



Agricultural Policy Research Network

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APRNet Q1 REPORT

(Covering the Period, 1st January – 30th March, 2018)

May, 2018

1. Introduction

The First Quarter (Q1) report documents the major activities, challenges and achievements of the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet) from 1st January, 2018 to 30th March, 2018. The major activities and challenges as well as prospects are hereby presented under the following sub-themes:

2. APRNet Produced the 3rd Volume of its journal, Nigerian Agricultural Policy Research Journal, 2018

One of the key major activities of APRNet for the year 2018 was the publishing of the Volume 3 (Issue 1) of its journal, *NAPReJ*, (Nigerian Agricultural Policy Research Journal). This is in line with its policy of ensuring that the journal is consistently published as planned. Since its debut in 2016 under the administration of Dr. Anthony O. Onoja, as APRNet President and with the support of IFPRI under the leadership of Dr. George Mavrotas, the journal has witnessed tremendous growth in a short period of time. Starting as an annual journal in 2016, the journal has moved to the next level by becoming a bi-annual journal, recording two volumes in a year. The first volume for the year 2018 is in progress. It is at the moment of writing this report receiving articles and reviewing them. The journal has maintained its track record of selecting policy focused, peer reviewed papers that are original and devoid of plagiarism. The rejecting rate has risen from 10 percent to about 30% in the last submission. The journal has engaged more hands in its production activities and hopes to be indexed in some of the world's best archives and libraries in the near future. The journal needs more funding to develop its web submission and publishing architecture so as to meet up with the standards of world class journals of high impact factor.

2. Membership drive

APRNet, during the period in review recorded two new members who registered financially while about 3 other members registered on the website portal of APRNet. We are still expecting the confirmation of their membership. One of the newly recorded financial members at this time was Dr. Blessing Ada Ahamefule. Dr. (Mrs) Blessing Ada Ahamefule, a young scholar, obtained both her Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) and Master's (M.Sc.) degrees with specialization in Agricultural Business and Finance from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUUAU), Abia State in the years 2017 and 2008 respectively. She is presently a lecturer at the department of Agricultural Economics

of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture (MOUAAU). The second member is also a young female scholar, Mrs. Ikpoza Eguono Aramide. Mrs Aramide is a Researcher and Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Delta State University, Asaba Campus. She holds an MSc. in Agricultural Economics obtained from University of Ibadan, Nigeria and a B.Agric. (Agricultural Economics) obtained from Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State in 2009. With these and the past trend, it is obvious that APRNet is garnering a high momentum towards building a gender balanced portfolio of its membership. Besides this, scores of old members have renewed their membership for the 2018 session.

3. APRNet Website Report (April-June, 2017)

This is a quarterly report of the APRNet Website from the month of January to March, 2018. This report is further divided into three (3) parts. The summary is presented as follows:

Table 1. Summary of Website Statistical Report from January to March, 2018 (Total Figures)

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan-18	285	1,178	3,646	11,563	253.18 MB
Feb-18	485	1,492	3,948	14,482	221.97 MB
Mar-18	499	943	2,142	10,153	238.26 MB

Source: APRNet Website Consultant, 2018.

The data in Table 1 above summarized the web performance of APRNet based on statistics of its website. It would be recalled that as at April, 2017, the website witnessed 8783 hits which kept rising steadily to 14, 448 in August 2017, when its activities usually peaks due to the annual Multi-Stakeholders Forum in Abuja. Just shortly after the Abuja event in August 2017, the website hits peaked at a record high of 19,210 hits before gradually ebbing in January 2018 when there was no much activity. In January, 2018, the website hits as could be seen from Table 1 garnered 11,563 hits and then started its upward ascent to 14, 482 hits at the end of February, 2018. The ascent was punctuated by the technical glitches faced by our website host which saw the server down for nearly two

weeks in March. This reduced the website hits to 10,153 as at end of March, 2018. The website was fixed after mid-April, 2018.

This upward trend in the web hits of APRNet website indicates a progressive interest in the activities of APRNet as presented on its websites. There is a need to inject more funding to improve upon APRNet activities and the general performance as APRNet aspires to become a global brand in agricultural policy and rural development networks. This ambition will also be buoyed by increase in number of engagements of APRNet activities which is subject to availability of fund, better website management in terms of content delivery and improvement and more awareness creation by APRNet leadership.

4. APRNet President Engages with FMARD at Abuja

During the period in review too, a formal, courtesy visit was embarked upon by the APRNet president to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Abuja. The essence of the visit was to consolidate the alliance with the Federal Government, the key institution for policy making in Nigerian Agriculture and Food policies to see where APRNet can work with the FMARD in delivering the policy goals and objectives of Nigerian agriculture. The visit also enabled the President had an opportunity to meet the newly nominated second Vice President of APRNet from FMARD, Mr. Auwal Maidebino, to let him know his duties and expectations from him by the network. There are positive indications that APRNet and FMARD will soon collaborate on some research activities in the near future.

5. Prospects and Challenges

During the period in review, the network experienced a delay in the release of fund to commence with the activities of the network as planned in the 2018 APRNet budget submitted to IFPRI. There was also a slow response of members in meeting up with their financial obligations. Generally the period (Q1) was had no much activity due to funding delays. APRNet still needs support to make the journal a world class publication. The funding for APRNet is getting to slim given the kind of activities APRNet engage in yearly. While activities are increasing, the funding remain the same. This is a huge constraint which APRNet is facing and

needs intervention to be able to sustainably deliver on its primary deliverables and set objectives.

Signed: 

Dr. Anthony O. Onoja

President, APRNet