



NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL SCIENCE

Established by Act No. 26 of 2007 as Amended 2015



NIAS *Newsletter*

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HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ *Reshaping Democracy*
- ✓ *GAS Induction*
- ✓ *9TH AACAA*
- ✓ *Bridging the Research and on-farm implementation gap*
- ✓ *NIAS Technical Seminar*
- ✓ *Inspectorate*
- ✓ *From The Zonal Offices*
- ✓ *Announcements*



Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Udo Herbert
Registrar/CEO, NIAS

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Contributing Editor:

Toriola Adeola



Vision

To be the leading regulatory institution for Animal Science and husbandry practice in Africa, improving the standard of living of its people.

Mission

- **To regulate the practice of animal husbandry for increased profitability of all stakeholders, guaranteeing improved animal husbandry and production systems that embrace environmental sustainability while ensuring a high quality and quantity of animal protein for Nigerians**




THE 2026 ANIMAL SCIENCE MEETING

INDUSTRY EXPOSITION & LIVESTOCK INNOVATION FORUM

THEME:
**Innovations In Animal Agriculture:
 A Catalyst For Nigeria's Non-oil
 Economic Development**





LAST CALL

LATE REGISTRATION

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PAYMENT



**CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION**

Members : **₦15,000**

Non-Members : **₦25,000**



Account Name:
ASAN

 Stanbic IBTC
0021190499



**ANNUAL DUE &
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Annual Due : **₦22,500**

Membership Application : **₦16,000**

Account Name: **ASAN**  GTBank 0009669667



 **Venue:** Monaliza Event Centre, Abuja

Prof. Ari. Maikano, LOC Chairman
 +234 803 625 3270

 **Date:** November 1 - 4, 2026

Dr (Mrs) Olabisi Akinfolarin, LOC Secretary
 +234 814 840 3355



*Innovation
for a Smarter
Livestock Future*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

The Local Organizing Committee hereby invites prospective authors who wish to present papers at the 2026 Animal Science Meeting to submit their original research, review and technical reports for consideration in any of the disciplines listed here under. Deadline for submission is August 31, 2026, and will not be extended.

CONFERENCE DISCIPLINES

Animal Biotechnology Micro-Livestock & Aquaculture	
Animal Breeding & Genetics	Monogastric Production/Nutrition
Animal Physiology, Reproduction & Health	Pasture & Range Management
Animal Products & Processing Technology	Ruminant Production/Nutrition
Livestock Economics & Extension	

GUIDELINES FOR MANUSCRIPTS

Papers should be prepared in Microsoft Word using Times New Roman font size 11. The title should be concise (not more than 120 characters) on the first line, followed by a space, then the names of the author(s) and their affiliations on the following lines. Authors with different affiliations should be separated by asterisks (*) and leave a space. The corresponding author, email address and telephone contact should be indicated.

Full length manuscripts should not be more than 4 pages and should contain: Abstract (< 250 words), Keywords (5), Description of Problem, Materials and Methods, Results and Discussion, Conclusion and Application, Acknowledgment (if any) and References.

Author/Reference citation in the body of the text should be by serial numbering. Manuscripts should be prepared following the format described in the Nigerian Journal of Animal Science or accessed from the website of the Association on www.animalscienceassociation.org.ng. The accepted papers will be published as conference book of proceedings on ASAN website. Authors whose papers are not published will have their money refunded less 50% for administrative charges.

Please mail full length manuscript in a single file (Name ABJASM 14, Paper 1,2,3, etc) to the email: asanobuja2026@gmail.com. When submitting, authors should indicate session of their preferences at the top of the manuscript. A publication charge of N7,500 or equivalent per paper is payable in full on submission of manuscripts to **ASAN Journal Account No. 0009669674 with Guaranty Trust Bank (GTB)**. Evidence of payment should be scanned or screenshot and sent by e-mail along with the manuscripts.

Presentation Guidelines

Authors whose manuscripts are accepted will be expected to register and prepare their papers for Power Point presentation as multimedia projectors will be available at the conference venue. Prepared slides must be sent in before the conference date. Presentation by proxy may not be permitted.



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES AND ANNUAL DUE

EARLY BIRDS-AUGUST 31ST,2026

Members: N12,000
Non-Members: N20,000
Undergraduates with ID Cards: N3,000
Corporate Bodies: N40,000

FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER,2026

Members: N15,000
Non-Members: N25,000
Undergraduates with ID Cards: N3,000
Corporate Bodies: N50,000

To be paid into: Account Name: Animal Science Association of Nigeria.
Account Number: 0021190499
Bank: Stanbic IBTC

OTHER ASAN PAYMENTS

Annual Due: N22,500
Membership Application: N16,000
Fellowship Application: N375,000
Life Membership Application: N300,000
Account Name:
Animal Science Association of Nigeria.
Account Number: 0009669667
Bank: Guaranty Trust Bank (GTB)

ASAN BUILDING PROJECT

Building Levy: N20,000
Account Name: ASAN Special Projects.
Account Number: 0235332478
Bank: Guaranty Trust Bank (GTB)

PRODUCT EXHIBITION

Exhibition Stands: Platinum: N300,000 | Gold: N225,000 | Silver: N100,000

Account Name: Animal Science Association of Nigeria, Abuja.

Account Number: 1014337816

Bank: Zenith Bank

Advertisement Rates in Programme Booklet

Back Page: N300,000 | Centre Spread: N300,000 | Inner Front and Back Pages: N225,000 |

Inside Full Page: N150,000 | Inside Half Page: N100,000 | Inside Quarter Page: N85,000 |

Goodwill Messages (<40 words): N20,000 | Page Charge/Paper N7,500

Account Name: Animal Science Association of Nigeria, Abuja.

Account Number: 1014337816

Bank: Zenith Bank

Note: Members who have paid for conference registration should send their evidence of payment to 09011227332 with full names (Surname first) and titles to complete the registration process.

**NIGERIAN TELEVISION AUTHORITY -
RESHAPING DEMOCRACY WITH
PROFESSOR UDO HERBERT,
REGISTRAR/CEO, NIGERIA
INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL SCIENCE
(NIAS)**

A very important edition of
“Reshaping Democracy” on the Nigerian
Television Authority, featured the



Registrar/CEO of the Nigerian Institute of

Animal Science (NIAS), Professor Udo Herbert.

At a time when conversations around democracy, governance, accountability and national development continue to take centre stage, platforms such as this provide an opportunity to reflect on how institutions and individuals can contribute to building a stronger and more prosperous Nigeria.

As the Registrar/CEO of NIAS, Professor Udo Herbert brings to this conversation valuable perspectives from the animal science and agricultural sector—an area that remains fundamental to Nigeria’s food security, economic development, employment creation and sustainable national growth.

The Nigerian Institute of Animal Science plays an important role in regulating and advancing the animal science profession, promoting professional standards, supporting capacity development and contributing to the development of Nigeria’s livestock sector.

Today’s discussion therefore goes beyond democracy as a political concept. It is also an opportunity to examine the connection between good governance, professional institutions, food security, economic empowerment

and national development.

It was an insightful and engaging conversation as Professor Udo Herbert shares his perspectives on the role of institutions, professionals and citizens in reshaping democracy and building a better Nigeria.

NTA: Sir, what key steps has NIAS taken to strengthen the regulation of Animal Science and Husbandry practice in Nigeria, and how are you ensuring that only qualified professionals are practicing across states and in the informal sector?

Prof Udo Herbert: Regulation of practice is the core of our mandate under Act No. 26 of 2007, as amended in 2015, and since I assumed duty, we have deliberately pushed that mandate closer to the grassroots. We have operationalized our 6 Zonal Offices and 12 State Offices structure, which means our regulatory presence is no longer concentrated at the Headquarters but is active where farmers, feed millers, and hatcheries actually operate.

Key steps NIAS has taken:

1. *Professional Registration and Categorization: NIAS maintains a register of Animal Scientists in Nigeria. Categories of membership include: Registered Animal Scientist, Associate Animal Scientist, Graduate Animal Scientist, Fellow of the Institute, and Fellow of the College of Animal Science of Nigeria.*
2. *Animal Scientists are required to have a current Annual Practicing License; hence, we stepped up enforcement against unlicensed practice through inspection teams located at the head office, zonal, and*

state offices. The push is to bring the large informal sector under a structured pathway to registration rather than punitive exclusion alone.

3. *Code of Conduct and Ethics: The Institute has developed and enforces a Code of Professional Conduct for Animal Scientists to guide practice, ensure accountability, and protect public interest.*
4. *Extension to the Informal Sector: Through zonal offices, state offices, advocacy, and collaboration with state ministries and the State Departments of Animal Husbandry, NIAS is extending regulation to the informal sector. This includes sensitization, training, and bringing quacks under the supervision or mentorship of registered professionals.*
5. *Collaboration with Stakeholders: NIAS works with the Federal Ministry of Livestock Development, State Governments, and other key professional bodies across the relevant livestock value chain to monitor practice across states and ensure compliance.*

NTA: How is NIAS working with universities and colleges to ensure our Animal Science curriculum remains relevant, practical, and able to stand the test of time with global best practices and climate challenges?

NIAS engages Departments and Colleges of Animal Science in our universities to introduce new content or update the current curriculum to produce industry-ready graduates.

We conduct professional resource verification of Departments and Colleges of Animal Science nationwide to ensure that facilities such as feed analytical laboratory, teaching and research farms, etc., align with minimum standards in the training of the students. We are currently engaging with the NUC to ensure we are carried along in the wider university-based accreditation exercise to continue the review of Animal Science training content that incorporates climate-smart livestock practices, modern biotechnology, and practical/industrial attachment components.

Since 2014, the Institute has been conducting professional resource verification of Departments of Animal Sciences in universities in Nigeria. From 2014 to date, out of 65 universities offering Animal Science/Production, a total of thirty-seven (37) have been resource-verified, and twenty-eight (28) of them have been re-verified over and over.

The Institute has also continued to contribute to the quality of teaching and learning in Nigerian universities through its direct intervention projects over the years. The Institute, through the Federal Government, has donated laboratory equipment, developed demonstration pasture plots, and constructed modern poultry pens for different Departments of Animal Science/Production.

The Institute has also been involved in the development of curriculum for middle-level manpower training in different trade areas of livestock for technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in Nigeria.

NTA: What mechanisms has the Institute put in place to enforce industry standards in

animal production, processing, and service delivery, and what penalties exist for non-compliance?

We enforce standards through a combination of guidelines, inspection, and legal instruments (regulations). The Institute has regulations for the feed milling industry, for breeder farms, hatchery operations, and DOC quality in Nigeria, as well as for animal handling, processing, and distribution in abattoirs and slaughter slabs in Nigeria. These are gazetted so they carry statutory force, not just advisory weight.

In addition, the Institute developed national poultry regulatory guidelines on day-old chick transportation, breeder farms and hatchery operations, and good husbandry practices.

The Institute's Department of Inspectorate and Compliance enforces industry standards. Both scheduled and overt inspections are carried out with specific checks on critical control points to ensure that feed safety issues are not compromised.

On penalties, non-compliant premises face suspension or revocation of registration. Where premises fail to renew or comply, we withhold or revoke registration, and we back this with legal action, where necessary. Prescribed sanctions range from warnings to withdrawal of registration for non-compliant operators. However, our main aim is to ensure compliance through the instrumentality of advocacy, overt and covert inspection, and training where necessary.

NTA: Given concerns around feed safety and livestock health, how is NIAS

collaborating with relevant agencies to monitor feed and livestock standards to protect both animal welfare and public health?

NIAS collaborates with several agencies to monitor feed quality standards, reduce contamination risks, and safeguard both animal welfare and the human food chain. We inspect feed mills, process feed business registration and renewals, and publish a National Listing of Feed Ingredients on our website so operators and regulators are working from the same reference data.

To avoid overlap, NIAS handles process regulation, NAFDAC handles product regulation, and SON handles the standard of products. Our collaboration with SON has led to the development of several Nigerian Industrial Standards for feeds and concentrates for various livestock species.

NTA: Can you share NIAS's strategy for inspection, compliance monitoring, and farm visits? How is the Institute building positive relations with farmers from smallholder to commercial levels to ensure standards are adopted, not just enforced?

For smallholder farmers, the strategy employed blends scheduled compliance inspections with farmer engagement (town-hall sensitization, extension-style visits, and capacity-building) so standards are seen as support for productivity and market access, not just regulatory pressure.

For our commercial operators and major integrators, the conversation changes slightly, focusing on risk management, scalability, and market access. We engage commercial leaders during the policy-drafting phase - such as our recent inputs

into the National Livestock Masterplan and feedmilling standards - so they have active ownership of the regulations they are asked to follow.

We demonstrate to commercial operations that adhering to NIAS standards directly protects them from catastrophic production failures; standardizing feed quality lowers their overall feed conversion ratios and saves money, etc.

NTA: What is the current status of licensing registered Animal Scientists in Nigeria? How does licensing improve professionalism, and what support does NIAS provide to newly licensed and diaspora professionals?

Altogether, there are 10,865 Animal Scientists currently registered in Nigeria. We maintain a database of these members, which is updated periodically.

Licensing improves professionalism for quality control.

In terms of support, NIAS empowers its members to *practice* Animal Science within and outside the country. This is why we have the Annual Practice License: whether you are practicing as a Lecturer, a farmer, or a feed miller, the same regulation applies. Graduate Animal Scientists (the youngest in our pool) are provided further avenues to grow in the profession, including mentorship programmes, continuous feedback and engagement mechanisms, etc.

NTA: NIAS cannot work alone. How are you deepening partnerships with public and private organizations, stakeholders in the sector, and international bodies to drive

research, training, investment, and technology transfer?

This has been one of the most active areas of my tenure. On the international front, we continue to relate with the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF) and participate in the International Feed Regulator's Meetings (IFRM). We have taken part in the Denmark-Nigeria Strategic Sector Cooperation workshops, and engaged with the ECOWAS on the development of the animal feed industry, as well as the FAO Digital Village Initiative of the FMAFS, where I was the chair of the Animal Production syndicate. We also collaborated with the AU Feed & Fodder policy forum and the ILRI workshops on alternative feed sources. We also engaged the US Consulate and US Soy Export Council on trade and value-chain matters, and had a USDA/NABG roundtable on technical trade barriers.

On the domestic public side, we continue to relate with the Ministry of Livestock Development and are participating in national livestock reform processes, including the Nigeria Livestock Master Plan validation.

On the private and development-partner side, we have a partnership with AgDyna on livestock identification and traceability, especially on Day-Old-Chick traceability. We have collaboration with ABIS Livestock Academy on curriculum development for the training of middle-level manpower in the sector. Each of these is aimed squarely at the outcomes you mention: research collaboration, training capacity, investment interest, and technology transfer into our livestock sector.

NTA: How is NIAS driving public awareness of its mandate and contributing to the national drive for food security through improved animal protein production, job creation, and youth engagement in Animal Science?

Prof Udo Herbert: Through conferences, media engagement, and youth-focused outreach, public awareness of the Institute's mandate to regulate all matters pertaining to animal husbandry and promotion of quality animal proteins for human consumption is on the increase. For example, we participate every year in World Food Day, World Milk Day, and World Egg Day, which are natural platforms for talking about animal protein and food security.

Our internship programme, with over 200 applicants in the last cycle, and our youth and women livestock empowerment programmes in Nasarawa State, are direct, practical job-creation and skills-transfer interventions, particularly for pastoralist communities.

We carried out specialised training on assisted reproductive techniques to boost livestock production to meet Nigeria's animal protein production targets and long-term food security goals. This took place in Ibadan, Oyo State, last year.

REGULATORY AFFAIRS

GRADUATE ANIMAL SCIENTISTS' INDUCTION

The Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) is a professional and industry regulatory agency established by Act No. 26 of 2007, as amended in 2015. Among its mandates are the prescription and regulation of standards for academic qualifications and practical skills to be attained by persons seeking registration as Members, Associates or Fellows of the Institute, as applicable, and the regulation of matters relating to Animal Husbandry in Nigeria.

To identify promising graduates early and support the tracking of their career paths, the Graduate Animal Scientists Examination was designed by the Institute as a quality-assurance mechanism for graduates of Animal



Science produced by Universities. Candidates who successfully completed the examination in November 2024 became eligible for induction into the Institute as Graduate Animal Scientists after due clearance by their respective University Senates.

The 2026 Graduate Animal Scientists' induction held in four (4) centres across the country between 8th and 29th of June, 2026, as follow

✓ Ladoke Akintola University of

Technology, Ogbomosho at the Great Hall held on 8th June, 2026

- ✓ Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike, Abia, State, at MOUAWA on the 11th June, 2026
- ✓ Bayero University held at the New Agricultural Economics and Extension Resource centre Animal Science Department on the 18th June, 2026.
- ✓ University of Abuja, at the Faculty of Agriculture Lecture Theatre on the 29th June, 2026

THE INDUCTION

The programme began with a cordial and orderly procession of prospective inductees. This was followed by the arrival of the Registrar and other invited dignitaries at about 11:15 a.m. into the halls at the various centres. The

induction ceremony opened with a prayer, followed by the recitation of the Nigerian National Anthem by the NIAS Induction Team, Heads of Animal Science Departments, and the inductees.

All invited guests from the host universities were introduced and duly recognized and welcomed by the Vice-Chancellors or their representatives. The Registrar, Prof. Herbert Udo, and speakers from the participating institutions urged the Graduate Animal Scientists-to-be to uphold professional ethics and recognize the broad opportunities available within Animal Science. They encouraged the inductees to leverage their training across industry, government, banking, entrepreneurship and other sectors, rather than waiting solely for government employment.

The Registrar also emphasized that prospective inductees who were unwilling to abide by the Institute's regulations were free to remove their academic regalia and leave the ceremony, underscoring that induction into the Institute was not coercive.

In conclusion, the induction ceremonies across the four centers closed at about 1:45 p.m. with a recessional following the same order in which participants processed into the halls. All inducted GAS gathered for group photographs after.

Inductees gather in the hall for a group photograph after the ceremony.



Inductees seated during the induction ceremony.



Inductees and officials outside the New Agricultural Economics and Extension Studio, venue of the North West Zone induction.



Officials and graduates gather for a group photograph after the ceremony.

The 9th All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture



NIAS NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL EVENT COVERAGE REPORT

The **9th All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture (AACAA 2026)**, held in Abuja from **August 9 to 13, 2026**, brought together policymakers, scientists, industry leaders, and development partners to discuss how Africa can strengthen livestock production, improve food security, and compete more effectively in global markets.

Key Highlights

- The conference theme was "**Repositioning Animal Agriculture for Africa's Food Security and Global Competitiveness.**"

- President **Bola Ahmed Tinubu** officially opened the event and received a special award from the All Africa Society for Animal Production (AASAP).
- Opening remarks were delivered by leaders from AASAP and Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Livestock Development.
- The keynote address by **Prof. Appolinaire Djikeng**, Director General of ILRI, emphasized the need for innovation, climate resilience, productivity, and economic sustainability in African livestock systems.

Major Discussion Areas

The conference featured technical sessions and panel discussions covering:

- **Emerging technologies and AI** for precision livestock farming and genetic improvement.
- **Animal health, welfare, and One Health approaches**, including vaccination and biosecurity strategies.
- **Conflict and resource management** for livestock production in vulnerable and insecure regions.
- **Agribusiness and investment**, with attention to the Nigeria Livestock Master Plan and trade policies that can improve competitiveness.

Industry and International Participation

Companies and organizations showcased innovations in:

- Animal nutrition and feed technology.
- Genetics and animal health products.
- Sustainable livestock production systems.

International partners such as **USSEC, USDA, GIZ, and Heifer International** highlighted opportunities for collaboration, trade development, technical support, and sustainable feed supply chains.

Outcomes

The conference concluded with the adoption of a communiqué and agreement on several priorities:

- Updating livestock and agricultural education curricula to include entrepreneurship.
- Expanding public-private partnerships within the livestock sector.
- Accelerating digital transformation across livestock value chains and regional supply networks.
- Strengthening collaboration among African countries to promote food security and sustainable livestock development.

RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

The Research and Extension Department met with stakeholders during the 9th All African Conference on Animal Agriculture, and here is the extracts of the interactive session.

Research Team: What do you think about Africa attaining global competitiveness and how soon is Africa getting there?

Prof. Oluremi Daudu said we have a long way to go. In Her words: but I think if we are determined, it all takes political will. If we as a country are determined to move the livestock sector in Nigeria, we can do it. It's all because, it's all coming together. All stakeholders involved have to come together, sit at the table, and discuss the issues that are at hand.

Research Team: There's a gap between research results and translating it to the field. How do we close that gap?

Prof. Oluremi Daudu: That gap, just like I said, we need collaboration. We are all working in silos, but we need to work together as a group. You ask me, "What do you have? Let's come to the table." I come with what I have to the table. Okay? And then we look at our ideas together and see how we can synchronize. But when one wants to take maybe the glory, so you want to say, "I'm going this way, that is going that

way," we can never make progress. A house divided against itself cannot stand. So all of us in the sector, we must come together and unite so that there can be a change in the sector.

Then in relation to research ideas that have not been implemented—it's also that issue. We need to collaborate with the industry, with the farmers. "Okay, this is what we have, this is how it can help you." Then you have those in the industry, "Okay, what do they have? How can they help us to improve things?" That is all on the table. We all must work together as one.

Prof. Oluremi Martha Daudu is a Professor of Animal Science at Ahmadu Bello University, with over two decades of experience in animal nutrition, physiology and sustainable livestock systems.

Her research expertise includes in vitro evaluation of feed additives, phytochemical analysis and physiological responses to nutrition. She



has also received international training in cell culture techniques, molecular biology, and non-invasive hormone monitoring with research exposure in countries including the United States and South Africa. She has attended workshops and conferences in Kenya, Rwanda, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

She has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles in reputable journals and is an active member of several professional bodies, including the Nigerian Society for Animal Production, Animal Science Association of Nigeria and the World Poultry Science Association.

Her current work emphasizes the use of underutilized plant resources in animal production.

Prof. Daudu is passionate about mentoring the next generation of scientists and advancing research that is both impactful and globally relevant.

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Research Team: Hundreds of abstracts and research papers were presented at the recent 9th All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture. However, most of these findings are never applied in the field for practical testing or to improve yields. How can we bridge the gap between academic research and on-farm implementation in Africa?

Dr Tafara: The gap starts with how we define research impact. Too often, research is designed to answer a scientific question, published, presented at a conference, and then most times the process ends. For Africa, we need to think about the pathway from research to validation to adoption to impact from the very beginning.

First, farmers and other end users need to be involved when research questions are being formulated, not only when researchers are ready to disseminate the results. If a technology is not addressing a real production constraint, adoption will naturally be low.

Second, we need more on-farm validation and demonstration. A promising result from a research station or controlled experiment is only the beginning. We need to test technologies under the conditions farmers actually operate in including different production systems, resource constraints and environments and allow farmers to see the benefits themselves.

Third, we need stronger partnerships between researchers, farmers, extension services, government, industry and the private sector. Universities and research institutions cannot take innovations all the way to the farm alone. Extension systems are particularly important because they can translate scientific findings into practical recommendations at scale.

And finally, we need to change the way we measure success. A publication should not be the endpoint. We should also be asking: How many farmers adopted this? Did productivity improve? Did profitability improve? Can the technology be scaled sustainably?

In livestock genetics, for example, generating genomic information or developing a genetic evaluation methodology is only one part of the process. The real impact comes when that information is translated into better breeding decisions, better animals, improved productivity and ultimately better livelihoods for farmers.

So I don't think Africa has a shortage of research. We have an opportunity to become much better at building the bridge between knowledge and implementation — and that requires designing research with the farmer, validating it with the farmer, and measuring success by what changes on the farm.

Dr Tafara Kundai Mavunga is an Animal Genomics Consultant with a PhD in AgriGenomics from Universität für Bodenkultur Wien, specializing in livestock genetics, genomics, and breeding. She works at the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. Her work focuses on applying genomic approaches to improve livestock



productivity, genetic diversity, and sustainable breeding systems.

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Research Team: Hundreds of abstracts and research papers were presented at the recent 9th All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture. However, most of these findings are never applied in the field for practical testing or to improve yields. How can we bridge the gap between academic research and on-farm implementation in Africa?

Obatayo Oladeji, a Registered Animal Scientist in his response to the Research team mentioned that the biggest gap between academic research and on-farm

implementation in Africa is not necessarily a lack of good research, it is the lack of a structured pathway for translating research findings into practical, affordable and scalable solutions for farmers.

We need to move from “publish and present” to “test, validate, demonstrate and scale.”

First, researchers should involve farmers, feed manufacturers, agribusinesses and extension professionals from the beginning of the research process. Research questions should be driven not only by academic interest but also by real production challenges like feed costs, animal performance, disease, genetics, climate, market access and profitability.

Second, promising research findings should move through on-farm validation trials before being widely recommended. A finding that works under controlled experimental conditions must be tested under the realities of African farms, where feed quality, management, climate, infrastructure and farmer practices are different.

Third, we need stronger research–industry–farmer partnerships. Universities can provide scientific rigour, industry can provide technology and commercial expertise, while farmers provide

the real world testing environment. Government and development agencies can support funding, extension and scaling.

Finally, conferences should not end when the presentations are over. Every promising innovation should have a clear “pathway to impact”: Who will test it? on which farm? At what cost? What performance indicators will be measured? And, most importantly, does it improve the farmer's productivity and profitability?

Africa does not need more research that remains on conference shelves. We need a system that converts research into demonstration farms, pilot projects, commercial partnerships and measurable improvements in farm productivity and farmer income.

The ultimate measure of successful agricultural research should not only be the number of papers published or abstracts presented, but the number of farmers whose productivity, profitability and livelihoods have improved because of that research.

Thank you.



Oladeji Obatayo Joseph
is a Registered Animal
Scientist, Brand

Manager, and business development professional with over a decade of experience in sales, marketing, branding, and market development. He currently serves as Brand Manager at Hybrid Feeds Ltd, driving brand growth, market expansion, distributor management, and technical support. He holds a B.Tech and MBA from LAUTECH, an M.Sc. in Animal Science from Babcock University, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Animal Science. He also holds IGP professional certifications and is passionate about agriculture, animal nutrition, leadership, business growth, innovation, and continuous professional development.

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Research Team: Hundreds of abstracts and research papers were presented at the recent 9th All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture. However, most of these findings are never applied in the field for practical testing or to improve yields. How can we bridge the gap between academic research and on-farm implementation in Africa?

Dr Oladejo is a Registered Animal Scientist, She believes scientific effectiveness does not always translate into commercial feasibility.

She continued by stating that one important reason for the gap between research and

farm implementation is that scientific effectiveness does not always translate into commercial feasibility. As researchers, we sometimes demonstrate that an intervention works under experimental conditions without sufficiently asking whether a farmer can realistically implement it at commercial scale.

For instance, herbal additives may produce promising results in experimental poultry studies, but their preparation, dosage standardization, availability and labor requirements may become impractical on a farm with 2,000 or 5,000 birds. Similarly, my own research experience with Black Soldier Fly larvae meal shows that demonstrating its potential as an alternative feed ingredient is only one part of the equation. If BSF-based feed does not ultimately reduce feeding costs, improve nutritional value, or provide another clear production advantage, farmers may have little reason to adopt it. In some situations, supplementation or partial replacement may be more realistic than complete replacement.

My experience consulting for a farm that uses BSF larvae as a supplement in catfish production also illustrates the value of researcher–farmer consultation. Initially, the farm purchased external organic waste materials as substrates for BSF production. However, during the consultation process, I challenged the farm to consider its own waste resources, particularly because it

operates as an integrated farm. We explored and utilised farm-generated waste streams, subject to appropriate management as substrates for BSF larvae production. This approach has helped the farm convert its own waste streams into useful insect biomass rather than purchasing waste from outside sources.

This experience demonstrates that consultation is not simply about transferring research findings to farmers; it can also help researchers understand the production system and identify opportunities that make an innovation more practical, economical and sustainable.

Researchers should also engage in structured consultation with farmers before and during technology development. Consultation allows researchers to understand the realities of farm operations, including production scale, Labour availability, input costs, infrastructure, management practices and the specific challenges faced by farmers. This helps researchers adapt their innovations to real-world conditions and identify potential barriers to adoption before significant resources are invested in implementation.

The researcher should therefore not only ask, “Does this intervention work?” but also ask the farmer, “Can you realistically use it, what would prevent you from using it, and

what would make it worthwhile for your farm?”

Every promising technology should therefore undergo these four steps before being promoted widely:

- i. Researcher–farmer consultation and needs assessment
- ii. On-farm validation
- iii. Cost–benefit and scalability assessment
- iv. Farmer-led evaluation and adoption

Researchers should work closely with farmers, extension personnel and industry from the beginning, not only after publication.

The ultimate measure of successful agricultural research should not be only the number of papers published or conference abstracts presented, but whether the innovation is affordable, adoptable and capable of improving productivity and livelihoods on real farms.

Dr. Opeyemi Adetola Oladejo is a Lecturer and Researcher at Bowen University, Nigeria, with a Ph.D. in Animal Science from Obafemi Awolowo University. Her research expertise spans animal genetics, livestock biotechnology, molecular genetics, bioinformatics, genetic improvement, and sustainable livestock production. She is particularly interested in livestock genomics, conservation of indigenous

genetic resources, disease resistance, and the use of Black Soldier Fly Larvae as an alternative protein source in animal



nutrition. She has published in peer-reviewed journals, secured research grants, participated in international training programmes, and is committed to mentoring young scientists and advancing sustainable livestock production and food security in Africa.

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Research Team: The 9th All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture. As one of the authors, one of the presenters here. What is your opinion about this conference?"

Maria Oguiche: I think it's a great opportunity for African scientists or young scientists like myself, and a good platform to share our research results, interest,

collaborate, meet people, and learn about African agriculture in general.

Research Team: How does Africa benefit from your research (The unrecognized potential of neglected livestock species for climate-resilient and sustainable food systems in Nigeria – The case of Ogun and Oyo State, and a case for positioning Nigeria's Micro-livestock and neglected Livestock Species Value Chains in ongoing sector transformation efforts) after your studies considering that you are studying abroad?

Maria Oguiche: I think a conference like this is the first step where you have to, where you share your research results and get feedback because, like you saw this morning, we had policymakers and ministers here who are the custodians of these ministries and where you can share your research results, make policy recommendations. So yeah, I think a conference or platforms like this are always opportunities to give back through your research results recommendations.

Research Team: Finally, the key word here is global competitiveness. Do you see Africa getting to that level very soon?"

Maria Oguiche: Yes, I'm very optimistic.

Maria Oguche is a PhD candidate at the department of Animal Breeding and



Husbandry in the Tropics and Subtropics, Hans-Ruthenberg Institute and Study Program Developer at the faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart Germany. Maria holds a Bachelor and Master's in Agricultural economics. Her professional and research interests are in the field of livestock research including food security, sustainable livestock production systems, climate change impacts, gender and household nutrition.

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On Translating Research to Agricultural Policy, our team met with Dr Oke Folasade

Research Team: There is often a gap between generating research findings and actually translating those findings into action. Observation shows that valuable research ends up on the shelf without being implemented. Why do you think this gap still exists?

Dr Oke: I think it is a two-way process, and it requires stronger collaboration between researchers and policymakers. Universities and research institutions generate evidence and develop recommendations, but the responsibility for formulating and implementing public policy largely rests with government.

Researchers can provide evidence, develop recommendations and even test innovations with farmers, but they cannot simply declare that a particular recommendation should become government policy. There has to be an institutional process through which government evaluates the evidence, determines its relevance and feasibility, and decides how it can be integrated into policy or programmes.

One of the challenges is that the link between research institutions and government ministries is sometimes weak. Researchers invest considerable time,