



# APRNet Newsletter, Vol. 2. No. 1; November 2011

### Hurrah! APRNet gets CAC Registration

The Nigerian Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet Ltd/Gte) has finally been registered as a 'not-for-profit organization' (Limited by Guarantee) by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). The process which started in 2009 has faced several challenges ranging from nomenclature issues to bureaucratic delays. However with the committed and relentless efforts of the EXCO, the CAC finally issued a certificate of registration with number RC 959554 and dated 14 June 2011.

Since its formation, the lack of certificate of registration has limited APRNet's collaborative opportunities with relevant organizations. However, with the issuance of the certificate, APRNet is now formally positioned to engage and collaborate with relevant institutions and organizations in the pursuit of its major objective of strengthening agricultural policy research, research communication and policy dialogue.

The EXCO seizes this medium to heartily congratulate the entire members for their patience and encouragement during this long and tortuous process. We also appreciate the financial support from IFPRI and the dogged efforts of our lawyer – Barrister Ralph Agama.

### APRNet opens own bank account

Following its successful registration by CAC, the Nigerian Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet Ltd/Gte) has formally opened its own current bank account. The account which is domiciled with the United Bank for Africa (UBA PLC), Maitama, FCT branch has **APRNet** as its account name while its account number is **1015661697**. Prior to the opening of its own account, APRNet has been operating from the



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personal account of the treasurer. Formal transfer of funds to our account is in progress and detailed financial report will be made public soon. All subsequent payments are to be made to the account details given above.

We use this opportunity to thank the treasurer for facilitating our bank transactions through his personal bank account. We equally salute the members for reposing confidence in us while the private bank account was in use.

### **APRNet's Re-designed Website to be launched soon**

The re-designing and hosting of APRNet website with the domain name [www.aprnetnigeria.org](http://www.aprnetnigeria.org) is in progress, thanks to IFPRI for providing us with additional support. The website re-design became necessary following the withdrawal of free hosting support earlier provided by *Dgroup* online services. This development rendered our website inactive since February, 2011; hence the EXCO's decision to approach IFPRI for support. IFPRI responded positively by engaging an IT consultancy firm (*Hit-d-wave Tech Services Ltd, Abuja*) to re-design and host the website for at least one year. It is expected that before the end of November 2011, the website will be active and ready for use. NAPRNet once again expresses her appreciation to IFPRI for providing the IT support.

### **APRNet hosts National Symposium on "Making Agricultural Research Work for End-User".**

On 24 May, 2011, the Nigerian Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet) in collaboration with the African Institute for Applied Economics (AIAE Enugu) and with support from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI-Nigeria) organized a National Policy Symposium on "Making Agricultural Research Work for End-Users". The symposium which was held at Valencia Hotel, Abuja provided a platform for experts and practitioners to discuss the important question of optimizing the interface of agricultural research, agricultural policy and agricultural enterprise for sustainable growth and food security in Nigeria. It afforded an opportunity to share research information and to synthesize informed perspectives on innovative and best practices for linking research, policymaking and private enterprise.



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About 105 participants attended the event including researchers, research managers, policymakers, development practitioners and agricultural entrepreneurs. Participants were drawn from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, State Ministries of Agriculture, States' Agricultural Development Programmes and Agricultural and Rural Development Authorities, Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria, National Agricultural Research Institutes, Commercial Agriculture Development Programme, Agricultural Society of Nigeria, National Programme for Agricultural and Food Security/National Programme for Food Security, Faculties of Agriculture in Nigerian Universities, Farmers' Associations, agriculture-related non-governmental associations and International Development Partners. Four papers were presented while a communiqué was issued at the end of the symposium. The communiqué will be uploaded in the APRNet website when operational.

### **APRNet collaborates with AIAE to organize training on Agricultural Policy Analysis**

APRNet in collaboration with AIAE, Enugu is organizing an Executive Course on Methodology and Tools for Agricultural Policy Analysis, under the auspices of the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARC�). The Course will hold from 6-9 December 2011 at AIAE Conference and Seminar Rooms, Enugu

To encourage more APRNet members to participate, a 40% course fee discount has been secured for APRNites only. The total course fee is N89,970 and available spaces are limited in number. Members are encouraged to avail themselves of this opportunity by either sponsoring themselves or approaching their institutions to sponsor them.

### **APRNet prepares for the 2011 congress meeting/elections**

The 2011 congress meeting of APRNet has been scheduled to hold on 23 November, 2011 at the African Institute for Applied Economics, Enugu, Enugu state in South Eastern Nigeria.

The choice of Enugu is line with members' desire to rotate the venue around the various zones of the country thereby bringing the meeting closer to old and intending



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members. The Congress meeting will feature the Presidential Address on “Accomplishments, Challenges and Strategic Priorities Looking Forward”. The Address will review the accomplishments and milestones since inception, examine the challenges of take-off and institution building and proffer the strategic priorities for the medium and long-term. The Address will serve to provide a holistic assessment of the journey so far and scenario analysis of the prospects for the coming years.

Another highlight of the meeting will be the election of new EXCO since the tenure of the present EXCO has almost elapsed. Members are advised to go through the constitution to be well informed of electoral provisions. Please note that only financially up-to-date members are eligible to vote and be voted for. We look forward to welcoming you to the coal city.

### **Bright Prospects for 2012**

The outlook of APRNet in 2012 is very bright. With the successful registration of APRNet as a corporate entity, we are optimistic that the year 2012 will witness the fruition of some collaborative programmes in capacity building, research networking and policy dialogue, which NAPRNet EXCO has been working upon since the beginning of 2010. Members are encouraged to make intellectual and technical contributions as may be necessary for the realization of these programmes.

### **News bits**

- **Ezekiel Idowu promoted to the rank of Professor**- A pioneer member and Program Coordinator of APRNet, Ezekiel Idowu has been promoted to the rank of Professor of Agricultural Economics at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Osun state, South Western Nigeria. Idowu, a renowned agricultural economist got his letter of promotion June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 but was backdated to
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2008. APRNet family rejoices with the Idowus and hope that other members will be inspired by his character of hard work and commitment to service.

- **Victor Oboh leaves DFID-PrOpCom** – Following the successful completion and winding down of DFID-PrOpCom programme in Nigeria, APRNet's Secretary, Victor Oboh will be resuming at the University of Agriculture Makurdi to continue his teaching and research career. Dr. Oboh joined PrOpCom as Policy Advisor in July 2009 after his M4P training in Glasgow Scotland. APRNet wishes Dr Oboh, the best in his future endeavor!
- **Ngozi Egbuna, 1<sup>st</sup> National Vice President, APRNet, promoted to CBN Deputy Director, CBN** – Our 1<sup>st</sup> National Vice President, Dr. Mrs. Ngozi Egbuna has been promoted from the rank of Assistant Director to Deputy Director, Monetary Policy Department, Central Bank of Nigeria. Dr. Mrs. Egbuna is currently doing some work, on secondment, at the West Africa Monetary Institute (WAMI), Accra, Ghana. We congratulate our dear Vice President on her well-deserved elevation and wish her success in her new position.
- **Payment of annual dues-** Members are reminded to clear their annual dues for 2011. Account details are: United Bank for Africa (UBA PLC), Maitama, FCT branch, Account number **1015661697**; Account name - Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet Ltd/Gte)
- **Christmas and New Year greetings-**As the year 2011 comes to a close and we expect the dawn of the New Year, APRNet wishes all her members a merry Christmas and bright and happy New Year full of new aspirations and new resolves.