



(APRNet <http://www.aprnetworkng.org>)

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APRNet Q3 REPORT 2017

(Covering the Period, 1st July – 31st September, 2017)

1. Introduction

This report records the major activities and achievements of the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet) from 1st July – 31st September, 2017, 2017. Challenges and prospects of the organization were equally highlighted in the report. The major activities and challenges as well as prospects are hereby presented under the following sub-themes:

- (1) Membership Drive and Profile
- (2) APRNet Gets a Second Vice President Nominated by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
- (3) APRNet Held Three Events at Abuja in August, 2017: launching of Vol. 2 of NAPReJ, hosting of the annual National Multi-stakeholders' Forum on Making Agriculture work for End-Users in Nigeria and thirdly hosting of the APRNet 6th Agricultural Policy Research Seminar

2. APRNet Held Three Events at Abuja in August, 2017

During the period in review, APRNet held three major events that were part of its deliverables, one, hosting of the 4th Annual Multi-Stakeholders Forum, one



Agricultural Policy Research Seminar and unveiling of the 2nd Volume of the Nigerian Agricultural Policy Research Journal (NAPReJ).

(i) 4th APRNet National Stakeholder forum on ‘Making Agricultural Policy Reform work for End- Users’

This event was held at Valencia Hotel, Wuse 2, Abuja on Wednesday 23rd, August, 2017.

Fifty one (51) persons participated in the meeting. The programme started at 10.06 am with an opening prayer said by Dr Mercy EberNdubueze-Ogaraku after the constitution of the high table which was chaired by the Hon Minister of Agriculture FMARD (Chief AuduOgbeh represented by Alh. Mr.Azeez of FMARD).The keynote address was delivered by the Minister of Agriculture representative, Alhaji Azeez who was the chairman of the opening ceremony. He sent the Ministers’ apology for being absence in the event. He explained that the Hon Minister of Agriculture absence was mainly due to the National Executive Council Meeting holding the same time on that day.

He read the address of the minister which showed the following highlights:

The Minister has much interest for APRNet activities and he is ready to support the network. He congratulated the network and IFPRI for organizing the stakeholders’ forum and promised that the outcome of the meeting will be taken seriously. He also hinted that the door of the ministry remained wide opened to the network. He appealed that the network should always strive to bring out innovative ideas that will be committed to addressing policy issues in agricultural sector.





Representative of the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, (Alhaji Azeez) Delivering The Minister's Speech at the event

According to his report, efforts by the present administration regarding agriculture sector development included:

1 Improving the institutional strength intends of research and policy. He emphasised that there is high potentials in Nigeria agric sectors now. According to him, Republic of India is requesting for the supply of pods and nuts from Nigeria.

2 Also Nigeria is expected to export yam to Europe, Canada other countries. Just recently, yam was exported to USA, China is also asking for importation of yam from Nigeria. He also said that ginger from Nigeria is the best in the whole world. The Federal government has made reforms in the financial sector through the innovative financial approach using Bank of Agriculture and Bank of Industry. The minister called upon IFPRI to support, review and support all policy issues regarding agriculture.

Good will messages

The 14th Vice Chancellor of University of Nigeria Prof. Ben C Ozumba was represented by Prof A. I. Achike, she sent the VC's greetings to APRNets and all participants. She said that the VC had shown great passion for agriculture

and commitment in promoting agric project in the institution through the UNN faculty of Agriculture project which is presently on. She sent the VC's willingness and request to host another future APRNet event.



Prof. A. A. Voh, Acting Executive Secretary to ARCN delivering his Speech during the event

The Executive Director of Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN), Prof A. A. Voh was also in attendance. He expressed the council's gratitude to the network for coming up with the laudable programme. In his presentation on challenges and experiences of the council, he explained that agriculture all over the world was driven by technology. He emphasized that the 3 components included: (a) Basic research carried out in the Universities, (b) Applied research carried out by the Agricultural research Institutes and (c) Human Resources development.

The three key areas of ARCN are :

- a. National Secretariat at Abuja the federal capita territory
- b. Agricultural Institute which is 15 in the country, each having the mandate in conducting research in a particular crop.

- c. The 3rd component is the Federal Colleges of Agriculture which is 11 in number with the key mandate of the training of medium level manpower. According to him, there is a compendium of all agric technologies developed by the council since 1973 till date.

3 Outputs of the ARCN

- I. Policy recommendations option
- II. Recommendations for further research
- III. Generation of technologies

Key end-users of agricultural technologies

- Research scientist and organizations
- Training and extension agents / organizations
- Technologies from the farm-seed technologies/ biotechnology

Major challenges

- Poor funding of research and extension systems
- Weak linkages between research, extension and farmers / industries
- Absence of appropriate communication strategies
- Conflicts expectation from various components

Cases for Agric research that works,

- Increase funding
- Matching research focus with clienteles expectations
- Strengthening research linkage with stakeholders.

The welcome address was presented by the APRNet President Dr Anthony O Onoja titled roles of Multi-Stakeholders in addressing food security and other critical challenges of Agricultural development in Nigeria. He welcomed all participants and expressed his gratitude to all. He briefly recalled that the network started in 2009 with the effort of IFPRI mainly to address the issue of food security in Nigeria. He pointed out that the activities of all stakeholders in agricultural sector were not working in synergy and appealed that all



stakeholders should endeavour to collaborate in conduct of research and taking the outcome of research to end-users for more productivity in agricultural sector.

The IFPRI country leader Dr George Mavrotas expressed gladness with the progress made by Dr Onoja led administration and pointed out that, he had made an impressive landmarks especially in carrying out the network mandates of organizing the stakeholders meeting and policy seminar presentation. This section came to a close at 12. 20noon. A group photograph was taken immediately after the address.

(ii) Second Session: Unveiling of NAPReJ Volume 2

The second session of the event started at 12.54 noon. This was mainly unveiling of the volume 2 of the Nigerian Agricultural Policy Research Journal NAPReJ by Dr Onoja. The president said that the journal had been uploaded on the APRNet website could be viewed online by anyone who visits the APRNet website.



Unveiling the Volume 2 of NAPReJ in Abuja on 23rd August, 2017

by APRNet President, Dr. Tony Onoja (as Dr. George Mavorotas, IFPRI-Nigeria

Programme Leader looked on in appreciation along with the audience).

Most copies were distributed as donations to various institutions in Nigerian agriculture. Fifty (50) hard copies were presented and donated during the event.

The journal unveiling was followed by presentation by the VC of University of Port Harcourt Prof N.E.S. Lale, represented by Professor O.M. Adesope who made a presentation titled *Sustainable Agricultural Research for End-users in contemporary Nigeria* on behalf of the Vice Chancellor. In his presentation, he said invention, innovation and associated knowledge was expected to drive productivity in agricultural sector. He explained that Agricultural development depended on research. He however, he regretted that low funding in agricultural sector was contributing to low productivity and pointed out that less than 5% of national budget allocation to agricultural sector may not be able to achieve much. It is expected that public funded research is assumed to play major roles in agriculture. Also insufficient research- extension linkages is a major challenge in the sector.

He advocated for the following;

- Comprehensive data base of all end-users
- Participatory approach- farmers – extension intensification
- Holistic participatory approach
- Research-inputs farmers linkages
- Development APP application for farmers usages
- Invest in research fair, commending the efforts of researchers and end-users
- Granting institutional influence
- Need to review extension policy



- Building of extension capacity

Presentation of lead papers

The first lead paper was by Kogi State Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture Barr. Kehinde Oloruntoba represented by Mr. Titus Adakole, titled *Success Stories and Challenges of Bridge Building across Nigerian Agricultural Value Chains: The Kogi State Experience*. The key information in the presentation was Agricultural rebirth programme of the state being anchored on the Christy Agro–farmers & private sector investment. The state is promoting cassava, rice and cashew production using more than 3,500 hectares of land and having about 50 tonnes rice processing factory capacity.

The second paper was presented by Dr.Saweda Lenis Liverpool-Tasie (Michigan State University, USA and Leader, Feed-the-Future, Nigeria Agricultural Policy Programme, NAPP) on '*Strengthening Collaborations among Agricultural Professional Societies, Policy Makers, Mass Media and scientists for Improved Advocacy and Agricultural Development in Nigeria*'. The main highlight was that partnership with other organization will help achieve more if we work together rather than working alone. She emphasised that we must see value in collaboration plan, in closing remarks, she urged the APRNet to have clear designation of roles to be more effectives in carryout assignment.





From Left to right, during the Multi-Stakeholders' Forum at Abuja are: Mr. John Mazunda, IFPRI Programme Coordinator, Dr. Tony O. Onoja, APRNet President, Dr. George Mavorotas, IFPRI-Nigeria Programme Leader and Dr. Saweda Lennis Liverpool-Tassie, Michigan State University, USA and Leader, Feed-the-Future, Nigeria Agricultural Policy Programme, NAPP.

The 3rd presentation was made by Mr. Emmanuel Cousin (Nigerian Union of Journalists, NUJ, Abuja) on *the Role of the Media in Agricultural Research*. He advocated on the use of traditional media controlled by the traditional environment which will help send information to the end-users. He also advised that it is necessary to get agric own media for effective dissemination of information.

The 4th presentation was on *'Responsible Conducts of Agricultural Research for Effective Engagement of Multi-Stakeholders in Agricultural Policy Making Process'* by Prof. Job Nmadu (Vice President, Nigerian Association of Agricultural Economists, NAAE). The main highlight was how to promote Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). He advocated for open data ie paper accompanied with data and advised that all stakeholders should be involved at the onset of the research.





From Left Secretary NUJ and Former Plateau State NUJ Chairman Mr Ojogbane Audu listening (Representing media collaboration in agricultural policy) emphasized by Feed-the-Future Leader. The 3rd person is Barrister Realwan Okpanachi from the legal profession (a sign of transdisciplinary engagement).

The 5th presentation was on *'Revisiting Intellectual Property Rights and Innovations in Nigeria as Catalyst to Agriculture Led Growth in a Distressed Economy'* was delivered by Mr. Realwan Okpanachi (LLM) (Joe Abrahams [SAN] & Company). His paper which addressed the issues in Assessing the Impacts of Intellectual Property Rights in Agricultural Research, dwelled on the right of invention on patent belongs to the employer rather than the individual because of the property law. He emphasised that the Nigerian law on patents as shown in the Law of ACC Cap. P2 laws of federation of Nigeria, 2010 clearly indicated that there is no verification before approval of the patent rights and therefore, it may be withdrawn if found faulty. He advocated for the commercialization of agricultural sector. Finally, the 6th presenter Prof. A. I. Achike (University of Nigeria, Nsukka) talked on *'Prospects and Challenges of Using Transdisciplinary Methodology to Package and Communicate Agricultural Research Findings to Policy Makers*. She explained that transdisciplinary research was the exploitation of the relevant issues or problems that integrate the perspectives of multiple disciplines. It helped to

reduce confusion and enhances relationship between the service providers, users and the primary interventionist.

6th Agricultural Policy Seminar Presentation

On the same date, Dr. Data Irene Ekine, a member of APRNet and an Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt presented a paper with Eyitope John Ajayi also of Rivers State University, Port Harcourt. The paper is titled "*Effects of Gross Domestic Product, Unemployment, Inflation, and Government Expenditure on Agricultural Output in Nigeria (1980-2014)*".



The Seminar Presenter Prof. Data Ekine of Rivers State University and other participants.

Vote of thanks was given by Dr Odinakachukwu Ejiogu with a closing prayer said by Dr. Philemon T. Haggai, of Nigerian Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Jos at exactly 3.46 pm.

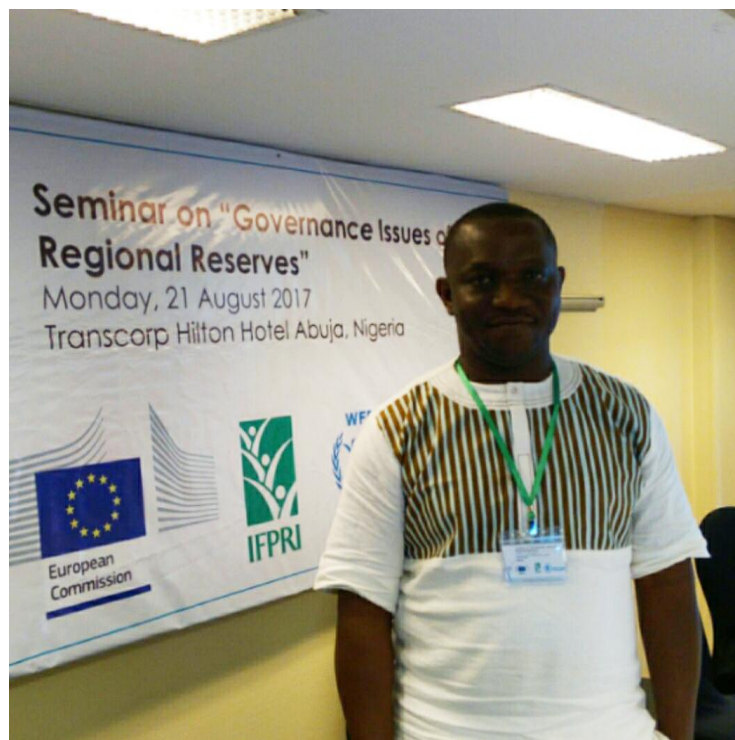
Membership

During the period in review, four new members were recorded in the Network.



APRNet EXCO Represented at a Research Seminar Organized by USAID, IFPRI European Commission and World Food Programme

In August 21, two APRNet EXCO Members, Dr. Tony Onoja and Dr. Gloria Ujor were invited to attend the research findings seminar at Hilton Hotel Abuja. The Seminar which was on Governance Issue on Regional Grain Reserves in West Africa was co-hosted by IFPRI, USAID, European Commission and World Food Programme.



The President of APRNet at the Seminar on 21 August, 2017 in Transcorp Hilton Hotel

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Apr 2017	1,365	3,044	6,572	8,783	225.60 MB
May 2017	150	262	744	1,582	80.63 MB
Jun 2017	546	956	3,443	9,984	345.93 MB
Jul 2017	489	798	2,074	7,481	312.23 MB
Aug 2017	650	1,000	5,923	14,448	494.94 MB

Media Engagement and Publicity

APRNet invested in publicity of the activities of the organization during the period in review as the activities of the event were broadcasted by National Newspapers, online newspapers and blogs as well as International Television Stations such as AIT to mention but a few. The media consultants and participants invited were warmly received and some of them had their transport reimbursed and accommodated for a night.

Quarterly Website Report (September - November 2017)

www.aprnetworkng.org

This is a quarterly report of the APRNet Website from the month of September to November

Summary of Website Statistical Report

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Sept. 2017	917	1,301	10,430	19,210	821.08 MB
Oct. 2017	1,009	1,790	4,932	12,267	751.11 MB
Nov. 2017	1,311	2,872	7,530	13,127	662.20 MB

The above table shows that during the period in review hits recorded for the APRNet Website maintained an upward surge from 7,481 in July to a record 19,210 hits in September, 2017. This is a remarkable feat in terms of growth in visibility of APRNet website and the organization. This tempo will be sustained through more relevant and high impact programmes of the network in the future.





Prof. A. I. Achike, representing the Vice Chancellor of University of Nigeria, Nsukka giving the VC's goodwill message at the Policy Forum in Abuja on 23rd August, 2017.



Some invited dignitaries with a few APRNet EXCO members at the Policy Forum

(From left to right are Prof. OM Adesope, Dr. Gloria Ujor, Dr. Tony Onoja, Dr. George Mavorotas, Prof. A. A. Voh and Dr. Mercy E. Ndubuisi-Ogaraku).



The registration desk at the Policy Forum on 23rd August, 2017



Lunch Session after a hard day's job. The event also had a tea break session.



APRNet believes in engaging with other sister organization in Agricultural and Food Policy space in Nigeria. Seated 3rd from left is Prof. Job Nmadu, the current President of Nigerian Association of Agricultural Economists (NAEE). He was specially invited to represent the association. He has also joined APRNet as a member with effect from 2017.



Big names in Nigerian agricultural policy making sphere such as Prof. Jude Mbanasor were also specially invited as a representative of the Agricultural Society of Nigeria (ASN). He is seen seated here with APRNet Vice President and FAMAN second Vice President, Prof. Ike PC.

Holding of Congress Meeting of APRNet

A meeting of the APRNet congress was held at the event. The major activities and challenges of the network was reviewed at the meeting while constructive advice to move the network forward were given by members present at the meeting. The meeting had about 15 APRNet members in attendance. The APRNet 2017 -2021 Strategic Framework was presented and discussed at the meeting. It was agreed that it should be circulated for comments from the congress before amending for adoption.



**Communiqué at the end of the One-day 4th APRNet National
Multi-Stakeholders' Forum on: "Making Agricultural Policy Research
Work for End-Users"**

**Organized by the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet)
on Wednesday, 23rd August 2017 at Valencia Hotel, Wuse II, Abuja,
Nigeria**



Group photograph of some participants at the morning session of 4th Multi-Stakeholders Forum of APRNet in Abuja, 23rd August, 2017

Preamble

The One-day National Multi-Stakeholders Engagement Forum recognizes the efforts of the present administration led by President Muhammad Buhari towards diversifying the economy of Nigeria through sustained agricultural transformation. The forum was organised by the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet) and aimed at exploring best options for making agricultural policy research work for end-users thereby improving the livelihood of farmers and other agriculture industry



players. The APRNet is a group of professionals from different areas of specializations in the Agriculture sector working through inclusive engagement of multi-stakeholders relevant for sustainable agricultural development in Nigeria and Africa via evidence-based advocacies for decision making to advance Agriculture and other agro-allied enterprises. The forum, which was well-attended included representatives from diverse fields with interest in agriculture and rural development both at national and international levels. It commenced with an opening speech by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, FMARD (Chief Audu Ogbeh ably represented by Alh. M. Azeez of FMARD), opening speeches from The President APRNet, Dr. Anthony O. Onoja; IFPRI-Nigeria leader Dr. George Mavrotas and a key note presentation by Professor A. Voh, the Executive Secretary, Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN) and The Vice Chancellor of University of Nigeria, Nsukka (Prof. Benjamin Ozumba, represented by Prof. A. I. Achike).

Other highlights of the forum included a presentation on “The Role of Multi-Stakeholders in Addressing Food Security and Other Critical Challenges of Agricultural Development in Nigeria” by Dr. Anthony O. Onoja (President, APRNet and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, University of Port Harcourt), short remark by Dr. George Mavrotas (International Food Policy Research Institute, IFPRI-Nigeria Programme leader) with commendations on the level of success recorded by the current APRNet leadership under the regime of Dr. Anthony O. Onoja and the entire Executive Council of APRNet in areas of journal publication, seminars, workshops, research and other deliverables; and finally, a keynote address titled: *Sustainable Agricultural Research for End-Users in Contemporary Nigeria* presented by Prof. N.E.S. Lale (Vice Chancellor, University of Port Harcourt (represented by Prof. O.M. Adesope). The Volume 2 of the Nigerian Agricultural Policy Research Journal (NAPReJ) was also unveiled and shared freely among the participants at the event.

Lead papers presented were: (1) *Success Stories and Challenges of Bridge Building Across Nigerian Agricultural Value Chains: The Kogi State Experience* by Barr. Kehinde Olorunfoba (Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture, Kogi State) represented by Mr. Titus Adakole, (2) *Strengthening Collaborations Among Agricultural Professional Societies, Policy Makers, Mass Media and scientists for Improved Advocacy and Agricultural Development in Nigeria* by Dr. Saweda Lenis Liverpool-Tasie (Michigan State University, USA and Leader, Feed-the-Future, Nigeria Agricultural Policy Programme, NAPP), (3) *The Role of the Media in Agricultural Research* by Mr. Emmanuel Cousin (Nigerian Union of Journalists, NUJ, Abuja), and (4) *Effects of Gross Domestic Product, Unemployment, Inflation, and Government Expenditure on Agricultural Output in Nigeria (1980-2014)* by Dr. Data



Irene Ekine (An APRNet 5th Agricultural Policy Seminar Presenter with Eyitope John Ajayi both of Rivers State University, Port Harcourt).

Other lead papers presented were: (5) *Responsible Conducts of Agricultural Research for Effective Engagement of Multi-Stakeholders in Agricultural Policy Making Process* by Prof. Job Nmadu (Vice President, Nigerian Association of Agricultural Economists, NAAE), (6) *Revisiting Intellectual Property Rights and Innovations in Nigeria as Catalyst to Agriculture Led Growth in a Distressed Economy* by Mr. Realwan Okpanachi (LLM) (Joe Abrahams [SAN] & Company), and finally, (7) *Prospects and Challenges of Using Transdisciplinary Methodology to Package and Communicate Agricultural Research Findings to Policy Makers* by Prof. A.I. Achike (University of Nigeria, Nsukka).

Some other notable participants included the representatives of the Honourable Minister for Budget and National Planning; Executive Director, National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, represented by Dr. Philemon T. Haggai, Department of Science and Technology, NIPSS; Professor Ernest Aiyedun, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship Studies, University of Abuja, Dr. Mason Nwafor. of IITA, the President, Agricultural Society of Nigeria (ASN) ably represented by Prof. Jude Mbanasor.

Observations

Whereas the following observations were made that:

- (i) Nigerian universities and research institutes are being under-utilized within the agricultural research and development space, among others, due to poor funding;
- (ii) the problem-solving agricultural research is useful for agricultural and national development;
- (iii) despite its relevance, public spending on agricultural policy research has continued to decrease over the years;
- (iv) a holistic participatory approach of researcher-extensionist-farmer linkage need to be intensified via relevant agricultural Apps (such as Ask-Valerie)
- (v) a high level of hunger and malnutrition pervaded in the country and became more severe in the last two years. This coincided with growing national food deficit and an abysmal decline in food production within the past few years, resulting in resentment against the government in some quarters of the country - a situation that may be associated with the increased wave of agitations and militancy across the country.



- (vi) some state governments are making frantic efforts to align with the present administration's consolidated agricultural transformation, The Green Alternative (e.g. Kogi State), while others still need to key in for increased impacts;
- (vii) the media appears not fully integrated (from idea conception through project implementation) into the Agricultural Policy Promotion, growth and development in Nigeria due to inadequate training to critically report agricultural innovations, poor agricultural policy support and low funding;
- (viii) majority of agricultural research do not emphasise Intellectual Property (IP) Rights and Patenting because, the present agricultural IP policy on seeds, plants and animals do not support IP and patenting even though they are relevant for commercialisation and bank collaterals;
- (ix) agricultural policies have seldom been conducted with a view to solving a problem with different disciplines working jointly to create new conceptual, theoretical, methodological and translational innovation not achievable through a discipline-specific approach;
- (x) adoption of trans-disciplinary research involves a bottom-up approach involving farmers, the media, researchers, policy makers and government at different levels.
- (xi) environmental challenges especially climate change (especially in form of desertification, flood, unpredictable onset of rainy seasons) resulted in poor farm productivity and output of agriculture in Nigeria. The situation is exacerbated by poor financial interventions to meet the requirements to adapt and mitigate the spate of the negative effects of climate change on agriculture.

Resolutions

The APRNet 4th Multi-Stakeholders' Forum hereby makes the following resolutions that:

1. There is need to prepare a comprehensive data base of all relevant end-users of agricultural policy research results;
2. APRNet should be encouraged to work with relevant government agencies to help review agricultural policies including extension policies to make moribund agencies active; inputs of APRNet and other professional organizations in national budget drafting with respect to agricultural sector should be sourced by the Nigerian government;



3. APRNet and the NAPP should be engaged in promoting capacity building of extension workers in ICT utilisation for increased efficiency in Nigeria;
4. Government should support advocacy for increased incentives for successful research efforts and investments in research fairs to leverage on the gains from governmental and nongovernmental agencies interventions;
5. The present effort to promote Public-Private Partnership (PPP) along the agricultural value chain should be sustained to encourage establishment of agribusiness enterprises and incubation centres;
6. Nigerian Government and other actors in agricultural development should engage farmers, research institutes, researchers, faculties of agriculture in universities and professional associations (such as APRNet, FAMAN, ASN, NAAE, ADAN etc) and indeed, the media and private sector in planning, policy formulation and implementation in the sector for sustainable agricultural development. The stakeholders mentioned above should appreciate the synergy that comes with collaboration by seeing its value, have the mindset as allies not competitors and strategically identify their unique present and potential strengths;
7. APRNet and other professional associations should involve the media from idea conception to project implementation to engender viable communication, advocacy and dissemination of positive project results;
8. agriculture curriculum for award of higher degrees and agricultural policy research should involve government and industry stakeholders to make the results relevant and easily adoptable;
9. the relevant sections of the agricultural policy should be reviewed to promote some level of Intellectual Property (IP) Rights and Patenting to stimulate agricultural growth, technology transfer and boost the economy;
10. APRNet, with support of her national and international partners, shall advocate and promote trans-disciplinary agricultural policy research to achieve the desired impacts in a sustainable manner.
11. Nigerian government should vigorously pursue policies and programmes that would directly bring about sound family planning and improved food security in the nation's households.

12. Nigeria needs public investment to adapt or enhance infrastructure development, fund agricultural research and extension, supply improved farm inputs (e.g. fertilizers and high yielding seeds), rural infrastructure, climate information, financial services and market access under a changing climate and a receding economy.
13. APRNet shall lobby for the relevant sections of the agricultural policy to be reviewed to promote some level of Intellectual Property (IP) Rights and Patenting to stimulate agricultural growth, technology transfer and boost the economy.

Signed:

Dr. Anthony O. Onoja (PhD)

President, APRNet

