MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is another exciting year and from the depth of my heart, I wish every member of Nigerian Society for Plant Protection (NSPP) a happy new year! Every year comes with high hopes and aspirations and it is my earnest prayer that you and every member of your household will be in good health and achieve all you set-out to do this year for the betterment of humanity.

I gladly welcome you to this first edition of our NSPP Newsletter for this year.

Once again, on behalf of the Board of Trustees (BoT) and Executive Council of NSPP, I wish you an exciting 2018, filled with the realizations of your great aspirations.

Prof. Olufunmilola ALABI (FNSPP, FASI)

President

Editorials

Let me begin by wishing all our numerous readers nationwide, a prosperous and exciting new year. It is my delight to welcome you to this first edition of NSPP’s quarterly newsletter. As usual, this issue promises to be exciting. 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 at 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!

Dr. Chris O. ECHE

Newsletter Editor
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE VISITS CROP PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, ABU, ZARIA

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Chief Audu Ogbeh visited Agricultural Research Institutes in the Agricultural Complex of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria on Friday 19 and Saturday 20 January, 2018. The three research institutes visited were: Institute for Agricultural Research – IAR; National Animal Production Research Institute – NAPRI and the National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services – NAERLS. Among the places of interest visited in the IAR was the Crop Protection Department (CPD) which houses the J. C. Deeming Insect Museum which has one of the largest insect collections in sub-Saharan Africa with over 70,000 insect specimens; the Mycotoxin/Aflatoxin Laboratory which is meant to provide services to the West and Central Africa region and the Maruca Insect Rearing Laboratory, a component of the Bt Cowpea trials in the country. Visited also was the Crop Protection Department, which is known to attract visitors from both within and outside the country, clocked 50 years this 2018 and by nomenclature is undoubtedly the oldest Crop Protection Department in Nigeria. This is the first visit to the Department by a serving Minister of Agriculture, hence an historic and memorable event!

HOD, Crop Protection, ABU, Prof. O. O. Banwo, in a welcome address to the Minister of Agriculture, Chief Audu Ogbeh (second from left).

The Head of Mycotoxin Lab/Dean of Faculty of Agriculture, ABU and NSPP President, Prof. Olufunmilola Alabi, briefed the Minister on the activities of the Mycotoxin Laboratory.

NSPP Felicitates with

C. O. Eche who successful defended his Ph.D. Thesis on 30th of January, 2018 at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State.
University of Ibadan 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**

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and the Conference is expected to hold between April 22nd and 26th, 2018 at the prestigious University of Ibadan. Detailed information of the Call for Abstracts and Papers will be sent to e-mail addresses of all members by the LOC. The LOC can be reached via nsppibadan@gmail.com.

Please send your contributions to nsppnews@gmail.com for publication in the next Edition: June, Volume 6(2) 2018.