MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am grateful to God for bringing us to the last quarter of 2017. Although, it was quite a challenging year for the Nigerian Society for Plant Protection (NSPP) due to the demise of some eminent members of the Society, some of our members recorded some achievements and promotions. Some rose to the rank of full Professors and others got new administrative positions.

As we look towards another year filled with hopes and aspirations for us and families, know that you also have a family in NSPP! Whatever your role or membership status; Board of Trustees (BoT), National Executive Council member or Ordinary member, we are equally important, each contributing significantly as the Society strives towards her collective goal.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees (BoT) and Executive Council of NSPP, I wish you and your family a great time of feasting in this month of December.

We look forward to seeing you at the 43rd Annual Conference at the University of Ibadan.

Prof. Olufunmilola ALABI (FNSPP, FASI)

President

Editorials

It is my delight to welcome you to this last edition of NSPP’s quarterly newsletter for the year 2017. As you may be aware of, our newsletters provide platforms which enable members *share* and *learn*, all in one space! As a result, your contributions to future editions are highly welcomed. We want to be instrumental to sharing and learning from your professional stories/achievements.

To add to the news bits of our newsletters, we also welcome abridged versions of monographs on topical issues that border around crop protection research, policy and trending innovations we all could be a part of. We will be grateful to have your feedbacks too as this will help us improve future editions.

Have a great time perusing every page of this edition. Enjoy!

Chris O. ECHE
Newsletter Editor
IN CELEBRATION OF THE RETIREMENT OF AN ACADEMIC: PROFESSOR B.A. IKOTUN

Babatunde Akintunde Ikotun was born on the 9th of January, 1948 in Zaria, Kaduna State. He attended the Christ African Church School, Wadata - Makurdi, Benue State as one of the pioneer students and All Saints Primary School, Makurdi, from 1952 to 1960. He came down to the West to attend the famous Government College, Ibadan, from 1962 to 1968, where he distinguished himself as an all-round sportsman and school Prefect. He was head of Swanston House and Commander of the Army Cadet Unit.

He was admitted to the University of Ibadan in 1969 and graduated with a B. Sc. Honours degree (Second Class Upper Division) in Agricultural Biology, in 1972. He proceeded to the United Kingdom in September 1972 to study Plant Bacteriology at Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, London, where he obtained his PhD (Plant Pathology) from the University of London in September 1975 and a Diploma of membership of Imperial College (DIC), also in September 1975.

He was appointed as a Lecturer II in October 6, 1975, at the University of Ibadan and promoted as Lecturer I in 1978. He became a Senior Lecturer in 1981; Reader in 1986 and was promoted to the rank of Professor in 1989. When his 1989 promotion to the rank of Professor of Plant Pathology was announced in 1991; he was appointed the first full-time Dean of Students, where he served two terms, ending his tenure in 1996. He was appointed Head of Department of Crop Protection and Environmental Biology in 2001 and later elected Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry in 2002, and served in this position until July 2004.

At the University of Ibadan, Professor Ikotun has supervised 42 B. Sc. and 67 M. Sc. Projects; 3 M.Phil dissertations and 28 Ph. D. theses. Thirteen of his former Ph. D. students are now Professors in various Universities in Nigeria. In addition, he has produced three Readers and three Directors at National Agricultural Research Institutes. He has indeed invested heavily in human capital development. Professor Ikotun was a recipient of the Western State Government Scholarship for his Higher School Certificate at Government College, Ibadan; Federal Government Scholarship for his undergraduate (1970-1972 and a Ford Foundation/University of Ibadan Staff Development Fellowship for his PhD degree (1972-1975). He was awarded an IDRC Fellowship for his field work at the Centro Colombi (1973-1974). He was a Fulbright Fellow at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Professor Ikotun is a Fellow of the Nigerian Farmers Institute and the Nigerian Institute of Biology. He is a past National Secretary of the Nigerian Society for Plant Protection (NSPP) and currently, a distinguished member of the Society’s Board of Trustees.
MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION TO NIGERIAN JOURNAL FOR PLANT PROTECTION (NJPP)

The Editor-in-Chief of the Nigerian Journal of Plant Protection, Professor Boniface Kashina is working fervently towards sustained and improved production of the Journal. At least two issues, the first in June and the second in December yearly, should there be enough high quality articles from members and other stakeholders. Manuscripts are invited and should be sent via e-mail (as attachment in Microsoft word) to the Editor-in-Chief, NJPP using the email: nsppjournal@gmail.com

Manuscript submission will be held to imply that it reports original unpublished research, and that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. Please note that a non-refundable handling fee of N3000 only should be paid into NSPP bank account (See account details beneath) BEFORE submission. Manuscript submission must be accompanied with Evidence of Payment of handling fee. Upon acceptance, a publication fee will be charged per manuscript. This will be duly communicated to corresponding authors.

Advertisement rates can be obtained from the Editor-in-Chief.

NSPP BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Manuscript Processing Fees: N3,000
Annual Membership Dues: N3,000
Bank: Union Bank
Account Number: 0036642563
Account Name: Nigerian Society for Plant Protection

NSPP FELICITATES WITH HER MEMBERS:

Adamu, S. H. (Bayero University, Kano) who obtained a fully-funded Ph. D. Scholarship to study Plant Pathology at Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China.

Tijani, I. (Bayero University, Kano) who also obtained a fully-funded Ph. D. Scholarship to study Plant Pathology at Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, China.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

German Academic Exchange Service
DAAD offers scholarships to qualified individuals from eligible developing countries for post-graduate studies at German universities in development-related subjects. The program (EPOS) is open to individuals who completed their previous academic degrees no longer than six years previously; who have at least two years of professional experience; and who are nationals of countries receiving official development assistance (DAC list of the OECD). The available courses range across water resources; renewable energy; land management and tenure; agricultural sciences; forest sciences; ecology; nature conservation; environmental governance; and many others. Most scholarship deadlines for the 2018-2019 intake fall between August 2017 through December 2017.

Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Fellowships
The International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) offers PhD, Postdoctoral and Short-term fellowships in Life Sciences to scientists from ICGEB’s member states. The fellowships are for research at collaborating universities in Trieste, New Delhi, and Cape Town. Application deadlines: Short-term fellowships 30 June, 30 September, 31 December.

Indian National Academy of Sciences — Visiting Scientists from Developing Countries
India’s National Science Academy administers the JRD-Tata Fellowships to support visiting scientists from the developing world and promote South-South cooperation. The program is open to applicants from developing countries (except India) younger than age 45, and who possess doctorate or masters degrees in science or equivalent degrees in engineering/medicine. Past participants have included several in agriculture, biological sciences, and geo-sciences. The fellowship is for three months and includes transportation, maintenance allowance, accommodation, and contingencies. The next application deadline is 31 October 2017.

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN SET TO HOST THE 43RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NSPP

University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State is set to host the 43rd Annual Conference of Nigerian Society for Plant Protection in 2018. The theme of the Conference is The Role of Plant Protection in a Diversified Economy for Food and Income Security. The Conference is expected to hold between April 22nd and 26th, 2018 at the prestigious University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. The University of Ibadan doubles as the National Secretariat of the Nigerian Society for Plant Protection. The Keynote Speaker is Professor O. A. Enikuomehin, the former Acting Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria. Detailed information of the Call for Abstracts and Papers will be sent to e-mail addresses of all members by the Local Organising Committee (LOC). The LOC can be reached via its e-mail: nsppibadan@gmail.com

Please send your contributions to nsppnews@gmail.com for publication in March Edition Volume 6(1), 2018.