

RRIN TABLOID

LATEX

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Assessment of the Economic Impact of Rubber on the Nation's Economic Fortunes

Dr. Lelia Dongo, Director/Chief Executive Officer of the RRIN was a guest on the program "This Morning on ITV" on Monday, 20th November, during which she gave an overview of the history of the establishment of the Institute. The Vision Statement of the Institute she said, was to become a leading research centre for natural rubber, gum Arabic and other latex producing plants. She also talked about the usefulness of the rubber tree, as besides the latex, which is the core reason for planting the tree, over fifty by-products (rubber seed oil – with so many applications, wood for furniture etc) can be obtained from the rubber tree. Natural rubber products can be found in almost all aspects of life as all parts of the plants are useful. The Institute, besides its main station in Benin, has two substations – one at Gashua in Yobe State, which caters for all the Gum Arabic functions of the Institute and the other at Akwete in Abia State. There are also three experimental stations at Otuo – Edo State, Igbotako – Ondo State and Manchok – Kaduna State. She lamented the neglect of the Agric sector as a result of the Oil boom, but is hopeful that with the national government's return to agriculture, more attention will be paid to the rubber industry as it has a huge potential to transform the Nation's economy. When asked about the effect of monocropping in the host communities as large expanse of land was used for rubber only, she educated the audience on the new system of intercropping where other food crops, medicinal plants, high value fruit trees, etc were planted in between the rubber trees. Snails, bees and rabbits can also be reared in cages, hives and hutches under the closed canopy of the trees. As a result of these, there is always a steady income from the land, as early as four months planting, depending on the crop. Some of our rubber farmers have started practicing this intercropping system 14th of December, 2023, which is the main day of the celebration.



Dr. L.N. Dongo and Mr. Sunny Duke Okosun of ITV, during the interview

With regards to the upcoming 50th anniversary, she said the Institute has a lot to celebrate, citing the development of high yielding (2,500kh/Ha/Yr - 3,500kh/Ha/Yr) NIG 800 series Clones and the even higher yielding (over 3,500kh/Ha/Yr) NIG 900 Series Clones which are presently undergoing inter-locational trials, prelude to its registration. Activities of the 50th anniversary includes a giving back to the Host Communities, in form of a medical outreach which will include free eye check, free reading glasses, deworming of children, free Cataract surgery amongst others, in the six host communities (Obaretin, Uhie, Obagie N'Evbuosa, Obayantor 1, Iyanomo and Evbuekpen). There will also be a book launch of the developed technologies of RRIN on the 14th of December, 2023, which is the main day of the celebration.

In her parting words, she appealed to the Governor of Edo State, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, to support the Institute via funding to help further consolidate on its vision and also his support for the upcoming medical outreach which will hold from the 25th to 29th November in the host communities and the Surgical Eye Camp which will hold from the 1st to 6th December, 2023 in the RRIN Medical Centre

RRIN holds October edition of her Monthly Seminar Series (MSS)

The October Edition of the RRIN MSS took place on Tuesday, 31st of October, 2023. As it is with other Seminars, there were two presenters. The first presentation by Mr. Oghama, O.E, was on "Diminutive Review on the Ethnomedicinal Uses of Drumstick (*Moringa oleifera* Lam.) Tree from 1998-2023". In his presentation, Mr. Oghama said the objective of this paper was to provide a miniature review on the ethnomedicinal uses of drumstick (*Moringa oleifera*) tree by harvesting data and information from previous publications from 1998-2023 using online Google search and outlined the various ways the moringa tree parts are used to treat different ailments in different cultures in some parts of the world. He concluded that a more elaborate literature review should be carried out dating back in times to keep an up-to-date record of ethnomedicinal uses of the plant and capture other ethnomedicinal uses of *M. oleifera* not included in this review.

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Mr. O. Oghama, during his presentation

The second presentation by Dr. S.N. Ogieriakhi, was on "Performance of Okra in densities of Maize/Okra relay cropping in rubber plantations of different ages". He explained that two field experiments were conducted on relay cropping of maize with okra in rubber plantations of different ages (newly established - 6 months to 2 years [Experiment 1] and an existing older - 4 years, but immature plantation [Experiment 2]). The treatments were four maize varieties combined with three plant densities relayed with okra in randomized complete block design (RCBD) in three replications. The maize varieties were late-maturing variety (TZLCOMP4C4DT), Intermediate-maturing (ACR94TZECOMP5W), early-maturing (EVDT-W99STR) and extraearly-maturing (2000 SNEEWSTR) and three maize plant densities were 66,666.7 plants ha⁻¹ 33,333.3 plants ha⁻¹ and 22,222.2 plants ha⁻¹



Dr. S.N. Ogierakhi, during his presentation

He concluded by encouraging relay cropping of the Okra in high densities in an already existing rubber plantation
There was a question and answer session after the presentation.



Cross section of some members of Staff during the Seminar

RRIN participates in the 3RD edition of Ondo State International Agric Show and Food Fair, Akure (OSIAFFA) from 21ST – 23RD November, at Akure, Ondo State

The Ondo State Agricultural Commodities Association (OSACA), an umbrella body for farmers and other Agropreneurs, founded on April 30th, 2015, put together the 3rd Edition of Ondo State International Agric Show and Food Fair, Akure (OSIAFFA). Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria was invited and fully participated in the programme.



Dr. L.N. Dongo and other dignitaries at the opening ceremony

Our amiable Director/CEO delivered the first Lecture titled: **Sustainable Strategies for Rubber Sub Sector Development in Nigeria**. In her lecture, she gave a brief introduction of the *Hevea* (rubber) tree, latex and its production in Nigeria. She also gave a brief overview of the upstream sector in the rubber industry (comprising mainly of small holder farmers) and the current challenges in the industry (poor infrastructure, youth restiveness, old and moribund plantations, long gestation period of the tree, poor extension services amongst others). She opined that a recognizance of the rubber industry will guarantee its sustained growth – Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability. She also enumerated strategies by which the rubber industry can be revived, such

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as imbibing the Agroforestry System, establishment of a strong commodity association such as NARPPMAN (National Association of Rubber Producers, Processors and Marketing Association of Nigeria) amongst others. In conclusion, she said the benefits of a rubber plantation is beyond production and sales of latex and cup lumps by smallholder's rubber farmers and that many benefits are derived from the rubber plantation even at the primary level for the enrichment of smallholder farmers, as well as a sure sustainable strategy for the Rubber Sector is the Rubber-based Agroforestry.



Dr. L.N. Dongo, delivering her lecture at OSIAFFA

There was also an exhibition of agricultural produce in over 30 different exhibition stands and RRIN participated fully in the exhibition, which was visited by the dignitaries' present, led by the Deputy Governor of Ondo State, Mr. L. Ayedatiwa



Dr. L.N. Dongo and some dignitaries inspecting the RRIN exhibition stand

Day 2 of the programme featured a keynote address by the representative of Governor, another lecture by Mr Ayo Akinola (Development Consultant) titled: **Ondo State Cocoa Ecosystem; Boom or Burst** and a presentation by Executive Director Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria by name Dr Patrick Adebola.

There was also unlimited sales of agricultural produce.

Medical Outreach Sensitization

As part of the activities lined up for the celebration of the Institute's 50th anniversary celebration which comes up in December, Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria in collaboration with the Africa Cataract and Eye Foundation is organizing a free medical outreach as a way of giving back to its six host Communities. In this regard, the health officers from the Africa Cataract and Eye Foundation were on ground on the 13th and 14th of November, 2023 to sensitize the members of the host Communities of the upcoming medical outreach. The health officers involved were Dr. Rachael and Nurse Stella from the Africa Cataract and Eye Foundation. Mr Efeozee Eghosa, our Liason Officer, was on hand to guide them in the exercise as he is conversant with the host Communities. The six host communities were visited within the two days and they were informed about the free eye care from 25th to 30th November, 2023. There was palpable excitement in all the Communities and the people said they were looking forward to the exercise. The Odionwere and other members of the Communities thanked the Director/CEO for the kind gesture. The exercise was very successful.

RRIN holds October edition of general prayer meeting

The November edition of the RRIN general prayer meeting was held on Monday, 6th November, 2023 at the Institutes' Conference hall. It commenced with an opening prayer by Mr. W. Imarhiagbe. Thereafter, there was a praise and worship session, led by Mrs. P. Ifahi. The prayer session was anchored by Dr. E. O. Abolagba, during which, prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude were offered to God for His blessings thus far and the crowning of this year with goodness. Prayers were also offered to God, committing our ways to the Lord, so He will guide our path and also for a successful medical outreach and fiftieth anniversary celebration. He also led the staff present to ask God for wisdom of the Director/CEO as well as the Management team and for divine upliftment and God's continuous blessings on the Institute and members of Staff. The session was rounded off with prayers of thanksgiving to God and the sharing of The Grace



Cross section of some members of Staff during the prayer session

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break the lens apart and remove the pieces). (ii) Extracapsular surgery- Involves removing the cloudy part of the lens through a long incision in the cornea. After surgery an artificial intra ocular lens is placed where the natural lens was.

RISK OF CATARACT SURGERY

Infection; Bleeding; Retinal detachment

PREVENTION

Protect your eyes from UVB rays by wearing sunglasses outside; Have regular eye exams; Stop smoking

Maintain a healthy weight; Eat fruits and vegetables that contain antioxidants;

Keep diabetes and other medical conditions in check.

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

Know your Public Service Rules (PSR)

PRESCRIBED EXAMINATION FOR CONFIRMATION

SECTION 1 - GENERAL

All officers joining the service or transferring from one establishment to another who are not yet confirmed are required to pass confirmation examination in addition to undergoing an Induction Course.

The examination shall comprise the following:

(a) Combined Confirmation/Promotion Examination for Junior Staff;

(b) Compulsory Confirmation Examination for Senior Staff;

(ii) The following compulsory examination shall be conducted in the Public Service:

(a) Combined Confirmation/ Promotion Examination;

(b) Compulsory Confirmation Examination for Senior Staff.

SECTION -2

COMBINED CONFIRMATION/PROMOTION EXAMINATION

It is the responsibility of the Manpower Development Office (MDO) in the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation to conduct and supervise the examination.

There shall be established an Examination Board which shall be responsible for the conduct and supervision of the examinations. The Board shall comprise the following:

(a) Manpower Development Office (OHCSF) -

(b) Establishment & Pensions Office (OHCSF) -

(c) Federal Civil Service Commission - “

(d) Federal Ministry of Education - “

(e) Federal Ministry of Justice - “

(f) Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation - “

(g) Any other line Ministry/Office a particular examination may relate to - “

Chairman

Member

An officer who fails the examination after three consecutive attempts shall by virtue of such failures be required to resign or withdraw from the service.

The Permanent Secretary/Head of Extra-Ministerial Office shall ensure compliance.

An officer who fails to take the confirmation examination after 3 years of first appointment shall be required to resign from the service,

Confirmation examination shall be held once a year in the last quarter of every year.

During the confirmation examination an officer is allowed to make reference to the Public Service reference books or any other related sources of information. However, textbooks and reference books are not allowed for the examinations in General Paper, Office Procedure/Routine or Special Paper. All officers on GL.06 and below must take the confirmation examination within two years from the date of taking up their appointments in the Ministry/Extra-Ministerial Office. The reference books allowed to be used in confirmation examination in the Ministry/Extra-Ministerial Office are:

(a) GL.06 and below Public Service Rules, Financial Regulations, Civil Service Handbook, Notes for

(b) GL. 07 and above Public Service Rules, Financial Regulations, Civil Service Handbook. Federal Establishment Circulars. Notes for Guidance Nos. 1,2 and 5 etc;

An Administrative Officer/Professional who possesses law qualification obtained from a Nigerian University or has been called to the Nigerian Bar shall be exempted, at the discretion of the Government, from taking Group A of the examination.

The following are the prescribed examinations for Administrative Officers/Professionals except otherwise reviewed.

GROUP A - LAW EXAMINATION

This examination consists of two papers, on the following subjects:

1. (a) Nigerian Legal System;

(b) Ministerial Government Procedure based on:

(i) Lagos (Administrative and Executive Functions) Act No.1 of 1958

(ii) Ministers' Statutory Powers and Duties (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Cap. 228, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990.

(iii) Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act.Cap.208, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990.

(iv) Transfer of Functions (Lagos) Order L.N.257 of 1959.

(v) Transfer of Functions (Federation) Order L.N.258 of 1959.

(vi) Chapter VI, Part 1, Section A of the Constitution of the Federal Public of Nigeria 1999.

2. The main provisions of the following legislations:

(a) The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;

(b) The following Chapters of the Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1990 and the subsidiary legislation made there under:

GROUP B - EXAMINATION IN OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

This examination consists of two papers:

(i) Public Service Rules.

(ii) Regulations.

SECTION 3 - COMPULSORY EXAMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Unless specially exempted by the Government the following Executive Officers are required to pass the examinations prescribed in Rule 060302 within two years of the date of taking up their appointment in the Federal Public Service:

(a) Officers appointed direct on first appointment as Executive Officers.

(b) Unconfirmed Assistant Executive Officers promoted from junior posts.

(c) Executive Officers transferred from other Scheduled Services who at the date of transfer are under the age of forty years and have not satisfied the conditions for confirmation.

The following are the prescribed examinations for Executive Officers:

(i) Public Service Rules.

(ii) Financial Regulations.

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SECTION 4 - COMPULSORY EXAMINATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONALS OFFICERS WHO ARE REQUIRED TO PASS

Unless exempted by the Government the following Administrative Officers/Professionals are required to pass the examinations prescribed in Rule 060302 within two years from the date of taking up their appointments in the Federal Public Service:

- (a) Administrative Officers/Professionals appointed direct to the Federal Public Service on first appointment.
- (b) Administrative Officers/Professionals promoted from unconfirmed junior posts.
- (c) Administrative Officers/Professionals transferred from other Scheduled Service who at the date of transfer are under the age of forty years and have not satisfied conditions for confirmation.
- (d) For further advancement beyond GL. 10 officers shall attend Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (AS CON) or any other approved institutions and pass the prescribed examination.

SECTION 5

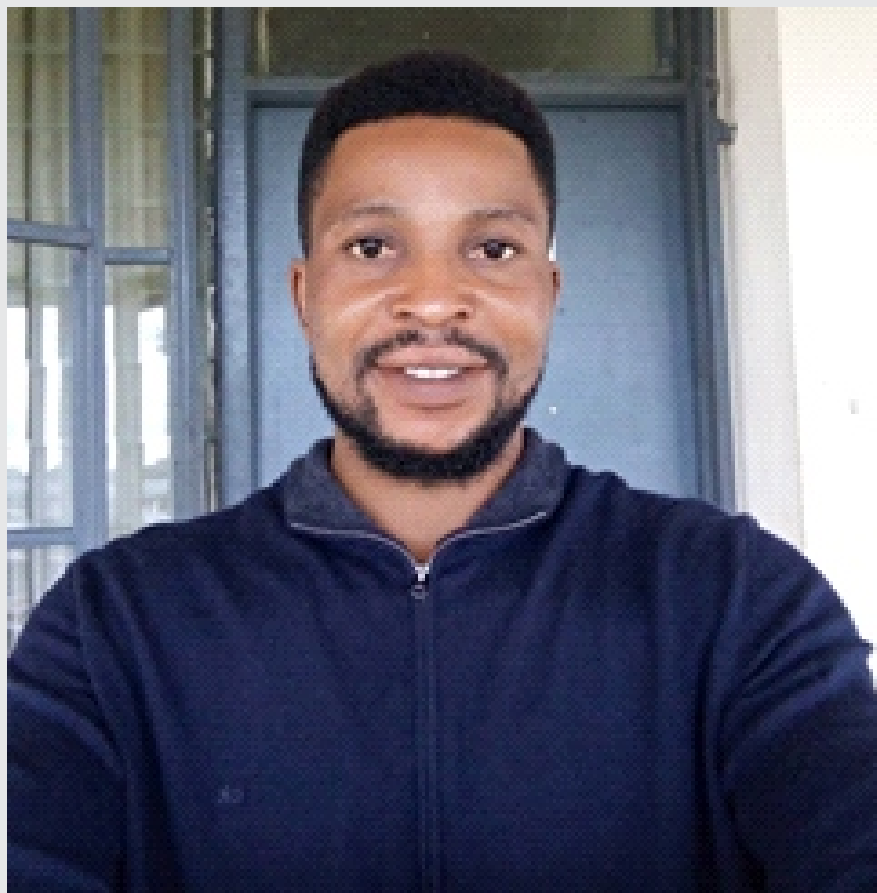
FEES FOR INVIGILATORS AND EXAMINERS

"Fees shall be paid to examiners and invigilators at rates which may be determined from time to time by Government".

Staff of the Month

Our Staff of the month is Mr. Frank Emumajakpor. He joined the service of RRIN on the 18th of October, 2011 on a permanent appointment status as an Agricultural Field Overseer on CONRAISS 3/1. On assumption of duty, he was deployed to the General Administration Division (maintenance). He joined the Institute with an SSCE, but obtained a National Diploma (ND) in Agricultural technology from the College of Agriculture, Iguoriakhi in and was subsequently redeployed to the Sales Unit. He has worked in the Agro-Climatology Division and the Nursery Unit. He is currently a Senior Agricultural Superintendent and a Staff of the Meterology Division, in charge of collecting data at the Institutes' weather station.

Mr. Frank Emumajakpor is very efficient, dedicated, effective, dutiful and diligent in all his official duties, even during the weekends.



Mr. Frank Emumajakpor

Congratulations

The family of Mr. Augustine A. Igele – an Agricultural Superintendent in the Research Operations Department, was blessed with triplets – two girls and a boy, on the 13th of November, 2023.

We thank God for safe delivery of the children, good health of mother and babies and also pray that the good Lord that has given you this triple blessing, will provide triple-fold for you, the means to cater for them, amen.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. A.A. Igele

Picture Gallery



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