

RRIN TABLOID

LATEST

Vol. 3. Issue 7 July, 2024



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

The June edition of the RRIN Monthly Seminar Series (MSS) took place on Wednesday 26th June, 2024. As is the usual practice, there were two presenters, Dr. J.O. Ogbemor – an Assistant Director – Research and Head, Rubber Technology Division, Research Outreach Department and Dr. E.A. Oghide, - Chief Research Officer of the Field Crop Management Unit, Research Operations Department.

Dr. J.O. Ogbemor in his presentation titled Product Development – Rubber Technology in Perspective, gave an insight into elastomers, particularly natural rubber pathway to raw material development for the rubber industry: from tapping, bulking, coagulation, sheeting and ribbed smoke sheet (RSS) and crumb rubber production, with accompanied necessary grading specification, to effluent handling and management as by-product generated from processing of natural rubber latex. He also discussed some new trends in rubber technologies.



Dr. J.O. Ogbemor during his presentation

Dr. E.A. Oghide in his presentation titled "Effect of Snag length (SL) on the early field performance of rubber brown-budded stump", explained snag length as the height/point above the bud-scion union at which de-topping is performed. Most times de-topping is usually carried out at the discretion of the topper which makes the operation subjective and prone to the errors of cutting too near or too far from the bud-scion union and consequently causing undesirable associated outcomes.



Dr. E.A. Oghide during his presentation

The study was therefore conducted to determine appropriate snag length; particularly for brown budded rubber seedlings of over 9 months old and concluded that SL-2cm was recommended as the most appropriate snag length for budded rubber rootstock of brown budding age.

There was a brief question and answer session after the presentation, followed by some general announcements by the Dr. Omokhafa, the chairman of the Seminar planning committee where he admonished all Staff that this is a scientific exercise which all Research officers will deliver their research work.



Cross section of members of Staff during the seminar

RRIN holds June edition of general prayer meeting

The June, 2024 edition of the RRIN prayer meeting took place as usual, on Monday the 3rd of June, 2024. Due to the nationwide strike declared by the labour Unions, attendance at the Prayer Meeting comprised just a few Management and essential members of Staff.

It commenced with opening prayers by Dr. A.M.D. Uwumarongie, followed by the praise and worship session, led by Mrs. Akhere Emumajakpor. The prayer session was led by Mrs. W.E. Afamefune, during which she led those present to pray for God's continued sustenance in all ramifications for all of us. Citing Psalms 3: 5-6, she asked that the mercy of God speaks for us all, praying for the continued sustenance and relevance of the Institute to the nation. She also prayed for a sense of responsibility for all members of Staff to always do the right thing at the right time. In addition, Dr. K.O. Omokhafa, Director/Head, Research Operations Department said God will always bless the works of our habds and that if one is not working, what will God bless? He also prayed that whatever we have not done well in carrying out our duties, God should help us to complete it.

Continuing the prayers with another text from the scriptures, Hebrews 6: 10, Mrs. W.E. Afamefune said God will not forget our labour and will always reward our labour in RRIN. She

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also prayed for God's guidance and directives on the Director/CEO and Management of RRIN to pilot the Institute to greater heights; that RRIN will always find favour with its supervising Ministry; and for God's divine protection, blessings and guidance on all Staff.

Dr. E.O. Abolagba rounded up the prayers.



Cross section of some members of Staff during the prayer session

RRIN holds her Second Quarter Edition of Own your Institute for 2024

The second edition of Own your Institute, 2024, was held on the 10th of June, 2024. This second quarter edition took a different turn from the usual cleaning of the office environment, as members of Staff were directed to maintain their Divisional farm plots on the Institutes' access road. This exercise was in line with Staff consent at the first general meeting, 2024 where the Director/CEO, Dr. L.N. Dongo had informed her Staff on the need to cultivate the sides of the access road to the Institute with cover crops, for a neat appearance and easy access into the plantations.

To this end, all members of Staff were at their various allocated plots for the purpose of beating-up and maintenance of their respective plots.

It was a successful exercise.



Cross section of some Staff maintaining their plot

Operation "Own your Institute": RRIN Sub-Station Akwete Management declared a two-day monthly sanitation exercise on 6th and 7th June 2024

The second edition of Own your Institute, 2024, in Akwete Sub-Station focussed on a thorough sanitation exercise which lasted for two days. The exercise was coordinated by Engr. G. U. Aja and Mr. Julio Dike Chunwuba and supervised by the Officer Incharge Dr. Mrs. Korieocha, Josephine. This exercise was well attended by the entire workforce and it reflected on the positive outcome of the sanitation exercise. The Sub-Station wore a clean and maintained look from the Administrative Block to labour line, through the office block to the Main gate, Monitoring Unit, as well as Engineering Unit and Stores. The Sub-station Management wishes to heartily commend the entire workforce for their massive attendance, support and hard work for the two-days exercise.



Members of Staff of the RRIN Sub Station Akwete cleaning the Institutes' premises

Inspection of Divisional farmlands by Acting Director/CEO, Dr. K.O. Omokhaye

The Acting Director/CEO, Dr. K.O Omokhaye in company of some members of Management team moved round the Divisional farm lands along the RRIN main access road on Monday, 24th June, 2024 by 10am to inspect the portion of farm lands allocated to respective Divisions for cultivation. It was observed during the tour that some plants had sprouted while some were yet to.

The Acting Director/CEO commended the owners of farms that were well maintained and encouraged others to brace up to the task of proper maintenance of their respective farms. He then promised to revisit the farms on Wednesday, 26th June, 2024.



Dr. K. O. Omokhaye and some members of Staff

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Some of the crops seen to have sprouted and in good shape during the tour includes vegetables, sweet potatoes, short okro, pepper, pumpkin, Groundnuts, Beans and 'Okpa' - an Igbo local variety of beans.



Som members of Staff during the inspection

Health Corner

By

Dr. D. Ayegba

Traditional Practices that are harmful to Pregnant Women and their babies.

Drinking of alcohol: Women often take palm wine claiming it will make the breastmilk flow. They also put palm wine on the eyes of their babies as a measure to treat conjunctivitis ('Apollo').

Female circumcision: This is now termed female genital mutilation. They believe by circumcising women it will reduce their attraction to the opposite sex.

Massaging of pregnant women's abdomen: Done mainly by Ijaw women and other women, claiming it will make the baby sit well and fresh. This can lead to early placenta separation (Abruptio Placenta) and cord accident.

Marking of the abdomen of the new born: Claiming it will remove bad blood when the spleen is enlarged, (Splenomegaly) this can lead to severe anaemia and death.

Throwing of baby up and down when bathing the baby: It can lead to fracture OR dislocation, even regurgitation.

Use of cold water to bath baby when the body is hot: This can lead to hypothermia and death.

Use of spoon, urine, cow faeces and fire on the baby when convulsing.

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

PENSION MATTERS

YOU, YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT AND THE COMMISSION - LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE NATIONAL PENSION COMMISSION

The National Pension Commission otherwise referred to as 'the Commission' is a legal entity that can sue and be sued, in the event that an Individual, Corporate Organisation or Fund Provider intends to institute legal proceedings against PenCom. Section 95 of Pension Reform Acts 2014, stipulates the procedures to be observed. The Act states that no Suit shall be commenced against the Commission before the expiration of a

period of 30 days after written notice of intention to commence the Suit shall have been served upon the Commission by the intending plaintiff or agent; and the notice shall clearly and explicitly state the following -

- a. The cause of action;
- b. The particulars of the claim;
- c. The name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff; and
- d. The relief which he claims.

The Notice referred to above and any summons, Notice or other document required or authorised to be served upon the Commission under the provisions of the Act or any other law may be served by delivering the same to the Director-General or the Secretary, or any Principal Officer of the Commission (PenCom) or by sending it by registered post addressed to the Director-General or Secretary at the Headquarters of the Commission.

Emmanuel A. Airwekhoe

Principal Admin Officer (Pensions)

Know your Public Service Rules (PSR)

OVERTIME ALLOWANCE

PSR 130117 Overtime Allowance shall be paid to Officers on G.L. 14 and below

PSR 130118 Overtime shall only be authorized and approved by Accounting Officer/CEO of the Ministry/Extra Ministerial Office on the recommendation of the Director.

Computation of Overtime

PSR 130119 The normal approved working time per week shall be from 8.00am to 4.00 pm from Monday to Friday. This excludes Saturdays, Sunday and Public Holidays

PSR 130120 Payment of Overtime shall be made for time worked in excess of the normal working hours.

PSR 130121 The circumstances in which Officers can work Overtime

- Officers attached to Top management /Officials
- On special assignment e.g. Conferences, Committees
- Period of budgetary preparation
- Period of closing annual accounts
- Any other assignment as may be approved by the Director.

PSR 130122 Condition Guiding Overtime

- No officer qualified for overtime payment shall work overtime in excess of 45hours in any month unless he/she is authorized in special circumstances by CEO

PSR-130123 Payment of overtime on normal working days will be at the rate of 0.007% of the monthly consolidated salary subject to a maximum of 45hours in one month and must be approved by the Accounting Officer.

PSR-130125 Time worked on work-free day will be paid at the rate of 1.5% of the normal overtime rate; while on public holidays, the rate shall double the normal overtime rate **but must be approved by the accounting Officer/CEO.**

PSR-130134 Resettlement Allowances:

- This allowance covers transfer of officer from one station or other government establishment to another during service. The allowance shall be paid at the rate of 2% of an officer's annual emolument.
- **PSR-130135** An officer whose transfer is at his own request shall be entitled to only transport allowance and not resettlement allowance.

LOCAL COURSE OF INSTRUCTION:

This is a course which an officer takes locally in Nigeria but outside

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his/her station. For courses exceeding 28 days and where boarding and lodging are not provided by the training institution concerned, Officers will be entitled to 30% of the DTA at the following rates:

1. GL 16-17 N5, 000 per day for the 1st 28 days and N500 for each day thereafter.
2. GL 14-15 N4,000 per day for the 1st 28 days and N400 for each day thereafter
3. GL 12-13 N3,000 per day for the 1st 28 days and N350 for each day thereafter
4. GL 09-10 N2,400 per day for the 1st 28 days and N300 for each day thereafter
5. GL 07-08 N2,000 per day for the 1st 28 days and N250 for each day thereafter
6. GL 04-06 N1,600 per day for the 1st 28 days and 270 for each day thereafter
7. GL 01-03 N1, 200 per day for the 1st 28 days and N300 for each day thereafter.

Note: For courses not exceeding 28 days officers should be entitled to the following rates:

- GL 16-17 N5,000 per day
- GL 14-15 N3,000 per day
- GL 12-13 N2,500 per day
- GL 09-10 N2,000 per day
- GL 07-08 N1,500 per day
- GL 04-06 N1,000 per day
- GL 01-03 N600 per day.

Books Allowance:

- Training for one year and above N20, 000
- Training below one year N10, 000

PROJECTS ALLOWANCE:

- Training for one years and above N20, 000
- Training below one year N10, 000

Disturbance Allowance:

This is the allowance paid to an officer on reporting from one station to another. It is not granted as right but as compensation for out of pocket expenses not covered by the regulations. The rate of payment varies according to the rank of an officer.

Conditions for Disturbance Allowance:

- Transfer from one station to another on return from annual leave.
- Transfer or secondment from the service of another government in the federation.

Words commonly mispronounced

By

UGIAGBE Freda Odion-Odigie (Mrs.)

English does not have a perfect regular system of spelling. Many words are wrongly pronounced because the spelling suggests a certain pronunciation which is not correct. The following are common examples:

Architect: Do not pronounce the 'ch' like the 'ch' in 'church'. It is pronounced like 'k', as if the word were written 'arkitect'

Available: The 'ai' here is pronounced like the 'a' of 'state', not like the 'a' of 'back'. The word should not be pronounced as if it were written 'available'.

Circuit: The 'uit' here is pronounced as if it were 'it'. Pronounce the word as if it were 'cirkit', not as if it were 'circute' or 'cirquit'.

Climb: Pronounce as if it were 'clime', the 'b' is silent. Likewise, 'lamb' is pronounced as if it were 'lam', 'comb' as if it were 'coam', 'bomb' as if it were 'bom', and 'plumber' as if it were 'plummer'.

Debt: The 'b' is silent. Pronounce the word as if it were written 'dett'

Elite: This word comes from French and still keeps a French type of pronunciation. It should sound like 'ay-leet' ('ay' as in 'day' not like 'ee-light'.

Federal: The first 'e' is /e/, pronounced like 'e' in 'bed'. Pronounced in the

same way is the first 'e' in 'Senate'; also the 'ea' in 'weapon'. Do not let the words sound like 'fee-deral', 'See-nate', 'wee-pon'.

Gear: 'G' at the beginning of a word is either 'soft' – pronounced like 'j', or 'hard' – pronounced like 'g' in 'get'. Before 'e' or 'i' it is usually soft, but there are a few words where it is hard, notably 'get', 'give', 'girl', and 'gear'. Do not let 'gear' sound like 'jeer'.

Hour: The 'h' is silent; 'hour' is pronounced in exactly the same way as 'our'. Other words with a silent 'h' include: 'honour', 'honest', 'honourable', and 'heir'. Likewise, the letter 'h' is pronounced 'aitch', not 'haitch'.

Label: The 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' of 'state', not like the 'a' of 'back', as if the word were written 'labbel'. Likewise, 'vacant' should be pronounced as if it were written 'vay-cant'.

Legal: The first three letters are not pronounced like the word leg. Say the word as if it started with 'lee'.

Lettuce: The 'u' here is like 'the' of is; that is, /ɪ/. Say the word as if it were 'lettis'.

Listen: Pronounce as if it were 'lissen'. The 't' is silent. The 't' is silent also in fasten, castle, bustle.

Says: Do not model the pronunciation on that of 'say'. 'Says' is pronounced as if it were 'sezz'.

Shepherd: 'Ph' is normally pronounced like 'f' in English, but this word is pronounced as if it were 'shepperd', not as if it were 'shefferd'; the 'h' is in fact silent.

Vehicle: The 'h' in the middle is silent. Pronounce the word as if it were 'vee-icle'.

Wednesday: Do not say 'Wed-nes-day'. The first 'd' is silent, and the word is pronounced as if it were 'Wensday'.

Ugiagbe Freda Odion-Odigie (Mrs.) is an Assistant Director in the Corporate Affairs and Legal Matters Division (CALMD)

Staff of the Month

Our Staff of the month is Dr. (Mrs) Okeoghene A. Emuedo. She joined the services of RRIN in 2005 as a Research Officer 1 with Master degree in Botany from the University of Benin. On assumption of office, she was deployed to the Plant Breeding Division and later to the Physiology and Biochemistry Division, both of the then Crop Improvement and Management Department, now Research Operations Department. While in the Service, she embarked on and obtained her MPhil and PhD degrees both in Environmental plant Physiology from the University of Benin in 2007 and 2014 respectively.



Dr. (Mrs) O.A. Emuedo

She has risen through the ranks and is presently a Research Director and Head of the Crop Improvement Division. She is also the pioneer Chairperson of the Editorial Board Committee, publishers of the monthly RRIN Newsletter, *TABLOID LATEXT* and has served in different capacities in various Committees in the Institute since joining its Service. Dr. (Mrs) O.A. Emuedo is an easy-going person, hardworking, punctual, consistent and diligent in carrying out her duties.