



CRIN Herald

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

ISSUE: 50 (April, 2025)

CRIN Signed MOU with Landmark University, Omu-Aran



In an epoch making event, the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Landmark University, Omu-Aran, Kwara State on 24 March, 2025. The CRIN Team, led by the Executive Director, Dr. Patrick Adebola, comprised of Dr. S.O. Agbeniyi (Director, Research Operations), Dr. M.O. Ogunlade (Director, Production and Substations), Dr. S.B. Orisajo (Director and Head, Cocoa Programme) and Dr. A.A. Muyiwa (Director, Crop Improvement). The Landmark University (LMU) Team was led by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kolawole Ajanaku, with the principal officers of the University in attendance.



The CRIN-LMU partnership is to facilitate collaboration on tree crops, grants and proposals writing, advance research and

development, and provide educational experiences along with staff and student exchange. The collaboration shall cover, but not be limited to, the following areas: Supporting LMU research within CRIN's mandate areas and providing access to research facilities; Organizing periodic joint workshops between LMU and CRIN; Establishing national and international linkages with relevant institutions for mutual benefits, including sabbatical opportunities, staff and students training, grant applications and international conferences; Providing industrial attachment opportunities for LMU students; Promoting and popularizing the mass production of CRIN mandate crops (Cocoa, Coffee, Cashew and Kola); Organizing virtual and physical training programs for farmers in Landmark University neighbouring Communities and other interested farmers; Facilitating research exhibitions at LMU to promote CRIN products; and Establishing Nursery for seedlings production in Landmark University amongst others.

Endorsement of this MoU is another landmark achievement by the ED CRIN, Dr. Patrick Adebola.



Display of the signed MoU by the ED CRIN and VC LMU with Dr. Sunday Agbeniyi (CRIN, extreme right) and Prof. Stephen Abolusoro (LMU Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences, extreme left) as witnesses.





CRIN Herald

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



Souvenir to the ED CRIN (left) by the VC LMU (right)



Group photograph after the event

CRIN Hosts 2025 Farmers' Field Day

The Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) hosted its Annual Farmers Field Day on 27 February, 2025 at the Institute's premises.



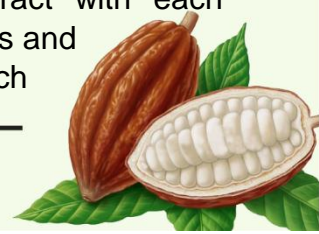
In his welcome remark, the ED CRIN, Dr. Patrick Adebola stated that the interactive event was organised to educate and empower farmers on modern best agricultural practices, notably on Cocoa, Cashew, Coffee, Kola, and Tea

production. The event served as a platform for knowledge exchange between the researchers, extension workers and the famers.

Experts from CRIN and other partner organisations provided guidance and support to farmers, addressing their specific needs and concerns. The event also provided a platform for farmers to interact with each other, shared their experiences and challenges, and learn from each



Field visit to LMU farm





CRIN Herald

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

other's best practices. The annual Farmers Field Day is a key component of CRIN's extension services, aimed at promoting sustainable and improving the livelihoods of farmers. The event demonstrates CRIN's commitment to its mandate of conducting research. It was well attended by members of the Institute's Management Committee, representative of the Oyo State Commissioner for Agriculture, fellow research institutes, private sectors, and the famers from various communities.

successful Farmers' Field Day next year as part of its efforts to promote agricultural development and improve the livelihoods of farmers.



Cross section of dignitaries



Exhibition stands at the event



Cultural display

Considering the success of this year's event, the Institute looks forward to hosting another





CRIN Herald

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

CRIN Commemorates the International Women's Day



INTERNATIONAL Women's Day

Today we celebrate the strength, courage and resilience of women around the world. Keep shining!

#Accelerate Action



Dr Patrick Adebola
Executive Director, CRIN



International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on the 8th of March annually, commemorating women's fight for equality and liberation along with the women's rights movement. International Women's Day gives focus to issues such as reproductive rights, gender equality, violence and abuse against women. In commemoration of this event, the Gender Unit of the Institute chaired by Dr. C.O. Jayeola, Director and Head, End Use Research Programme, organised a program tagged "Accelerate Action" on March 23, 2025 in the Institute.



The occasion which attracted Directors, Heads of Departments and Programmes had in attendance Dr. A.O. Famaye, Director,

Budget, Monitoring and Evaluation, who ably represented the Executive Director of the Institute. The speakers at the occasion took turn to enlighten the participants on the difference between gender and sex as well as the need to raise good husbands for tomorrow's wives. The females were also admonished to lay good examples and do the best because there is gain in hard works. All should do their best to be at the top of their profession.



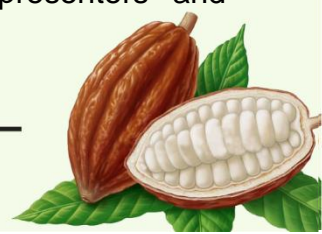
Group photograph with the participants

CRIN Holds In-house Seminar

The second in the series of the 2025 monthly seminar was held on March 10, 2025 at the Lawrence Opeke Conference Hall of the Institute. The program featured presentations from Mr. Paul Babatunde and Mr. Toyin Sorinolu of Crop Improvement Division and Finance and Accounts Department, respectively. The seminar was chaired by Dr. L.E. Yahaya, Director/Ag. Head Training.



The Chairman of the seminar, Dr. L.E. Yahaya (middle) with the presenters and rapporteurs





CRIN

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Herald

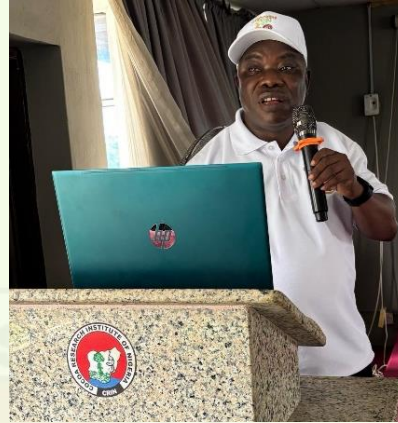
Genotyping Using KASP (Kompetitive Allele Specific PCR) Markers for Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus (TYLCV): Research Experience from the InteRussia Fellowship at Skoltech - Babatunde Olaitan P.



As part of the InteRussia fellowship at the AgroTechnology Laboratory in Skoltech, Moscow, Mr. Olaitan Babatunde focused on leveraging molecular tools to tackle Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus (TYLCV), a devastating begomovirus in the

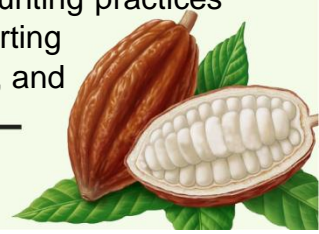
Geminiviridae family that threatens global tomato production with yield losses of up to 100%. Out of the many ongoing research areas, his work centered on using Kompetitive Allele Specific PCR (KASP) markers for TYLCV resistance genotyping, to accelerate marker-assisted selection in breeding programs. The research involved screening 30 tomato accessions, including known TY1-resistant varieties. Genomic DNA was extracted, quantified, and genotyped using KASP assays on a real-time PCR platform. The results precisely distinguished resistant and susceptible genotypes, validating the robustness of KASP technology for rapid and reliable genotypic analysis. This work demonstrated the potential of high-throughput genotyping and advanced molecular tools as invaluable assets for ongoing and future research on CRIN mandate crops. It directly supported the Institute's mission to enhance crop resilience, address breeding bottlenecks, and drive sustainable agricultural productivity, laying a solid foundation for future research to advance the genetic improvement of our mandate crops.

Accountants' Code of Ethics - Five Principles - Sorinolu Oluwatoyin



Mr. Sorinolu outlined the fundamental ethical principles that guide professional accountants, as defined by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). His presentation emphasised five core principles:

Integrity, Objectivity, Professional Competence and Due Care, Confidentiality, and Professional Behaviour. He opined that Accountant Code of Ethics serves as a fundamental framework guiding professional accountants in their conduct, decision-making, and responsibilities. It ensures integrity, objectivity, confidentiality, and professionalism, fostering trust in financial reporting and corporate governance. This ethical framework is critical in preventing financial misconduct, promoting transparency, and upholding public interest. The core principles of the Accountant Code of Ethics, as established by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) under the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), includes integrity, objectivity, Professional Competence and Due Care, Confidentiality, Professional and Behaviour. The code also addresses ethical threats such as self-interest, self-review, advocacy, familiarity, and intimidation threats. To mitigate these risks, accountants must apply conceptual safeguards, including professional scepticism, independence, and transparency in financial dealings. In the corporate sector, ethical accounting practices are essential for financial reporting accuracy, investor confidence, and





CRIN Herald

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

regulatory compliance. Ethical failures underscore the importance of a strong ethical foundation. Consequently, various national accounting bodies enforce strict ethical guidelines. In conclusion, Mr. Sorinolu stated that Accountant Code of Ethics plays a crucial role in safeguarding financial integrity and accountability. Adherence to these ethical principles ensures that accountants act in the best interest of stakeholders, uphold public trust, and contribute to the stability of financial integrity.



Cross section of participants

CRIN Participated in First PILA Multi-Stakeholder's Workshop in Calabar

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is supporting the government of Nigeria to implement a Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Food System, Land Use and Restoration – Impact Program (FOLUR-IP) project aiming to promote Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) and sustainable cocoa and palm oil value chains in the Niger Delta (Cross River and Ondo States). To this end, FAO is deploying its specially developed Participatory Informed Landscape Approach (PILA) and tools for geospatial, restoration opportunity and agroecology transition assessment tools to inform stakeholders' collective decision-making and ILM planning. The goal is to accelerate landscape-level transformations of food systems to achieve global environmental benefits while ensuring sustainable livelihoods and food security in the country.

As part of the PILA approach, the first multi-stakeholder's workshop aiming to bring together important stakeholders in the cocoa and palm oil value chains was held between 17 and 20 March, 2025. Having been identified as a critical stakeholder, the Institute was invited and represented by Dr. S.B. Orisajo (Director and Cocoa Programme Leader) and Dr. A.O. Akinpelu (Head of Station, CRIN Ajassor Substation). The stakeholders' workshop featured high-level policy dialogues, technical presentations, and participatory visioning to support collective decision-making for a resilient and productive landscape in Cross River and Ondo States. The Institute's participation was crucial in shaping discussions on sustainable cocoa and palm oil value-chains, policy dialogue, and compliance with the EU's Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products (EUDR) in Nigeria.





CRIN Herald

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



Dr. Orisajo presented a paper on Climate-Smart Cocoa Production which is a key to increasing productivity, livelihoods and food security, while increasing climate resilience, and contributing to greenhouse gas mitigation. He emphasised on the need for the farmers to embrace best agricultural practices to ensure sustainable cocoa production.

The summary of the workshop included: Cross River and Ondo States (pilot States) regarded as key states for biodiversity, forestry and sustainable agriculture in the Niger Delta Region with opportunities to reverse the current trend of deforestation and degradation through restoration activities, especially planting trees; Climate Smart Practices are key to increasing productivity, livelihoods and food security, while increasing resilience, and contributing to greenhouse gas mitigation where possible; There are needs for economic incentives for farmers to integrate other trees into their cocoa and oil palm plantations; A solutions-focused approach calls for policy alignment across various sectors, including Forestry, Agriculture and the Environment; The

Agroecological Performance Evaluation (TAPE) results showed that more advanced agroecological farms correlate with higher levels of women and youth empowerment, food security, dietary diversity, agrobiodiversity, and income perception; The Economics of Ecosystem Restoration (TEER) was used to collect and collate quality local data on the costs and benefits of different restoration options; European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) might negatively impact livelihoods of small-scale cocoa and oil palm farmers, if they are not assisted to comply. Many farmers are just becoming aware of what EUDR is about, thus giving them little time to adapt; Collaboration of farmer associations and government is necessary to provide capacity support to farmers and disseminate information. It is pertinent to note that CRIN was well represented in all the sessions allotted for participations.



Dr. S.B. Orisajo and Dr. O.A. Akinpelu represented CRIN at the event





CRIN Herald

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



- 1st FAO PILA MSP Workshop
- Family Photograph
- Calabar, Nigeria

Installation of two Grade 1 Tokunbo Engine in CRIN Hilux Vehicles

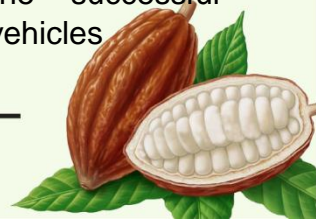


On March 14, 2025, it was indeed a remarkable and unforgettable day in CRIN Uhonmora Substation as the Executive Director, Dr. Patrick Adebola approved the purchase of two Grade1 Tokunbo engines for two utility Hilux vehicles that had engine problems and were packed at Uhonmora Substation after futile efforts to repair them.

The installation and general repair of the two vehicles was achieved by a set of experts from Ibadan within three days of rigorous efforts.



The Head of Station, CRIN Uhonmora Substation, Dr. Solomon Adebisi (middle) and other CRIN staff after the successful installation and repairs of the vehicles





Excursion to the Institute

Students of the Faculty of Agriculture, Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife were in the Institute on Thursday, March 13, 2025 for an excursion. The exercise which attracted a total of 587 300 level students is a prerequisite to their transition to 400 level academic pursuit in the citadel of learning. They were accompanied by the staff of the Institution who paid courtesy call to the Executive Director of the Institute ably represented by Dr. A.O. Famaye, Director, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation. The scientists of the Extension Division took turns to acquaint the visitors with the Institute mandates and technologies.



Cross section of teeming students from the Institution



Group photograph with some of the Institute's Management staff



Exposure to the Institute's technologies



Students with Extension staff at coffee plot

Finance and Accounts Department Organises End of Year Get together

The Finance and Accounts (F&A) Department of the Institute organised end of the year get together for her staff on February 11, 2025. The program, which was held at the Lawrence Opeke Conference Hall, was well attended by the staff who were beautifully clad in the branded

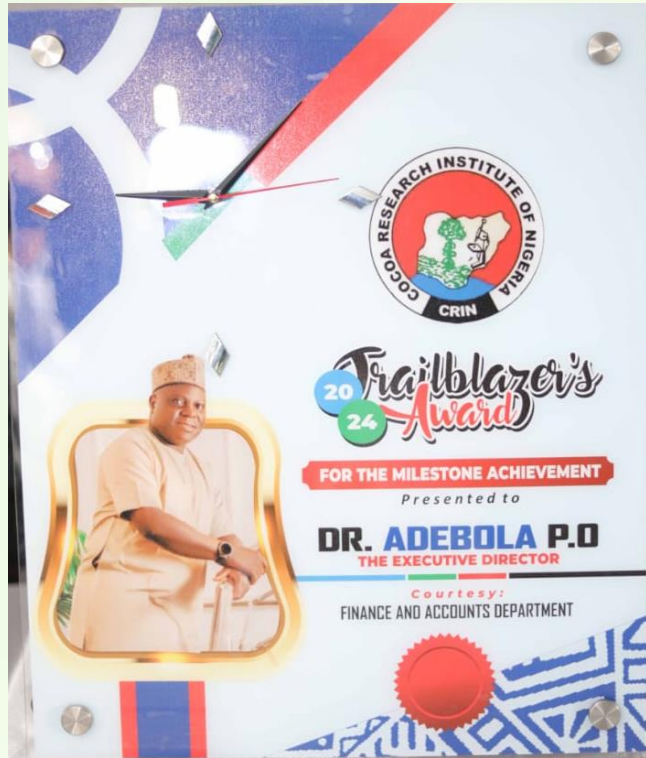




CRIN Herald

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

asoebi. The amiable Head of the Department, Mr. Oluwatoyin Sorinolu seized the occasion to present gifts to deserving staff. The Executive Director of the Institute was equally presented with trailblazer's award for his milestone achievement.



Mr. Sorinolu bagged outstanding award as a great leader.



The Directors of Budget, Planning and Monitoring, Research Outreach, Cocoa Programme, Admin and supplies as well as

Heads of Audit, Information and Documentation also graced the occasion.

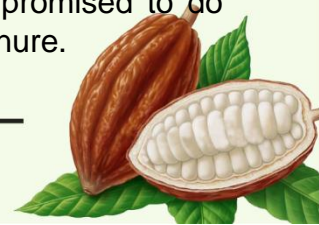


Group photograph of F&A Department

End of Year/Valentine's Party by I&D



The Information and Documentation (I&D) Department of the Institute hosted the Executive Director, Dr. Patrick Adebola, to a memorable End of Year/Valentine's Party on February 14, 2025. The event, which was held at the newly renovated Institute's Library, kicked off with opening prayers, followed by opening remarks from Dr. T.E. Ogunjobi (Head of Department), who appreciated the Executive Director for his support, particularly the swift renovation of the Library. The Executive Director expressed gratitude to the Department for their contributions to the Institute's growth and success, especially during the CRIN anniversary celebrations. He promised to do more before completing his tenure.





CRIN Herald

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

The party was filled with exciting activities. It was a wonderful opportunity to bond and celebrate the department's achievements.



Group photograph with the Executive Director

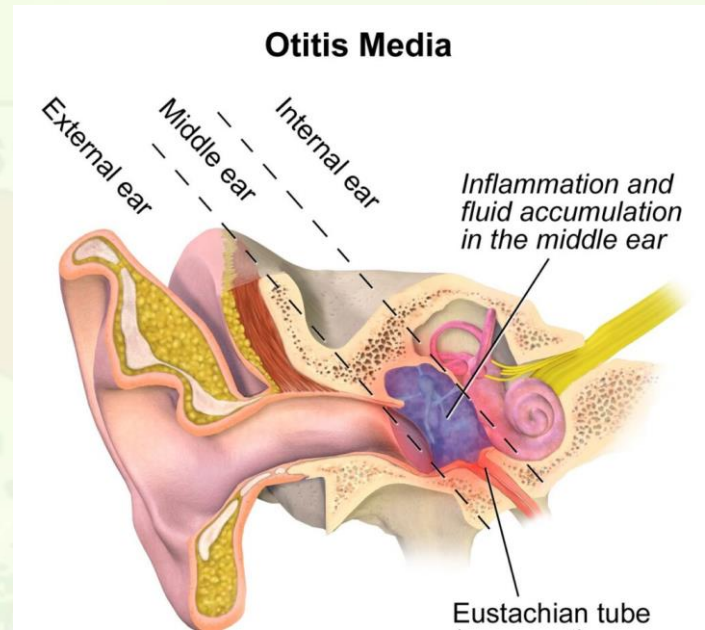
Health News

Otitis Media – Mrs. Bosede Famaye



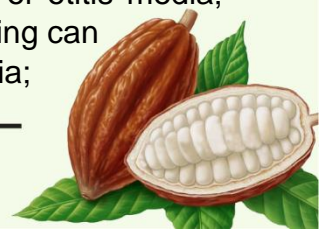
Otitis media, also known as middle ear infection, is a bacterial or viral infection that affects the middle ear, which is the air-filled space behind the eardrum. The middle ear contains three tiny bones called ossicles that transmit sound vibrations to the inner ear. The causes include: (i) Bacterial infections: Streptococcus pneumonia, hemophilus influenzae, and moraxella catarrhalis are the most common bacteria causes; (ii) Viral infections: Respiratory viruses like the common cold, flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) can cause otitis media; (iii) Eustachian tube dysfunction: The Eustachian tube connects the middle ear to the back of the throat. If it

doesn't function properly, bacteria and viruses can enter the middle ear and cause infection; (iv) Allergies: Allergies can cause Eustachian tube dysfunction and increase the risk of otitis media; and (v) Anatomical issues: A short Eustachian tube or a blockage in the nasal passages can increase the risk of otitis media.



Signs and symptoms of the infection include: (i) Ear pain: Sharp or dull pain in the ear, which can be severe; (ii) Fever: Temperature above 100.4°F (38°C); (iii) Discharge: Yellow, brown or green discharges from the ear; (iv) Hearing loss: Feeling of fullness or pressure in the ear; (v) Loss of appetite: Decreased appetite due to ear pain or discomfort; (vi) Irritability: Fussiness or irritability in children; and Trouble sleeping.

Prevention of Otitis Media include: (i) Vaccination: get vaccinated against flu, pneumococcal disease; (ii) Practicing good hygiene: Wash hands frequently, especially during cold and flu season; (iii) Avoiding secondhand smoke: Exposure to secondhand smoke can increase the risk of otitis media; (iv) Breastfeeding: Breastfeeding can help protect against otitis media;





CRIN Herald

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

and Avoiding breast feeding in bed. It can increase the risk of otitis media.

Treatment of Otitis Media involves the use of antibiotics, pain reliever and eardrop. In rare cases, surgery may be necessary to repair damage to the middle ear or to remove infected tissue. It is essential to seek medical attention if symptoms persist or worsen overtime. Early treatment can help prevent complications and promote optimal hearing and ear health.

Market Survey

Price Report for March 2025

This report gives the analysis of cocoa and cashew prices across selected states in March 2025. Data were collected from various cocoa and cashew producing areas within the states, and average prices were calculated accordingly. In this month, Cocoa prices declined across all surveyed states. Abia State experienced the most significant drop, with prices decreasing by approximately 34.0% compared to the previous month, followed closely by Kwara State, where prices fell by 33.0%. Despite the overall decline, Cross River State recorded the highest average cocoa price at ₦10,000, while Abia State had the lowest at ₦7,250.

Similarly, cashew prices also declined in March across all states except Osun, where prices remained unchanged. Oyo State recorded the steepest drop, with prices falling by approximately 18.0%. The highest average cashew price was ₦1,475 per kg in Oyo State, while Kwara State reported the lowest at ₦1,000 per kg.

This price drop being experienced may be as a result of the glut in the market, the Raw Cashew Nuts are everywhere now. This current scenario follows the law of demand and supply which affects market price of commodities anywhere in the world.

COCOA COST PER KG (LOCAL PRICE), March 2025			
State	Minimum price(₦)	Maximum price(₦)	Average price(₦)
Abia	7000	7500	7250
CrossRiver	10000	10000	10000
Kogi	9000	9500	9250
Kwara	9000	9000	9000
Ondo	9000	9500	9250
Osun	9000	10000	9500
Oyo	9000	10000	9500

Source: CRIN Survey, 2025
Economics and Statistics Sections

CASHEW COST PER KG (LOCAL PRICE), March, 2025			
State	Minimum Price(₦)	Maximum Price(₦)	Average Price(₦)
Abia	1200	1300	1250
Enugu	1400	1500	1450
Kogi	1100	1200	1150
Kwara	1000	1000	1000
Osun	1100	1200	1150
Oyo	1450	1500	1475

Source: CRIN Survey, 2025
Economics and Statistics Sections





CRIN Herald

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

Staff of the Month



Mr. Endurance Agbebaku was born in the year October 1978 to the family of Mr. and Mrs Agbebaku. He is a native of Ora in Edo State. He completed his primary school in 1987 at Army Children's School, Kaduna and

commenced his secondary school in the year 1990 to 1995 at Holy Trinity Secondary School at Sabogidda Ora of Owan West of Edo State, Nigeria. He obtained Teacher's Grade 11 Certificate in the year 1997 and proceeded to University of Benin where he obtained Diploma certificate in Agricultural Economics and Extension from 1998 to 1999, and bagged HND in Agricultural Extension and Farm Management in the year 2002. He also did National Youth Service Corp at Jigawa, where he was posted to Government Unity Secondary School, Ringim in Jigawa State. During his service year, he was awarded the NYSC and Jigawa State second best corps member certificate in the state. In the year 2013, he bagged Masters degree in Social Work with specialization in Community Extension and Rural development at Ladoke Akintola University, Ogbomoso, Oyo State. On April 7, 2008, he was employed as Agricultural Superintendent and was converted to Research Officer cadre in 2015. At present, he is a Principal Research Officer in the Economics and Extension Department. Currently, he holds the office of the Coordinator Security (CSO) in the institute. The role he is performing excellently well.

April 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!



Emmanuel Tolulope Angela	01-Apr
Gbalajobi Kehinde	01-Apr
Olabiyi Bosede Mojisola	01-Apr
Adekoya Olaoluwa Adebayo	02-Apr
Adesoji Ronke	02-Apr
Bakare Adeyemi	02-Apr
Patrick Caroline	02-Apr
Adewuyi Kazeem	03-Apr
Adeyemi Ayoade	03-Apr
Fawusi Oluwatobi Amoo	03-Apr
Rabiu Akeem Adekunle	03-Apr
Abubakar Ibrahim	04-Apr
Ariyibi Esther Olayemi	04-Apr
Bakare Mary Abike	04-Apr
Farinola Patrick Adekunle	04-Apr
Mejabi Taofeek	05-Apr
Duruaku Ogochukwu Maureen	06-Apr
Gimba David Augustine	06-Apr
Ishola Ropo	07-Apr
Ismaila Tajudeen	07-Apr

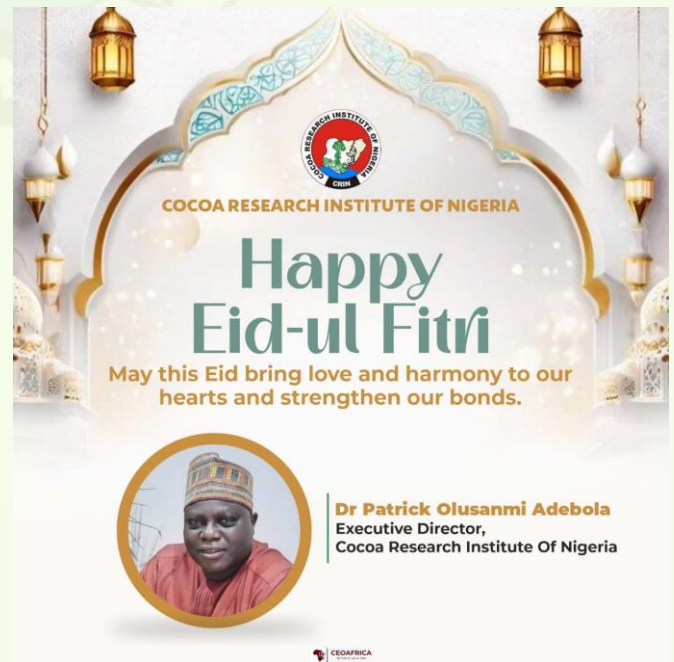




CRIN Herald

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

Ajinisi Mary Oluwaponmile	08-Apr	Ademola Sunday	24-Apr
Isaac Emmanuel	08-Apr	Lawal Kafayat	24-Apr
Adebayo Olusola	09-Apr	Nweke Paul Chukwu	24-Apr
Isong Ekama Blessing	09-Apr	Samuel Ladi Esther	24-Apr
Okontah Kehinde	09-Apr	Babalola Remi	25-Apr
Adelehin Adelowo	10-Apr	Oyawale Muniru Babatunde	25-Apr
Agbongiarhuoyi Eghe Anthony	10-Apr	Babatunde Adeyinka Sherifat	26-Apr
Akinsola Kabir	10-Apr	Dahiru Adamu Tanko	26-Apr
Onifade Adebisi	10-Apr	Edeh Tochukwu	26-Apr
Akinola Wasiu	11-Apr	Onyemachi Oyinyechi Fidelia	26-Apr
Ehidiamen Joseph	11-Apr	Akinrelere Oluwakemi Abosedede	27-Apr
Alawode Suleman Adewale	12-Apr	Ifidon Ikhusho	27-Apr
Olaniyan Oluyemi	12-Apr	Agbebaku Halima Caroline	28-Apr
Oyekunle Emmanuel	13-Apr	Matthews Dare Feyisayo	28-Apr
Adewoye Gabriel Adebowale	14-Apr	Wakaps Francis John	28-Apr
Lawal Dorcas Oyinyechi	15-Apr	Oyinlade Folake Banke	28-Apr
Okpanachi Nda	15-Apr	Ikokoh Loveth Ufuoma	29-Apr
Abdullahi Olasunkanmi	17-Apr	Amosu Sunday	29-Apr
Anijese Funmilayo	17-Apr	Salami Kamoru	29-Apr
Huseini Usman Dang	17-Apr	Ola Olanike	30-Apr
Olorunbami Nike	17-Apr	Sekoni Olaide Sakirat	30-Apr
Adeyanju Kehinde Hussain	18-Apr		
Ibitoye Folake	18-Apr		
Ogunde Oluwatosin Ajoke	18-Apr		
Adebayo Titilope	19-Apr		
Ojo Olawale	19-Apr		
Ologunwa Tope C.	19-Apr		
Adeyemo Samuel Ayanfe	20-Apr		
Ajewole Bamidele	20-Apr		
Akinyode Olubisi Emily	20-Apr		
Aransi Ramoni	20-Apr		
Idowu Omoleke	20-Apr		
Oni Nike	20-Apr		
Agboola Lydia Ololade	21-Apr		
Fadahunsi Fatai Salami	22-Apr		
Imade Charles Osa	22-Apr		
Ojewale Oluwafemi Ezekiel	22-Apr		



Dr Patrick Olusanmi Adebola
Executive Director,
Cocoa Research Institute Of Nigeria

