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BUK Hosts 49th Annual Soil Science Conference: Minister of Agriculture Proposes Strategic Partnership to Enhance Nigeria's Food Security

By Nura Garba



Left: DVC Academics, Prof. Haruna Musa, *fsi*, President SSSN, Prof. Jibrin M. Jibrin, Minister of State for Agriculture, Dr. Aliyu S. Abdullahi (centre) President of NISS, Prof. AM Kundiri and Prof. Victor Chude, President International Union of Soil Sciences and Registrar, Nigeria Institute of Soil Science

The Federal Government has assured commitment to revitalize the agricultural sector using science and strategic partnership, the minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, Dr. Senator Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, has declared.

Declaring the 49th Annual Conference of the Soil Science Society of Nigeria (SSSN) on Tuesday, 7th April, 2025, the minister emphasized that soil health was not just a scientific concern but a national imperative—central to food security, economic stability and sustainable development.

The conference was themed “Promoting Soil Health and Resilience Through Research and Innovation for Sustainable Development.” The five-day gathering, which was co-hosted by the Bayero University's Faculty of Agriculture and the Centre for Dryland Agriculture (CDA), was held at the Conference hall of the CBN Centre of Excellence building in the new campus.

The minister warned that Nigeria's soils were under

significant stress due to erosion, deforestation, unsustainable land practices and climate-related challenges, all of which threatened the country's ability to feed its growing population.

Dr Sabi Aliyu, however, disclosed that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda has the potentiality of bailing the country out of the quagmire, as he outlined government's initiatives and pledged strong institutional support for sustainable soil management.

The minister announced the establishment of the National Farmers Soil Health Scheme — a transformative initiative aimed at enhancing soil fertility and farm productivity nationwide. He said the ministry would work in partnership with Bayero University, through the CDA and Faculty of Agriculture, describing the university as a strategic partner in driving the scheme's rollout.

“We see immense value in leveraging BUK's expertise to empower farmers and protect Nigeria's most valuable natural asset — its soil,” the Minister affirmed.

Earlier, in his address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, welcomed participants to what he described as a gathering of minds committed to reshaping the future of agriculture in Nigeria.

The Vice Chancellor who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Professor Haruna Musa, said the theme of the conference was timely, addressing urgent global concerns about soil degradation, food insecurity and the impacts of climate change on agricultural systems.

In his welcome address, the President of the Soil Science Society of Nigeria, Professor Jibrin Mohammed Jibrin, echoed similar sentiments, describing it as a “gathering of visionaries.” He praised the role of research and innovation in restoring soil health and appreciated the government's growing support.

He also acknowledged contributions from key industry partners like OCP Africa, Soil Values and Exchange Africa, noting their role in bridging research and real-world agricultural practice. Professor Jibrin, who is also the Director, Centre for Dryland Agriculture, further highlighted the SSSN's commitment to nurturing the next generation of scientists through initiatives like the Soil Talk Lecture Series and its continued sponsorship of young soil researchers at national conferences.

“We are building not just knowledge, but a legacy,” he remarked, also in his speech, the President of the Nigeria Institute of Soil Science (NISS), Professor A.M. Kundiri, reinforced the urgency of prioritizing soil health, which he described as vital to agricultural productivity, environmental resilience and national well-being. He reaffirmed NISS's role in steering policy, research and

training across Nigeria's agricultural landscape.

The Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), General Mohammed Buba Marwa (rtd), represented by the Kano State Commandant, Abubakar Idris Ahmad, linked soil to a lesser-known but important issue — illicit drug cultivation.

He revealed the NDLEA's efforts to combat illegal *cannabis* plantations, warning that poor land management can sometimes open doors to criminal activity in rural areas.

Earlier, the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Muhammad Auwal Hussain, welcomed delegates and traced the Faculty's journey from 2001 with just three departments to its current robust structure comprising eight departments and five undergraduate programmes.

He described the conference as a crucial platform for networking, sharing innovative ideas and shaping the direction of agricultural research and development.

Highlight of the event was conferment of the Fellow Awards to three distinguished personalities, who were the minister of state for Agriculture, Senator Dr. Sabi Aliyu Abdullahi, the Governor of Borno State, Professor Bababgana Umara Zulum and Professor Adam Lawan Ngala, in recognition of their distinguished contributions to the field of agriculture and soil science,

The conference also featured two lead paper presentations delivered by Professor B.D. Tarfa, the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Agriculture, Mubi, and one other by Dr. Martin Yemefack, the former President of the African Soil Science Society (ASSS), Cameroon.

Maternal and Infant Nutrition Intervention Remain a Major Strategic Investment in Nation's Future – Prof. Galadanci

By Bala G. Abdullahi

Intervention in maternal, infant and young child nutrition is capable of reducing long-term healthcare costs and accelerates human capital development, making it not just a humanitarian imperative but also a strategic investment in the nation's future, the Director of the Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP), Professor Hadiza Galadanci, has said.

Speaking during a supervision visit to the MIYCN site at Rimi Village of Sumaila Local Government of Kano state on Thursday, 3rd April, 2025 to assess the impact of the Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) Project, Prof. Galadanci stated that nutrition interventions often yielded broad and lasting benefits, including improved maternal and child health outcomes, reduced mortality rates, enhanced cognitive and physical development and increased economic productivity.

According to her, individuals who were well-nourished were more likely to excel academically, engage productively in the workforce and contribute meaningfully to national progress. She urged the beneficiaries to share their newly acquired knowledge with other women in their communities to expand the ripple effect of the intervention.

It could be recalled that ACEPHAP in January, last year, collaborated with Lighthouse Humanitarian Foundation (LHF) and launched a bold and strategic initiative, the



ACEPHAP team in a group photograph with Members of Rimi community

Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) Project at Rimi Ward of Sumaila Local Government, Kano State.

Malnutrition, particularly among women and children, remains a deeply rooted challenge in the state. Its consequences are profound, manifesting in high rates of maternal mortality, childhood stunting, impaired cognitive development and a weakened immune system that increases susceptibility to illness. These issues diminish an individual's potential and restrict full participation in community life, ultimately hindering the region's social and economic development.

The project featured a wide range of activities in which 150 women with their children benefitted. This includes intensive workshops that educated participants on healthy dietary practices during pregnancy, the prevention and management of nutrition-related health conditions and the importance of adhering to Iron-Folic Acid (IFAS) and Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS).

Beneficiaries were also trained on breastfeeding techniques, appropriate complementary feeding, personal and food hygiene and practical food preparation. Demonstrations on how to prepare soybean-based milk and sessions on home gardening and small-scale livestock rearing added valuable life skills that could be immediately applied in their homes. To support these efforts, livestock such as goats and chickens were distributed to the beneficiaries along with soybean for producing nutritious milk to feed themselves and their children.

The Stakeholders expressed deep satisfaction and appreciation for the intervention, describing it as timely, relevant and empowering. Community leaders pledged their solid support for the sustainability of the initiative. One local elder shared his admiration, noting that the

project had gone beyond relief by building capacity and encouraging independence among women.

The Beneficiaries themselves spoke glowingly of the transformation they experienced. Zainab, a young mother from the ward, explained how the project changed her approach to pregnancy and childcare, saying she now understood the importance of supplements and shared that knowledge with others. Another participant, Maryam, expressed how learning to make soybean milk and care for livestock helped her to provide better nutrition for her children, boosting her confidence and sense of purpose.

Also speaking during the site visit, Barrister Kareemah Imam, the Country Director of Lighthouse Humanitarian Foundation (LHF), expressed her profound commitment to sustaining and expanding such impactful initiatives. She stated that LHF remained dedicated to empowering communities and improving societal well-being through evidence-based community-driven projects, noting that the success of the MIYCN Project in Rimi Ward served as a model for similar programs across the state and beyond.

The visit was graced by several distinguished dignitaries, whose presence accentuated the importance of the project and the unified commitment to its objectives. Among those in attendance were Professor Salisu Maiwada Abubakar, President of the Nutrition Society of Nigeria (NSN) and the ACEPHAP Deputy Director, Outreach, Professor Baba Musa Maiyaki, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Professor Taiwo Amole, Deputy Director, Research, Professor Aisha Gadanya, Dr. Fatima Muhammad and Alhaji Sunusi, a member of the Board of Trustees of LHF.

Eid-el-Fitr: Leaders Urged to Govern with Compassion, Fear of God

By Lamara Garba

The Chief Imam of Bayero University, Kano, Dr. Nuhu Abdullahi, has emphasized the importance of kindness, forgiveness and humility as values that are central to the Islamic faith.

Delivering a sermon at the Eid-Fitr ground at New Campus on Sunday, March 30th, 2025, he noted that the society could be better if we could maintain the spirit of Ramadhan fasting.

Dr. Abdullahi urged the Muslims to imbibe the spirit of Ramadan, which embodies compassion, empathy and generosity. He noted that a society that adheres to these values would be a better place to live, where individuals look out for one another's well-being.

The Imam also charged leaders to govern with compassion and fear of God, lamenting that greed, corruption and lack of fear of God had hindered Nigeria's progress. He called on leaders to prioritize the welfare of their citizens and lead by example, demonstrating the values of kindness, fairness and justice.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, in his Sallah message, urged members of staff to uphold the teachings of Ramadan fasting, which include love, assistance and brotherhood.



BUK Chief Imam, Dr. Nuhu Abdullahi leading the Eid-el-Fitr prayer

He reaffirmed the management's commitment to improving the welfare of BUK's staff and students through the provision of facilities that would provide a conducive environment in the university.

Professor Abbas said that through its action the Management had demonstrated a dedication to creating a

conducive environment for learning and teaching. Eid-Fitr is a celebration of gratitude, compassion and Islamic values, where Muslims come together to share meals, exchange gifts and engage in acts of charity. It's a time to reflect on the blessings of the past year and look forward to

the opportunities of the new one," said the Vice Chancellor. According to Professor Abbas, Eid-Fitr was not just a festive occasion but a reminder of the importance of kindness, compassion and generosity in our daily lives.

Elected NAKSS BUK Chapter, Executives Inaugurated

By Nura Garba

The newly elected executives of the National Association of Kano State Students (NAKSS), Bayero University Chapter have been advised to uphold the virtues of honesty, transparency and the fear of Allah as they assume the leadership of the association.

Inaugurating the executives at the end of a closely contested election, the Chairman of the Electoral Committee, Isma'il Marwan Sa'ad, further urged them to discharge their duties with integrity and dedication and take members along in all major decisions affecting the association.

He expressed gratitude to the Grand Patron of the Association, Professor Ibrahim Adamu Yakasai (Dean, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences), for his unwavering support and commitment to the cause of the association.

The Chairman equally extended similar gratitude to the national body of the association for the role they played in the smooth and hitch-free election and inauguration, thereby reinforcing the unity and advancement of the association.

In his response, the newly elected President, Amb. Asahabulkhair Labaran, commended the free and fair nature of the electoral process that led to his emergence and expressed appreciation to the Management of Bayero University, Kano for providing an enabling environment

for the practice and sustenance of democracy.

He thanked his colleagues for the confidence they had in him by unanimously electing him as the association's president and pledged to serve the association to the best of his abilities with transparency, dedication and integrity as well as ensuring that their interests remain a top priority throughout his tenure.

The occasion also witnessed the official presentation of Certificate of Return to the newly elected President by the former CTC Chairman of SUG, Comr. Auwal Lawal Nadabo.



A group photograph of the newly elected executives of NAKSS, BUK chapter alongside with Prof. Yakasai Dean Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences after inauguration

Department of Mass Communication: M.Sc./PhD Proposal/Internal Defense

Presenter 1: Sabiu Mustapha (SPS/21/MMC/00002)

Topic: Broadcast Media Funding Sustainability in a Depressed Economy: A Study of Some Private Radio Stations in Kano

Supervisor: Professor Suleiman M. Yar'Adua

Submission: Proposal Defense

Presenter 2: Nasiru Isah (SPS/21/MMC/00027)

Topic: An Examination of the Motives, Benefits, and Challenges of Sharenting among Kannywood Artists in Kano State

Supervisor: Dr. Hassan Alhaji Ya'u

Submission: Proposal Defense

Presenter 3: Alkaseem Muhammad Sani (SPS/21/MMC/00009)

Topic: Media Ownership and 2023 Election Coverage: A Study of Daily Trust and Vanguard Newspapers

Supervisor: Dr. Sule Ya'u Sule

Presenter 4: Charity Mshella (SPS/19/MMC/00009)

Topic: Practice and Challenges of Investigative Journalism among Kano State Journalists

Supervisor: Dr. Hadiza Jummai Ibrahim

Submission: Internal Defense

Presenter 5: Bridget Hassan (SPS/21/MMC/00023)

Topic: Knowledge and Application of Peace Journalism

among Journalists in Gombe State

Supervisor: Ibrahim Siraj

Submission: Internal Defense

Presenter 6: Hussaina Amina Aboki (SPS/21/PMC/00002)

Topic: An Exploratory Study on the Use of Emoji on Social Media by Young Adults in Kaduna Metropolis: A Multimodal Approach

Supervisor: Professor Mainasara Yakubu Kurfi

Submission: PhD Proposal Defense

Presenter 7: Almansur Ado Sani (SPS/17/PMC/00004)

Topic: Managing User-to-User Privacy among Facebook Users in Nigeria

Supervisor: Professor Mustapha Nasir Malam

Submission: PhD Thesis Internal Defense

Presenter 8: Abubakar Tijjani Ibrahim (SPS/18/PMC/00003)

Topic: Level of Awareness and Knowledge of Cloned Online Newspaper Pages among Postgraduate Students at Universities in North-West, Nigeria

Supervisor: Professor Umar Faruk Jibril

Submission: PhD Thesis Internal Defense

Chairman: Dr. Gambo Shehu Nababa

Date: Wednesday 23rd April, 2025

Time: 9:30am

Venue: Mass Communication Departmental Board Room

University Health Services

Lassa Fever:

1. Lassa Fever is a viral illness spread by a rat found in parts of West Africa
2. People can get Lassa Fever by having contact with infected rats or their saliva, urine, or droppings
3. Lassa fever can spread between people
4. Mild symptoms include: (a) Fever (high temperature) and shivering (b) Feeling tired and weak (c) Generalised pain (d) Sore throat

Prevention:

(1) Put food away in rat-proof containers and keep the home clean. (2) Avoid eating these rats. (3) Trap rats in and around homes. (4) Health care providers caring for patients with Lassa fever, should take precautions like: Wearing protective clothing (masks, gloves, gowns, and goggles), Properly sterilizing equipment; Taking infection control measures Isolating infected patients until they are cured

LASSA FEVER PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY




NIGERIA CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL

HOW TO PREVENT LASSA FEVER:



PERSONAL HYGIENE

Wash hands regularly with soap under running water



FOOD HYGIENE

Cook food properly and cover food from rodents



PROPER SANITATION

Keep house and environment clean



KEEP RODENTS AWAY

Block holes and keep rodents away

Call NCDC Toll-Free on 0800-970000-10 for help.

WHATSAPP: +234-708-711-0839. SMS: +234-809-955-5577
NCDC.GOV.NG /NCDCgov

Wedding Fatiha

Wedding Fatiha

(1) Malam Nura Abbas Hamid from the Department of Political Science wishes to invite members of the university community and the general public to the wedding fatiha of his daughter, **Hauwa'u Nura Abbas (Ihsan)** with her Fiance, **Mukhtar Ibrahim (MK)**, scheduled as follows:

DATE: Friday, 18th April, 2025

TIME: 1:30pm

VENUE: Central Mosque, Old Campus, Bayero University, Kano

(2) Prof. Muhammad Ahmad Makarfi from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension wishes to invite members of the university community and the general public to the wedding fatiha of his daughter, **Aisha Muhammad Ahmad Makarfi** with her Fiancé, **Mustapha Mal. Mustapha Abduljaleel**, scheduled as follows:

DATE: Friday, 20th Shawwal, 1446AH, =18th April, 2025

TIME: 2:00pm

VENUE: BUK Old Campus Masjid



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THEME OF THE CONFERENCE

TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE:
CONFRONTING EMERGING ISSUES AND
UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

SPECIAL GUEST:

PROF. SUWAIBA SAID AHMAD
HON. MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

CHIEF HOST:

PROF. SAGIR ADAMU ABBAS, FMAN
VICE-CHANCELLOR, BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO

HOST:

ABUBAKAR IBRAHIM HASSAN, Ph.D
DEAN, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, BUK

ANNIVERSARY LECTURE PRESENTER:

DR. SANI AHMAD SUFI
RETIRED PERMANENT SECRETARY,
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

PROF. MUHAMMAD UMAR SANDA
DEAN, SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY DUTSIN-MA (FUDMA)

LEAD PAPER PRESENTER:

PROF. BALA ZAKARI
FORMER DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, UBEC

Date:

**Monday
14th April, 2025**

Time:

10:00am

Venue:

**Convocation Arena,
New Campus, BUK**



Talking Environment Seminar Series



KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE SHARING
FROM YESI INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

BY

DR. AMINA S. ABDULLAHI

Dept. of Environmental mgt.
Bayero University Kano Nigeria.



YESI

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2025



10:00am

**JOIN US
ON**

APRIL 15, 2025
TUESDAY

LIVE AND INTERACTIVE SESSION



The Vice Chancellor

Bayero University, Kano

Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas, FMAN

23rd

INVITES THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO THE ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM TO MARK THE 42nd MEMORIAL ANNIVERSARY OF

Malam Aminu Kano

TOPIC: THE POLITICS OF TAX REFORMS IN NIGERIA: EXPECTATIONS AND REALITIES

GUEST SPEAKER

Prof. Kabiru Isa Dandago, ACA, MNIM, MNES, NIMC
Department of Accounting
Bayero University, Kano

CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCASION

Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, NPN
Former Executive Secretary
National Universities Commission (NUC), Abuja

CHIEF HOST

His Excellency
Alhaji Abba 'Kabir' Yusuf
Governor, Kano State

DISCUSSANT

Sen. Sulaiman Abdulrahman 'Kawu' Sumaila, PhD, OFR
Senator Representing Kano South
Senatorial Zone at the 10th National Assembly

HOST

Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas, FMAN
Vice Chancellor
Bayero University, Kano

DISCUSSANT

Prof. Badayi M. Sani
Department of Economics
Bayero University, Kano

Organised By

Mambayya House

Aminu Kano Centre for Democratic Studies
Bayero University, Kano

Date: Thursday, April 17, 2025

Time: 10:00 am Prompt

Venue: Sa'adu Zungur Auditorium, Mambayya House, Gwammaja, Kano



WORDSCAPE

With Yusuf M. Adamu, PhD, MNAL, FANA, FANG (Dept. of Geography)



HOW MUCH BLOOD IS ENOUGH?

The land in the Northwest is brittle
Its people swimming in ignorance
Willingly pauperized by its leaders
Hated by others for being extremely poor
In a land of great abundance and vast land
With thousands of prospects unattended to

Each zone has its battle and is fighting
Ours is almost a lost battle, we are doomed
Who stands and speaks for us today?
So many big names, big people doing nothing
So many great minds, intellectuals still struggling
A huge population left at the mercy of bandits

We have been reduced to a zone under unceasing threats
Bandits on motorbikes carrying AK 47 rifles
Raid and ransack our villages and rape our girls
Kidnap poor people for an impossible ransom
They do it at will whenever it suits them
Because nobody stands for us, we are sacrificed

What are our sins in this country, if I may ask?
How much blood is enough as atonement for our sins?
From the killing fields of Zamfara to Birnin Gwari
From the murderous spots of Katsina to Sokoto
Innocent people already pauperized are being massacred
Their blood means nothing to those who lead

What are those political office holders in Abuja doing?
What are they doing in our Government Houses and Assemblies?
What are traditional and religious leaders doing?
What are our activists and human right fighters doing?
What are you doing to change the status quo?

So much blood has been shed and still being shed
As if the lives of those people mean nothing to us all
No life is better than another life or more precious
Nobody will fight for you and me, be sure of that
Nobody will do anything about this wanton destruction
We have to stand for us and speak for us.

Demand that those who hold the political offices to act
Demand that the security outfits do their job of protection
Demand the religious and traditional leaders to act
Demand social media warriors to shout at the height of their voices
You, whatever position you hold, do your own bit, start NOW.



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