**ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA (ESN)**

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 52ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA (ESN)**

The 52nd Annual Conference of the Entomological Society of Nigeria (ESN) with the theme “The Role of Insects in the World Economy-Post Pandemic Era” was held between 3rd and 7th October, 2023 at the Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State. The Conference was attended by over 200 participants that cut across Entomologists, Plant Protectionists, Industries, Academic Institutions, Students, Research Institutes, Private and Government Agencies/Organizations, other Stakeholders, Gentlemen of the press, and numerous well-wishers. Notably, members from over 50 Institutions attended the conference.

The opening ceremony was chaired by Professor Johnson O.A. Agboola, the Vice Chancellor, Olabisi Onabanjo University (OOU), Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State. The welcome address was delivered by Prof. O.A. Lawal (LOC Chairman) and the President of Entomological Society of Nigeria (ESN), Prof. R.S. Adamu gave the presidential address. The key note address titled “The Role of Insects in the World Economy Post Pandemic Era was delivered by Dr. Sam O. Okunade who represented Prof. L. O. Sanni, the Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute (NSPRI). Three plenary papers titled “Achieving Food and Social Security through Insect Science”, “Identifying the Gaps and Strengthening the Capacity of Nigerian Entomologists for Effective and Sustainable Control of Vector-Borne Disease” and “The Significant of Insect Science in Healthy Living were delivered by Prof. Francis S. Agbidye, Dr. Adedayo Oduola and Prof. Kehinde Kamabonta respectively.

Goodwill messages were delivered by Prof. Talabi Oladele, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Mr. Ogunneye K.B, the representative of the Vice-Chancellor, Tai-Solarin University of Education (TASUED), Ijebu-ode, Pastor Issa Gbotemi Adeleye, the representative of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Forestry, Mr. Adegoke Adegboyega, the representative of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture. Mr. Kehinde Akintomiwa represented the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Investment and Industry at the conference and delivered the goodwill message of the ministry. The Honourable Commissioner of Police, Ogun State was represented at the conference by ACP Edward Omoosayin, the Area Commander Ijebu-ode. Vice-Chancellor, Glorious Vision University, Ogwa, Edo State, Professor A.B. Lawal also attended the opening ceremony. Two educative talks were given by National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) and the Department of Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS). One hundred and forty abstracts (140) were received for presentation at the Conference. Certificates were presented to the first, second and third positions of the student essay competition on conference theme. Four members were conferred with fellow of the society, while seven were admitted as honorary fellows of the society,

**The Conference observed that:**

1. The Entomological Society of Nigeria is a renowned Society and is well positioned for tremendous transformation and development of the Nigerian economy post-pandemic era.
2. There are gaps between the potentials of Entomologists and their current engagements.
3. Research results, discoveries and methodologies from Entomological perspectives are not fully broadcasted and disseminated to the local and international communities, industries, government agencies through linkage to enhance economic development and promote more collaborations.
4. There are opportunities in Entomology/Vector Control Space in Nigeria.
5. Nigerians are living with quantified risk of being infested with vector-borne disease whose vector species variation in States in different states across the country.
6. Agricultural productivity in the country is incessantly threatened by insect pests with attendant huge damage to crops on the field and in the stores
7. There are beneficial roles of some insects such as bees, larvae of silk worm, blister beetle, Odonata, black soldier fly larvae etc and they are of economic significance as feed and food man and animals, decomposer, pollinator of crops, forensic tool, ecotourism instrument, bio-indicator, improve livelihood and contribute to sustainability of the environment.
8. The economic significance and benefits of insect farming has not been fully utilized.
9. COVID was characterized as pandemic by WHO and It became a threat to public health, reduced family consumptions, affected human lifes, businesses, employment opportunities and global economy.
10. There is low awareness about the health benefits of edible insects and proper processing.
11. There is shortage of government funding and support for research to tackle the challenges of insect pests in Nigeria.
12. There is indiscriminate importation, marketing and use of agro-chemicals which has caused much damage to the Nigerian agricultural system.

**Recommendations**

The Conference recommend as follows:

1. Government and private organizations should support and partner with Entomologists to identify Nigerian insect species.
2. Insect rearing and farming should be promoted and supported for empowerment and economic development.
3. Deforestation, forest degradation, wildfire and unguided use of agrochemicals should be discouraged to preserve edible insects and avoid their extinction.
4. There should be more information and enlightenment on identification of edible insect, their processing and benefits.
5. There is the need for special government funding on crop protection-based research to boost agricultural productivity.
6. Linkages between University, Research Institutes, Government and Industry must be strengthened with a view to protect plants, enhance human health and promote national development.
7. The use of innovative mobile applications adaptable for smallholder farmers that can enhance easy identification of diseases and insect pests of plants.

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Prof. R. S. Adamu (President, FESN) Prof. A. A. Osipitan (Chairman)

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Dr. (Mrs) Salisu (Secretary) Dr. Owagboriaye

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Dr. Julius Bamidele