



**NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL SCIENCE**

Established by Act No. 26 of 2007 as Amended 2015



# NIAS *Newsletter*

Publication of the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS)

Volume 11.No 5. OCTOBER 2024.

Web site: [www.nias.org.ng](http://www.nias.org.ng)

Email: [nias2014newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:nias2014newsletter@gmail.com)

Plot 1882, Cadastral Zone C13, Kabusa, Okanje District, Abuja

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ NIAS Welcomes New Registrar
- ✓ Integration of Tiger Nut in Ruminant feeds
- ✓ Livestock Reforms
- ✓ **Photo Stories**
- ✓ **Announcements**



**Editor-in-Chief:**  
Prof. Udo Herbert  
Registrar/CEO, NIAS

**Editor:**  
Mr. Fitzgibon Ekpo  
**Contributing Editors:**  
Toriola Adeola  
Ahmad Mustapha  
Wali

**NIAS** NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL SCIENCE  
Act No. 26 of 2007 (as Amended 2015)

### OUR VISION

To be the leading regulatory institution for  
Animal Science and husbandry practice  
in Africa; that will improve the  
standard of living of it's  
people.

### OUR MISSION

To regulate the practice of animal husbandry for increased  
profitability of all stakeholders, guarantee improved  
animal husbandry and production systems that will  
embrace environmental sustainability and  
ensure high quality and quantity of  
animal protein to  
Nigerians.

## NIAS GETS NEW REGISTRAR / CEO

The Nigerian Institute of Animal Science is the professional body established by Act No. 26 of 2007 as amended 2015, as a regulatory

appointed by the Council and assumed office on 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2024.

Prof. Herbert hails from Owo-Ahiafor in Obingwa Local Government Area of Abia State.

He attended the University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) between 1980 and 1985 and obtained a **Bachelor of Agriculture with Honours in Animal Science**. He proceeded to the University of Ibadan in 1986 and by 1987 he obtained a **Master of Science in Animal Science**. He continued his study in UI for a doctorate in 1988 and by 1992, he bagged a Ph.D in Animal Physiology.

In addition to his degrees, Prof. Herbert possesses the Professional Certificate of the **International Course for Development-oriented Research in Agriculture (ICRA)**, Wageningen, The Netherlands.



Prof Udo Herbert – Registrar/CEO NIAS

agency of the Federal Government for Animal Husbandry practices in Nigeria.

A new Registrar/CEO for the Institute, in the person of Prof Udo Herbert, RAS, FNIAS, was



**Prof Udo Herbert** and the **Management Staff** of **NIAS**

Prof. Herbert has over 30 years of active teaching and research experience in Animal Physiology, starting from the University of Ibadan where he served as a Part-Time Lecturer to Federal University of Technology, Owerri and Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, among others.

He rose through the ranks to become a Professor of Animal Physiology in 2005 at the Department of Animal Breeding and Physiology, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike.

Prof. Herbert's main research focus has been on the **behavior and reproduction of**

**different male mammalian farm species.**

In fact, in 1995, he pioneered research on the construction and evaluation of an artificial vagina for collecting rabbit semen which opened up more avenues for research in rabbit bucks in Nigeria. He also conducted extensive studies on using local plant materials to enhance libido and spermatogenesis in rabbits. His current research interest is in gamete manipulation and germplasm conservation in indigenous farm species.

Professor Herbert is a Registered Animal Scientist and previously served as a Member

of the Council of the NIAS, Chairman of the Committee on Animal Physiology and Bioclimatology as well as the Education Committees of NIAS.

He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Society for Animal Production (FNSAP) as well as a Fellow of the College of Animal Science in Nigeria (FCASN).

Professor Herbert was President of the Nigerian Society for Animal Production from 2008 to 2012. In that capacity, he was a Member of the National Livestock Development Committee as well as a Member of the General Assembly of the World Association of Animal Production (WAAP) based in Rome, Italy.

Between 2000 and 2016, Professor Herbert served as a Member of the Standing Committee of the International Congress on Animal Reproduction (ICAR) based in Sydney, Australia and has attended 4 quadrennial congresses of the scientific body in various centers around the world. These exposures reinforced his interest in animal reproduction.

Professor Herbert is a Member of the National Advisory Committee on Animal Genetic Resources in Nigeria.

Prof. Herbert is highly experienced in both academic and public administration. He first became a Head of Department in 1998 and has served in various administrative capacities such as Dean of College of Animal Science and Animal Production, Director of Academic Planning and Dean of Postgraduate School.

Until his appointment as Registrar/CEO of NIAS, Prof. Herbert served for two terms as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State.

## **INTEGRATION OF TIGER NUT IN RUMINANT FEED -**

**Prof Ahmed Amin NJIDDA, NOUN.**

**Professor Ahmed Amin Njidda** from the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) underscored the significant role of tiger nut in ruminant nutrition and advocated for its broader use in feeding sheep and other ruminants.

Professor Njidda made these remarks during NOUN's 26th Inaugural Lecture held on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at the university's Abuja headquarters. In a lecture titled **"Marvels in Ruminant Nutrition: The Quest for Animal Protein."**

The inaugural lecture, a key event in the university's academic calendar, attracted scholars, students, and distinguished guests. Professor Njidda's research highlighted the benefits of incorporating tiger nut into sheep diets, demonstrating its potential to enhance nutrient intake and animal performance. Njidda emphasized the crucial role of animal protein in a well-rounded diet and stressed the importance of ruminant nutrition for improving livestock production and ensuring food security. He pointed out that Nigeria's growing population increases the demand for sustainable food sources.

The professor presented evidence from multiple studies linking nutritional practices with improved animal productivity.

He explained how the quality and quantity of feed influence animal health and reproduction, and discussed the socio-economic value of ruminants to impoverished farmers, including their



economic stability and provision of essential resources like traction, manure, and fiber.

Professor Njidda also addressed the utilization of marginal lands and water resources to produce high-quality animal products, stressing the need for efficient resource use in both intensive and extensive production systems.

Njidda highlighted the need for ongoing research and innovation in ruminant nutrition to boost food production while minimizing environmental impact, thus contributing to food security and economic development in Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Prof. C.F. Mafiana, who appreciated the efforts of all involved in making the lecture a success. Mafiana expressed deep gratitude to

Professor Njidda for his illuminating presentation and praised Vice Chancellor Peters for his vision and leadership in fostering academic excellence and societal impact at NDUN.

## **NEGLECTING LIVESTOCK FARMING IN THE PAST WAS A MISTAKE THAT SHOULD NOT BE REPEATED – PRESIDENT BOLA TINUBU**

President Bola Tinubu, speaking in Abuja ON Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October at the Stakeholders Consultative workshop on Livestock reforms, reassured the public that past mistakes, such as neglecting livestock farming and relying on dairy imports, will be avoided. He pledged a robust framework to stimulate prosperity in the sector, instilling confidence in his commitment.

The President, who opened a two-day Consultative Workshop on Livestock Reforms on Thursday at the State House Conference Centre, pledged government support in revamping and repositioning the sector to

create employment and attract foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

“The livestock sector is critical, and we will give all it needs to bring value to our country. Stakeholders, I assure you that you will not regret the collaboration and investment in this sector.

It is about time that we do it right. A country of over 200 million people and cannot serve our children one pint of milk in a classroom per day? That is not right. Said the president.

We didn’t see the investment opportunities. We didn’t see the economy of livestock in the past. Now that we have seen it, we must work together to restart the sector, he said.

President Tinubu commended the Presidential Livestock Reform Implementation Committee, led by the Co-Chairman, Prof. Attahiru Jega, and the Secretary, Prof Muhammed Yahaya Kuta, for their commitment to repositioning the livestock sector.

“Our shared mission is clear: we aim to transform the livestock sector from its current subsistence model into a thriving, commercialized industry, an industry that significantly contributes to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product and provides decent jobs

and sustainable livelihoods for our growing population.

The potential is immense: With 563 million chickens, 58 million cattle, 124 million goats, 60 million sheep, and 16 million pigs, Nigeria is the leading livestock producer in West Africa. Yet, despite this vast resource, we face stark realities.

Our annual production of animal-source foods, like milk at 0.7 billion litres, meat at 1.48 million Tonnes and eggs at 0.69 million metric Tonnes, falls far short of our needs. Our per capita consumption levels—8.7 litres of milk, 9 kg of meat, 3.5kg or 45 eggs per year—are troublingly low compared to global averages. These are 44 litres of milk, 19 kg of meat and between 160 and 180 eggs per year.

What is more worrisome to me is the average milk yield by cow breeds managed by our pastoralists: it is a mere 0.5 to 1.5 litres per day, compared to a global average of 6.6 litres per day. We can do much better!

The long-term neglect of the livestock sector has weighed heavily on the country's import bills, with milk and dairy products accounting for \$1.2-1.5 billion.

Yes, we can do it. We can bring prosperity to our people. We can feed our children. From

grass, we can achieve grace. We can contribute so much to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provide decent jobs, the President noted.

President Tinubu also thanked the Nigerian Governors Forum, NGF, chaired by the Governor of Kwara State, Abdurrahman Abdulrazaq, for supporting the reform of animal farming in the country.

“Your Excellency, Chairman of the NGF, Abdulrazaq, thank you for assuring C-of-Ofs and other instruments from other areas. I also know that the Etsu Nupe, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar, with the vast land in his domain in Niger State, will accommodate many investors”.

We didn't see the cold room investment. We didn't see that opportunity before now. But it is coming. We are going to give it all it takes.

“The opportunity is there; when I inaugurated the Presidential Livestock Reform Committee, I didn't see the path clearly until they started working. Thank you, Prof Attahiru Jega, the President stated.

President Tinubu also acknowledged Abdullahi Ganduje, Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), for nurturing the idea of reforming the livestock stock, Nuhu Ribadu, national security Adviser, and Nyesom Wike, FCT minister, for their

and with that effort, we can say God bless Nigeria, he stated.

The Chairman of NGF, Abdulrahman Abdulrazak, assured of the "100 per cent buy-in of the subnational to make the reform a success because it is not just food security,



commitment to realizing the dream.

We can create a vivid picture of the future we want to see; it's the future of our country. The economic opportunities for our children,

but national security."

Abdulrazaq thanked President Tinubu for leading the initiative by chairing the implementation committee, regretting that




past efforts in the same direction were reduced to files in the Ministries of Agriculture in states and local councils due to lack of political will.

He said each state should create a segment for livestock farming and extend the value chain to meat and dairy production.


The Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Sen. Abubakar Kyari, thanked the President for his bold action, exemplary leadership and unparalleled commitment to livestock reform.

Kyari assured of working with the Ministry of Livestock Development to realize the president's vision to diversify the economy and empower more Nigerians.











Bayo Onanuga  
Special Adviser to the President  
(Information & Strategy).



ANIMAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA



### HOW TO PREVENT AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

 Urgently step up the biosecurity measures on the farm,	 Awareness creation and strict warnings to farm attendants/workers
 Increased plane of nutrition to step-up immunity	 Restrict all movements (human, vehicular, and material) within, as well as in and out of the farm
 Increased level of farm sanitation	 Secure perimeter of farm premises
 Limit visits to other farms	 Outright stoppage of exchange or reuse feed bags Etc
 Slaughter and processing of the mature pigs to reduce the risk	 Share this with others to benefit and avoid African Swine Fever

# PHOTO STORIES



## 2024 RAS EXAMINATION ACROSS ALL THE COUNTRY CENTERS





**Prof Udo Herbert, Registrar/CEO NIAS and Headquarters Staff**



# 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & INDUCTION CEREMONY



Ativa  
Go to Se



Hall of fame awardees during the ASAN-NIAS LAGOS CONFERENCE 2024  
L-R Prof B.Y Abubakar, Prof Placid Njoku, Prof E.S Bogoro, Dr G.O. Oyediji, Prof Olusegun Ojo





NIAS Management led by the Registrar/CEO, Prof. Udo Herbert received a team from L-PRES led by Dr Ugwu Gabriel, the Animal Husbandry Services Specialist, L-PRES, at NIAS Head Office, Abuja.

L -R: Dr. Fola Adebayo Fitzgibon Ekpo, Lukman Alhassan, Prof Udo Herbert, Dr Ugwu Gabriel, Dr. (Mrs) Olabisi Akinfolarin and Olufemi Atunbi.

**NIGERIA'S NEW MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT**  
**A NEW DAWN FOR MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTION**

**THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA ANNOUNCES THE CREATION OF A MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT TO BOOST MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTION AND REDUCE HERDER-FARMER CONFLICTS.**



**ASAN OYO, FCAH &  
PT. IBADAN, FCA,  
LIFECHOICE  
INTERNATIONAL  
CELEBRATED  
WORLD EGG DAY  
WITH FOOTBALL  
MATCH AT MOOR  
PLANTATION  
IBADAN. SPECIAL  
THANKS TO DR. A.O  
OWOSIBO  
FOR THE SUPPORTS**

**STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON LIVESTOCK REFORMS IN NIGERIA, STATE HOUSE CONFERENCE CENTRE, ASO DRIVE ABUJA.**



**NIAS Registrar, Prof Udo Herbert, Prof Attahiru Jega, Dr Abdullahi Ganduje at the NIAS Exhibition stand during the event.**



**NIAS Former Registrar, Prof E.A Iyayi, Prof Udo Herbert ( NIAS Registrar) and Mr Raymond Isiadinso During the event**





**Head, Research and Extension NIAS, Mr Fitzgibon Ekpo**



**Members of NIAS Council at the Livestock Reforms.**





**Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Sen. Abubakar Kyari; NIAS Registrar Prof Udo Herbert, with NIAS Council Members.**

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# SPECIAL ANNOUNCE MENT

## FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY AND PEST CONTROL SERVICES

New Secretariat Area 11, P.M.B. 135, Garki, Abuja



Telegrams .....

Telephone .....

VSD/903/1  
Ref. No .....  
4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 .....

Directors of Veterinary Services (DVSS)  
All 36 States and FCT

#### OUTBREAK OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) IN BENIN REPUBLIC

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security has received report of a confirmed outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in Borgou Region in the neighboring Benin Republic. It was reported that despite the control measures, about 200 pigs had died.

2. Considering the proximity to Nigeria, the risk of cross-border incursion is high, and we ought to act swiftly to mitigate this threat to our national swine population. The Department is requesting that you activate your Rapid Response Teams, alert pig farmers, and heighten both passive and active surveillance for ASF within your State and its surroundings.

3. Your timely actions and cooperation are key to safeguarding Nigeria's livestock industry from this potentially devastating disease. The Department will be delighted to have updates on actions taken, and any suspected case/s are reported.

4. Please accept as always, the Permanent Secretary's warmest regards.

Dr. C. T. Vakuru  
For: Permanent Secretary



**ANIMAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA**



## HOW TO PREVENT AFRICAN SWINE FEVER



Urgently step up the biosecurity measures on the farm,



Increased plane of nutrition to step-up immunity



Increased level of farm sanitation



Limit visits to other farms



Slaughter and processing of the mature pigs to reduce the risk



Awareness creation and strict warnings to farm attendants/ workers



Restrict all movements (human, vehicular, and material) within, as well as in and out of the farm



Secure perimeter of farm premises



Outright stoppage of exchange or reuse feed bags Etc



Share this with others to benefit and avoid African Swine Fever

## **NSAP-FULafia Conference 2025**

As regards the forthcoming NSAP-FULafia Conference in March, 2025, this is to inform all that the LOC will award prizes and certificates to the best three oral presenters in each of the following subthemes:

1. Animal Breeding and Genetics
2. Animal Biotechnology
3. Animal Physiology
4. Animal Welfare and Health
5. Monogastric Production and Nutrition
6. Ruminant Production and Nutrition
7. Fred Technology
8. Pasture and Range Management
9. Animal Products and By-products Technology
10. Micro-Livestock, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Wildlife and Apiculture
11. Climate- Smart Agriculture
12. Livestock Economics and Extension.

Kindly note that only early career researchers (including PG students) are qualified for the awards. Such members must have submitted their manuscripts before the December, 2024 deadline. Thanks a lot as we expect all NSAP members in Lafia.



**Congratulations to Prof Ndukwe Okeudo (RAS), of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri, on His appointment as the Vice Chancellor of Abia State University, Uturu.**



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