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# Media Award 2019

## Our Partners



### Date:

8th November 2019

### Time:

7:00pm

### Venue:

Abuja Sheraton  
Hotels and Tower



The National  
Biotechnology  
Development  
Agency (NABDA)



The African  
Agricultural  
Technology  
Foundation



Open Forum  
on Agricultural  
Biotechnology  
(OFAB) in Africa



HIS EXCELLENCY  
**MUHAMMADU BUHARI** GCFR  
PRESIDENT, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



HIS EXCELLENCY  
**PROF. YEMI OSINBAJO** GCON  
VICE PRESIDENT  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA





**DR. OGBONNAYA ONU**

HONOURABLE MINISTER

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



**BARR. MOHAMMED H. ABDULLAHI**

HONOURABLE MINISTER OF STATE

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA





**MR. BITRUS BAKO NABASU, mni**

PERMANENT SECRETARY

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



**PROF. ALEX U. AKPA**

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL/CEO

NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



## THE OPEN FORUM ON AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY (OFAB) 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 soils, 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 antiGMO movement, there was need for deliberate, planned and coordinated communication efforts among the various stakeholders in modern agricultural biotechnology. And on 9 April, 2009, the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), in partnership with the National Biotechnology Development Agency NABDA and Agricultural Research Council (ARC), launched OFAB-Nigeria Chapter with a mission to enhance knowledge sharing and awareness on agricultural biotechnology that would raise understanding and



**DR. RUFUS EBEGBA**  
 DIRECTOR-GENERAL/CEO  
 NATIONAL BIOSAFETY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
 FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



**OFAB LAUNCH** *continues*

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 scientists and journalists; and improved regulatory environment on agricultural biotechnology. Bringing the farmers, scientists, researchers and policy makers under the same platform is one major achievement.

**Science, Technology and Innovation Expo, 15th January 2019**



**Press Conference on the Environmental Release of PBR Cowpea  
29th January 2019**

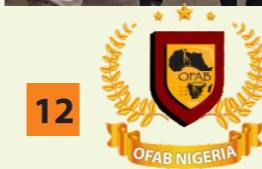


### International Conference on Science Communication, April 9, 2019, Organised by ISDEVCOM, Nasarawa



### March for Improved Seeds Adoption 2019, 11th April 2019

The National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) and the Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) Nigeria Chapter were among other major stakeholders in the seed industry who took part in the National Agricultural Seeds Council's second edition of the March for the Adoption of Quality Seeds.



### National Seed Connect Expo 2019, 15th April, 2019



3rd Edition of the OFAB Nigeria Media Awards Night



### March for Science 2019, 4th May 2019



### First Annual Conference of the Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, May 9th 2019



3rd Edition of the OFAB Nigeria Media Awards Night





### Catch Them Young: Launch of Biotechnology and Biosafety Club at HighGrade Int'l School 29th July 2019



### EPiSON 2019, 30 July 2019



BSN 2019, 23 August 2019



Second International Science Communication Conference 2019,



## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

TIME	EVENT AND PRESENTERS
07:00pm	Arrival of Guests
07:05pm	National Anthem/Prayer: 1st and 2nd Stanza
07:10pm	<b>Introduction of Dignitaries</b> <b>MCs: Tope Ojeme, FRCN; Mr. Alex Abutu, AATF and Mr. Kunle Daramola, NABDA</b>
<b>OPENING CEREMONY</b>	
07:20pm	<b>Welcome Remarks by:</b> The Coordinator, OFAB Nigeria, <b>Dr. Rose Maxwell Gidado</b> <b>DG's Remarks:</b> The Ag.DG/CEO, NABDA <b>Prof. Alex U. Akpa</b>
	<b>Goodwill Messages:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The DG/CEO National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA), <b>Dr. Rufus Ebegba.</b></li> <li>■ The Regional Director, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), Abuja, <b>Dr. Abdourhamane Issoufou Kollo.</b></li> <li>■ The Acting Executive Secretary, Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria, <b>Prof. G. H. Sharubutu</b></li> <li>■ The Director General/CEO, National Agricultural Seed Council, <b>Dr. P. O. Ojo.</b></li> <li>■ Director General/CEO, Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS), <b>Dr. Vincent Isegbe,</b></li> <li>■ The Chairman, Ginners Association of Nigeria, <b>Alhaji Salmanu.</b></li> <li>■ The Chairman, NACOTAN, <b>Mr. Anibe Achimugu.</b></li> <li>■ The President, Nigerian Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium (NBBC), <b>Prof. Celestine Aguoro.</b></li> <li>■ The President, All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), <b>Arc. Kabir Ibrahim</b></li> <li>■ The President, Genetic Society of Nigeria (GSN), <b>Prof. Emmanuel Kwon-Ndung.</b></li> <li>■ The President, Nigeria Medial Association, FCT, <b>Dr. Ekpe Uche Philip.</b></li> <li>■ The Executive Secretary, Nigeria Academy of Science, Lagos <b>Dr. Oladoyin Odubanjo</b></li> <li>■ The Executive Secretary, ISDEVCOM, Nasarawa State University <b>Prof. Emmanuel Dandaura</b></li> <li>■ The Executive Director, IAR, Zaria, <b>Prof. Mohammed Ishiaku.</b></li> <li>■ The Executive Director, National Cereals Research Institute (NCRI), Badeggi, <b>Dr. Aliyu Umar</b></li> <li>■ The DG/CEO, Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC)</li> <li>■ The Chairman, House Committee on Agricultural Production &amp; Services, <b>Hon. Dandutse Muntari.</b></li> <li>■ The Chairman, House Committee on Environment, <b>Hon. Johnson Oghuma.</b></li> <li>■ The Chairman, House Committee on Science &amp; Technology, <b>Hon. Beni Lar.</b></li> <li>■ The Chairman, Senate Committee on Agricultural &amp; Rural Development, <b>Senator Abdullahi Adamu.</b></li> <li>■ The Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment, <b>Senator Ike Ekweremadu.</b></li> <li>■ The Chairman, Senate Committee on Science &amp; Technology, <b>Senator Uche Ekwunife.</b></li> <li>■ The Hon Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, <b>Alh. Mohammed Sabo Nanono.</b></li> <li>■ The Chief Whip of House of Representative, <b>Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno.</b></li> <li>■ The Senate Deputy Majority Leader, <b>Senator Robert Ajayi Boroffice.</b></li> </ul>
07:30pm	<b>Chairman's Remarks</b> <b>Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu, Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology</b>
07:40pm	A Mini Documentary on OFAB Nigeria.
07:50pm	<b>Keynote Address</b> <b>Mrs. Medina Dauda, Bureau Coordinator and Programme Officer, Voice of Nigeria, Nigeria Bureau.</b> <b>Topic: "GMOs in Nigeria: A Media Appraisal".</b>
08.30pm	<b>PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO OFAB NIGERIA BIOTECH CHAMPIONS</b> <b>PRESENTATION OF AWARDS OF REGONITION</b>
09:30pm	Synopsis of Award Screening Panel Report - <b>Diran Onifade</b> Former Director, NTA
08:40pm	<b>1st Category Award</b> ■ Best Television   ■ Best Print   ■ Best Radio
09:00pm	<b>2nd Category (Runner Up Award)</b> ■ TV   ■ Radio   ■ Print Media
09:10pm	<b>3rd Category Award</b> ■ Overall Winner, OFAB Media Award
09:30pm	Response by Award Recipients.
09:50pm	Food, Drinks and Dance!
10:00pm	Vote of Thanks
10:00pm	Closing



## MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

1. **Prof. Alex U. Akpa, Ag. DG/CEO**
2. **Prof. Kollo Issoufou Abdourhaman, Regional Director, AATF, West Africa.**
3. **Mr. Francis Onyekachi, Programme Officer, AATF, West Africa**
4. **Dr. Rose Suniso M. Gidado, OFAB Nigeria Country Coordinator**
5. **Mr. Alex Abutu, Communications Officer, PBS Nigeria.**
6. **Nkiruka Mary-Ann Amakeze**
7. **Henry Kumba, Member, OFAB Secretariat**
8. **Mrs. Iweajunwa Sarah Ogochukwu, Events Manager, OFAB Secretariat**
9. **Abdul Adnan, Protocol Officer, NABDA**
10. **Abraham Isah, Programme Assistant, OFAB Secretariat**
11. **Eniola Adewoyin, Admin Officer, OFAB Secretariat**
12. **Umar Mohammed, Admin Officer, NABDA**

## OFAB NIGERIA PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE MEMEBERS

1. **Prof. Alex U. Akpa (NABDA, Abuja)**
2. **Dr. Rose Gidado (NABDA, Abuja)**
3. **Alh. Yerima Uba (FMARD, Abuja)**
4. **Prof. Ishiyaku Mohammed (IAR, Zaria)**
5. **Mr. Yarama Ndirpaya (ARCN, Abuja)**
6. **Dr. Issoufou Kollo (AATF, Abuja)**
7. **Mr. Francis Nwankwo (AATF, Abuja)**
8. **Dr. Mohammed Ishaq (NCRI, Badeggi)**
9. **Dr. Ihuoma Okwuonu (NRCRI, Umudike)**
10. **Prof. Chidozie Egesi (NRCRI Umudike)**

## ADVISORY MEMBERS

11. **Dr Nasiru Ibrahim (NABDA)**
12. **Mr. Siasia Ebi (NABDA)**

## RAPPATEURS

1. **Charles Ogunremi ACS O NABDA**
2. **Chijindun Odi-Akpa SSO**

## OFAB NIGERIA PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE (PC).



## THANK YOU MESSAGE

On behalf of the OFAB Programming Committee, I want to thank each and everyone of you for making out time to join us honouring our awardees. We most especially, thank all our friends in the media who participated in the Award Competition and also our various recipients of the Award of Recognition. We look forward to continuously working with you all and other stakeholders in advancing the cause of biotechnology and Biosafety in Africa at large and Nigeria in particular. May Almighty God bless us all. Wishing you all safe return to your various destinations.

- **Dr. Rose S. M. Gidado**  
Country Coordinator OFAB Nigeria

