



# SSSN NEWSLETTER

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## NISS BILL SIGNED INTO LAW



### FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



### NIGERIA INSTITUTE OF SOIL SCIENCE (ESTABLISHMENT, ETC.) ACT 2017

The Bill for an Act for the establishment of the Nigeria Institute of Soil Science was signed into law by the Ag. President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON, on 3rd February 2017.

The Nigeria Institute of Soil Science is a professional body of soil scientists, with a Mission Statement to regulate the practice of Soil Science for increased profitability to all stakeholders and guarantee improved soil

management systems that will embrace environmental sustainability and ensure high agricultural productivity and food security to Nigerians. The Institute is charged with the responsibility for regulating the profession of Soil Science in Nigeria. The Soil Science Society of Nigeria has pursued with passion, the legislation and enactment into law of the Nigeria Institute of Soil Science Act since 2012. Today, it has become a reality and members of the Society are happy for it. Many friends of the Soil Science Society of Nigeria have extended congratulations to the President and the Society.

Bukar Tijani of FAO Regional Office, Ghana, in his letter to the President said “I congratulate you and your team for pushing so hard to reach this point of the establishment of the Nigeria Institute of Soil Science.

What immediately comes to my mind besides the broad regulation and association of members, is the opportunity to very widely look into all aspects of the soil including its conservation, management and fertilization using simple, cheaper and innovative approaches which the soil scientists as well as other soil users can adapt at different levels in Nigeria and elsewhere.”

The Society, through its Headquarters is already making arrangements for the Act to be gazetted by the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture.

## **2016 WORLD SOIL DAY AND INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PULSES**

The 2016 WSD and the IYP were celebrated across Nigeria in a very special way through the financial support of FAO. During the celebrations, there were print and electronic media advertisements, workshops, road shows, exhibitions, quiz competitions for students on the importance of pulses towards the improvement of food security and nutrition as well as in soil fertility management.

To ensure the success of the celebration, the President, Prof. V. O. Chude, gave a directive to the Heads of Soil Science Departments as follows “all Heads of Department of Soil Science in Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Agriculture, Research Institutes should as a matter of directive hold public seminars, symposium, road shows and other activities to create awareness on the “*Soils and pulses, a symbiosis for life*” to celebrate the IYP. The mother of all events was on the 5th of December, 2016 when lectures were delivered by HODs in their respective Institutions. The audience included VCs, Provosts, DVCs Academic, Deans of Science- based faculties, Soil Science students and representatives of final year students from secondary schools. The Print/Electronic media were also invited”. To strengthen the Heads of Departments and further ensure that the celebration of the International year of pulses became a huge success across the Federation, the Soil Science Society of Nigeria, through the President, appointed seven Special Ambassadors to reinforce and support the work the Society and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO/UNO) were doing as part of the 2016 International Year of Pulses (IYP).

In addition to the activities held in the various parts of the country, a World Soils Day Symposium was held in Abuja which attracted many top government dignitaries. The Symposium was declared open by the Hon. Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development, Senator Heineken Lokpobiri. Reports of the activities in the various Institutions are given below.

### **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PULSES (IYP) SYMPOSIUM ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOIL SCIENCE ON THE 15TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2016 AT THE NEW AGRICULTURE LECTURE HALL, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA**

The event started by 12:30pm with the following dignitaries in attendance; Vice Chancellor represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor – Prof. Charles A. Igwe. Dean, Faculty of Agriculture – Prof. B.C. Echezona, former Provost, Federal College of Land

Resources – Mr. Hillary Ucheagwu, Head of Department, Crop Science – Dr. (Mrs). U.M. Ndubuaku. Head of Department, Plant Science & Biotechnology – Dr.(Mrs.) Nkechinyere Eze. Head of Department, Home Science Nutrition & Dietetics represented by Mrs Ifeoma Ifiagwu, Staff of the Department and Students of the Faculty.

The programme began with an opening prayer by Mrs Eke, Secretary of the Department of Soil Science. Thereafter, the Dean gave his address; he noted that it was unfortunate that most of the Faculty Staff did not make themselves available for the event. He also pointed out the importance of pulses to food security.

Before the Deputy Vice - Chancellor (Administration) presented the Vice - Chancellor’s address, he also reiterated the lack of commitment of staff and students of the Faculty especially staff of Department of Soil Science to events that are being organized by the Faculty stating that the attendance to the programme was very poor and showed the lackadaisical attitude of staff. Thereafter, he presented the Vice Chancellor’s address and declared the Symposium open.

The first speaker to present was the Head of Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Dr (Mrs) N. Eze. She spoke on the role of pulses for climate change mitigation.

Her presentation was followed by that of the Head of Department of Home Science, Nutrition & Dietetics who spoke on the nutritional importance of pulses. The third speaker was the Head of Department of Soil Science represented by Dr. S.E. Obalum, who spoke on the importance of pulses in relation to soil fertility management and the last speaker was the Head of Department of Crop Science, Dr (Mrs) U.M. Ndubuaku who talked about pulses in relation to climate change, nutrition, soil fertility and food security.

After discussions and general comment from the participants, the programme came to a close at 3:30pm with a closing prayer.

### **REPORT OF 2016 WORLD SOIL DAY COMMEMORATION AT THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MINNA, NIGERIA**

In compliance with the directive of the President of Soil Science Society of Nigeria (SSSN), the Department of Soil Science and Land Management, Federal University of Technology, Minna, marked the 2016 WORLD SOIL DAY on

Monday, 5th December, 2016 with the following activities:

#### **1. Live Radio Programme**

A live radio programme was aired for one hour from 11 am on FUTMinna Campus Radio - Search FM (92.3). Prof. A.J. Odofin (HOD) and Dr. J.A. Fagbenro who represented the

Department enlightened the general public on the fundamental importance of soil to human existence and continued survival. Some listeners also phoned in to ask questions and offer suggestions.

### 2. Inter-Secondary Schools Quiz Competition

Three private schools participated in the quiz competition which started at 11 am. Questions asked spread across various aspects of Soil Science in the SSSCE syllabus. The Vice Chancellors later presented prizes to the participating schools during the public lecture.

### 3. Public lecture

The highlight of the programme was the public lecture at 2.30 pm on the theme: “Soils and pulses, a symbiosis for life” delivered by the Head of Department, Prof. A.J. Odofin. The public lecture was organized in partnership with the University Seminar and Colloquium Committee.

The event was chaired by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. M.A. Akanji. Other Principal officers of the University were in attendance.

## PHOTO GALLERY OF THE 2016 WORLD SOIL DAY PUBLIC LECTURE IN FUT, MINNA



**Prof. Ayodele Odofin delivering the Lecture to commemorate World Soil Day 2016**



**Principal Officers and other members of the high table listening attentively as the Lecture is delivered**



**Vice Chancellor declaring World Soil Day 2016 Public Lecture open**



**Vice Chancellor introducing the Speaker, Prof. Ayodele Odofin**



**Audience listens with keen interest**



**Audience gave standing ovation after the Lecture**



**Group Photograph after the Lecture**



**VC presenting prizes and certificate of participation to one of the participating Secondary Schools in the Inter-Schools Quiz Competition**



**VC Commending the Speaker in the presence of Chairman University Seminar Committee at the cocktail party**



**VC presenting prize and certificate of participation to another participating Secondary School in the Quiz Competition**



**The speaker and Prof. B.A Raji (Vice President of SSSN) at the Cocktail Party**



**Secondary School students at the cocktail party**



## WORLD SOIL DAY CELEBRATION AT THE MICHAEL OKPARA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, UMUDIKE, ABIA STATE, NIGERIA HELD ON 5TH DECEMBER 2016

December 5th 2016 marked another exciting celebration of the World Soil Day, by the Department of Soil Science and Meteorology and the University Community. Brief interviews were conducted to know the expectation of participants. Professor D. O. Asawalam, the Soil Ambassador representing the south eastern zone, in an interview said that;



**Soil Ambassador, Prof. D. O. Asawalam in an interview before the procession**

“there is need for us to harness the food potential of our own local pulses and calls for some kind of collaboration between us and those in Food Science and Technology, such that these food products can have added value and in different ways so that our people can exploit them. This is turn will be of great benefit to us in terms of our health, environment and food nutrition security”. Miss. Okereke C. Janet, a 500 level student of the Department of Soil Science and Meteorology, when asked of her expectation in this year’s event, said that she was looking forward to learning more about soil and all that is around it.

A final year student, Mr. Onyebuchi Eric in the department of Plant Health Management (PHM) was also interviewed to know the level of his awareness of the event.

He acknowledged that this was a very unique event and as a student in PHM, he also had some kind of relationship with the soil. The Soil Science and Meteorology Students’ Association, led by their President, Comr. Chukwu Agozirim participated fully in making the occasion a success. In a statement by the President, SSAMSAN, he enumerated the importance of pulses to food nutrition. The procession was organized by the Staff and Students of the Department of Soil Science and Meteorology. The University Community was fully aware that such a programme was taking place in the campus. What made this year’s procession round the university, unique, was the privilege the participants had when they met with the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Francis O. Otunta, on his way to other functions. The atmosphere was filled with singing and jubilation, with chanting of such soil slogans as “*No soil No life*”. The *soil evangelization* grouped by Dr. G. O. Chukwu (the soil evangelist) made a brief presentation

to the amiable Vice Chancellor who stood beside the car and patiently listened to the awareness message. The soil evangelist, in his presentation to the Vice- Chancellor, informed him of the purpose for the awareness and peculiarity of the day. The Vice Chancellor later took a group photograph with the participants during the procession and encouraged the staff and students for their participation. Just after the procession, representatives from various Colleges, Departments and units were present at the programme venue for lectures and talks. The opening prayer was said by Dr. M. I. Onwuka. Dr. Nneoma Obasi, who represented the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Admin.), Prof. Joy Nwabueze, gave the opening remarks.

The Dean of College of Crop and Soil Sciences, presented the kolanuts as a way of welcoming both guests and participants. The HOD, Soil Science and Meteorology, Dr. K. C. Uzoma in his welcome speech, alluded to the purpose for this awareness. He mentioned various resources that can be harnessed and the importance of biodiversity in the soil.

The HOD, Dr. K. C. Uzoma gave the first lecture titled, “*The role of pulses in sustainable food production, healthy diets, food security and quality nutrition.*” He stated that agriculture needed to be competitive to tackle food security challenges. He also highlighted the usefulness embedded in pulses for the production of biodiesel in some parts of the world. Just after his lecture, the Soil Evangelization Group led by Dr. G. O. Chukwu made a short presentation to drive home their message for sustainable soil development. This group converted soil science lectures into songs, two of which were presented during the celebration. The second lecturer, Dr. B. A. C. Agugo, a specialist in pulse production, made a presentation on, “*Pulses for sustainable soil productivity and food security*”. He stated that because of the increase in soil degradation, “there is need to apply effective and vibrant agricultural land management that pays concurrent attention to sustaining and enhancing soil productivity or reviving soil productivity”. He also mentioned that pulses should become components of every agroecosystem for both nutrient addition in soil and nutrition for man. During the general interaction, Dr. O. I. Nwachukwu, a senior lecturer in the Department, noted that even though the United Nations had singled out a day to celebrate the soil, things were not really happening in terms of agricultural productivity. The Dean, College of Food Science and Technology, Professor Nwabueze, a Food Scientist, acknowledged the role legumes play both environmentally and in food security to man. He stated the need to go from theory to practice. Professor V. E. Osodeke, a Soil Chemist, in making his contribution, questioned the willingness of Nigerians to key into research findings for national development. He also doubted the interest of the southeast and south-south states in real agricultural production. The Dean, CCSS, Professor E. N. Ogbodo, expressed his worries that as a University of Agriculture, most of our researches end up on the shelves. He emphasized that this is the time to reach out to the farmers in the villages to encourage them to start growing these pulses. The chairman of the LOC, for the WSD, Dr. R. C. Eneje, gave the vote of thanks and called for a collaborative research effort in order to achieve enhanced agricultural productivity.

This event ended on a common ground and the need to start collaboration work was appreciated. Key officials of the college were further interviewed which brought the celebration to a final close.



A brief chat with the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Francis Otunta during the procession of 2016 World Soil Day celebration



Prof. D. O. Asawalam giving his remarks during 2016 World Soil Day celebration



**Prof. E. N. Ogbodo, Dean, CCSS**



**Dr. B. A. C. Agugo an expert in pulse production, Department of Agronomy, giving the second lecture**



**Dr. O. I. Nwachukwu, Soil scientist**



**Song presentations by the Soil Evangelization Group**



**Prof. V. E. Osodeke, Soil Chemist**



**Prof. Nwabueze, Dean CAFST, MOUAW**



**Dr. Eneje Roseta C. (Chairman, LOC)**



**Group photograph**



### **PREAMBLE**

The Department of Soil Science and Technology, Federal University of Technology, Owerri Nigeria joined their counterpart all over the world in organizing and celebrating the World Soil Day 2016 on Monday December 5, 2016 at the university premises. Prior to this year's celebration, the Acting Head of Department and a pedologist, Dr. E.U. Onweremadu constituted a three-man Local Organizing Committee headed by Dr. Emmanuel E. Ihem.

The committee consulted widely and swung into action to produce a blue-print which formed the road map for efficient delivery.

### **PRE-DAY EVENT**

Focusing on the theme pointing on Soil and Pulses, the Acting Head of Department of Soil Science and Technology, had a pre-day interview and interaction with Radio Nigeria (Heartland Radio) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, 2016. At the dawn of the day and before commencement of the programme at Federal University of Technology Owerri (FUTO), the interview was aired which sensitized and mobilized the entire State for the global event. In this particular interaction, Dr. E. U. Onweremadu reviewed both the beauty and utility of soils and pulses. The radio sensitization was in addition to posters and fliers earlier distributed.

### **THE EVENT**

There was early morning match by the student group. At about 11 am, participants from Federal University of Technology Owerri, Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education Owerri, Imo State University, Owerri, Federal College of Land Resources Technology, Owerri, Federal Polytechnic, Nekede Owerri, Imo State Polytechnic Umuagwo and indeed other land users gathered at the Board room of the School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology. After traditional kola-nut presentation and breaking by the Head of Department of Soil Science and

Technology, the Dean of School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology on behalf of the University Management, declared the occasion open after presenting a welcome address to the participants including renowned Professors from the university and other sister institutions. The hallmark of the event was a lecture titled: "Soils and Pulses: An Intercourse for mutual benefits in the Biosphere" delivered by Dr. E. U. Onweremadu. The lecture excited and evoked supportive speeches from participants. A walk round the laboratories, and other facilities necessary for soil studies were undertaken. Group photographs were taken at the end of the day.

Thereafter, students were so excited and encouraged about their relevance given the revelation of the lecture. In this ecstasy, students marched out the hall, going round the campus with their flags of campaign to reserve soils for the betterment of human kind and sustaining the fast degrading environment.

### **APPRECIATION**

We the soil scientists in the catchment area, in view, thank the Vice Chancellor, Professor F.C, Eze, who provided an enabling environment for driving excellence in the university especially his support for soil science.

The Dean, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology, Prof. B. O. Esonu, staff and students of Imo State University, Federal College of Land Resources Technology, and a host of other institutions, National Association of Soil Science Students, FUTO and IMSU branches, the Local Organizing Committee for the occasion, Professors and lecturers especially from FUTO who made the occasion thick.

**A WELCOME ADDRESS PRESENTED ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD SOIL DAY CELEBRATION ON 5 DEC, 2016 AT THE SAAT BOARD ROOM, FUTO BY PROFESSOR B.O. ESONU, DEAN SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, OWERRI, NIGERIA.**

I rise with un-tinted and well polished humility to welcome you all to a celebration possibly next to CHRISTMAS: The World Soil Day. Forces above and below celebrate the importance of soil as a critical component of the natural system and as a vital contributor to the human commonwealth via its contribution to food, nutrition, water, energy, security and as a mitigator of biodiversity loss and climate change. It is conspicuously celebrated by the global community of 60,000 soil scientists, (indeed evangelists) charged with responsibility of generating and communicating soil knowledge for the common good.

### **World Soil Day - 5th December**

The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), in 2002, incubated and hatched a resolution proposing the 5th of December as World Soil Day to celebrate the beauty and utility of soil as a critical component of the natural system, an integrator of all geospheres as well as a vital contributor to human well-being. Under the leadership of the Kingdom of Thailand and within the framework of the "Global Soil



Partnership", FAO has supported the formal establishment of the World Soil Day as a global awareness raising platform. The FAO Conference, in June 2013, unanimously endorsed World Soil Day and requested official adoption at the 68th UN General Assembly. In December 2013, the 68th UN General Assembly declared 5th of December as the World Soil Day.

Since 2012, the FAO-GSP has been organizing events of this important day. This is the import of this congregation today taking place in a serene intellectual sanctum: The Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria.

I strongly believe that besides ceremonies about GOD, the next in hierarchy is World Soil Day. Sadly, our ignorance about the importance of soil and the degree to which we take advantage of all that it offers have led to a drastic reduction in its quality globally. In Europe, more than 400 associations have joined The People4Soil Coalition which is promoting The European Citizens Initiative to fight unending pollution in defence of soil resource. These are in precise terms problems which World Soil Day aims to battle. What else is as important to us as soil Oh inhabitants of the Planet Earth? Who could ever hope to survive without the SOIL? Soil is one without any iota of doubt of the most significant parts of the ecosystem, contributing to our food, water and energy and playing an important part in reducing the impact of climate change. For all of these reasons, it's high time World Soil Day became known to more people than just scientists concerned about the welfare of our planet. Leaders of nations and indeed all stakeholders should know this: No soil No life! And that non-respect for soil by all political gladiators can evoke unquantifiable anarchy in the global ecosystem

### **How to Celebrate World Soil Day**

The best way to celebrate this day is to educate ourselves and other humans on the planet earth. An enormous amount of damage is done to the soil every year not because of ill will but due to ignorance. Many soil users simply do not know enough about it especially when they are damaging it, sometimes irreparably. Given this scenario and noting varying quanta of beauties and utilities and that it takes sometimes thousands of years to form soil resource, we participants in this part of the biosphere rise in unison to say NO to any action and/ or inaction capable of diminishing the spiritual integrity, economic profitability and environmental utility of the fine earth material: THE SOLUM. Everybody on earth is soil-bound and with the umbilical cord held in the custody of the soil, why then do we treat the soil with utter disdain? Therefore, today comes a voice saying HONOUR THE SOIL FOR LONG LIFE GOOD HEALTH AND BETTER COMMUNION WITH GOD THE AUTHOR OF SOIL AND THE FINISHER OF HUMAN FAITH. Whatever you decide to do, remember that even the smallest gestures made to preserve it can make a big difference to the fine earth material -Mother Earth!

### **International Year of Pulses**

The International Year of Pulses 2016 (IYP 2016) was

declared by the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has been nominated to facilitate the implementation of IYP 2016 in collaboration with governments, relevant organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders. Its aim is to heighten public awareness of the nutritional benefits of pulses as part of sustainable food production aimed towards food security and nutrition. The IYP 2016 will create an opportunity to encourage connections throughout the food chain that would better utilize pulse-based proteins, further global production of pulses, better utilize crop rotations, indeed other soil fertility enhancement strategies; and address challenges in the global trade of pulses. On this note, I humbly request us all to join the rest of the world in these programmes so that they can be achieved to the glory of GOD and for the promotion of welfare of humans and other life forms. 'Happy Soil Day'

### **REPORT OF YEAR 2016 WORLD SOIL DAY CELEBRATION BY INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING, IBADAN.**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations declared 2016 as International Year of Pulses. The aim was to increase public awareness of the benefits of pulses for sustainable crop production and food security.

The Institute of Agricultural Research and Training, Ibadan with national mandate for soil research in Nigeria celebrated the world soil day on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, 2016.

The programme was attended by Soil Science lecturers, researchers and students from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, University of Ibadan, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta and Federal College of Agriculture, Ibadan. About 127 participants including students and lecturers were in attendance. The Chairman of the occasion, Director, IAR&T, represented by Dr. A.A. Adegbite, gave an opening remark on the importance of soil and pulses. The Head, land and Water Resources Management Programme, IAR&T, Dr. (Mrs.) O.T. Ande gave a presentation on the topic 'Pulses for Soil and Human Life'. She described soil as a non-renewable resource that is essential for plant life and larger percentage of the global food supply. Therefore, to avoid hunger and malnutrition resulting from land degradation, sustainable management of world's agricultural soils is imperative. She defined pulses as annual leguminous crops yielding between one and twelve grains or seeds of variable size, shape and colour within a pod, used for both food and feed. She further described pulses as an economic asset in the agricultural sector because they offer farmers higher profit margins than cereal grains and are also sustainable, resilient and soil-friendly, feeding the soil biology and increasing microbial activity. She gave various examples of pulses to include all beans, peas and lentils. She also enumerated the importance of pulses as food and on the farm and they are highlighted as follows: Pulses are architects of soil health because they host special soil bacteria enabling the biological fixation of nitrogen, a natural process that would cost a lot of money every year in synthetic

fertilizers. They also foster soil carbon sequestration and cleaner water filtration. Pulses and legumes are important components of a healthy diet as they prevent obesity and type-2 diabetes, to reduce the risk of heart diseases, blood pressure and certain types of cancers. They have higher protein content - often three times as much as rice or cassava - than staple grains. Pulses also are a significant source of health-enhancing minerals, including iron, magnesium, potassium, phosphorous and zinc. Other dietary health attributes of pulses include high B-vitamin content, low fat content, no cholesterol and a low glycemic index.

While low in calories, they are high in complex carbohydrates and dietary fibers. Pulses are low carbon demanding crop because they utilize soil bacteria to draw nitrogen from the air. This natural process replaces the need to add nitrogen fertilizers in pulse crops, which mean pulses use half the energy inputs of other crops. Pulses are water efficient source of protein because many of them are adapted to dry environment making them well-suited for areas that are prone to drought. Pulses are agents of sustainability and/or sustainable soil management. After the presentation, there was a period of discussion when participants were allowed to make contributions. Dr. (Mrs.) O.T. Ayoola, the Head of Grain Legume Improvement Programme, also talked on the importance of pulses.

The programme also included questions and answers period. Some students that answered questions on soil management protocols correctly were given gifts. At the end of the programme, Lunch was served to the participants and transportation fares were settled for students in attendance. Two print media organizations were in attendance to cover the programme.



Group photograph of dignitaries at the occasion with students from federal university of agriculture Abeokuta.



Group photograph of dignitaries at the occasion with students from university of Ibadan



Cross section of participant at the program



A lecture being delivered at the event



Group photograph of dignitaries at the occasion with students from Obafemi Awolowo university



The deputy director IAR&T, Ibadan delivering his speech at the program



Cross section of participant at the program



Cross section of participant at the program

## **PRESS RELEASE ON THE 2016 WORLD SOIL DAY AND THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PULSES**

The 68th General Assembly of the United Nations declared 2016 as the International Year of Pulses as part of activities to mark the 2016 World Soil Day. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was directed to facilitate the implementation of the year in collaboration with various governments, relevant organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

The International Year of Pulses is aimed at raising public awareness of the nutritional benefits of pulses as part of sustainable food production towards food security and nutrition. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, this year created a unique opportunity to encourage connections throughout the food chain that will better utilize pulse-based protein,

further global production of pulses, better utilized crop rotations and address the changes in the trade of pulses. Another objective of the International Year of Pulses is to promote the value and utilization of pulses throughout the food system, the benefit for soil fertility and climate change and for combating malnutrition. Pulses are annual leguminous crops yielding between one to twelve grains or seed of variable size, shape and colour within the pod used for both food and feed. The term pulses are limited to crops harvested for dried grains, thereby, excluding crops harvested and pulses because of their importance to human existence and the nation's food security. He called on all of us to join hands together to celebrate the 2016 World Soil Day for national productivity.

*Happy World Soil Day!!!*

## **2016 WORLD FOOD DAY SYMPOSIUM A BIG SUCCESS!!**

Mainly for extractions in the bid to strengthen the The 2016 World Food Day Symposium on 14 October campaign for this years' International Year of Pulses, FAO appointed 6 special ambassadors of which Elizabeth Mpfu represented Africa. According to her, small older farmers should be encouraged to grow pulses to accelerate food production. She believes that the best way to promote pulses is by training smallholder farmers as pulse growers and teaching them how to process and conserve the nutritious seed. Since the official launch of IYP at FAO Headquarters on November 10, 2015, the nutritious seeds have become very popular. Indeed, the IYP is arousing a great deal of worldwide interest across a wide range of sectors from agriculture and trade to health and nutrition. According to a statement by the President of Soil Science Society of Nigeria, Professor Victor Chude, the Society that promotes good governance on soil management, stresses the importance of pulses to include those being packed with nutrients, high protein and fiber content. Their nitrogen fixing property improves soil fertility. They have a broad genetic diversity from which climate resilient varieties can be selected. They are highly water efficient and their production has low greenhouse gas emission. They can be stored for months without losing their high nutritional value. The official closing ceremony of IYP was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso early in 2017. This afforded a unique opportunity to recap the achievement of the year and turn the IYP legacy into tangible sets of activities.

The World Soil Day is also celebrated on the 5th of " December and the theme for this year's celebration is "Soils and pulses, symbiosis for life". As Nigerians joined the rest of the world to celebrate 2016 World Soil Day and the International Year of Pulses, experts from across the globe had called on Nigerian farmers

to attach great importance to soils can simply be described as a “smashing success”! The Symposium was declared open by the Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development, Senator Heineken Lokpobiri. We had over 500 delegates from different parts of the country, as well as leaders from business, academia and international organizations.

It was really a wonderful and rewarding experience! On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Prof. V.O. Chude would like to place on record our sincere appreciation of the participation of the Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development, Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture, FAO Representative in Nigeria, the Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Environment, Managing Director, SQN Solutions, Team Leader Propcom Maikarfi, President, All Farmers Association of Nigeria, Farmer associations, NPC – CCASP, CEOs of Donor agencies and development partners, State Commissioners of Agriculture, Keynote Speakers and Discussants as well as other participants. The list of “thank yous” is therefore very long. He would however like to mention those who presented papers as well as discussants who made the Symposium a success; Engr. Sunday Edibo - Director of Lands and Climate Change, FMA&RD; Dr. Anthony C. Anuforom – Director General, NIMET; Director, Development Finance Department - CBN; Mr. Adams Eloyi – NPC, YPAED; Prof. Samuel Adelowo Olakojo – IAR&T, Moore Plantation; Prof. A.C. Odunze – Department of Soil Science, ABU Zaria; Mr. N. A. Yusuph – Lagos State Government; Mr. John Okoro - Managing Director, Summertime International; Director Extension, FMA & RD and Prof. G. I. C. Nwaka – Department of Soil Science, University of Abuja. He also would want to appreciate the Masters of Ceremony: Mrs. Lere-Adams Blessing and Keke Bongos-Ikwue, the Central Planning Committee of the 2016 World Food Day, members of the Symposium Sub-Committee, the rapporteurs led by Chief C.O. Ezendu and members of the Secretariat for their valuable contribution that led to the success of the Symposium.

### **APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL AMBASSADORS FOR THE 2016 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PULSES IN NIGERIA.**

The Soil Science Society of Nigeria appointed seven new special ambassadors who reinforced and supported the work the Society and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO/UNO) are doing as part of the 2016 International Year of Pulses (IYP). All are prominent figures in their respective Geo-political zones in Nigeria and would continue to use their expertise to promote the consumption of pulses, advocating the benefits to human health, soils and food security.

Pulses are a critical source of plant-based proteins but nevertheless are relatively underutilized in many parts of Nigeria. It was for this reason that SSSN sought the assistance of the Ambassadors, and was grateful for the work each was doing to endorse the foodstuff. What’s more, the Society was keen for the 2016 IYP to be a springboard for the increased consumption of pulses, and for the legacy

of the year to be enduring and influential. The SSSN/FAO special ambassadors in Nigeria for the 2016 IYP were as follows:

- 1) Mrs. Fatima Abba Mani, Ramat Polytechnic Maiduguri for North-East Zone
- 2) Prof. Yusuf Ado Dept. of Soil Science Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria for North- West Zone
- 3) Assoc. Prof. James Jayeoba, Dept. of Soil Science Nasarawa State University, Lafia for North-Central Zone
- 4) Chief C. O. Ezendu, Soil Science Society of Nigeria, HQ. Abuja for FCT
- 5) Dr. (Mrs.) Ande O. Titi, Institute for Agricultural Research and Training Moor Plantation, Ibadan, for the South-West Zone.
- 6) Prof. D. O. Asawalam, Dept. of Soil Science and Meteorology, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike for South-East Zone
- 7) Prof. Uche Amalu, Dept. of Soil Science, University of Calabar, Calabar for South-South Zone.

### **BRIEF BY PROF. V. O. CHUDE, ON THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PULSES AT KONGOUSSI AND OUGADOUGOU, B/FASO 10-11, FEB, 2017.**

I am pleased to inform the FAO representative that I participated actively in all the activities that marked the closing ceremony of the 2016 IYP at Kongoussi and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 10-11th February, 2017. A scientific paper on "Targeting Cowpea Breeding for Sustainable Livelihood in Nigeria: Achievements of cowpea breeding programme in Nigeria presented by a colleague from IAR/ABU Zaria was facilitated by me. Also attached is a copy of the Ouagadougou Declaration that recommended 10th February of every year as the International Year of Pulses. This is to be proposed to the United Nations General Assembly for approval.

May I at this juncture thank FAO for sponsoring and partnering with the Soil Science Society of Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Universities, Research Institutes and Farmer Organizations in Nigeria on the celebration of the International Year of Pulses in the country. During the celebrations, there were print and electronic media advertisements, workshops, road shows, exhibitions, quiz competitions for students on the importance of pulses in the improvement of food security and nutrition as well as in soil fertility management.

Our expectation is that if the awareness created in 2016 on the importance of Pulses is sustained through the implementation of follow-up actions by the three tiers of Government in Nigeria, the production of pulses and the utilization of pulses-based proteins would increase, thus resulting in increased food security and nutrition. May I also advise FAO to develop concrete projects in partnership with member nations to sustain the achievements recorded during the 2016 IYP. My appreciation goes to FAO Nigeria and the ADG, Africa Regional Office, Ghana for sponsoring and facilitating my participation at the closing ceremony.

## **WORLD SOIL DAY CELEBRATION AT FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFFI, LAFIA CAMPUS**

The celebration of INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PULSES (IYP) by members of Soil Science Society of Nigeria (SSSN), Lafia chapter in commemoration of WORLD SOIL DAY was a huge success. This was done in line with the MOU between the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and SSSN as directed by the President of Soil Science Society of Nigeria Professor Victor O. Chude, FSSSN. Members met severally to deliberate on ways to organize this event chaired by the FAO Special Ambassador for IYP, Dr James O. Jayeoba. The following activities were carried out before and after the event;

### **1. Invitation of Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Schools within Lafia Metropolis:**

Letters of invitation were sent to twenty schools a week prior to the programme. We had in attendance five primaries, thirteen secondary schools and, staff and students of the Faculty of Agriculture, Nasarawa state University, Keffi, College of Agriculture, Lafia and Nasarawa State Polytechnic, Lafia.

### **2. The Event was Covered and Aired on Television and Radio Stations:**

Dr O. J. Jayeoba was interviewed on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> of December, 2016 and aired by NBS (radio and television arms) and Radio Nigeria (Precious FM radio) to enlighten the public on the benefits of Pulses and sensitize them on the need to attend the programme. Also, on the day of the programme, the HOD, Dean, Commissioner for Agriculture and Water Resources were interviewed and the programme was on the news item of NBS (radio and television arms) and Precious FM radio all through the day.

**3. Public Lecture:** The theme “PULSES AND SOILS, A SYMBIOSIS FOR LIFE” was well articulated and presented by the Special Ambassador, Dr James O. Jayeoba (HOD, Agronomy Department, NSUK).

**4. Question and Answer Session:** Questions were asked by participants and answers were provided by the speaker, Dr James O. Jayeoba.

**5. Exhibition of Pulses:** Some pulses that are produced within the geopolitical location were obtained and showcased for the participants. Soil Monoliths were also displayed.

**6. Production of T-shirts and face-caps:** T-shirts and face caps were produced with the official logo of IYP and worn by members and students of Agronomy Department, NSUK and the College of Agriculture, Lafia. Some were also given out as souvenirs to invited guests.

**7. Award of Certificate to Participating Schools:** Certificates of Attendance were awarded to all primary and secondary schools that attended the programme by the Hon. Commissioner for Agriculture and Water Resources and snapshots were taken with the various schools.

**8. Goodwill Messages:** Goodwill messages were given by the Hon. Commissioner for Agriculture and Water Resources, Dr. M. M. Ari (HOD, Animal Science Dept., NSUK) who represented the VC and Dean, Faculty of Agric., NSUK, representative of the PM, NADP, Mrs Hashiya A. Osoga,, Executive Secretary, YMCA, Mr Ango Adamu, and representative of the HOD, Hospitality Management, Nasarawa State Polytechnic, Mr William Ebuga.

The celebration was well attended with the presence of Dr Z. T. Egbewole (HOD, Forestry and Wildlife, NSUK), Dr S. A. Okunsebor (HOD, Aquaculture and Fisheries Management, NSUK), Dr (Mrs) H. J. Kaka (HOD, Home Science and Management, NSUK) and other dignitaries.

The final point of the occasion was when the Dean of the Faculty, Dr Ibrahim M. Haruna, led the accreditation team from NUC to the venue to grace the occasion. He lauded the celebration of the World Soil Day and the privilege given to the Faculty of Agriculture, NSUK to have hosted the North Central Zone for the record third consecutive year.



Dr M. M. Ari giving the welcome address on-behalf of the VC, Prof. M. A. Mainoma.



Hon. Lawee Yusuf, Commissioner for Agriculture and Water Resources, giving his goodwill message



Dr O. J. Jayeoba delivering his lecture



Audience listening to the lecture



Commissioner for Agriculture and Water Resources presenting Certificate of Attendance to one of the schools.



Dean Faculty of Agriculture welcoming the participants to the occasion and the Faculty.



Group photograph with invited guests.



Cross section of invited guests.



Group photograph with the invited schools

Group photograph with the invited schools.



Group photograph with the invited schools.



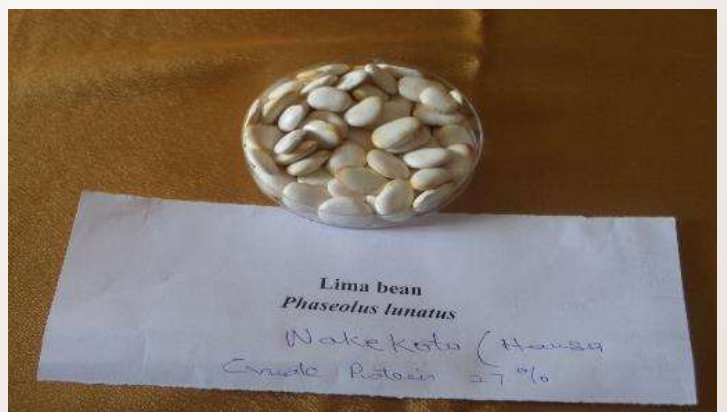
Group photograph with the invited schools.



Committee members, ushers and some post-graduate students



Dr Shehu showing and answering question on the pulse exhibited.



Display of some of the pulses within the zone.

## **COMMUNIQUE OF THE 41ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF NIGERIA HELD AT ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA UNIVERSITY BAUCHI, BAUCHI STATE FROM 12TH TO 17TH MARCH, 2017.**

### **Preamble**

The 41st Annual Conference of the Soil Science Society of Nigeria was held at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Bauchi State from 12th to 17th March, 2017. The theme of the Conference was Land Degradation, Sustainable Soil Management, Food and Nutrition Security.

The welcome address was presented by the Chief Host and Vice-Chancellor, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Professor Ibrahim Saminu Abdulrahman, who warmly welcomed all members of the Soil Science Society of Nigeria to Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi state. The Vice-Chancellor further expressed his delight that the University was chosen to host the annual conference. The President of the Soil Science Society of Nigeria, Prof. V.O Chude, in his address stated that this year's conference would attempt to evaluate the progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 1, 2, 13 and 15. He emphasized the importance of the Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) of the Federal Government. The keynote address was presented by Senator Heineken Lokpobiri (PhD. Leeds), the Honorable Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development. He stated that the Ministry had taken up the challenge of boosting local production of food to reduce over-dependence on food imports, boost consumption, revive rural economy and expand export earnings. Goodwill messages were presented by Dr Y. Y. Mahmud, Commissioner of Science and Technology, Bauchi state; Eng. Sunday Edibo, Director of Lands and Climate Change, FMARD; Dr. Dan Azumi Mohammed, DG NOTAP; Dr. Iliyasu Gital, Programme Manager, Bauchi State ADP; Dr. Balbir Singh representing MD Eleme Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd.

The first Lead paper was presented by Prof. A. O. Ogunkunle on "Sustainable Soil Management: An imperative for food security". Professors Effiom Oku and Damian Asawalam's presentation was on "Enhancing capacity of Soil Scientists in linking research to policy making: A critical role for Nigeria Institute of Soil Science", while Prof. A.M Kundiri's paper was on "Soil Degradation in Sudan and Sahel Savanna zones of Nigeria: Causes, Consequences and Remedies".

About three hundred (300) participants were in attendance. They included Soil Scientists in Universities, Research Institutes, eminent agriculturists in the private sector as well as other equally notable stakeholders in the various value chain crops, extension services, ADPs and valued farmers' groups. Over 250 papers were presented in the areas of Soil Survey Classification and Evaluation, Soil Fertility and Fertilizer Management, Soil Conservation and Land Use Management, Soil Chemistry, Microbiology and Biotechnology as well as Soil Physics, Soil and Water Resources Management, Climate Change, and Biotechnology.

### **Observation**

Following the deliberations on the keynote address, lead papers as well as the presentations at the plenary and technical sessions, the Society: Notes with delight the passage by the National Assembly and signing into law by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Bill for an Act establishing the Nigeria Institute of Soil Science (NISS).

The approval of the Institute would engender the enabling environment to holistically address the problems associated with the management of soil and land resources in the country.

\* Observes the effort by government to improve fertilizer availability and access by farmers through the Presidential Fertilizer Initiative (PFI), especially the steps being taken by sub-national governments to revive fertilizer blending plants.



\* Observes that the well-intended Agricultural Diversification Policy of Government and associated programmes have increased agricultural intensification, especially irrigation activities, and these could lead to unintended consequences of land degradation by erosion and salinization.

\* Observes with grave concern that soil and land degradation remain widespread in the country and other harmful practices which predispose soil to degradation such as bush burning, overgrazing and deforestation have continued unabated.

\* Observes the continuous blanket use of NPK fertilizers, despite the evidence for the need to include some secondary and micronutrients in fertilizer blends. Notes with concern that the net loss of extension officers and the gradual breakdown of the Extension System could pose a serious risk to the success of Government agricultural policy thrusts.

\* Observes that public awareness of the role of the soil in the Nigerian national development is still limited in spite of the declaration of the International Decade of Soils.

## **Resolution**

In view of the importance of soil in agricultural production and considering the central role of soil in environmental and socio-economic life of man, the Soil Science Society of Nigeria hereby resolves as follows:

✓ That the Society would like to express its gratitude to Mr. President for signing into law the NISS Bill and remains grateful to the National Assembly for timely expediting the passage of the bill.

✓ That the National Executive Committee of the Soil Science Society of Nigeria should continue to pursue the final gazetting of the Act establishing NISS. Appeals to Federal Government to expedite action on the gazetting of the NISS Act and facilitate the putting up of necessary structure for the take-off of the Institute.

✓ That there is need for re-afforestation programme intensification in Arid and Savanna zones of Nigeria.

✓ That the NUC, National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), and Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) should work with the Society to review the existing basic Soil Science curriculum to reflect modern challenges in soil management and encourage subscription into the study of Soil Science.

✓ That there is the need for Nigeria to establish a National Soil Policy working with NISS to regulate the use, conservation and management of the nation's soil resources, as acknowledged by Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, OFR, the Honorable Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development.

✓ That as a means of checking accelerated soil/land degradation, Soil Scientists should be actively involved in the design and construction of all soil/landbased projects to ensure that appropriate measures are adopted to avoid catastrophic land degradation.

✓ That there is an increasing need to conserve the nation's soils and reclaim those that have been degraded physically, chemically and biologically through the adoption of suitable technologies tailored towards sustainable soil/land conservation and management, and climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as biodiversity.

✓ Urges Nigerian Metrological Agency (NIMET) to upscale grass-root campaign on climate change and its consequences, preparatory to the adoption of mitigation measures Appeals to the three tiers of government to support all forms of gender main-streaming in climate change and extension as well as in the generation of gender disintegrated data on access to agricultural lands and inputs. There is also the need to enact policies that will protect the interest of small-holder farmers who are predominantly women:

✓ That benefits of agricultural sector interventions can be enhanced if vulnerable areas such as coastal zones and the arid northern areas are considered for targeting of specific activities.

✓ Urges government to ensure prompt delivery and availability of fertilizers to

farmers early enough in the season. The Federal government should continue to provide the necessary support for the state governments that are yet to resuscitate or establish fertilizer blending plants. That fertilizer blends should be site/region specific and should include Sulphur and Zinc nutrient elements.

Federal and state governments should involve soil scientists in the implementation of the governments' economic diversification programme especially its intention to engage the River Basin Development Authorities in the expansion of irrigation facilities and provision of potable water.

### **Appreciation**

The Society hereby appreciates the warm reception accorded to participants at the conference by the Government of Bauchi State and the management of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University which made the 41st Annual Conference of the Society very successful.

**Dated this 15th day of March, 2017**

### **SOCIETY AT WORK FOR YOU**

Training on the Sector's 2018-2020 Economic

#### **\* Recovery**

The Director of Finance, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Abuja, invited the Nigeria Institute of Soil Science to a Training on the Sector's 2018-2020 Economic Recovery Growth Plan which was held for two days in 2017 at ARCN Building in Abuja. Prof. Chude, Chief Ezendu and 2 Secretaries represented NISS at the training during which the Budget plan for the period 2018-2020 was prepared and submitted.

#### **\* Honorary membership of IUSS.**

Soil Science Society of Nigeria (SSSN) nominated Prof. Ayoade Olayiwola Ogunkunle for honorary membership of the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS) in 2016. Elections for nominated candidates took place by secret ballot among Council members present for the Inter-Congress meeting in Rio de Janeiro on 24 November 2016. In a letter signed by Rainer Horn, President of IUSS, the president of SSSN, Prof. V. O. Chude was

informed that the Nigerian nominee was not approved by the IUSS council.

### **BUDGET FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NIGERIA INSTITUTE OF SOIL SCIENCE**

In a letter date 20th March, 2017 and addressed to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the President, Prof. V. O. Chude stated as follows, "Please recall the meeting held with you after the inauguration of the AFSIS Steering Committee during which I briefed you about the signing into law of the Nigeria Institute of Soil Science Act by the Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, GCON. In addition, Sir, I requested for an allocation of a take-off grant for the new Institute.

Thereafter, you requested me to submit a financial proposal for its take-off. Honourable Minister, Sir, it is pertinent to note that presently the Institute is domiciled in a one-room office at the National Programme for Food Security (NPFS) building which is grossly inadequate, considering the organizational structure of the new Institute.

Attached is a copy each of the NISS Bill and the draft annual budget submitted to the National Assembly in 2012. Above is hereby submitted for your kind consideration, please.

### **CONGRATULATORY LETTER TO PROFESSOR ALEXANDER B. MCBRATNEY**

Following his election to the Board of the Australian Academy of Science, the Society sent a congratulatory message to this notable Soil Scientist. In a letter signed by the President, Prof. V. O. Chude, the Society rejoiced with Prof. Alexander McBratney who is the first Soil Scientist to be elected into the board of the Australian Academy of Science. Prof. McBratney appreciated the letter from the Society and in his reply said, "Thanks for your congratulatory message. I really appreciate the letter I received. My admission to the Australian Academy of Science is a recognition of the importance of soil science in

the modern world, so it is a recognition for all of us.”

### **SSSN CONDOLES WITH CROSS RIVER STATE GOVT.**

Following the unfortunate loss of lives in Calabar, the Soil Science Society of Nigeria sent a condolence message to the government and people of Cross River State. The letter which was signed by the President, read “Your Excellency, Executive Governor of Cross River State, The Soil Science Society of Nigeria (SSSN) has learnt of the very unfortunate incident where 30 persons lost their lives at a viewing centre in the city of Calabar, while watching a UEFA Europa League match on Thursday evening, 20th April, 2017. The members of the Society express their heartfelt sympathy to you and the people of your State for this great loss. The SSSN mourns with you and our honoured Fellow and Deputy Governor, Prof. Ivara Esu, as well as all the good people of Cross River State most especially, the families and friends of those that lost their lives. We pray that the souls of the departed will rest in perfect peace. We also pray that the Almighty God will grant you and the good people of Cross River State the fortitude to bear this great loss. Please accept the assurance of our highest esteem.

### **NIGERIA INSTITUTE OF SOIL SCIENCE MEMO PRESENTED TO NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURE**

The National Council on Agriculture (NCA), the highest policy making body on Agriculture in Nigeria, held her 42nd annual meeting at Dr. Obi Wali Convention Centre, in Port Harcourt from Monday 24th to Friday 28th of April, 2017. During the meeting, an information paper on the law establishing the Nigeria Institute of Soil Science which was signed into law by the President on the 3rd of February, 2017 was presented to the council.

The Society was represented by Prof. Damian Asawalam, the Assistant Secretary of SSSN,

Dr. Chima Wokocha, and Dr. Bassey Udoh of the University of Port Harcourt. The presentation by the SSSN was well received. The Council noted the law establishing the Nigeria Institute of Soil Science and wished the Institute well.

### **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON NISS TAKE OFF**

At the last AGM of the Society at Bauchi, the Society approved the setting up of a committee to work out the structure, and details for the effective take off of the Nigeria Institute of Soil Science. The six-man committee was chaired by the Vice President, Prof. B. A. Raji. Other members of the committee included Prof G.A. Oluwatosin, Prof A.M. Anikwe, Prof T. Ibia, Prof A. Osunde, Prof Ado Yusuf, Prof Bashir Babaji, and Dr E Oku who served as the secretary. The committee had submitted a report which will be looked into by the Exco and subsequently presented to the next AGM at IAR & T, Ibadan in March, 2018.

### **Distribution of Documents**

Within the period under review, the secretariat of Soil Science Society of Nigeria distributed to members, the following documents among others:

- [1] Agricultural sector roadmap 'the green alternative: agriculture promotion policy' (2016-2020).
- [2] Towards Sustainable Livelihoods in Drylands: 2015 annual report.

### **PROMOTION**

The following Soil Scientists at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike have been elevated to the rank of Associate Professor. They are Dr. Olayinka Nwachukwu and Dr. Marbel Ifeoma Onwuka. The Society wishes them well in their future academic endeavours.

### **OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENT**

1. Engr Funsho Akilapa, who was one time Director of Agricultural Land Resources in the Federal

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development passed on in February, 2017. He has been buried in his hometown, Obantoko- Abeokuta according to the normal christian burial rites. We pray that his soul continues to Rest in Peace and that God consoles his family.

2. Prof. Ayuba Stephen Anyubaga, Professor of Soil fertility and Plant Nutrition died in Makurdi on Sat. 14th January, 2017, after a brief illness. He has been buried in his Hometown- Kagbu, Nassarawa Eggon L.G.C, Nassarawa State. The Soil Science Society of Nigeria was represented at his burial by members from North-Central Zone while Dr. James Jayeoba of the Nasarawa State University represented the President, SSSN. May his gentle soul rest in peace (Amen).

### **CONTRIBUTE AN ARTICLE**

This is your newsletter. Feel free to send in an article to it. Let your colleagues know what is happening in Soil Science or to Soil Scientists around you.



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