MOKWUNYE, IDONGESIT U. AT THE PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, USA

Mokwuone, Idongesit U at Penn State University, USA

Mokwunye, Idongesit U. a scientist in the Entomology Section attended a 2-week course on Insect Chemical Entomology held at the Penn State University, USA. The organizers graciously offered her registration waiver of six hundred and fifty US dollars ($650) to enable her participate in the course. Insect chemical ecology is a field of study that exploits natural volatiles that mediate interactions between insect pests and host plant. This is a **non-chemical pest control option** that is critical for the development of safe and sustainable protection of our mandate crops against insect pests and pathogens (fungi and nematode inclusive). The development and promotion of non-chemical pest control measure will avert concerns on pesticide residues in our export crops for instance cocoa. According to her, the research effort in crop protection is geared towards the development of safe alternatives to chemical pesticides. Armed with the technical skills, knowledge and network, she is confident that as an Institute we will be able to develop cheap, safe and sustainable crop protection strategies for sustainable production of our mandate crops.

WELFARE OF THE REINSTATED STAFF

Eighty five of the 91 reinstated have been successfully captured and have started receiving their salary. The delay in the case of the remaining six staff is either due to incomplete documents or supply of wrong information, These delays are being actively handled by the management.

CRIN BreakingNews

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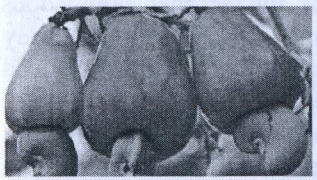

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING OF ISO/TC 34/SC 18 'COCOA' AND CEN/TC 415 'Sustainable and Traceable Cocoa' IN ABIDJAN (24-30 JUNE 2017, CÔTE D'IVOIRE).

International experts all over the world gathered at the La Case D'Ivoire hotel located at the Riverra iiii Cocoady, Cote D'Ivoire in Abidjan from 23rd and 30 June 2017 to discuss various requirements the production of sustainable cocoa across cocoa producing nations of the world. These standards and the corresponding documents specifying various conditions to be met before a country can be considered as a producer of sustainable cocoa were identified. Various requirements were highlighted which included, requirements for quality certification. traceability and performance . Among the participants at the meeting of the International Organization for Standardization were, UTZ, Barry Calleabut, Mars chocolate, exporters, importers, regulators, and other stakeholders along cocoa value chains. Also included were research institutions and universities. The recognized Members were Cote D'Ivoire, Indonesia, Ecuador, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Cameroun and Nigeria. Among the members in attendance were Belgium , Netherlands, Canada, England, Germany, Geneva, France, Italy and Spain. The Nigerian representatives to the meeting included staff from the Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) like Mrs Eshiette, Deputy Director; Mr Jelani, co-secretary, National Mirror Committee, Mrs Mfoen, Secretary

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING OF ISO/TC 34/SC 18 'COCOA' AND CEN/TC 415 'Sustainable and Traceable Cocoa' IN ABIDJAN (24-30 JUNE 2017, CÔTE D'IVOIRE) CONTD.

Dr. Ayoreun, Dr. Jayeola and a Colleague at the Meeting

National Mirror Committee; Dr. Mrs Jayeola, Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria, member of the National Mirror Committee and Dr Aroyeun S.O, the Chairman, National Mirror committee, Cocoa. The attendance of the delegates were based on sponsorship by different organizations. The National Mirror Committee Chairman, Dr Aroyeun S.O was on sponsorship by the Swedish standard in collaboration with the African regional organization for standardization and the Ecowas (SIS/ARSO//ECOWAS). Mrs Jayeola was on sponsorship by the ISO academy respectively. At the meeting, Resolutions taken were summarized. The member countries earlier agreed that the proposal to include the issue on premium to be paid for a sustainable cocoa farmer should be inserted into the standards. It was not agreed by the ISO at the beginning as a result of the fact that policy does not allow monetary issues and by specifying the amount within the standard may violate the requirement policy of international standard. As this was not approved by the Ecowas delegates precisely the cocoa producing countries present such as Cote DIvoire, Cameroun, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone the final approval of this avocet of the standard has been directed to the CEN/EN secretariat in Geneva for final consideration

SENIOR STAFF PROMOTION

The 2016 Senior Staff Promotion exercise took place at the Institute on June 14-15, 2017. The Ag. ED Dr, Olubamiwa was the Chairman of the Promotion Board. Dr. C.E. Ikunobe and the Director of Administration and Finance Mr. Saidu Abubakar M. led the team from ARCN, The representatives of the ministry were Mr. Edeki John Enesi and Mr. Oti Clement Ojo.

A total of 114 staff sat for the examination. All staff who sat for promotion were favourably recommended at the instance of the Ag. ED. The recommendations were endorsed by all the promotion board members comprising of ARCN, Agric Ministry and the members of Internal Management Committee.

RESEARCH BRIEFS

EXPLORING THE CHEMICAL DIVERSITY OF *COFFEA CANEPHORA* IN NIGERIA FOR GENOMIC QUALITY IMPROVEMENT by **Chinyere 'Florence' Anagbogu**

Coffee is one of the most popular drinks globally, and is the most traded world commodity after crude oil. Although C. arabica is the most common species, C. canephora, the main focus of this study, has very robust resistance to many abiotic and biotic stress to which C. arabica is vulnerable. Developing genomic resources in C. canephora could be helpful to coffee research generally because of the great interest in generating high quality C. canephora (Robusta coffee) due to its ease of cultivation and high tolerance to adverse condition by world coffee research.

The aim of this research was to conduct a genomic characterization of Coffea canephora genotypes in Nigeria, and to parallel genotypic differences with metabolomics and lipidomics of aroma and taste precursors of their beans. This could help to 'seed' a more expansive coffee improvement program to accelerate the global marketing of unique coffee from Nigeria. From this research:

1. It was discovered that some of the genotypes were misclassified, and were able to develop the correct varietal grouping. Inadequate genomic information if not corrected may lead to duplication of genotypes.
2. It was discovered that the farmer-cultivated genotypes in Southwest Nigeria were uniform and were of a single ancestral origin. These findings are relevant to farmers and scientists as it will hasten the improvement and introduction of better variety to be cultivated.
3. A large number of SNPs was uncvered which are informative and relevant to coffee scientists working to improve the disease resistance of high quality Arabica coffee and in improving the cup quality of *C. canephora* by marker assisted breeding.