

REPORT ON
THE 7TH AFRICAN FARM MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (AFMA) CONGRESS
HELD AT THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA MAIN AUDITORIUM FROM
19TH-21ST OCTOBER 2004.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The 7th Biennial Congress of the African Farm Management Association (AFMA) was held in the main auditorium of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Corporate Headquarters, Abuja, Nigeria from 19th –21st October 2004. The congress, which was titled “**Agric-business in the African Century**”, drew one hundred and ten (110) delegates from the 36 States of Nigeria and one Israeli from outside the continent of Africa. The delegates included government officials, farmers, bankers, the academia and experts from other agriculture related disciplines.

1.2 OPENING SESSION

The opening ceremony was preceded by registration and accreditation of the delegates after which the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria, Professor Charles Soludo read his welcome address and remarked that the theme of the Congress “Agribusiness in the African Century” was in line with the present efforts of African countries to develop agriculture in the twenty –one century through the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). The President of Farm Management Association of Nigeria and Chairman Local Organizing Committee of AFMA 2004, Professor Bola Okuneye delivered his address while the AFMA Vice President, Mrs. Grace O. Evbuomwan presented an address in the absence of the AFMA President, Professor Firmino Mucavele, who was not available. The AFMA Vice Presidents’ speech was well received.

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo and the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mallam Adamu Bello ably represented by the Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development, Otunba Bamidele Dada declared the congress open. In his speech he informed the participants that Nigeria’s sustained political stability and suitable economic policy provide attractive environment for would be investors in the agricultural and agro allied sectors of the economy. He also remarked that some farmers from other parts of Africa were already taking up the opportunities of the right environments in the country. He finally charged the participants to focus their discussions on how to improve agricultural production, processing and entrepreneurship in farm management as well as evolving sound finance mechanism that would provide more inflow of investment into rural agriculture and commercial farm enterprises in Africa.

2.0 THE PLENARY SESSIONS

The first plenary session was chaired by the Deputy Governor, Financial Sector Surveillance, CBN, Mr. Tunde Lemo ably represented by Director, Development Finance Department, Mr. G. E. Ukpabio. It featured the two lead papers for the 7th AFMA Congress namely; “Food Security and Livelihood Improvement in Africa through Agric business Development” and “Effective Economic Farm Management Guidelines” delivered by Professor Bisi Ogunfowora, the 1st National President of FAMAN, and an Israeli, Julian. H. Wood respectively. Six Chairmen presided over discussions on the forty-six papers presented on six sub-themes namely; Institutions and Agricultural Organizations, Basic Skill Development, Appropriate Technologies, Financing Agric–business, Food Processing and Agri-industry and Food Security and Livelihood Improvement. Copies of the papers were made available to each participant for effective discussions and contributions.

3.0 Farm visit / Excursion to Modern Integrated Farms in Kaduna and Niger States

On the last day of the congress, very early in the morning two buses provided by the Central Bank of Nigeria, Abuja conveyed the delegates to Kaduna and Minna in Kaduna and Niger States respectively, for farm visits. Two privately owned farms-Niyya and Maizuire Farms were visited simultaneously. While the dairy section of the Niyya Farm consists of local breeds that of the Maizuire Farm has foreign breeds. Delegates returned in the evening with the farm products of the farms and shared their interesting experiences from the field trips. They also thanked the Organizing Committee for organizing the farm visits.

4.0 The Organizing Committee and Sponsors

The Organizing Committee for the AFMA 2004 was constituted immediately after the Farm Management Association of Nigeria (FAMAN) Conference of year 2002 sequel to the information provided by the Nigerian delegate to the 2002 IFMA Congress in the Netherlands, Mrs. G. O. Evbuomwan. Twelve meetings were held in three cities (Abuja, Abeokuta and Lagos) to mobilize and sensitize members and sponsors of the AFMA congress. In view of the early planning for the congress, the organizing committee was able to get sponsorships from the following institutions:

- (i) The Central Bank of Nigeria which its Development Finance Department served as the secretariat for the congress. It also provided the website which hosted the Congress as well as conference hall with the multi- lingual facilities in addition to the generous monetary donations towards the congress.
- (ii) First Bank of Nigeria Plc

- (iii) University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Ogun State.
- (iv) Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation
- (v) Projects Coordinating Unit of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture
- (vi) Bauchi State Agricultural Supply Company
- (vii) Ogun State Ministry of Agriculture
- (viii) Ogun State Agro-Services Corporation
- (ix) Kano State Agricultural and Rural Development Authority
- (x) Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic

5.0 AFMA BIENNIAL / FAMAN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

In the evening of October 21st 2004, the delegates from Northern, Western, Eastern and Southern parts of Nigeria held the AFMA Biennial General Meeting during which the Vice President of AFMA, Mrs. Grace Evbuomwan in the absence of Professor Mucavale from Mozambique presided over the meetings. The delegates unanimously elected Mrs. Grace Evbuomwan as the new President of AFMA for the period 2004-2006 and decided that the new Vice President and Organizing Secretary of AFMA should come from the next hosting country in compliance with the constitution of AFMA. Kenya was chosen as the next hosting country in line with the decisions taken at the 6th AFMA in Mozambique that the hosting of AFMA be rotated around the continent. In view of non-attendance of delegates from Kenya, the meeting resolved that the new President should make necessary contact and arrangements with Kenya for a successful congress in 2006. Other AFMA Executive officers for year 2004-2006 included the following:

- (i) IFMA Rep. - Dr. Alastair Paterson (South Africa)
- (ii) Ex-Officio – Prof. Firmino G. Mucavale (Mozambique)
- (iii) Country Rep. – Prof. Peter ‘Bola Okuneye (Nigeria)

Immediately after the election, Mrs. Grace Evbuomwan thanked the delegates for giving her the chair and the opportunity to serve the association. She promised to contact other members in Africa as well as raising the image of AFMA to the standard of IFMA. She also expressed her satisfaction at the level of success achieved during the congress particularly with the high quality of papers presented and discussions as well as the impact of the field trips on the delegates. She further stated that despite the non-attendance of delegates from other African countries, the

discussions by the Nigerian delegates represented the true position of African agriculture.

5.1 The Theme for 2006

Following the election of the new President of AFMA the meeting called for suggestions on the theme for AFMA 2006 scheduled for Nairobi, Kenya in October 2006 and Dr. Kola Adebayo from University of Agriculture Abeokuta suggested “Repositioning African Agriculture in the Global Environment”. This was accepted with the following sub themes:

- (i) Repositioning African Agriculture in the next decade
- (ii) Biotechnology in the context of NEPAD
- (iii) Farm Management in Africa in the context of the World Economy

6.0 The Communiqué Issued at the End of the 7th Biennial Congress of AFMA

A copy of the Communiqué issued at the end of the congress is attached.

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE AFRICAN FARM MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (AFMA) 7TH BIENNIAL CONGRESS (ABUJA AFMA 2004) HELD AT THE MAIN AUDITORIUM, CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS’ CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA (CBN), ABUJA, NIGERIA BETWEEN 19TH AND 21ST OCTOBER, 2004

The 7th Biennial Congress of the African Farm Management Association (AFMA) was held at the Central Bank of Nigeria Corporate Headquarters, Abuja, Nigeria, from Tuesday 19th to Thursday 21st October, 2004. The Congress, with the theme “**Agribusiness in the African Century**” was attended by the representative of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo and the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Mallam Adamu Bello; the Honorable Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development Otunba Bamidele Dada, the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria Professor Charles Soludo and other eminent dignitaries.

The Congress featured paper presentations, syndicate sessions, informal discussions and farm visits involving a wide range of stakeholders including private farmers and farm managers, public service agencies, financial institutions, research institutes and tertiary institutions. It resolved as follows:

1. The successful hosting of the 7th Biennial Congress of AFMA by Nigeria has demonstrated the commitment of Nigeria to leading Africa out of poverty through

agri-business development in the spirit of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) and NEPAD.

2. The need for functional agri-business development services in African Countries to meet the needs of private and public sector farm enterprises was identified. Such services should focus on value-addition for raw agricultural products from Africa and facilitation of intra-African trade in agricultural commodities.
3. The attention currently given to the use of agrochemicals in Africa as a way of improving farm productivity and reducing associated environmental hazards was considered inadequate. In this regard, AFMA, through its various National Chapters should vigorously pursue an avenue to create awareness on integrated pest management systems for key stakeholders in the farm business sector by organizing seminars and conferences and providing regular and up-to-date specialized training and incentives for extension workers to equip them to improve on the quality of services currently being provided to farmers.
4. Improved aquaculture, wildlife management and agro forestry practices and other sustainable agricultural technologies should be actively developed in the Continent to improve their earning capabilities, expand their employment generation capacities and address poverty alleviation and food security concerns in the Continent.
5. There is a need to improve agricultural credit delivery system, especially to smallholders in Africa. Such improvements are needed in the area of reduced interest rates, timely disbursement of loans and sustained packages to facilitate effective utilization of loans. In this respect, there should be a gradual transition from the formal institution-driven micro-credit system to an informal sector-driven system. This should be facilitated by recapitalizing the Agricultural Credit Banks in the Continent and establishing the legal and environmental framework to enable these Banks operate closely with the informal sector.
6. The Continent should take full advantage of the avenues offered by the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) to further develop agriculture through external trade and strengthen the capacity of African farmers to compete in the international agricultural market.
7. AFMA, through its various National Chapters should develop early alert systems to warn African Governments when government policies would have negative impact on farm business and maintaining a sustainable environment. Similarly, the Association should operate a framework that allows it to be proactive in the formulation of positive agricultural development policies for the continent.

8. The selected theme for AFMA 2006 Biennial Congress, scheduled for Nairobi, Kenya in October, 2006 is “**Repositioning African Agriculture in the Global Environment**”
9. The Officers of AFMA for the period 2004-2006 shall be as follows:
President - Mrs. Grace Evbuomwan (Nigeria)
Vice President – Kenya to produce
Organizing Secretary – Kenya to produce
IFMA Rep. - Dr. Alastair Paterson (South Africa)
Ex-Officio – Prof. Firmino G. Mucavale (Mozambique)
Country Rep. – Prof. Peter ‘Bola Okuneye (Nigeria)
10. The Congress expresses its appreciation to FAMAN and the various sponsors, especially the Central Bank of Nigeria, First bank of Nigeria plc and the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta for the support given for the successful hosting of the AFMA 2004 Congress in ABUJA.

Mrs. Grace Evbuomwan
AFMA President

Prof. ‘Bola Okuneye
FAMAN National President

Report by:
B. O. Odufote
AFMA, Organizing Secretary
October 2004