Abubakar Olanrewaju Suleiman; Dr. Chioma Amajo – Chief Executive Officer, Community Vision Initiative and Alhaji Abubakar Haruna Tanko – the Conservator General, Nigeria National Park.

Two hundred and forty (240) participants from within and outside the country including scientists from the Academia, Research Institutes and industries attended the conference in which a total of 173 scientific papers were delivered.

### **Three symposia papers were presented namely:**

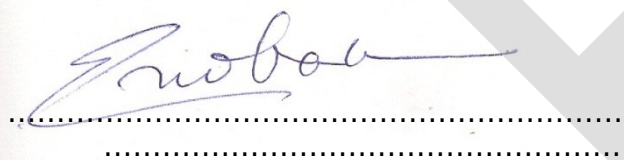
- a. Integrated Vector Management: The Strategy for Vector Control in Public Health
- b. An Emerging Trend for Insect Pest Management in Nigeria
- c. The Role of Insects in Heritability Conservation in the Nigeria National Park

### **The Conference highlighted the following challenges:**

- i. Insecticide usage treadmill birthed by indiscriminate, non judicious usage of pesticides with consequent adverse impact on non-target beneficial organisms.
- ii. Weak pedestal to grow synergy of management of pests of agricultural and public health importance.
- iii. Inadequate funding of research on the management of pests of agricultural and public health importance.

**The following resolutions were reached at the end of the deliberations:**

1. Pest resurgence is a complex phenomenon and there is paucity of coherent database from which researchers can draw because most research work published in this area in which the phenomenon is embedded deals with other aspects such as pest control, ecology and insect-plant interactions. Consequently, scientists should be encouraged to carry out studies relating insect resurgence to population ecology and thus, allowing resurgence to be viewed within a broader ecological context.
2. Pest resurgence has been noticed both in the agricultural and health sectors. Therefore, there is a need for concerted efforts by entomologists and related disciplines and Government agencies in funding collaborative studies to abate this problem.
3. The Nigerian Agricultural production system is characterized by small holder farmers, insect pest resurgence, weeds, diseases, low yields and poor storage systems. It was resolved that biotechnology is capable of improving Nigeria's sustainable agricultural production system by ensuring high yields and reduction in post-harvest losses. It is also capable of dealing with resistance and resurgence of notorious public health insect pests such as mosquitoes, bed bugs, blackflies etc.
4. Government should consciously fund Entomological research in both agriculture and health sectors in order to foster the Transformation Agenda of the Federal Government for its citizenry.
5. Government should legislate on the proper use of pesticides on food crops, animals and environment; determine safety levels and publicize the hazards resulting from over use and abuse. Entomological Society of Nigeria and the Institute of Entomology should play a key role in setting the standards for pesticide handling, application and registration of pest control practitioners.



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