



CRIN Herald

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF COCOA RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF NIGERIA (CRIN), IBADAN.

ISSUE: 07 (September, 2021)

ED Suggests How to Match Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire in Cocoa Production



- States how commodity boards will fund research, facilitate inputs
- Harps on reviving moribund cocoa processing firms, others

About 10 months into his five-year tenure, the Executive Director (ED) of Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), Ibadan, Dr. Patrick Adebola, spoke with a few journalists, expressing anger over neglect of the agricultural sector for decades, especially cash crop production and value chain development. To him, Nigeria has enough crop genetic resources, suitable land, and manpower to match and surpass Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire in cocoa production, apart from other crops like oil palm, cashew and kola nuts, Adebola also urges the government to commit more resources to agriculture as a veritable sector to trigger socio-economic development. The excerpts of the interviews, by Femi Ibirogba (Guardian), are as follows:

Cocoa, cashew, palm oil and groundnut were major revenue earners of the country. What is the place of cash crops in reviving Nigeria's economy now? We discovered oil and started neglecting other sectors of the economy, especially agriculture and most specifically, the tree crop. This subsector was known for great

foreign exchange earnings, but because oil money is easier, we neglected it. Crops like cocoa, cashew, coffee, kola, oil palm trees and some others have been known to be major foreign exchange earners. With the effect of climate change in the world, countries buying our oil are now trying to cut down on gas emission, and thereby cutting volume of oil they import. Producers, like Nigeria, now see a decline in revenue. I believe that if we promote these tree crops, we can reclaim our past sources of revenue for development.

It is planting time for tree crops. Which role is CRIN playing in making seedlings available, as improved seedling is the most important starting point?

Since my assumption of office, we have been supported by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to timely provide planting materials to farmers. Last year, we were supported to raise about 300,000 seedlings of cocoa and they were distributed to farmers. This year, we raised 500,000 seedlings and we are still in the process of distributing to beneficiaries. Most of the seedlings have been taken up and planted.

We distributed, free of charge, through Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs), state ministries of agriculture in all cocoa-producing states, farmers' cooperatives and some private individuals who came to CRIN.

Apart from these means, we now partner individuals and organisations to be licensed to reach farmers even more than what CRIN is doing. We are conducting training for them to become Cocoa Seedlings Entrepreneurs who will reach farmers even in remote areas. They will be selling, but at an affordable price.

There are so many adulterated varieties. How improved are these varieties? We have two categories of seedlings.



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About 10 years ago, CRIN produced high-yielding varieties termed TC1-8 series. These are very high-yielding and early-bearing materials. They start to produce pods 18 months to 2 years after seedling transplant on the field. The current production figure of an average cocoa farm is about 400-500kgs per hectare, but the new materials can produce 1500-2000kgs per hectare. So, these improved materials will have a great impact on productivity of farmers.

Apart from those attributes, it is recorded that their flavour is better than old varieties. So, farmers have been requesting these materials. Unfortunately, we have not even been able to satisfy all the requests because producing them involves manual pollination to get true-to-type varieties.

Are you also producing seedlings for cashew?

Cashew is a little bit more technical because when we raise seedlings and people do not come, it is difficult to give them the following year. They would have overgrown. We produce jumbo and Indian dwarf cashew seedlings on request by farmers. But the institute has the capacity to produce whatever number that the farmers are looking for.

Do you mean the demand for cocoa seedlings is greater than cashew?

It is greater than that of cashew. We get requests for cocoa seedlings almost every time, but requests for cashew seedlings are a little bit fewer.

By estimation, when will Nigeria close the production gap between it and Cote D'Ivoire/Ghana?

If you look at cocoa production in Cote d'Ivoire, for example, it is getting about two million tonnes yearly. Nigeria struggles with about 250,000 to 300,000 tonnes. In Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, the cocoa subsector is well regulated. Nigeria tends to have more

hectares than Cote d'Ivoire, but its production is higher than ours. Everything about cocoa in that country is well regulated.

Coming back to Nigeria, it is not about how many hectares we have, but about how productive the hectares are. Right now, we are between 400 and 500kgs per hectare, but we have to increase tonnage per hectare to at least 1000-1500kgs.



What does it take to increase cocoa productivity?

All moribund cocoa farms have to be rehabilitated: improve them and make them productive again. This can be done by pruning them, apart from replacing old varieties with new ones. Apart from that, good agricultural practices will get us maximum yield, and this can be done by intensive training of farmers.

One other way is by regulating agro-chemicals that we use on cocoa farms. In Nigeria now, every chemical comes in and farmers use it indiscriminately. This affects the quantity of cocoa we produce and the quality in term of pesticide residue. This leads to rejection of cocoa beans when we export. If the cocoa subsector is more regulated, these things will normalise.





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Lastly, we are just struggling with research funding, but we have scientists to carry out research on more improved varieties. However, there is poor funding. The government funding is not enough. This year, we have got a little bit better than what we were getting, but it is still a challenge.



As you said, some people have been calling for re-introduction of commodity boards. Do you think we need a cocoa board?

I think the biggest mistake we made was abolishing the cocoa board. There were allegations of corruption, but corruption could have been fixed without winding it down. If you look at Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, their cocoa sectors are doing well because the boards are in place. They regulate their cocoa subsectors. In Nigeria, there is no one-stop shop for cocoa subsector, and I think it is high time the government looked at not only cocoa, but also other commodity boards. They should be brought back.

When the commodity boards are brought back, certain percentage of what they make should be reinvested into research to relieve the government of the burden of exclusively funding research institutes. For example, in South Africa, about one per cent or so is

charged for research in crops like potato and others when they export or sell.

Cocoa processing firms in Nigeria have collapsed. Do you see a correlation between reviving the factories and productivity?

I think the best thing to do is to promote local consumption because we cannot continue to have a product which price is dictated by buyers. Nigeria has about 200 million people and we consume chocolate and beverages made from cocoa. Why don't we encourage local consumption? Nigeria is a huge market if we can start from primary schools. We can incorporate cocoa products into the school feeding programme. We know all the benefits of consuming cocoa-based beverages. If we start to encourage local consumption, the demand for cocoa will go up.

Since you assumed office about 10 months ago, what have you done to move the Institute forward?

Before I assumed office, there were crises in CRIN, and it was known for labour unrest. This reduced the gains of previous administrations. But since I came in, with the help of the CRIN Board Chairman, Alhaji Abdulahi Jao, and members, I have been able to unite stakeholders and brought stability to CRIN.

In terms of labour, the present management has been able to work hand-in-hand with all the three in-house labour unions and I think I have won their support.

Travelling and burial expenses, transfer allowances to substations and others, and entitlements of people who retired accumulated to more than 80 million Naira before I came. But I moved round, and with the help of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, we got some resources and we have cleared almost all the entitlements. This has





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really reduced tension: everybody really appreciates the effort. So, I started from 2017 and cleared all the backlogs owed to the staff. I have embarked on infrastructural facelifts. We are trying to rehabilitate. If you come here before, there was no toilet, but now, the directorates have been fully renovated. Our hall and the boardroom have been given a facelift.

Do you think this has boosted the morale of the workers?

The workers are very proud of CRIN now. I have been able to unify all various factions that were on ground when I came in.

Because of the crisis, the system broke into different factions, but now, my leadership style has been able to unify the factions.

One of the major items in my agenda is to revive the culture of research. Because of the crisis in the past, emphasis on research reduced, coupled with the fact that research funding also declined. Now, research activities have started coming up.

We are able to do that through change in leadership positions and reorganisation of various programmes, re-appointments of capable and knowledgeable leaders for research programmes. This has brought a lot of revival.

Also, we have been able to distribute the little fund among research divisions equitably. One of my policies is inclusion; everybody should be carried along in all the activities.

One of the things I do is focusing on infrastructure. There are complaints in terms of non-availability of research materials and equipment. So, since I came, as a matter of priority, I use a certain percentage of funds we get for equipping all our laboratories and these have been going on. We are also lucky with partnering with the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), for example, for the

establishment of a cocoa flavour laboratory, which is the best in West Africa for now. The effort has been ongoing from previous administrations, and when I came, I supported it.

What benefits will the flavour lab add to CRIN and the industry?

We thank WCF for the lab. Out of the four situated in West Africa, Nigeria's lab is adjudged the best. The other labs are in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon.

It is going to be a reference lab for cocoa flavours in Africa. You can bring your samples and we will test their flavours. This will help farmers to get premium prices for specific flavours of cocoa. The lab will also test all types of cocoa genotypes.

Any concern about child labour on cocoa plantations in Nigeria?

This issue has been raised several times. Some representatives of organisations come to CRIN to ask the same question. Unfortunately, we do not deal directly with the issue of farm labour. We know it exists, but we are concerned primarily about research and giving quality planting materials to farmers.

Child labour is best handled by the Ministry of Labour and Productivity. All that we can do is creating awareness.

Any need for an extension unit to interface with cocoa stakeholders concerning best farm labour practices?

We have been doing that anywhere we go for capacity building. Those are parts of the issues that we discuss with trainees. But it is good to make it formal if the government can create a department in an institute like CRIN.

[\(https://guardian.ng/features/agro-care/crin-boss-suggests-how-to-match-ghana-ivory-coast-in-cocoa/\)](https://guardian.ng/features/agro-care/crin-boss-suggests-how-to-match-ghana-ivory-coast-in-cocoa/)





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ARCN News

Promotion of ICPC Activities Through the Inauguration of ACTU in ARCN



As the saying goes 'Success has many friends', this was eloquently attested to by the good works of the ED CRIN within his short stint in the Institute. Little

wonder the Executive Secretary (ES), Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN), Professor Garba Hamidu Sharubutu mni, directed the Head, Protocol and Publicity, ARCN, Mr. Kayode Aiyedogbon, for a space in the CRIN Herald for the periodic showcase of the activities of ARCN.

According to Mr. Aiyedogbon, a high powered team from the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) led by Barrister Udofia paid an epoch making visit to the Council on August 17, 2021. The ES welcomed the August visitors and appreciated their visit. He put the Council's activities in perspective as well as highlights her modus operandi. He equally informed ICPC that the inauguration of Anti-Corruption Transparency Unit (ACTU) is geared towards promotion of the activities of the commission by his leadership. Prof Sharubutu reiterated that there are practically no activities being carried out in the Council without the input of ICPC including the recruitment of CEOs of NARIs and FCAs which is to the admiration of the Hon. Minister. The ES stated further that as committed Nigerians, they are determined to abide by the laws. In conclusion, the ES solicited for advice from ICPC in areas they

are prone to making mistakes. In his brief remark, the ARCNC ACTU chairman, Mr. Abdullahi Adamu appreciated the ES for his presentation and noted that they have uncovered all for ICPC to properly guide them. The Director for Research (DR) in ICPC, Barr. Udofia, in his remark expressed appreciation for all the works ES is doing in the council. He expressed shock and was overwhelmed with the developmental ongoing activities at the Council. Barr. Udofia counselled that ARCNC should endeavour to do more advocacies to the public, farmers' group and other government agencies. The DR opined that ICPC is not only about arrest but is saddled with basic functions such as enforcement, prevention of corruption, monitoring as well as advocacy. He thanked the ARCNC for receiving them and hopes they will have smooth working relationship. In his vote of thanks, the Director of Admin, ARCNC, Dr. Edeki John Enesi, on behalf of the ES and staff of the Council, expressed appreciation for the fruitful time and noted that the interface has been very effective. He declared that he was very impressed with the visit and honestly looked further to more of such while stating that as a Council, the ICPC will soon be using ARCNC as a model as they are determined to put to work all they have been told.



The Executive Director, Prof. Garba Hamidu Sharubutu (left) making presentations





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Interactive Session with CRIN Herald Editorial Members

The Executive Director, Dr. Patrick Adebola, had an interactive session with editors of CRIN Herald on August 2, 2021 in his office. This was geared towards appreciating the good works of the members as well as fine tune the quality of future issues. In his address, he eulogized the editorial members on their good works which has earned the Institute accolade within and outside the shores of Nigeria. Specifically, the Executive Director informed the members that the newsletter has so endeared the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARC�) that the Council has requested for a space for the showcase of her activities. Dr Adebola reaffirmed his commitment to the continuous infrastructural development of the Institute and announced more intervention to improve the welfare of staff. He further reiterated his desire to restore the Institute back as foremost research Institute in the country and beyond. The Executive Director urged the editorial members to keep up the good works. Responding, the Chairman of the Editorial Team, Dr S.B. Orisajo, profusely thanked the Executive Director for the opportunity given the members to contribute their quota to the development of the Institute. He, therefore, solicited for more support to enable the team perform more efficiently. Present at the meeting were the Executive Director, Dr. P.O. Adebola as the Editor-in-Chief, Dr. S.B. Orisajo, Dr. A.V. Oyedokun, Dr (Mrs) T.E. Ogunjobi, Dr. Osita Ibe and Mr. O.O. Ogunkua.



Participants at the inauguration of ARC� ACTU

The Executive Director (middle) and other Editorial Members





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Flavour Quality Lab. in Full Operation



In 2018, the World Cocoa Foundation/African Cocoa Initiative Phase II (WCF/ACI II) advertised the plan to give a grant for the establishment of the third Flavour Quality Laboratory (FQL) in Nigeria or Cameroon. The grant was to support the hosting country (Institution) by supplying the equipment and fund the training and activities of the laboratory for two years, while the host will provide adequate laboratory space. The proposal developed by Dr. Festus Olasupo, on behalf of the Institute, eventually met the requirements of WCF and the FQL was approved for CRIN. The WCF/ACI II played a key role in the establishment of the lab. by purchasing and shipping all the equipment needed to CRIN, while CRIN management also did good job by putting the laboratory space in a perfect shape to meet expected standard. The laboratory is now well furnished, equipped and a new 30KVA power generator has been procured and dedicated to the FQL to solve the problem of inadequate power supply. To kick-start the laboratory activities, a training program was organized by the WCF/ACI for capacity building of the FQL team and panelists at CRIN. This was conducted from June 21 to July 02, 2021 by the WCF FQL training consultant, Mrs. Dorine Kassi. Stakeholders in Nigeria cocoa industry were also invited to a meeting with WCF/ACI Chief of Party, Dr. Herve Daghela Bisseleua and CRIN Executive Director, Dr. Patrick Adebola, as

the chief host during the training. Nigeria FQL at CRIN, Ibadan is now in full operation.



Testing / Flavour Analysis Room



Panelists Training Session



Flavour Quality Analysis Session



Participants at the Cocoa Stakeholders' meeting with ED and WCF/ACI Chief of Party





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Withheld Deductions of Cooperative Societies, Union Dues and IGR Paid



The good works of the Executive Director, Dr. Adebola Patrick, came to the fore again as he successfully facilitated the payment of the deductions of the cooperative societies that was withheld for 15 months and 6 days. The Head, Finance and Accounts Department, Mr Oluwatoyin Sorinolu, who was one of the moving spirits behind the success of this great feat described the ED as God sent, very articulate, vibrant, unrelenting and proactive. According to Mr. Sorinolu, a cumulative sum of ₦23,071,756 was returned in full to the coffers of CRIN Cooperative Societies, Academic Staff Union of Research Institutions (ASURI), Senior Staff Association of Universities, Teaching Hospitals, Research Institutes and Associated Institutions (SSAUTHRIAI), Non Academic Staff Union (NASU), National Association of Professional Secretarial Staff of Nigeria (NAPSSON), Association of Agricultural Technologists of Nigeria (AATON) and the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). The jubilation over this rare feat reverberated throughout the Institute and was even felt by retirees all of whom were subjected to great hardship as access to severance allowance, loan and disbursement of dividends was hampered. As submitted by the Presidents of the Cooperative Societies, Mr Sunday Adekojo and Mr. Endurance Agbebaku, they have successfully used the returned deductions to pay up most of the outstanding loans and dividends. The President of CRIN Progressive Senior Staff Cooperative Society (CPSS), Mr Agbebaku, even went a step further to make purchase of bags of rice for her cooperators.



Mr Agbebaku, President CPSS Coop. Society

In the opinion of the President of CRIN



Cooperative Investment and Credit Society (CI&CS), Mr. Adekojo, the ED and his management staff are indeed the right peg in the right hole. The ED

was christened the messiah of CRIN as he is committed to making all staff happy. The elated executive of the cooperative society used the following acronym which was culled from the comments on the WhatsApp platform of the society to describe our indefatigable Executive Director, PATRICK ADEBOLA: **Performer, Agile, Timely, Reliable, Intelligent, Compassionate, Keeper of hope, Achiever, Dependable always, Energetic, Believer of great ideas, Onward, Lover of God and Always ready to help.**





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Business Men Prays for CRIN



As aptly captured by the holy writ “with God, all things are possible”. This was exemplified by the Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International (FGBMFI) for divine

intervention in the affairs of the Institute. The South West District of the fellowship ably led by her coordinator, Prof. Ranti Familoni, organized a 45-minutes prayer session for CRIN on August 17, 2021 at the Events Centre of the Institute. The erudite cleric, who doubles as the Head of Medicine of the Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ogun State offered fervent prayers to extricate the Institute from entanglements of principalities that precipitate stagnancy, low performance, abridged career and untimely deaths. The cleric prophetically decreed CRIN loosed and declared a celebrity and fulfilment of destiny. He pronounced celebration upon CRIN. In attendance were the Executive Director, Dr. Patrick Adebola, members of CRIN Management staff and members of FGBMI.



Hearty prayers by CRIN Management staff and FGBMFI Members

Staff of the Month: Mr. Oduntan Samson Olukunmi



Mr S.O. Oduntan was born on 5th September, 1973 to the family of Mr. and Mrs. J.O. Oduntan in the city of Ibadan, Oyo State. He attended Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN)

Staff School, Ibadan, Oyo State for his elementary education; Abbey Technical School Orita Challenge, Ibadan and Ogundele Community High School, Alaho for his post-elementary education. He also attended Government Technical College Ijebu-Igbo, Ogun State, where he obtained Diploma Certificate in Electrical and Electronics. He then proceeded to The Polytechnic Ibadan, where he obtained National Diploma (ND) in Electrical Engineering. He was employed as casual staff in electrical section in 1997 with Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) and was staffed as an Assistant Craftsman in 2001 in the same section. In 2009, he rose to the rank of Craftsman and subsequently to the rank of Assistant Technical Officer in 2011. He was converted to the rank of Higher Technical Officer in 2014. Presently, Mr. Oduntan is a Principal Technical Officer in the Electrical Section. He is currently the Supervising Officer of the Electrical Section and takes care of all the generators in the Institute. Mr. Samson Olukunmi Oduntan is a go-getter, dedicated and very dependable staff.



Familiarization Visit to Alayinre of Idi-Ayunre Palace

The Executive Director, Dr. Patrick Adebola, paid a familiarization visit to the palace of the paramount ruler of Idi-Ayunre, the royal father of the domain of the Institute, Oba Muritala Salami, on August 03, 2021. Being fully aware of the essentials of peaceful coexistence with the neighbouring communities, the ED had earlier paid similar visit to the Baale of Onipe and Alata. Dr Adebola, in the company of the Heads, Admin and Supplies and Account Department, Mr Onatunde Onanuga and Mr. Toyin Sorinolu, respectively, interacted with the traditional rulers on the ways to move the Institute forward. He solicited for their unflinching support towards the advancement of CRIN. He further promised to avail their subjects of employment opportunities with the Institute. The ED craved for their prayers. In response, the traditional ruler appreciated the ED for deeming it fit to extend hands of friendship to his community. He promised to collaborate and support the Institute especially in the areas of security. He offered royal blessings to the Executive Director and his entourage.



The Executive Director (3rd right) with the Alayinre of Idi-Ayunre (middle)

September Birthday Galore

Hearty birthday celebrations to the members of staff that will be celebrating their birthdays this month. Wishing you all the very best in your life endeavours. Congratulations!



Olayiwola Babatunde	01-September
Asein Uwaifo	02-September
Akoujabhole Salami	02-September
Oderinde Sunday	02-September
Umaihon Alaba	04-September
Oriloye Emmanuel O.	04-September
Oduntan Kunmi Samson	05-September
Ezeh Nicolas	05-September
Arutu Ademola Nurudeen	07-September
Ugiro Osasogie	09-September
Eno Innocent Eno	09-September
Kunnuola Seun	09-September
Adeleke Kazeem	09-September
Okeh John Ekechi	10-September
Adebowale Lateef Adewale	11-September
Akhidime Sunday Itua	13-September
Babafemi Ibitope Babajide	13-September





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Ogunbosoye Bolanle B.	13-September	Egbuta Daniel Chima	26-September
Akande Kunle	13-September	Adeogun Gbenga	27-September
Nwagala Charles	13-September	Adedokun Israel C.	27-September
Omogbeme Anselem O.	13-September	Mimiola Olufunke P.	28-September
Komolafe Kolade David	14-September	Akinyomide Oriola A.	28-September
Alalade Olukemi Latifat	14-September	Nwaifo Andrew I.	28-September
Adeleye Kehinde	14-September	Ibiyemi Adewale O.	28-September
Onifade Wasiu	14-September	Bello Saka Adedayo	28-September
Akosile Isaac Gbenga	15-September	Adejobi Kayode B.	29-September
Adekanbi Boajoko	16-September	Babaalola Eunice Adenike	29-September
Adebayo Kayode Adekunle	17-September	Olawore Abosede E.	29-September
Kayode Bukola Olayinka	18-September	Oghenegueke Gift	29-September
Tajudeen Toyin	20-September	Saheed Ademola	29-September
Oluayemi Oluwadamilola I.	20-September	Chila Njwe Fredrick	30-September
Ayoade Olufemi	20-September	Awe Jacob Ajayi	30-September
Amusa Lateef`	22-September	Ijadunola Funmilayo	30-September
Imasogie Michael Osagie	23-September	Adeyemo Joseph	30-September
Ogunsuyi Busuyi Adewumi	23-September		
Joda Eniola Mary	23-September		
Emeng Ele Eleng	23-September		
Lawal Justina Oluymisi	24-September		
Oyedokun Adegoke Victor	24-September		
Enosegbe Kelly Anthony	24-September		
Akhidime Mary Ozohu	25-September		
Akinrinola Akeem Kehinde	25-September		
Samuel Olusola	25-September		
Muyiwa Annah Abimbola	26-September		
Oladunmoye Akinola A.	26-September		
Olasoji Hannah Olufemi	26-September		
Ujunwa Ephraim I.	26-September		

