

RRIN TABLOID

LATEST

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RRIN holds second Prayer Session for the Year 2025

The second edition of RRIN's monthly prayer took place on the 3rd of February, 2025 in RRIN Conference Hall. It commenced with the usual opening prayers, praise and worship session, led by Mrs. Evelyn Eguagie. Thereafter, the prayers commenced, led by Dr. A.M.D. Uwumarongie. The text was read from Psalm 100: 1, and he admonished everyone to always make a joyful noise unto the Lord as God is moved by how much we know and adore Him. He went further to buttress the need to appreciate God for breath of life, good health and good life. He also prayed that each and everyone of us should always be in the right place at the right time and that with God's backing, time and chance will happen to us as seen in Ecclesiastes 9:11. He also prayed for a fulfilment of God's promise in our lives, to carry us to the end of time (Isaiah 46:4). Still leading the Staff present in the prayers, he prayed that wherever there is any gathering against us or the Institute, it shall come to nothing as the fire of the Holy Spirit will scatter them and that every word against us and our families and the Institute, without God's backing will come to nothing.

He concluded the prayers by committing the Director/CEO, Management and Staff of the Institute to God, he asked for the Lord to take charge of all the proposed activities in this month and brought the prayer session to an end with the sharing of the grace.



Cross section of members of Staff, during the prayer session.

RRIN holds In-House Training for Staff of the Finance and Accounts Department and Internal Audit Unit

The Management of Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria recently conducted a two-day Computer Appreciation Training Programme which brought together 26 members of Staff from the Finance and

Accounts Department and the Internal Audit Unit. The training took place at the library complex of the Institute on the 11th and 12th February, 2025.

The objective of the training was to provide basic computer training as a foundation for Accountants and Auditors in readiness for the computerisation of Finance activities in the Institute with emphasis on Computer Appreciation, Word Processing, Use of Excel and the Power Point presentation model. The Facilitators were; Dr. Suleman Idoko, Mr. Tunde Ibikunle, Ms. Peace Ehiwere, Mr. Lucky Ogbodu, Miss. Mercy Atamonokhai and Mr. Monday Igbinobaro pooled from the Knowledge Sharing & Management Department and the Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Department.

RRIN holds In-House Training for all Agricultural Superintendents

The Management of the Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria, through its Research Support Service Department, on Monday, 17th February, organised a one-day Training and Sensitization Workshop for her Agricultural Superintendents with the theme 'The role of RRIN Agricultural Superintendents in the Institute Mandate'. The focus of the training was aimed at providing the Agricultural Superintendents with the technical rudiments on field activities for rubber cultivation and enhanced production. The Facilitator - Mr. Samson Igbinobaro, an experienced Chief Agricultural Superintendent, explained to the trainees on the rudiments of their functions as an Agricultural superintendents and what was expected of them.



Mr. S. Igbinobaro during the training

He also advised them on how to comport themselves when working with their superiors in the field.

A total of 91 Agricultural Superintendents and some Management Staff attended the training.



A cross section of some of the Agric Supts. during the training

The Role of Socio Economics in Research and Development By Dr. (Mrs) Betty Agbonkpolor

Socio-economics plays a vital role in research. It has great impact in different area of research process.

It refers to the interaction between the social and economic habits of a group of people. It uses information from different areas to examine its impact on behavior, trends and other activities within business and economics.

Social economic research exerts a profound impact on the lives of individuals, and their socioeconomic status. Research in social economics has a unique role in creating a strong, sustainable, prosperous and inclusive society. Socio-economic has established method used to evaluate the costs and benefits of actions

The primary goal of socio-economic research is to understand the complex interplay between social and economic factors within a society, aiming to identify patterns, trends, and causal relationships that impact the well-being and livelihoods of individuals and communities, ultimately informing policy decisions and promoting social progress through evidence-based solutions.

Socio-economic research provides valuable insights into societal dynamics, enabling informed policymaking, understanding of social inequalities, and ultimately contributing to improved quality of life by identifying areas needing intervention in areas like education, healthcare, and employment, through its analysis of factors like income, education levels, and access to resources across different populations.

Some benefits of socio-economic research are:

Evidence-based policymaking:

By providing data on social and economic trends, researchers can inform policy decisions related to poverty reduction, social welfare programs e.t.c., hence ensuring policies are targeted and effective.

Economic growth insights:

Understanding the relationship between social factors and

economic growth can guide strategies to foster economic development and improve living standards for citizens.

Market analysis:

Businesses can leverage socio economic data to understand consumer behavior, market trends, and identify potential customer segments.

Understanding social inequalities:

Socioeconomic research helps identify disparities in access to opportunities based on factors like race, gender, and socioeconomic status, allowing for targeted interventions to address these inequalities.

Community development:

By analyzing the socioeconomic landscape of a community, researchers can pinpoint areas needing development and prioritize projects to improve living standards.

Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Research & Development

1. Funding and Resource Allocation: Socio-economic factors like government policies, budget allocations, and private investment influence the availability of funds for R&D.

2. Priority Setting: Socio-economic needs, such as poverty reduction, healthcare, and education, shape the priorities of R&D agendas.

3. Human Capital: The availability of skilled researchers, engineers, and technicians is influenced by socio-economic factors like education systems, migration policies, and labor market conditions.

4. Infrastructure and Facilities: Socio-economic factors like urban planning, transportation, and energy policies impact the development of R&D infrastructure and facilities.

5. Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing: Socio-economic factors like cultural exchange programs, international collaborations, and open innovation platforms facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration among researchers.

Strategies to Harness the Socio-Economic Benefits in Research and Development

1. Collaborative Research: Foster collaborations between researchers from diverse socio-economic backgrounds and disciplines.

2. Participatory Research: Involve stakeholders, including marginalized communities, in the research process to ensure relevance and applicability.

3. Contextual Understanding: Develop a deep understanding of the socio-economic context in which research is conducted and applied.

4. Inclusive Dissemination: Use diverse dissemination strategies to reach diverse audiences, including marginalized communities.

Dr. (Mrs) Betty Agbonkpolor is of the Socio-Economic Division, Research Outreach Department of RRIN, Benin City

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Dr. Isaac Oriakhi Momodu takes a bow

Dr. Isaac Oriakhi Momodu, a Research Director in the Research Outreach Department, joined the growing numbers of RRIN retired Directors on the 22nd of February, 2025 as he attained the mandatory retirement age of 65 years.

Born into the the royal family of the Okaijesan of Esan land, Irrua on 22nd of February, 1960, Dr. I.O. Momodu attended the prestigious Edo College, Benin City, obtaining his - GCE O'Level in 1975. He then proceeded to the Advanced College, Igueben for his A' Levels. In further pursuance of his educational career, he proceeded to the Nagpur University, India, where he obtained a B.Sc. Chemistry in 1985 and then to the Gujvat University, Ahmedabad, India, obtaining an M.Sc. in Life Sciences (Environmental) 1987. He crowned his educational pursuit with a Ph.D. in Environmental Microbiology in 2011 from the Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma (AAU).

Along the line, he joined the services of RRIN in 29th May, 1989 as a Research Officer 1 and attained the rank of Director Research in 2022.



Dr. Isaac Oriakhi Momodu

During his sojourn in RRIN, he held various positions, some of which include:

- Head of Effluent Management/Utilisation Division (2006-2015);
- Head of the Research Support Services Department (2015-2019);
- Programme Leader, Product Development – Rubber Technology; (2019-2022)
- Vice Chairman – RRIN Multipurpose Cooperative Society (2001-2010);
- Chairman, RRIN Sports Committee (2011-2025).

- Head of the Information and Documentation Department (2022-2024).

- Member, Senior Staff Promotion Committee, Rubber Research

Institute of Nigeria, Benin City (2015-2024),

- Member, Institute Management Committee of RRIN (2015-2024)

He is happily married with children and grandchildren

Nigerian Association of Engineering Craftsmen (NAEC), Edo State Chapter, pays Courtesy call on Director/CEO of RRIN.

The Edo State Executive members of the Nigerian Association of Engineering Craftsmen (NAEC), led by the Chairman - Engr. Victor O. Edobor on Tuesday, 25th February, 2025, paid a courtesy call on the Director/CEO of RRIN, Dr. L.N. Dongo. Receiving the NAEC Executives, Dr. L.N. Dongo welcomed them to the Institute.

Engr. V. O. Edobor in his address informed the Director/CEO that the NAEC was a professional body established under the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN). He said it is the umbrella body for craftsmen, students and graduates of technical colleges and vocational institutions. The chairman informed RRIN that NAEC operates in accordance with the COREN Act (Decree 27 of 1992, amended as Act Cap E11 of v2004 and further amended in 2018, with a mission to uphold professionalism, efficiency and global best practices in the engineering sector. The main objectives of their visit were to:

- Seek her support for the training and capacity building for engineering craftsmen in the Institute
- Prioritize the registration of engineering craftsmen in the Institute with NAEC in compliance with COREN regulations, this will provides access to development opportunities such as workshops, seminars and conferences
- Sponsorship of engineering craftsmen to attend NAEC and COREN organised workshops, seminars and conferences, which will enhance their professional growth and contributions to the Institute.

He concluded by saying that the Edo State chapter of NAEC pledges its unwavering support and readiness to collaborate with her administration to achieve shared objectives that will enhance the Institute and the engineering profession.

In her response, Dr. L.N. Dongo informed the visiting Executives that the Institute is always ready to train Staff at all times, including the Craftsmen. She charged them to create awareness among their proposed members and also state what they stand to benefit from the association.

Highlight of the visit was the presentation of a plaque to the Director/CEO, Dr. L.N. Dongo

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NAEC executives with Dr. L.N.Dongo and some RRIN Staff after the visit

RRIN Monthly Seminar Series (MSS)

The second seminar in the RRIN MSS for the year 2025 took place on Wednesday 26th February, 2025 featuring a presentation by an erudite speaker Dr. T.U. Esekade, titled '**The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Pesticides (Herbicides) Use in Agriculture: Best Practices For Improved Outcome**'. In his presentation, he identified agriculture as being the backbone of human survival, ensuring the production of food, fiber, and other essential resources; and to safeguard our crops from pests, diseases, and invasive weeds, farmers have long relied on herbicides and pesticides. These chemical solutions have played vital roles in boosting crop yields, protecting food supplies, and improving agricultural efficiency according to the presenter. However, he opined that the use of these herbicides and pesticides is a double-edged sword, while they offer tremendous benefits, their misuse and overuse have also led to environmental degradation, health risks, and reduced biodiversity.

The Good impacts of Pesticides (Herbicides) use in Agriculture, he outlined as follows:

- It plays a positive roles in field agricultural food production.
- It is used to effectively manage weeds, boosting crop yields by reducing competition for nutrients, water, and sunlight.
- It reduces the need for manual weeding, saving time and labor costs there by enhancing labor efficiency.
- It enables large-scale farming by simplifying weed management over vast areas.
- It reduces the need for tilling, minimizing soil erosion and compaction there by contributing to soil health
- Some herbicides exhibits selective actions by targeting specific weeds without harming crops.

The Bad impacts of Pesticides (Herbicides) use in Agriculture, he listed as:

- Formation of herbicide-resistant weeds species due to overuse making weed control more difficult.
- Herbicides impart on runoff that seeps into water bodies which can be harmful to aquatic ecosystems.
- Pesticides use can lead to soil and air contamination, and its persistance in the environment affects non-target organisms.
- High dependency on herbicides can increase farming expenses.
- Attendant health risk due to improper handling or exposure for humans and animals.

The Ugly impacts of Pesticides (Herbicides) use in Agriculture, he enumerated as follows:

- Environmental Harm
- Water Contamination
- Soil Degradation
- Air Pollution
- Acute Poisoning: Direct exposure to pesticides can cause immediate health issues such as skin irritation, respiratory problems, headaches, nausea, particularly for farmers and agricultural workers as well as **Chronic illness such as cancer, Neurological disorders, endocrine disruption.**
- Food Contamination as residues of pesticides on crops can enter the food chain; exposing consumers to health damages.
- Impact on Biodiversity, such as decline in Pollinators, and harm to Wildlife,
- Ecosystem Imbalance, resulting from the destruction of Natural Predators as broad-spectrum pesticides kill not only pests but also their natural predators, leading to secondary pest outbreaks.
- Loss of Biodiversity, resulting from prolonged chemical use reduces the variety of organisms in agricultural landscapes, making ecosystems less resilient.



Dr. T.U. Esekade, during his presentation

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He strongly recommended the safe use of these pesticides, emphasizing the importance of carefully reading labels, wearing personal protective equipment, ensuring proper preparation, and applying them during calm weather, among other precautions. Alternatively, he highlighted the option of integrated pest or weed management, as well as the use of locally prepared biopesticides for home gardens. While these alternatives are environmentally friendly, he acknowledged that they have certain limitations.

He concluded that the sustainability of the environment is pivotal for agricultural production now and in the future, therefore, the responsible use of herbicides and pesticides is advocated for every agricultural worker. Farmers should be properly trained on the use of these pesticides, particularly for the safe use of pesticides and information guiding the identification of banned pesticides, advocating that the integrated pest or weed management and biopesticides option is recommended for the management of pest particularly in smallholder's farms, as this will reduce the quantity and frequencies of pesticides use by farmers.

This will be of positive advantage to farmers and the environment



Cross section of Staff during the presentation

Health Corner

SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Normally red blood cells are oval (round) in shape but in this disease red blood cells become sickle in shape.

CAUSES

Sickle cell anemia is caused by a change in the gene that tells the body to make haemoglobin. It is an inherited disease and because of the sickle shape, the red cells die early, leading to a shortage of healthy/normal red blood cells. The sickle shape prevents flow of blood there by causing pain.

SYMPTOMS

These usually appear around six month of age and include

- 1 Infections
- 2 Pain
- 3 Fatigue

- 4 Jaundice
- 5 Pallor/ Anaemia
- 6 Shortness of breath
- 7 Swelling of hands and legs
- 8 Delayed growth or puberty
- 9 Vision problems

INVESTIGATIONS

- 1 Full blood count
- 2 Genotype (Premarital check)
- 3 Blood grouping (Because of transfusion or exchange blood transfusion.

TREATMENT

Stem cell or bone marrow transplants are the only cure for sickle cell disease

COMPLICATIONS

- 1 Stroke
- 2 Priapism
- 3 Blindness
- 4 Leg ulcers
- 5 Pregnancy complications e.g miscarriage
- 6 Organ damage.

Dr. D. Ayegba is the Medical Doctor in the RRIN Clinic

Know your PSR

DEATH BENEFITS

070401 The Government shall repatriate, at the request of the deceased's family, the corpse of a Nigerian officer who dies abroad while on official duty tour or course of instruction or the corpse of the spouse of the official who was duly authorized to accompany him/her on the duty tour or course of instruction. Government's responsibility shall be limited to the following:

- (a) (i) Preparation of the body (embalmmment)
(ii) Purchase of a reasonable priced coffin or casket including inner zinc and wooden coffin as stipulated by Airline Regulations;
(iii) Transportation of the corpse to the officer's home town at reasonable cost;
- (iv) Payment of the cost to the family of the deceased, not exceeding one full page advert in one National Newspaper for the publication of obituary, at the prevailing rates.
- (b) When a pensionable officer dies in the service of the Government, it shall be the responsibility of the Government to provide the following:
 - (i) Cost of burial expenses including; Preparation of the body and embalmmment; settlement of mortuary bills; and provision of coffin/Casket subject to the following maximum amount:
 - (a) GL 01-06 N100,000.00
 - (b) GL 07-14 N200,000.00
 - (c) GL 15-17 N300,000.00

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- (d) Consolidated N500,000.00
- (ii) Payment to the family of the deceased, cost for one full page advert in one National Newspaper for the publication of obituary at the prevailing rates.
- (ii) Transportation of the corpse to officer's home town at reasonable cost.

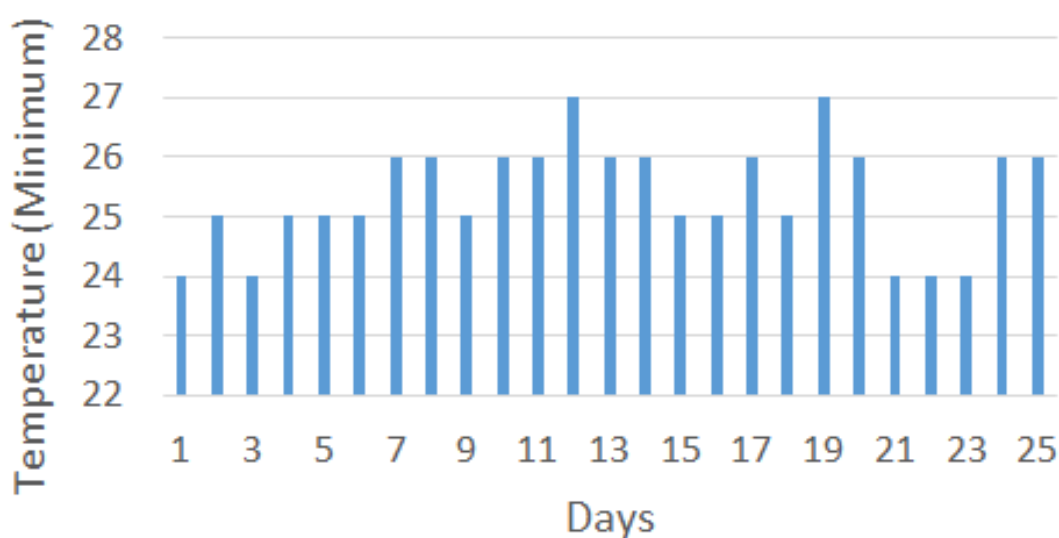
Agro climatology Bulletin (February 1 – 28, 2025)

SUMMARY

1.0 Weather Trend

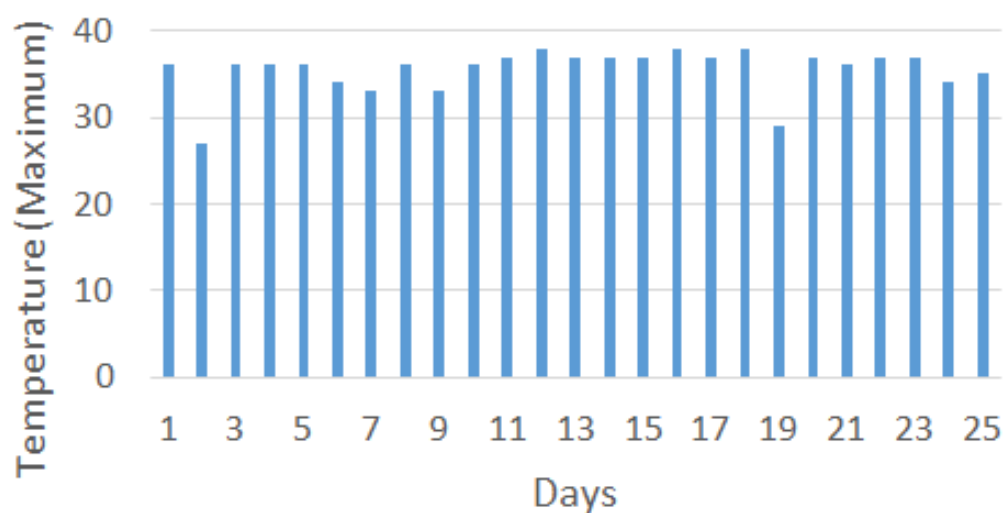
The trend of maximum temperature indicated a high temperature. The minimum temperature ranged from 24°C to 27°C while the maximum temperature ranges from 27°C to 38°C during the period under review.

Daily Minimum Temperature
February 1 - 25, 2025



The actual mean maximum temperature distribution for the month is 35.5°C with a monthly total of 887°C. The high temperature experienced during the month is not favourable for planting of new crops with just few rains which do not support planting of new crops. There was only two (2) day of rain in the month of January with a value of 37.7mm.

Daily Maximum Temperature
February 1 - 25, 2025



There was an average velocity wind speed of 2.24km/hr and an average Relative Humidity of 94.55% for the period under review.

	MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (°C)	MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (°C)	WIND SPEED (KM/HR)	RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)
Mean	25.4	35.5	2.24	94.55
Maximum	27	38	4.2	97.6
Minimum	24	27	1.5	87.5
Sum	634	887	56.1	2363.7

The agricultural activities that was experienced within the institute and her environ is the harvesting of cassava planted in the previous year and land preparation towards the new planting season.

For comments and suggestions, send feedback to:

*Head, Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Department,
Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria, P.M.B. 1049 Benin City.*

Staff of the Month

Mr. Joseph Ebrugbe is the Staff for the month of February, 2025. He joined RRIN as an Assistant Agricultural Field Overseer (AAFO) on HATISS 2 in 2007 with a Senior School Certificate (SSCE) result and was deployed to the Farming System, Research and Extension Department. Not satisfied with his educational qualification, he sought for and gained admission into the Agriculture Department of the prestigious University of Benin, graduating in 2019 with a B.Sc. in Crop Science. He is presently an Assistant Chief Agricultural Superintendent in the Research Outreach Department (Farming System Division).



Mr. Joseph Ebrugbe

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Mr. Joseph Ebrugbe is dutiful and diligent in all his official duties, very efficient, dedicated and effective. He is also a loyal and punctual Staff.

Photo Gallery



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Editors: Dr.(Mrs) O. A. Emuedo, Dr. N.M. Fakuta, Mr. T. Mkor, Dr. (Mrs) C. Okwu-Abolo, Mr. P. O. Igbako and Mr. E Obasuyi.

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