



SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE AND MANAGEMENT (SAEREM)



2nd ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE SOCIETY FOR AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE AND MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE (SAEREM, 2019) HELD BETWEEN 18TH - 20TH NOVEMBER, 2019 AT THE AKWA IBOM STATE UNIVERSITY, OBIO AKPA CAMPUS.

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INTRODUCTION

The participants at the **Society For Agriculture, Environmental Resource And Management Conference (Saerem, 2019) Held Between 18th - 20th November, 2019 At The Akwa Ibom State University, Obio Akpa Campus**, with the theme, **Climate Smart Agriculture, Food Security & Environmental Management Challenges in Nigeria**.

The guest speaker Prof. Godwin Umoette and Dean of Faculty of Social Science AKSU, rooted his presentation on “The Integrated Landscape approach , economic well-being and Inclusive Climate resilience considered several issues of urgent importance to realizing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the targets including, but not limited to: Sustainable consumption and production (Goal 12); economic growth and wellbeing (Goal 8) and Climate resilience (goal 13) before year 2030.” While the Lead Presenter, Prof. Okon Ansa, Former Deputy Vice Chancellor of University of Uyo , Talks on “ Climate Change, Plant Diseases and Challenge of Food Security.

This year 2019 **SAEREM** embraced participants including authors of published articles in the published conference proceedings, members of **Environmental Conservation Organisation / Environmental Conservation Club**, researchers and academia from various institutions and academic disciplines in Nigeria, **AKSU VICE CHANCELLOR** was represented by **HEAD OF CAMPUS/ DEAN OF FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE**, Also in attendance was AKSU Deputy Vice Chancellor Academy Prof. Umoren E. Umoren. The participants carefully considered issues bothering on **Climate Smart Agriculture, Food Security & Environmental Management Challenges in Nigeria**, Sub-Saharan Africa and the world at large and resolved as follows

1. Capabilities of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems in processing, decision making, exploration, delineation planning and management of natural resources (water, land use types, soil, fauna and flora) to achieve sustainable utilization and consumption of these resources has been clearly demonstrated. Thus, the need to incorporate these tools in issues

that bothers on such environmental tasks at the science and management level are of importance.

2. There is urgent need for arable crop farmers in Nigeria to diversify their adaptation strategies at the face of incessant and increasing extreme events that are associated with the climate change.
3. It is noted that women's level of involvement in water management should be increased in proportion to increasing household size and they should be involved in taking decision on water management.
4. In view of the impacts of gas flaring on physical and natural resources and elevated air temperature; enhanced deforestation and biodiversity losses, there is need to utilize micro-gas turbines, re-injection and pursue as part of a new agenda for sustainable development in Nigeria
5. Environmental conservation education projects and economic incentive mechanism in West Africa should be designed in such a way that they could attract potential buyers/users of Ecosystem Service for funding.
6. As part of the measure promote sustainable productivity of fish farming, stone breaker leaves (*Phyllanthus niruri*) and Erythromycin can be used as a veritable tool for growth promoter, enhance survival and increase yield.
7. Model seed industry; Panacea for food security challenges and poverty in Nigeria
8. Further research need to be undertaken to get safe period between microsulfuron application and the introduction of vegetable crops e.g okro and determine the response of such crops to diuron application under field conditions
9. The protection of the park from illegal human activities should be given proper attention by both the government and wealthy individuals to prevent the park wildlife resources from going into extinction.
10. There is an urgent need for development of robust unconventional agricultural approach that is not expensive, consumer friendly coupled with adequate financing facility for Nigeria to attain sustainable healthy food production by year 2030.
11. Majority of rural farmers, urban dwellers and ecotourism planners in some selected areas in Nigeria have poor perception of climate change impacts on their agricultural practices, economic wellbeing and infrastructural facilities hence, there is need for intensive conservation education, public enlightenment campaign, financial assistance and technical capacity training to adapt and mitigate change in the climate. This should be considered in line with the ongoing efforts to address pollution in our environment.
12. Nigeria government is encouraged to review existing policies on irrigation water for the benefits of the farmers as condition to guarantee optimal yield and agricultural production.
13. The participants resolved that Government and Non-Governmental Organisations should join hands in organizing effective sensitization programmes on consumption, conservation, management and planning of environmental resources.
14. There is need for individuals and government institutions to be fully engaged in climate Smart practices especially Climate Smart Agricultural practice that seeks to transform agriculture under the new realities of climate change i.e Agriculture that its sustainability increases productivity, enhance resilience, reduce or remove.
15. The coastal areas of Akwa Ibom State have potentials to develop fish farming which could support government strides towards employment, poverty alleviation, also protect, conserve fish fauna and other aquatic life by maintaining the balance of nature and support the availability of fish fauna resources for future generation
16. Application of organic fertilizer increases growth yield of and thus could serve as a good alternative to resource-poor small-scale farmers who may not be able to purchase inorganic fertilizers in large quantities as required during cultivation due to cost.
17. Measures to prevent and control flooding should be established across major rivers in Nigeria
18. Green technology is an eco-friendly approach to solving most of the climate change challenges and this should be embraced immediately to save our world from increasing environmental catastrophes. However, this requires action to change our attitudes and perspective towards consumption of green products as inferior to sophisticated modern products.

19. Arable farmers in Nigeria need to be guided on the use of agrochemicals to prevent pollution and further damage to the environment as a result of indiscriminate use. This could be achieved through media awareness campaign programmes and capacity building workshops.
20. Landscape Monitoring Control Department in the Ministry of Environment and Housing has been charged with the responsibilities of monitoring and controlling the implementation of strategic plans that will be of benefit to the people within their immediate environment.
21. There is need to enact and implement favorable wetland protection policies that will encourage and empower host communities in protecting their wetlands.
22. There is need to undertake research that will lead to generating informed meteorological data to substantiate ecotourist's perception on climate change. Establishment of well-equipped and adequately represented meteorological stations will give room for accurate weather forecasts and predictions for pro-active measures.
23. Forest extension services should do more in educating the public on the benefits, importance and contributions of urban forest to the environment and the people.
24. Relevant Government Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations and private sectors should synergize to fully harness the countless social, economic, ecological and health benefits of recreational open spaces especially in the urban areas.
25. Concerted efforts should be geared towards funding environmental sustainability research and technologies, encourage recycling, the adoption of alternative materials and the development of recycling infrastructure and polices in Nigeria.
26. There is need for amendment of soil to improve physical properties, microbial population, air space and nutrients for maximum yield.
27. It is imperative to expand the scope of study on soil to climate variability and change impacts through modelling for enhancing crop productivity in Sub-sahara Africa.
28. For substantial increased in tree seedlings and stands yields, Nitrogen and Phosphorus are needed in all the soils thus, state government, agricultural banks and NGOs should enhance foresters with different interventions programmes such as provision of farm inputs at subsidized rates.
29. Access to clean water, improved sanitation and hygiene are essential for healthy living , economic growth and sustainable development in Nigeria
30. Ecotourism destinations promote environmental sustainability, economic growth and well-being.
31. The absorption of heavy metals unto the gills surface of fishes have negative impacts hazard on public health and can also impede optimum output in fish production.
32. Integrated Community Based Management approach is considered as alternative to top-bottom management approach.
33. Green landscaping is essential for hotel industry to attain sustainable development since this will enhance preservation, ameliorate micro climate, reduce direct solar energy effect and protect the natural resources.
34. Farmer's in Akwa Ibom perceived that there has been an indication that climate change is imminent as reflected in irregularity in the startup and end of rains, high temperature intensity, increasing early rain e.t.c. All these phenomena affects arable crop production thereby increasing cost of production, extinction of food resources, crop infestation and disease which invariably reduces output levels.
35. Further research need to be conducted on the presence of bacterial as it influences microbial population and biomass in tree crop plantation such as oil palm compared to arable farmland. Planting of Node weed (*Syndrella nodiflora*) is encouraged for feeding snail since it has no competition with man. It gives better weight gains to the snail and reduce labour and time in searching for food.
36. The participants noted that sustainable management of forest (either natural or artificial) requires the knowledge of the growth characteristics and the yield of different tree species.
37. Awards of Honour were given to the following persons : PROF. ENO J. IBANGA, AKSU V.C; PROF. OKON ANSA; PROF. UMOREN E. UMOREN; PROF. NKEREUEM M. JOHE; PROF. GODWIN UMOETTE; PROF. EDET UDO; DR. MOSES UMOBONG; DR.EDNA AKPAN; ELDER UBONG OBOT; ENGR. BASSEY NKPOSONG; AND PROF. NSE ESSIEN

KEY ISSUES THAT EMANATED FROM THE GENERAL MEETING

Members of the organization that are staff of **UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR**, CALABAR signified their intentions to host the next conference coming up in year 2020. The executives were encouraged to approach Executive Director of SAEREM to seek for his supports and approval.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next conference.

Thank you.