

**ANIMAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (ASAN)
AND
NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE (NIAS)
8TH JOINT ANNUAL MEETING (UMUAHIA – 2019)**

**THEME: ANIMAL AGRICULTURE: ANCHOR FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
IN NIGERIA**

COMMUNIQUE

1. Animal Agriculture cuts across the entire value chain from input supply through production, processing, marketing, consumption and beyond. It should be sustainable, improve national GDP and enhance human development in Nigeria.
2. The conference featured the Annual General Meetings (AGMs) of both Animal Science Association of Nigeria (ASAN) and Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS), Scientific Sessions, Herder-Farmer Dialogue/Industry Interaction, Induction of Fellows of ASAN and Postgraduate College of Animal Science, Registered and Associate Animal Scientists.
3. We acknowledged the various funding opportunities for livestock production in the country by the federal and State Governments through several projects namely:
 - i. Anchor Borrowers' Scheme by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)
 - ii. Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (L-PRESS) by Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD)
 - iii. LIFE (Livelihood Improvement and Family Empowerment) Cooperative Groups
 - iv. The Federal Government directive through the CBN that all commercial banks should give 60% of their deposits as loan to Agricultural Sectors
 - v. The support of TETFUND to Animal Science based Tertiary institutions and Research Institutes.
4. To improve overall livestock productivity, Government should involve Professional Animal Scientists who are members of ASAN and NIAS in policy formulation, implementation and monitoring for sustainable economic and human development in the livestock subsector of the country.
5. With the increasing human population in the country, there is little or no land for grazing of livestock and the lasting solution to the farmers/herders crisis in the country is the intensive rearing of livestock. The ASAN and NIAS have work on several ways to achieve this purpose.
6. The National Animal Production Research Institute (NAPRI) Zaria should be decentralized for effective, meaningful and impactful research activities into;
 - i. National Ruminant Production Research Institute (NRPRI)
 - ii. National Poultry Production Research Institute (NPPRI)
 - iii. National Pig Production Research Institute (NPPRI)
 - iv. National Mini-livestock Production Research Institute (NMPRI)

These institutes should be strategically located in different agro-ecological zones of the country and should be financially empowered to effectively deliver their mandates.

7. All livestock production establishments at the Local, State and Federal levels should be headed by Professional and Practicing Animal Scientists.
8. As a way forward, all stakeholders must encourage, embrace and promote the use of simple adaptable technologies for effective and enhanced productivity in Animal Agriculture in Nigeria.

9. FMARD, States, local governments and private investors should recognize the smallholder livestock value chains as huge investment opportunities that can promote job creation, social and food security and improved livelihood for families in rural and Peri-urban areas
10. The ASAN –NIAS JAM observed the decline trend on the quality of research in Nigeria Institutions and the challenges of adopting research results in the Country. This was viewed to be partly due to the poor quality and or absent of facilities.
11. Nine out of Eleven abattoir services are performed by the Animal Scientist and only two are performed by the veterinarian. All state directors are therefore urged to ensure that their staff are sent to the abattoir to perform their roles in the abattoirs. Our colleagues in the academic are also advised to ensure that they take students to the abattoirs for training.
12. Pig farmers Association of Nigeria have been formed in twenty states and the federal capital territory. Capacity building was done in Benue, Delta and Ogun state, also it was advocated that value chain in Pig production be supported for foreign Exchange earnings
13. The state directors are to ensure the implementation of the change of cadre and nomenclature from Animal Production Department to Animal Husbandry/Science and from Agric Officer to Animal Scientist respectively. This will allow Animal Scientists to enjoy the full benefits as professional

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