



## COCOA RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF NIGERIA

### KLM 14, IJEBU-ODE ROAD, IDI AYUNRE, IBADAN.

#### Unionism Restored in CRIN: Suspension lifted

Following the restoration of peace in the Institute since the assumption of office by Dr. (Mrs) F. A. Okelana and the return of normalcy, the Ag. Executive Director has deemed it fit to lift the suspension placed on union activities in the Institute since 2013 due to purported claim of obstruction of peace when the three in-house unions were demanding for justice and fair-play. The then Governing Board and Prof. M. O. Akoroda-led management team was aware that the protest against his mal-administration in 2013 was just a foretaste of what was to come as the staff embarked on mother of all protests in 2015 again (without the unions in place).

By 7:00am on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2015, the Management and her security agents met the Institute gate locked and staff gathered demanding for the removal of Prof. Akoroda and dissolution of his management team.

The staff were guarding the gate both day and night preventing him or his agents from coming near the Institute thus paralysing activities for about several weeks until 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 when Mr President yielded to their demand and asked the erstwhile ED to **proceed on indefinite leave for the Institute to function well again.**

The Ag. ED, when ordering the lifting of the suspension, opined that existence of unions in an organisation is a positive thing as such would constantly put management on her toes, help in preventing avoidable mistakes and as well avail the system access to beneficial information in good time. Though, while she said all the in-house unions are now free to operate based on the



normalcy in the Institute through a circular dated February 1, 2016, she however advised the unions to adhere to labour laws and all extant rules guiding the operational activities of unions as well as embrace dialogue.

Amid a woeful performance and tyrannical rule that has seen Prof. Akoroda replaced by Dr. (Mrs) Okelana, the researchers' output has also suffered, with scientists unable to actualise their potentials.

The Ag. ED observed that the scientists were not overseeing activities in their respective areas of jurisdiction during the era of Prof. Akoroda that was ordered to proceed on indefinite leave as everywhere was filthy and reports were not submitted and when done they are not of the desired qualities. She opined that these happened in a situation where 572 staff salaries were not paid for period spreading up to four months. Staff morale would definitely be at lower ebbs as they must have suffered individually and as a family too. The Ag. ED said efforts are in top gear to see that the 91 disengaged staff are re-engaged casual workers brought in as a payback to the community that accommodates the Institute as well as promotion of all legitimate and qualified staff.

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#### Efforts on Disengaged Staff

CRIN has revealed she wants to re-engage the 91 staff illegally disengaged in early 2014 after the pseudo-truce supposed to have been brokered by the national leaders of the three in-house unions during the CRIN brouhaha of Oct-Dec. 2013.

The on-going court suits filed by the affected staff against the Institute has been withdrawn to allow negotiation and re-absorption process commence, said the Ag. E. D. Dr. Mrs F. A. Okelana.

Besides, the Ag. ED said that casual staff would be engaged to strengthen the Institute field staff along those to be re-engaged. "The people that have been trained and on the Institute's payroll but were unjustly disengaged for no justifiable reason will be brought back", the Ag. E.D said.

#### Claim your rightful place

CRIN Ag. ED, Dr (Mrs) Okelana has challenged scientists to live up to expectation as the prime staff in their days in the Institute

#### VISION

To be a Centre of excellence of international repute in the Research and Development of Cocoa, Kola, Cashew, Coffee and Tea.



Cashew

## Techno-serve organization's visit to CRIN

A representative of Techno-serve organization Simon Winter from the United States of America, Dr Peter Akpokpodion and Dr. Ekemini Obok from the University of Calabar visited CRIN on 18th February, 2016. They were received by a team of CRIN scientists which includes Dr (Mrs) F.A. Okelana, Ag. Executive Director (ED), Dr. O. Olubamiwa, Dr O.O. Oduwole, Dr. A.R. Adedeji, Mr A.A. Oloyede, , Mr. B.O. Obatolu, Mr. A.H. Otuonye, Mr. M.A. Daniel Mr. A.E. Agbongiarhuoyi, Dr. A.V. Oyedokun, and Mr O.O. Adenuga.

The purpose of the visit was to know how CRIN is adopting Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) in terms of resilience strategies to deal with the realities of climate change in relation to cocoa. The visitor is interested in the development of project proposal on climate smart Agriculture in the cocoa sub sector.

The Ag. ED intimated the visitor about some collaborative projects from some organizations with CRIN: They include Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), IDH-Sustainable Trade Initiative, World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) and International Cocoa Organization (ICCO). Simon informed the gathering that CSA project could get funding from World Bank, Department for International Development (DFID) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).



Discussants in a group photograph with CRIN Ag. ED

## NIGERIA'S COCOA POLICIES AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

The meeting was attended by Mr. Friedel Hutz-Adams from SUDWIND (A Research Institute in Germany), Mrs Mope Fabunmi from Farmers Development Union (FADU), While CRIN team were made of; Dr. A. R. Adedeji, Mrs Yahaya, A. T., Mr. Oluyole, K. A., Mrs Lawal, J. O., Mr. Oloyede A. A., Mr. Shittu, T. R. and Mr. Taiwo Olayinka. Dr. Olubamiwa represented the Ag. Executive Director.

The aim of the International collaboration is to have a bilateral agreement to research into sustainability of cocoa among the eight leading cocoa producing countries of the world. However, three programs were highlighted to examine the sustainability of cocoa in the world;

1. Workshop in Ghana
2. Working level conference in Cote d'Ivoire
3. Collating of results and areas of needs for International support from the Government of Germany

The working areas include;

1. Examine the different policies – local, state, federal, etc., on training, research and marketing of cocoa in Nigeria
2. Pricing structure of cocoa
3. Price fluctuation
4. Cocoa value chain structure in Nigeria

It was agreed that at the end of the exercise, there will be improvement in cocoa production in Nigeria. The next meeting was scheduled as a workshop sometime in March 2016 in Ghana.

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Kola

### Pesticide residue assessment and safety standards of cocoa beans in Nigeria.

In view of the action of European Union (EU) to reduce levels of pesticide residue and safety of food products, the need arose to:

1. carry out baseline studies on use, rate, timing and methods of pesticides application among farmers and warehouse agents,
2. assess pesticide residue limits vis-à-vis EU standard in ready-for-export cocoa beans in Nigeria and
3. assess heavy metal (lead and cadmium) contents vis-à-vis EU standards in ready-for-export cocoa beans in Nigeria.

On the whole, 12 local governments from 4 states in south-west (Ekiti, Ogun, Ondo and Osun States) were visited and 720 farmers were interviewed.

The information provided on the analyses of the cocoa beans (especially, if the limit are above standards) will help us design framework for training and sensitizing farmers on sustainable strategies for responsible pesticide application.

The training will eventually assist in re-orientating the farmers and boost the quality of cocoa produced in Nigeria, improve cocoa farmer livelihood and boost foreign exchange earnings.

### Compliance - CRIN and Treasury Single Account by Ag. Head Account & Finance Mr. Origbinde, O. O.

The Treasury Single Account (TSA) of the Federal Government is a policy of the Federal Government in trying to view all Federal Government funds at a glance.

Before the advent of TSA the Federal Government fund could not be tracked down easily and this was affecting the monetary policy and the cash in circulation.

Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria, prior to TSA, had over 20 different accounts both at the headquarters and the six substations and as at December 2015 all the fund balance had been transferred to the TSA at Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

Presently four (4) different accounts had been opened for the Institute on TSA at CBN but the Institute is yet to access the accounts in terms of drawing and this is having adverse effect on the different projects being implemented by the Institute.

### Determination of production potentials of coffee in Osun State

Coffee is one of the highly traded crop in the world market and globally the second consumed liquid after water. CRIN on the 29<sup>th</sup> Feb., and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 commenced a sensitization program among farmers in Osun State, to promote and encourage farmers to go back to production. The programme took place at Ijebu-Jesa town hall and FEG Agro Farms along Ijeda Road, Ijebu-Jesa. All Participants also visited some farms to know the status of coffee farming in the State.

Forty-two farmers were in attendance, drawn from groups such as; Cocoa Association of Nigeria (CAN), Sustainable Farmers Association (SUFA), Isoya Farmers Association, All Farmers Association (ALFAN) and Representatives from both Ministry of Agriculture and Osun State Agricultural Development. The Participants were made to understand the potentials in coffee production. Jointly, the farmers promised in different farm sizes, to cultivate 352ha as soon as this year's rain is established.



Mr. Seyi Adegbenbo representing the Director coordinating Agric. in State of Osun addressing the Participants



Participants standing in front of a coffee plant aged over fifty years

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News Extra



Tea



Coffee



Wines made from Tea leaves



CRIN Developed Product - GREEN TEA

Within the last three decades, the health effects of tea and its catechins have been documented. Research studies show evidence that catechins in tea have the potential to lower the risk of several chronic diseases. Now-a-days interest in the possible health benefits of catechins has increased owing to their antioxidant and free-radical scavenging abilities observed *in vitro*

. Green tea produced by CRIN has metamorphosed into different products due to changes in packaging. At the beginning, a transparent polythene film was used, later tea bags, then paper board and presently a colourful rectangular shaped paper board. The green tea has generated revenue for the Institute. The sugar reducing potential has been proven through research.

By: Dr. Aroyeun S. O. Ag. Head  
End-Use Research Depart.



A pack of CRIN GreenTea

Benefits of GreenTea to Health

- Decreases blood pressure
- Body fat reduction
- Cancer prevention
- Anti-oxidant
- Prevents tooth decay
- Anti-bacteria effect
- Anti-influenza
- Anti-hyperglycemic effect
- Bad breath prevention
- Increases alertness
- Prevents hang over effect
- Prevention of arteriosclerosis
- Maintenance of nighttime vision

Yes, I have a dream

Of a standard National Research Institute  
First; the best in Nigeria  
Second; one of the best in West Africa  
Third; well renowned in Africa  
Fourth; worthy of mention in the world

Yes, I have a dream

Of a beautiful CRIN  
Where the frontage is cute  
The inside is inviting  
The lawns and flowers are well kept  
The ambience, that of a haven

Yes, I have a dream

Of a CRIN whose ambience is peaceful  
Whose members of staff are fulfilled  
Where love and equity reign  
Where everyone is co-labourer  
A place of camaraderie

Yes, I have a dream

Of a CRIN with landmark discoveries  
Where new ideas crop up regularly  
Where each Scientist works innovatively  
Where solutions are found on our mandate crops  
A CRIN that is effectively executing her mandate

Yes, I have a dream

Of a CRIN with electricity supply 24/7  
Where water flows regularly in labs and staff quarters  
Where latest equipment dot the labs  
Where grants, fellowships, etc. abound  
A CRIN that is a landmark on earth

Olayiwola Olubamiwa, PhD

Mr. Ugioro Osas a Scientist in the Agronomy Dept. took former Miss Asowata to the altar in a Holy Matrimony in Church of God Mission, NIFOR Benin on 6<sup>th</sup> of Feb. 2016. It was well attended by Staff. We wish you Happy Married Life.



Mr. & Mrs Ugioro

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