

ISSUE: 53 (July, 2025)

CRIN Gets Governing Board Chairman



In a significant move to strengthen agricultural research and development, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, has appointed Chief Yemi Sanusi, Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ogun State, as the new Governing Board Chairman of the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), Ibadan. Chief Sanusi was officially inaugurated on May 13, 2025 in Abuja alongside other Chairmen designated to lead various agricultural research institutes and agencies across the country.

The Executive Director (ED) of CRIN, Dr. Patrick Adebola welcomed the Governing Board (GB) Chairman, Chief Yemi Sanusi to the Institute on June 3, 2025 when he was on an introductory visit to the Management of

CRIN. The ED noted that the strategic appointment of Chief Sanusi underscores President Tinubu's commitment to leveraging experienced political leaders in driving innovation and growth in Nigeria's agricultural sector. He enjoined the Chairman to use his numerous connections and influence to garner the needed funds to drive research and infrastructural development in the Institute.

In his address, the GB Chairman, Chief Yemi Sanusi, stated that he is set to provide leadership, strategic direction, and oversight in the fulfilment of CRIN's mission to ensure that Cocoa, Cashew, Coffee, Kola and Tea crops are re-awakened to occupy pivotal lead in export market and local consumption as it was in the past. Also, he will ensure that workers in the Institute are given utmost priority in the area of welfare, manpower development, dues and other legitimate emoluments. Chief Sanusi promised to deploy his political contacts towards turning the Institute around for the best. Therefore, he appealed to the management team to join hands with him on the mission to turn the Institute around and make his tenure a remarkable and memorable one that will stand the test of time for decades to come.



Group photograph of CRIN Management with the Governing Board Chairman





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CRIN Hosts In-House Research Review



The Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) hosted its 2025 In-House Research Review with the theme: **“Advances in Varietal Development of Cocoa, Cashew, Coffee, Kola and Tea for Sustainable Economic Growth”** from June 17 to 19, 2025. The three-day event, held at the Institute’s Headquarters in Idi-Ayunre, Ibadan, provided a platform for evaluating ongoing research efforts, identifying emerging challenges, and exploring opportunities across CRIN’s mandate crops. It brought together Researchers, Policymakers, Stakeholders, and Farmers involved in our mandate crops and programmes; Cocoa, Cashew, Coffee, Kola, Tea, Extension, Farming Systems Research, and Value Addition Research. A total number of over 220 participants attended the event.

In his opening remarks, CRIN’s Executive Director, Dr. Patrick Adebola, commended participants for their swift response to the invitation and used the occasion to speak out against Western initiatives towards promoting synthetic



chocolate. He maintained that synthetic alternatives could never match the quality of organically grown cocoa and described the effort as “dead on arrival.” Also, Dr. Adebola expressed concern over the shift in focus of cocoa production from Africa to Latin America and the Caribbean, attributing the development to multinational companies’ attempts to bypass African suppliers. He further noted CRIN’s commitment to supporting farmers, but acknowledged the Institute’s limited capacity to meet the increasing demand for seedlings’ production due to infrastructure deficit as a result of poor funding.

The keynote addresses focused on critical themes such as the impact of climate change on cocoa production, the need for improved traceability, and the application of technology in agricultural research. Comrade Adeola



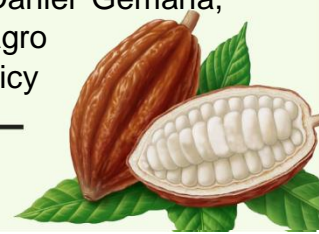
Adegoke, the President, Cocoa Farmers Association of Nigeria (CFAN) advocated for integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and innovative tools to address evolving challenges faced by

farmers. Mrs. Blessing Nanman, Visionary



Leader/Chairperson of Lingzhi Global Nigeria, emphasized the role of creativity, innovation, and value addition in Nigeria’s agricultural transformation, an agenda CRIN actively supports. Mr. Daniel Gemana,

Managing Director of Vertex Agro Limited, called for a robust policy





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framework to address processing challenges in the cashew sector. Overall, the review reaffirmed the importance of collaborative research, strategic investment, and stakeholder synergy in driving sustainable growth across Nigeria's tree crop value chains.

Goodwill messages from notable guests further underscored the value of CRIN's work. Prof. Lateef Sanni, Executive Director of the



Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute (NSPRI) and Chairman of Committee of Directors of Research Institutes (CODRI), praised Dr. Adebola's leadership and

emphasized that Research Institutes remain best positioned to conduct applied agricultural research. Professor Sunday Bako, Vice-Chancellor of Taraba State University, Jalingo expressed optimism about ongoing government policies and their potential to positively impact the agricultural sector.



Similarly, the Zonal Director of NTA Ibadan, Mr. Waheed Popoola, commended CRIN's resilience in



defending Nigeria's organic cocoa sector and assured participants of national media coverage to amplify the Institute's efforts and outcomes.

Key Observations

- ✚ CRIN mandate

crops grown sustainably do not only enhance rural livelihoods and contribute significantly to Nigeria's GDP and foreign exchange, but also improve biodiversity and build climate resilience.

- ✚ The perennial crops when integrated into agroforestry systems, improve soil structure, increase organic matter and offer long-term carbon sequestration potential.
- ✚ The National Cocoa Management Board, approved by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, has the potential to upscale cocoa production from the present 300,000 metric tonnes to 500,000 metric tonnes in the next two years.
- ✚ The European Union Deforestation Regulations (EUDR) have placed enormous pressure on cocoa sector and other supply chains.
- ✚ Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a viable substitute to synthetic chemical usage.
- ✚ Innovative solutions have been adopted in pest-resistant hybrid development, bio-fertilizer formulation, and micro-propagation techniques.

Key Resolutions

- ✚ CRIN will scale up the availability of improved planting materials to meet the needs of farmers nationwide.
- ✚ The Institute shall intensify efforts in cascading CRIN-developed technologies and innovations to grassroots farming communities through extension systems and demonstration plots.
- ✚ Subsequent In-House Research Reviews will include broader participation of farmer groups





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for improved inclusivity and feedback.

- ✚ Sensitize cocoa farmers on the equitable utilization of revenue generated during cocoa boom seasons.
- ✚ Encourage community leaders and public office holders to fund farmer training programs.
- ✚ CRIN reaffirms its commitment to climate-smart research and will promote climate-resilient, energy-efficient practices among stakeholders.
- ✚ Researchers must present physical evidence of project outputs at future reviews to ensure accountability and transparency.
- ✚ The Institute supports the full integration of traceability systems, blockchain technology, and digital tools to eliminate middlemen, reduce post-harvest losses, ensure fair pricing, improve transparency, and data management across agricultural value chains.
- ✚ Prioritize local processing to improve shelf life, diversify product offerings, and promote inclusive value addition.
- ✚ Promote farmer-participatory composting models for sustainable soil fertility management.
- ✚ Funds should be allocated towards varietal release process and the development of supporting infrastructure.
- ✚ CRIN shall support and advocate for local cocoa processing initiatives that promote small-scale enterprise development, particularly among youth and women.

supporting agricultural innovation, climate resilience, and farmers' empowerment. Stakeholders expressed confidence in CRIN's continued leadership in the sustainable development of the Institute's mandate crops. The Institute commits to translating research into action for enhanced productivity, improved livelihoods, and a more sustainable agricultural future.



Cross section of the audience at the event

The 2025 CRIN In-House Research Review reaffirmed the Institute's strategic role in





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Cross section of some farmers at the event



Group photograph of some CRIN Management Team with the Dignitaries at the event



Group photograph of some members of the 2025 In-House Research Review Planning Committee with the ED



Post-RIGAN Medal/Trophy Presentation Ceremony Held at CRIN



It would be recalled that the 18th edition of Research Institutes Games Association of Nigeria (RIGAN) was hosted by the Institute from 6th to 11th December, 2024. This first of its kind event at the Institute attracted a galaxy of sports men and women from all Research Institutes in Nigeria who competed

for medals in various sporting activities. In recognition of the immense support received from the Executive Director (ED), Dr. Patrick Adebola, the contingent formally made the presentation of the medals won to the ED on Tuesday, June 24, 2025. The elated ED, ably represented by Dr. S.O. Agbeniyi, the Director Research Operations, received the

medals won across various games by the contingent of athletes which include 29 gold, 29 Bronze and 34 silver. In appreciation of the honour done the Institute, he doled out cash

gifts to the awardees which include five thousand for Bronze medal, seven thousand naira and ten thousand naira, respectively, for Silver and Gold medals. The contingent, ably led by Mr. Wale Kuforiji appreciated the ED for his kind gestures.



CRIN contingent at the meet



Cross section of the contingents and the supporters club members



Some Management staff and contingent with the trophies



CRIN Scientists Attended MTP in Ghana

The second session of the 2025 Cashew Master Training Program (MTP) Edition 19 took place in Sunyani, Ghana from May 26 – 30, 2025 with four scientists from the Institute in attendance: Mr. Aremu-Dele Olufemi, Mr. Babatunde Olaitan Paul, Mrs. Oladigbolu Yetunde Ololade and Dr. Asogwa Uche.



The training combined theoretical sessions, practical demonstrations, field visits and interactive discussions to ensure participants acquired hands-on experience in cashew production techniques. It also featured presentations on climate-smart planting material development in cashew, focusing on research, resilience and production sustainability. They were introduced to cashew soft-wood grafting techniques, cashew plantation establishment and development and top-working techniques. There were technical sessions on nursery management and managing pests and diseases affecting cashew.

The participants, during field trip to Wenchi Agricultural Research Station, Ghana, received practical training on selecting and identifying good cashew scion materials and grafting procedures. There was a comprehensive practical session on identifying cashew pests and diseases and training on effective spraying techniques for cashew trees. The participants appreciated the ED, Dr. Patrick Adebola, for the permission granted them to attend the event.

Health News

Pneumonia – Mrs. Bosede Famaye



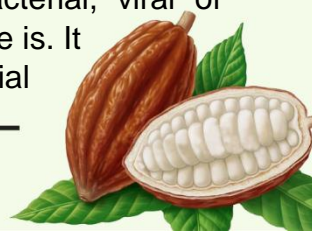
Pneumonia is a serious lung infection caused by bacteria, viruses, or fungi leading to inflammation of the air sacs in one or both lungs. It can affect anyone, but certain groups like older adults, young children, people with weakened

immune system or underlying health conditions (heart disease, lung disease etc), smokers and people with exposure to second-hand smoke are more susceptible.

Symptoms of infection include: Coughing (with yellow, green or bloody mucus; Shortness of breath; Chest pain or abdominal pain; Fever and chills; Fatigue and weakness; Loss of appetite; High fever up to 205°F (40•55°C); Bluish skin, lips or nails (cyanosis); and Confusion or altered mental state. Symptoms of pneumonia depends on the cause. Symptoms can range from mild to severe. Babies, young children and older adults may have varied symptoms.

Prevention of pneumonia involves: Vaccinations (Pneumococcal vaccine, Flu vaccine, COVID-19 vaccine, Childhood vaccinations); and Good Hygiene (hands should be washed regularly with soap and water. Hand sanitizer to be used when soap and water are not available). The mouth and nose should be covered with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.

Management and treatment for pneumonia depends on the cause - bacterial, viral or fungi and how serious the case is. It includes: Antibiotics for bacterial





pneumonia; Antiviral medication for viral pneumonia; Antifungal medication for fungal infection; Oxygen therapy through a tube in the nose or mask on the face; Draining of fluids (if there are lots of fluid between the lungs and chest wall (done with a catheter or surgery); IV fluids (delivered directly to the vein to prevent dehydration); Pain relievers and fever reducers (to help with body aches and fever); Cough suppressants (to clear the lungs); Breathing treatments and exercises (to help loosen mucus and help the breathing); Using a humidifier; Taking a steamy shower or bath to make it easier to breath; and Drinking plenty of fluids.

Maintain healthy habits like: Quitting smoking and avoid second hand smoke; Eating balanced diet; Staying physically active; Getting enough sleep and Avoiding excessive alcohol consumption.

Market Survey

Price Report for April 2025

This report provides an overview of cocoa and cashew prices across selected Nigerian states for June 2025. Data were collected from major cocoa and cashew-producing areas within the surveyed states, and average prices were computed accordingly. For cocoa, price movements varied significantly across the states. In Kwara and Oyo States, prices experienced a noticeable increase, while in Kogi and Ondo States, prices remained stable compared to the previous month. However, a decline in cocoa prices was observed in Abia, Cross River, and Osun States. Among these changes, the most significant increase occurred in Kwara State, where prices rose by 5 percent. On the other hand, the steepest decline was

recorded in Cross River State, with a 4.5 percent drop in prices. Abia State had the lowest average cocoa price during the period, at ₦9,250 per kg, while both Kogi and Oyo States reported the highest average price, reaching ₦11,500 per kg. In the cashew market, prices also showed a mixed pattern. Prices increased in Osun and Kogi States, while it remained unchanged in other locations, and declined in Kwara State. The sharpest rise was observed in Osun State, where cashew prices surged by 20% compared to May. Enugu State recorded the highest average cashew price at ₦1,800 per kilogram, while Kwara State had the lowest, with an average price of ₦1,300 per kilogram. These price variations reflect underlying supply and demand dynamics in the market during the reporting period.

Cocoa Cost Per Kg (local price)

June 2025

State	Minimum Price (₦)	Maximum Price (₦)	Average Price (₦)
Abia	9000	9500	9250
Cross River	10000	11000	10500
Kogi	11000	12000	11500
Kwara	10000	11000	10500
Ondo	11000	11500	11250
Osun	10000	10500	10250
Oyo	11000	12000	11500

Source: CRIN Survey, 2025
Economics and Statistics Sections





Cashew Cost Per Kg (local price)

June 2025

State	Minimum Price(₦)	Maximum Price (₦)	Average Price (₦)
Abia	1400	1600	1500
Enugu	1700	1900	1800
Kogi	1300	1500	1400
Kwara	1200	1400	1300
Osun	1500	1700	1600
Oyo	1500	1700	1600

Source: CRIN Survey, 2025
Economics and Statistics Sections

Staff of the Month



Dr. Yetunde Olasimbo Oladokun Mary was born on August 24, 1983, in Ile-Oluji, Ondo State, Nigeria. Her academic journey began at St. Raphael's Kiddies School, Ondo,

where she studied from 1988 to 1993 and earned her Primary School Leaving Certificate. She proceeded to St. Louis Secondary School, Ondo, completing her West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) in 1999. Pursuing her passion for agriculture, Dr. Oladokun enrolled at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture between 2001 and 2006. She graduated in the top 5% of her class, distinguishing herself as a

dedicated and high-achieving student. Her academic excellence led her to the prestigious University of Ibadan, Nigeria's premier institution, where she obtained a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics from 2007 to 2010. Driven by a strong desire to contribute to academia and research, she returned to the University of Ibadan in 2012 to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural Economics, which she successfully completed in 2018. Dr. Oladokun began her professional career in 2020 as a Senior Research Officer at the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), where she has made significant contributions to agricultural research and policy development. In recognition of her expertise and impact, she was promoted in 2024 to the rank of Principal Research Officer.

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!



Akinpelu Ayodele Oladipo	01-July
Akintoroye Johnson Akinyemi	01-July
Azeez Olawale	01-July
Ogunbanjo Babajide O.	01-July





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Ogundare Omolara Aduke	01-July	Sulaimon Feyisetan O.	19-July
Oluwole Segun	01-July	Olorunkalu Taye	20-July
Peleemo Ademola	01-July	Effiong Ezekiel Effiong	21-July
Abachi Ungbo	01-July	Oyinlade Ayodele	21-July
Etta Ntuiokwa	02-July	Anthony David	22-July
Ezebuio Promise Ulonnam	02-July	Famaye Amos Olatunde	22-July
Emaku Eunice Bukky	02-July	Onatunde-Onanuga Adesola O.	22-July
Adeosun Janet Omolola	04-July	Owemidu Martins	24-July
Agbola Olufemi Omotunde	04-July	Akinola Bukola	26-July
Bolarinde Oluwafemi Joel	04-July	Nwaolise Alexander Atunche	26-July
Enya Monday Edni	04-July	Oselaye Joseph	26-July
Akheimienmhoan Sidney	06-July	Adeyemo Regina Folasade	27-July
Bakare Oluwarotimi	07-July	Modebei Timothy Somayina	27-July
Lawal Oluwafemi Esther	07-July	Olumini Olukemi Modupeola	27-July
Moses Philipian	07-July	Otuonye Azuka Henry	27-July
Bakare Opeyemi	08-July	Agwimah Justina Adesua	28-July
Odey Chinyere Florence	08-July	Iyamu Ikechukwu	28-July
Odeyemi Elizabeth F.	09-July	Adesakin Alice Olubunmi	30-July
Famaye Isaac	10-July	Oghenegueke Victor	31-July
Philips Emmanuel Ovie	10-July		
Ajirotutu Sunday Mayowa	12-July		
Arere Sunday	12-July		
Awodumila David Jimoh	13-July		
Olaleye Folasade	13-July		
Adebowale Babasola Agboola	15-July		
Otitoloju Omosalewa Oluwaseun	15-July		
Muraina Lukman	15-July		
Salawu Adetunji	16-July		
Adewunmi Abigael Olawumi	17-July		
Emaku Mary	17-July		
Abass Saheed Temilade	19-July		
Ola Olutola Stephen	19-July		





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- Supply of high yielding, disease resistant, early maturing and improved Cashew, Cocoa, Coffee, Kola and Tea varieties
- Nursery and Field Establishments • Agrochemical Screening
- Cocoa Flavour Laboratory Services • Value Additions
- Soil and Biological Services

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