



VC Excited as MOU AU & University of Cambridge Scientists win 2025 Mastercard Foundation £49,933 Research Fund

By Ubadire Agua



Professor Olayinka I. Nwachukwu and Dr George Ikwaokolam Okoro of the College of Crop and Soil Sciences (CCSS), Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, have won the 2025 Mastercard Foundation and University of Cambridge Climate Resilience and Sustainability Research Fund (CRoSus RF) as Africa Principal Investigator (PI) and co-researcher respectively.

The Research Fund worth £49,933 shall fund components of the project at 60 % to the UK and 40 % to the Africa (Nigeria) Investigators respectively.

The project shall conclude with a biotechnology training and other events at MOU AU, Umudike, Nigeria in the first quarter of 2026.

The MOU AU Scientists project for which they co- applied with two University of Cambridge-based Scientists was announced as one of the three winners globally, and the only successful application from Nigeria.

Meanwhile, the Vice-Chancellor of MOU AU, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, has expressed his excitement over the emergence of MOU AU Scientists as winners of the Mastercard Foundation and University of Cambridge Research Fund.

Prof. Iwe revealed this while speaking to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in an exclusive interview on September 23, 2025 in his Office after receiving the report from the winners.

“Nothing excites me more than the news of how scientists in this great University, are making waves in national and international competition. Our visibility is rising. Institutions and organizations are reckoning with the University. I congratulated Prof. Nwachukwu and Dr. George and encourage other scientists in the University to compete and win too”, Prof. Iwe said.



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Again, Elsevier, Stanford University Name 2 MOUUAU Scholars Among World's Top 2% Scientist for 2025

By Ubadire Agua

Two scholars from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Prof. Magmanu Ndukwa and Dr. Kennedy Onyelowe, have once again, been named among World's Top 2% Scientists for 2025 by Stanford University, USA and Elsevier.

MOUUAU News gathered that the 2025 list used data indexed by Scopus as of August 1, 2025, covering citations up to the end of 2024.

Meanwhile, Vice-Chancellor of MOUUAU, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, while commending the scholars said their ranking by a reputable institution and body like as Stanford/Elsevier is a testament of their research capacities and impact.

“By being included in the World Top 2% Scientists, as was the case in 2024, Engr. Prof. Ndukwa and Engr. Dr. Onyelowe are now receiving international recognitions for their efforts in advancing knowledge and impacting the scientific communities, and we are proud of them”, the VC said.

Prof. Iwe also lauded their scientific exploits which in his words, “has given MOUUAU more visibility among universities and ranking bodies in the world”.

The Vice-Chancellor therefore charged them not to rest on their oars, assuring them of his administration's continued support to research and innovation, geared towards solving societal problems.



Engr. Prof. Magmanus Ndukwa



Engr. Dr. Kennedy Onyelowe

Meanwhile, Dr. Doris Akachukwu of the Department of Biochemistry has also made MOUUAU proud after completing an international research training in Poland. She was among 41 laureates chosen for the One Planet Fellowship in 2021 and was later selected as one of the 37 top scientists sponsored for an Advanced Science Training in Europe, supported by the Agropolis Foundation, France.

MOUUAU News gathered that

between June and December 2023, Dr. Akachukwu undertook a research internship at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, and showed exceptional research skills and capabilities, that stood her out among her co-researchers.

Dr. Akachukwu has expressed her gratitude to the VC for the support she has received so far in her career development.



Dr. Doris Akachukwu (left) with colleagues in a Lab



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UNDP may launch Nigeria's 1st UniPod in MOUUAU October 2025, Ms. Elsie, Nigeria Resident Rep. says

By Chinedu Ononiwu



Ms. Elsie Attafuah (centre) and participants in the 2-day technical training of UniPod Focal Officers in Lagos.

Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUUAU) is set to launch Nigeria's first United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) University Innovation Pod (UniPod) in October 2025, marking a major milestone in the country's drive to promote youth-led innovation.

Prof. Lawrence Oborkhale, Lead Focal Point of UniPod in MOUUAU and Director, Centre for Artificial Intelligence (CAI) at the University, confirmed the development during a two-day technical session of UniPod focal points from eight Nigerian universities, held on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 September, 2025 at the UNDP Nigeria Innovation Center, Lagos.

The meeting, organized as a direct follow-up to earlier strategic sessions, provided a platform for focal points to translate high-level strategies into concrete action plans for the activation of

UniPods nationwide.

According to Prof. Oborkhale, MOUUAU's UniPod is at its finishing stages, with plans already underway to host the launch event in October. "We have put systems and structures in place to be the first to launch the Unipod in October and to ensure that MOUUAU UniPod becomes a model for others in Nigeria," he said.

Speaking during the technical sessions, the UNDP (Nig.) Resident Representative, Ms. Elsie Attafuah, commended MOUUAU for its leadership role and readiness to pioneer the UniPod initiative in Nigeria. She stressed the importance of the University Focal Points in ensuring the success of the project across Nigeria's tertiary institutions.

A major highlight of the technical sessions was the plenary review of key standard operating documents, covering facility management, equipment utilization,

communications and visibility, as well as governance processes, for the activation and smooth operations of the Unipods.

The technical sessions featured active participation from MOUUAU representatives, Prof. Lawrence Oborkhale and Dr. Chinedu Richard Ononiwu, UniPod Communications Lead for the University.

The UNDP's UniPod initiative, being rolled out across public universities in Africa in partnership with national governments, is designed to empower students and young entrepreneurs. Each UniPod will feature design labs, maker spaces, and prototyping facilities to help turn ideas into products, as well as provide mentorship and training to develop innovative solutions for pressing societal challenges.



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We'd think of how to support MOUUAU, Traditional Rulers of Host Communities tell VC, commends his openness to them

By Chinedu Ononiwu



Traditional Rulers from host communities of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUUAU), have assured the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, of their readiness to seek ways to support the University, instead of thinking of what the University could do for them.

His Royal Highness, Eze Otuwa, expressed this view while responding to the Vice-Chancellor's address during a meeting with Traditional Rulers on September 23, 2025 in the VC's Conference Room.

In his address, Prof. Iwe, reeled out the challenges which the University had been grappling with since 2021, but reassured the Traditional Rulers of his administration's willingness to pursue a cordial relationship with the Host Communities.

According to the VC, the University had faced low funding and the impact of national industrial actions on the Institution's progress in the last four and half years; challenges, he said were not peculiar to MOUUAU.

The Vice-Chancellor explained that the University's relationship with Traditional

Rulers and their communities remained intact and deeply valued, even in the face of daunting obstacles.

Prof. Iwe noted that strike actions of 2022 and the COVID-19 pandemic had collectively set universities back by nearly three years and highlighted the severe impact of these challenges on the relationship between universities and their host communities. He however expressed the hope that things would get better.

Earlier, the Leader of the delegation and Traditional Ruler of Umudike Ukwu Autonomous Community, His Royal Highness, Eze Ben Oriaku, expressed some

concerns of his colleagues to the VC, including employment of youths from their communities and regular meeting with them so they could understand the challenges the University faces and know how to help her.

"We deeply appreciate the support you have provided to MOUUAU, and we will continue to nurture this partnership to the best of our ability." Eze Oriaku and the other traditional rulers expressed their appreciation for the Vice-Chancellor's openness and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the university's vision for growth and development.



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HAPPY INDEPENDENCE *Day* NIGERIA

As we mark our 65th Independence Day in our communities and campuses, let us reflect on our strengths - the underlying sense of unity and shared identity in diversity, huge population and unique cultural heritage, our resilience and undying spirit, rich natural and human resources, - and be thankful for how far the Almighty has brought our nation. Let us also keep our hopes alive for a better Nigeria, where truth, justice, and peace shall reign, and our universities shall regain their glories.

Congratulations, fellow Nigerians.

Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe
Vice-Chancellor



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Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike.

The Vice-Chancellor, PROF. MADUEBIBISI OFO IWE, CFS, FNIST, FIAFST,
On Behalf Of The University Senate And Management

Has the pleasure to invite the University community
and the general public to her



64th Inaugural Lecture



"For a healthy
and happy life eat fruits
and vegetables"

Topic:

Adolescence: A Bridge Between
Childhood and Adulthood and Their
Need for Adequate Nutrition.

TO BE DELIVERED BY:

Professor JULIANA UCHENNA ANYIKA-ELEKEH,

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DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR, (ACADEMIC)
& CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC LECTURES COMMITTEE

DR. (MRS.) NKEIRUKA
CHARITY MBANASOR
REGISTRAR

8th | 1:00 pm

October, 2025

West Central Africa

VENUE: SENATOR ANYIM PIUS AUDITORIUM

Meeting ID: 834 1952 2141 Passcode: 993392



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