



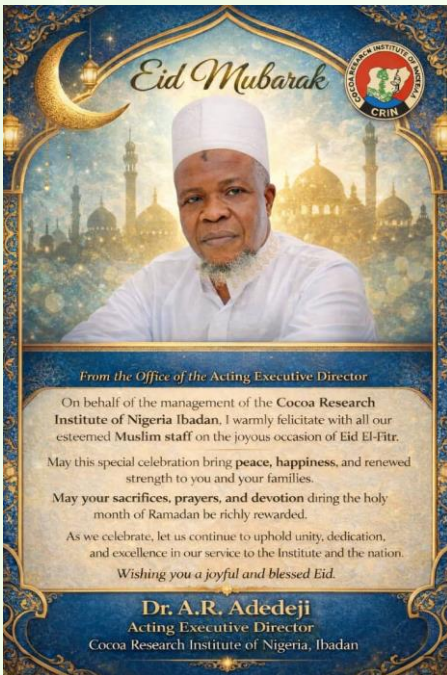
CRIN Herald

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

ISSUE 62 (April 2026)

CRIN Holds Pre-Season Training on Best Agricultural Practices in Cocoa Production

Eid El-Fitr Message from the Acting Executive Director



The Acting Executive Director of the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), Dr. A.R. Adedeji, extends warm felicitations to all Muslim staff on the joyous occasion of Eid El-Fitr.

Eid marks the successful completion of the holy month of Ramadan, a period of devotion, sacrifice and spiritual reflection. It is a time that promotes values such as compassion, generosity and renewed commitment to faith and community. As our Muslim colleagues celebrate, the Institute acknowledges the dedication and discipline demonstrated throughout the fasting period.

On behalf of the management, Dr. Adedeji expresses sincere appreciation to Muslim staff for their continued contributions to the growth and excellence of CRIN. He emphasizes that the virtues upheld during Ramadan which are patience, humility and service remain essential in strengthening both individual character and institutional progress.

He prays that the blessings of Eid bring peace, happiness and renewed strength to every home. May the sacrifices, prayers and devotion of the season be richly rewarded.

The Acting Executive Director wishes all Muslim faithful a joyful and blessed Eid El-Fitr celebration, filled with peace, unity and abundant blessings.



The Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) conducted a Pre-Season Training on Best Agricultural Practices in Cocoa Production from Monday, 23rd March to Friday, 27th March. The training programme was organized as part of the Institute's mandate to promote improved cocoa production techniques and enhance the capacity of cocoa farmers and stakeholders.

The training focused on key areas of cocoa production, including proper land preparation, nursery establishment, pruning techniques, pest and disease control, fertilizer application and post-harvest management practices. Participants were also introduced to modern and sustainable agricultural methods aimed at increasing productivity, improving cocoa quality and ensuring environmental sustainability.

Resource persons drawn from relevant departments of CRIN facilitated both theoretical sessions and practical field demonstrations, enabling participants to gain hands-on experience in best agricultural practices. The training was interactive and practical, allowing participants to engage in field demonstrations and discussions facilitated by experienced resource persons.

The successful conduct of the training underscores CRIN's continued commitment to supporting cocoa farmers and stakeholders through capacity building and the dissemination of improved agricultural technologies ahead of the production season, thereby enhancing livelihoods, strengthening value chains and contributing to national economic growth and sustainable development.





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Picture Highlights from the training

CRIN Convenes Emergency Assembly to Address Security Breach and Strengthen Safety Measures



The management of the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) convened a General Assembly to address the recent security breach involving a kidnapping incident within the Institute.

The meeting was necessitated by an unfortunate incident that occurred on 18th March, 2026 at the Institute's Nursery Section, where three members of the Cocoa Farmers Association of Nigeria were abducted by unidentified persons. The victims were however released on Saturday, 21st March

2026, after ransom was reportedly paid.

In response to this disturbing development, the Management of CRIN convened a General Assembly comprising staff, management and representatives of various security agencies, including the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) and local security outfits. The objective of the meeting was to critically assess the situation and develop immediate and long-term strategies to strengthen security within and around the Institute.

In his address, the Acting Executive Director expressed deep concern over the incident, describing it as unacceptable and assuring all stakeholders that decisive steps are being taken to prevent a recurrence. He emphasized that the safety of staff, visitors and partners of the Institute remains paramount. He also condemned the manner at which the ugly incident was reported on the social media platforms as it portends serious damage to the Institute's image as well as created unnecessary fear in the mind of the general public. He however reprimanded those involved in sharing the news and promised to issue them queries for what they have done so as to prevent reoccurrence of such act.

Representatives of the security agencies, in their separate remarks, assured the Institute of their commitment to intensifying surveillance, intelligence gathering and rapid response to security threats. They highlighted the need for timely information sharing from members of the community, stressing that security is a collective responsibility. The Police representative specifically urged staff to remain vigilant and report any suspicious movements promptly.

The NSCDC emphasized the importance of safeguarding critical infrastructure within the Institute and pledged increased patrols and monitoring of vulnerable areas. The local vigilante groups also assured participants of their readiness to complement formal security agencies through community-based intelligence and night patrols. They also urged members of the CRIN community to remain vigilant and promptly report suspicious activities.





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Following deliberations, the Assembly resolved to implement a number of proactive measures, including:

- Strengthening perimeter security and access control systems
- Increasing the presence of armed security personnel
- Enhancing surveillance through improved lighting and monitoring systems
- Fostering closer collaboration with security agencies and community-based vigilante groups
- Promoting security awareness among staff and residents

Management reassures all stakeholders that immediate steps are already being taken to implement these measures and restore confidence in the safety of the Institute.

CRIN remains committed to its mandate of agricultural research and development in a secure and conducive environment. The Institute appreciates the swift response and continued support of all security agencies and calls for sustained cooperation from the public in the collective effort to combat insecurity.



Picture highlights during the General Assembly

Acting Executive Director Graces End-of-Year Celebration of Plant Pathology Section



The Plant Pathology Section End-of-Year Party was successfully held on January 28, 2026, at the Virology Laboratory of the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN). The Acting Executive Director, Dr. Adedeji, graced the occasion, adding prestige and institutional significance to the historic gathering and demonstrating strong leadership support for staff welfare and unity.

The programme coordinated by the welfare team had in attendance all staff of the section, In his welcome address, the Head of Section, Dr. Ogundeji, expressed profound gratitude to God and sincere appreciation to members of staff for their unity, resilience and dedication in bringing the long-envisioned celebration to reality. He highlighted key achievements of





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the section, notably the successful showcase of three biopesticides at the Institute's in-house review and the maintenance of a functional solar-powered electricity system through collective effort and teamwork. He congratulated Dr. Okeniyi on his promotion to Director and Mrs. Onifade on her conferment as Fellow of the National Institute of Laboratory Technologists, encouraging sustained excellence in research, innovation and service delivery.

Programme activities featured goodwill messages from senior scientists and technical staff, prayers for the new year and reflections on teamwork, professionalism and scientific productivity. A knowledge-based interactive session on CRIN's history and mandate crops promoted institutional awareness, while a raffle-style research assignment among scientists fostered interdisciplinary collaboration.

In his remarks, the Acting Executive Director commended the initiative as a laudable step toward strengthening unity and morale, urging professionalism, teamwork and collective responsibility for sustained departmental and institutional growth. The event concluded with group photographs.



Picture Highlights from the end of the year celebration

CRIN In-House Seminar

The Lawrence Opeke Conference Hall buzzed with intellectual energy once again on March 9, 2026, as the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) held its 2nd in-house seminar.



The chairperson for the day was Dr. Mrs. A.A. Muyiwa, Director of Budget, Monitoring & Evaluation and ably coordinated by Mr. A. E. Agbongiarhuoyi as Master of Ceremonies, staff assembled at 10:00

AM for what proved to be a richly rewarding morning of research presentations.





Both presenters drawn from the Plant Breeding and Economics & Statistics sections respectively delivered work that spoke to the heart of CRIN's dual mandate: advancing the science of cocoa improvement while understanding the economic realities facing the farmers who depend on it.

• Plant Breeding Session



The first presentation came from Dr. Festus O. Olasupo of the Plant Breeding Section. His study, titled *"Genetic Identity and Diversity of Nigerian Cocoa Genebank Collections*

Verified by Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs): A Guide to Field Genebank Management," addressed a consequential crisis within Nigeria's cocoa improvement system, the widespread mislabeling of parental clones in field genebanks.

The quality of any variety that reaches a farmer's field is only as good as the genetic integrity of the parent clones in the genebank. If those parents are mislabeled, the entire downstream pipeline, seed gardens, breeding programmes and varietal releases is compromised from the root.

Dr. Olasupo's team deployed SNP fingerprinting, a DNA-based technique that verifies a plant's true identity by reading its genetic signature at 63 genomic locations. Across seven genebank plots, the team genotyped 1,457 trees using multilocus matching against known reference sequences.

The results were sobering. Mislabeled clones accounted for 78% of exotic clone samples, with labeling errors in C clones ranging from 0% to 100% across seed gardens. Even breeders' active collections recorded mislabeling rates of up to 50%. Identified causes included errors from source introductions, pre-planting labeling mistakes and rootstocks overtaking budded scions due to poor germplasm management.

On a brighter note, PCA of correctly-labeled clones captured 77.7% of total genetic variance, indicating relatively wide diversity. Six genetic groups were identified which are Scavina, IMC, Parinari, Amelonado, Trinitario and Refractario, confirming that deliberate germplasm introduction has broadened Nigeria's cocoa genetic base.

Dr. Olasupo called for the genotyping of all remaining genebank clones as a foundational step toward sustainable cocoa improvement in Nigeria.

• Economics & Statistics Session:



The second presentation came from Mr. F.A. Adesida of the Economics and Statistics Section. The study, titled *"Economic Analysis of Cocoa Production during the 2023–2024 Price Boom in Oluyole Local Government Area,*

Oyo State, Nigeria," examined what the historic cocoa price surge of that period meant at the farm level who benefited, how much and what structural factors shaped the outcomes.

Using a multistage sampling technique, the team surveyed 40 cocoa farmers in Oluyole LGA, collecting primary data through structured questionnaires and interviews. Analysis drew on descriptive statistics, gross margin analysis and Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression.

The farmer profile was revealing. The mean age of respondents was 54 years, underlining the ageing crisis quietly threatening Nigeria's cocoa sector. Some 88% were male and 55% farmed plots of just 1–2 hectares, reflecting the smallholder character of cocoa production in the region.

The regression model explained 55% of variation in total revenue ($R^2 = 0.55$). Marital status, farm size and transport costs emerged as positive and statistically significant determinants of earnings, with





transport costs significant at the 1% level, a reminder that market access remains critical even in boom seasons. Labour costs, however, showed a negative and significant relationship with total revenue, demonstrating how rising input costs erode margins regardless of price conditions.

The study confirmed that cocoa production was profitable during the 2023–2024 boom. Mr. Adesida urged farmers to reinvest profits into farm expansion and productivity-enhancing technologies to sustain output beyond the boom cycle. He also advocated for deliberate efforts to attract youth and women into cocoa farming to secure the sector's long-term future.

• Closing Reflections

Together, the two presentations offered a compelling cross-section of CRIN's research breadth from the molecular precision of DNA-based genbank verification to the ground-level economics of smallholder farming in a boom market. What united them was a shared urgency: Nigeria's cocoa industry faces structural vulnerabilities that science and evidence-based policy must address and CRIN remains at the forefront of generating that evidence.



CRIN staff at the seminar presentation

Dr. Frank Efe Asowata Attains Ph.D Milestone



The Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) proudly celebrates a remarkable academic milestone achieved by one of its distinguished scholars, Dr. Frank Efe Asowata of the Soil and Plant Nutrition Section (SPN), on the successful defence of his Ph.D on 10th February 2026.

Dr. Asowata earned his doctorate in Soil and Land Resources Management (Pedology) from the Federal University Oye-Ekiti (FUOYE), where his research focused on *Soil Survey and Integrated Land Evaluation for Sustainable Cocoa Production in Southwestern Nigeria*. His study provides a comprehensive and timely contribution to cocoa research, addressing critical soil fertility challenges that limit productivity across major cocoa-growing states.

Through a robust combination of field surveys, laboratory analysis and geospatial modelling, Dr. Asowata established a novel Soil Quality Index (SQI) and revealed significant nutrient deficiencies, particularly phosphorus, potassium and low cation exchange capacity as key constraints to sustainable cocoa production. Importantly, his findings highlight that while many soils are currently unsuitable, their productivity can be significantly enhanced through integrated soil management practices.

This achievement reflects not only academic excellence but also Dr. Asowata's commitment to advancing sustainable agriculture and supporting Nigeria's cocoa sector with evidence-based solutions. His work stands as a valuable resource for researchers, policymakers and farmers alike.

Dr. Asowata acknowledges the support of his supervisors, colleagues and family, whose encouragement contributed to this success.





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CRIN congratulates Dr. Frank Efe Asowata on this laudable accomplishment and looks forward to his continued contributions to agricultural research and national development.



Picture highlights from the Ph.D defence

common health conditions in the world today, quietly disrupting the lives of millions and Nigeria is no exception.

These are not conditions of weakness, nor are they simply "overthinking" or "being too emotional." They are real medical conditions with identifiable causes, recognizable symptoms and importantly, effective treatments. Understanding them is the first step toward breaking the stigma that too often prevents people from seeking the help they deserve.

What is Depression?

Most of us have felt sad at some point. Grief, disappointment and low moods are a natural part of life. But depression is something different. It is deeper, more persistent and far more disruptive. It is a serious medical condition that causes lasting sadness, a loss of interest in things once enjoyed and a reduced ability to function in daily life. Without treatment, it can stretch on for weeks, months or even years.

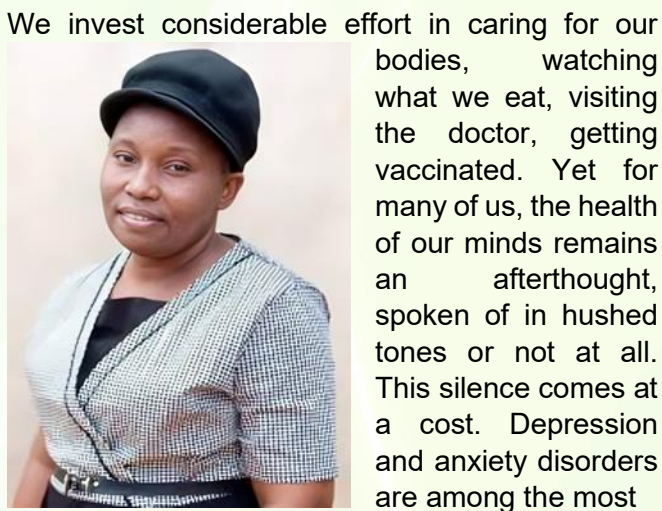
What causes it? Depression rarely has a single cause. It typically arises from a combination of biological factors such as chemical imbalances in the brain, hormonal changes or a family history of the condition alongside psychological factors like low self-esteem, trauma or prolonged stress. Social circumstances also play a powerful role: poverty, unemployment, relationship breakdown, bereavement and isolation can all trigger or worsen depression. Certain chronic illnesses, medications and substance use are medical contributors as well.

How does it show up? Depression wears many faces. Emotionally, a person may feel persistently sad, hopeless or worthless and lose interest in activities they once loved. Physically, they may experience fatigue, disrupted sleep, changes in appetite or unexplained aches and pains. Behaviourally, they may withdraw from family and friends, struggle to concentrate or in severe cases, experience thoughts of death or suicide.

A key marker to watch for: if these symptoms persist for more than two weeks, medical attention is needed. Left untreated, depression can cascade into

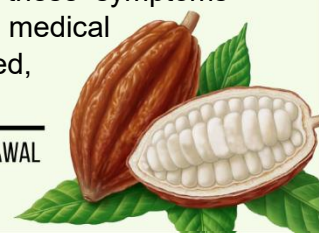
Health News

Understanding Depression and Anxiety Disorders - Mrs. Bosede Famaye



We invest considerable effort in caring for our bodies, watching what we eat, visiting the doctor, getting vaccinated. Yet for many of us, the health of our minds remains an afterthought, spoken of in hushed tones or not at all. This silence comes at a cost. Depression and anxiety disorders are among the most

common health conditions in the world today, quietly disrupting the lives of millions and Nigeria is no exception. These are not conditions of weakness, nor are they simply "overthinking" or "being too emotional." They are real medical conditions with identifiable causes, recognizable symptoms and importantly, effective treatments. Understanding them is the first step toward breaking the stigma that too often prevents people from seeking the help they deserve.





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substance abuse, relationship breakdown, work or academic failure, chronic physical illness and in the most tragic cases, suicide.

Anxiety Disorders: When Worry Takes Over

A degree of anxiety is a normal human experience which keeps us alert, prepared and cautious. But when worry becomes constant, overwhelming and begins to interfere with daily life, it crosses into the territory of an anxiety disorder.

Anxiety disorders are a group of related conditions characterized by excessive fear and nervousness that does not easily go away. Common types include Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Panic Disorder, Social Anxiety Disorder and various Phobias, each presenting in slightly different ways but all significantly impacting quality of life.

What causes it? Like depression, anxiety disorders often stem from a mix of causes: chemical imbalances in the brain, genetic predisposition, exposure to trauma or prolonged stress, certain chronic health conditions and substance use.

How does it show up? Emotionally, a person with an anxiety disorder may experience constant worry, restlessness and an overwhelming sense of impending danger. Physically, symptoms can include a rapid heartbeat, sweating, trembling, shortness of breath, chest tightness and dizziness, symptoms that are sometimes mistaken for a heart attack. Behaviourally, they may avoid certain places or situations, struggle to concentrate or become easily irritable.

Diagnosis and Treatment: There Is Hope

Both depression and anxiety disorders are diagnosed through clinical interviews, psychological assessments, medical history reviews and mental health screening tools. Doctors may also run tests to rule out other underlying conditions.

The encouraging news is that both conditions are highly treatable. A combination of approaches tends to work best:

Therapy: Psychological counselling, particularly Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), has proven highly effective in helping individuals identify and

change harmful thought patterns. Stress management and general counselling also play important roles.

Medication: Where appropriate, doctors may prescribe antidepressants or anti-anxiety medications to help restore chemical balance in the brain. It is important to stress that medication must always be taken under a doctor's prescription and supervision. Never self-medicate.

Lifestyle: Regular physical exercise, a nutritious diet, adequate sleep and avoiding alcohol and drugs can significantly support recovery. Equally important is social connection, maintaining relationships and leaning on community.

Faith and Spiritual Support: For many in our communities, faith is a powerful source of strength. Prayer, fellowship and counsel from trusted spiritual leaders can provide comfort and resilience. However, spiritual support works best alongside and not instead of professional medical care.

Keeping Your Mind Healthy

Good mental health is not simply the absence of illness, it is something to be actively cultivated. Managing stress, nurturing healthy relationships, practicing relaxation techniques, avoiding substance abuse and seeking help early are all habits that protect the mind over the long term.

Seek help when: symptoms persist for more than two weeks; daily activities become difficult to manage; sleep and appetite are seriously affected; or there are any thoughts of self-harm. The earlier treatment begins, the better the outcomes.

Depression and anxiety disorders are not character flaws. They are not spiritual failures. They are medical conditions and like all medical conditions, they respond to care, compassion and proper treatment. The people around us who are struggling deserve our support, not our silence or judgment.

Your mind matters. Take care of it.





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Market Survey

Price Report for March 2026

This report presents an overview of cocoa and cashew nut prices across selected Nigerian states for March 2026. Data were obtained from key cocoa-producing areas within the surveyed states and state-level averages were computed accordingly. During the reporting period, cocoa prices recorded a modest increase in the majority of the surveyed states. However, a significant decline of approximately 30% was observed in Kwara State, while prices in Abia and Ondo States remained unchanged. Across all states, Abia reported the lowest average cocoa price at ₦2,100/kg, whereas Cross River recorded the highest average price at ₦4,700/kg in March.

Similarly, cashew prices generally trended upward across the surveyed states in March, with the exception of Osun State, where prices declined by about 5%. The highest average cashew price was recorded in Abia State at ₦1,750/kg, while the lowest was observed in Enugu State at ₦1,400/kg.

These inter-state price variations reflect prevailing market dynamics, including differences in supply conditions, production volumes and localized demand pressures.

COCOA COST PER KG (LOCAL PRICE) MARCH 2026			
STATE	MINIMUM PRICE (₦)	MAXIMUM PRICE (₦)	AVERAGE PRICE (₦)
Abia	2000	2200	2100
Cross River	4400	5000	4700
Kogi	4000	4500	4250
Kwara	2000	2200	2100
Ondo	3300	3500	3400
Osun	4300	4500	4400
Oyo	4000	4200	4100

Source: CRIN Survey, 2026
Economics and Statistics Sections

CASHEW COST PER KG (LOCAL PRICE) MARCH 2026

STATE	MINIMUM PRICE (₦)	MAXIMUM PRICE (₦)	AVERAGE PRICE (₦)
Abia	1700	1800	1750
Enugu	1300	1500	1400
Kogi	1500	1700	1600
Kwara	1400	1600	1500
Osun	1500	1600	1550
Oyo	1400	1700	1550

Source: CRIN Survey, 2026
Economics and Statistics Sections

April Birthday Celebrants

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!



Gbalajobi Kehinde	01-Apr
Olabiya Bosede Mojisola	01-Apr
Emmanuel Tolulope Angela	01-Apr
Adekoya Olaoluwa Adebayo	02-Apr
Bakare Adeyemi	02-Apr
Patrick Caroline	02-Apr
Adesoji Ronke M.	02-Apr
Fawusi Oluwatobi Amoo	03-Apr
Rabiu Akeem Adekunle	03-Apr
Adeyemi Ayoade Joshua	03-Apr
Farinola Patrick Adekunle	04-Apr
Abubakar Ibrahim	04-Apr
Olatunji Oludotun Isaac	04-Apr
Bakare Mary Abike	04-Apr
Raji Opeyemi Yusuff	04-Apr





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Owoyele Blessing Seyi	04-Apr	Onatunde Moses Ayomikun	16-Apr
Mejabi Taofeek	05-Apr	Abdullahi Olasunkanmi	17-Apr
Gbaruko Glory Chinonso	05-Apr	Huseini Usman Dang	17-Apr
Oyinlade Funmilayo	05-Apr	Anijese Funmilayo	17-Apr
Gimba David Augustine	06-Apr	Olorungbami Nike	17-Apr
Duruaku Ogochukwu Maureen	06-Apr	Ogunde Oluwatosin Ajoke	18-Apr
Ismaila Tajudeen	07-Apr	Adeyanju Kehinde Hussain	18-Apr
Ishola Ropo	07-Apr	Ibitoye Folake	18-Apr
Ajinisi Mary Oluwaponmile	08-Apr	Adebayo Titilope	19-Apr
Isaac Emmanuel	08-Apr	Usman Ahmed Mohammed	19-Apr
Adebayo Olusola	09-Apr	Ojo Olawale	19-Apr
Okontah Kehinde	09-Apr	Ologunwa Tope C.	19-Apr
Isong Ekama Blessing	09-Apr	Akinyode Olubisi Emily	20-Apr
Agbongiarhuoyi Eghe Anthony	10-Apr	Adeyemo Samuel Ayofe	20-Apr
Adeleyin Adelowo	10-Apr	Ajewole Bamidele S.	20-Apr
Harisson Toluwani Olubukola	10-Apr	Aransi Ramoni	20-Apr
Onifade Adebisi	10-Apr	Oni Nike	20-Apr
Ojetola Mary Ayobami	11-Apr	Idowu Omoleke	20-Apr
Ehidiamen Joseph	11-Apr	Ojewale Oluwafemi Ezekiel	22-Apr
Orisasona Yetunde Bisola	11-Apr	Garba Oluseyi Omotayo	23-Apr
Akinola Wasiu	11-Apr	Ademola Sunday	24-Apr
Olaniyan Oluyemi	12-Apr	Samuel Ladi Esther	24-Apr
Alawode Suleman Adewale	12-Apr	Lawal Kafayat	24-Apr
Kpeleye Henry Idowu	12-Apr	Nweke Paul Chukwu	24-Apr
Isaac Michael	12-Apr	Oyawale Muniru Babatunde	25-Apr
Oluniyo Tope Joan	13-Apr	Babalola Remi	25-Apr
Peter Olabanji Paul	13-Apr	Babatunde Adeyinka Sherifat	26-Apr
Oyekunle Emmanuel	13-Apr	Onyemachi Oyinyechi Fidelia	26-Apr
Adewoye Gabriel Adebowale	14-Apr	Dahiru Adamu Tanko	26-Apr
Lawal Dorcas Oyinyechi	15-Apr	Edeh Tochukwu	26-Apr
Okpanachi Nda	15-Apr	Ifidon Ikhusho	27-Apr





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Akinrelere Oluwakemi Abosedo	27-Apr	Amosu Sunday	29-Apr
Matthews Dare Feyisayo	28-Apr	Salami Kamoru	29-Apr
Agbebaku Halima Caroline	28-Apr	Sekoni Olaide Sakirat	30-Apr
Wakaps Francis John	28-Apr	Ola Olanike T.	30-Apr
Oyinlade Folake Banke	28-Apr	Agbebaku Courage	30-Apr
Kuforiji Oluwafikayomi Marvellous	29-Apr		



COCOA RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF NIGERIA



VISION

To be a centre of excellence of international repute in the research and development of Cashew, Cocoa, Coffee, Kola and Tea.

MISSION

To apply science and technology in increasing productivity, improving quality and value addition of Cashew, Cocoa, Coffee, Kola and Tea.

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