

VC receives UNDP Nigeria Resident Rep., ABSG Officials as they tour MOUAAU UNIPOD ahead of inauguration

By Ubadire Agua



MOUAAU VC, Prof. Iwe (left) receiving UNDP Res. Rep., Ms. Elsie Attafua to MOUAAU

The Vice-Chancellor of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, on Wednesday, July 9, 2025 received the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Nigeria, Ms. Elsie and other officials of the Abia State Government, who came on an inspection tour of the University Innovation Pod (UNIPOD) being constructed and equipped in MOUAAU by the world body.

The Visit, which was part of

preparations for the eventual commissioning of the world-class innovation hub, also provided an opportunity to listen to innovative ideas and proposals by some students and staff of the University, who will be empowered to use the hub to actualize their ideas..

Receiving the Visitors, the Vice-Chancellor, accompanied by his Deputy Vice-Chancellors (Academic and Administration) expressed the gratitude of the University Community to UNDP,

the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Abia State Government for the project, describing it as the centre of excellence for realization of dreams. He expressed the hope that the UniPod would be completed and commissioned later this year.

Officials of Abia State Government including 5 Commissioners led by the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Ikechukwu Uwanna, accompanied the UNDP Nigeria Resident Rep. to MOUAAU

Graduate Agripreneur Programme: 4 MOUUAU student receive ₦6m from BATCN Foundation

By Ubadire Agua, Joy Nlebedum and Ginger-Eke Collins



Four students of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike have received the sum of ₦6 million naira from the British America Tobacco Company of Nigeria (BATCN) Foundation as grant for Graduate Agripreneur Programme (GAP).

The 4 students from the University's B. Agric. programmes, who received 1.5m naira each are: Uwa Chukwuemeka, Ibiam Chioma, Ngama Vivian and Ugwu Chibuzor.

They emerged after a live pitch session where 18 students presented their agribusiness proposals and graded by a team of experts from both MOUUAU and BATCH Foundation.

Speaking during the event, which held at the Modern Lecture Theatre of the University on July 17th, 2025, the General Manager of BATCN, Mr.

Oludare Odusanya, stated that the grant aligns with the Foundation's mission to empower youth and promote food security through sustainable agribusiness.

Said the GM: "The Farmer for the Future Initiative is designed to help young graduates turn their passion for agriculture into thriving businesses. We are proud of these 4 young entrepreneurs and excited to be part of their journey.

In his address at the Occassion, the Vice-Chancellor of MOUUAU, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, while going memory lane on his interaction with BATCN, spanning over 2 years, praised the Foundation for its continuous investment in youth empowerment. He said the University is proud that her graduates are being recognized

nationally for their entrepreneurial drive, which reflects his dream for the University.

Prof. Iwe also said the grant reflects the quality of training at MOUUAU and the commitment of his administration to producing job creators in the agricultural space.

MOUUAU News reports that the winning agribusiness proposals included ventures in fish farming, poultry production, palm oil processing and mobile agro-solutions, were all evaluated for creativity, scalability and socio-economic impact

In their individual remarks, the Awardees, expressed their gratitude to MOUUAU and the BATCN for providing the platform to grow their vision. They pointed out that the grant served as lifeline for young people like them to excel in the agribusiness.



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HNUD sets up nutri-fan club in UDSS, as VC commissions the School demonstration garden

By Ginger-Eke and Joy Nlebedum

In a bid to create awareness of the benefits of healthy eating among adolescents, the Ag. Head of Department of Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOU AU), Dr. Patricia Ogechi Ukaegbu, has set up a Nutri-Fan Club in the University Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS), while the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, commissioned a school garden.

Speaking during the event, Dr. Ukegbu, said the project aims to involve secondary school students in agriculture and nutrition early in life, as a strategic approach to improving dietary habits and hygiene among teenagers. She expressed optimism that the Nutri-Fan Club will serve as a practical guide to improve students' nutrition and general well-being.

Addressing guests during the event, the Vice-Chancellor of MOU AU, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Ursula Ngozi Akanwa, applauded the Department for its impactful initiative. She emphasized the importance of eating balanced meals, particularly fresh fruits and vegetables, for the healthy growth of children and adolescents.

She also urged students and club members to replicate the gardening practice at home by



using sack bags, cement bags, or buckets to grow vegetables and crops, adding that even small efforts can contribute to better nutrition at the household level.

Stakeholders, particularly from Abia State Ministries, praised the initiative of Dr. Ukaegbu in setting up the Nutri-Fan Club and the School Garden.

They described the Initiative as “timely and impactful, and noted that the project would boost food security in homes and rekindle interest in agriculture among students.

In her vote of thanks, the Initiator of the Project, Dr. Ukaegbu, appreciated NESTLE Foundation Switzerland for providing the financial support that enabled her to embark on the Project.

She also specially thanked a Deputy Director in the MOU AU Extension Centre, Dr. Rose Kanu, who advocated and demonstrated for the use of sack bags to plant crops both in school and at home.



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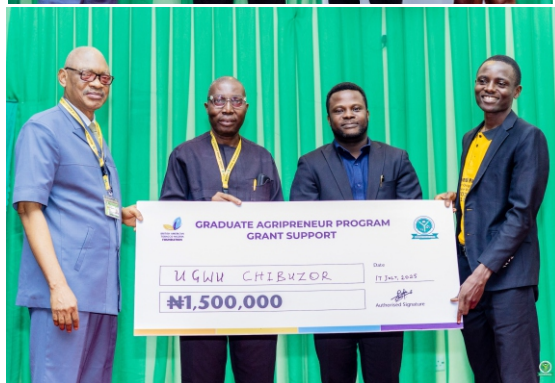


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