



COMMUNIQUE FOR THE 1ST BIOECONOMY CONFERENCE

Theme: Banana and Plantain as Bioresources for Building a Sustainable Circular Economy

Date: November 19, 2024

Venue: Virtual

The 1st Bioeconomy conference with the theme: “Banana and Plantain as Bioresources for Building a Sustainable Circular Economy” had over 65 participants from the industries, academia, research institutes, policymakers, technocrats and regulatory bodies among others. Most participants were from Obafemi Awolowo, Ile-Ife, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Landmark University, Omu-Aran, National Centre for Technology Management (NACETEM), National Biotechnology Research and Development Agency, Nigeria, (NABRDA) and Pan-Africana Strategic and Policy Research Group (PANAFSTRAG). The total number of papers submitted was 18, 10 were accepted and 9 were presented.

The convener, Dr (Mrs) A. A. Malomo in her welcome address talked about the nutritional aspect of plantain and banana, the health benefits of plantain and the conversion of plantain waste into products that will be useful in food industries, pharmaceutical, cosmetics industries, production of compost, animal feeds, fibre among others.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. (Mrs) A. F. Olaniran, the chairperson of Sustainable Development Goal 12 of the Landmark University in Omu–Aran, Kwara state, Nigeria. She buttresses the nutritional composition, diversification of banana and plantain, and management of waste in the plantain and banana sector to obtain useful products and increase foreign exchange earnings and circular economy. The content delivered by the keynote speaker was in alliance with the goodwill message delivered by Professor K. O. Ajanaku; the Vice Chancellor of Landmark University. The first Lead speaker; Professor Stella William spoke about an innovative approach to sustaining the national economy through collaboration. She shed light on how the collaboration of farmers, academia, research Institutes and government agencies in the plantain and banana sector can enhance the circular economy in the country. The second speaker in the person of Dr (Mrs) Y. O. Adabayo from the College of Food Science and Human Ecology, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta emphasized on the development of a nutritious diet for different groups, production of diverse products from plantain and banana and the health benefits that can be derived from the consumption of these local crops.

The sub-themes of the conference were as follows:

1. Eco-friendly Agricultural Practice for Plantain and Banana Cultivation
2. Banana and Plantain waste management for a sustainable circular economy

3. Emerging innovations in waste management
4. Socioeconomic impact of plantain and byproducts towards SDGs
5. Developing and refining byproducts from banana and plantain
6. Pharmaceutical potential of Bioactive Components in banana and plantain
7. Role of Plantain and Banana in a healthy and sustainable diet

The following were observed during the conference:

1. Eco-friendly agriculture is becoming popular among the farmers
2. All parts of banana and plantain are useful and should be processed accordingly to enhance a circular economy.
3. Emerging technologies in plantain waste such as the production of fibre for textile industries, wigs for fashion industries are gaining more attention
4. Plantains and bananas have an important role in providing a healthy and sustainable diet for every economic class
5. Insufficient public enlightenment on the use of plantain waste.
6. Low level of utilization of waste leading to environmental pollution
7. Poor link between the farmers and the government agencies

Recommendations

1. Actors on plantain and banana value chains need to collaborate to improve the sector. The Ministry of Agriculture, Research Institutes, Farmers' Associations, Educational Institutions, Food Processors and Marketers should work hand in hand to develop and improve plantain/banana varieties and products.
2. The processors should support the adoption of standard regulation to enhance safety assurance and exportation of plantain and banana.
3. The government should focus on providing an enabling environment for the local producers to boost employment opportunities and establishment of small and medium-scale processing Industries
4. Value addition to plantain and banana should be encouraged in the plantain/banana sector to boost local production, increase food security, combat malnutrition, alleviate poverty and prevent nutritional-related diseases.

Appreciation

The team is grateful to the Executive Secretary of Pan-Africana Strategic and Policy Research Group (PANAFSTRAG), Maj. Gen. Ishola Williams for conceiving the idea of organizing the conference and, for financial and moral support towards the success of the conference. The Vice Chancellor, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Prof. A. S. Bamire, the Chief Host for providing an enabling environment, Prof. Morenike Ukpog, the Executive Director of Central Office of Research, Obafemi Awolowo University for the encouragement and support towards the success of the conference, the Vice Chancellor of Landmark University Omu-Aran, Prof. K. O. Ajanaku

for his support and 100% attendance, Landmark University SDGs team, Plantain farmers association, members of staff of NABRDA, NACETEM, FUNNAB and PANAFSTRAG for supporting and attending the conference.

To all participants, thank you for submitting your manuscript, presenting your papers and attending the conference. To the LOC, Dr (Mrs) A. F. Olaniran, Dr. O. E. Ilevbare, Dr. O. A. Aregbesola, Dr. Y. O. Adebayo, Mr. O. Alakija, Mr. O. D. Olaniran, Mrs Janet Ogunleye, Mrs. P. A. Olusanya and Engr. O. A. Adejuwon, thank you for organizing and making the 1st Bioeconomy conference with the theme: “Banana and Plantain as Bioresources for Building a Sustainable Circular Economy” a huge success.



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Dr. Adekunbi Adetola Malomo
(The Convener)