



# Agricultural Policy Research Network

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

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

## MAJOR MILESTONES OF APRNET IN 2016

(1) **APRNet Journal Launch:** The maiden journal of APRNet (print version), of Nigerian Agricultural Policy Journal (NAPReJ) was launched in August 2016. The National Library of Nigeria (NLN) issued us with an online ISSN (in addition to the Print ISSN we got earlier in the year before the unveiling of the journal) for the planned online version of the NAPReJ issues.

(2) **Regional Stakeholders Forum Held at South-South Region:**

In June 2016, the South -South Zone of APRNet organized a stakeholders meeting at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, University of Port Harcourt to share its vision, mission and strategies and at the same time canvassing for membership.

(3) **3RD NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS FORUM ON MAKING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH WORK FOR END-USERS**

In August 2016, APRNet Hosted its 3rd NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS FORUM ON MAKING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH WORK FOR END-USERS. The forum which was attended by about 50 delegates from across different sectors of Nigerian agricultural value chains (researchers, academics, government, private sector leaders and farmers' representatives etc). The event was a huge success.

(4) **2016 Annual Agricultural Research Policy Seminars of APRNet were held.**

During the period in review, APRNet, used the opportunity of hosting its 3rd National Multi-stakeholders forum to flag its annual event, Agricultural Research Policy Seminar too. The decision was made in order to save cost of logistics. The second policy seminar was hosted in November, 2016 at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

**(5) APRNet Annual General Meeting and Elections Held at University of Nigeria, Nsukka**

Two other events were held besides the APRNet Agricultural Policy Research Seminar at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. One of the events was the annual general meeting of the network. At the meeting the treasurer presented the financial reports for adoption. It was adopted after careful scrutiny and explanations requested on some items. The President also presented the APRNet Annual Report for the year 2015/2016 which was well received.

**(6) APRNet Donated Books to Faculty of Agriculture and Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nigeria Nsukka, Paid Courtesy call to the Vice Chancellor, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.**

APRNet members donated some copies of its maiden journal (NAPReJ) to both the Faculty of Agriculture and the Department of Agricultural Economics. These were highly appreciated by the Head of the Department, Professor SAND Chidebelu and the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, represented by the Associate Dean, Dr. Anselm Enete (both APRNet Members too). A courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor, UNN followed same day.

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**(8) APRNet Boosts its Publicity Drive**

APRNet printed brochures and flyers that were widely circulated online and in print form in 2016 to create more awareness about its activities and products. Her two major events were transmitted on Nigerian electronic and print media widely and even on satellite televisions and in websites.

The activities were beamed and broadcasted on international televisions (*AIT International, Core TV* and *TVC News*), newspapers (*The Punch, The Pilot* and some other online newspapers) and online Magazines (See *AgroNigeria*). Post events

analyses were also done in some TV programmes which could be viewed from the TVC international as well as on IFPRI's NSSP website. Some online links that still featured this events are as follows in addition to the APRNet website features: <http://nigerianpilot.com/stakeholders-seek-improved-agric-research-funding-review-arcn-budget/> , <http://punchng.com/agric-experts-seek-review-research-council-budget/> , <http://agronigeria.com.ng/stakeholders-canvass-adequate-funding-agricultural-research/> and <http://bit.ly/2bly2o7> (IFPRI's link). After the event a communiqué was drafted and made available to the public including Federal Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders in Nigerian agriculture. The communiqué is still being distributed.

### **(9) Membership profile were boosted**

During the period under review, members' profile were updated in line with the current status of each member. The database now contains the full contact details of every member of the network. At the end of the exercise, we found that one of APRNet members, Professor Nwajiuba, was appointed as a Vice Chancellor of a Federal University in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State. In addition to this, a very active member, Dr. Celestine Nze, was appointed as a head of department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Enugu State University of Science and Technology. Not long after this, APRNet Treasurer, Dr. Ike P.C. was promoted to the rank of a Professor at Delta State University. During the review period, the Acting President, Dr. Tony O. Onoja, was also promoted to the rank of a Senior Lecturer and shortly after then appointed as the Head, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, University of Port Harcourt. We also witnessed the promotion of Dr. Gabriel Okafor to the rank of a Professor at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. There could be more appointments from our members that were not reported. The President of APRNet, Dr. Tony O. Onoja, bagged an award of Excellence in Teaching from the Nigerian Association of Agricultural Economics and Extension Students (NAAEES), University of Port Harcourt Chapter. This award was received on 12th November, 2016.

### **(10) Improved Website Visibility Recorded**

The page hits rose from a dismal 679 in January 2016 to a very high and impressive level of 5,717 by the end of April, 2016. The hits rose from 2,764 to a record level of 11,923 at the end of April, 2016. From May to August, the hits rose again dramatically

from 11,923 in the Q2 to 51,409 by the end of August. The web site hits increased from 10,058 in July and peaked in October with a record 41,942 hits before reaching 12,275 in middle November. The visibility of APRNet website is increasing and this is a reflection of how the organization is getting noticed and interest. We hope to step up this feat.

**(11) APRNet Partnered with IFPRI/Feed-the-Future Programme to Head a Panel Session at the International Conference organized by Feed-the-Future Project**

In late September (27 & 28 September 2016) APRNet selected 3 teams of researchers whose papers were ready at short notice and who were financially up to date to present papers in a panel session given to APRNet at the above mentioned international conference held at Rock View Hotel, Wuse 2, Abuja. Four papers were successfully presented by APRNet members at the event.