



ISSUE: 41 (July, 2024)

## Nigeria Moves to Meet EU's Regulation for Cocoa Export



With the December 2024 deadline fast approaching, the Nigerian government is hastening to meet the European Union's (EU) new regulations to ensure uninterrupted cocoa exports to Europe. The European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) is a regulation which prohibits products from entering the EU market unless they are deforestation-free and legally produced. The Regulation applies to wood, palm oil, soy, coffee, cocoa, rubber and cattle, as well as most of the derivatives. Under cocoa, it applies to beans, products and chocolate. The regulation entered into force on June 29, 2023, with an 18-month preparation period that will expire on December 30, 2024 when it fully enters into application.

The National Cocoa Management Committee (NCMC) convened critical stakeholders in cocoa sub-sector in Abuja to strategize how to boost Nigeria's cocoa production, and most importantly address the gaps to ensure the country complies with EU standards. The Committee serves as the regulatory body for all matters that concerns the cocoa sector. It

was inaugurated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and comprises of members that cut across all the sectors in the cocoa value chain.

Dr. Patrick Adebola, Executive Director (ED) of the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), is the Secretary of the Committee. He informed that the Government and all stakeholders are putting heads together on the EUDR, noting that if Nigeria does not comply with the standards, the country may no longer be able to export cocoa beans and products to Europe, which is the biggest market for the country. He expressed concerns that Nigeria exports about 70% of cocoa beans and failure to meet standards set will significantly impact the value chain.

"The key issue that we are discussing in this meeting is the issue of the EUDR regulation on our cocoa that will come into force in December this year. If we are found not to be compliant, it means our cocoa beans may not be accepted to be sold in European markets. That is the reason why we are putting our heads together to see how we can start to discuss compliance to EUDR", Dr. Adebola told journalists. He also informed that the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) is also providing support to enable Nigeria comply with the standards.

The ED CRIN and Secretary NCMC, however, decried that the EUDR is rather unfair and stringent, stressing that the EU did not consult widely with exporting countries before drafting such regulation.

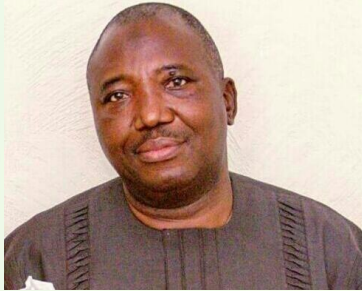
In addition to prohibiting cocoa harvested from deforested areas, Dr. Adebola said the regulation also prohibits cocoa planted and harvested through child labour, but said their definition of child labour may not apply to Nigerian context. He also wants the EU government to extend the time to





ensure proper preparation by exporting countries. According to him, only about 50% of the exporting countries will be able to comply with this stringent regulation before the deadline of December 2024.

Mr. Mufutau Abolarinwa, the National President of Cocoa Association of Nigeria (CAN), said the meeting also sought to explore ways to increase cocoa production, in addition to meeting set standards for



export. He decried that Nigeria still produces below 300,000 metric tons even though the country has up to 16 cocoa producing states, while prices of cocoa continue to rise globally. He urged Government to provide more incentives, particularly to subsidise expensive agrochemicals. He also wants governments to bring back the waiver on hydrocarbon-free jute bags which are necessary for export.

Speaking on the situation of cocoa for farmers, Mr. Adeola Adegoke, the National President, Cocoa Farmers Association of Nigeria (CFAN), opined that the cocoa prices have continued to excite farmers who are "now smiling to the bank", against previous years of poverty. He disclosed



that a ton of cocoa costs close to ₦11million per ton, which shows the potential for Nigeria to get the most desired foreign exchange, which can also be channel into local production. He stressed that Nigeria cannot afford to look away from cocoa and should invest more.

## IFC World Bank Sets to Partner with CRIN on Cocoa Sustainability



The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the commercial arm of the World Bank, team comprising of Mrs. Alicia Stephens and Dr. G. O. Oyediji were on a familiarization visit to the Institute on June 7, 2024. They were received by the CRIN Team led by Dr. S. O. Agbeniyi (Director, Research Operations), who represented the Executive Director, Dr. Patrick Adebola, in the company of Dr. M. O. Ogunlade (Director, Production and Substations) and Dr. S. B. Orisajo (Director, Programme Leader Cocoa).

The IFC Team Leader, Mrs. Alicia Stephens, stated that they were looking at the entire industry and their focus is on agriculture, manufacturing, telecommunications and renewable energies. She said that they were interested in investing in cocoa and supporting the entire market so as to have access to the external market. The team was still doing assessment of the cocoa industry and wanted to know the capacity of CRIN, whether the Institute support traceability and the support needed by the Institute.

In response to their enquiry, the CRIN Team informed the visitor that CRIN has the capacity of producing high yielding cocoa which fruits within 18 months. The Institute also has the capacity to train farmers on a large scale, but this is







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hindered by limited funds. CRIN is a consortium party of TRACE project, therefore supports traceability and also plays a significant role in keeping data for cocoa. To enhance the Institute's productivity, funds are needed for equipping of the Institute's Central Laboratory with latest equipment. The Institute also require funds for provision of dedicated power line to preserve biotechnological materials. The solar inverters cannot adequately power heavy equipment.

The IFC Team were glad with the awareness given by CRIN and stated that they were on a continued assessment for the support of the industry, and will connect CRIN to give a favourable feedback.

## Cross River State Committee Seeks Collaboration with CRIN



The Cross River State Committee on Cocoa, Coffee and Oil Palm Strategic Plan Development comprising of Prof. Susan Ohen (Chairman), Prof. Damian Agom, Dr. Assam Assam, Mr. Ekpe B. Bassey, Mr. Williams O. Ifere, Kenneth Asim Ittah and Ubana Ubi Bassey was on working visit to the Institute on June 25, 2024. They were received by the CRIN Team led by Dr. S. O. Agbeniyi (Director, Research Operations), who represented the Executive Director, Dr. Patrick Adebola, in the company of Dr. S. B. Orisajo (Director, Programme Leader Cocoa) and Dr. K. A. Oluyole (Assistant Director, Programme Leader Coffee).

The Chairman of the Committee, Prof. Susan Ohen, informed the meeting that the Governor of Cross River State has a drive for agricultural development and therefore constituted their committee to develop a strategic plan for cocoa, oil palm and coffee. She stated that a 7-year strategic plan is being made for cocoa and oil palm, while a roadmap for coffee will be developed. She added that their committee came for a visit of CRIN facilities, learn from CRIN experience, get data, interact and get information to use as a guide for the 7-year strategic plan in Cross River State.

In response, the CRIN Team informed the committee that Cross River State has the best soil for cocoa in Nigeria, and CRIN has the capacity of producing high yielding cocoa which fruits within 18 months that can be used to replace the old cocoa for more yielding result. The State was encouraged to go into cocoa expansion and rehabilitation, and do the value chain process rightly. *Coffea arabica* and *robusta* can do well in Cross River State, and this should be done holistically so that it can be sustainable. CRIN has the capacity to train the farmers and extension workers on the best practices for sustainable cocoa and coffee and is ready to go into partnership with the Cross River State and an MOU was suggested.



Dr. Agbeniyi presented information booklets on CRIN mandate crops and Cocoa CRIN TC 1-8 to the committee for more information that can be of help for their strategic plan.

The Committee was thereafter taken on a guided tour to the Cocoa Flavour Quality Laboratory, Value Added Research Laboratory and the Nursery.







The Committee at the Cocoa Flavour Quality Laboratory



The Committee at the CRIN Nursery

The Committee was very thankful for the opportunity given them to see CRIN facilities and were glad that CRIN is active and alive in performing its functions. They reiterated their intention to have an MOU with CRIN.

## In-house Seminar Held at CRIN

In keeping with the avowed commitment of the Executive Director, Dr. Patrick Adebola, to sharpen the research skills of the scientists of the Institute, an in-house seminar was held at the Institute on June 10, 2024. The papers titled: "Identifying Sweet Potato Varieties Using DNA Barcoding and RBIP Markers: Insights from a CV Raman Fellowship" and "Analysis of Food Insecurity Status and Coping Strategies among Cocoa Farming Households in Ondo State, Nigeria" were presented by Mr. Samsudeen Tomiwa Balogun and Dr. Olayinka Alfred Dada, respectively. The seminar was chaired by Dr. C.O. Jayeola (Director and Head End Use Research Programme). The seminar abstracts were as follows:

### Identifying Sweet Potato Varieties Using DNA Barcoding and RBIP Markers: Insights from a CV Raman Fellowship.

- Samsudeen Tomiwa Balogun



During his fellowship under the CV Raman Program at the Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI), India, he focused on enhancing the identification and

genetic analysis of sweet potato varieties using advanced molecular techniques. The research had two primary objectives: to achieve species discrimination in sweet potato diversities using DNA barcoding, and to conduct genetic diversity analysis and variety identification through retrotransposon-based insertion polymorphism (RBIP) markers. DNA barcoding involved amplifying and sequencing





specific genome regions, providing a precise method for species identification. Meanwhile, RBIP markers targeted retrotransposon insertion sites within the genome to detect polymorphisms indicative of genetic variation. The insights gained from this research on sweet potatoes are instrumental for future work on CRIN mandate crops. By applying DNA barcoding and RBIP marker techniques, the identification, genetic analysis, and breeding strategies for the mandate crops can be significantly improved. This aligns with CRIN's goals of enhancing crop diversity, resilience, and productivity, laying the groundwork for future studies aimed at advancing the genetic understanding and breeding of CRIN mandate crops.

## **Analysis of Food Insecurity Status and Coping Strategies among Cocoa Farming Households in Ondo State, Nigeria** - Dada, Olayinka Alfred



His study examined food insecurity status and coping strategies among cocoa farming households in Ondo State, Nigeria. There have been a lot of studies on food security but there has been a dearth of

knowledge on food insecurity, more especially, the coping strategies for food insecurity. Therefore, this study was designed to examine the extent of food insecurity and the coping strategies among cocoa farming households in the study area. Multi-stage random sampling technique was used to select the farmers for the study. The first stage was the purposive selection of three Local Government Areas (LGAs) from the State. Second stage was the random selection of 15 cocoa producing communities

from the three selected LGAs (the selection was proportionate to the number of cocoa producing communities in each LGA), while the third stage was the random selection of 400 cocoa farming households from all the selected communities. Data were collected with structured questionnaire and analysed using Descriptive Statistics, Food Security Index and Likert Ranking Scale. The socio-economic characteristics of cocoa farmers revealed that majority (73.8%) of the respondents were males while 84.2% of the cocoa farmers were formally educated with at least primary school education. Majority (93.7%) of the respondents had more than 10 years farming experience. The food security index showed that 55.0% of the respondents were food secured while 45.0% were food insecure indicating that the cocoa farming households in the study area were food secured. The mean daily per capita calorie consumption (Kcal) of food secured and food insecure households were 6.35 and 9.92, respectively. However, Coping Strategy Index (CSI) revealed that withdrawal from personal savings for food consumption and cutting down expenditures on non-food items were the most widely used strategies in mitigating food insecurity in the study area. The study recommends that loan at a low interest rate and inputs at subsidised rates should be made available to cocoa farmers in the study area in order to improve their productivity and further improve their food security status.



Cross section of seminar attendees







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## CRIN Scientists at MTP2 Sunyani, Ghana

The African Cashew Alliance (ACA), together with the Market Oriented Value Chain for Jobs and growth in the ECOWAS region (MOVE) formerly ComCashew, European Union (EU), Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) and the Cocoa Research Institute Ghana (CRIG) invited CRIN scientists to the second session of edition 18 of the Master Training Program (MTP2) for Cashew Value Chain Promotion which held from 27th to 31st May, 2024 at Tyco City Hotel, Sunyani, Ghana. The scientists were Drs Osita Ibe, Ogunsowo Akintobi and Mrs Orimoloye Philo Olotie. They were among 108 participants from 11 African countries sponsored by GIZ/MOVE. The leading objective of the training was good improved planting material development and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). At the second session, participants were exposed to cashew plantation establishment, cashew pests and diseases management, soft wood grafting technique, nursery management, sustainable development and climate mainstreaming, climate-smart planting material development, gender in cashew value chain and farm economics. There was also practical session on training needs analysis and. The participants embarked on field trip to Wenchi Agricultural station Sunyani for hands-on grafting training.



Indoor grafting session at the Tyco city hotel Sunyani



Outdoor Cashew grafting session at Wenchi Agricultural station, Sunyani



Scion collection by CRIN Staff



Scion garden at Wenchi Agricultural station





## Field Visits to CRIN

Staff and students of Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile Ife, Osun State paid field visit to the Institute on June 20 and June 27, 2024. The students and staff were warmly received by the staff of the Institute at the exquisitely furnished Lawrence Opeke Conference hall. They were addressed and afterwards ushered round to the nursery and developed technologies of the Institute.



Cross section of Students and Staff of Obafemi Awolowo University for June 20, 2024 field visit



Cross section of Students and Staff of Obafemi Awolowo University for June 27, 2024 field visit

## ARCN News

### Management and Staff of ARC� Fetes the Executive Secretary to a Surprise Birthday Celebration



In what was filled with pump and pageantry, the Management and Staff of Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARC�) on Wednesday June 19, 2024 celebrates the Executive Secretary (ES) of the Council on attaining his 63rd birthday amidst brief fanfare and merriment.

The ES expressed shock and noted that this is the first time he would be given this kind of surprise birthday celebration in his life. He further indicated that it is a call for him to do more and that for the rest of his time here he will continue to strive harder in terms of performance. Some selected Directors, Union representatives and Corp members showered praises on his record of achievements in the Council and prayed for a second term for him.



Presentation of gift to the ES







Cutting of the birthday cake by the ES with the staff



Group photograph with the ES

(ARCN report by Kayode I. Aiyedogbon, Acting Director, Administration)

## Health News

### High Cholesterol Diseases

– Mrs. Bosede Famaye



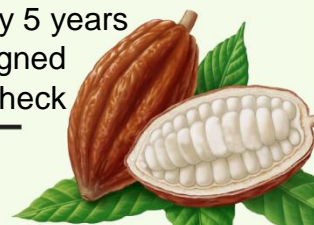
High cholesterol is closely linked with many other medical problems. That means it can cause some serious problems like coronary artery disease. But it can also happen as a result of other diseases, especially ones that trigger inflammation in

the body (like lupus). People with high cholesterol often develop high blood pressure

as well. This is a condition in which one have too many lipids (fats) in the blood. It's called hyperlipidemia or hypercholesterolemia. The body needs just the right amount of lipids to function. If one has too many lipids, the body can't use them all. The extra lipids start to build up in the arteries. They combine with other substances in the blood to form plaque (fatty deposits). This plaque might not cause any problems for years, but overtime, the plaque silently gets bigger and bigger within the arteries. This is why untreated high cholesterol is dangerous. Those extra lipids in the blood help make the plaque bigger without one even knowing it.

The only way to know if one has high cholesterol is through a blood test. A blood test called a **lipids panel**, tells one how many lipids are circulating in the blood. What is considered high cholesterol depends on age, sex and history of heart disease. There are several types of lipids. The main ones probably heard about are "good cholesterol". Good cholesterol is called high density lipo protein (HDL). Think of the "H" as meaning, "helpful". One's HDLs carry cholesterol to the liver. The liver keeps cholesterol levels balanced. It makes enough cholesterol to support the body needs and gets rid of the rest. One must have enough HDLS to carry cholesterol to your liver. If the HDLs are too low, one will have too much cholesterol circulating in the blood. Bad cholesterol is called low-density lipo protein (LDL). This is the culprit that makes plaque form in the arteries. Having too many LDLs can lead to heart disease over time.

High cholesterol can start in childhood or adolescence. That's why current guidelines suggest beginning screenings during childhood. Children and teens should get their cholesterol checked every 5 years starting at age 9. People assigned male at birth (AMAB) should check







their cholesterol checked every 5 years until age 45. From age 45 to 65, get checked every 1 to 2 years. After age 65 get checked every year. People assigned female at birth (PFAB) should get checked every 5 years until age 55. From age 55 to 65 get checked every 1 or 2 years. After age 65, get checked every year.

Lifestyle factors and genetics both play a role in causing high cholesterol. Smoking and tobacco lowers "good cholesterol" (HDL) and raises "bad cholesterol"(LDL). Being under a lot of stress triggers hormonal changes that cause the body to produce cholesterol. Drinking too much alcohol can raise your total cholesterol. Physical activity like aerobic exercise improves cholesterol numbers. If one has a desk job or sit a lot at free time, the body won't produce enough "good cholesterol". Some foods may raise or lower cholesterol. Sometimes healthcare providers will recommend dietary changes or a visit to a Nutritionist to discuss your diet. High cholesterol doesn't cause any symptoms for most people, but one won't start to feel any symptoms until the high cholesterol causes other problems in the body.

High cholesterol raises the risk of other medical conditions depending on which blood vessels are clogged. High cholesterol diseases includes:

- Coronary artery Disease (CAD) also called coronary heart disease (CHD) or Ischemic heart disease.
- Carotid artery disease.
- Peripheral artery disease (PAD)
- High blood pressure (Hypertension) and high cholesterol are linked. High blood pressure and high cholesterol are two of the biggest causes of heart disease. Medications from health care

provider can help a lot, but lifestyle changes can help those medications work at their best.

## Market Survey

### Price Report for June 2024

This report presents the local prices of cocoa and cashew in selected states for June 2024. Data were collected from various production areas within these states, and the average prices per state were computed for this report. There was a noticeable rise in cocoa prices in Osun, Kwara, Abia, and Edo States, while prices remained unchanged from the previous month in Cross River and Oyo States. However, Ondo State experienced a decrease in cocoa prices by about 9.5% compared to the previous month. The highest cocoa price (₦11,250) was recorded in Cross River, while the lowest price was recorded in Ondo and Kwara States.

COCOA COST PER KG (LOCAL PRICE)			
STATE	MINIMUM PRICE(₦)	MAXIMUM PRICE (₦)	AVERAGE PRICE (₦)
Cross River	11000	11500	11250
Osun	11000	11000	11000
Ondo	10500	10500	10500
Kwara	10500	10500	10500
Abia	11000	11000	11000
Edo	10500	11000	10750
Oyo	10500	11000	10750

Source: CRIN Survey, 2024 by Economics and Statistics Sections

In June, there was a general decline in cashew prices across all States except Kwara, where the price remained the same as the previous month. The







highest cashew prices for June were recorded in Enugu and Abia States, while the lowest prices were observed in Osun State, where the price of raw cashew nuts (RCN) fell by more than 15% from the previous month.

CASHEW COST PER KG (LOCAL PRICE)			
STATE	MINIMUM PRICE(₦)	MAXIMUM PRICE (₦)	AVERAGE PRICE (₦)
Osun	1000	1100	1050
Enugu	1200	1400	1300
Kwara	1100	1200	1150
Abia	1200	1400	1300
Kogi	1200	1300	1250
Oyo	1100	1200	1150

**Source:** CRIN Survey, 2024 by Economics and Statistics Sections

## Staff of the month: Mr. Solomon Oluremi Emmanuel



Mr. Solomon Oluremi Emmanuel was born on the 15th of May, 1984 in Ibadan, Oyo State. He is an indigene of Ona Ara Local Government Area in Oyo State. He attended

Islamic High School, Agugu, Ibadan and proceeded to Lagelu Grammar school, Ibadan from 1992 to 1997 and later St. Gabriel Grammar School Mokola, Ibadan where he obtained his Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE) result. In pursuit of his further academic career, he proceeded to Cooperative College Eleyele and bagged Diploma in Cooperative Studies and later to The Polytechnic Ibadan for National Diploma in Accounting. He attended Akwa Ibom State Polytechnic for Higher National Diploma in Accounting. Presently, he

is pursuing Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree in accounting in Ekiti State University.

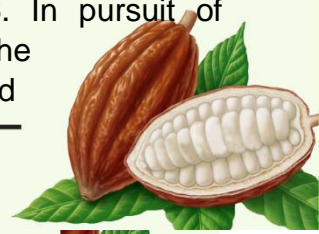
Mr. Solomon worked with the CRIN Cooperative Investment and Credit Society as Manager from 2003 to 2011. In December 28, 2011 he was employed by CRIN as an Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) and posted to the Audit Division. He was promoted from AEO cadre to Executive Officer and subsequently to Higher Executive Officer (HEO). He is presently a Senior Executive Officer. He enjoyed CRIN sponsored training from February 11 to 13, 2019 organised by CEDAR TREE enterprises on report writing and office communication improvement. He is happily married with children.

## Erstwhile CRIN NASU Chairperson Laid to Rest



The erstwhile Chairperson of the Non Academic Staff Union (NASU) CRIN Branch, Comrade Theresa "Tessy" Chioma Ele was laid to rest on Thursday June 13, 2024. The event was held at the Event Centre of the Institute. She was born in Ibadan on

October 21, 1973. She hailed from Umuochaneze, Ikeduru Local Government Area, Imo State. She was the second daughter of her family and her father served as prison official in Ibadan. She had her Primary Education in Owerri, Imo State and obtained her First School Leaving Certificate in July, 1985. She equally completed her secondary education in the same State and returned to Ibadan afterwards under the guidance of her eldest sister who doubled as her mother after the retirement of their father from active service in 1986. In pursuit of further studies, she attended the Polytechnic in Birnin-Kebbi and







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bagged Diploma in Statistics from the Institution in 1998. She proceeded further to the University of Ado-Ekiti and obtained Bachelor of Science in Economics/Statistics in 2010. She was employed by CRIN as a casual worker and forthwith appointed as an Assistant Statistical Officer on November 19, 1999 with the appointment confirmed on January 19, 2001. She passed unto glory on June 8, 2024 as Chief Statistical Officer.

The family of the deceased appreciated the Executive Director of the Institute, Dr. Patrick Adebola for his benevolence extended to Comrade Tessy even while on sick bed and the Management for the industrial harmony pervading the Institute.



Cross section of sympathisers at the funeral ceremony

## July 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!



Prayer session for the deceased family



Current NASU executives in pensive mood at the occasion

Pelemo Ademola	01-July
Akinpelu Ayodele Oladipo	01-July
Oluwole Segun	01-July
Ogundare Omolara Aduke	01-July
Akintoroye Johnson Akinyemi	01-July
Azeez Olawale	01-July
Etta Ntuiokwa	02-July
Ezebuio Promise Ulonnam	02-July
Emaku Eunice Bukky	02-July
Agbola Olufemi Omotunde	04-July







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Bolarinde Oluwafemi Joel	04-July	Onwudi Maria	19-July
Adeosun Janet Omolola	04-July	Olorunkalu Taye	20-July
Nmeregini Uwadiaru	04-July	Ajiboye Olugbenga Samuel	21-July
Enya Monday Edni	04-July	Effiong Ezekiel Effiong	21-July
Akhimienmhoan Sidney	06-July	Oyinlade Ayodele	21-July
Bakare Oluwarotimi	07-July	Famaye Amos Olatunde	22-July
Lawal Oluwafemi Esther	07-July	Onatunde-Onanuga Adesola O.	22-July
Moses Philipian	07-July	Anthony David	22-July
Bakare Opeyemi	08-July	Owemidu Martins	24-July
Odey Chinyere Florence	08-July	Nwaolise Alexander Atunche	26-July
Olorunleke Fidelia	08-July	Oselaye Joseph	26-July
Odeyemi Elizabeth F.	09-July	Akinola Bukola	26-July
Famaye Isaac	10-July	Adeyemo Regina Folasade	27-July
Philips Emmanuel Ovie	10-July	Olumini Olukemi Modupeola	27-July
Ajirotutu Sunday Mayowa	12-July	Modebei Timothy Somayina	27-July
Arere Sunday	12-July	Otuonye Azuka Henry	27-July
Durodoye Dauda	12-July	Agwimah Justina Adesua	28-July
Awodumila David Jimoh	13-July	Iyamu Ikechukwu	28-July
Olaleye Folasade	13-July	Adesakin Alice Olubunmi	30-July
Adebowale Babasola Agboola	15-July	Oghenegueke Victor	31-July
Otitoloju Omosalewa Oluwaseun	15-July		
Isiyaku Alhaji Musa	15-July		
Muraina Lukman	15-July		
Azeez Kafayat	16-July		
Salawu Adetunji	16-July		
Emaku Mary	17-July		
Adewunmi Abigael Olawumi	17-July		
Adedeji Kehinde	17-July		
Udoh Nathaniel Effiong	18-July		
Ola Olutola Stephen	19-July		
Abass Saheed Temilade	19-July		
Sulaimon Feyisetan O.	19-July		

