



OFAB Newsletter

Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa



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Agency

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OFAB Pan-African Agricultural Innovations and Development (PAID) 2017 Awards for Journalists



The Pan-African Agricultural Innovations in Agriculture and Development (PAID) Awards main aim is to recognize exemplary journalism that stimulates best practices in adoption of agricultural technologies – particularly agricultural biotechnology for sustainable development and poverty eradication. It is initiated to create awareness on agricultural biotechnology and other technologies that promote sustainability by rewarding: Exemplary Agricultural Journalists (print and broadcast) and it's divided into the following categories;

- i. PAID – Agricultural Biotechnology Impact Story Award
- ii. PAID - Agricultural Biotechnology Journalist Award
- iii. PAID - Emerging Biotechnology Journalist Award (18 to 25 years)
- iv. PAID - Biotechnology Blogger Award
- v. PAID - Agricultural Biotechnology Documentary Award

The goal of PAID awards is to increase the uptake and awareness of agricultural biotechnologies for small holder farmers and promote sustainable development in Africa. PAID awards thus recognizes the critical role the media plays in educating and informing the public about agricultural technologies.

Specific Objectives

1. To appreciate the contribution of journalists in promoting sustainable agricultural technologies particularly agricultural biotechnology
2. To improve the quality of agricultural journalism and motivate journalists and media houses to capture impact stories and report on innovative agricultural biotechnology and other agricultural technologies.
3. To promote innovative best-practices in agricultural biotechnology and other agricultural technologies that address

...continues in page 3

OFAB AFRICA AWARD - Nigeria Emerged Overall Winner For OFAB Africa Media Award ■ Story in page 11

About Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa

Like many other African countries, food security remains a challenge in Africa's most populous nation with over 180 million people, according to Population Reference Bureau. Likewise, the government of Nigeria recognizes the importance of agriculture in driving the country's economy. However, production constraints like droughts, erratic and inadequate rainfall, insects/ pests and diseases, poor soil, and lack of improved agricultural technologies are the main contributors to low agricultural productivity in Nigeria. The government of Nigeria had long recognized biotechnology as a powerful and promising technology capable of delivering a wide range of economic, social and environmental benefits. By 2001, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) had approved Biosafety guidelines to fast-track and encourage research and development of GMOs and regulation of modern biotechnology in the country. In April 2001, FEC approved the National Biotechnology Policy followed by the establishment of the National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) in November 2001 to implement the policy. And on the 2nd December 2002, the Federal Government inaugurated the National Coordinating Committee to draft National Biosafety Framework. By December 2006, Nigeria had a National Biosafety Policy and a draft Biosafety Bill.

These developments might have seemed straightforward and uneventful. However, the anti-GMO movement led by Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth mounted very strong and spirited campaigns against these initiatives aimed at creating the necessary policy, legal and regulatory environments for research, development and commercialization of GMOs in

Nigeria. Riding on low awareness and understanding of modern biotechnology among Nigerians, anti-GMO activists turned an otherwise scientific technical issue into a moral, cultural and ideological debate. They systematically manipulated science, 'created alternative facts' and distorted scientific facts to create fear and despondency on the perceived health and environmental risks of modern biotechnology.

It was due to the opposition that it took nearly 4 years to pass the Biosafety Policy and draft the Biosafety Bill. It also took another 6 years before the National Assembly could substantially debate and pass the Bill for its eventual signing into an Act.

OFAB launch

To manage the unnecessary controversy being generated on agricultural biotechnology anti-GMO movement, there was need for deliberate, planned and coordinated communication efforts among the various stakeholders in modern agricultural biotechnology. And on 9th April, 2009, the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), in partnership with the National Biotechnology Development Agency NABDA and Agricultural Research Council (ARCN), launched OFAB-Nigeria Chapter with a mission to enhance knowledge sharing and awareness on agricultural biotechnology that would raise understanding and appreciation of the technology and contribute to an enabling environment for informed and timely decision making.

OFAB-Nigeria pursues four main objectives:

i. Establish and manage a range of platforms to enhance understanding of biotechnology in agricultural

productivity.

ii. Inform policy decision making processes on matters of agricultural biotechnology through provision of factual, well researched and scientific information.

iii. Forge strategic alliances for optimization of resources through convening encouraging inter-institutional networking and knowledge sharing in agricultural biotechnology sector

iv. Enhance targeted capacity strengthening that will improve communication across all biotech sectors interested in Africa.

To effectively execute its mandate and realize the objectives, OFAB-Nigeria has innovatively forged strategic alliances and partnerships with various institutions which include:

- Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN)
- State Governments
- National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), Umudike
- Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR), Zaria
- Programs for Biosafety System (PBS).
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture.
- National Agricultural Seed Council of Nigeria (NASC).
- National Cereals Research Institute, Badeggi, Niger State.
- National Productivity Centre (NPC).
- National Institute of Fresh Water Fisheries (NIFFRR) New Bussa, Niger State.
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- United States' Department of States (USDS)
- Africa Harvest Biotechnology Foundation International (AFBFI)
- African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA)
- The Nigerian Medical

Association(NMA)

■ The Association of Catholic Medical Practitioners (ACMP)

■ The Association of General and Private Medical Practitioners (AGPMMP).

■ Schools (Universities, Secondary); Professional Bodies (Genetic Society of Nigeria (GSN);

Biotechnology Society of Nigeria(BSN) etc.

■ CropLife International.

Through the partnerships and alliances, the impacts of OFAB-Nigeria communications and advocacy efforts are now being felt across all sectors of the society. OFAB

Nigeria Chapter has raised levels of awareness; closed gap between

...from page 1

OFAB Pan-African Agricultural Innovations and Development (PAID) 2017 Awards

challenges of food insecurity, climate change and sustainable development.

The AWARD Exercise is now an annual event done in all the OFAB

Countries in Africa, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia.

The Nigerian 2017 AWARD included the High Level Policy

Makers and Law Makers who contributed to the Biosafety Bill passage and assent as well as Biotechnology adoption in Nigeria.

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AT THE 2017 OFAB NIGERIA MEDIA AWARDS BY PROFESSOR TURNER ISOUN, FORMER MINISTER, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, WEDNESDAY, 30TH AUGUST 2017 AT SHERATON HOTEL AND TOWERS.

"I'm highly humbled to chair this ceremony. Ten years ago, I left office as the Minister of Science and Technology and to me this is a perfect time to re-evaluate actions, decisions and policies we took while in office.

Looking back, I think we did our best, and considering the impact some of the foundations we laid are having on the general well-being of Nigerians, I feel proud that we were able to summon courage and take those actions when we did.

Today, Nigeria has become a regional hub for space science with over three satellites in space and other nano satellites designed, constructed and launched by Nigerian engineers. Information Communication Technology has started contributing to the nation's GDP and field trials are ongoing in various research institutes across Nigeria for Bt Cowpea, Sorghum, GM Rice, Cotton, and Maize while a National Biosafety Management Agency has been established to regulate the products of modern biotechnology in the country.

Although, we are having some GM trials, Biotechnology has not progressed at the pace we envisaged

as the bill to give legal backing to the National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) is still at the National Assembly. Notwithstanding, that has not hindered the creation of the necessary awareness on the benefits of biotechnology and its tools especially Genetically Modified Organisms.

In the last 20 years, the country's population has increased tremendously but the landmass has remained the same. Our farmers have continued to practice farming the ways they are used to. But we cannot continue to do the same thing year in year out and expect a different result.

Science and Technology has remained one of the most potent weapons for us as a country to enhance productivity in agriculture from our unproductive and over used land.

Biotechnology which has been in existence since creation is already an acceptable technology all over the world, contributing greatly to food and drug production, creating employment, and making life better for the world's teeming population.

As a country, we can no longer pay lip service to the role of science and

technology in our national life. Today, we hear and give credit to the Asian tigers for their accelerated development; this was made possible with science and technology.

It is not too late for Nigeria. I'm happy that members of the national assembly are here today, and they have in their various dealings displayed their passion and commitment to enshrine science and technology in our developmental efforts, we must go beyond that, we must ensure that science and technology becomes the hub on which our developmental agenda revolves.

Like I said in the beginning of this address, today's event is a manifestation of actions we took ten years ago, the nation should not relax, we are not there yet, we must continue to struggle until science and technology, which has proven to us that it has the capacity to handle most of our national challenges, is accorded its right of place.

Thank you all and may God bless Nigeria."

Professor Turner Isoun, *Former Minister, Federal Ministry of Science & Technology*

KEYNOTE PAPER BY DR. TONY IREDIA, FORMER DIRECTOR GENERAL, NIGERIA TELEVISION AUTHORITY (NTA) AT THE OFAB NIGERIA ANNUAL MEDIA AWARD CEREMONY AT THE SHERATON HOTEL AND TOWERS, WEDNESDAY, 30TH AUGUST 2017.



■ Dr. Tonnie Iredia

Delivering the Keynote paper on: 'Science Reporting in National Development,' Dr. Iredia stated that Nigerians tend to always lay emphasis on developing infrastructures while human capital is hardly looked into. "Development should be both physical and human", he asserted.

Speaking further, he posed this question: How can a nation develop? In his response to the question, he said, "Today's world has shown to us

that science is very important in the society; science and development are related especially applied science, which is known as technology. How do people hear and understand the technology? The key answer is information and the best way to transmit information is through the mass media. The job of a journalist is to engage in public enlightenment and to provoke the scientists to deal with other issues in order to develop the nation. The nation needs the media to educate and inform them about what they ought to know. Science and journalism are working for the same purpose and both seek the truth". The following are 'What a Journalist can do:

The journalist can do a lot of gatekeeping; they determine which information should be transmitted or not.

The journalist governs the channel of communication to which societal need will be addressed.

The journalist has to weigh in every question asked before reporting to the masses.

Dr Tony also gave the best strategies to take to build up a relationship with the media as follows:

Need to cultivate friendship and trust by making them part of your activities

Organising workshops and seminars for journalists to equip them with knowledge of your field.

Recognising the media as an important part of your project/activity.

Don't grant exclusive interview, speak to them in general.

When a story is ready give it out, don't wait and don't create a vacuum there should be an institutional briefing, try to keep faith.

In his final remarks, he emphasized on the need to appreciate and encourage journalists to work better because they face so many challenges in their work as well.

President Olusegun Obasanjo (GCFR) *GRAND VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARD*



■ Award presentation to President Olusegun Obasanjo, (GCFR) at Abeokuta. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR, (2nd from Right) flanked by Dr. Rose Gidado Country Coordinator, OFAB Nigeria Chapter (extreme Right), Prof. Lucy Ogbadu Former DG/CEO NABDA, Dr. Kolo Abdourahmane, AATF Regional Director, and Mr. Adeyemi Deputy Director Planning, NABDA.

Chief Olusegun Okikiola Aremu Obasanjo (GCFR), was born on 5th March 1937 in Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria. In 1948, Obasanjo enrolled into Saint David Ebenezer School at Ibogun, for his primary school education. From 1952 to 1957, he attended Baptist Boys High School (BBHS), Abeokuta, for his secondary school education.

In 1958, Olusegun Obasanjo was enlisted into the Nigerian army and rose to the rank of General and military Head of State from where he voluntarily handed over power to the then elected civilian President, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, hence becoming the first military head of state to transfer power peacefully to a civilian regime in Nigeria.

President Olusegun Obasanjo ...continues

At the return to democracy, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo was elected President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for two terms from 1999-2007.

His determination to transform agriculture to meet up with modern technological advancements as practiced in other parts of the world, led to his introduction of various agricultural intervention programs throughout his stint as Military Head of State and later as civilian President and commander in chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces, among which is the famous Operation feed

the Nation (OFN).

With the emergence of Agricultural Biotechnology as one of the tools with the capacity to address major constraints in agriculture, he endorsed and approved the establishment of biotech implementation and policy framework which led to the establishment of National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA).

Chief Olusegun Obasanjo is a global icon, a Pan-Africanist, an accomplished soldier, a leader of repute who has been in the fore front

of fostering peace and unity amongst African nations and the world at large.

In line with the aforementioned, he was appointed Special Envoy by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to the war-torn Democratic Republic of the Congo and has held several of such appointments in his quest to bring about peace and prosperity for mankind.

His Excellency Chief Olusegun Aremu Obasanjo holds several chieftaincy titles, amongst which is the Balogun of Owu.

Professor Turner T. Isoun

AWARDS OF RECOGNITION



■ Prof. Turner T. Isoun

Prof. Isoun is an accomplished scholar with Ph.Ds in Veterinary Medicine (DVM) and Veterinary Pathology from the Michigan State University, USA.

He enjoyed a fair share of a distinguished academic career at the University of Ibadan, where as a Professor and Head of the Pathology Department he carried out and published his applied and fundamental research in tropical pathology, nutrition and diseases.

Professor Isoun who remains the longest serving minister in the ministry of science and technology

served in that capacity from October 2000 to May 2007. During his tenure, he initiated policies that promoted the deployment of science and technology for development. These policies include; the National Space Policy that led to the establishment of National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA); National Biotechnology Policy that gave rise to the establishment of National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) and National Information and Communication Technology (ICT) policy which led also to the establishment of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) and Galaxy Backbone.

It is important to note that it was under his stewardship as minister that Nigeria launched its first earth observation and communication satellite.

Prof. Isoun is a recipient of the Nigerian National Honours award of the Commander of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFR). In recognition of his contributions to the establishment of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology

and his outstanding service to humanity he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) in 2005.

Prof. Isoun was the founding Executive Editor, of the African Academy of Sciences' Pan-African journal, Discovery and Innovation. He is a proud author of the book: Why Run Before Learning to Walk? Reflections on High Technology as a Strategic Tool for Development in Nigeria.

Prof Isoun is currently the Chairman of Council and Pro-Chancellor of the Niger Delta University. He is also a Member, Board of Trustees, African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS), Nairobi, a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Sciences (NAS), a Fellow and Executive Member African Academy of Sciences (AAS) amongst many other notable national and international organisations.

His overall career and personal objective remains the application of science and technology to improve the quality of life of the people of Nigeria.

Professor Robert Ajayi Boroffice

AWARD OF RECOGNITION



■ Professor Robert Ajayi Boroffice

Professor Robert Ajayi Boroffice was born on the 23rd of April 1949 in Oka-Akoko Local Government Area of Ondo state Nigeria. He is currently a ranking Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairman Senate Committee on Science and Technology.

Distinguished Senator Boroffice is an astute academician and public servant. He is a Professor of Zoology and at a time a lecturer in the University of Ibadan and Lagos State University where he rose to the position of dean of Faculty of Science and Chairman of the Committee of Deans.

Professor Boroffice was appointed Coordinating Director for Science in the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASeni) from where he was appointed in 1999 as founding Director General of the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), a post he held for 10 years.

Under his leadership as DG, NASRDA launched 2 satellites; a low orbit earth observations microsatellite (NigeriaSat-1) in 2003 and a communication satellite (NigcomSat-1) in 2007. He also laid the groundwork for the building of NigeriaSat-2 and NigeriaSat-X, which

were launched in August 2011, from Russia. He played a central role in establishing the National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA), National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) and the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA). These achievements earned him the Golden Merit Award in Space Science by the World Federation of Science Journalists.

Distinguished Senator Ajayi Boroffice who represents Ondo North in the Nigerian Senate has a passion and vast experience in biotechnology, Information and Communication Technology as well as Space Science Technology.

For his outstanding service to the Nigerian people, Robert Boroffice was conferred in 2004 with the title of Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) by President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Senator Emmanuel Bwacha

AWARD OF RECOGNITION



■ Senator Emmanuel Bwacha

Senator Emmanuel Bwacha, is a ranking Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria representing the people of Taraba South Senatorial District and the Vice-Chairman house committee on water resources. He is a graduate of the University of Calabar and an indigene of Taraba State.

In 2011, he was elected a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and was re-elected in 2015. As a senator he held various positions including serving as one-time Deputy Minority Leader of the Senate.

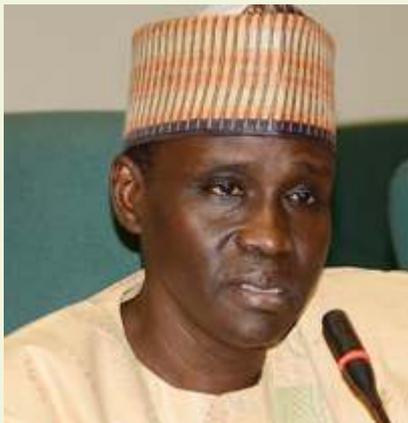
Prior to his emergence as a senator he was elected into the

federal House of Representatives representing Donga/Ussa/Takum Constituency, and served in that capacity from May 2003 to May 2007. During his time in the lower chambers, he served in various capacities including Chairman of the House Committee on Police Affairs.

Distinguished Senator Emmanuel Bwacha has also served as Commissioner for Agriculture in Taraba State between 1999 and 2003. His legislative interests include; Education, Agriculture, rural development, human security, amongst others.

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno

AWARD OF RECOGNITION



■ Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno is a lawyer by profession and was born on the 12th February 1966. He is an indigene of Borno State and hails from Monguno Local Government Area and an alumnu of the University of Maiduguri.

Hon. Monguno is the current chairman house committee on agricultural production and services has been a Member House of Representatives since 1992 and has

served in various capacities including Chairman Sub Committee on FCT Area Councils and Chairman House Committee on Agriculture between.

Prior to his election into the Nigerian parliament he held several political appointments in his home state of Borno which include; Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice, Commissioner of Education as well as Commissioner of Water Resources.

Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta

AWARD OF RECOGNITION



■ Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta

Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta was born in Akwete in the Ukwae East Local Government Area of Abia State on January 18, 1962. He holds a Bachelors and a master's degree in

law from the University of Jos.

Uzoma Nkem-Abonta is a ranking member of the house representing Ukwae East / West Federal Constituency and currently the Chairman, House Committee on Public Petitions. He was adjudged as the Legislator with the highest number of bills sponsored in the 7th Assembly in the House of Representatives and he is still in the lead in the present 8th Assembly. Notable among the bills sponsored is the National Biosafety Act which is the Legal basis for the formation of the National Biosafety Management Agency.

Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta has worked conscientiously in several establishments in different capacities. Some of which include - Social Justice Officer (Directorate of

Mass Mobilization for Social and Economic Recovery); Associate Counsel (Chuks Muoma and Associates, Nnanyere Ugo Chamber); Councillor (Leader, Ukwae East Legislative Council Akwete); Member (Abia State Judicial Service Commission); Lecturer (Abia State University (College of Legal Education); Senior Legislative Aide (National Assembly Service Commission).

Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta is a practicing Lawyer and is committed to good governance and social Justice which he achieves through his Non- Government Organisation (NGO), Hope and Restoration Graceland Foundation. He has won several awards and is a member of several professional bodies.

Arc. Kabir Ibrahim

AWARD OF RECOGNITION



■ Arc. Kabir Ibrahim

Arc. Kabir Ibrahim, National President, All farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) was born on 25th November, 1959. He is from Katsina state and holds a BSc Arch and Msc. Arch from the prestigious ABU Zaria, Nigeria and an MSc in Project Management from RKC+ Salford University Manchester, UK.

Arc. Kabir IBRAHIM is a Member of both local and international bodies such as Nigerian Institute of

Architects (MNIA), International Associate American Institute of Architects, Chairman, Katsina State, Chapter of the Nigerian Institute of Architects, he is a Former President, Poultry Association of Nigeria(PAN) Member, Board of Trustees, National Foundation of Agriculture of Nigeria (NFAN) and Council member as Nigerian Institute of Architects.

He is a holder of the 2006 Development in Nigeria Merit Award

in Architecture and 2010 Africa Champion for Change, Accra, Ghana.

Architect Kabir Ibrahim is an accomplished entrepreneur and currently sits as the Managing

Director/ Chief Executive Officer Kebram Group comprising; Kebram Associates, Kebram Farms Ltd, Kebram Agritrade Ltd, Kebram Table Water, Yoghurt & Juices Ltd, Kebram Bakery and Confectionery Ltd,

Damale Schools, Kebram Laundry & Cleaning Services Ltd, Kebram Pharmaceutical and Chemical Co. Ltd, IWT & K Ventures Ltd and Kebram Innovation & Entrepreneurship.

Hon. Makanjuola Gbenga *AWARD OF RECOGNITION*



■ Hon. Makanjuola Gbenga

Hon. Makanjuola Gbenga, a solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria is the Deputy Chief of Staff and Special Adviser, Admin and Finance to the Senate President of

the Federal Republic of Nigeria Dr. Bukola Abubakar Saraki.

He is a renowned legal practitioner who was born on the 27th of July 1967 in Omu-Aran, Irepodun LGA of Kwara State. He is a graduate of law from the University of Maiduguri.

In 2003, Hon. Makanjuola was elected as a member of the House of Representatives representing Irepodun/Isin/Ekiti/Oke-Ero constituency of Kwara State.

In January 2009 Hon. Makanjuola sponsored the biosafety bill as a private member bill, after several unsuccessful attempts to present the Bill to the Parliament as an Executive Bill in the previous years failed. He predicated his action on

the need to support research aimed at developing modern biotechnology that will enhance farming systems aimed at optimum food production with land resource protection and which are compatible with the socio-economic conditions of Nigeria.

He has also been honoured with various merit awards and recognitions in area of good governance, excellence in leadership, leader of the youth and dividend of democracy to the people. It is therefore not surprising that he has been honoured with 14 different chieftaincy titles.

Hon. Gbenga Makanjuola is married with three children and his hobbies include; travelling, reading and dancing.

Prof. Bamidele Ogbe Solomon *AWARD OF RECOGNITION*



■ Prof. Bamidele Ogbe Solomon

Bamidele Ogbe Solomon is an erudite Professor of chemical engineering and a doyen of biotechnology. He was born on the 7th July, 1955.

Bamidele's exceptional performance in the 1974 school certificate examination earned him

scholarship by the Federal Government of Nigeria to study Chemical Engineering in Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, USA where he bagged B.Sc Chemical Engineering in 1978. His M.Sc. Chemical Engineering and PhD Chemical Engineering were earned in the years 1980 and 1983 respectively under a fellowship granted by Kansas State University.

Based on his brilliance as an erudite scholar, diligence and extensive research works, having published over 80 Research Articles locally and internationally, promotion started rolling in for him in quick successions, thus in 1994 at the age of 38, he became a Professor of Chemical Engineering, suffice to say that he was then among youngest Professors in the university.

His commitment to excellence earned him so many academic

distinctions and awards amongst which are: Alexander von Humboldt (AVH) Stiftung Research Fellowship in the Federal Republic of Germany, Fellowship Award by the South African Government Research, Merit Gold Award of Economic Empowerment Initiator 2007 by Medial Talk Communications, Award of Excellence by Nigeria Medical Laboratory Science Students Association, Award of Recognition by Centre for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, University of Jos, Award of Recognition by the Obafemi Awolowo University amongst others.

Prof. Bamidele Solomon served as the Director-General of the National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) between 2005-2013.

As Director General of NABDA, Prof Solomon contributed

immensely to the development of Biotechnology in Nigeria.

A Panel Discussion Session "The Role of Science Reporting in National Development"



- Discussants: (middle) Tonnio O. Iredia, OON, Renown Journalist, Keynote Speaker and Former Director-General, Nigerian Television Authority. (2nd left) Eugenia Abu, Former Executive Director, Programmes, Nigeria Television Authority (NTA). (2nd Right) Diran Onifade, Editor-in-Chief, AfricaSTI. (foreground) Akin Jomoh, DEVCOMS, Lagos, Nigeria. (far left) Toyin Omozuwa, NABDA, (Moderator).

Media Nominees/Awardees at the Nigeria Edition



■ Ada Achanya, ITV News and Nominee for the Television Category, OFAB Media Award



■ Collins Nnabuife, Reporter with Nigerian Tribune, Nominated for the Print Category



■ El-Kurebe Abdallah, Senior Reporter, Vanguard Newspapers and winner of the OFAB Media Award, Print Category



■ Ifeanyi Ugwoke, broadcaster with Vision FM and Winner of the OFAB Media Award, Radio Category



■ Musa Baba Aliyu, a Reporter with the Nigerian Television Authority, Nominated for the Television Category



■ Nkechi Isaac, Senior reporter with leadership Newspapers, Nominated for the Print Category



■ Omolara Afolayan, Reporter, Television Continental (TVC News) and Overall Winner of the OFAB Media Award Nigeria



■ PRETTY NGOZI ONYEJIAKU, AIT News and Nominee for the OFAB Media Award, TV Category

Recipients receiving their awards at the Nigeria Edition



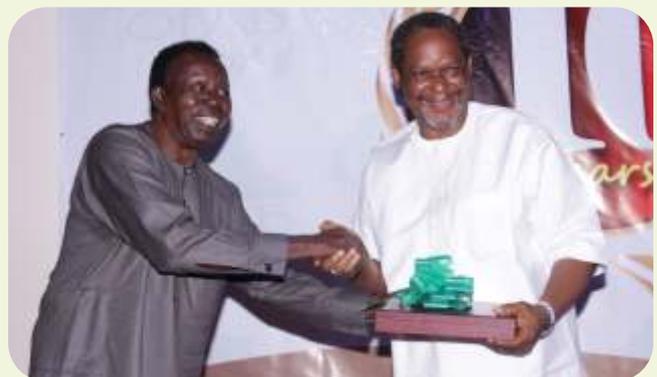
■ Omolara Afolayan, Reporter, Television Continental receiving award as the Best TV reporter of the year from Eugenia Abu, Executive Director Programmes of the Nigerian Television Authority



■ Ifeanyi Ugwokwe (left) Broadcaster, Vision FM receiving an award as the best radio reporter of the year during OFAB Nigeria media awards.



■ Abdallah El-kurebe, senior reporter with vanguard newspapers receiving an award as the best reporter, print category at the OFAB Nigeria media awards



■ L-r) Chairman, senate committee on science and technology, Prof. Robert A. Borroffice receiving an award of recognition from the former Minister of Science and Technology, Prof. Turner Isoun



■ (R-L) the former Minister of Science and Technology, Prof. Turner Isoun receiving an award of recognition from the DG/CEO National Biosafety Management Agency, Dr. Rufus Ebegba



■ (L-R) Hon. Gbenga Makonjuola, chief of staff to the senate president receiving an award of recognition from the former DG/CEO NABDA Prof. B.O Solomon



■ The OFAB Nigeria team posing with the overall winner of the Media Award, Omolara Afolayan



■ Cross section of participants at the Gala Nite.

OFAB AFRICA AWARD - Nigeria Emerged Overall Winner For OFAB Africa Media Award

Nigeria's TVC News reporter, Omolara Afolayan, yet scooped another Award and beat other reporters at the African Media Award Competition organised by OFAB Africa to recognise, celebrate, and honour exemplary reporting by science journalists from the seven OFAB African countries.

Five main criteria were used to review the submissions; the contestants' understanding of science and biotechnology, initiative, originality, clarity, and impact of their stories. Journalists, scientists, science communicators and other biotechnology stakeholders from Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso United

States and the Netherlands attended this event.

Joseph Opoku Gakpo from Multimedia Groups, Ghana was honoured as the First Runner-up in the Best Radio Reporting Category and Gerald Kitabu, Tanzania's Guardian newspapers reporter won the first runner-up for best print reporting category.

Other Nigerian scribes who garnered Africa Award Event were Abdallah El-Kurebe from Vanguard Newspapers who beat other journalists from OFAB member countries as the second runner up in the print category, and Ifeanyi Ugwoke from Vision FM who received a consolation prize for

participating in the competition.

Among the five judges were Elizabeth Mkwasa, a 2003 CNN African Journalist Award winner from Tanzania in the Health reporting category and Mark Lynas, an Award Winning British Author, Journalist and Environmental Activist for Climate Change, Oxford, London.

Dr. Rose S. M. Gidado,
*Country Coordinator, Open Forum on
Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa,
Nigeria Chapter.*



■ Omolaran Afolayan receiving award as the overall winner of the OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ Abdallah Elkurebe, Vanguard Newspapers receiving an award as the 2nd runner up, Print category, OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ Ifeanyi Ugwoke (left), Vision FM receiving a certificate as a runner up of the OFAB Africa media award, radio category, Uganda



■ A Journalist from Burkina Faso (left) receives and award as a runner up of the OFAB Africa media award, radio category, Uganda



■ A Journalist from Burkina Faso (left) receives and award as a runner up of the OFAB Africa Media Award, Uganda



■ A Journalist from Uganda (left) receives and award as a runner up of the OFAB Africa Media Award, Uganda



■ A Journalist from Ghana (left) receives and award as a runner up of the OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ Joseph Okpoku, Joy Fm Ghana (left) receives and award as a runner up of the OFAB Africa media award, Print category, Uganda



■ A Journalist from Tanzania (left) receives an award as a runner up of the OFAB Africa Media Award, Print category, Uganda



■ A Journalist from Tanzania (left) receives an award as a runner up of the OFAB Africa media award, Radio category, Uganda



■ Dr. Rose Gidado, OFAB Nigeria Coordinator receives an award as a dedicated coordinator of the year, OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ Dr. Rose Gidado, OFAB Nigeria Coordinator showcases her award as a dedicated coordinator of the year, OFAB Africa Media Award, Uganda



■ Edgar Troure, (left) OFAB Burkina Faso Coordinator receives an award at OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ OFAB Ghana Coordinator, (right) receives an award at OFAB Africa Media Award, Uganda



■ OFAB Ethiopia Coordinator, (left) receives an award at OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ Mr. Phillip Chemonge, OFAB Uganda Coordinator, (right) receives an award at OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ A Journalist from Ethiopia, (left) receives an award at OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ Joseph Opoku, Joy Fm Ghana , (left) receives an award as the best radio broadcaster, OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ A Tanzanian Journalist, (left) receives an award at the OFAB Africa Media Award, Uganda



■ A Tanzanian Journalist, (left) receives an award as the best Print category, OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ Abdallah Elkurebe, Vanguard newspaper, (left) receives an award at the OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ A Ugandan Journalist (left) receives an award at the OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ Omolaran Afolayan, TVC News (left) receives an award as the Overall winner of the OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ Dr. Rose Gidado (left) congratulating Omolaran Afolayan as the Overall winner of the OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ An Ethiopian Journalist (left) receives an award at the OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ An Ethiopian Journalist (left) receives an award at the OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ An Ethiopian Journalist (left) receives an award at the OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ A Kenyan Journalist (left) receives an award at the OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ A Kenyan Journalist (left) receives an award at the OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ A Kenyan Journalist (right) receives an award at the OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ An Ethiopian Journalist (right) receives an award at the OFAB Africa media award, Uganda



■ A Ugandan Journalist (right) receives an award at the OFAB Africa media award, Uganda

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE OFAB NIGERIA CHAPTER AWARD NIGHT



Dr. Rose Suniso
M. Gidado
Country Coordinator
OFAB Nigeria Chapter



Mr. Umaru Abu
Communications and
Partnership Officer,
AATF, West Africa



Mr. Alex Abutu
Communications
Officer, PBS Nigeria



Mrs. Aisha Umar
Chief Information
Officer, OFAB Nigeria
Secretariat



Mr. Henry Kumba
OFAB Nigeria
Secretariat



Mrs. Sarah I.
Ogochukwu
Event Manager OFAB
Nigeria Secretariat



Modesta Abugu
Programme Assistant
OFAB Nigeria Chapter



Eniola Adewoyin
Admin Officer, OFAB
Nigeria Secretariat

OFAB PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP



National Biotechnology
Development Agency
(NABDA)



African Agricultural
Technology Foundation
(AATF)



National Institute for
Research and Training in
Food Safety and Food
Quality (NIFQS)



Federal Ministry of
Agriculture and Rural
Development



National Agricultural
Seed Council (NASC)



National Cereals
Research Institute,
(NCRI) Badeggi



Institute of
Agricultural
Research (IAR)
Zaria



National Root crops
Research Institute,
(NRCRI) Umudike



Agricultural
Research Council
of Nigeria (ARC/N)

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Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology

OFAB Nigeria

