



Agricultural Policy Research Network

Website: <http://www.aprnetworkng.org>

E-mail of the President: anthony.onoja@uniport.edu.ng,
tonyojonimi@gmail.com, info@aprnetworkng.org Mobile: +2348065238655

APRNet Q4 REPORT

(Covering the Period, 1st October– 31stDecember 2018)

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1. Introduction

The Fourth Quarter (Q4) report of APRNet documents the major activities, challenges, achievements and prospects of the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet) from 1st October 2018 to 31st December 2018. The key events, tasks, achievements and challenges as well as prospects are hereby presented under the following sub-themes.

2. APRNet's Journal: Nigerian Agricultural Policy Research Journal's Progress

During the period in review, Volume 4 of *NAPReJ*, APRNet's policy journal was launched. This is to keep with the mandate of producing two volumes per annum thus consolidating the status of the journal as a prime, consistent biannual peer reviewed journal of agriculture and food policy in Nigeria. It was launched on 22nd November 2018. Issues on how to further advance the status of the journal are being tabled for discussion and action with our partner, IFPRI.

3. APRNet 10th Agricultural Policy Research Seminar Held in Owerri, Imo State: APRNet Also Engaged Stakeholders and Donated Its Journals



Figure 1. Group photograph of participants

During the quarter in review, too, specifically on 22nd November 2018, the 10th APRNet Seminar was held at De Regent Hotels LTD. The Policy Seminar which was supported by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI-Nigeria) was attended by 48 participants from the academia, research community, Ministries and Development Agencies (MDAs), private agribusiness firms, NGOs, farmer associations, Postgraduate students in Agricultural sciences and related agricultural and food policy fields. Some distinguished guests included - the Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Imo State,

Mr. Udo Agoha, the Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration of Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO), Prof. J.S. Orebiyi, Dr. Jude Ohanele – CEO/Founder Development Dynamics, Deans of Faculties of Agriculture from Imo State University and FUTO, among others. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and NIRSAL were also represented in the person of Mrs Nkechi Osuji. Mr T. Amunwa of FADAMA III Office, Owerri was also present. The specific aims of the Agricultural Policy Seminar at Owerri were to: (i) dialogue with Imo State agricultural stakeholders on strategies to improve agricultural development in the State, building resilience of farmers and agribusiness in Nigeria through climate financing, (ii) brainstorming on the problems of food insecurity in Nigeria, (iii) engaging the multi-stakeholders in the State and Nigerian agriculture to discuss issues on related to agricultural resource and forest policies of the Federal Government of Nigeria. The event combined both seminar and multi-stakeholders engagement to address teething issues in Nigerian agriculture and food sector. It was generally a reflective stock-taking, information sharing and learning of best practices experience by the actors themselves. Just as researchers have responsibility to communicate with end-users, the end-users themselves should be able to tell their own stories too. Against this backdrop, the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet), convened the 10th Seminar series.



APRNet EXCO with the Imo State Commissioner for Agriculture and Environment and the Vice Chancellor of Federal University of Technology, Owerri (represented by his Deputy VC Admin.)

The President of APRNet, Dr. Anthony O. Onoja, in his welcome address, noted that the 10th APRNet Policy seminar series was in tandem with the APRNet seminar objectives which include: sharing knowledge about existing approaches and practices in linking agricultural research with policymakers, farmers and agricultural practitioners; discussing and learning innovative approaches and practices for more effective research dissemination and research utilization by end-users; enabling the exchange of perspectives and ideas among the producers, providers and users of agricultural research; and giving opportunity for inter-stakeholders interaction and networking-researchers, policymakers, farmers and agricultural

practitioners. He explained what IFPRI and APRNet were doing across the country in engaging farmers, scientists, policy makers and other multi-stakeholders in Nigeria for improved food and agricultural productivity. Dr Onoja identified some key challenges facing the Nigerian agricultural sector lately which included the problem of climate change, violent clashes between herdsmen and farmers, all exacerbating poor farm productivity; paucity of finance and poor access to resource inputs, harvest loss along value chains amidst other challenges. He noted that most of these problems were intertwined and would require evidence-based policies that will adopt a multi-stakeholder model as was being done by APRNet-IFPRI. He observed that the number of food-insecure people in the country was projected to double from 17 million in 2012 to 43 million in 2022. He rounded off by expressing his appreciation to all participants, EXCO, LOC Chair and team as well as the EXCO members for making the seminar a huge success. The LOC chairman, Dr. Odi Ejiogu, APRNet South-East Coordinator and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Imo State University (IMSU), gave a welcome remark which stressed that no meaningful transformation in Nigerian Agriculture could take place without a robust research and policy activities. The Key Note Speaker and Founder/Programme Director Development Dynamics, Owerri - Dr. Jude Ohanele, noted that Nigerians, needed reliable data to plan for hunger elimination and poverty reduction across the country. According to him, the country required more technological investment and commitment to implementation of sustainable agricultural policies in order to realize food security. High pressure advocacy was relevant for food and agricultural policy implementation across the country, he further remarked. The good will message came from Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Imo State. He itemized some of the contributions of Imo State government to agricultural development in the state. He promised that their government was working towards making agriculture more attractive to the indigenes especially via support to the Federal and State Universities – Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO) and Imo State University, Owerri (IMSU) respectively. He was pleased with APRNet's choice of Imo State as its venue for conveying this year's Agricultural Policy Seminar. He urged all present to look beyond paying lips service to farming and get actively involved by investing in farming. He cited the example of himself, who, despite being a Quantity Surveyor by profession, feeds his family from his own personal farm. He noted that Imo State was highly committed to building an agricultural led economy and that the State was supporting farmers in many ways. The Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration, Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO), Prof. J. S. Orebiyi, gave his good will remarks, thanking God and APRNet for giving Imo State the hosting right. He advocated for proper and timely policies and impetus on agriculture in Nigeria. He then reminded all on the need to go back to the land so as to develop the "stomach infrastructure of each household." APRNet President donated some copies of their journal (NAPReJ) to Imo State Government and Federal University of Technology, Owerri and other organizations present. After the group photograph, two seminar papers were presented: 1) "*A cursory Analysis of Forest Policy in Nigeria*" by Dr. Gloria Ujor, Member, APRNet EXCO and Executive Secretary, Nigerian Environmental Study Team (NEST), Ibadan; and 2) "*Unleashing Agricultural Development in Nigeria through Climate Financing: The Policy Dimension*" by Dr. A. Henri-Ukoha, Department of Agricultural Economics & Extension, University of Port Harcourt.

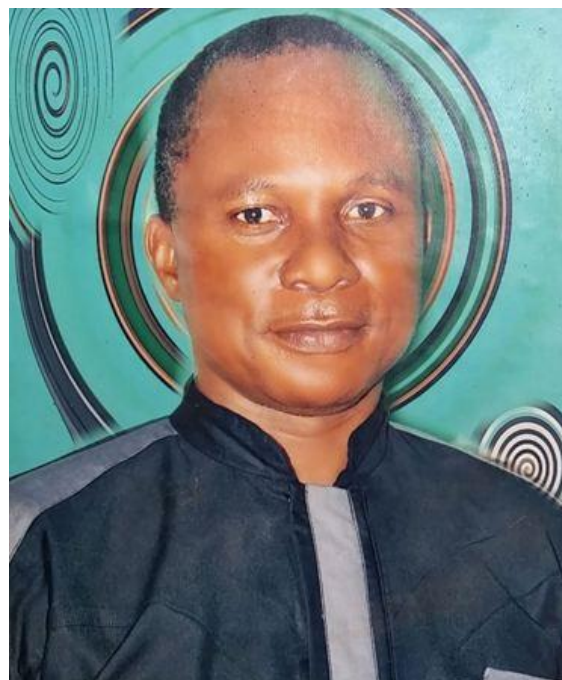
A communiqué was drafted and adopted after the seminar.

4. Career Profile: Two APRNet Members, Dr. D. Ekene and Dr. A. A. Enete, Promoted to the rank of a Professor

During the period in review, one of the founding members of APRNet, Dr. Data Ekene, was elevated to the rank of a professor of Agricultural Economics at the Rivers State University, Port Harcourt.



Professor Data Ekene was newly elevated to the rank of a Professor at the Rivers State University, Port Harcourt. She is a Professor of Agricultural Economics.



Dr. Anselm Enete, newly promoted to the rank of Professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

7. New Membership

During the period under review, APRNet recorded three new members. One of them is Dr. Mrs. Maryann N Osuji, a lecturer at the department of Agricultural Economics, Federal University of Technology Owerri, Nigeria. She has a Bachelors' degree (B.Agric Tech) and a Masters degree (M.Sc) in Agricultural Economics from Federal University of Technology Owerri. She holds a doctoral degree in Agricultural Economics with special bias in Agricultural Marketing and Agribusiness Management from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike, Abia State Nigeria. Her doctoral work was on Gender differences in cassava Value chain actors in Nigeria. She is involved in grant/ proposal writing, mentoring and academic advising and supervision of student projects. She has numerous publications to her name and an active member of Nigerian Association of Agricultural Economist, Agricultural Economics Society United Kingdom, Nigeria Association of University Women/Graduate women International and Organisation of women in Science for the developing world. Osuji, Maryann (PhD) is a vibrant research scientist with interest in Food value chains, Climate change and Agricultural sustainability.

The second new member during the period is Mr Gabriel O. Agada. Mr. Gabriel Agada, a Chartered Accountant by profession, is presently a doctoral student in Agricultural Economics at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka with specialization in Project Management and Finance. Mr. Gabriel Agada holds an M-Tech in Agricultural Economics from FUT Minna, Niger State, and a Masters Degree in Business Administration with specialization in finance LAUTECH Ogbomoso Oyo State. He has also been a banker and currently an Associate Member of Enterprise risk management, Singapore and Nigeria. His research interests include: enhancing financial inclusion for farmers and agricultural project analysis.

The third new entrant during the period was **Professor Sani, Mohammed Hussaini**. Prof. M. H. Sani, is a Professor of Agricultural Economics with specialization in Production and Applied Economics, Econometrics and Sustainability at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University. He is currently the Head of Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi. He is well published as a researcher. He is also an Editorial Board Member of a reputable Journal of Agricultural Economics, *Environment and Social Sciences (JAEES)*. He has written technical reports in 2013 on a research pioneered by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on midterm beneficiary impact assessment of *Fadama III* in Gombe State, Nigeria. He is the pioneer Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Agripreneurship and Sustainable Development (JASD)*. His research focus includes production and applied economics, application of inventory modeling in agriculture, agricultural support tools and management, *Fadama* agriculture and sustainability, value chain management, contract farming systems, gender issues in agriculture and labour management. He is happily married with children.

With these records of growing membership of both young and senior scholars in APRNet, there is no doubt that APRNet is getting more poised to deliver on its primary mandates with no delay.

8. APRNet Web Page Activities Progress

During the period under review, APRNet web page recorded, as usual, high number of visits with the hits peaking in October. At its peak within the period, in October, APRNet website had a total visit of 13,595 and unique visitors of 986 in December 2018 which is far higher than the previously recorded figure of 876 for the past August 2018. The total number of hits and unique visits for the period were 35,029 and 2647 as against **37,798 hits and 2,375 unique visitors respectively**. The relatively lower hits on the whole recorded could be attributed to the holiday period as could be seen that December 2018 recorded the lowest hit with a figure of 9502. On the whole the web activities are quite impressive and indicates high performance affirming the ever-rising level of interest the public (including all global audience) are indicating for the activities of APRNet.

Table 1: Detailed Website Statistics Summary of www.aprnetworkng.org October-December 2018

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Oct 2018	774	1,292	3,868	13,595	1.26 GB
Nov 2018	887	1,260	3,479	11,932	1.18 GB
Dec 2018	986	1,246	3,448	9,502	969.92 MB

Source: Onyis Creative Innovations, 2018. Website Consultants.

9. Challenges of the Network

The Network is still challenged by insufficient funding in the face of increasing costs of high profile events, journal upgrade needs as well as membership capacity building needs. Office space and staffing needs not yet met remain daunting challenges to the network. Efforts at finding some solutions to these problems are billed to be discussed with our corporate collaborator, IFPRI in Abuja by January 2019.

10. Prospects

The future still looks rosy for APNet against all odds. The membership is growing, the activities of APRNet are getting higher impact and relevance in the Nigerian agricultural policy space. The members' profile is also growing rapidly affirming the progressive nature of members and their tenacity too, especially with respect to building their capacities. These human resources of APRNet are begging for utilization in advancing the course of food security and agricultural development in Nigeria. By 2019, APRNet plans to embark on more valuable activities to add value to advocacy and stakeholders' engagement in Nigerian agriculture it usually does. More partnerships will also be forged too.



Signed:

Dr. Anthony O. Onoja

President, APRNet