



NIGERIAN AGRICULTURAL POLICY RESEARCH NETWORK

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1. Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)

Since the election of the Exco, the incorporation of NAPRNet was given topmost priority. The registration of NAPRNet as a corporate entity is very fundamental to building formal and contractual relationships. But, the process has lingered due to challenging bureaucratic circumstances. Registration was one of the key issues discussed during the last EXCO meeting held on 17 August 2010. We invited the Solicitor to give us progress report. We are pleased to report that CAC has approved our application to register the organization's original name as 'Nigerian Agricultural Policy Research Network (NAPRNet)'. To this end, the lawyer is preparing relevant documents for signatures and verification. Thereafter, final approval will be expected from the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation. Please, let us know if any of you have any contact in the AGF's office to ensure a speedy facilitation.

2. Constituting the full EXCO:

The EXCO is still short of one member – nominee from the National Planning Commission (NPC) despite repeated contacts with the Commission. The President, during the last EXCO meeting, volunteered to personally follow up with the NPC. The Secretary had drafted another request letter which the President had since submitted to the Commission. Follow up is in steady progress. Current indication shows that the National Planning Commission would soon write NAPRNet to give their nominee.

3. Publicity and membership drive

Publicity and membership drive remains top on our agenda. We have stepped up efforts aimed at mobilizing both local and international members. So far, the secretariat has posted parcels containing brochure and registration forms to over 20 tertiary institutions in Nigeria. These were addressed to our members -(where they exist) and Heads of Departments. Some have called the secretariat to acknowledge receipt while others are yet to do so. Please let me know if your institution is yet to feel the presence of NAPRNet.

We must also commend some of our members for introducing their colleagues to NAPRNet and this has paid-off with the registration of about 6 new members. In addition, the Network

continue to have an international outlook with the registration of an international member – Aichata Keita, a Malian national studying in Paris, France. We implore all our members to personally publicize the activities of NAPRNet in their various organizations.

4. Seminar/Training activities

Recently, the African Institute for Applied Economics (AIAE), Enugu in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Abuja facilitated a 2- day workshop on Scientific Writing and Research Communicattions The workshop was held in Enugu on 31 Aug- 1 Sep 2010 and some of our members indicated interest to participate. We wish to extend our appreciation to AIAE under the leadership of our President (Prof. Eboh) and IFPRI for waiving training fees for our members. We hope that other members will also facilitate similar training opportunities that will help to strengthen the research capacity of our members.

Furthermore, discussions with Agric Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN) is still in progress to jointly organize a national seminar on *'Promoting the use of Agricultural Research in Policy making and industry'*. We are also exploring other 'consultancy opportunities' for NAPRNet members and details will be communicated to you in our subsequent mails.

5. Website management

There have been committed efforts to launch our website into full operations. Plans are in top gear to set up a blog spot for web-based discussions. Our web manager, Dr. Victor Ajieroh informed us recently of his non-availability to continue in this role, due to a new job placement that will engage much of his time. EXCO wishes him well and asked the secretary to manage the website in the interim. In addition, NAPRNet has approved an internship application from one, Miss Ruth Uhiene to support the secretary in website development and management. Miss Uhiene is a final year student of Computer Science at the University of Abuja. The appointment is free of cost to NAPRNet. Miss Uhiene will be fully introduced to you as soon as she finishes her documentation with NAPRNet.

To further boost our capacity in web-based communications, Ms Valerie Rhoe has volunteered to organize an on-line training on the use of Mendeley. Members are expected to participate on-line using 'Go-To-Meeting' interactive medium and will be duly informed of the date and time. We are very hopeful that with these arrangements in place, web-based interactions will soon commence in earnest.

6. Support from IFPRI

EXCO in her last meeting formally acknowledged receipt of items and equipment donated to NAPRNet by IFPRI. The President thanked IFPRI for the donations and assured that they will be put into optimal use for the benefits of NAPRNet.

7. News bits

- The EXCO has approved the appointment of Mr. Innocent Azih of NESG as NAPRNet's Assistant Secretary. He will support the secretariat to allow the Secretary devote more time to the management of the website.
- Ms Valerie Rhoe (Program Coordinator) announced that she will be relocating to Washington DC, (USA) at the end of her tenure in December, 2010.
- IFPRI is renovating the library and developing a website for the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Abuja. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to donate books and relevant publications to stock the Ministry's library.
- The African Institute for Applied Economics has indicated interest to register as a corporate member of NAPRNet. Other private organizations like NESG and AFAN are encouraged to follow suit.
- The NARPNNet Exco is scheduling courtesy visits to key officials in the agricultural research and policy community, including the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria.