

# COMMUNIQUE

The conference was attended by participants from Research institutes, Regulatory agencies, Universities, Polytechnics, Farmers, Feed millers, and other stakeholders.

-The Executive Governor of Kwara State, Dr. Bukola Saraki ably represented by the Permanent Secretary, Kwara State Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Ayo Oyeniyi addressed participants and declared the conference open..

-The Guest Speaker was Dr. Yaya Olaniran, Nigeria's Permanent Representative at FAO, Italy. He spoke on the topic "Strategies for Mycotoxin Control in Agriculture". Solutions offered included the establishment of standard Mycotoxin Laboratories, with state of the art equipment and validated personnel ; regular capacity building programmes on the use of the equipment, increased research effort extension services to farmers and commodity traders, regulation of mycotoxin levels on food and feed items.

-Farmers, Processors and Traders showed understanding of the awareness creation mission of the conference and requested for Government's continued support for provision of Improved Handling and Storage facilities in view of their peasant nature, poverty and limited access to finance and other farm inputs.

-All farmers and commodity traders are to be incorporated as automatic members of the Network with immediate effect. Information on simple ways to detect and manage the toxins will be given to them on a regular basis

-International companies (Novus of USA, Romer of Austria , R. Biopharm and Biochem, both of Germany, Nutrex of Belgium) and local company (Katchey of Nigeria, and NISLT, Ibadan) made presentations and demonstrations of their products on mycotoxin analytical kits and binders for animal feeds.

Executive Director, NSPRI, Dr. (Mrs) M.A. Adesida gracefully hosted the Conference and was present at Opening Ceremony. Representatives of Director Generals of NAFDAC, SON and NAQS brought good will messages.

The meeting emphasized potential mycotoxins health hazard of consumption of mouldy foods and feeds. The technical session dwelt on, sensitization, mycotoxin analyses of food and feed samples from markets or as influenced by handling, processing and storage, effects and control or management.

The participants were pleased with the commitment of the Kwara State Government, NSPRI, NAFDAC, SON and NAQS as well as the companies to continue support for the activities NMASN.

The Conference reiterated her advice that the Federal Government should set up a Centre for Mycotoxin Research. Also, the government was advised on the need to equip relevant government regulatory agencies and research institutes with internationally accepted analytical equipment and procedures

The existing collaboration of NMASN with International Society for Mycotoxicology (ISM) has resulted in opportunity for capacity building overseas for Nigerians. Wealthy Nigerians and corporate bodies were encouraged to institute endowments to enhance capacity building for members and other stakeholders

A new set of executives under the leadership of Dr Olusegun Atanda of the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta was elected

The 6<sup>th</sup> Conference and workshop will be in April 2011 at a venue to be announced later