

RRIN TABLOID

LATEST

Vol. 3, Issue 4 Apr., 2024



Our one-on-one continues in this edition with Dr. P. Ogwuche, Head, Security and Servicom

Q. Who is Dr. Peter Ogwuche? How will you describe yourself?

A. Dr. Peter Ogwuche is an Idoma by tribe from Benue State, the food basket of the nation. I am the fifth child of a large family of fifteen children. I obtained my West African School Certificate (WASC) in 1982, proceeding to the Federal Polytechnic, Yola in 1984, where I obtained a National Diploma (ND) in Agricultural Technology in 1986. Thereafter, I obtained admission to the Federal University of Technology, Yola in the 1991/1992 session to study Agricultural Economics and Extension, obtaining my Bachelor of Technology in 1997. In 2007, I obtained my Master degree from the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, capping it up with a Ph.D. in Agric Economics and Extension from the Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma in 2016.

I am a simple and straight forward person and I believe that God has put me here in RRIN to be part of those who will improve the Institute and the Rubber Industry.

I am blessed with a wife and five children.



Dr. P. Ogwuche during the interview

Q. Since your assumption as Head of Security and Servicom, what have you done differently to enhance the security architecture of the Institute?

A. A lot has been achieved since this present administration. When I was made the Head of Security and Servicom, I told the Director/CEO that the one of the ways we can provide secured environment was to put a fortified gate on the main entrance to the institute and that was immediately given a nod by the Director/CEO. It has no doubt controlled the indiscriminate movement of vehicles in and out of the Institute, today we can check all vehicles coming into the institute with their plate number documented. We have also fortified the vigilante group with the support of the Management, regularization of firearms for

them by the government, support from the RRIN Staff farmers within the quarters; with this collaboration, a lot of suspects trying to steal from our plantations have been apprehended and handed over to the police for further investigation and prosecution. Again, this administration has been able to bring succor to our Staff farming on our lands by waging war against herdsmen as they were constantly destroying their farm crops and even perpetuating some evil acts against our Staffers in the bush. Thus, all these efforts are geared towards monitoring every movement for both human and vehicles within the environment to ensure that no infiltration from anywhere to cause harms or pains.

Q. The Institute's borders appear porous, thereby giving unwanted persons access into the Institute. How do you intend to curb this?

A. The porosity of the Institute's borders has been there for years as there is no perimeter fencing around the Institute and the people of our neighboring communities believe that the Institute land belong to them. In the recent time however, especially during the immediate past administration, there was large scale incursion into the Institute's land by some of the neighboring host communities. The present administration has put some modalities in place such as, mounting road blocks in some part of the Institute land border, our vigilante is also doing a good job both during the day and night to check the in and out flow of traffic to the Institute. We have also suggested excavation round the Institute land as this will help to keep out both invaders and even Fulani herdsmen. To this end, the management has developed and finalized the proposal on an intervention that will help check the porosity of our border which has been submitted to the National Assembly. We will succeed.



Dr. P. Ogwuche and some members of the Editorial Board during the interview

RRIN TABLOID

LATEX

Vol. 3, Issue 4 Apr., 2024



Q. As the Head of Servicom, how do you deal with Staff truancy?

A. The Head of Units/Sections has the mandate to check the Staff. Therefore, we as Servicom need the effective cooperation of the Heads of Department, Divisions, Units/Sections to effectively deal with this issue. A situation where a Staff will be given a free hand to do whatever they like should not be encouraged. Without this synergy between the various Heads of Department and the Servicom, the issue of Staff truancy cannot be checked.

Q. Do you have any tie or link with any professional security outfit?

A. Today, I can boast of having synergy with the three most professional bodies on security matters in Nigeria which are the Military, Police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC). Currently we are in serious partnership with the Agro-rangers, a Unit under the NSCDC saddled with the tasks of protecting all Government properties, pipeline vandalisation and Herdsmen issues. I have been given express access to this Unit to call for prompt action if there is any suspected movement of vandals and land encroachers from neighboring communities, also to keep very far away all herdsmen operation from our plantations. Also, we are privileged to have a special police patrol team all the way from Bauchi State in the Institute right now and their function is to patrol across our border areas and arrest any suspected intruders and land encroachers for prosecution, they also have the responsibility of preventing Cattle from ravaging our crops.

Q. What is your relationship with the neighboring Communities?

A. The relationship between the Institute and the host communities has been cordial, because if it's not cordial, it will be difficult for workers to work, however, we are in court because of some land incursion issues. There is also a synergy with the host communities as Management has set up a committee, known as the RRIN-Oghobaghase Dukedom Forum, with the Director of Administration Mr. Ilumah Dr. O. Egharevba as the Co-chairmen and when there are issues, we link up with them. The Director/CEO has been communicating with the traditional leaders of these host communities, which has greatly improved the relationship between the Institute and host communities.

Q. What is your assessment of Staff attitude to work?

A. In the past, Staff attitude (attendance and diligence with which duties were carried out) to work was very good as all issues pertaining to members were addressed, hence disgruntled workers were few and far between. This has however gradually retrogressed over time with the last two dispensations, reaching an all-time high in the immediate past dispensation, where the Institute had a very high percentage of disgruntled Staff.

However, in this dispensation, Staff morale is being gradually boosted, leading to an improving work attitude, but the present economic situation in the nation is not helping matters.

The media parley with the Head, Servicom was worth the while and Mr. E. Obasuyi, on behalf of the Editorial Board Committee, appreciated Dr. P. Ogwuche for granting us audience and the straight and concise answers to the questions put across to him, wishing us all well in all our endeavours.



Dr. P. Ogwuche and some members of the Editorial Board after the interview

RRIN holds first quarter general Staff meeting for the year 2024

In line with the promise, she made to the RRIN Staff during her inaugural meeting to always hold quarterly meetings with the Staff, Dr. L.N. Dongo, on Wednesday, 6th March 2024, held the first quarterly meeting for the year 2024. The meeting commenced with opening prayers by Dr. A.M.D. Uwumarongie and thereafter, the Director/CEO Dr. L.N. Dongo asked how many people had made resolutions and goals to be achieved for this year. She then advised that it was important to set goals as it will help streamline one's activity for the year. She then welcomed all present to the meeting, wishing all a happy new year, good health and success in all their endeavors.



Dr. L.N. Dongo addressing members of Staff at the meeting

The first item on her agenda was Staff attitude to work, she decried the "entitlement" attitude of some Staff in the Institute, as they always expect something in return for whatever assignments they were given. She averred that, by so doing, 'your capabilities' will always be hidden within you and you might end up missing out on opportunities. She pleaded with the Staff to improve on their work attitude, especially with regards to attendance.

She also admonished the Staff to always be careful in whatever they do, as all actions have their consequences and that following the general

RRIN TABLOID

LATEX



Vol. 3, Issue 4 Apr., 2024

crowd, especially in the wrong direction is not always the best. As she opined, always strive to do the right thing, even if you are standing alone. She also emphasized that individually, we can do something, by collectively, like in the ant colony, we can do exploits.

Dr. L.N. Dongo informed the Staff that Management has decided that the sides of the RRIN access road which was cleared during the preparation for the 50th anniversary, will be used for farming cover edible crops. After obtaining a positive response from the Staff, she said the farms will be allocated to the various Units to cultivate/maintain and the resulting produce will be shared amongst Staff.

With regards to rumor mongering in the Institute, Dr. L.N. Dongo pleaded with Staff to desist from it as it hurts the people involved.

Director/CEO Dr. L.N. Dongo then announced that Nigeria will be hosting the World Rubber Summit between the 20th and 24th of May, 2024. The opening ceremony will be done in Abuja, but all other activities will be done in Benin. She also encouraged Scientists to prepare papers for presentation during the Summit as the call for papers will soon be out. With regards to Administration, the Director of Administration, Mr. V. Ilumah informed the Staff that a leave roster for each Department is being prepared and that Staff should ensure they indicate their annual leave date. The purpose for this exercise is to forestall a situation where over 50 % of Staff of a particular Departmental/Divisional Staff are away on vacation during the Yuletide season.

Thereafter, Director/CEO, Dr. L.N. Dongo, announced to Staff that Mr. A.A. Igele gave birth to triplets (2 girls and 1 boy) on the day of RRIN's 50 anniversary celebration, he was formally congratulated and a cheque was presented to him from Management. The Executive Director admonished Staff to support Mr. A.A. Igele in their various capacity, this led to a general collection for him from the general house.



Dr. L.N. Dongo, presenting a cheque to Mr. A.A. Igele

During the questions and comments time, Mr.B. Nwojini thanked Director/CEO Dr. L.N. Dongo for the success of the last promotion exercise and requested for the provision of safety field apparels for the field workers. Mr. R. Ochonogor on his part, requested for the provision of more seats in the Conference Hall, while Assistant Director/Ag. Head, Finance and Accounts, informed the house that pay slips will be made available as from Monday 11th March, 2024.

The meeting came to an end with Dr. K.O. Omokhafa giving the vote of

thanks and he also seized the opportunity to express his gratitude to all present for the meeting. He also thanked all those that were part of the planning of the 50th anniversary celebration and the Director/CEO for running an administration that is directed by the fear of God. He also thanked the Management Staff for their cooperation and encouraged all Staff to do away with the Spirit of laziness and entitlement.



Cross section of members of Staff, during the meeting

Director/CEO, Dr. L.N. Dongo meets with Research Scientists

Dr. L.N. Dongo met with Research Scientists on the 6th of March, 2024. During the meeting, she informed the house that of the six papers accepted for oral presentation from this Institute at the recently concluded International Rubber Research Development Board (IRRDB) Conference, 2024, three were presented by Mr. O. Ibikunle, which the board frowned against. The Board resolved that henceforth, any accepted paper not presented by at least one of the contributing authors will not be included in the final Proceedings. She advised that in the light of paucity of funds, Scientists should take advantage of grants for sponsorship to attend conferences.

She also announced that RRIN had received requests from the IRRDB for representatives in their various Specialist Groups and some names have been sent to them.

During the reaction session, Dr. J. Ogbebor in his comments, reminded the Director/CEO of some of the challenges which the Scientists are facing in the Institute, such as persistent lack of electricity and its negative impact in research work, lack of office accommodation for Scientists, the internet and Solar light not available to some Scientists, sponsorship of Scientists for seminars and conferences outside RRIN. The Executive Director in her response, said that the electricity issue was a temporary thing as BEDC has promised to restore electricity as soon as their issues are solved. Dr. I.O. Bakare, Director/Head Knowledge Sharing and Management Department said the Internet and Solar power are presently functioning in the library, so Staff can avail themselves of the opportunity, pending when the internet and solar power will be extended to the laboratories and remaining offices.

Dr. L.N. Dongo then encouraged the Programme Leaders (PL) to always have regular meetings to assess work done and that by June, 2024, she expects a general report from the PL. Thereafter, she then thanked all present and prayed that we will get to the promised land.

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

The March edition of the monthly seminar series (MSS) of the institute for the year 2024 took place on the 6th of March, 2024. As usual, there were two presenters. Mr. E. Idahosa of the Socio-Economics Division of

RRIN TABLOID

LATEX



Vol. 3, Issue 4 Apr., 2024

the Research Outreach Department presented a paper on ***The Economy of Natural Rubber and Shea Nuts in Some Selected Household in Edo and Oyo State Nigeria***; while Mrs. S. Musa of the Extension Division in the Research Outreach Department, presented a paper on ***Analysis of Role of RRIN Extension Services in Agricultural Technologies Transfer in Iguoriakhi Farm Settlement, Edo State, Nigeria***.

Mr. E. Idahosa in his presentation, examined the contributions of Natural Rubber and Shea Nut to selected household income in Edo State and Oyo State, using data generated from 150 f Shea nuts processors in Oyo state and rubber farmers in Edo State, Nigeria. He opined that latex production was a profitable venture with an average variable cost per hectare (Ha) of N54,600.94 with total revenue (T.R.) and gross margin (G.M.) per hectare N163,594.17 and N107,893.23, respectively and that promoting and harnessing the profit accruing to shea nut to rubber farmers is an added advantage. However, in support to ecological diversity coupled with the importance of shea nut in the wild, he recommended that rubber farmers could adopt selective deforestation in preparing their farms for rubber cultivation, so as to preserve some of these economic trees in the wild. Shea nut trees could also be planted in the peripheral of the rubber plantations to serve as wind breakers.



Mr. E. Idahosa during his presentation

Mrs. S. Musa in her presentation, defined the Extension Concept as *“the provision of knowledge and skills necessary for farmers to be able to adopt and apply more efficient crop and animal production methods to improve their productivity and living standards”*. She discussed the various types of Extension Services given to farmers (Iguoriakhi Farm Settlement) by the Extension officers (RRIN in focus), and concluded that the RRIN extension services transfer knowledge and skills, play advisory roles to farmers in the study area and provide feedback to research. The RRIN Extension Services has also made a positive impact on agricultural development in the study area. She however also noted that the inaccessibility of farm location by Extension workers, inadequate transport system, poor enumeration to Extension Workers and overwhelming number of farmers per Extension Officer, were perceived by farmers as possible constraints to RRIN Extension Services.



Mrs. S. Musa, during her presentation

She recommended that, the RRIN Extension Services should focus more on knowledge transfer through training workshops, regular visit to farmers or communication through telephone for advisory services and that adequate mobility and increased enumeration should be provided to enhance effectiveness of their services and also to reach other farmers far from the institute.



Cross section of Staff during the seminar

There was a question-and-answer session after his presentation.

General Manager, Kogi State Community and Social Development Agency, Lokoja pays a courtesy visit to the Director/CEO

Chief Momoh O. Dauda, a Principal Research Officer in RRIN, presently on leave of absence and the current General Manager, Kogi State Community and Social Development Agency, Lokoja paid a courtesy visit to the Director/CEO, Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria on the 7th of March, 2024 to appreciate her for the transformational leadership she has provided the Institute in a very short period.

Welcoming him, Dr. L.N. Dongo thanked Chief Momoh O. Dauda for making out time of his busy schedule to pay her a visit, and requested that he uses his good office to assist the Institute in any way possible.

RRIN TABLOID

LATEX



Vol. 3, Issue 4 Apr., 2024

Responding, Chief Momoh O. Dauda thanked the Director/CEO, Dr. L.N. Dongo for the warm reception and promised to use his current office to assist the Director/CEO in her effort to upgrade the Institute. He also assured the Director/CEO that he would liaise with the Edo State Community and Social Development Agency to assist the Institute to renovate and equip RRIN's Health Centre.



Chief Momoh O. Dauda and Dr. L.N. Dongo after the brief meeting

RRIN holds March edition of general prayer meeting

The March, 2024 edition of the RRIN prayer meeting took place on Monday the 4th of March at the RRIN Conference Hall.

It commenced with opening prayers by Mr. W. Imarhiagbe, who thanked God for the months gone by, for bringing us to see a new month and appealed for answers to our prayers.

Thereafter, there was a vibrant praise and worship session, led by Mr. D. Odudu.

The prayer session was led by the Institute's Internal Auditor, Mrs. A.N. Anusike, she welcomed all present to the month of March and continued with the worship, saying that God inhabits in our worship (Psalm 95:2,6) and that we were in God's presence to renew our strength. Her prayers were centered on God's forgiveness of our sins, for peace and progress in our nation. She also prayed for the upliftment of RRIN and for God's guidance and protection on the Director/CEO and the Management of the Institute, and journey mercies on all members of Staff as they commute to and from the office daily. She rounded up by thanking God for answered prayers and for His Grace and peace on all.

The session was brought to a close by the sharing of the grace.



Cross section of some members of Staff during the prayer session

Spiritan International School of Theology, Attakwu, Enugu State visits Dr. L.N. Dongo for an exclusive interview.

Sequel to his earlier visit to the Director/CEO Dr. L.N. Dongo, Mr. Emmanuel M. Alozie, a Seminarian with the Spiritan International School of Theology, Attakwu, Enugu State, returned for an exclusive interview with Dr. L.N. Dongo. While responding to questions from Mr. Alozie, Dr. L.N. Dongo gave a brief overview of what goes on in the Institute, with regards to research and development, highlighting the following:

- Development of improved high-yielding and disease-resistant rubber clones
- Increased rubber production in Nigeria with 482 hectares of tappable Rubber plantations
- Increased Gum Arabic production in Nigeria with 46 hectares matured Gum Arabic trees
- Development of technologies for the processing of latex into various marketable products
- Manufactured Rubber seed oil from Rubber seeds, this is a raw material for cosmetics, paints, liquid soap, seed cake for animals and fertilizers and also Putty.
- Development of an innovative approach (Rubber agroforestry) that promotes and contributes to food security
- Dissemination pathways for technology transfer to rubber farmers and stakeholders.
- Market research to assess demand for rubber products domestically and internationally.
- Policy recommendations to the government and other stakeholders in the rubber industry.

She also said her vision for RRIN is to make RRIN become more visible as a center of excellence in providing high-quality scientific technologies to the global end users. Her goals she emphasized, is to set a clear direction for the Institute's future and my achievements in my first year in office is shaping the Institute's trajectory in several significant ways, such as:

Partnership Development:

Partnerships were forged/established with renowned organizations, this will facilitate knowledge exchange, technology transfer, joint research

RRIN TABLOID

LATEX



Vol. 3, Issue 4 Apr., 2024

projects, and increased visibility on the institute's global perspective and exposure to cutting-edge research technologies. The trajectory now includes strengthening existing partnerships and forging new ones to expand the institute's reach and impact.

Global Impact:

Research findings from the first year have gained international recognition, bolstering the institute's reputation as a center of excellence in Research and Development.

These recognitions will attract research grants and offer more opportunities for collaboration.

The trajectory is set to focus on becoming a global leader in rubber research and agricultural innovation, contributing to sustainable rubber production worldwide.

Enhanced Research Capabilities:

Research and non-research Staff were opportune to attend trainings and workshops in their different fields of expertise in the first year, this has empowered staff to be better and efficient in discharging their job schedules.

Expanded research capabilities will lead to the development of early maturing and high yield Rubber clones and gum arabic, increase efficiency, innovations and product quality in coagula and rubber ribbed smoked sheet.

The trajectory includes further research, testing, and dissemination in Research breakthroughs in early maturing rubber clones and gum arabic varieties. Expanding production capacity, meeting growing demand, and exploring international markets for rubber products.

Industry Impact:

My initiative of developing *Hevea brasiliensis* Rubber and gum arabic with early maturing and high yielding qualities will revolutionize the rubber industry in Nigeria.

Enhanced productivity, improved rubber quality, and sustainable farming practices will have a positive effect on rubber smallholder's and estate farmers, elevating the industry as a whole.



Dr. Dongo and Mr. Alozie, during the interview

Long-Term Vision:

My long-term vision, unveiled after the first year, includes sustainable rubber cultivation, the integration of cutting-edge technologies, and an expanded global network of partners. These strategic goals will further guide the institute's research focus and collaborative efforts in the years to

come.

My visionary leadership will lay a strong foundation for RRIN's future, with focus to RRIN's commitment to growth, innovation, global collaboration and the integration of advanced technologies, with the potential to significantly impact not only the rubber industry in Nigeria but also contribute to global advancements in rubber Research and Development.

She thanked God Almighty for the positive changes she had made so far in the Institute, as without God, they would not have been possible.

Finally, she appealed to the Federal Government to increase the funding for the Institute as RRIN is presently the least funded Institute in the country. The place of RRIN in the scope of things in the nation cannot be over emphasized as rubber and its by-products are used in practically all aspects of our lives.

Mr. E.M. Alozie, who is presently the Editor of the "Beyond Frontiers" Magazine thanked Dr. L.N. Dongo for granting him audience and the warm reception. The magazine is disseminated worldwide, to all the home countries of their students and their affiliate The Spiritan University, Duquesne, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, United States of America.

UNVEILING THE INTERCONNECTED WORLD OF AGROFORESTRY, RUBBER TREE LATEX QUALITY, AND INNOVATION

BY

Okwu, C. and Dongo, L.N.

In the heart of sustainable agricultural practices lies the intricate web of agroforestry, where the harmonious coexistence of trees, crops, and mini-livestock creates a tapestry of ecological resilience and economic opportunity. At the forefront of this ecosystem stands the rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*), 'nature's treasure' that not only yields the invaluable latex but also serves as a catalyst for innovation in agroforestry practices.

Agroforestry, the practice of integrating trees into farming systems, offers a multitude of benefits ranging from soil conservation to biodiversity preservation; this practice enhances resilience, minimizes crop failures and environmental shocks. Within this framework, rubber trees emerge as key players, not only for their latex production but also for their ability to enhance soil fertility and provide shade and micro-climate for shade-loving crops.

The quality of rubber tree latex is not merely a matter of quantity but a testament to the health and vitality of the entire agroecosystem. Through innovative cultivation techniques and sustainable management practices, farmers can optimize latex production while minimizing environmental impact.

Moreover, the pursuit of quality latex has spurred innovation in various aspects of agroforestry. Sustainable farming practices and incorporating shade trees in rubber systems have proven to mitigate temperature stress on rubber trees, leading to improved latex flow and quality, the quest for excellence in rubber production has catalyzed a wave of technological advancement within the agricultural sector.

Furthermore, the interconnectedness of agroforestry, rubber tree latex quality, and innovation extends beyond the confines of the farm. It resonates with global efforts to combat climate change and promote sustainable development. By harnessing the power of agroforestry and

RRIN TABLOID

LATEX



Vol. 3, Issue 4 Apr., 2024

leveraging innovation in rubber production, communities can mitigate carbon emissions, alleviate poverty, and foster economic resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

In essence, the symbiotic relationship between agroforestry, rubber tree latex quality, and innovation embodies the ethos of sustainable agriculture that mimics a natural forest ecosystem. It underscores the interconnectedness of natural systems and human ingenuity, offering a blueprint for a more resilient and prosperous future. As we navigate the complexities of a rapidly changing world, let us draw inspiration from the humble rubber tree and the boundless potential of agroforestry to cultivate a more sustainable tomorrow that will ensure security in food, nutrition, health, shelter, energy and a regenerated environment.

Dr. Okwu, C. is a Principal Research Officer and the Technical Assistant to the Director/CEO

Dongo, L.N. is the Director/CEO RRIN

Medical Outreach Sensitization

In continuation of its Corporate Social Responsibility and giving back to the six RRIN host Communities (Uhie, Iyanomo, Obagie N'evbosa, Obaretin, Obayantor and Ebuokpen) a second phase of the medical outreach and free cataract surgeries for indigenes of the RRIN host Communities was initiated. The exercise provided 200 free reading glasses, 60 distant Specs for school pupils, 500 free medical/eye consultations, 200 free deworming of children at the various outreach venues in the different RRIN host communities, between the 17th to 22nd of March, 2024, culminated with the 200 free cataract surgeries, from 25th to 27th March, 2024, at the RRIN Medical Centre.



Surgery in process at the RRIN Medical Centre

This medical outreach was done in collaboration with the Africa Eye Cataract Eye Foundation.

The exercise was very successful.

Health Corner

CATARACT

This is a dense, cloudy area that forms in the lens of the eye.

PATHOLOGY: A cataract begins when proteins in the eye form clumps that prevent the lens from sending clear images to the retina. The retina works by converting the light that comes through the lens into signals. Cataract can be bilateral (two-sided, i.e on both eyes) but they don't form at the same time.

SYMPTOMS

Blurring of vision; Trouble seeing at night; Seeing colours as faded; Increase sensitivity to glare; Halos surrounding lights; Double vision in the affected eye.

AETIOLOGY

Over production of oxidants, which are O₂ molecules that have been chemically altered due to normal daily life; Smoking; Ultra violet radiation; The long-term use of steroids and other medications; Certain diseases such as diabetes; Trauma; Radiation therapy

TYPES OF CATARACT

Nuclear cataracts- Form in the middle of the lens and cause the nucleus, or the center to become yellow or brown.

Cortical cataracts- Are wedge shaped and form around the edges of the nucleus.

Posterior capsular cataracts- Form faster than the other two types and affect the back of the lens.

Congenital cataracts- Are present at child birth or formed during baby's first

year. These are less common than age- related cataracts.

Secondary cataracts - are caused by diseases or medications, example; diabetes and use of prednisolone.

Traumatic cataracts -Develop after an injury to the eye but it can take several years for this to happen.

Radiation cataracts can form after the person undergoes radiation treatment for cancer.

RISK FACTORS FOR CATARACTS

Older age; Heavy alcohol use; Smoking; Obesity; High blood pressure; Previous eye injury; Family history of cataracts; Too much sun exposure; Diabetes; Exposure to radiation from X- ray and cancer treatments

DIAGNOSIS

An eye chart test to check vision at different distance.

Tonometry to measure eye pressure

Checking sensitivity to glare and perception of colors

TREATMENT

Use of stronger eye glasses, magnifying lenses or sunglasses with antiglare coating

Surgery example;(i) Phacoemulsification (use of ultrasound waves to 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

RRIN TABLOID

LATEX



Vol. 3, Issue 4 Apr., 2024

PENSION MATTERS

TO ALL PROSPECTIVE PENSIONERS

Retirement is a journey, not a destination. Also, the process of retirement is more important than the goal. This is why I will be giving you the following advice, so as to avoid pitfalls that could cost you a fortune and also avoid delays. Please, take this advice seriously to avoid the following:

- None-payment
- None - remittance
- Under-remittance: and
- Wrong capturing

- Visit your PFA, ask for your Comprehensive RSA Statement from 2004 till date Sit down with it and study it for any anomaly.
- Still with your PFA from (1) above, tell them you want to do your Data Re-capturing/Update. This is needed to properly align your data with Pencom and prepare you for verification. No data update, no verification. No verification, no pension payment.
- Make sure that your name with your PFA and your date of birth are correct. For instance: Sanusi Folake Adaobi is not the same as Adaobi Folake Sanusi (Principles of first name and last name).
- If the name on your NIMC and the one with your PFA does not tally, you'll find it difficult undergoing verification. The earlier you start this check and confirmation the better.
- Don't think you have a year more. You are already out of the system. According to the psychology of retirement, from ages 35 to 45, that is your pre-retirement stage. From ages 46 to 55, that is your exact retirement stage. And from ages 56 to 60, YOU ARE ALREADY RETIRED. In fact, if you hold an exalted position, someone is already lobbying for it while you think you are still there. They can't wait for you to go, even as they laugh with you every day, they are counting down for you.
- If you do not have a Plan "B", start thinking now of what you will do when you retire. The whole idea is to ensure that you retire for re-fire. You have to still be engaged so that you do not grow old too quickly, even if it is taking care of your grand-children, as long as it gives you satisfaction.
- Do you know that if you are wrongly captured especially in your Record of Service Form, which will also be submitted to your PFA, you might become a victim of "wrong computation"?
- Remove your mind from Programmed Withdrawal or Annuity options of retirement for now, your focus should be getting your verification right. You can start discussing that when you are duly verified.
- Let your children know that you are retired already so that you can concentrate on yourself. If you have a child that is 30 years and above that you are still supporting, advise them to go and learn a trade to be economically viable. If not, they will eat deep into your pension as if you worked and suffered together
- Read 1 to 9 again and only ask questions on those areas.

Emmanuel A. Aiwekhoe
Principal Admin Officer (Pensions)

Know your Public Service Rules (PSR)

PROCEDURE FOR MEDICAL CHECK-UP

OFFICERS ENTITLED TO MEDICAL CHECK-UP

070401

Officers on Salary Grade Level 16 and above shall undertake mandatory medical check-ups locally once a year. If as a result of such check-up it is

recommended that a further medical consultation and/or treatment should be undertaken /given abroad, permission to do so may be granted by either the President or Head of the Civil Service of the Federation as the case may be. Where such officers happen to be abroad on official business, they may undertake the once-a-year medical check-up abroad, provided that they obtain prior permission from either the President or Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, as the case may be, prior to their departure abroad.

Officers on Grade Level 12 to Grade Level 15 are entitled to medical check-ups locally once in two years. If as a result of such check-up it is recommended that a further medical consultation and/or treatment should be undertaken/given abroad, permission to do so may be granted by the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation. Where such officers happen to be overseas on official business, they may take them once in two years medical check-up abroad provided that they obtain prior permission from the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation before the medical consultation takes place, and provided also that the medical adjacent practitioner to be consulted is one that is recommended by the Nigerian Mission located in or assigned to the particular country concerned. It should be noted that a local medical check-up may only be authorised if the applicant chooses a recognized HealthCare Provider.

Hospital bills in respect of medical check-ups authorised under this Scheme should be settled by the relevant Ministries/Extra-Ministerial Offices. Where such bills are settled by Nigerian Missions abroad, in the first instance, bilateral arrangements for reimbursement should be made between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the relevant Ministries/Extra-Ministerial Offices.

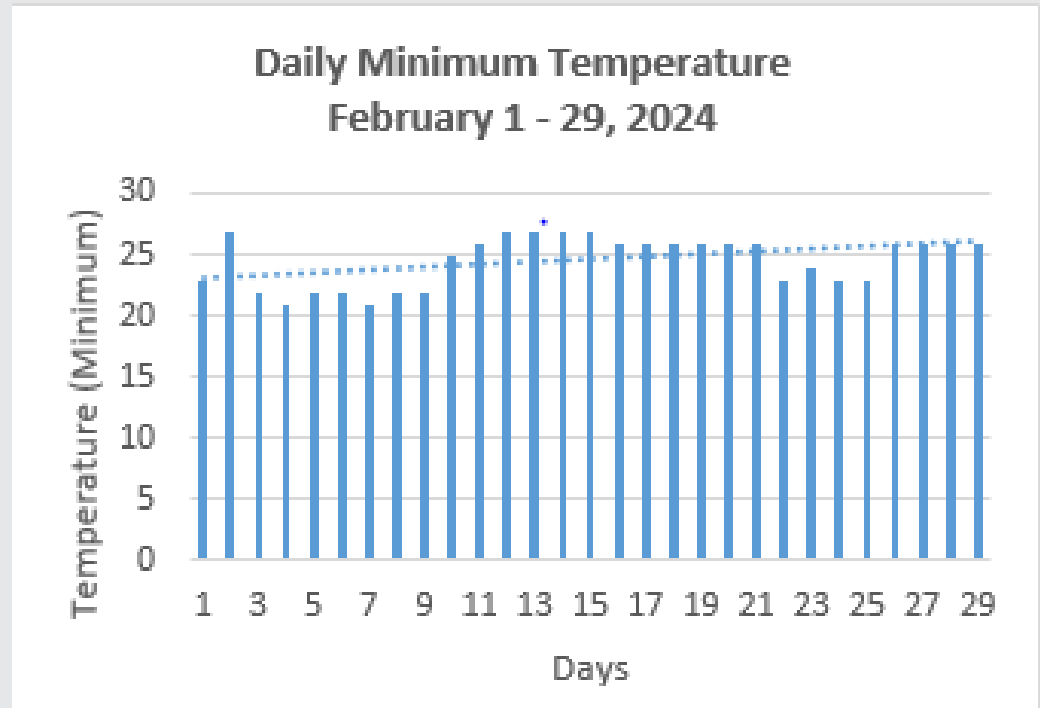
Relevant sub-head should be created in the Budget to accommodate the mandatory medical check-up of officers.

Agro climatology Bulletin (February 1 – 29, 2024)

Summary

Weather Trend

The trend of maximum temperature indicated a high temperature. The minimum temperature ranged from 21°C to 27°C



while the maximum temperature ranged from 28°C to 40°C during the period under review. The actual mean maximum temperature distribution for the month is 36.7°C with a monthly total of 1067°C.

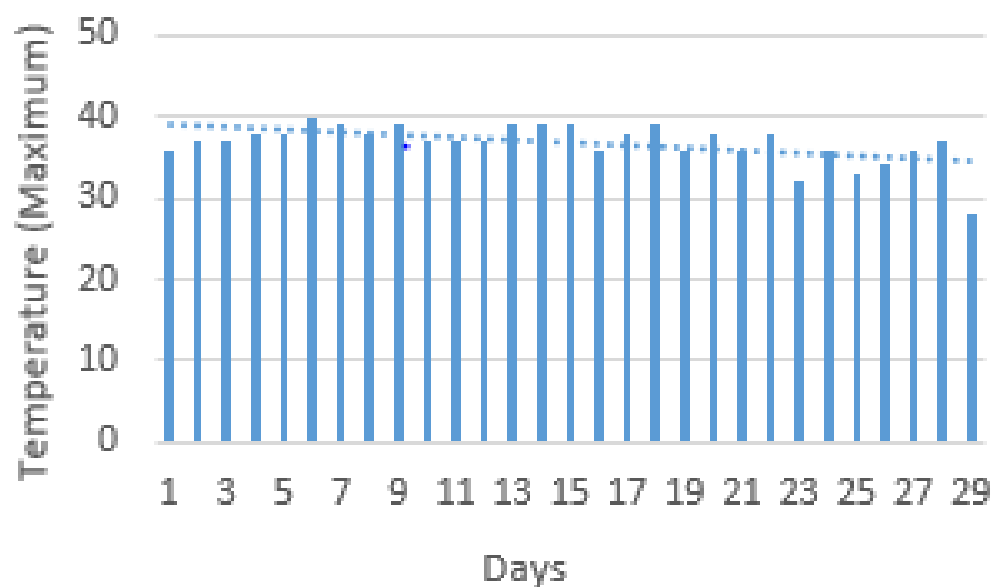
RRIN TABLOID

LATEX



Vol. 3, Issue 4 Apr., 2024

**Daily Maximum Temperature
February 1 - 29, 2024**



The high temperature experienced during the month is not favourable to planting of new crops. There was only one (1) day of rain in the month of February with a value of 54.4mm.

There was an average velocity wind speed of 2.16km/hr and an average Relative Humidity of 90% for the period under review.

	MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (°C)	MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (°C)	WIND SPEED (KM/HR)	RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)
Mean	24.6	36.7	2.16	90.0
Maximum	27	40	0.7	63.6
Minimum	21	28	3.9	98.4
Sum	714	1067	62.5	2610.1

The agricultural activities that was experienced within the institute and her environ is the harvesting of cassava planted in the previous year.

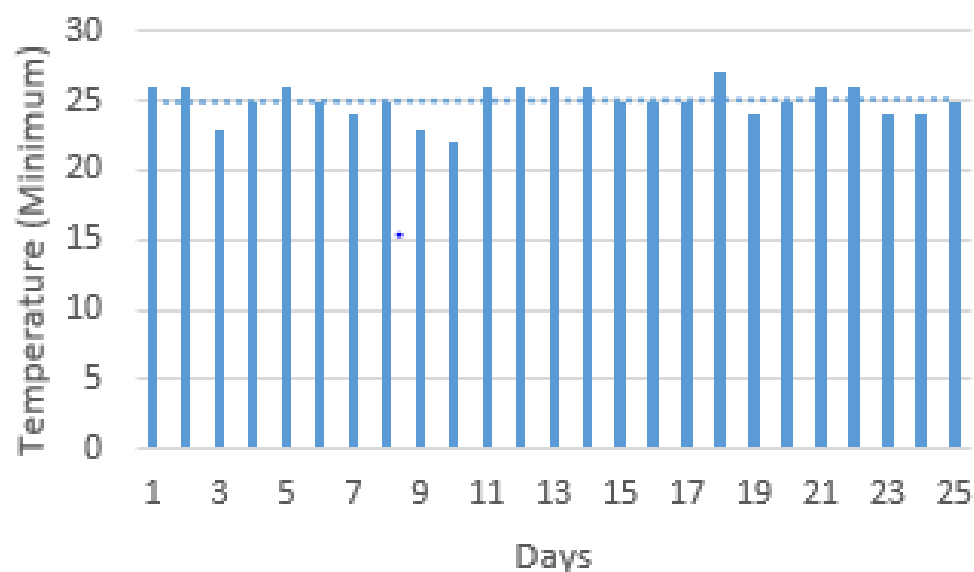
Agro climatology Bulletin (February 1 – 25, 2024)

Summary

Weather Trend

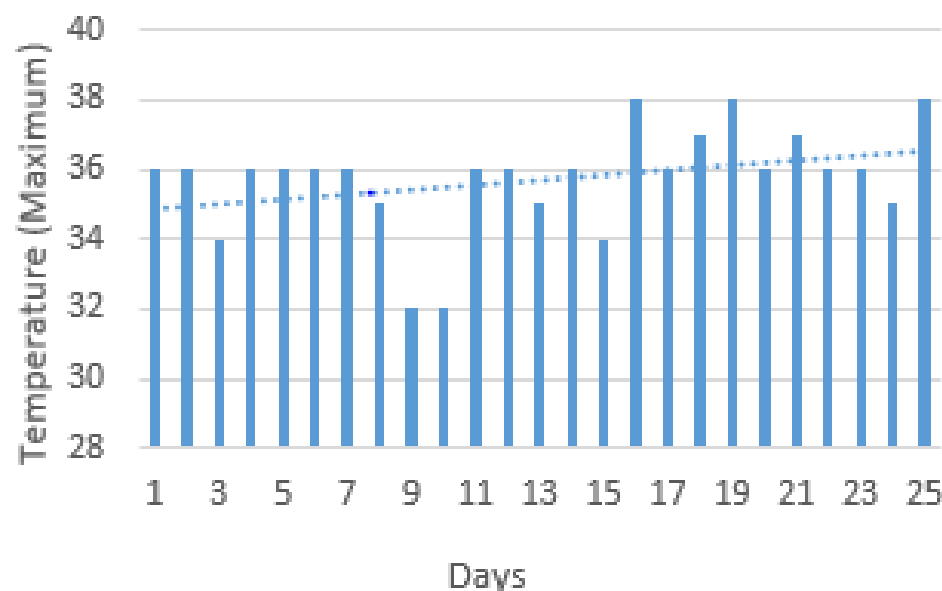
The trend of maximum temperature indicated a high temperature. The minimum temperature ranged from 22°C to 27°C

**Daily Minimum Temperature
March 1-25, 2024**



while the maximum temperature ranged from 32°C to 40°C during the period under review. The actual mean maximum temperature distribution for the month is 35.8°C with a monthly total of 895°C.

**Daily Maximum Temperature
March 1-25, 2024**



There were four (4) days of rain in the month of March with an average of 5.37mm and a total value of 139.5mm.

There was an average velocity wind speed of 1.9km/hr and an average Relative Humidity of 93.6% for the period under review.

	MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (°C)	MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (°C)	WIND SPEED (KM/HR)	RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)
Mean	25	35.8	1.9	93.6
Maximum	27	40	4.6	98.4
Minimum	22	32	0	63.9
Sum	625	895	47.6	2341.6

The few days of rainfall in the month of March ushered in the planting of new food crops such as maize, melon and cassava within the institute and her environ while harvesting of cassava was still ongoing.

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. Augustine Ojetemhen is the Staff of the month of March. He joined the service of RRIN 3rd of January, 2007 as an Agricultural Field Overseer. He was deployed to the Estate, Roads and Environmental Sanitation (ERES) Unit.

Desirous of improving himself, he sought and gained admission to the Federal Polytechnic, Auchi, Edo State, Nigeria, where he obtained a National Diploma (ND) in Agricultural Engineering Technology, graduating with an Upper Credit in 2008. With this added qualification, he was converted to an Assistant Agricultural Superintendent on CONRAISS 5/1.

He also obtained a Higher National Diploma Certificate in Agricultural and Bio Environmental Engineering Technology in 2017 from the Delta State Polytechnic Ozoro, Delta state, Nigeria. He is currently a Principal Agricultural Superintendent 1 on CONRAISS 11/1.

He is obedient and diligent in his duties, carrying out his duties with much enthusiasm and commitment.

RRIN TABLOID

L A T E X T



Vol. 3, Issue 4 Apr., 2024



Mr. Augustine Ojetemhen

Picture Gallery



RRIN TABLOID

LATEXT



Vol. 3, Issue 4 Apr., 2024



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

info@rrin.gov.ng rrin.gov.ng 09151557810

RRIN TABLOID

L A T E X T



Vol. 3, Issue 4 Apr., 2024



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

info@rrin.gov.ng rrin.gov.ng [09151557810](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/002911557810)