

May 2024 | Volume 01 | No. 01

DURA RESEARCH NEWS

A Publication of the Directorate of University Research Administration



MICHAEL OKPARA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, UMUDIKE



Researchers, Industrialists brainstorm on the Quadruple Helix Model for Funding of University Education in Nigeria at the MOUAU Maiden Research Innovation Fair.



DURA Director, Prof. Simonyan delivers 55th Inaugural Lecture August 14



“

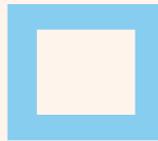
In the past three years, we have made conscious efforts, building on some of the legacies of previous administrations, at re-engineering and repositioning our University to make it a place where serious academic and research activities take place.

”

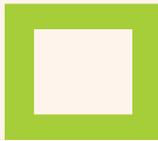
Content

04 DURA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

05 COVER STORY



08 KEYNOTE ADDRESS



13 BEST RESEARCHERS' AWARDS



14 OTTI LAUDS MOUAU ON MAIDEN RESEARCH INNOVATION FAIR, ASSURES OF SUPPORT



16 COMMUNIQUE OF THE MAIDEN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FAIR

17 FROM THE MAIL BAG



17/18

PHOTO GALLERY



From the Editorial Suite

In his foreword to the Research Policy and Plan of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, the 6th Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, CFS, noted that "great universities globally are known and ranked by their research output's quality, quantum, and applicability". And that "as a practically-oriented and specialist University of Agriculture, there is a need to pay special attention to research and development, as contemporary higher education objectives are achieved by generating and transmitting new knowledge through research".

Since assumption of duty in March 2021, the administration of Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, has walked the talk in its avowed commitment to institutional arrangement for research management and administration. The Vice-Chancellor has pursued research, which is the second leg of the core mandate of the University, in a manner that would sustain the institution's dream of being uniquely and consistently relevant in its quest for national and global reach as a centre of excellence and a resource base for ideas and new science and technology for national development.

To further drive this vision, Prof. Iwe, in December, 2021 appointed me as Director of the Directorate of University Research Administration (DURA), and charged me with the responsibility of promoting and initiating basic and applied research activities across different fields in collaboration with scientists, technologists, engineers, entrepreneurs, administrators and management experts, within and outside Nigeria.

In pursuit of this major objective, DURA found partnership with another critical Centre of the University, the MOUAU Extension Centre (MEC), whose responsibility, among others, is the extension and dissemination of research outputs of the University to host and other communities within the southeast agro-ecological zone of Nigeria. Together, DURA and MEC organized the Maiden Research Innovation Fair and Conference of the University, which featured conference, exhibitions and symposium, from April 24 – 26, 2024.

There has been a lot of news report in both traditional and social media about the Research Fair. While we appreciate the huge reportage the event has generated, we also observe that some of them are unintentionally inaccurate or lacked some basic details. This first edition of DURA Research News, is therefore designed to properly and accurately document the activities and addresses of the Maiden Research Innovation Fair and Conference and to highlight some of the efforts of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike in support of institutional research administration and management, particularly in the past 3 years. I am sure it will be the most accurate and correct report of the event and unarguably the most important material for reference purposes.

I wish you a happy reading time.

Engr. Prof. Kayode J. Simonyan, fniae
Editor-in-Chief



DURA RESEARCH
A Publication of the Directorate of University Research Administration
Michael Okpara University Of Agriculture, Umudike

Editorial Crew

Editorial Crew

Publisher

Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, CFS

Editor-in-Chief

Engr. Prof. Kayode Joshua Simonyan, fniae

Deputy Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Blessing Offia-Olua

Editorial Coordinator & Production Manager

Dr. Ubadire Agua

Photographer

Vice-Chancellor's Media Team

DURA Staff/Assistants

Anumba Nkeiruka Sylvia

Moses Christiana Ajuma

Okeke-Obumneme Amarachi Chizaram

Bassey Okoro Benjamin

Designer/Printer

Timothy Pyelshak/TimoArt

Road M. 71. World Bank H/E, Umuahia, Abia State.

09078971283

All correspondence

The Editor-in-Chief

DURA Research News

Room 308 Dr. Alex Okweme Admin building

Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike

simonyan.kayode@mouau.edu.ng

EXTRACTS OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF RESEARCH MEETING ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2023

Prof. K.J. Simonyan Director, DURA 13 February 2023.



Preamble: I assumed duty as Director, DURA, on 12 January 2022 with enthusiasm and vigour. However, despite the approvals for various proposals and programmes, the Union strikes in 2022 paralyzed everything. After the strike, we are still struggling to cope with a discouraging operating environment. We thank God for survival, though. Kindly permit me to update you on the activities in the Directorate during my stewardship, this being the first meeting on the saddle as the Director.

1. Disbursement of the First Batch of 2021 TETFund – Twenty-one successful research projects have been disbursed. They have received the first tranche of their approved money, representing 60%, with a total amount of N19,798,521.71. (Nineteen million, seven hundred and ninety-eight thousand, five hundred and twenty-one naira, seventy-one kobo). Monitoring teams have been constituted for the research projects.

2. Second Tranche- We have processed and submitted Batch 1 of the second tranche, comprised of teams that have met the conditions for releasing the second tranche. We are awaiting the response from TETFund. We are also currently working on Batch 2.

3. Inventory of Research Equipment, Facilities, and Capabilities- The Vice-Chancellor approved the constitution of a Committee to take a holistic view of the University's research equipment, facilities, and capabilities. The situation in the country has hindered the timely completion of the Committee's work. A reminder has been sent to the Committee on the need to complete the assignment.

4. Research and Innovation Fair- The Vice-Chancellor approved a proposal in principle for a research and innovation fair. Committees were set up. The proposal will be reactivated to see its actualization as soon as possible.

5. Grant Writing Proposal Workshop- The Vice-Chancellor approved organizing a grant writing proposal workshop. Various committees were constituted. The proposal will be reactivated for implementation as soon as possible.

6. End of Project Seminar- The Vice-Chancellor approved, but this has not been done due to prevailing circumstances. It will be scheduled as soon as possible.

7. Compendium of Funded Research Projects 2007-2022- A comprehensive list of all institutional and TETFUND funding from 2007 to 2022 was compiled. A total of 122 research teams from various programmes have benefited from different calls. The total amount spent so far is N135,337,473.38 only.

The Vice-Chancellor directed to know the Research output through the minutes. "Where is the evidence of the research? A total sum of N135,337,473.38 have been spent; where are the results or the money? Please communicate these questions to the Research Teams".

Subsequently, a google form was designed and sent to the beneficiaries, and twenty-six (26) Research Teams responded. The interim responses are summarized through the charts in Figures 1-7.

a. Designation of the Principal Investigators

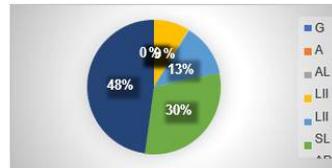


Figure 1: Designation of Principal Investigators

b Research Programme

EIT has the highest submission, while ABC, API, MAE, and CSIL did not respond.

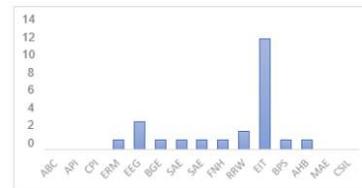


Figure 2: Respondent per Research Programme

c. Mode of Research

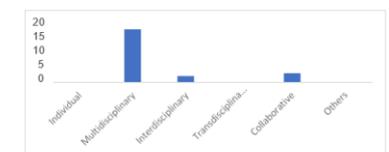


Figure 3: Mode of Research

d. Project Duration

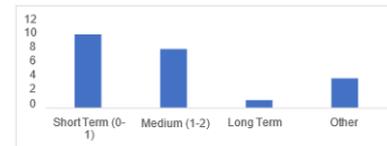


Figure 4: Project Duration

e. Sources of Research Funding

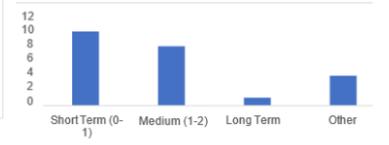


Figure 5: Source of Research funding

f. Has the project produced patent

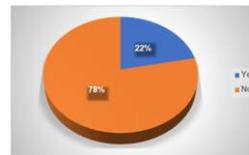


Figure 6: Project Duration

Publications from the Project Result

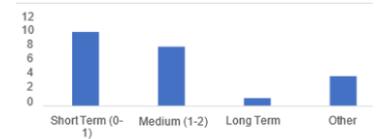


Figure 7: Publications from the Research Output

g. Constraints/Challenges Enumerated

- i. Lack of interest in research by most lecturers
- ii. Funding should be 80% for the first tranche
- iii. Lack of dedicated researchers
- iv. Delay in the release of funds
- v. Capacity building to boost the drive for research
- vi. Lack of motivation
- vii. No good well –equipped laboratories with regular power supply
- viii. Irregular power supply
- ix. Inadequate fabrication workshop
- x. Disruption of the academic calendar

h. Suggestions on the way forward

- i. Retaining the best students and mentoring them toward being serious academics
- ii. Structure the University calendar to give room for summer holidays
- iii. Increase the percentage of the first tranche to 80%
- iv. Periodic meetings of the PI
- v. Enhanced funding to increase the scope of the study
- vi. Solar power and efficient works Department to supply water
- vii. Vehicles (Hilux Jeep) for transportation
- viii. An alternative source of power supply
- ix. The motivation of researchers by providing enabling environment
- x. Grantmanship should be included in Curriculum
- xi. Well- equipped state-of-the-art equipped laboratories and workshops (Central Workshop)
- xii. Prompt release of funds
- xiii. Promotion of peace/Creation of a conducive working environment.

Cover Story

Researchers, Industrialists brainstorm on the Quadruple Helix Model for Funding of University Education in Nigeria at the MOUAU Maiden Research Innovation Fair.

By Ubadire Agua

It is widely believed that tertiary education is a major instrument for promoting the socio-political and economic development of any nation. It is also believed that a nation's growth and development are largely determined by the quality of its human resources and that tertiary education provides the much-needed manpower to accelerate the growth and development of any nation.

There also seems to be a consensus among stakeholders in the education sub-sector in

Nigeria, that tertiary education in the country has, over the years, been plagued by serious underfunding. In fact, it is said that budgetary allocation to education in Nigeria has been grossly inadequate with its attendant consequences on national development.

It is, perhaps, for this reason and more that researchers, industrialists, entrepreneurs, government officials and several agencies of government converged on Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike from April 24 –



A cross section of participants at the conference



Cover Story continued from pg. 4

26, 2024 to brainstorm on innovative research model that could enhance a sustainable funding of tertiary education in Nigeria at the University's maiden research innovation fair and conference.

The Research Innovation Fair, which held at the Senator Anyim Pius Anyim Auditorium, featured conference and presentation of over 165 researched papers, exhibitions of innovative research technologies and symposium.

The Fair, which was titled Innovative Research and Quadruple Helix: Model for sustainable funding of tertiary education in Nigeria, attracted participants from many universities, research institutes and centres within and outside Nigeria, as well as government officials and agencies. It discussed critical issues including leveraging partnership and collaboration for sustainable university education, advanced research and national economic recovery, expanding the frontier of innovative research, research for a sustainable green economy, and education for sustainable economic development.

Some notable researchers, industrialists, academics, technocrats and entrepreneurs who

addressed participants at the event chaired by a former President of the Senate, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Distinguished Senator Adolphus Wabara, Ph.D, include the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Eunisell Ltd, Lagos, Dr. Chika Ikenga, who also delivered the keynote address; the founder of First Atlantic Semiconductors and Microelectronics Ltd. and the Tekedia Institute, Boston, USA, Prof. Ndubuisi Ekekwe; and a renowned educationist and former Vice-Chancellor of Abia State University, Uturu, Prof. Mkpa Agu Mkpa. Others are the Lead Consultant/Principal Investigator of Flab Engineering Services Ltd., Abuja, Engr. Dr. Emeka Udokporo, the Executive Vice-Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Dr. Aminu Maida, among others.

In his welcome address at the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor of MOUAU, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, CFS, expressed his delight with the choice of the theme for the Research Fair and noted that the theme was apt, given the funding challenge public universities have been grappling with over the years. Represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Udo Herbert, the VC said "I am particularly impressed with the choice of the theme for this Maiden Research Fair and Conference, which is: Innovative Research and Quadruple Helix: Model for Sustainable Funding of University Education in Nigeria. There is no better time to discuss this theme than now, when funding of universities including research is a major challenge".

Prof. Iwe, while calling for a more realistic funding of universities and a partnership between universities and industries also seized the opportunity to inform the audience that the University has established productive research partnerships with a number of Organizations/Centres within Nigeria and some foreign universities in embedded Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other Smart Agricultural practices. He expressed the hope that the collaborations and partnerships would be beneficial to the University in the long run.



His Royal Highness Eze (Hon.) P. C Onyegbu
Rep. of the former Senate President

Cover Story continued from pg. 5



In his very insightful keynote address on the theme of the Research Fair, a renowned industrialist and Chairman, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Eunisell Ltd., Dr. Chika Ikenga, noted that innovative research is not for the academia alone, rather, that the industry, government and citizens benefit from the research activity of the academia.

He added that the quadruple helix model promotes the involvement of the citizens and end-users and adds the society into the interaction between the academia, industry and government in driving innovation. He however noted that effective quadruple helix partnership in Nigeria has been constrained by weak environment, limited resources and capacities.

Dr. Ikenga strongly recommended a robust collaboration between the academia and the industry, noting that it would lead to the commercialization of innovative research, generate patents, licenses and revenue for all the partners including the university who is the employer of the researcher. He said: "the company makes money, the researcher makes

money and the university generates sustainable funding".

DURA News gathered that 165 participants registered for the Research Innovation Fair and 108 research papers were presented during the Conference. It was further gathered that participants in the event came from many universities including University of Maiduguri, Borno State, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Rivers State University, Port-Harcourt, Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State and Eastern Kentucky University, USA, among others.

At the end of the Research Innovation Fair, participants agreed that researchers in tertiary institutions should understand industry need and engage in focussed research that aligns with the needs. They also agreed that "the university has the strongest credentials to take the lead and become the gravitational centre that drives the collaboration between the academia and the industries. They were unanimous that one way to sustain the funding of education is the commercialization of specific inventions through intellectual property licensing and formation of spin-out companies.



Keynote Address

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH AND QUADRUPLE HELIX: MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE FUNDING OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN NIGERIA.

BY CHIKA IKENGA



I was alighting from my motorbike in front of Eastern Shop, a supermarket on University Road Nsukka when that song came over from the nearby record store. I liked that song but it was no longer giving me any joy. That song was "Theme from mahogany (Do you know where you are going to?.)" by Diana Ross. The song had lyrics like: Do you know where you are going to? Do you like the things that life is showing you? Do you get what you are hoping for? When you look behind you, there are no open doors. For me, when I looked ahead all the doors seemed shut.

Diana was singing my life at that moment with her song. I wished the song would go away but it went on, asking questions that were haunting me at that point in my student life. Each lyric hit me with the force of a boulder rolling down the hills of Nsukka.

The year was 1985. I was an undergraduate studying Industrial Chemistry at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Graduation was a year ahead but I was not sure what I was going to do with the degree in Industrial Chemistry. Truth was, I did not find the course challenging and exciting. I was simply going through the motions in the lecture rooms and the laboratories.

Professor Patel, one of my lecturers pulled up beside me in his car. As he came out of the vehicle, I went up to him and greeted him. I walked with him into the super market. He made to pick up a shopping basket but I reached it before him and told him I would carry the basket while he did his shopping. Walking ahead of me, Professor Patel started explaining to me how the products on the shelves were outcome of research and development. He related what he taught me in class about product development to the items I saw on the store shelves. He also related how these products were manufactured with reactors and equipment in his Chemical Process technology course. That day, it all came together. My tomorrow was clear in my head. Chemistry is life. I was going to focus on the commercial application of chemistry. I was going to build businesses manufacturing products using my knowledge of chemistry and research. As I left the supermarket later that day, I knew I could confidently respond to Diana Ross if I heard her song "Do you know where you are going to?" again. This was because I certainly knew.

Chemistry began to make sense to me. It held a new meaning. I began to take my classes serious and my laboratory work even more serious. My final year research project was even more interesting as I sought to make adipic acid by catalytic oxidation of cyclohexanone while peeping into the manufacture of a cosmetic product from local ingredients. While doing my literature review, I was amazed at the number of patents and licenses that researchers in universities and private companies in western countries were amassing.

Few years after I graduated from the University, when many Nigerian women were complaining about hair damage, breakage, dryness and scalp itch, I fell back to my chemistry and research. Working

Keynote Address continued from pg. 7

I was alighting from my motorbike in front of Eastern Shop, a supermarket on University Road Nsukka when that song came over from the nearby record store. I liked that song but it was no longer giving me any joy. That song was "Theme from mahogany (Do you know where you are going to?.)" by Diana Ross. The song had lyrics like: Do you know where you are going to? Do you like the things that life is showing you? Do you get what you are hoping for? When you look behind you, there are no open doors. For me, when I looked ahead all the doors seemed shut.

Diana was singing my life at that moment with her song. I wished the song would go away but it went on, asking questions that were haunting me at that point in my student life. Each lyric hit me with the force of a boulder rolling down the hills of Nsukka.

The year was 1985. I was an undergraduate studying Industrial Chemistry at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Graduation was a year ahead but I was not sure what I was going to do with the degree in Industrial Chemistry. Truth was, I did not find the course challenging and exciting. I was simply going through the motions in the lecture rooms and the laboratories.

Professor Patel, one of my lecturers pulled up beside me in his car. As he came out of the vehicle, I went up to him and greeted him. I walked with him into the super market. He made to pick up a shopping basket but I reached it before him and told him I would carry the basket while he did his shopping. Walking ahead of me, Professor Patel started explaining to me how the products on the shelves were outcome of research and development. He related what he taught me in class about product development to the items I saw on the store shelves. He also related how these

products were manufactured with reactors and equipment in his Chemical Process technology course. That day, it all came together. My tomorrow was clear in my head. Chemistry is life. I was going to focus on the commercial application of chemistry. I was going to build businesses manufacturing products using my knowledge of chemistry and research. As I left the supermarket later that day, I knew I could confidently respond to Diana Ross if I heard her song "Do you know where you are going to?" again. This was because I certainly knew.

Research profoundly impacts the economy, society, culture, public policy, public services, the environment and other aspects of life.

Chemistry began to make sense to me. It held a new meaning. I began to take my classes serious and my laboratory work even more serious. My final year research project was even more interesting as I sought to make adipic acid by catalytic oxidation of cyclohexanone while peeping into the manufacture of a cosmetic product from local ingredients. While doing my literature review, I was amazed at the number of patents and licenses that researchers in universities and private companies in western countries were

amassing.

Few years after I graduated from the University, when many Nigerian women were complaining about hair damage, breakage, dryness and scalp itch, I fell back to my chemistry and research. Working with a Chemistry lecturer in a University near Lagos we developed a solution using local ingredients. This has become a popular hair care brand in Nigeria today called Natures Gentle Touch. Research also helped me to create Eunisell, the chemical company with products that find application in Food and Beverages, Oil and Gas, Cleaning and hygiene amongst others. At various times, my companies have worked with university researchers to develop new chemical products. Research has helped me build businesses, create



Keynote Address continued from pg. 8



jobs, solve problems of our numerous customers, pay taxes, create opportunities for many and contribute to the economic development

of the Country.

Let me express my deep gratitude for the privilege of addressing this event. I stand here today, grateful for my exposure to university teaching and research, aware that our future as a nation will greatly benefit from investments in innovative research.

Research is not only conducted in laboratories. Research is performed in essentially all subjects from social science and literature to chemistry, technology to English, from history to mathematics. Even if different methods are employed, fundamentally research seeks to expand knowledge and understanding.

Innovative research provides new solutions, better solutions, new technologies, new ideas, new products, services and new opportunities. Research improves quality of life. It solves problems and addresses a variety of pertinent societal issues. It is the basis for science, creativity and technology which in turn drive innovation and entrepreneurship. Through research, educational institutions continue to make a significant contribution to the economy and society.

There is a strong relationship between innovation and economic development. Many developed societies have been promoting university-industry-government partnerships for research and innovation as a key part of economic development strategy.

Research is not for the academia alone. The

industry, Government and the citizens benefit from the research activity of the academia. Research profoundly impacts the economy, society, culture, public policy, public services, the environment and other aspects of life. The Quadruple Helix model promotes the involvement of the citizens and end users. It adds the society into the interaction between academia, industry and government in driving innovation. It emphasizes the importance of collaboration and knowledge exchange between academia, industry, government and society in propelling innovation and economic growth. It also provides a framework for all to work together to promote research, entrepreneurship and economic development.

In Nigeria, effective quadruple Helix partnerships have been few, constrained by a weak enabling environment, limited resources and capacities. The quadruple Helix partnership envisages a prominent role for universities in innovation alongside the other partners in a knowledge-based society, a space where knowledge and intellectual capital play a key part. Also, a fundamental constraint is a lack of understanding and mutual mistrust across the four spheres

Since it is agreed that research is essential to advancing society, strengthening the economy, growing businesses, driving innovation and addressing the challenging problems we face as a people, society and planet it becomes important to have conversations like today's to find ways to promote research. This maiden research innovation fair and conference provides a unique platform to discuss innovative research and quadruple helix: model for sustainable funding of university education in Nigeria.

In 2020, Covid-19 took hold of the world. It hobbled economies and strained societies. We cannot forget that the collaborative efforts of Oxford University and AstraZeneca resulted in the successful development of the Oxford/AstraZeneca Covid-19 Vaccine, offering widespread protection against the epidemic. Fundamental research whether scientific or creative continues to lay the foundation for many



Keynote Address continued from pg. 9

of today's most important innovations.

Coming back home, there is an urgent need to promote innovative research. How do we use innovative research to create wealth for the society, businesses, academic institutions and the researchers? How do we create sustainable funding for university development, teaching and research? This conference I am expecting will provide us answers.

The extraordinary challenges we face today as a nation offer unique opportunities for innovative research. We need relentless and leading-edge research to provide applicable solutions.

Innovative research should think and be nurtured in systems. The system should include a supportive culture, the right structures and processes, funding, creativity, continuous learning, partnership and collaboration. The

government alone may not be able to fund research and innovation. It is important though, that Government should create helpful policies and facilitate the right environment for research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The quadruple helix Concept we agree, promotes building an ecosystem. It advocates the interaction and participation of Government, Academia, Industry and Society to produce innovation and development. The private sector we also agree is the engine of growth. The question we will ask the Academia today is: Are you partnering with the private sector? The industry can use the universities for research and development. The universities can also use the laboratories of companies to enhance their research. Together these partners can create rewarding relationships.

The collaboration between the academia and the industry will lead to the commercialization of innovative research, generate patents, licenses and revenue for all the partners including the university who is the employer of the researcher. The company makes money, the researcher makes money and the university generates sustainable funding. It is important therefore, that researchers and universities consider commercializing specific inventions through intellectual property licensing and formation of spin-out companies.

Cooperation with the private sector, commercialising and licensing of technologies and knowledge developed in schools to industries can

help address the issue of university funding.

A look at the challenges to commercialization will reveal risk aversion, lack of funding, lack of a common

understanding of the value of research commercialization, lack of entrepreneurial thinking among faculty, lack of interaction and collaboration between academia and industry. Also included are lack of understanding of intellectual property. Licensing, a good patent and copyright system encourage innovation due to the fact that the inventor can at least benefit from the invention/innovation for a few years.

As a source of highly educated people and ideas, the university is an engine of innovation. The lecturers and researchers should not hold themselves back. They should break the box and begin to build networks, partnerships and ecosystems. The university brings together high impact teams from academia, industry, government and society. The Nigerian University should support incubation of a diversity of businesses. This will help in the quest to reduce

Researchers should get out of their shell and stop working in Silos. They should begin to create collaborations amongst the Quadruple Helix. They can take courses on building effective partnerships and collaboration.



Keynote Address continued from pg. 10

reliance on government funding.

The university represents an important player in research and development. The university and the academia should initiate and lead the quadruple helix partnerships. The university has the strongest credential to take the lead and become the gravitational centre that drives the collaboration. It should understand industry needs and engage in focused research that aligns to these needs. It should understand country development policies. It should have the ability to attract funding from multiple sources through partnerships. The university should embrace change and be open to ideas from several sources and disciplines.

Innovative research creates more visibility for

universities. Relevant and ground breaking research further improves a university's ranking. It brings attention, leading to greater institutional reputation. Generally, as a university becomes known for its research in certain fields, the institution becomes a magnet for students, faculty, grants, media coverage and even philanthropy. It has been shown that strength in research supports a university's brand both locally and internationally.

Governments look up to universities and researchers for high impact innovations that can help improve quality of life and sustainable development. Universities and researchers must therefore, seek collaboration and linkage with government agencies that can support them in this commission.

“We'll continue to fund research in MOUAAU”, VC assures

By Ubadire Agua

Despite the financial challenges facing public universities in Nigeria, the Vice-Chancellor of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, has assured that the University would continue to fund research within the resources available to the Institution.

The Vice-Chancellor gave the assurance while speaking at the maiden research innovation fair and conference of the University held from April 24 - 26, 2024.

Prof. Iwe, who was represented at the occasion by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof. Udo Herbert, expressed his delight with the theme of the Research Fair, which was: Innovative Research and Quadruple Helix Model for Sustainable Funding of University Education in Nigeria, noted that there was no better time to discuss the theme than now when public universities in Nigeria are facing grinding financial challenge.

Said the VC "I am particularly impressed with the choice of theme for this Maiden Research Fair and Conference, which is: Innovative Research and Quadruple Helix Model for Sustainable Funding of University Education in Nigeria. There is no better

time to discuss this theme than now, when funding of universities including research is a major challenge".

Prof. Iwe, an erudite scholar and internationally certified food scientist, noted that despite the financial crunch, his administration would continue to fund research in MOUAAU. He said "on our part, we shall continue to fund research as resources become available and facilitate the attraction of research funds by both our staff and students".

The VC seized the opportunity of the Research Innovation Fair to commend the Chairman and CEO of Eunisel Chemicals Ltd, Dr. Chika Ikenga and the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) for their support to the University.

According to the VC, "we have devoted a lot of effort in opening and equipping our laboratories. We shall continue to do so and trust that more men like Dr. Chika Ikenga, who is rebuilding our Department of Chemistry laboratories shall emerge and come to our aid. We remain indebted to him and the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) that adopted our Chemistry and Chemical Engineering laboratories and equipped them last year. We remain ever grateful".

Maiden Research Innovation Fair: Ijeh, Odoemelam, Egbuonu, Ndukwu emerge best researchers in MOUAU, win awards

By Ubadire Agua

A Professor of Biochemistry and Director of the Centre for Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Prof. Ifeoma Irene Ijeh, has emerged the best researcher in University.

Prof. Ijeh was announced the winner of the highly competitive screening exercise, during the Maiden Research Innovation Fair and Conference held from April 24 - 26, 2024 in the University. She scored 91 per cent to clinch the award.

Other researchers who won awards in the overall best researcher category include, Prof. Stevens A. Odoemelam of the Department of Chemistry, who won the second best researcher award by scoring 85 per cent.

Two other researchers tied with 78 per cent scores to win the 3rd best researcher award. They are Prof. MacManus Ndukwu of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology and Dr. Anthony C. Egbuonu of the Department of Biochemistry.

In arriving at the winning scores and winners, the Sub-committee on Awards for the maiden research innovation fair and conference, led by Prof. K.C. Ekwe, considered a number of factors including: quantity and quality of publications, visibility in Google Scholar, Orchid number,

Researchgate and LinkedIn. Others are Lead authorship, Impact factor (H-index >20), Supervision, Patents and Grantsmanship from Institution Based Research (IBR) or National Research Fund (NRF), International or Non Governmental Organization (NGO).

The obviously elated winners expressed their gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M.O. Iwe approving and supporting the maiden research innovation fair. They commended Prof. K. J. Simonyan and the Central Planning Committee for the maiden research innovation fair and conference for the Awards, which they described as objective and unbiased.

They promised to continue to promote the good reputation of the University through their research and publications in international journals and to mentor younger research scientists in the



VC, Prof. Iwe (left) presenting the Best Researcher certificate to Prof. Ijeh (right)



Otti lauds MOUUAU on Maiden Research Innovation Fair, assures of support

By Ubadire Agua



Abia State Commissioner for Education Prof. Uche Eme-Uche

The Executive Governor of Abia State, His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR has lauded Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike, under the leadership of Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, for its outstanding contributions towards the development of human capacities in agriculture, science, technology, and entrepreneurship, describing the University as a major research hub and knowledge community in the State.

The Governor, who spoke during the opening ceremony of the maiden research innovation fair and conference held in the University from April 24 - 26, 2024, commended the University for taking the bold step to showcase what some of her research scientists have done over the years and how their research findings are helping to solve problems in the society.

Represented by the Hon. Commissioner for Education, Prof. Uche Eme-Uche, the Governor expressed his joy with the robust partnership and collaborations between the State Government and the University, and assured that his administration will continue to give adequate priority to the development of research in the educational sector.

Governor Otti, while declaring the Maiden Research and Innovation Conference of the University open, noted that "innovations and collaborative spirits are the key stones for unlocking the potentials of the educational system in the country". He assured that his administration will continued to partner with the University to advance knowledge and promote cutting-edge research in the State.

Be competitive, participate in University activities", MOUAU VC urges staff, students

By Ubadire Agua

The Vice-Chancellor of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, has urged staff and students of the University to be competitive-minded and participate in various award-winning activities of the University.

The VC made the call Friday April 26, during his remarks at the closing ceremony of the University's maiden research innovation fair and conference.

According to Prof. Iwe, "it takes being competitive-minded and participating in competitive events to have a chance of winning laurels, prizes and awards". Those who do not participate will not have a chance to win any prize, said the Vice-Chancellor.

The VC, while noting that there are many outstanding researchers in the University, decried low participation of academic staff in very critical



events in the University including research competitions. He challenged them to come out of their shells and participate actively in every activity that could promote both their research and the University.

The VC used the opportunity of his remarks to congratulate Prof. Irene Ifeoma Ijeh, who scored 91% to win the "Best Researcher Award" in the University, and called on other researchers to emulate the commitment and consistency of Prof. Ijeh to research activities.

Prof. Iwe commended the Central Planning Committee for the maiden research innovation fair and conference led by the Director of Directorate of University Research Administration (DURA), Prof. Kayode J. Simonyan and his MOUAU Extension Centre counterpart, Prof. Uchechi Apu, for the ingenuity of introducing various awards for participants, exhibitors and researchers during the event. He commended the Committee for the criteria it listed for determining winners of the awards and assured that the University Appraisal Committee might be adopting some of them for assessment.

The VC also said he was so impressed with the research innovation fair and assured the University Community that another research innovation fair would be held before the end of his tenure.



L - R: Prof. U. Apu & Prof. K. J. Simonyan



COMMUNIQUE OF THE MAIDEN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FAIR/CONFERENCE, HELD AT THE SENATOR ANYIM PIUS ANYIM AUDITORIUM, MICHAEL OKPARA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, UMUDIKE. ABIA STATE, 24TH - 26TH APRIL, 2024.

PREAMBLE

The Maiden Research and Innovation Fair/Conference was organized by the Directorate of

University Research Administration (DURA) in conjunction with the MOUAV Extension Centre (MEC) which featured Conference, Exhibition, and Symposium/Awards. The theme of the 3-day Fair/Conference was 'Innovative Research and Quadruple Helix: Model for Sustainable Funding of University Education in Nigeria'. The subthemes were: leveraging partnership and collaboration for sustainable university education; advanced research and national economic recovery; research for a sustainable green economy; education for sustainable economic development and expanding the frontiers of innovative research.

The event was attended by participants within and outside Nigeria, from Ministries, Departments, and Agencies at the Federal and State, Industrialists, Entrepreneurs, Private Organizations, and communities around the University. A total of 165 registered participants attended the Fair/Conference. The opening ceremony was attended by over 300 persons and invited guests. A total of 108 technical papers on the various sub-themes were submitted, reviewed, accepted, and published in the conference proceedings. The overall objectives of the Fair/Conference were to create a platform for academia, industry, government, and civil society to collaborate and explore innovative approaches for sustainable funding of university education in Nigeria. Through presentations, discussions, and networking sessions, we aimed to identify actionable strategies that can enhance research, promote economic recovery, and contribute to the sustainable funding of university education in Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

The Maiden MOUAV Research and Innovation Fair and Conference kicked off with the Opening Ceremony graced by several dignitaries including Federal and State Government Officials, Members of the University Management, Members of the University Senate, Staff of the University, academicians from other Institutions, private individuals, etc. The Vice-Chancellor, MOUAV, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, ably represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Udo Herbert welcomed all to the event while the Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Oti, ably represented by the Commissioner for Education, Prof. Uche Eme-Uche, declared the event open.

The Chairman of the occasion, HE Senator Adolphus Wabara, ably represented by Eze P. C. Onyegbu eulogized the University for organizing such an event and wished all the participants well. Goodwill messages were delivered by Dr. Aminu Maida, the Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) represented by Mr. Ismail Adedigba, the Director-General, of the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) represented by Mr. Jibril Mohammed, the Executive Director, of National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), Umudike, Honourable Commissioners of Power and Public Utilities and Science and Technology. The Keynote Address was delivered by Dr. Chika Ikenga, Chairman/GMD Eunisell Ltd. Lagos entitled 'Innovative Research and Quadruple Helix: Model for Sustainable Funding of University Education in Nigeria'. He harped on the strong relationship between innovation and economic development. Exhibition stands were toured and various Colleges, Directorates, and external organizations wowed guests with the products of their research efforts.

Four (4) high-level Plenary Sessions concluded the first day with the presentation of Lead Papers by The Nigerian Communications Commission and its roles in the commercialization of endogenous research outputs by the Executive Vice-Chairman, NCC; Leveraging partnership and collaboration for sustainable university education by Engr. Emeka Udokporo, MD Flab Engineering Services Ltd, Abuja; Education for sustainable economic development by Prof. Mkpa Agu Mkpa, former VC, ABSU and Expanding the frontiers of innovative research by Prof. Ndubuisi Ekekwe, Tekedia Institute, USA. The plenary session involved contributions from panelists, experience sharing, knowledge, and lessons learned on solutions that have been tried to address innovative funding of University education in Nigeria through

evidence based pragmatic approaches to the problem both in Nigeria and worldwide.

The second day featured Exhibition and the Conference proper which was held at 5 Venues concurrently within the University. Experts in various fields and from different organizations delivered interesting papers.

The third day featured the Award Ceremony for individuals, the Best Exhibitors, the Best Researchers in the Colleges, and the Best Overall University Researcher. At the end of the Fair/Conference, the following observations and recommendations were made to enhance the successful implementation of innovative research and quadruple helix as a workable model for sustainable funding of university education in Nigeria.

OBSERVATIONS

The following observations were made during the Plenary, Exhibitions, Conference, and Award

1. The collaboration between academia and industry will lead to the commercialization of innovative research, and generate patents, licenses, and revenue for all the partners including the university which is the employer of the researcher.
2. Cooperation with the private sector, commercializing and licensing of technologies and knowledge developed in schools to industries can help address the issue of funding.
3. Governments look up to universities and researchers for high-impact innovation that can help improve quality of life and sustainable development. Universities and researchers must therefore seek collaboration and linkage with government agencies that can support them in this commission.
4. Research and innovation should benefit communities hosting a university. These stakeholders must be considered when research choices are made.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the observations, the following recommendations are made:

1. Researchers should get out of their shell and stop working in Silos. They should begin to create collaborations amongst the Quadruple Helix.
2. The university and the academia should initiate and lead the quadruple helix partnerships.
3. The university has the strongest credentials to take the lead and become the gravitational centre that drives the collaboration. Researchers should understand industry needs and engage in focused research that aligns with these needs. It should understand country development policies. It should have the ability to attract funding from multiple sources through partnerships. The university should embrace change and be open to ideas from several sources and disciplines.
3. Researchers and universities should consider commercializing specific inventions through intellectual property licensing and the formation of spin-out companies.
4. Academic staff and researchers should break the box and begin to build networks, partnerships, and ecosystems. The University should support the incubation of a diversity of businesses. This will help in the quest to reduce reliance on government funding.
5. Universities should consider creating advisory committees and friends of university groups to facilitate introduction and engagement with industry. Creating joint committees offers invaluable opportunities to gain exposure to each other's sectors.
6. Universities should develop Quadruple helix support facilities such as corporate relations or industrial relations. They should also become more strategic and more intentional to have specialized expertise in creating space for collaboration and commercialization such as incubation centres and science parks. A new culture of industrial engagement should be encouraged.

CONCLUSION

At the end of this Fair/Conference, we hope there will be a stronger commitment and initiative to commercialize innovative research outputs. Research results will be translated into new or improved products and services that make a difference in people's lives and generate economic opportunity for academic inventors, the university, the government, industry, and the wider community. Academic researchers and inventors are contributing to economic growth, whether it be through the licensing of technology to other companies or through the development of new start-up companies.







I commend our Vice-Chancellor and Leader, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, CFS and the University Management Committee (UMC) for approving and supporting the Maiden Research Innovation Fair. I also congratulate the Director of DURA, Prof. Kayode J. Simonyan and his team members for a very successful outing. More wins for MOUUAU.

Prof. Udo Herbert
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic

It was a successful Conference. Congratulations my Director.

My humble appreciation to our able Vice-Chancellor, for the wonderful and successful Research and Innovation Fair/Conference. Many thanks to the Director of DURA for recognizing and rewarding hardwork and diligence for the first in the history of MOUUAU. May God bless you all,

Prof. Kelvin I. Amaefule
College of Animal Science and Animal Production, MOUUAU

Congratulations to our Director. You have walked the talk. You and your Planning Committee have done beautifully well. It is not easy at all to showcase this kind of event. I really missed it but I got the feel.

Prof. Emmanuel C. Nzegbule
College of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, MOUUAU

Congratulations Prof. Simonyan. You and your team worked so hard to achieve this great feat.

Prof. Greg. Onwuka
Director, TETFund Centre of Excellence in Root Crop Research and Development

Congratulations to the Director of DURA and his team. The Research Fair was an excellent outing.

Prof. Irene Ifeoma Ijeh
Director, Centre for Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology

The MOUUAU Maiden Research & Innovation Fair/Conference was a giant stride towards bridging the gap between research outputs and commercialization/industrialization. I congratulate our Vice-Chancellor and the Director of DURA for the success of the event. I wish we can increase the frequency and support in order to achieve the overall goal of industrial spin-offs from MOUUAU research outputs. Bravo MOUUAU DURA.

Dr. Blessing Offia-Olua
Deputy Director, DURA

I have just fallen in love with your University. It was a pleasure being part of history at the maiden edition of the research fair. I am sure this seed will undoubtedly grow into something that will outlive us all. Thank you for extending the invite to us and we look forward to working together

Nigerian Communication Commission, Abuja

I have been following the proceedings (of the Maiden Research Innovation Fair) and I have loved everything I am seeing. Please do you offer Ph.D in Nutritional Biochemistry under Sandwich programme? I would like to have a major Supervisor from your University and a minor supervisor from the University of Zambia. I wish to graduate from your University.

Macrichard Tande Jr.
University of Zambia

The Maiden Research and Innovation Fair was a really great and productive Conference. It provided a valuable forum for various stakeholders to discuss and explore innovative approaches for sustainable funding of university education in Nigeria. The panel sessions were very engaging and insightful especially the rich and frank discussions centred around strategies that can enhance research, promote economic recovery, and contribute to the sustainable funding of university education in Nigeria. I was particularly thrilled by presentation of academic awards to researchers who excelled in their various fields. I sincerely congratulate the organizers on the success of the conference

Dr. Patricia Ukegbu
Associate Professor
Department of Human Nutrition and Dietetics,



We stand with you, always!

In an increasingly connected world, with multiplying digital opportunities, you need a visionary partner that is ready to stand with you, in every step of the way!

The Nigerian Communications Commission, globally renown, and locally responsive, is committed to promoting a healthy competitive telecom environment through innovative regulatory solutions in all frontiers of our nation's telecom landscape.

Counting on our operational efficiency, and guided by our virtues of fairness, firmness and forthrightness, our team of professionals is fully dedicated to upholding the tenets of regulatory excellence to meet the desires and expectations of all stakeholders.

Therefore, stand with us to be counted, because your partnership counts!

NCC...Connecting Nigeria!



Nigerian Communications Commission

Plot 423, Aguiyi Ironsi Street Maitama, Abuja.

Telephone: 234-9-4617000 **Toll free:** 622 **Fax:** 234-9-4617514

E-mail: ncc@ncc.gov.ng, **Website:** www.ncc.gov.ng



WE SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS

We develop and manufacture specialty chemical solutions for:

- Cleaning and Hygiene
- Food and Beverage
- Aluminum Can Processing
- Metal Cleaning and Treatment
- Water Treatment
- Lubricant and Fuel Additives
- Construction
- Oilfield

Our advanced Laboratory capabilities help you with:

- Routine chemical analysis
- Method development and validation
- Environmental testing
- Quality control and assurance
- Custom research projects
- Consultation and technical support

Contact Us

Eunisell Limited
196A Jide Oki Street,
Victoria Island, Lagos
Tel: +2349087659938

Eunisell Limited
Plot 49/51 Danjuma Drive, Trans
Amadi Industrial Layout, Port
Harcourt
Tel: +2349087659940

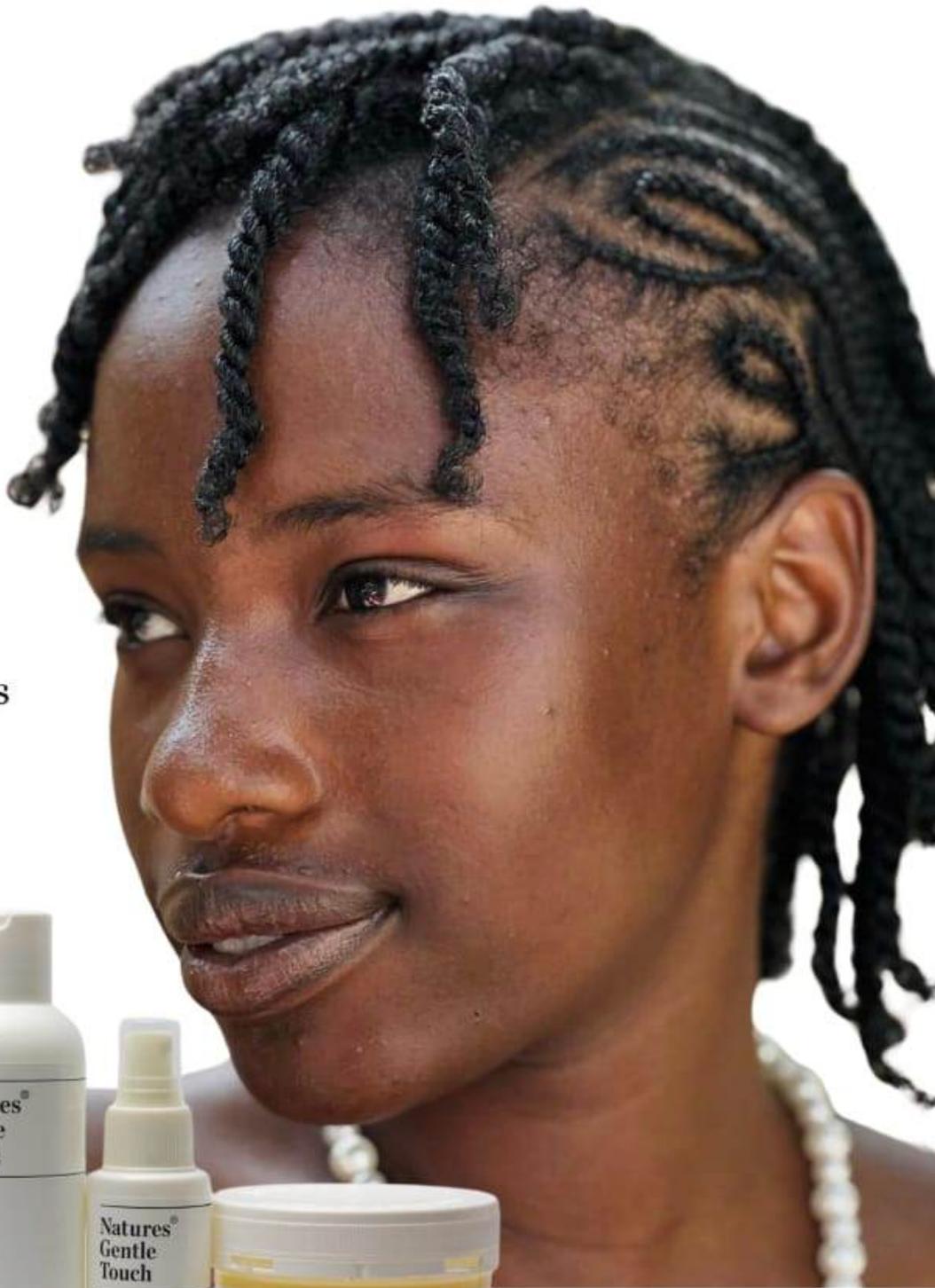


 info@eunisell.com
 www.eunisell.com

**Natures
Gentle
Touch**

**Struggling to
maintain
your natural
hair?**

Natures Gentle Touch
Monoi Oil Range makes
it easy.



Customer care line: 07038321653, 09083411912
Buy our product online@www.naturesgentletouch.com

A PERSONAL STYLE BRAND BY  RECare

OUR SERVICES:

- Inbound and Outbound Logistics.
- Haulage Services
- Freight Forwarding
- International Logistics



PLACES WE COVER

- Lagos
- Abuja
- Owerri
- Port-harcourt
- Enugu
- Ebonyi
- Onitsha
- Asaba
- Benin
- Abia

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GAVICE INVESTMENT PLANS

✓ **BIKE INVESTMENT**

Cruiser Bike - 600k (18k/wk; 50 weeks)

VEHICLE INVESTMENT:

For the vehicles, we offer Three (3) different investment packages at the moment:

✓ **Mini Bus** - (2.5million)

Duration: 16 months / 225k monthly

✓ **Van** - (8.5million)

Duration: 24 months / 550k monthly

✓ **Truck** - (20million)

Duration: 30 months / 1 million monthly

BOND YIELD

✓ **Advance** - (10million)

Duration: 40 months / 500k monthly

ROI 100%

✓ **Partnership** - (25million)

Duration: 96 months / 625k monthly

ROI 140%

✓ **MINI JET MOVER** - (25,000,000 to yield 37,500,000)

Duration: 14 months / 2,678,571 monthly

ROI 50%

✓ **JET MOVER** - (50,000,000 to yield 75,000,000)

Duration: 14 months / 5,357,143 monthly

ROI 50%

For More Details:

+234 8123 751 9848

Address : No. 6 Aba road, umuhia, Abia state.

Download The Gavice App On



www.gavice.ng



Gavice Logistics



Gavice

