

AFRICA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR MYCOTOXIN AND FOOD SAFETY (ACEMFS) OCTOBER 2020 – OCTOBER 2022 REPORT

BRIEF

Africa Centre of Excellence (ACE) for Mycotoxin and food safety has created learning opportunities and research results to address Africa's shortage of expertise and applicable solutions to ensure a safe, controlled and sufficient food supply that will support economic growth and public health.

The educational objective of ACEMFS is to create an interdisciplinary experiential model that will prepare a cadre of future researchers/experts/leaders that would focus on the rapidly emerging need for innovations at the nexus of food security, food safety, agricultural productivity and economics from local to global scales.

The research objectives of ACEMFS are;

1. To foster impact in interdisciplinary research
2. To proffer and implement solutions that will improve the quality of life of Africans through fit-for-purpose interventions fostering economic growth and access to sufficient safer food for all.

These objectives address the five sustainable development goals (SDGs) of poverty reduction, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education and gender equality by 2030

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

The Centre during this time has been involved in various activities to promote its mandate

Its activities for the year 2020 include;

1. ACEMFS officers and Research Theme Leaders participated in a two-day training on Managing Work, Teams and Students Online organized by the NUC. This was held on 5th - 6th October, 2020.
2. Centre Leader attended meetings with the Director General Raw Materials and Development Council and National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency. This was held on 7th – 8th October, 2020.
3. Vice Chancellor, ACEMFS officers, Research Team Leaders, Academic Faculty, and Students participated in a webinar organized by one of the Centre partners; Ghent University. This was held on 13th October, 2020.
4. All ACEMFS Officers and Research Team Leaders attended the ACE Impact Regional Workshop. This was held on 19th – 27th October, 2020
5. ACEMFS students, Officers and RTLs attended a webinar on Grant and Proposal Writing organized by Prof. P. Njobeh a partner of the Centre from University of Johannesburg. This was held on 27th October, 2020
6. Sectoral Liaison Officer who is also a member of the Nanotechnology Team attended 4th Conference on Nanotechnology, Ogbomoso as the Guest Speaker. This was held on 28th October, 2020

7. Students of the Centre have been attending a number of webinars organized by external bodies and partners of the Centre.
8. 2019/2020 students have commenced registration on the university portal.
9. The International Scientific Advisory Board of the Centre held its second meeting on 2nd November, 2020.
10. The Sectoral Advisory Board of the Centre held its second meeting on 5th November, 2020
11. The ACEMFS received funding of the sum of Eleven Million, Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (N11,250,000) in cash, a Toyota Hilux vehicle, office equipment and furniture from the TETFund totalling Forty-Five Million Naira (N45, 000,000). The handing over ceremony was conducted by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala- 6th November, 2020.
12. The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Sectoral Liaison Officer made a presentation at Raw Materials Research and Development Council Abuja- 24th November, 2020
13. The Centre Leader made a presentation on behalf of the Centre at the Europe and Africa Dialogue of Mycotoxin and Food Security organised by the European Union - 28th November, 2020
14. Selected students of ACEMFS resumed to NAFDAC, Lagos for experimental analysis of samples on National Mycotoxins Survey- 30th November, 2020
15. The Centre met with the Directorate for Collaborations, Affiliations and Linkages to discuss all memorandum of agreement pertaining to the Centre.
16. A total of eight (8) students have applied for the WANIDA Scholarship which will cover travel and research expenses. 1st December, 2020

Activities for the year 2021 are as follows;

17. The first ACEMFS Students Orientation was conducted on the – 4th and 5th of February, 2021.
18. with the resulting effects of Covid-19, ACEMFS had to provide 100% online lectures and learning for its three programmes. Lecturers consisted of Faculty, International Scientific Advisory Board members, the Sectoral Board members and other partners - 15th February, 2021- 30th September, 2021. *(27 of 63 lecturers are non FUT Minna and 18 are non-Nigerian)*

19. Four ACEMFS Students received WANIDA scholarship- 17th February, 2021
20. Two students received invitation to be a part of Food Safety Laboratory Competency Enhancement Programme hosted by the International Food Safety Training Laboratory (IFSTL) Universite Laval - 18th February, 2021
21. A new Finance Team made up of Project Accountant, Assistant Project Accountant and Finance Officer were appointed on 15th April, 2021
22. ACE Impact Health Thematic Network held its Faculty and Student Symposium from the 17th -18th May, 2021
23. ACEMFS received the Presidential Panel on Federal University of Technology, Minna on 31st June, 2021.
24. In the year 2021, the Centre visited a number of its partners around the country to foster collaborative relationships.
25. Staff and Students of the Centre attended a number of online trainings, seminars and workshops during the year 2021.
26. Core Staff attended the Virtual Regional Workshops organised the World Bank and Association of African Universities

Its activities for the year 2022 include;

27. The Centre's six programmes were accredited by the National Universities Commission from the 14th - 16th March, 2022.
28. The Centre organized its first short course for students of the Niger State College of Education from April 19th to 23rd, 2022.
29. The Centre organized short courses in Abuja for selected staff of agencies and parastatals. May 16th to 20th, 2022.
30. The CL, DCL, M&E attended the in-person ACE impact regional workshop in Cotonou, Benin Republic on 14th to 18th June, 2022.
31. The foundation laying ceremony for the ACEMFS building took place at the Gidan Kwano Campus where the Centre was allocated a six (6) hectare land.
32. The Centre began and completed her second semester Examination on the 4th to 18th October, 2022. This took place in different Centres globally namely;
 - Nigerian Centres
 1. Port Harcourt
 2. Lagos
 3. Abuja
 4. Minna
 - International Centres

1. D.R Congo
2. Kenya
3. Ghana
4. Uganda
5. Sierra Leone
6. Cameroon
7. Belgium

31. Procurement Audit was carried out on the Centre by the National Universities Commission 6th to 7th October, 2022

32. The Centre Leader attended the meeting of all Africa Centre of Excellence with the World Bank held in Washington DC.

33. Admission process are ongoing for the 2022/2023 Academic Session, the Centre has proposed a total of 134 candidates for admission, these comprise of national and regional candidates.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Admission process for first set of students in the three programs of the Centre. Eighty-seven candidates were admitted with 27 foreign students from 10 countries namely, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Niger, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, and Britain are with full scholarship.
- Courses and temporary supervisors have been distributed amongst faculty and foreign partners.
- **TETFund-** The ACEMFS received funding of the sum of Eleven Million, Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (N11,250,000) in cash, a Toyota Hilux vehicle, office equipment and furniture from the TETFund totalling Forty-Five Million Naira (N45, 000,000). The handing over ceremony was conducted by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala - 6th November, 2020.
- Committee on Short Courses was setup comprising of members from the International Scientific Advisory Board, Sectoral Advisory Board and all RTLs of ACEMFS- 16th November, 2020.
- The Centre Leader was appointed to the NAFDAC Advisory Committee- 26th November, 2020
- Prof. Makun, Centre Leader made a presentation on behalf of the Centre at the Europe and Africa Dialogue of Mycotoxin and Food Security organised by the European Union - 28th November, 2020

- The late Monitoring and Evaluation Officer/Nanotechnology Research Theme Leader presented a paper at 135th AOAC International Annual Meeting holding in Boston, USA. on 25th February, 2021.
- The West Africa Network on Food Safety (WAFOSAN) won the Association of African Universities Grant of \$100, 000. 00 on 15th May, 2021 and was successfully launched in Abuja from the 5th – 8th March 2022 at the inaugural meeting of the Network. ACEMFS, WACCIP, CEA-PCMT and PUTOR were in attendance
- Prof Makun delivered a keynote address at the 3rd African Society of Mycotoxicology. Joint Mycotox-South Symposium,4th-7th September,2022 in South Africa. Titled: Intra and Intercontinental Partnerships towards Mitigating Mycotoxins in African Food and Feed Value Chains; The Africa Centre of Excellence for Mycotoxin and Food Safety Experience.
- ACEMFS has trained 1026 Health and Industry Workers as well as Food Regulatory Officers in Food Safety & Public Health (Short Courses).
- The Centre had its Foundation laying Ceremony of the ACEMFS Secretariat building on the 25th September,2022 at the Gidan Kwano Campus.
- One of our students, Joseph Kumphanda won the MYTOX-SOUTH traineeship grant for laboratory space and training for a period of maximum 3 months at the University of Ghent, Belgium.
- ACEMFS is a member of National Food Safety Advisory Committee of Nigeria and ECOWAS.
- Centre Leader of ACEMFS was the best researcher of the year 2021 in the Federal University of Technology, Minna.
- Eight (8) Academic Faculty Members of ACEMFS were among the top 20 researchers in the University with highest publications, citations, h-index and ranking of journals

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Certification of IBM AI Analyst with the IBM Explorer badge.
- Certification of IBM Analyst Mastery Award.
- Certification of AAU Faculty Online Teaching Modular
- Certification of AAU Quality Assurance
- Guest speaker at the Science in Africa workshop, 22nd to 24th June, 2020 – Monitoring and Evaluation Officer/RTL Nanotechnology Research Theme.
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute Online Content Delivery Training Phase I, II and III- 31st August – 2nd October 2020

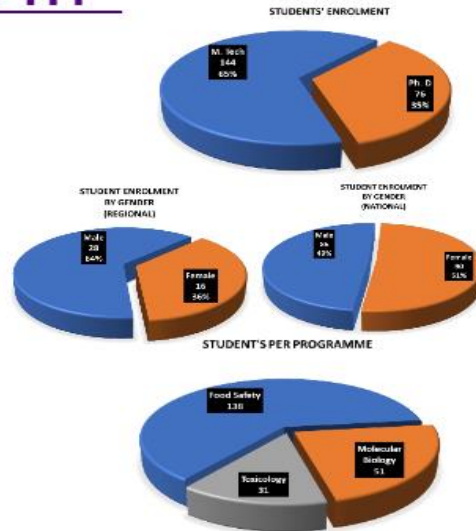
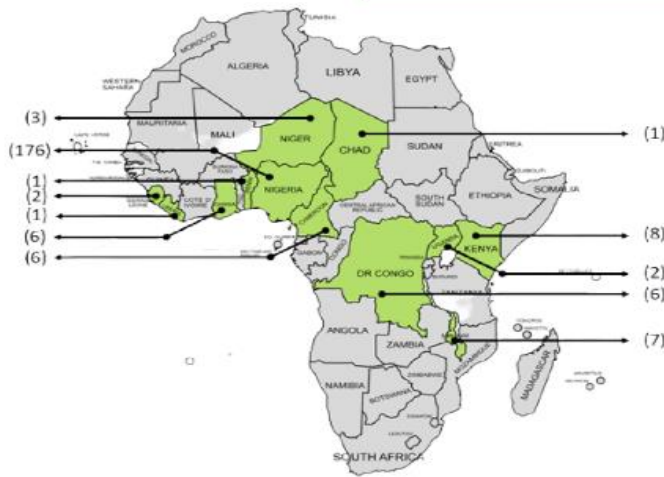
- Centre Secretary attended a training on Advanced Contemporary Issues in Work Ethics and Value Re-orientation organised by the Industrial Training Fund. This was held on 14th- 16th October, 2020
- ACEMFS Faculty attended a 3day training on Google Classroom 18th,21st and 29th January, 2021
- The Late Monitoring and Evaluation Officer was certified after passing examination at the training organised by Food Agriculture Organization/International Atomic Energy Agency (FAO/IAEA) on “the Use of Profiling/Fingerprinting Techniques to Determine Food Origin and Verify Food Authenticity”. Examination done on 8th September, 2021.
- Two members of ACEMFS attended the 14th Annual edition of the International Society for Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods (ISNFF) Conference held in Istanbul, Turkey 2nd - 5th October, 2022
- The Finance Team, Procurement and Safeguard Officers also attended a series of trainings organized by the National Universities Commission in Abuja and Lagos.

PARTNERSHIPS AND GRANTS

1. The West Africa Network on Food Safety (WAFOSAN) won the Association of African Universities Grant of \$100, 000. 00 on 15th May, 2021.
2. One of our strategic partners, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) has offered an FUT Minna graduate a fully funded scholarship to take an MSc in Soil Science.
3. FAMU has also involved the Centre in a \$50 million grant application on fertilizer production.
4. ACEMFS has submitted seven National Research Fund grants to TETFund and two expression of interests to Swiss government and Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition on digital education and provision of safer foods respectively.



OUR STUDENT DEMOGRAPHY



NANOCLAY BASED FILTER FOR INDUSTRIAL WASTE WATER TREATMENT

Tested for treatment of electroplating waste water and amazing results obtained for removal of all the toxic heavy metals present in the waste water.

Patent Number: RP:NG/P/2019/1/33

Water Filter invented by the Nanotechnology Research Theme of the ACEMFS



Partnerships





1st and 2nd Semester Examinations across Africa