



Our up-to-date audited accounts have helped us to register with ACU - DUA, Bursar reveal, extol VC

By Ubadire Agua and Patrick Oparah



Prof. M. O. Iwe
(VC, MOU AU)



Chief U. I. Ironkwe
(Bursar)



Prof. C. O. Ofor
(DUA)

The Director of University Advancement (DUA) in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Prof. Chukwuma Okereke Ofor and the Bursar of the University, Chief Ugochukwu Isikaku Ironkwe, have revealed that the University has now registered its partnership with the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), after submitting an up-to-date audited financial accounts of the University.

In an interview with MOU AU News, the duo said credits must be given to the Vice-Chancellor of MOU AU, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, CFS, who insisted that

the Bursary must complete the auditing of the University accounts before the end of third quarter of 2024 and the Directorate of University Advancement must achieve the partnership it's been pursuing with ACU since 2021.

According to the Bursar, the last University audited accounts was in 2015 and was unacceptable to the Vice-Chancellor. "You know I am a team player. When I saw the situation of our accounts and the things it has denied us as a University and the passion of our VC for the growth and development of the University, I mobilised my staff colleagues

in the Bursary Department and we worked assiduously with the spirit of a team, we delivered on the audited accounts", Chief Ironkwe said.

On his part, The DUA noted that the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) is the worlds oldest international network of universities and offers great opportunities to members-institution in several areas. He called on staff of MOU AU to avail themselves of opportunities in the partnership to secure scholarships, research grants, and study fellowships in Commonwealth Countries.



How MOUAW's Engr. Ikechukwu's Ph.D thesis won a Presidential Commercialisation Award

By Ubadire Agua and Joy Nlebedum

Engr. Dr. Ijeoma Francisca Ikechukwu of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, has revealed how her doctoral thesis won a Presidential Commercialisation Award and a cash reward of eight million five hundred thousand (N8,500,000.00) naira recently.

Engr Dr. Ikechukwu told MOUAW News after receiving her award at the National Agency for Science and Engineering infrastructure NASENI, Headquarters Abuja, that she did not aim at any award while working hard on her thesis, but that her objective was to solve the problem of processing of Bambara nut to flour to aid mass production of quality Bambara flour, reduce drudgery, product loss and unhygienic process witnessed in the sector thus creating employment for the youth and food security for the nation.

Engr. Dr. Ikechukwu said “when I submitted the thesis for assessment, I did not imagine I would be called up for any award. When I was eventually called, I was very excited and became more proud of the work we did. I am glad that out of over 150 research work submitted for the competition which passed through so many screening processes and panel interviews, I was selected among the top six for the award at the Presidential innovation committee on technology transfer (PICTT) in collaboration with the DELT-Her program lunch in March 2024 and is being celebrated today.

Speaking further, the Presidential Award Winner said “I had good Supervisors in the persons of Prof. Berthrand N. Nwankwojike



Engr. Dr. Ijeoma Ikechukwu

and Prof Fidelis I. Abam. With their guidance, I worked assiduously to design the machine for effective processing of Bambara nut

MOUAW News checks found that the thesis, titled “Development and Parametric Analysis of Bambara Flour Processing Machine Using Response Surface Methodology” was awarded the 2nd Best thesis in 2022 by the Industrial Engineering and Operations Management Society International (IEOM). The thesis was also awarded a patent with registration number NG/P/2022/20 by Trademarks, Patents and Designs Registry of Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment.

Meanwhile, the Vice-Chancellor of MOUAW, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, CFS has congratulated Engr. Dr. Ikechukwu on her award and for making MOUAW proud. The VC has also commended her Supervisor and Mentor, Engr. Professor Berthrand N. Nwankwojike for an excellent PhD thesis supervision and mentorship which has earned the University the Presidential Award.

Prof. Iwe called on other students and their Supervisors to be meticulous in the research and to aim at solving problems rather than fulfilling all righteousness in their research.



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MOU AU 56th Inaugural Lecture: *What Prof. Ofor said*

By Ubadire Agua and Chinedu Ononiwu



Prof. Chukwuma Okereke Ofor

A renowned aquaculturist and Professor of Aquaculture Production Management in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOU AU), Chukwuma Okereke Ofor, has said that the Fishing sub-sector of the Nigerian Agricultural Sector could earn the country the huge foreign exchange it requires to attain her much-desired financial stability, if the potentials are properly harnessed.

The erudite scholar and Director of University Advancement (DUA) in MOU AU made the statement during an interview with MOU AU News after his Inaugural Lecture on October 9, 2024.

His lecture, entitled ‘Can the Black box explain the neoteny in Nigeria commercial aquaculture?’, was an eye-opener to lots of fish farmers, researchers and government officials who attended the

Lecture physically or joined via Zoom.

According to Ofor, Nigeria is underutilizing the potentials of the vast water mass and human resources it has, which have the capacity to turn its dwindling economy around for the better.

Prof. Ofor explained that the “Black box” which is commonly associated with aeroplane technology, actually refers to the many culturally-installed unknowns in the practice of aquacul-

considering that crucial information such as interactions between feeds, environmental conditions, and growth rate are hidden in it.

Prof. Ofor opened the Aquaculture Black Box by noting that neglected, innovative approaches such as skip-a-day feeding, satiation feeding, mixed feeding techniques, as well as fish-in-fish-out approach, can address the lingering issue of under-development in fish production in Nigeria.

He maintained that through the adoption of the neglected, innovative approaches, Nigeria’s aquaculture industry can improve its efficiency, to



ture and that “neoteny” in fish production refers to the slowing down of the physiological development of fish.

He opined that the Black box can actually explain the neoteny in fish production when

address the issue of its high but unutilised aquaculture production capacity.



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“Take advantage of our human and materials resources to excel” VC tells PG Students

By Collins Ginger-Eke and SundayOkorie



*Prof. E. F. Asawalam
(DVC ADMIN)*

Postgraduate Students of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike have been urged to make the most of the human and material resources in the University to excel in their studies.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, CFS, made the call while addressing the PG Students during their 3rd Orientation Programme held on October 16, 2024 in Senator Anyim Pius Anyim Auditorium.

Prof. Iwe, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof.

Elechi Franca Asawalam, urged students to take full advantage of the university's resources, including its library, research facilities, and interdisciplinary collaborations. She stressed the importance of active engagement with peers and Professors. She also highlighted that Postgraduate education extends beyond academic achievements to encompass teamwork and creativity.

Also addressing the students, the Dean of the Postgraduate School, Prof. Ogbonnaya Inya Okoro, congratulated them on their admission into the School. We are glad to welcome you to our family, where staff and students are united.

He announced that 580 and 760 were admitted in the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 academic sessions respectively and noted that the Orientation Programme was aimed at inculcating the necessary and relevant procedures, rules and regulations as well as motivate them into high level productivity that emphasizes efficiency, time management speedy graduation and less human mistakes.

The programme featured an overview of the Postgraduate School, presented by the Dean, and a session on attracting research grants and proposal writing by Dr. Damian Njoku, represented by Dr. Sam Onwuka, Head of the Digital Agriculture Unit at NRCRI Umudike. Prof. Ifeoma Irene Ijeh, Director of the MOUAU Center for Molecular Bioscience and



*Prof. O. I. Okoro
(Dean, PG School)*

Biotechnology (CMBB), also discussed time management, TETFUND, and other interventions for the Postgraduate School.

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