

SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE AND MANAGEMENT

(SAEREM)



4th Annual National Conference of

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 4TH ANNUAL NATIONAL (VIRTUAL) CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY FOR AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT (SAEREM) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA (UNIABUJA 2021)**

Date: 15th -17th November, 2021

Theme: CLIMATE CHANGE, COVID-19 PANDEMIC, INSECURITY, IMPACTS ON FOOD SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

**INTRODUCTION**

Nigeria as a country is currently challenged with various issues. Climate change remains on the front burner of the country’s many negative experiences. Further, the continued anxiety brought by COVID-19 pandemic and existing insecurity situation across various States of Nigeria remains glaring. These challenges, undoubtedly have reducing effect on Nigeria’s food security – a country currently ranked as one of the poorest. Consequently, there is the need for intellectuals to brainstorm in finding sustainable solution to the many challenges.

The Society for Agriculture, Environmental Resources and Management (SAEREM) is a voluntary, non-governmental, academicians, and professional organization aimed at fostering the growth and development of agriculture, environmental resources and management sectors. It is an interdisciplinary research based organization with focus on the academia and the end user of research & development.

**UNIABUJA 2021 CONFERENCE**

Participants at the 4th Annual National Conference of SAEREM included the National Executive Council (NEC) of the Society, invited Guest Speaker, Lead Paper Presenters, Lecturers/Researchers (Academics), Industrialists, and Students. The event kicked off with the presentation of the prestigious SAEREM Fellowship Award to four eminent scholars, namely

i. Prof. I. A. Onimawo who is the Immediate Past Vice Chancellor, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State;

ii. Prof. Edith C. Chuku of the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt;

iii. Prof. Austin Otegbulu of the Department of Estate Management, University of Lagos; and

iv. Prof. Stephen U. Offor, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Vocational and Technical Education, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt.

Prof. Onimawo who responded on behalf of all the award recipients, thanked SAEREM for the awards and pledged their unflinching support for SAEREM in her activities.

The Keynote Address was delivered by Prof. Adeshola O. Adepoju, Director-General/Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Research Institute, Ibadan while Lead Presentations were made by Professors Samuel O. Agele, Cordelia I. Ebenebe, and Steven U. Offor.

Other papers presented at the conference were as follows:

1. African Star Apple Seed Processing Into Activated Carbon For Copper And Iron Removal From Wastewater
2. Crop Farmers’ Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change In Rivers State, Nigeria
3. Effect Of Fungi Flora In The Nutrient Quality Of Artocarpus Camansi (Breadnut)
4. Effective And Efficient Utilization Of The Backswamps – ‘Typic Endoaquepts’ Hydric Soils In The Niger Delta For Sustainable Agricultural Productivity
5. Liver Quality Indicators Among Heritage Turkey Toms Administered Aqueous Moringa Oleriferia Leaf and Seed Extracts
6. Integrated Management Of Cylas Puncticollis (Boheman) In Umuahia Nigeria
7. Effect Of Dehydration Methods On Lycopene And Vitamin C Contents Of Tomato Varieties Grown In Kano, Nigeria
8. Bioremidiation Potential Of Pleurotus Ostreatus (Jacquin; Fries) P. Kummer: A Case Of Agro-Wastes In Umudike Abia State, Nigeria
9. Assessment Of Postharvest Management Practices Of Millet Handlers In Yobe State, Nigeria
10. Impact Of Covid-19 On Cost And Returns Of Cassava Production In Central Cross River State, Nigeria

Effect Of Phytoremediation Grasses On Soil Micro-Organisms In Crude Oil Contaminated Soil In South-South Nigeria

1. Assessment Of Some Physicochemical Properties Of Palm Oil Mill Effluent Dumpsite Soils In South Eastern Nigeria
2. Economic Analysis Of Value Chain Adaptation Among Cocoyam Farmers In Nsukka Local Government Area, Enugu State, Nigeria
3. Understanding The Drivers Of Adoption Of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Among Smallholder Crop Farmers In Agroecological Zone D Area Of Kogi State, Nigeria: Policy Options For Improved Food Security
4. Impacts Of Covid-19 On Food Security: Panel Data Evidence From Akwa Ibom State
5. Physicochemical Properties Of Stored African Spinach (Amaranthus Species) Using Two Variants Of Nspri’s Vegetable Basket
6. Farmers - Herdsmen Clashes : Implications For Food Security In Benue State
7. Assessment Of The Nutritional Compositions Of Two Varieties Of Plantain And Their Associated Fungal Pathogens
8. Resource Use Efficiency And Problems Of Vegetable Production In Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria
9. People Awareness, Perception And Coping Strategies To Covid 19 Pandemic In Nigeria. The Case Study Of Kuje Area Council Abuja
10. Effect Of Bacterial Seeding And Soil Amendment On Percent Base Saturation Of Crude Oil Polluted Ultisol Of Southern, Nigeria
11. Resource Use Efficiency And Its Effect On House Hold Poverty Of Artisanal Fishery In Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

**RESOLUTIONS/POLICY STATEMENTS**

The conference was worried about the serious negative effects of Climate Change, COVID-19 Pandemic and Insecurity on agriculture and environment in Nigeria. The resultant effects of these were noted to include national food insecurity and environmental degradation within the country. Conference therefore suggested a number of measures for tackling the problems, as follows:

i. In order to reduce the distortion and additional effect created by Covid 19 pandemic in food sector there is need for the provision of palliatives to farmers in the form of improved seedlings, basic farm implements at highly subsidized prices, and free or more affordable farm extension services. Increase budgetary allocation to agriculture and forestry subsector of the economy.

ii There is need for re-introduction of farm settlement scheme, this could be financed under public private partnership arrangement. Adoption of climate smart agricultural technologies is necessary as climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. Rural infrastructural development is important to enhance farm production activities and reduce postharvest losses.

iii We also need to understand and underscore that fact that we learn to live in harmony with nature, by valuing, conserving, restoring, maintaining and utilizing sustainably, ecosystem services provided by the ecosystem and forests environment at large.

iv. Sustainable waste treatment, using organic materials rather than chemicals; and expansion of the size of arable lands in the country through utilization of such neglected lands as backswamps as well as sustainable soil management practices;

v. Increase in industrial processing of agricultural products for expansion of value chains with the view of increasing their economic benefit to the nation; and use of improved seed varieties by farmers.

vi. Protection of farmers, farms and forests from the activities of criminals, insurgents, kidnappers and the likes through several ways, including upgrading of forest guards to the same level as other security agencies in the country as well as resolution of the lingering farmers-herders conflict in the country.

vii. Ensure sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, as well as animal production and forestry, are integrated in policy responses to COVID-19 so as to reap their full potential in terms of nutrition and livelihoods; and in the event of lock-downs, farmers should be seen and treated as essential workers and therefore allowed to operate.

viii. Increased funding of research and development in the area of agriculture and the environment so as to find indigenous solutions to the problems within the sectors in Nigeria.

**HOSTS OF NEXT CONFERENCE**

Conference approved University of Port Harcourt and Rivers State University as co-hosts of 2022 SAEREM Annual National Conference, subject to the final approval of National Executive Council.

**CONCLUSION**

Participants expressed satisfaction with the success of the Conference and appreciate management of SAEREM while looking forward to an in-person conference next year.

**UNIABUJA2021 SAEREM CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE DRAFTING COMMITTEE:**

1. Dr. Peter E. Oko. Chairman

2. Dr. Israel Ogbonna

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5. Nwangwu Kelvin Nnaemeka

6. Esthella Anietie Ekong

7. Wenibo, Andrew

8. Dr. Ogbu, Onyinye C.

9. Kelly Ovat

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11. SHAIBU Ufedo Monday, Secretary