



INSTITUTE OF FOOD SECURITY

**JOSEPH SARWUAN TARKA UNIVERSITY
MAKURDI**

Fomerly, Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi



VISION, MISSION AND MANDATE
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FOREWORD

Food security remains on top of the development agenda of world bodies and Nations in the quest for human development. In Nigeria, the tempo of government concerns about food security has increased with the July 13, 2023 declaration of a state of emergency on food security by the President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

An international conference held in Canada (24-26 September 2008) on the subject matter of the worsening food security of countries established the need for strengthening the intellectual base for addressing the issue in terms of creating a centre of excellence for addressing and promoting solutions to food security concerns of the world. The Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi (FUAM), now Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM), therefore established the Institute of Food Security (IFS) which is both consistent with and mutually complementary to the thinking of experts at the international level.

The establishment of Institute of Food Security (IFS) at JOSTUM is predicated upon the need to have a semi-autonomous organ of the University with a mandate to cover all conceivable aspects of the food security concerns of the Federal Government of Nigeria and the world in general. The earlier focus of the University was narrowly defined in terms of the dominant role of policy among the class of proximate determinants of progress in the pursuit of food security. The new direction of establishing IFS reflects the recommendation of the Senate Committee set up to examine the emerging situation following the earlier closure of the Centre for Food and Agricultural Strategy (CEFAS) and the inadequate role of the Cooperative Extension Centre (CEC) in meeting the University's original mission and mandate in food security. The Committee found some factors which affected the performance of the defunct CEFAS and the then CEC, including inadequate funding and staffing, limited functions as well as weak linkages, internally and externally.

The underlying philosophy of IFS is based on the principle of human rights to adequate food entitlements. The Institute is formulated around finding sustainable solutions to ending hunger and malnutrition in Nigeria and the world at large, working in alliance with government agencies and other public institutions, private enterprises, non-governmental and civil society organizations. It is my conviction that the Institute is better placed to address the food security problems of the country more holistically. Finally, I commend IFS to all governments, agencies, the private sector and all stakeholders in and outside Nigeria for patronage of all food security concerns.

*Engr. Prof. Isaac N. Itodo FNSE, FAEng. NPOM Vice-chancellor and
Chairman, Board of Governors, IFSii
April, 2024*

PREFACE

The Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi (FUAM), now renamed Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM), was established in 1988 by the Federal Government of Nigeria as part of the strategies for achieving national food self-sufficiency and reliance. The University was charged with the mandate of integrating teaching, research and model extension services in forms that would continually ensure the scientific transformation of agriculture for national goal achievement in attaining and sustaining food security status.

According to the 1996 World Food Summit, food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preference for an active and healthy life. The WHO identifies three pillars or dimensions that determine food security viz food availability, food access, and food use and misuse. A fourth pillar, the stability of the first three dimensions of food security over time, was added by the FAO. The World Summit on Food Security, in 2009, stated that the four pillars of food security are availability, access, utilization and stability. In 2020, two additional pillars of food security, agency and sustainability, were recommended by the High-Level Panel of Experts for the Committee on World Food Security.

Development of programme initiatives on food security is an important component of JOSTUM's strategic plan. Food Security is all-encompassing and related to the attainment of the national food security status within the context of the agricultural value chain. The critical components involved in the chain are production, storage, processing and marketing which jointly direct the patterns of consumption and utilization. The analysis of these would guide the innovative effort of the Institute in addressing the concerns of food security in Nigeria and the world at large.

The senate of the University (FUAM), in consideration of the foregoing, constituted a committee to draw up a blue-print for setting up an institutional outfit on food security issues. Consequently, the Institute of Food Security (IFS) was established in 2010 to address the worsening national and global food security situations. The Institute was established as a think tank and knowledge hub to provide cutting-edge research, analysis and solutions to addressing the complex issues of food security. It has been mandated to contribute to filling the intellectual gaps in terms of knowledge and information, analytical and advisory capacity as well as brokerage functions on food security in Nigeria in particular and the world generally. It is also envisaged that it would substantially contribute to the policy implementation mechanism of the national food security plans and programmes.

The Institute (IFS) has a clear statement of vision, mission and mandate as well as the backup organizational structure and linkage arrangements for delivering the

mission and mandate to achieve its vision. In that regard, six programme/activity areas have been put in place namely, Strategy and Governance; Knowledge, Innovation and Extension; Technology and Environment; Markets and Institutions; Food and Nutrition; and Biotechnology & Farm Health. The operational modalities of the programmes assure high multi-disciplinary content in resource mobilization and utilization.

This handbook has been organized and presented into the following nine sections: Nature, Goals and Objectives of the Institute; Administrative structure and functions of the organs of the Institute; Operational Guidelines, Programmes and Activities; Funding Arrangement; Internal and External Linkages; Achievements of the Institute so far; Activities of the Institute in abeyance due to funding constraint; Planned activities of the Institute: 2024 - 2027; Key positions/officials of the Institute.

Prof. Oto J. Okwu *MNIM*
Director

SECTION 1

NATURE, VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INSTITUTE



NATURE

The Institute of Food Security, JOSTUM, is a semi-autonomous body approved by the University Governing Council to fill the intellectual gaps in terms of knowledge and information, analytical and advisory capacity, as well as advocacy and brokerage functions on food security in Nigeria in particular and the world at large.



VISION

The Institute shall seek sustainable solutions for ending hunger and malnutrition in Nigeria and the world at large, working in alliance with Government agencies and other public institutions, private enterprises, non-governmental and civil society organizations. Its vision is based on the principle of the fundamental human rights to adequate food and striving for a nation free of hunger and malnutrition.



MISSION

The mission of IFS is to provide solutions that reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition. This is informed by the need for sustainable food security and poverty reduction in Nigeria through scientific research and research-related activities in the fields of agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries, policy and natural resources management. The specific focus of this mission is as follows:

- (i) Identifying and analyzing alternative international, national and local policies in support of improved food security and nutrition,

emphasizing low-income countries and poor people and the sound management of natural resources base that supports agriculture.

- (ii) Contributing to capacity strengthening of people and institutions in developing countries that conduct research on food, agriculture and nutrition policies; and
- (iii) Actively engaging in policy communications, making research results available to all those in a position to apply or use them and carrying out dialogues with those users to link research and policy action.

The mandates of the Institute include:

- i. Increased learning, leadership and linkages that support agencies and organizations in managing their programmes and projects towards the attainment of food security in Nigeria and the world at large.
- ii. Develop and demonstrate a system of coordination, efficiencies and information regarding food security in Nigeria and the world.
- iii. Develop and demonstrate appropriate methods and approaches to identifying, coordinating and documenting success and failure stories on food-related needs, resources and solutions.
- iv. Promote the sustainability of food security in the country and support food security policies and plans based on identified local and international resources and assets.



MANDATE



OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Institute are, to:

- (i) Align the vision of the Institute with the desire of Nigeria to achieve sustainable food security
- (ii) Identify and collaborate with programmes and activities, at both national and international levels, towards addressing food security concerns in all ramifications.
- (iii) Maintain an optimal organizational structure of the Institute for meeting the minimum standard required in carrying out the Institute's established mission and mandate.
- (iv) Organise relevant practical short training and certificate/diploma/degree courses for actors in the agriculture and food security domain.

SECTION 2

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF ORGANS OF THE INSTITUTE

2.1 Organizational structure:

To deliver on its mission, IFS is organized into multi-disciplinary clusters around the Institute's programme/activity areas. There is a Board of Governors (BOG), which is chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of JOSTUM. There is a Director and a Deputy Director of the Institute that are appointed by the Vice-Chancellor. Next in the hierarchy are the Programme Leaders. The professional staff of the Institute reflect the content of programmes with emphasis on disciplinary relevance and experience in practical development work engagements. The Institute organically relates to the Colleges of the University for full collaboration among the staff and sharing of individual facilities and joint ownership of common facilities. The professional staff relate closely with stakeholders.

2.2 Roles:

The Board of Governors is responsible for policy formulation.

The Director, IFS has the overall responsibility for the day-to-day running of the Institute. He coordinates all programmes and activities in addition to oversight functions of the various programmes staff. The Director ensures the effective collaboration of the Institute with national and international agencies in the areas of policy analysis and development, research, strategic management, funds mobilization, and development intervention. He reports to the Board of Governors.

The Deputy Director assists the Director in all activities to ensure the successful implementation of the vision of the Institute. It is the Deputy Director that has the immediate supervisory responsibility for all professional staff of the Institute, and makes appropriate recommendations on them to the Director.

Programme Leaders: The Programme Leaders oversee the major activities of the Institute in their respective areas or mandates. The University's Colleges/Departments/Centres shall regularly support and help implement all relevant programmes and activities through action plans facilitated by the Institute.

The Institute's professional staff (Research Fellows and Technical Staff) relate closely with all Colleges/Departments/Centres in developing and implementing action plans of the Institute. They are involved in all outreach programmes as experts, working actively with stakeholders, in order to successfully deliver the services of the Institute. Emphasis should be laid particularly on socio-economically disadvantaged groups by promoting income-generating activities, improved clientele education, research and extension.

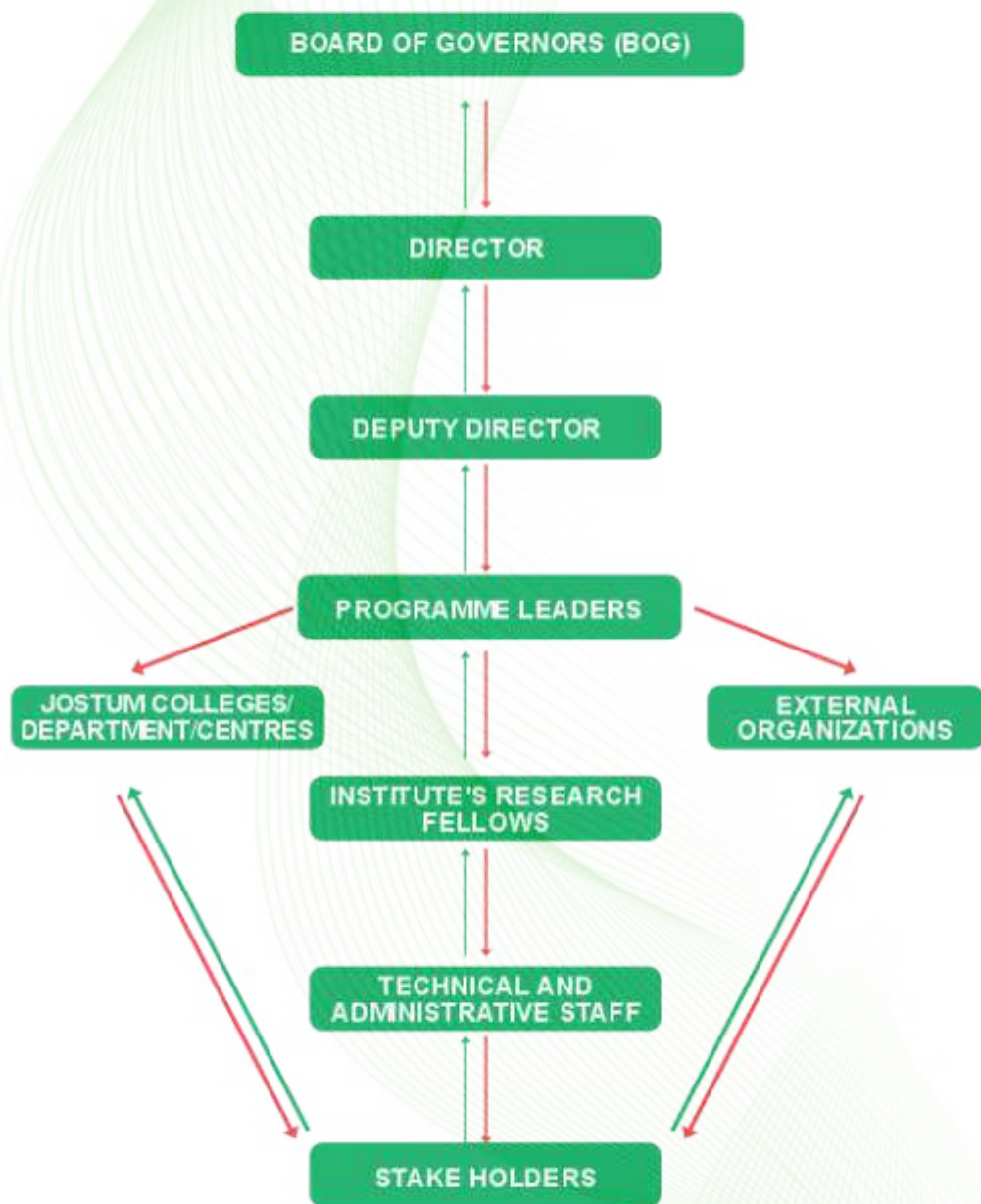
Stakeholders, including national and international organizations, individuals and corporate agencies, are contacted regularly for collaborative arrangements in the areas of information exchange, capacity development, finance mobilization, research, policy issues and programme development.

2.3 Composition of the Board of Governors (BoG)

The composition of the Board of Governors (BoG) is as follows:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. The Vice Chancellor | Chairman |
| 2. The Director, IFS | Member |
| 3. University Director of Research & Development | Member |
| 4. An external member of JOSTUM Governing Council | Member |
| 5. Commissioner for Agriculture, Benue State | Member |
| 6. Five Deans of the core Agriculture-related Colleges in JOSTUM | Member |
| 7. An experienced Senior Registry Staff | Secretary |

ORGANOGRAM



SECTION 3

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES, PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

The Institute was established to function as a think tank and knowledge hub for the food economy, providing cutting-edge research, analysis, and solutions to address the complex issues surrounding food security in their theoretical, structural, and practical dimensions.

- Theoretical dimension: advancing understanding of food security concepts, frameworks, and models
- Structural dimension: examining and improving food systems, policies, and governance
- Practical dimension: developing and implementing effective solutions to ensure food availability, access, utilization, and stability

The policy thrusts of the Institute are:

- i. Promotion of best agricultural practices (to shift from current subsistence nature to modernized agricultural production, storage, processing and marketing),
- ii. Appropriate intervention mechanisms for enhanced food security among the citizens, gainful employment and reduced rural-urban migration, and
- iii. Emphasis on intervention mechanisms for improved natural resource conservation.

By serving as an intellectual powerhouse, IFS will inform and shape the food security agenda, driving innovation and progress towards a sustainable food economy. To achieve this, six programmes have been created and they are:

1. Strategy and Governance Programme

- Visioning for the food economy and policies
- Pro-poor investments and policies

- Food security strategies; food policy process
- Rural-Urban linkages
- Capacity building for food security strategy and governance
- Reviews of policies, expenditures and return on investments
- Enhancing farmers' entrepreneurship conditions for growth constraints
- Capacity building for policy makers and other actors in agriculture and food security domain

2. Knowledge, Innovation, Extension Programme

- Strengthening agricultural research and development capacity for improved livestock, crops and seed varieties, stock breeding, etc.
- Training and re-training of public agricultural and rural development staff (planners, policymakers, etc)
- Advisory plans for the private sector and governments in project development, implementation, credit administration, and so on
- Outreach/Extension activities
- ICT application in Knowledge, Innovation and Extension
- Gender issues in Agriculture

3. Technology and Environment Programme

- Agricultural science and technology policy
- Green revolution
- Agricultural mechanization process
- Seed technology
- Water resources management
- Soil fertility
- Green energy studies
- Climate change mitigations, adaptation & resilience.
- Applied research, advocacy, analysis and advisory works

4. Markets and Institutions Programme

- Analysis of the value chains and institutions for managing the food systems in Nigeria and elsewhere; market intervention strategies, trade negotiations.

- Linkages to domestic and international markets
- Globalization and food security
- Market access and partnerships, etc
- Development of food prices database
- Market Information System (MIS) development.

5. Food and Nutrition Programme

- Exploration of reasons for ineffective attention to food and nutrition issues/awareness creation
- Promoting public action, legislation, legal systems and the right food
- Programme implementation systems
- Enhancing the provision of human services.
- Developing capacity to deal with food and nutrition matters.
- Developing indicators and systems for programme coordination, monitoring and evaluation
- Food safety and consumer protection policy analysis.

6. Biotechnology and Farm Health

- Analysis of the potential of biotechnology as an emerging global concept in food security discuss, as well as ethical issues and concerns
- Efforts to improve the farming environment through the application of biotechnological techniques and tools
- Determination of bio-safety measures
- Bio-safety policy analysis
- Analysing and creating awareness on global regulatory framework for utilizing biotechnology
- Debates in the area of environmental protection, public perception and acceptance as well as intellectual property rights.

SECTION 4

FUNDING ARRANGEMENT

Expected funding sources include:

- Statutory allocation (JOSTUM/FGN)
- Stakeholders: Local and State Governments, farmer groups, agro-allied industries, etc
- Internally generated revenue
- National and international agencies, etc.

SECTION 5

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL LINKAGES

Preamble

The need for linkage with external bodies derives from the multi-disciplinary nature of the Institute, which requires technical inputs from diverse professional areas to be properly linked. In the University setting, this diversity is guaranteed by the presence of a large pool of experts located in the academic departments, centres, units, and other areas. The success of the Institute in implementing the mandate depends largely on the presence of a suitable mechanism for establishing internal linkages to tap from the available expertise. The establishment of IFS, UAM/JOSTUM was premised not only on the possibility of internal linkages with the College, but also on external links as the intellectual resource base for food security research and outreach works.

The external linkages involve working in association with national and international organizations and governmental bodies, for ensuring the delivery of services of the Institute.

The Institute shall maintain strong linkages with various national and international governments, non- governmental organizations, groups and private partners including the following:

- **Federal Government/Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security:** The Institute may attract a single line budget from the national budget through the Ministry.

- **Agencies of Government:** The Institute shall collaborate with:
 - (i) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN)
 - (ii) National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS)
 - (iii) Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS)
 - (iv) Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund)
 - (v) National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA)
 - (vi) Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC)
 - (vii) National Animal Product Research Institute (NAPRI)
 - (viii) Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR)
 - (ix) Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ)
 - (x) others

Poverty Alleviation Agencies/Programmes

- National Directorate of Employment (NDE)
- National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)
- Bank of Agriculture (BoA)
- Micro, Small & medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
- Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP)
- Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL)
- Agric Business Small and Medium Enterprises Investment Scheme (AGSMEIS)
- IFAD-funded Value Chain Development Programme in Nigeria
- Others

Role: The Institute will train farmers that are collecting loans especially new entrants, train students and youths in the relevant areas in order to attain food security.

International Agencies

- West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- World Bank
- African Development Bank
- Department for International Development (DFID)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- The US Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative – Feed the Future
- International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
- SASAKAWA Africa Association
- GIZ Green Innovation Centre for the Food & Agriculture Sector (GIAE)
- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Ford Foundation (Good Governance)
- The Rockefeller
- United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)
- Others

Role: The Institute will seek collaboration and source funds from these International Agencies to support infrastructural development, capacity development and funding of supervised research and training.

International Institutions

- Centre for Studies in Food Security (CSFS), Ryerson University, Institute of Food Security, Kwazulu, South Africa
- Other International Centres related to Agriculture and Food Security

Role: The Institute will seek collaboration with these centres in the form of staff and student exchange programmes, information and research to improve the quality and efficiency of research output and research collaboration.

Local Governments and States

Agricultural Development Agencies, State and Local Governments.

Role: They will make available their agricultural administrators and other staff for training in the Institute to support policy implementation.

NGO and CBOs, Legislators

NGOs civil society organizations and CBOs will be used for advocacy, extension and outreach programmes to promote food security. Legislators will be used for agricultural policy formulations and key national decisions on agriculture and food security.

SECTION 6

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INSTITUTE

This section highlights the achievements of the Institute so far vis-à-vis the mission, mandate and objectives of JOSTUM. The University which was established in 1988 as one of the three specialized Universities of Agriculture in Nigeria has the mission of developing the human mind to be creative, innovative and research-oriented, competent in the areas of specialization, knowledgeable in entrepreneurship and dedicated to service hence her logo, “Innovation and Service”.

The mandate of the University is to promote human resource development in Agriculture, Science, Engineering and Technology (ASET) through teaching, research and extension services.

The objectives of the University, among others, include (but are not limited to) the following:

- i. Offer to the general population, as a form of public service, the results of training and research in agriculture and allied disciplines and to foster the practical application of those results;
- ii. Establish appropriate relationships with other national institutions involved in training, research and development of agriculture;
- iii. Identify the agricultural problems and needs of Nigeria and to find solutions to them within the context of overall national development;
- iv. Provide and promote sound basic scientific training as a foundation for the development of agriculture and allied disciplines, taking into account indigenous culture, the need to enhance national unity, the need to vastly increase the practical content of student training, and adequate preparation of graduates for self-employment in agriculture and allied professions;
- v. Promote and emphasize teaching, research and extension of

agricultural knowledge including agriculture extension services and outreach programmes, in-service training, continuing education, and on-farm adaptive research.

- vi. Organize research relevant to training in agriculture with an emphasis on small-scale farming.

The mission, mandate and objectives of the University (JOSTUM), so far achieved by the Institute of Food Security from 2010 to date include the following:

- i. Baseline assessment of livelihood activities of the University host community to identify their agricultural problems and needs and to find solutions to them.
- ii. Establishment of cassava-based bread and other confectioneries in the University (2014)
- iii. Enhancement of the capacity of cassava value chain actors through training of cassava processors and master bakers in North-Central Nigeria in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (2014)
- iv. Formation of Adopted Villages and Schools for varietal trials and training of farmers and pupils. The Adopted Villages included; Ucha, Tse-Poor, Tyo-Mu (Gwamile), Yogbo- Leke, Akpuku, Tse-Angbande, Tse-Agah, Imande Akpu, Tse-Dei, Mbatoho, Tse-Anch in Makurdi Local Government Area. Others were; Tyo-Ado in Gboko, Ukpiam in Guma and Odugbo in Apa Local Government Areas of Benue State. The Adopted Schools were; Government Girls Secondary School, Makurdi and ECWA Secondary School, North-Bank, Makurdi.
- v. Establishment of Agricultural Research Output Centres (AROC) in selected adopted villages and schools to promote extension training of farmers and pupils in Apa, Gboko, Guma and Makurdi Local Government Areas in collaboration with WAAPP (2015). The centres were equipped with plastic chairs, plastic tables and generators to enhance smooth conduct of their meetings. The

centres were established at Tse-Dei, Tse-Agah, Ucha, Tse-Poor, Government Girls Secondary School, and ECWA Secondary School in Makurdi Local Government Area. Fish ponds were constructed, put to use and handed over to Tse-Poor village, Government Girls Secondary School and ECWA Secondary School, in Makurdi Local Government Area.

- vi. International training programme on 'Food Quality Assurance and Risk Management', 'Post- harvest Technology' and Artificial Insemination (2012).
- vii. Construction of a piggery unit for the propagation of pigs with High Genetic value for distribution to rural farmers in Benue State (2014).
- viii. Base-line survey of drivers of gender inequality and youth unemployment in Northern Nigeria (March, 2015)
- ix. Organization of International Course on Post-harvest Management and Trade (2014)
- x. Introductory Policy Communication Training Course in collaboration with USAID and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), May, 31-June 1, 2017
- xi. Organization of training course on Econometrics for Policy Analysis using Stata in collaboration with USAID and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 2018.
- xii. A Rapid Assessment of Food Prices in North-Central Nigeria, April, 2024.

SECTION 7

ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE IN ABEYANCE DUE TO FUNDING CONSTRAINT

a. Extension and Advisory Services to Farmers: This forms part of the mandate of JOSTUM. Some proposals have been made by IFS to achieve this mandate but implementations are hindered by lack of funds. Some of them include:

- (i) Adopted villages for extension service delivery
- (ii) Cooperative Extension Service for Northern States of Nigeria (prepared for presentation to Northern Governors' Forum)
- (iii) Integrated cassava/cowpea/pig project.
- (iv) Propagation and dissemination of improved cowpea varieties: FUAMPEA1, FUAMPEA2, FUAMPEA3 & FUAMPEA4
- (v) Promotion of cassava procuring and cassava-based bread and confectionaries
- (vi) Revival of Agricultural Radio Programmes.

b. IFS Bakery: The Institute had a Bakery that used to produce pastries like cassava-based bread and confectioneries, doughnuts, meat pie, etc, which was displaced because of the allocation of its site to the University solar farm. Since its displacement, the production of pastries by the Bakery has ceased, thereby cutting the Institute's main revenue-generating source.

c. Propagation of pigs with high genetic value for distribution to farmers in Benue State. The pens have been constructed.

d. Demonstration Farm: The Institute has acquired demonstration farm land within the University campus. The land has been mapped out.

SECTION 8

PLANNED ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE: 2024 -2027

1. STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME

Year 1:

- Develop and deliver short training courses and/or programs for policymakers, government officials, farmers and other stakeholders on food security governance, policy analysis and advocacy climate-smart agriculture among others.
- Develop the curricula for certificate, diploma and Bachelor's degree programmes on food security-related courses covering topics such as food policy analysis, national and international governance frameworks, food systems resilience, climate smart agriculture among others.
- Conduct research on food security, policy analysis, food governance, risk management, climate change among others.
- Draft research papers, policy briefs and position papers based on research and stakeholder engagements.
- Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of the implemented capacity building programmes through short surveys.

Year 2:

- Implement the certificate, diploma and Bachelor's degree programmes developed in year one.
- Continuation of the short courses.
- Develop and implement the curricula for postgraduate studies in food security-related courses.
- Conduct research on emerging issues and best practices in food security, food governance, food politics, policy analysis among others.
- Write more grant proposals for funding.

- Continue with regular monitoring and evaluation of the implemented capacity building programmes.
- Develop partnerships with industry partners and professional associations to provide internship and job placement opportunities for graduates of the diploma and degree programs, fostering a seamless transition to the workforce.
- Write grant proposals for funding.

Year 3:

- Continue capacity building programmes for policymakers, government officials, farmers and other stakeholders on food security strategies and governance.
- Continue with the implementation of the certificate, diploma, Bachelor's and postgraduate degree programmes.
- Continue with conducting research related to food security in general and strategy and governance in particular.
- Document lessons learned, best practices, and success stories from the programme implementation.
- Disseminate findings through reports, case studies, policy briefs, and academic publications.
- Organize knowledge sharing events, seminars, and conferences to share insights with wider audiences.
- Solicit feedback from students and other stakeholders and beneficiaries to inform continuous improvement.
- Fine-tune the curricula based on feedback and assessment results, incorporating emerging trends and best practices in food security and food governance to ensure relevance and rigor.
- Develop a sustainability plan to ensure the continuity of efforts.

Identify opportunities for scaling up successful interventions and securing funding for ongoing activities.

2. KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATION AND EXTENSION PROGRAMME

YEAR	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES
One	Research	Baseline assessment of livelihood activities of: University host communities and Selected communities in each of the three agricultural zones of Benue State. The aim is to identify key areas of intervention for improving agricultural productivity, sustainability, and resilience.
	Teaching (Capacity Building)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training needs assessment of extension workers, CBOs, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders - Design of curricular for short & long courses: <p>a) Certificate courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group dynamics, • Photojournalism and • Computer Application in Agricultural Extension. <p>b) National Diploma:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resource Management in Extension • Sustainable agricultural Extension development <p>c) Conflict Resolution BSc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Knowledge Management • Agricultural Journalism • Digital Agricultural Extension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek approval and advertisement for admission.
	Extension Service Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formation of Adopted Villages and Schools for varietal trials and training of farmers and pupils - Establish community-led agricultural programs and cooperatives to promote inclusive growth and local empowerment. - Establish partnerships with agricultural universities, research institutions, and government agencies for knowledge exchange, transfer and capacity building
Two	Skills Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train extension workers and farmers on best agricultural practices, including climate-smart agriculture and sustainable farming methods. - Introduce crop diversification and value addition strategies to enhance farm income and food security. - Establish processing and marketing facilities for agricultural products to capture more value along the supply chain.

Three	Technology Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote the adoption of improved agricultural technologies based on survey & training needs assessment. - Use of digital solutions for agricultural extension service delivery, market information dissemination, and financial transactions. - Radio & video programmes, & publications on farming Packages
	Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commencement of Certificate/Diploma/Degree Programmes
	Scaling Up Successful Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand successful agricultural programs and interventions to reach more farmers and communities. - Establish demonstration farms and learning centers to showcase best practices and innovations.
	Monitoring and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of agricultural extension programmes to assess their impact on food security, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability. - Use feedback and lessons learned to improve program effectiveness and efficiency.
	Policy Influence and Knowledge Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share success stories, best practices, and research findings with policymakers, stakeholders, and the public to promote evidence-based decision-making.

3. TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Year	Project	Activity
One	Teaching	<p>Identify Short courses, Diploma and Degree courses that will respond to knowledge gaps within the mandate of the Technology and Environment Programme of institute of Food Security (IFS)</p> <p>Develop the curriculum of selected programmes with inputs from industry practitioners</p> <p>Identify organizations with similar mandate and learn from their curriculum design and delivery</p> <p>Seek Senate consideration and approval of selected programmes</p> <p>Advertise approved programmes.</p> <p>Identify physical facilities for face-to-face learning and build capacity for online delivery of selected programmes especially the short courses</p> <p>Design a benefit sharing formula between the Institute, the University and lecturers delivering the Institute's programmes</p>
	Research	<p>Identify collaborative research in areas relating to Technology and Environment such as climate smart agriculture, food safety, waste management, seed technology, food processing, farmer friendly agroforestry designs and systems</p> <p>Identify funding sources and their requirements within local, national and international funding organizations</p> <p>Build capacity for Technology and Environment Programme team members in grant writing and project fund management</p> <p>Identify organizations with similar mandate to foster collaboration and linkages</p>
	Extension	<p>Identify commodities that are cost effective but will have high value to farmers and consumers, examples include raising and sale of fruit tree seedlings, improved crop varieties etc as listed in the institute's handbook</p> <p>Conduct feasibility studies to ascertain cost effectiveness of selected activities of Technology and Environment Programme</p> <p>Seek collaboration for high impact awareness programmes</p>
Two	Teaching	<p>Commence teaching and delivery of approved programmes</p> <p>Review approaches and lessons learned from the first year</p> <p>Seek the involvement of international experts in delivery of selected programmes to increase credibility and acceptance of the programmes</p> <p>Continue advertising approved programmes</p>

	Research	<p>Develop research proposals and seek funding for innovative research that will provide solutions to current challenges in agriculture</p> <p>Build capacity among team members in disseminating research results to non-scientists and policy makers</p> <p>Conduct innovative research aimed at providing scalable solutions especially to farmers and consumers</p> <p>Disseminate research results to farmers, scientific community and other relevant stakeholders including policy makers</p>
	Extension	<p>Carry out awareness programmes to educate members of the public on vital activities and research findings</p> <p>Production and sale of commodity products of the Programme to farmers and other members of the public</p>
Three	Teaching	<p>Deepen delivery of approved programmes of the Technology and Environment Programme</p> <p>Conduct a strategic review of the design and delivery of approved programmes of the Technology and Environment Programme and document lessons learned</p> <p>Constitute programme review committee(s) towards the design of another 3-year focus of Technology and Environment</p>
	Research	<p>Deepen research in selected thematic areas</p> <p>Review progress and strategies towards improving approaches and research focus</p>
	Extension	<p>Consolidate on profitable ventures of the Technology and Environment Programme</p> <p>Obtain feedback from stakeholders and review strategies towards another 3-year plan for Technology and Environment Programme institute</p>

4. MARKETS AND INSTITUTIONS PROGRAMME

Year	Project	Activity
One	Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of short courses, Diploma and Degree courses that will respond to knowledge gaps within the mandate of the Markets and Institutions Programme of the Institute. • Develop curricula for selected programmes with inputs from industry practitioners and organizations with similar mandate. • Seek Senate consideration and approval of selected programmes • Advertise approved programmes. • Identify physical facilities for face-to-face learning and build capacity for online delivery of selected programmes especially the short courses. • Design a benefit sharing formula between the Institute, the University and lecturers delivering the Institute's programmes.
	Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of market days, locations, and major agro-products in North Central Nigeria • Collection of agro-products supply volume and prices (daily). • Data analysis, a weekly markets information publication in conjunction with relevant organizations.
	Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct feasibility studies to ascertain cost effectiveness of selected activities of Markets and Institutions Programme. • Seek collaboration for high impact awareness programmes.
Two	Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commence teaching and delivery of approved programmes. • Review approaches and lessons learned from the first year. • Seek the involvement of international experts in delivery of selected programmes to increase credibility and acceptance of the programmes • Continuation in the running of approved programmes.

Three	Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop research proposals and seek funding for innovative baseline survey to identify and document a database on producers, production, storage, existing markets/outlets, prices, and challenges. • Identifying processors, their needs, current locations, and willingness to participate in North Central regional markets.
	Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of MOUs involving farmers, processors/industrialists, IFS/JOSTUM, community leaders, North-central State's Ministries of Agriculture, Input dealers/agronomists, and Internal revenue services.
	Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepen delivery of approved programmes of the Markets and Institution Programme. • Conduct a strategic review of the design and delivery of approved programmes of the Markets and Institution Programme and document lessons learned.
	Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify/select agro-commodities e.g. Rice, Maize, Yam, Soyabeans, etc • Identify major value chain stakeholders • Build and maintain a database on MIS.
	Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold workshop series for various stakeholders including extension agents, farmers, etc. • Obtain feedback from stakeholders and review strategies towards another 3-year plan.

5. FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMME

YEAR	PROJECT	ACTIVITY
One	Teaching	<p>To train students in Food and Nutrition Science who will be useful to the food industry and can also be self – reliant.</p> <p>Development of curricula for Certificate, Diploma and Degree programmes</p> <p>Seek Senate consideration and approval of the proposed programmes and curricula</p>
	Research	<p>Develop research policy and ethical procedure for animal and human intervention studies</p> <p>Seek collaboration with Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Makurdi, Benue State University Teaching Hospital (BSUTH), Makurdi and appropriate Non – Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for clinical nutrition and epidemiological studies</p>
	Extension	<p>Offer consultancy services to entrepreneurs who would desire to set up small and medium scale food processing plants</p> <p>Visit food processing plants within our catchment area and offer practical solutions to problems that may pose a challenge to their production lines</p> <p>Get a new site and establish a bakery for production of confectioneries</p>
Two	Teaching	<p>Commence teaching of courses approved by the Senate</p> <p>Review collaboration with visiting academic staff to ascertain whether there is need to engage more manpower</p>
	Research	<p>Carry out investigative studies using appropriate cell lines on the effect of locally available foods with bioactive potency which could be developed into functional foods</p> <p>Conduct human intervention studies to deepen our understanding of the role of local diet in metabolic disease prevention</p> <p>Carry out nutritional surveys of target populations</p>
	Extension	<p>Organize training on the procedure for registration of food products with regulatory agencies such as National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) for potential entrepreneurs</p> <p>Commence the production of confectioneries such as biscuits and bread, fruit flavoured drinks, sachet and bottle water for demonstration</p>

Three	Teaching	Obtain feedback from students, entrepreneurs and collaborators of the Certificate, Diploma and Degree programmes. Review the curricula of the programmes and suggest areas for possible improvement
	Research	Encourage staff and students of the Institute to publish research results in high impact Journals to enhance research visibility of the IFS Write proposals and seek for grants from international organizations and government agencies. Continue with the nutritional survey of target populations/groups for public health policy Formulation
	Extension	Evaluate progress made and identify areas for improvement Identify food products with high demand in the market and disseminate the information to the entrepreneurs for production expansion

6. BIOTECHNOLOGY AND FARM HEALTH PROGRAMME

YEAR	PROJECT	ACTIVITY
Year 1		
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and Initial Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct baseline studies, and stakeholder meetings to ascertain the status of biotechnology and farm health knowledge
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot Project Demonstration Crop Farm Pigs Farm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate pilot projects to test the effectiveness of new biotechnological tools available at the IFS Planning and monitoring of the pest control strategies for the existing animal and crop farm units
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of short courses, Diploma and Degree courses in Agricultural Biotechnology and Farm Health Formulation of course components/units. Development of proposals for mounting the courses Approval Processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design of curricula in Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Animal Health and Welfare; Biosecurity for Livestock and Crop Farms; Precision Agriculture; Sustainable Farming Practices; Molecular biology, Genetic Engineering and GM Crops, Plant Tissue Culture Techniques, Bioinformatics, Molecular Markers, Maps, and Marker- Assisted Selection, Regulatory Affairs in Agricultural Biotechnology; Ethics and Social Implications of Agricultural Biotechnology etc.
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External Training of Courses for Tenure and Adjunct staff of the Biotechnology and Farm Health Programme of IFS Development of Initial Bio-safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsored training of the Programme Staff on recent advancements in agricultural biotechnology and farm health Establish an ethics committee to develop guidelines and standards for ethical biotechnology research and application in farming.

	Protocols and Ethical Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin a series of discussions and papers on the ethical implications of biotechnologies • Draft of preliminary safety measures and ethical guidelines to guide IFS projects
Year 2		
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Engagement and Education I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar/ workshop on farm health
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the Crop and Animal Farms Projects • Advertisement of Short Courses I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and Management of pests, diseases and nutrient deficiencies • Evaluation and review of the yields from the farm units • Advertisement of the short courses using the University website, tabloids, social media handles etc
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Courses, Diploma and Degree courses in Agricultural Biotechnology and Farm Health I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize the first training session for the approved Certificate, Diploma and Degree courses
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Training on Courses for Tenure and Adjunct Staff of the Biotechnology and Farm Health Programme of IFS • Bio-safety Policy/ Guideline Refinement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsored training of more Programme Staff on advances in agricultural biotechnology and farm health • Refine bio-safety policies/ guidelines based on pilot project outcomes and stakeholder feedback.
Year 3		
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Engagement and Education II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize webinars/ workshops with biotechnology experts to

SECTION 9

KEY POSITIONS/OFFICIALS OF THE INSTITUTE

S/NO.	RESPONSIBILITY	NAMES
1	Vice-chancellor and Chairman, Board of Governors of the Institute	Engr. Prof. N. I. Itodo
2	Director of the Institute	Prof. O. J. Okwu Professor of Agricultural Communication
3	Deputy Director of the Institute	Prof. (Mrs.) J. B. Ayoola Professor of Agricultural Economics
4	Programme Leader, Technology and Environment	Engr. Prof. T. K. Kaankuka Professor of Farm Power and Machinery Engineering
5	Programme Leader, Knowledge, Innovation and Extension	Prof. E. C. Odiaka Professor of Agricultural Communication
6	Programme Leader, Strategy & Governance	Prof. Mrs. G. C. Aye Professor of Agricultural Economics
7	Programme Leader, Markets and Institutions	Dr. E. C. Ogbanje Agricultural Economist
8	Programme Leader, Food and Nutrition	Dr. M. T. Ukeyima Food and Nutrition Specialist
9	Programme Leader, Biotechnology and Farm Health	Dr. E. E. Ekoja Agricultural Entomologist

LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION CHART OF THE INSTITUTE

S\No.	Name	Period
1	Prof. S.A. Ikurior	2010 - 2011
2	Prof. J.S. Alakali	2011 - 2014
3	Prof. D.L. Gernah	2014 - 2016
4	Prof. G. A. Abu	2016 - 2020
5	Prof. A.A. Naswem	2020 - 2023
6	Prof. O. J. Okwu	2023 - date

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