



NIGERIAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY (NSM)

Communique of the 42nd Scientific Conference and Annual General meeting held at the Crawford University, Igbesa, Ogun state 3rd – 6th September, 2019.

Preamble

The 42nd Scientific Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Nigerian Society for Microbiology (NSM) was held at Crawford University, Igbesa Ogun State from 3rd to 6th September, 2019. The Conference was declared open by the hosting Vice Chancellor of Crawford University, Prof. Isaac Rotimi Ajayi, ably represented by the Ag. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Patrick Yalokwu and his management team, with microbiologists from the academia, research institutes, government agencies, corporate organizations, and students, from within and outside the country. The theme of the conference was ‘**Microbial Resources: A Veritable Option for Economic Diversification**’. The Conference discussions brought to bear the innate potentials inherent in microbes, capable of triggering and sustaining national economic transformation.

In the current era, where nations that depend on mono-economy are at the brink of collapse, economic diversification remains the only viable option for national survival. In this regard, microorganisms provide enormous resources that Nigeria and other developing countries could exploit to improve their economic base, especially with the astronomic rise in human population. The Conference highlighted the prominent roles microbes play in industrial production, food security, job creation etc.

Plenary and technical sessions addressed the following sub-themes;

- i. Microbes as agents of bio-entrepreneurship
- ii. Super bugs for super drugs
- iii. Super bugs for environmental reclamation
- iv. Microbes and food security
- v. Microbes in the omics era

Observations

The conference made the following observations;

1. Developing countries, such as Nigeria, are yet to recognize the economic potentials in microbes, which can bring about the tremendous transformation of the economy.
2. The Nigerian populace attach more value to foreign products, to the detriment of locally produced goods, thereby promoting importation and discouraging indigenization of technology.
3. There is poor collaboration between the industries and the universities and research institutes; yet, collaborative efforts would culminate in huge economic benefits to the nation.
4. Microbes can be utilized in the improvement of food quality and preservation.
5. Microbes were recognized as factories, inputs for factories and products of industries which can be made with or from Money Making Microbes.

Resolutions and Recommendations

The Conference adopted the following resolutions and recommendations;

1. Government and corporate agencies should come to terms with the fact that microbes possess enormous economic potentials that could enhance the economic base of the nation.
2. Government and corporate agencies should appreciate the fact that microbiologists in Nigeria are capable of unearthing the vast array of potentials in microorganisms towards the recovery of the national economy.
3. Government and corporate agencies should see the need to support and collaborate with the universities and research institutes in terms of provision of facilities and equipment, conduct of problem-solving research etc.
4. There should be a paradigm shift in the overall orientation of Nigerians, especially in terms of value attached to indigenous products.
5. Microbiologists should gradually shift from basic research to applied research and input entrepreneurial orientation to the training of microbiologists. This will undoubtedly encourage the conduct of problem-solving research that can positively change the economy of the country.
6. Agencies and governments should devote more funds for Microbiology research that could generate product and create wealth.
7. The microbes recognized as money making microbes such as: *Pleurotus* spp., *Bacillus thuringensis*, yeasts, *Azotobacter* etc. should be harnessed in the drive for economic diversification.