



NIGERIAN AGRICULTURAL POLICY RESEARCH NETWORK

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At last, NAPRNet's registration with CAC proceeds to final stage

The registration of NAPRNet as a corporate entity with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) has continued to face some challenges. But, the EXCO has intensified efforts to tackle these challenges. Despite unexpected bureaucratic delays, we have made reasonable progress. After our attempt to register as 'Incorporated Trustees' was declared technically infeasible, we commenced the process of registration as a 'not-for-profit organization' (limited by guarantee). Following the submission of relevant documents seeking for final approval, in September, 2010, the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) recently queried the inclusion of the word 'Nigerian' in the name. The AGF office provided two options which include either to delete the word 'Nigerian' in the proposed name thereby allowing the new name to be 'Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet)' or justify the name - NAPRNet- by obtaining an Act of the National Assembly (that is, sponsoring and realizing a Bill to the effect).

We subjected these options to votes. The decision of members through email feedback favoured the deletion of the word 'Nigerian', so that the modified name will become 'Agricultural Policy Research Network' (APRNet). The option of sponsoring a bill and securing the enactment of Law was considered as highly unrealizable and unnecessary for our existence. According to one of the responses- "it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than getting a bill sponsored and passed through the Nigerian National Assembly".

Meanwhile, the unanimous decision of members to opt for 'APRNet' has since been communicated to our lawyer who has commenced the process of filing appropriate responses. Given the long tortuous experience with this registration matter, we do hope that this stage is the final hurdle to cross for our registration to be complete. Meanwhile the EXCO is grateful to members for their quick responses to consultations on this subject matter.

More members join NAPRNet

Recently the membership list of NAPRNet got a boost with the registration of seven additional persons. This has raised the total number of members now to thirty five (35). The last batch of members is made of very prominent Nigerians with vast experience in the agriculture sector as well as in international development. The list include: *Josephine Egwuonwu (Winrock International)*, *Rita Okorie (Bank of Agriculture)*, *Benjamin Odoemena (International Fund for Agricultural Development - IFAD)*, *Dr. Oyesola Olumide (National Programme for Agric and Food Security - NPAFS)*, *Maiwada Zubairu (NPAFS)*, *Francis Ikwueme (Hyvel Engineering)* and *Ayodeji Coker (NPAFS)*.

NAPRNet family is pleased to welcome these new members on board and hope that they will bring their wealth of experience to bear upon the vision, goals and objectives of NAPRNet. Formal introduction of these members will be done as soon as we receive their bios. On this note it is proper to commend the exemplary efforts of our dear President – Prof Eric Eboh who facilitated the contacts and mobilized these individuals for NAPRNet membership. We continue to implore all our members to personally publicize the activities of NAPRNet in their various organizations and provide the secretariat with feedback accordingly.

NAPRNet hosts Ms Katarlah Taylor on Mendeley training

NAPRNet has continued to explore available opportunities aimed at enhancing the capacity of its members. On 27 October, 2010, NAPRNet with support from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Abuja organized an on-line training on the use of Mendeley program. Mendeley is an online desktop and web program that is used by high class researchers for managing and sharing research papers, discovering research data and for collaboration. Ms Taylor, a Washington DC based, Library & Knowledge Management Specialist with IFPRI facilitated the training session. Three members took part in the training and they described it as very innovative and useful.

NAPRNet collaborates with AIAE on capacity building

NAPRNet members benefitted from a 2-day workshop on *Scientific Writing and Research Communications* held in Enugu between 31 August and 1 September, 2010. The workshop was organized by the African Institute for Applied Economics (AIAE), Enugu with special course fee waiver for NAPRNet members. Five (5) NAPRNet members participated in the training workshop. We encourage members to explore similar opportunities to collaborate and synergize with other like-minded networks and organizations in capacity building, research and policy advocacy.

NAPRNet's Website to be launched soon

Plans are in top gear for NAPRNet to launch its website soon. This is the outcome of the efforts of Miss Ruth Uhiene, the new web manager. After the exit of the former web manager, Dr. Victor Ajieroh, the EXCO engaged Miss Ruth Uhiene - a final year Computer Science student of the University of Abuja to support the secretary in website development and management. After assuming duty (free of cost to NAPRNet), Miss Uhiene and the Secretary (Dr. Oboh) received preliminary web management training – courtesy of IFPRI. The new team has swung into action and a draft template of the website is almost ready for members' comments. NAPRNet once again expresses her appreciation to Valerie and Katarlah for facilitating the training.

NAPRNet EXCO now fully constituted

The Executive Committee of NAPRNet is now fully constituted. This is as a result of the official nomination to take the remaining slot – that of the National Planning Commission. The Director (Agriculture and Industry) in the National Planning Commission has been officially nominated by the Honourable Minister of National Planning to represent the Commission in the NAPRNet EXCO. We are happy to welcome the Director and look forward to benefitting from the Commission's wide network of government and non-government agencies and organizations

Bright Prospects for 2011

The outlook of NAPRNet in 2011 is very bright. Our optimism is driven by the expectation that the year 2011 will witness the fruition of some collaborative programmes in capacity building, research networking and policy dialogue, which NAPRNet EXCO has been working upon since the beginning of 2010. Members are encouraged to make intellectual and technical contributions as may be necessary for the realization of these programmes.

News bits

- **Send-forth for Valerie Rhoe** - NAPRNet is planning a sendforth party for Ms Valerie Rhoe (IFPRI Program Coordinator) who will soon be relocating to Washington DC, (USA). This is in view of Valerie's immense contribution to the formation of NAPRNet in particular and agricultural policies reforms in Nigeria in general. Detailed programme will be communicated to you soon. On behalf of NAPRNet, we wish Valerie Rhoe the best in her future endeavour!.
- **Ms Valerie Rhoe loses grandmother** - Ms Valerie Rhoe (IFPRI Program Coordinator) was bereaved of her grandmother in October 2010. She has since returned from the funeral ceremony which was held in the United States. On behalf of NAPRNet, we extend our heartfelt condolence to the immediate family.
- **Prof. Eric Eboh to deliver Inaugural "Professorial" Lecture:** The pioneer president of NAPRNet, Professor Eric Chiedum Eboh is billed to deliver his inaugural lecture at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in January 2011. Eric Eboh rose to the position of Professor of Agricultural Economics in October 2002 at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. In July 2003, Prof Eboh was appointed the Executive Director of the renowned African Institute for Applied Economics (AIAE), a position he holds till date. AIAE is a non-partisan research think-tank, based in Enugu, Nigeria.
- **A new bouncing baby boy for the Obihs:** The family of one of our members, Mr. Uchenna Obih of Standard Chartered Bank Abuja, was blessed with a baby boy on 27 November, 2010. For the Obihs, the year

wouldn't have ended better. Little Emmanuel and the mother are doing well. NAPRNet family rejoices with the Obihs.

- **Payment of annual dues:** Members are reminded to clear their annual dues for 2010. Account details are: Account number 4134119361590; Account name - Ike Pius Chinwuba; Bank- Guarantee Trust Bank, Asaba branch.
- **Christmas and New Year greetings:**
As the year 2010 comes to a close and we expect the dawn of the New Year, NAPRNet wishes all her members a merry Christmas and bright and happy New Year full of new aspirations and new resolves.