



Agricultural Policy Research Network

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APRNet gets CAC Registration

During the year, the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet) was registered as a not-for-profit organization" (Limited by Guarantee) with the Corporate Affairs Commission, in line with the provisions of Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The process which started immediately the Executive Council was inaugurated on 24 November 2009 faced several challenges ranging from nomenclature issues to bureaucratic delays. However with the committed and relentless efforts of the EXCO, the incorporation of APRNet was actualized with the issuance of Incorporation Certificate Number RC 959554 and dated 14 June 2011.

Since its formation, the lack of certificate of registration has limited APRNet"s collaborative opportunities with relevant organizations. However, with the issuance of the certificate, APRNet is now formally positioned to engage and collaborate with relevant institutions and organizations in the pursuit of its major objective of strengthening agricultural policy research, research communication and policy dialogue.

APRNet opens own bank account

Following its successful registration by CAC, Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet Ltd/Gte) formally opened its own current bank account. The account is domiciled with the United Bank for Africa (UBA PLC), Maitama, FCT branch and the number is **1015661697**.

APRNet Website in the making

The re-designing and hosting of APRNet website with the domain name www.aprnetnigeria.org is in progress, thanks to IFPRI for providing us with additional support. The website re-design became necessary following the withdrawal of free hosting support earlier provided by *Dgroup* online services. This development rendered our website inactive since February 2011; hence the EXCO"s decision to approach IFPRI for support. IFPRI responded positively by engaging an IT consultancy firm (*Hit-d-wave Tech Services Ltd, Abuja*) to re-design and host the website for at least one year. It is expected that before the end of November 2011, the website will be active and ready for use. NAPRNet once again expresses her appreciation to IFPRI for providing the IT support.

APRNet holds National Symposium "Making Agricultural Research Work for End-Users".

On 24 May, 2011, the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet) in collaboration with the African Institute for Applied Economics (AIAE Enugu) and with some financial support from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI-Nigeria) organized a National Policy Symposium on "Making Agricultural Research Work for End-Users".

The Symposium which was held at Valencia Hotel, Abuja provided a platform for experts and practitioners to discuss the important question of optimizing the interface of agricultural

research, agricultural policy and agricultural enterprise for sustainable growth and food security in Nigeria. It afforded an opportunity to share research information and to synthesize informed perspectives on innovative and best practices for linking research, policymaking and private enterprise.

About 105 participants attended the event including researchers, research managers, policymakers, development practitioners and agricultural entrepreneurs.

Participants were drawn from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, State Ministries of Agriculture, States' Agricultural Development Programmes and Agricultural and Rural Development Authorities, Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria, National Agricultural Research Institutes, Commercial Agriculture Development Programme, Agricultural Society of Nigeria, National Programme for Agricultural and Food Security/National Programme for Food Security, Faculties of Agriculture in Nigerian Universities, Farmers' Associations, agriculture-related non-governmental associations and International Development Partners. Four (4) papers were presented while a communiqué was issued at the end of the symposium.



Prof. Eboh, President of APRNet, addressing the Symposium



The Head Table at the Symposium



Prof. Chikwendu of the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria delivering a paper at the Symposium



Group photograph of some participants at the Symposium

APRNet and AIAE hold training on Agricultural Policy Analysis

APRNet in collaboration with the African Institute for Applied Economics (AIAE) organized an Executive Course on Methodology and Tools for Agricultural Policy Analysis, under the auspices of the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN). The Course held from 6-9 December 2011 at AIAE Conference and Seminar Rooms, Enugu

To encourage more APRNet members to participate, a 40% course fee discount was secured for APRNet members only.



Group photograph of participants and resource persons at the Training Workshop



Prof. Eboh delivering a lecture at the Training Workshop

APRNet 2011 Congress Meeting

The 2011 Congress meeting of APRNet was held on 23 November, 2011 at The Hotel, Nza Street, Independence Layout, Enugu.

The Congress meeting featured the Presidential Address on “Accomplishments, Challenges and Strategic Priorities Looking Forward”.

The Address reviewed the accomplishments and milestones since inception, examined the challenges of take-off and institution building and proffered the strategic priorities for the medium and long-term. The Address provided a holistic assessment of the journey so far and scenario analysis of the prospects for the coming years.

Another highlight of the meeting was the election of new EXCO. The election was done after the amendment of the Constitution regarding the tenure of Exco members, in line with the provisions of the Constitution. The Congress also ratified the recommendation of the Exco to flag off the process of developing a five-year Strategic Plan and Programme Framework for APRNet.

Bright Prospects for 2012

The outlook of APRNet in 2012 is very bright. With the successful registration of APRNet as a corporate entity, we are optimistic that the year 2012 will witness the fruition of some collaborative programmes in capacity building, research networking and policy dialogue, which have been under consideration since the beginning of 2011.

The year 2012 will be devoted to formulating an APRNet Strategy and Programme Framework for the next five years. Members are encouraged to make intellectual and technical contributions as may be necessary for the realization of these programmes.