



FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MINNA

AFRICA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR MYCOTOXIN AND FOOD SAFETY

safety food, secured living

920211 Main Campus, Gidan Kwano, Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State, Nigeria
+234(0)8035882233, acemfs@futminna.edu.ng, www.acemfsfutminna.org



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

DATE: Monday 2nd November, 2020		
TIME: 1:00pm – 4:30pm		
LOCATION: Google Meet		
ATTENDANCE		
ISAB Members		
S/N	Name	Designation
1	Dr. Habiba Hassan-Wassef	National Research Center, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Cairo – Egypt
2	Dr. William Kimutai Maritim	Former, Regional Coordinator of FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA)
3	Dr. Naginbhai Chandubhai Patel	Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat State, India
4	Prof. Odemari Stephen Mbuya	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Tallahassee – USA
5	Prof Sarah de Saegar	Ghent University, Belgium
6	Dr Janie Dubois	International Food Safety Training Laboratory, University of Maryland
7	Dr. Gbemenou Joselin Benoit Gnonlonfin	Economic Community of West African State
Absent		
1	Prof. Patrick Njobeh	University of Johannesburg, South Africa
2	Dr Charles Wilson	World Food Preservation Centre, USA
3	Professor Sheila Okoth	University of Nairobi and President of African Society of Mycotoxicology
ACEMFS Officers (Administrative Officers and Research Team Leaders)		
1	Prof. H. A. Makun	Centre Leader
2	Dr. Hadiza Lami Muhammad	Deputy Centre Leader
3	Dr. Mercy Bankole	M&E
4	Prof. Abdulkareem Saka	Sectoral Liaison Officer
5	Prof. Emmanuel Ogbadoyi	Research Coordinator
6	Dr. Oluwatosin Shitu	Molecular Biology & Bioinformatics Research Theme Leader
7	Dr. Alex I. Ajai	Heavy Metal and Pesticide Research Theme Leader
8	Mrs Dorothy Elaigu	Communication Officer
9	Mr. Abraham Twaki	IT Officer
10	Ruth Lamai-Odepidan	Centre Secretary
Absent with Apology		
1	Prof. Chiemela Chinma	Academic Programme Director
2	Mr Haruna Abubakar	Procurement Officer
Absent		
1	Dr. John Adama	Veterinary Drug Research Team leader
2	Mr Silas Habila Bijim	Environmental and Social Safe Guard
3	Mr Hafis Omoniyi	Project Accountant
4	Mrs Funmi Okoinemen	Finance Officer
	Mr Shafiu Sule	Internal Auditor

S/N	ITEM	ACTION
1.0	<p>Opening and Introductions</p> <p>The Centre Leader, Prof. H. A. Makun welcomed every member present to the meeting stating that the objective for the meeting was to brief the Board of the activities of the Centre since its inaugural meeting and requested the Board to guide the Centre in future activities. Thereafter he introduced those present.</p>	
2.0	<p>Agenda</p> <p>the following agenda for deliberation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Overview of the activities of the Centre from inaugural meeting till date ii. Presentation by Dr. Janie Dubois iii. Discussions (Way forward) iv. Any other business v. Closing 	
3.0	<p>Overview of Activities</p> <p>Prof. Makun started his presentation by reminding the Board of the mission, vision and programmes of the Center. He informed the Board that the Centre was planning to run short term trainings for farmers, industries and government food regulatory agencies on food safety; this would be organized for national and regional partners.</p>	
3.1	<p>Admissions</p> <p>On admissions, he said about one hundred and seventy-six candidates applied and out of that a total of eighty-seven students were admitted into the three programmes offered by the Centre. From those admitted twenty-six were foreigners from nine countries, this number was commended by both the World Bank and the Association of African Universities at the last Regional workshop and these numbers wouldn't have been possible without the help of Board members.</p> <p>He gave the course admission and gender distribution as;</p> <p>Food Safety 65</p> <p>Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics 11</p> <p>Toxicology 11</p> <p>M.Tech 47</p> <p>PhD 40</p> <p>With;</p> <p>Females 42</p> <p>Male 45</p>	
3.2	<p>Scholarships</p> <p>He gave the breakdown as;</p> <p>Full Scholarship</p> <p>M.Tech 31 (Female 15 and Male 16)</p> <p>PhD 23 (Female 8 and Male 15)</p>	

<p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p>	<p>Research Scholarship M.Tech 16 (Female 10 and Male 6) PhD 17 (Female 9 and Male 8)</p> <p>ACEMFS Research Agenda He pointed out that the Centre would be engaging in a number of researches such as chemical residue surveillance, food borne pathogens, veterinary drug residue and others so to bring out interventions in these areas. He brought to notice the recent addition of infectious diseases to the list of research areas explaining that the Centre belongs to the health network of ACE's known as the West African Infectious Diseases Network (WANIDA) and they had won the French Development Agency grant of One Million Euros to conduct research in the said area.</p> <p>Core Team and Training He gave a brief introduction of all officers and research theme leaders and provided the list of trainings they had attended.</p> <p>Sectoral Advisory Board This Board was made up of nine members from national and international government agencies and the private sector. He further added that the Centre had been involved in programmes and events organized by its partners such as the Flemish Trade Mission to Nigeria, NAFDAC and your Health (a national awareness television programme) and others. He noted that the Centre had been approved as the Consultant for the National Mycotoxin Survey by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Board was informed that the financial agreement for the Africa Centre of Excellence Project had been signed by the Federal Government of Nigeria and the first tranche of funds would be released soon. He said the Centre was able to participate in the trainings offered by IBM. He said that trainings so far participated in, were Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things. Those that participated were lecturers from computer science, computer engineering, mechatronics and CoDel, IT personnel and students. He stated that they would provide support for online training facilities for the Centre. Another opportunity given to the Centre was the full sponsorship of one of its students by Prof. Mbuya of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University who has furthermore involved the Centre in a fifty million dollar (\$50 million) grant application on fertilizer production. He informed the Board of the extension of the NgREN infrastructure to host Universities of the Africa Centre of Excellence.</p> <p>Future Activities Highlighting the future activities of the Centre he said the following were what would be focused on;</p>	
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<p>4.0</p> <p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain increasing enrollment and retention of female students/faculty ▪ Provide scholarships for (National and Regional) students ▪ Organize online learning courses (at least 70%) and supervision of students by faculty including external examinations ▪ Continue to bid for research grants and external revenue generation ▪ Receive equipment purchase guide from the Board and building in the following six (6) months ▪ Faculty training in specialized areas ▪ Improve partnerships and industry outreach (internships) ▪ Set up a short courses and workshops committee made up of the ISAB and the SAB members who will look into the modalities for running short courses ▪ Guide on international and national accreditation from the b ▪ Board ▪ Publications from both national and international partners as well student researches <p>He pointed out that all the highlighted would have to be achieved for the Centre to get its funding. Explaining further he said the funding was result based and each Centre would have to achieve set out milestones before receiving its funding.</p> <p>Dr. Janie Dubois Presentation</p> <p>She started by saying she had been involved in various short courses and workshops primarily with the US Department of Agriculture she went on to inform all that the US Department of Agriculture in partnership with USAID had floated a grant on Laboratory Capacity Building Program for African Food Regulatory Laboratory Experts with a slot for an academic who had access to a laboratory and would be able to train others in this field. She said the training would start December 1 but would be restricted to an initial eighty (80) experts from across Africa and conducted online. Out of the eighty (80) trainees, the best eight (8) would be selected for an in-person training on instrumentation for pesticide residue, organic contaminants such as mycotoxins and veterinary drug residue analysis and would be hosted either be in Europe or Africa. She assured members that the call would be circulated to them. She encouraged participation adding that such opportunities should be shared and could be combined.</p> <p>Discussions (way forward)</p> <p>Prof. Makun introduced and requested to chair this segment which was approved by members.</p> <p>Dr. Benoit suggested that the power point presentation should be shared among members; Prof Makun agreed and promised to send it.</p> <p>Student enrollment and retention</p>	<p>Prof. Makun</p>
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Prof. De Saeger requested for more information on total number of females admitted into the M.Tech and PhD programmes and the problems encountered on enrollment and retention of female students. Responding he explained that about 40% of admitted students were females exceeding the 30% ratio expected by the World Bank. Some of the problems associated with female enrollment and retention was funding and pregnancy. He said that the Centre's scholarship policy which was drawn from the gender policy gives consideration to females. He went on to say that the Centre had put in place incentives and strategies to encourage female participation by providing accommodation (family accommodation inclusive), monthly stipends, maternity leave, and health insurance. He pointed out that eight females were on full PhD scholarship while nine were on research scholarship; he explained that those on research scholarship were students who were working and could afford to pay the tuition and other fees. In all, there were fifty two females on scholarship for both M.Tech and Phd. These numbers were commended by members.

Dr. Dubois asked to know in what terms the Centre required advice on retention of students which Prof. Makun replied to saying that members of the board had vast experience with student retention and the Centre would want to learn from these experiences.

Prof. Mbuya talked on the challenges he had experienced with student retention saying that one of them was advisory and students needed guidance as they conduct their studies which he said is key to retention.

Prof Makun informed members that the Centre had an Academic Coordinator who would provide orientation for the students and also present their cases at the Academic Board, a Guidance Counselor who would handle students facing challenges; Supervisor will also play a major role in this area.

Dr. Dudois noted that the experience of the supervisors mattered and as much as possible there should be guidance and support for supervisors especially younger academics adding that a form of assessment should be carried out for them. She suggested a reward system may be put in place for supervisors whose students successfully graduate or a mentorship programme for both supervisors and students that would involve engaging mentors from outside the university system for example in America there are women mentoring women programmes that can be found from industry, government, other academic institutions and so on. This would give room for feedback from an outsider that would go a long way in assisting and supporting students.

Prof. Patel agreed with the discussions brought forth by the previous speakers. He said difficulties in student retention arose when there were improper supervision and support of students by both their

supervisors and the university system. He said this could be checked by proper monitoring of supervisors. He highlighted the need to appoint a major supervisor who had vast experience in a particular area of research and who would easily lead the research from the team of supervisors while the academic coordinator would simply coordinate.

Prof. Makun thanked him for his contribution and explained that multiple supervisors had been allotted to each student with a major supervisor. There would be a form that each student would fill on a monthly basis on the contacts and activities they'd had with their supervisors likewise the supervisors would have their own academic monitoring form, enabling the Centre keep records and monitor the progress made by supervisors and students.

Prof. Mbuya in addition said it was important to allow the students to be a part of the research process; they should be trained by supervisors on how to think and not what to think.

Moving on, Prof De Saeger noted from her experience at the University of Ghent, that there were no significant differences between male and female student retention when certain measures were put in place.

Dr. Dubois drawing from her experience said the retention issue with women was largely related to family, getting pregnant, marrying. She asked whether the family accommodation provided would allow for spouses as well as children. In response Prof. Makun replied in the negative, he clarified that it would just be for women with children and the spouse would need to make alternative arrangements. Dr Dubois suggested offering job placements for spouses around the university.

Prof. Patel noted that in universities in India and around the world family accommodation was usually provided.

Prof Mbuya asked for further clarification on family accommodation, Prof. Makun responded saying that the Centre did not have enough funding to support spouses.

5.2

Scholarships

Dr. Dubois raised the question on whether there were enough sources of scholarships to keep the programmes running. Prof. Makun replied saying that there would be, but the Centre was looking out for other scholarship opportunities and would be pleased to receive help from the Board with addresses and contacts for such funding agencies.

She further asked what the cost of the scholarship was; Prof. Makun enlightened members on the total cost of the scholarship (tuition, stipend, accommodation, research, internship) for both M.Tech and PhD he further broke it down to regional female, regional male, national female and national male. He explained that the scholarship for regional students would cover flights as well. Expatiating he gave

<p>the differences in female and male scholarships costs and the reasons for it. He also provided details of the cost of the research scholarship. He then assured the Board that he would forward the policy to each member.</p> <p>Dr. Habiba Hassan-Wassef asked of the possibility of accepting students who came with other scholarships such as national scholarships. This was answered in the positive, Prof. Makun intimated members that there were already students on research scholarship who came with sponsorship from their countries or their places of employment.</p> <p>Dr. Hassan-Wassef suggested that this information should be part of the report and statistics of the Centre.</p> <p>Dr. Benoit requested for the justification on the differences between the stipend of male and female students. He believed that a standard should be adopted for both sets because both would live in the same environment with similar expenses. He ended by suggesting that the Centre should consider setting a standard for the equal treatment of both female and male students.</p> <p>Dr. Dubois asked if it were a national requirement in Nigeria or was it a university policy.</p> <p>Prof. Makun responded saying that women had more needs than men moreover it was based on World Bank policies to encourage female student enrollment hence the difference in the amounts.</p> <p>Another question asked was whether the stipend would be different if they brought one to three children with them replying Prof. Makun said yes.</p> <p>Dr. Dubois in her comment agreed that standardization would be required because having different numbers that cannot be justified would not be good for the Centre. She proposed same amounts as a start; from there certain allocations or additives could be accessed but under strict conditions, this way there was justification for any increment.</p> <p>Prof. Mbuya added his agreement to the issue saying there was no justification for the differences.</p> <p>Dr. Dubois requested for the World Bank policy so they could clarify and avoid unnecessary arguments.</p> <p>Prof. Makun explained that the World Bank was only providing a guide and not the amounts; it was only encouraging female participation. He added that when writing the policy the Centre sampled policies from other Centre's and in so doing discovered that there were indeed differences in the amounts offered between male and female students. He suggested that if the Board felt strongly on the issue of the difference the Centre would collate their comments and observations and forward to the World Bank.</p> <p>Dr. Benoit reiterated his stand on equal treatment and standardized</p>	<p>Prof. Makun</p>
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stipend for all students whether female or male and whether they came with one or more children, he said this would give room to sustainability.

Dr. Dubois disagreed saying that child support in the form of a stipend could be provided.

Prof. Makun in his reply said that the World Bank policy would be sent to all members for their comments thereafter it would be sent to the national and regional facilitators for their response before it is sent to the World Bank. Not only would responses be sent but possible solutions would be included.

5.3 Online Learning Courses and Student Supervision

He informed members that courses had been distributed to the faculty and students had also been attached to supervisors except for Dr. Dubois.

He advised that those allotted courses should prepare their materials because online classes would soon commence.

He said anyone ready to begin lectures should notify the Centre. He observed that the students were eager to start lectures but they would need to be contacted so that their opinions on lecture times would be captured.

He pleaded with the Board to prepare for their courses so lectures could start by the middle of November. He notified members that there would be a meeting of the larger house and all decisions taken at this meeting would be relayed. He then opened the floor for comments.

Prof. Patel recommended compiling different lecture times from the lecturers to produce the lecture time table which would be strictly adhered to instead of waiting for the students to decide. Consideration should be given to regional students due to their time zones.

Dr. Dubois asked what the technological capabilities of the students were and what restrictions would they experience, she pointed out that these restrictions could affect the kind of courses that would be taught. Answering, Prof. Makun stated that none of the students were on ground.

He said that Prof. Njobeh had given a lecture on proposal and grant writing which the students were able to participate. Students who were unable to partake were provided with the materials and recording which they downloaded. Facilities were available for teaching once they resume to campus.

Dr. Dubois observed that those in rural areas had difficulty connecting and downloading heavy files; she suggested that the IT personnel of the Centre could help with compression of files and documents. She added that if not well handled there would be large dropout from the programmes because of inaccessibility to materials and online lectures by those in remote areas.

Dr. Benoit commented on the need for effective teaching and student participation, this he said was a big challenge. When the time table is out lectures should commence but there was need to ensure that 80% to 90% of the students had good internet connectivity if not there would be possibility of dropout from the courses.

Prof. Mbuya stated his concerns on online assessment and evaluation integrity. Another problem he said was student attention span. Online teaching and learning required discipline. The lecturer must be strict.

Prof. De Saeger asked for the online learning platform the Centre would be using, she noted that the use of several platforms would be problematic for the students and advised the Centre to specify.

Prof. Makun informed the Board that interactions with the IT personnel were ongoing and when the best platform had been picked the Board would be informed. For examinations he explained that they would be taken once the students resume to campus hopefully it would be soon. He requested other ACEMFS Officers to attend to questions asked.

Members agreed that a time table would be created, a single platform should be adopted and when students resume, exams would take place.

5.4 Research Grants and External Revenue Generation

He appealed to members who had access to grant opportunities to notify the Centre.

Prof. De Saeger asked if the Centre were willing to participate in offering joint PhDs and it was answered yes. She continued by saying that joint programmes made it easier to obtain grants.

Prof. Mbuya also added that links for grant opportunities would be sent to the Centre regardless of where the opportunity was emanating from but the Centre would have to create a page on the website so that these links could be posted (grant alert). Dr Dubois suggested it could be a chat box where they could add the links.

5.5 Equipment Purchase and Building

Prof. Makun told members that the Centre would require their expertise when it would be procuring equipment for its laboratories.

Prof. Mbuya proposed contacting some international agencies for their used equipment which were functional and the Centre would only pay shipping and installation fees.

Dr. Dubois noted from her experience that it would be difficult to obtain used equipment because of instrumentation windows for repair of parts and high shipping and installation fees. She advised the Centre to concentrate on acquiring equipment from foreign laboratories that use their equipment for shorter periods of time. She stated that these laboratories would ship the equipment and install for free. She cautioned against acquiring equipment that would not be installed by those providing them and donated equipment that had no

<p>5.6</p> <p>5.7</p> <p>5.8</p>	<p>support in Nigeria. Prof. Patel advocated for the procurement of new equipment to avoid problems of installation and repair.</p> <p>Faculty Training Prof. Patel recommended the training of faculty members by partners; he added that the Centre should make enquiries from its partners on the kinds of trainings available and the duration for these trainings. Prof. Mbuya suggested the training be in two formats depending on the cost. Trainees could be sent to various countries of the world (India, United States or Europe) alternatively a trainer could be brought in from any part of the world with this option more people are trained and it would be cost effective. Prof. Patel noted that with the training in Nigeria a well equipped laboratory would be required.</p> <p>Partnership and Industry Outreach Prof. Makun asked for the status on each member’s memorandum of understanding. For Ghent University, Prof. De Saeger explained they were waiting for the final signatures of different faculty Dean's. Dr. Hassan-Wassef said they had received the draft, made their comments but there was no response from the Directorate for Affiliations, Collaborations and Linkages. For FAMU, Prof. Mbuya said this had been concluded a while ago. Prof. Patel stated for AAU it had been concluded also. Dr. Dubois told members that she would want to support the Center through funded opportunities for PhD students (who could speak/learn French) at Laval University, Quebec City. She added that when the Covid 19 issues were over they could look into funding at least one student. This would be through Professor Samuel Godkroy who was once the vice chair of the Codex Committee. On partnerships with industries, she recommended that all students and faculty register membership of the AOAC International; she intimated all that the membership at that moment was free and was good for making connections/networking plus they provide funding. She said she would pass along more information on the registration link once she asks the Sub-Saharan Committee Chair.</p> <p>Short Courses and Workshops Prof. Makun reiterated the fact that this was one of the main assignments of the Centre; to build capacity in the industry and with the local actors of the food value chain. He once again requested the expertise of the Board in facilitating the short courses and workshops in various areas relating to food safety. He informed members that a committee was to be setup that would work on modalities for the three phase trainings; it would consider both online and physical trainings. He said that the first phase should</p>	<p>Dr. Dubois</p>
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be online, the second phase even if online must be paid for and the third should be physical and conducted regionally. He requested for comments from members.

Dr Benoit asked for clarification on certificate issuance for all formats he added that there should be an agreement of contents. Prof. Makun assured him that certificates would be issued and the committee would consider all modalities.

Dr. Hassan-Wassef said the courses should be in a structured format. She then asked for clarification on the number of hours the courses would run. Dr. Bankole responded saying that it would run from 48hrs to 2 weeks depending on the course.

Dr. Dubois suggested taking courses that are offered through various development activities as opposed to developing short courses for example the program she was talking about would be easy to convert to a short course and students could actually participate alongside. These courses would be great for exposure, making contacts/networking and it would be free. She added that it may be difficult to get specific online courses for programs even though it would be beneficial to an extent. She encouraged members to inform the Centre on online short courses and workshops that maybe beneficial to its students.

Prof. Makun explained that both students and faculty had been attending a number of online trainings but the World Bank had stated in its guidelines that all Centers are mandated to run short courses in their areas.

Dr. Bankole added saying if not for the covid-19 pandemic the Centre would had held two to three different workshops or short courses. The Centre would need to organize the trainings in its three programmes to be able to reach out to the larger society on the issue of food safety.

Members stressed the importance of the set of people to be trained.

Prof. Makun listed students, industry workers, value chain workers and farmers.

Prof Patel pointed out that the same course could not be used for all stakeholders. Separate and specially designed trainings of three days to one week should be considered especially for farmers.

Dr. Dubois disagreed with designing new short courses; she advised adopting already designed courses which would be localized and train instructors from the Centre to deliver these existing courses. She said this would fast track the need for the Centre to deliver short courses quickly.

Prof. De Saeger informed members about the Africa Mycotoxicology Society Conference which would take place in September, 2021. She said there would be practical laboratory training at the Stellenbosch University and through Mycotox South there would be some grants for participants. So this would be an opportunity for one or two

<p>5.9</p>	<p>ACEMFS PhD students.</p> <p>Prof. Makun then moved for the creation of the Committee on Short Courses.</p> <p>Dr. Hassan-Wassef offered to be a part of the Committee. She also agreed with taking already designed courses as long as they were adapted to the African context and to the Covid-19 pandemic, she said, she was working with the Codex Alimentarius on the impact of Covid-19 epidemic on food safety and there were many other things that had to be taken into consideration for these short courses.</p> <p>Other members who agreed to be a part of the committee were;</p> <p>Dr. Benoit</p> <p>Dr. Dubois</p> <p>Prof. De Saeger</p> <p>Prof. Makun stated that members of the committee would be drawn the Sectoral Advisory Board.</p> <p>International Accreditation</p> <p>Prof. Makun noted the need for the Centre to be nationally and internationally accredited, he invited Dr. Bankole to explain the procedure. She said after the curricular were accepted by the University and approved by the National Universities Commission (NUC), the Centre would need to be accredited by National Universities Commission (NUC) before the international accreditation could take place. The Center had been able to identify an agency in Belgium for this purpose; this had already been discussed with the Belgian Ambassador in January. The Centre hoped that by the end of the first year it would had been able to scale through the international accreditation but the Centre needed the backing and guidance of the ISAB to achieve success at the accreditation.</p> <p>Dr. Hassan-Wassef requested to know the conditions for international accreditation.</p> <p>Dr. Bankole responded saying one of the main conditions for passing through international accreditation successfully was first being nationally accredited by the National Universities Commission she added that the pandemic caused a delay in the process. The second condition was to have a standard laboratory; the third was there had to be students who were about to graduate. She added that the proposed agency for the international accreditation had these conditions stated on their website, which the Centre was yet to study deeply but those listed above were the things that were actually captured and the Centre was working towards them.</p> <p>Prof. De Saeger asked for the name of the accreditation body in Belgium so she would forward to the International Director, Ghent University to help provide more information. She pointed out that South Korea Campus of Ghent University also got international accreditation and as such the experience would provide some guide to</p>	
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<p>5.10</p> <p>Publications</p> <p>6.0</p> <p>Any other Business (AOB)</p>	<p>the Centre.</p> <p>Dr. Bankole agreed to send the information across before the end of the day.</p> <p>Dr. Bankole was called upon to give further explanation. Publications show the quality of work done by researchers at the Centre and all publications must be in a Scopus Journal that means they have to be published in recognized journals. She said the Centre earned money from the World Bank for these publications and they were categorized as follows;</p> <p>National \$10, 000 (all authors are within Nigeria)</p> <p>Regional/International \$15, 000 (authors from within and outside Nigeria)</p> <p>For regional/international publications, the Centre had to be acknowledged by including its address in the paper. She noted that the money earned would go into funding other areas such as internships and research. She said that publications were actually essential for the Centre and it was the reason why the Centre encouraged that as students were been supervised, either masters or PhD students they should be enlightened on how to write research papers for publication. Prof. Makun encouraged those that were assigned students to conduct strategic researches that would be published in journals. He emphasized that the time for publishing in local journals had passed and publications would now be published in high impact journals, so that the right audience would be reached.</p> <p>Prof. Mbuya disagreed with the idea that publications had to be in high impact journals, he said there were publications meant for the general public citing the example of extension work where farmers are reached through brochures etc which were useful in the translation of science that had been developed in the laboratory. He said brochures should be produced in order to reach the farmers.</p> <p>Dr. Benoit in a follow up to Prof. Mbuya noted that policy papers were also publications and a holistic approach should be considered in terms of publications.</p> <p>Prof. Patel added that the word publication covered those of high impact journals, brochures, as well as those of policy papers and others; all categories were taken care of.</p> <p>Dr. Hassan-Wassef informed members that the Africa Nutrition Society in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency organized to discuss the kind of support the international agency could give to the advancement of research in the area of food, nutrition and food security. She believes the Center could integrate nuclear techniques and isotope research techniques, which had wide</p>	<p>Dr. Bankole</p>
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	<p>Technology, Minna, the Africa Center of Excellence for Mycotoxin and Food Safety and himself to the Board. He declared the Centre would always need the help of Members of the Board.</p> <p>He assured members that the minutes of the meeting, scholarship policy and other documents would be emailed to them for their comments. He added that they would also be available on the Centre website. He thanked everyone once again.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 3:48pm</p> <p>Prof. H.A. Makun Chairman</p> <p>R. Lamai-Odepidan Secretary.</p>	
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