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## CRIN Welcomes New Executive Director



It was a new era in CRIN with the appointment of the new Executive Director (ED), Dr Patrick Olusanmi Adebola. The Ag. Head, Administration and Supplies, Mr J.O. Onanuga, introduced the new ED to the CRIN staff on 26 October, 2020 at Lawrence Opeke Conference Hall, CRIN Headquarters, Ibadan. The entire CRIN staff heartily welcomed the ED with a standing ovation. The ED appreciated the entire staff for the warm reception given to him starting from the entrance of the Institute. As a former Staff in the Plant Breeding Division of CRIN, the ED enjoys working with all the people around him in an amicable manner. He encouraged everyone to cooperate and work with him for a better CRIN. In their comments, some



staff drew attention of the ED to withheld salaries, promotion and transfer

arrears, and other staff welfare benefits. In his response, the ED thanked the people that shared their thoughts and opinions and promised that all

the issues raised will be considered. He stated that he would need the support of both the Institute Management Committee (IMC) and the general staff for enormous responsibility of repositioning CRIN as requested by the staff. The ED stressed that all staff should join hands to contribute to the progress of CRIN. He promised that the Institute will explore opportunity for externally funded research grants through writing winning research proposals.

## Profile of ED CRIN Dr Patrick Adebola



Dr P.O. Adebola is the new ED CRIN and a Plant Breeder/Geneticist. Before joining CRIN as ED, He was the Project Leader of AfricaYam IITA-

Abuja, Nigeria, where he oversees and coordinates the project activities in the four target countries. He obtained his BSc, MSc and PhD degrees from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria in 1987, 1990, and 2003, respectively. He also obtained a master's degree in Business Leadership (MBL) from the Graduate School of Business Leadership, University of South Africa in 2014. Dr Adebola has over 20 years' experience in plant breeding research and community engagement in West and Southern Africa and had managed and supervised several international projects and networks. Dr Adebola worked for the Africa Rice Center as the Deputy Director General for the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), Liberia in 2016. He was a Research Team Manager and Head of the Plant Breeding Division at the Agricultural Research Council, ARC-VOPI, South Africa (2005–2016). He also previously worked for CRIN as a research



scientist and rose to the position of Assistant Chief Research Officer and Program Manager Biotechnology (1993-2004).

He was a postdoctoral fellow (2004-2005) in the Department of Botany, University of Fort Hare, South Africa and a recipient of the Rothamsted International Postdoctoral Fellowship hosted by the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA), Sand Hutton, York, United Kingdom during 2008-2010.

**“Agro-forestry will create jobs for youths, rid cocoa, cashew-producing states of criminals” - CRIN ED**



*Dr Patrick Adebola is the newly appointed Executive Director of the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), Ibadan, Oyo State. He explains how most forests can be developed for agro-forestry farms to engage youths in cash crop production; the challenges confronting cocoa and cashew production, and availability of improved planting materials and distribution impediments, among others. FEMI IBIROGBA, Head, Agro-Economy, Guardian reports.*

**Nigeria produces fewer tonnes of cocoa beans yearly than Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire. What are the factors responsible for the poor productivity in Nigeria and how can they be resolved?**

First, most of the cocoa trees in Nigeria have been existing from about 40 to 60 years and even more. Therefore, those plantations have declined in productivity and there is a need to either plant new ones or that the old plantation undergoes thorough

rehabilitation. This is one of the reasons the productivity is low.

Secondly, there is the issue of the quality of planting materials. Generally, farmers tend to harvest from their farms and produce the seedlings themselves so that they can plant and they may not be able to get the maximum yields. The Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) implores farmers to come for improved planting materials — seedlings that are high-yielding and will produce fruits early in about two years.

**There was a national programme between 2013 and 2014 that was to mass-produce improved seedlings for free distribution to farmers. Why is the programme unsuccessful and why is the current government hesitant in this regard?**

The government has been doing their part. From my understanding, every year, the government, through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, in conjunction with CRIN, produces thousands of improved seedlings, which we distribute to farmers. The number may need to increase so that the impact would be better.

**Can you give an estimate of the quantity of seedlings produced and distributed to farmers?**

Last year, we produced almost a thousand improved seedlings.

**Are these farmers, the old plantation farmers, rehabilitating their existing plantations?**

The majority of the farmers are to establish new plantations. For this year, we have planned to produce about 500,000 cocoa seedlings of improved varieties for distribution to the farmers.

**Has this plan been incorporated in the budget?**

Yes, it is already in the budget. The budget has been appropriated.

**Is CRIN in charge of the seedling production or outsourced in different region?**

The institute has six sub-stations which are situated in the six geo-political zones in the country. We produce seedlings at the headquarters here, as well as in our sub-stations, where these mandate crops are being propagated. There is a station in

Cross River State, in Abia State, in Ondo and Edo State each. The production of seedlings is spread across all our sub-stations so that farmers who live close to the sub-stations can get easy access to the seedlings.

**What do you need as an institution to mass-propagate the improved varieties of cocoa seedlings that can close the production gap between Nigeria and Cote D'Ivoire?**

A lot of technologies have emerged to help mass-propagate genetic materials that are of very high quality and are of high demand. We do the manual production, using the seeds to propagate those seedlings. But there are other technologies like the semi-autotrophic hydroponics (SAH), which can be used to mass-propagate improved planting materials. We are trying to see how this can be introduced to cocoa and although we have attempted that in an experimental trial.

**How is the hydroponic production carried out?**

The process is easy, having the substrates and parts of the planting materials, a part of the leaf of stem, which will be propagated using a special medium. We root and harden them and make them available for farmers. Seedlings can be produced in millions using the hydroponic technology.

The process does not begin in the laboratory and it is not solely produced in the lab but we keep them in an environment, conducive for them to root easily and for them to acclimatise.

**Why is there low cashew production and what factors have led to this?**

Cashew is another cash crop that Nigeria is blessed with. Cashew can practically grow anywhere in Nigeria. The reason for the low production is probably because people are not aware that it is a money-spinning kind of business. The institute is ready and have been supplying planting materials of Jumbo nuts, Indian dwarf and the likes that are given to farmers. I think that we are capable of supplying planting materials upon request by farmers.

**Will you suggest plantation expansion or intensive production and increased productivity**

**of available hectares?**

It is a combination of several factors. One, most of the trees are not as productive as we would expect them. So, it is good to go for high-yielding materials to establish new plantations. It is also possible for old plantations to be rejuvenated. These are the areas to be considered to increase production.

**Most of the cocoa processing factories in Nigeria are gone and there are no standardised cashew processing factories. Is there a correlation between shutting down of the factories and production of these cash crops?**

I wouldn't say that there is a correlation between the two. The issue remains that the agricultural sector was and has been neglected because of the oil boom. Therefore, the farms are abandoned and they become moribund and there is little or no interest in farming. Thankfully, the government is bringing us back into agriculture. The plantations were neglected and this is why most of the plantations do not produce good yields.

Going to industries, it is the neglect of a particular sector that affects industrialisation. If the primary source (raw materials) are not available due to the neglect and abandonment, the industry will not be productive. However, things are changing. Industries are springing up but there are a few processors of cocoa and cashew. I am positive that the industries will continue to increase in the entire value chain of cashew.

**You mentioned that farming has been abandoned for so long. Regardless of this, there are no jobs for the youths and over 14 million youths are said to be unemployed. How can the younger generations be attracted into the agricultural sector, especially in cash crop production?**

When a plantation is established in Nigeria, it takes only years before it begins to yield, and the farmer can begin to harvest, under favourable conditions. The plantation can exist for more than 50 years and for this reason, we are appealing to the youths to come into tree crop farming, because it is highly lucrative. These generations of youths rely on white-collar jobs, which happen to be scarce these



days. But with the support of the government, I think this is an opportunity for youths to come into agriculture.

**What advice will you give to state governments that are known for the production of cocoa and cashew to empower interested youths?**

I will recommend the grouping of the youths in those states by the state government, providing them with land, incentives in terms of inputs, while partnering with CRIN to also provide the technical know-how for planting and harvesting and marketing.

**Are you suggesting that the forests occupied by criminals can be transformed into cocoa and cashew production zones?**

Yes, I suggest this because forests are not to be left fallow and unutilized, and this is something the state government can look into.

Let them group the youths and allocate hectares of land to them for tree crop farming and provide them with planting materials and the essential training for production, harvest and marketing of the crops.

**What do you suggest as panaceas for the herder/farmer crisis, engulfing the country at the moment?**

This issue is like a hot potato and it's been ongoing for years. Although it is nothing new, the casualties in these clashes are alarming and the government should pay reasonable attention to it. There has been a lot of suggestions pertaining to ranching, cattle colonies, and I think that these solutions are workable if they are applied genuinely. We also need to understand that both farmers and herders are citizens of the country, hence protecting their interest is key in that, this crisis can be resolved amicably. I believe that it can be a win-win situation if the place of dialogue is prioritised.

**As the newly appointed Executive Director of CRIN, how do you intend to help scale up production of cocoa, cashew, kola nut, tea and other cash crops to meet up with the demands yearly?**

CRIN is an institute saddled with the mandate of making sure that the genetic potential of the five

mandate crops — cocoa, cashew, coffee, kola and tea — are improved. We will play our part.

Yes. We have been undergoing this research for over 50 years and it has yielded a lot of result. We have been able to get improved materials for the five mandate crops that are being propagated yearly to farmers. Going by your question about our vision, I will say that our vision is to continue to carry out quality research so as to come out with highly productive varieties that will be distributed evenly to farmers to help improve their production.

Secondly, we are saddled with the responsibility of transforming some of the mandate crops into by-products to add value. We have a section in the institute which is responsible for value addition. So, our intention is also to continue along that line. The technology is readily available and we are anticipating the investors to take them up. We are also ready to train and deliver those technologies to whoever can take them up or those who we can partner with.

**Do you imply that the technologies can be imparted into youths?**

Certainly. Our institute is funded by the public sector and we are capable of making the knowledge available to youths, to women and would-be entrepreneurs, who are interested in taking up those technologies. With our institute being funded by the public resources, I believe that the transfer of this knowledge will be without service charge. (<https://guardian.ng/features/agro-forestry-will-create-jobs-for-youths-rid-cocoa-cashew-producing-states-of-criminals/>).

**Staff Transfer**

The Institute Management Committee headed by the ED, Dr. P.O. Adebola, has directed the transfer of some officers that are due for transfer to and from some Substations. The Heads of Station (HOS) on transfer back to the Headquarters with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 are: Dr. P.E. Aikpokpodion (Mambilla), Dr. K.B. Adejobi (Uhonmora) and Dr. A.V. Oyedokun (Ochaja). The aforementioned HOS were replaced with the

following officers who resumed on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2021: Dr. D.O. Adeniyi (Ochaja), Dr. O.O. Adenuga (Mambilla), and Dr. B.S. Famuyiwa (Uhonmora). Other staff on transfer include: Mr. S.T. Abass (Mambilla), Mr. K.A. Enosegbe and Mr. O.E. Ojewale (Owena); while Mr. O.O. Okunade and Mr. N.S. Ogbugburu were transferred back to the Headquarters from Owena Substation.

## Birthday Galore

Hearty birthday celebrations to the staff members that have celebrated their birthdays and those that will celebrate theirs this month. Wishing you all the very best in your life endeavours. Congratulations!



## January

Adepoju Odunola Adedayo	1-Jan
Alade Gboyega	1-Jan
Agomu Ogeyin	1-Jan
Ehimika Ketu	1-Jan
David Omoha	1-Jan
Gbadamosi Mufutau Ayobami	1-Jan
Manasseh B. Andriya	1-Jan
Nifu Yahaya	1-Jan
Olatunji Tirimisiyu	1-Jan
Ogunsanya Florence Olusola	1-Jan
Olaosebikan Agnes Olayinka	1-Jan
Oyewole Olaoluwa	1-Jan
Salaudeen Adedayo	1-Jan
Saminu Hamisu A.	1-Jan
Bilaminu Agbeniga	2-Jan
Chibou Oluchi	2-Jan
Oboh Roland Sunday	2-Jan
Akinwale Olasunkanmi	3-Jan

Oladipupo Kayode David	3-Jan
Babalola Janet Morenike	4-Jan
Hammed Isimot Abimbola	4-Jan
Okonkwo Temitayo Omodele	4-Jan
Enodunwenbe Anthony Iserihie	5-Jan
Ogenyi Simon	5-Jan
Opalua Pius	5-Jan
Quadri Bisiriyu Adekunle	5-Jan
Ayiba Patience Takon	6-Jan
Ogbechie Christopher John	6-Jan
Adeigbe Yemisi Tosin	7-Jan
Ganiyu Abu O.	7-Jan
Matthew Samuel	8-Jan
Olaoye Atinuke Moriamo	8-Jan
Olawore Olutunde Sola	8-Jan
Egwumah Luggard	9-Jan
Adebisi Oluwabukayomi S.	10-Jan
Adeyanju Stephen Adebisi	10-Jan
Babalola Mosudi	10-Jan
Orimogunje Alex	10-Jan
Azoquo Echeng Isong	11-Jan
Edibo Gabriel Ojodale	11-Jan
Jayeola Christiana Olayinka	11-Jan
Okojie Peter	11-Jan
Lawal Bose Janet	12-Jan
Oyebanjo Ayeyemi Omogbemi	12-Jan
Guma Joshua	14-Jan
Muritala Waheed	14-Jan
Ogunlusi Olayemi	14-Jan
Ahmed Sajoh Buba	15-Jan
Akinade Kazeem	15-Jan
Echa Godwin Idagu	15-Jan
Orisajo Samuel Bukola	15-Jan
Oseghe Florence Jesughe	15-Jan
Oyebanjo Toyosi Oladele	15-Jan
Unubi Attah Jeremiah	15-Jan
Adio Stephen Olukunle	17-Jan
Egbe Moses	17-Jan
Olulowo Oluwatoyin Patience	17-Jan
Somосу Olusola Atinuke	17-Jan
Adesanya Kehinde A.	18-Jan
Faniyi Jimoh Abiola	19-Jan
Numfor Peter	19-Jan
Olaleye Oludele Olusesan	19-Jan
Ogbechie Margaret Otibho	21-Jan
Oguntoye Kazeem	21-Jan

Ajayi Francis Abidemi	22-Jan
Tijani Akeem	24-Jan
Ajekigbe Oluwafemi	25-Jan
Olaleye Bidemi	25-Jan
Oyeneye Julius	25-Jan
Adeniyi Amudat Titilayo	26-Jan
Atoyebi Oluwatoyin	26-Jan
Okorue Fredrick Friday	26-Jan
Oseghale Godday	26-Jan
Animba Micheal	28-Jan
Oyedotun Toyin	28-Jan
Musa Suebat	29-Jan
Ojo John Olarewaju	30-Jan
Aboribo Roy Ochuko	31-Jan
Amwe Habu Audu	31-Jan



## February

Abodunrin Peterkin Yemi	1-Feb
Alim Muhammed	1-Feb
Ejakpovi Felix Isaac	1-Feb
Omitade Seyi	1-Feb
Adepoju Oluranti Kubura	2-Feb
Agulanna Foluso Temitope	2-Feb
Asein Fredrick Aimioje	2-Feb
Azzan Olawale	2-Feb
Oguntona Kunle Williams	2-Feb
Okere Monday John	2-Feb
Ojo Idowu Olufunke	2-Feb
Ojo Omolabake Esther	2-Feb
Owoyele Yinka	2-Feb
Udoh James Samuel	2-Feb
Awoyemi Taiwo	3-Feb
Clement Igwe	3-Feb
Okoh Chuks	3-Feb
Olatunji Ganiyu	3-Feb
Alade Bolajoko Folasade	4-Feb
Ipinmoroti Rotimi Rufus	4-Feb

Abubakar Yahaya	5-Feb
Esan Babatunde	5-Feb
Magaji Precious	5-Feb
Ojo Agboola	5-Feb
Ige Busuyi Akinleye	6-Feb
Kpeleye Friday	6-Feb
Ojo Olufemi Martins	6-Feb
Oniyide Josephine O.	6-Feb
Asowata Frank Efe	7-Feb
Jamgbadi Imoudu	8-Feb
Oladipo Oluwafemi Bayode	8-Feb
Olugbesan Adebola Rebecca	8-Feb
Oyeniran Sunday Matthew	8-Feb
Arowosafe Funmilayo Funmike	9-Feb
Ipadeola Funke	9-Feb
Ogunkua Olumide Olabanji	9-Feb
Adetunji Esther Olufunmilayo	10-Feb
Akintoye Damilola Sandra	10-Feb
Eze Cordelia	10-Feb
Adepoju Sola Muslim	11-Feb
Igbinador Richard Osaretin	11-Feb
Okere Florence Funmolayo	11-Feb
Olasupo Festus Olakunle	11-Feb
Alaba Olubukola Olayinka	12-Feb
Ayere Cletus	12-Feb
James Okoi	12-Feb
Sanni Ibrahim	12-Feb
Makinde Gbolagade	13-Feb
Ayoade Gabriel Adetunji	14-Feb
Popoola Olalekan	14-Feb
Agboola-Adedoja Mutiat Oluwaseyi	15-Feb
Anikudi Fausat Bolanle	15-Feb
Ganiyu Bolanle	15-Feb
Oha Francis Kosidi	15-Feb
Olubajo Bowale S.	15-Feb
Azeez Taofeek	16-Feb
Ojo Oluwatoyin Josephine	16-Feb
Okonche John	17-Feb
Jimeshio Joseph G.	17-Feb
Ajayeoba Oludare Babatunde	18-Feb
Lawal Anister Jonathan	18-Feb
Fagbami Oluwole Samuel	18-Feb
Adeyemi Eunice Abosede	20-Feb
Emaku Jacob	21-Feb
Folorunsho Funmi A.	21-Feb
Adeboye Kehinde	22-Feb

Ogundeji Babatunde Ayodeji	22-Feb
Oladimeji Taofeek	22-Feb
Adebola Patrick Olusanmi	23-Feb
Odukoya Olatunde	23-Feb
Suleiman Atinuke Sarat	24-Feb
Adebowale Victoria	25-Feb
Taiwo Olayinka Akanni	25-Feb
Musa Satu	25-Feb
Ojo Olusegun Olajide	26-Feb
Opara Toyosi Nurat	26-Feb
Olalekan-Adeniran Mujidat Adenike	28-Feb



### March

Emaku Christian	1-Mar
Okontah Patrick	1-Mar
Rabiul Sulat Tubike	1-Mar
Alabi Mukaila	2-Mar
Godwin Peter	2-Mar
Adeoye Hazzan	3-Mar
Adeyemo Adebisi Reuben	3-Mar
Alli Olawale Saidi	3-Mar
Lawal Taofeek	3-Mar
Mohammed Magaji	3-Mar
Numfat Zephaniah	3-Mar
Oloyede Elizabeth	3-Mar
Okoi Eteng Iwara	3-Mar
Yusuf Jimoh	3-Mar
Adedara Conelius	4-Mar
Adeniran Ojo	5-Mar
Adeduntan Dotun Gbenga	6-Mar
Mohammed-Bashir Wasilat Omotolani	6-Mar
Adeyemo Sola	7-Mar
Abioye Peter Olubunmi	8-Mar
Arobieke Sunday Bamidele	8-Mar
Awunghe Joy Takim	8-Mar
Ejenobor Fransisca Bolanle	8-Mar
Iroulo Chimobi	8-Mar

Williams Olabisi	9-Mar
Adewumi Esther Oluwemimo	10-Mar
Ipinmoroti Rotimi Olumide	10-Mar
Ogunsowo Akintobi Olutoye	10-Mar
Olalekan Olugbade	10-Mar
Aye Fatima	11-Mar
Ojimah Dennis	11-Mar
Akinpelu Modinat	13-Mar
Olaleye Oluseye	13-Mar
Uloko Baba Adakole	13-Mar
Abioye Bosede	14-Mar
Akintoroye Ambrose Kokumo	14-Mar
Oyeneye Taofik Olakunle	14-Mar
Uwakwe Innocent	14-Mar
Boi Benedict Agbe	15-Mar
Olayiwola Sakiratu	15-Mar
Sarafa Hammed	15-Mar
Mathews Olayemi	16-Mar
Okesola Amos	16-Mar
Abdulkarim Ibrahim	17-Mar
Odedele Samson Oluseye	17-Mar
Ibine Benjamin Ipinsokan	18-Mar
Oketokun Grace Olusola	18-Mar
Akanbi Olorunfemi Sunday	20-Mar
Isokpehi Daniel	20-Mar
Ohikhatemen George	20-Mar
Agbeniyi Sunday Oluremi	21-Mar
Akinbinu Adeolu	21-Mar
Modebel-Timothy Damilola B.	21-Mar
Rahmon Saheed B.	23-Mar
Adigun Aderinto Benjamin	24-Mar
Alexander Yemisi Blessing	24-Mar
Alli Modinat Adewumi	24-Mar
Morakinyo Racheal Adejisola	24-Mar
Nwaokolo Ruth Onosiemaeme	24-Mar
Okpaise Idowu	24-Mar
Otasowie Osamyimen Samson	24-Mar
Agaji Bernard	25-Mar
Borokinni Olufisayo Olusola	27-Mar
Ebulu Sunday Arebamhen	28-Mar
Atanda Shina Mobolaji	29-Mar
Togun Bolatito Olubukola	29-Mar
Enagu Victor Ogum	30-Mar
Okonji Micheal	30-Mar
Iyadunni Kolawole Asimiyu	31-Mar
Isaiah Regina Joseph	31-Mar