



CIDR, ACEPHAP Hold Maternal Child Health Summit

By Bala G. Abdullahi

ACEPHAP team led by its Director, Prof. Hadiza Galadanci (middle) in a group photograph at Abuja Maternal Summit

The Centre for Infectious Diseases Research (CIDR) and the Africa Centre for Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP) in collaboration with Rand Corporation, USA with support from Marks Family Foundation organised a one day Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) Summit.

The Summit took place on Wednesday 21st March, 2023 at Rock View Hotel; Abuja. It brought together crème de la crème in the health sector that x-rayed the state of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health interventions (MNCH) in Nigeria.

The Summit with the theme: *Towards an improved MNCH conditions in Nigeria, working together is the key*, had the following objectives; to sensitize a wide range of stakeholders on the need and ways to play roles that will improve maternal, newborn and child health interventions (MNCH) situations in Nigeria; to build a consensus among stakeholders on the roles each of them will play as their contribution towards improving MNCH and to come up with a resolutions and realistic intervention that will lead to a better MNCH situation in Nigeria.

In his address at the opening ceremony, the Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire, said the summit came at the right time when efforts are on the increase in the nation's determined effort to reduce to the barest minimum the scourge associated with the rising indices of maternal, newborn and child health situations.

The Minister who was represented by the Director, Child Health at the Ministry, Dr. Stella Nwosu, said the Summit came at the right time when all efforts are geared towards reducing to the barest minimum the scourge associated with the rising incidences of maternal mortality.

Dr. Ehanire gave a disturbing statistics in which he said maternal mortality rate as at 1998 was 1,220 deaths per 1,000 and that currently it is 512 deaths per 1,000 births, adding that in the same vein, the neonatal mortality rate was 48 deaths per 1,000 live births as at 2003, but now stands at 39 deaths per 1,000 births.

He also said the under 5 (child) mortality rate which he said was 201 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2003, but now stands at 132 deaths per 1,000 live births. The minister stated that with above data, it showed that Nigeria had made some progress. He however, said with this snail speed inroad, 'we may not be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 3,' he remarked.

The Minister said herein lies the importance of the Summit with the theme; 'Towards an improved MNCH conditions in Nigeria working together is the key.' He said as the summit deliberate on the theme, there was need to harness innovative ideas towards improving the health indices of mother and children.

In proffering solution he said, the need for an overarching multi-stakeholder partnership coordination platform cannot be overemphasized as all available resources

required effective high level coordination to create synergy, avoid duplication, reduce wastages and harmonize all efforts in health service delivery across the country.

The Minister hoped that the summit would provide the forum where 'we shall all throw up issues plaguing the health sector within the sphere of MNCH, and with a view to proffering solutions so that we can at least achieve the Goal 3.

In his address, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Development, Professor Abdullahi Sule-Kano, commended the organizers of the summit. He said the summit couldn't have come at a better time than now when all efforts are being concentrated in improving the nation's health sector particularly in finding solutions to the high rate of maternal mortality. He wished them a successful summit.

Also speaking, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Dr. Nasiru Sani-Gwarzo stated that the nation's maternal mortality rate was not encouraging, adding that aftermath of conflicts, insurgency have contributed to exacerbate the maternal and child health situations. He said insecurity, terrorism and insurgency had been identified as the some of the major factors heightening maternal and child mortality.

He said the ministry of Humanitarian Affairs have done a lot of intervention in the IDP camps across the north east and other parts of the country affected by one disaster or the order, in terms of hunger, shelter, and diseases as well as maternal and child mortality.

The permanent Secretary who took time to explain some of the modest achievements of the Humanitarian Ministry, thanked the organizers of the summit and hoped that at the end, concrete suggestions would be put in place for stakeholders in the health sectors as well as policy makers would find useful in the quest for finding lasting solution to the rate of maternal mortality in the country.

During the technical session, two papers were presented. The first paper titled: '*Addressing the Challenges of*

Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) in Nigeria: Collective Action' was delivered by the Director, ACEPHAP, Professor Hadiza Galadanci. In the paper, she observed with concern that maternal, newborn health was affected by a lot of competing needs. The COVID-19 pandemic had gone a long way to affect the health of the whole world and had also really affected maternal, newborn health. Professor Galadanci disclosed that a lot of the gains recorded in maternal mortality had been lost because of the pandemic.

She said to reduce to the barest minimum the rising incidences of high maternal mortality, health care providers, civil societies and community/ traditional and religious leaders need to embark on raising awareness on the importance of anti-natal and post-natal visits. They should also raise awareness about harmful traditional practices; embark on social mobilization and dissemination of health care messages to mothers in the rural areas.

The ACEPHAP Director stated that community, traditional and religious leaders should learn to ask questions; why don't we have the right health care providers, the right drugs and insist on mothers going to the hospital to give births. She insisted that the whole issue bothered on advocacy, advocacy, and advocacy.

The second paper titled: '*Health and humanitarian challenges of women and children affected by insecurity'*', was presented by Dr. Fatima Damagum. She painted a gloomy pictures of life in the IDP camps as well as the challenges of hunger, diseases facing the inmates particularly women and children. She said the venomous effects of conflict on maternal and child health had a broad expanse such as lack of safe and sanitary facilities, food shortage, and dearth of health care personnel as well as reduced access to health services. She said there was need for Nigerian Government to pay special attention to the north east region in a timely manner.

The summit ended with a round table discussion involving senior medical personnel on the concomitant effect of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. At the end of the discussion suggestions on the way forward were proffered.

DRIP Organizes First Research Exhibition in Collaboration with CDA **...We are Committed to Conducting Cutting Edge Research - VC**

By Nura Garba

The Directorate of Research, Innovation and Partnership (DRIP) has organized a maiden research exhibition in collaboration with the Centre for Dryland Agriculture (CDA). The research exhibition took place at the premises of the CDA.

The aim, according to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas was to showcase the research outputs of the University conducted by various Centres, Directorates and Faculties.

The Vice Chancellor, who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academics, Professor Muhammad Sani

Gumel, said BUK is committed to conducting cutting edge research that would address Africa's developmental challenges. He said the BUK was rated the best university in Nigeria by the United Kingdom's Times Higher Education based on international outlook, saying that it would not relent in its effort to sustain this prestigious milestone.

The Vice Chancellor emphasized that the vision of the university is to lead in education and research in Africa, adding that one of the ways to achieve this visionary statement is to conduct such research exhibitions to

increase the visibility of its research outputs. This will also provide avenues for engagements with industry and potential investors.

He reiterated the university management's determination to fully support and partner with Research Centres, Institutes and Directorates to strengthen the research



Dr. Mustapha M. Bello of CDA presenting a research on Greenhouse Gases (GHG) Emissions under the System of Rice Intensification (SRI)

CDA Conducts Regional Training on Fish Hatching, Culture and Management in INRAN, Maradi, Niger Republic

By Nura Garba

The Centre for Dryland Agriculture (CDA) in collaboration with Institut National De La Recherche Agronomique Du Niger (INRAN), Maradi, Niger Republic conducted a training on fish hatching, culture and management held at CERRA-INRAN Maradi from 13th to 17th March 2023.

About 117 women and youths participated with 70% of the beneficiaries being women and 20 students from Dan Dicko Dankoulodo University Maradi (UDDM).

The facilitators of the training were Musa Usman Adamu and Zahrau Rabi'u Mudi from the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Faculty of Agriculture, BUK and Abdussalam Imam Abdullahi from the National Biotechnology Development Agency, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology.

The training was a 6-day hands-on practical training where participants were taken through theoretical and practical stages of fish spawning, production, and management. The beneficiaries were excited about the training and were confident on the possibility of setting up fish production enterprises.

The CDA Management team led by the Director, Professor Jibrin Mohammed Jibrin facilitated and coordinated the training. Other management members of CDA were the Deputy Director Training, Prof S. G. Mohammed and

activities in the university.

Presenting a goodwill message, the Director of CDA, Professor Jibrin Mohammed Jibrin, who was represented by the ACE Project Manager of CDA, Dr. Yusuf Garba, said the exhibition was apt and timely especially now that BUK is gearing towards becoming a research-based institution.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Director of DRIP, Professor A.I. Rufai said the exhibition was an opportunity to showcase the output of research and innovation activities of the University. He noted that the subsequent exhibitions would be bigger and better in terms of participation and scale of the event.

Various Centres, Directorates, Faculties and Departments showcased their research outcomes in the presence of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics, Professor M.S Gumel, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Development, Professor Abdullahi Sule Kano, Director DRIP, Prof A.I. Rufai, Director Mambayya House, Prof Habu Mohammed, Deputy Directors and staff of research centres and postgraduate students.

Deputy Director Outreach and Publications, Prof Amina Mustapha.

The Director of CERRA, Dr Laouali Mahamane Nasser in his welcome remark, welcomed participants and urged them to take full advantage of the rare opportunity brought at their doorstep.



Participants being trained by CDA facilitator, Zahra'u Rabi'u Mudi

Professor Barau Appointed Dean, FEES

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, has approved the appointment of Professor Aliyu Salisu Barau as the Dean, Faculty

of Earth and Environmental Sciences, for a two-year term, in the first instance, with effect from 20th March, 2023 to 19th March, 2025.

BUK Receives Auditors from the Office of Accountant General of the Federation

By Fausat A. Opayomi

Team of Auditors from the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation (AGF) paid a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas on Wednesday 5th April, 2023.

The Ag Bursar, Rabi'u Dauda who introduced the delegates hinted that they were on a national assignment which is a routine annual exercise as part of efforts to ensure compliance on issues relating to finances of the University.

Idrisu Sule who spoke on behalf of the delegates commended the University for the warm reception accorded them.

He said the visit was an annual routine exercise to evaluate and ensure that money is judiciously spent. He said the visit was not meant to indict or witch-hunt rather to ensure that things are done the way they should be.

According to him, the visit was also to ensure that there is a synergy and cooperation between the audit unit and the management of the university.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas in his response welcomed the team to the university and promised to support and cooperate with them.

The DVC Academics, Professor Sani Muhammad Gumel who represented the Vice Chancellor said he was happy with the visit because it was not to witch hunt but to ensure compliance and give appropriate advise. He added that BUK was ready to comply in order to add value to the development of the university.



Group photograph of BUK Management with visiting Auditors

CHECKLISTS FOR UNPAID PROMOTION, SALARY ARREARS

Following a call circular from the Office of the Head of Service of the Federation, requesting a checklist for the computation of promotion and salary arrears. The Bursary Department hereby requests all concerned members of the University staff to forward to the office of the Bursar, information in respect of the following:

1. PROMOTION ARREARS:

- Promotion Letter
- Three (3) copies of pay slips: i.e. Pay Slip before Placement, Month of placement and month after.

2. SALARY ARREARS:

(A) New Employees

- Duly Signed Letter of Employment
- Assumption of Duty Certificate
- Evidence of enrolment into IPPIS platform
- First three months' pay slip

(B) Re-instatement

- Letter of Leave of Absent, Suspension, Interdiction, Dismissal etc
- Letter of Reinstatement from the relevant Authority
- Assumption of Duty Certificate
- In the case of reinstatement by court, a copy of the judgment must be attached.
- Last two pay slips before Leave of Absent, Suspension, Interdiction, Dismissal etc
- First two pay slips after reinstatement

All submissions must be sent to the office of Bursar on or before **17th April, 2023**.

NOTE:

A letter signed by Rabi'u Dauda, FCA, said, each applicant should write to the Bursar, Bayero University, Kano and attach relevant documents as mentioned in the Checklist.

APPRECIATION FROM DR. JIBRIL DAN AZUMI

I, Dr Jibril Dan Azumi Jibril (Director BUK Consultancy Services) wish to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to members of the university community for sparing time to condole with me over the death of my elder sister (Fatima Dan Azumi Jibril). She died on 23rd March, 2023 after a brief illness at her residence situated at Galadanchi Quarters, Kano State.

Special appreciation goes to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, Professor Muhammad Sani Gumel, DVC (Academics), Professor Mahmud Sani Umar, DVC (Management Services), Professor Abdullahi-Sule Kano, DVC (Research and Development), members of ASUU, SSANU, NAAT and NASU and others too numerous to mention. May Allah reward you all abundantly, Amin.

