

## **PROFILE OF PROFESSOR OGUGUA CHARLES AWORH**

**Professor Ogugua Charles Aworh** is the George Coumantaros Distinguished Professor, Flour Mills Food Research Centre, Department of Food Technology, University of Ibadan. A Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (FNIFST) and the International Academy of Food Science and Technology (FIAFoST), and a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (2014), Prof. Aworh was born on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1951 in Lagos to the Aworh family of Umudaike Ouarthers, Asaba, Delta State. He had his primary school education at St. James' School, Oke Bola and Alafia Institute, Mokola Ibadan from 1957 to 1963. From 1964 to 1968, he attended the famous Ibadan Grammar School where he obtained the West African School Certificate in the First Division in 1968, with the best overall result in the school that year. The following year, he was admitted to the University of Ibadan by concessional entrance examination. A University scholar, Professor Aworh graduated with B.Sc. (Hons.) in Agricultural Biochemistry and Nutrition (Second Class Upper) in 1973, and was awarded the May and Baker Prize for the Best Student in the Department of Animal Science. In September 1974, he enrolled as a graduate student, under the Nigerian Federal Government Scholarship Programme, at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA where he obtained Master of Science and PhD degrees in Food Science and Technology in 1976 and 1978 respectively.

He joined the services of the University of Ibadan in July 1978 as a Lecturer grade II and became Professor of Food Technology in 1988. Professor Aworh is an expert in post-harvest physiology, handling and utilization of tropical and sub-tropical fruits and vegetables and the author of the book "Lesser-known Nigerian Fruits and Vegetables: Post-Harvest Handling, Utilization and Nutritional Value." His other areas of research include food product development, food biotechnology and food safety. A foremost researcher and prolific author, he has over 120 scientific publications including books and chapters in books and has produced over 120 M.Sc. and 17PhDs with many of his former students occupying top positions in industry, government and academia, within and outside the country, including Heads of Department, Dean of Faculty, Associate Professors and Professors, and former Vice-Chancellor. He has held many top administrative positions at the University of Ibadan including Head of the Department of Food Technology for three times, Chairman, Senate Curriculum Committee, Chairman, General Studies Programme and Master, Sultan Bello Hall. He was the University Public Orator in 1997 and 2006 and has served on several Committees of Senate and Council including Senate Curriculum, Appointments and Promotions, Procurement Planning, Staff Disciplinary and Honorary Degrees Committees, and the Students' Welfare Board. He is the pioneer Chairman of the Committee for the Administration of the Multidisciplinary Central Research Laboratory, supported by MacArthur Foundation (2008-2014) and provided leadership in the conception, equipping and formulation of management policies for the laboratory including development of operational and financial plans for sustainability. The laboratory is equipped with modern, state-of-the-art equipment for cutting-edge research in the chemical, biological, agricultural and life sciences.

Professor Aworh has world-wide experience in food research, consultancy and public service. He has carried out several major consultancy assignments and research contracts for governments, the private sector and international organizations including the joint FAO/IAEA Division of

Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, Vienna, Austria. He was a full-time consultant in sustainable community development to Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited, Warri from May 1999 to December 2000 on leave from the University of Ibadan, where he put the wealth and strength of his intellectual accomplishments to support the establishment of small-scale food industries in rural, oil-producing communities in Delta and Bayelsa States of the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. A recipient of several prestigious international research fellowships including the Royal Society/Nuffield Foundation Fellowship, the Canadian International Development Agency/Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Fellowship and the Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship, Professor Aworh was at various times visiting Research Fellow/Professor at the Procter Department of Food Science, University of Leeds, UK, the Department of Food Science, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada and the Department of Biotechnology and the Institute of Technical Biocatalysis of Hamburg University of Technology, Germany. A member of several professional bodies and learned societies including the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and the Institute of Food Technologists (USA), Professor Aworh was Chairman of the Body of Fellows of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (2008-2013) and Editor-in-Chief, Nigerian Food Journal (1986-1989). He was elected to membership of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1996 and the New York Academy of Sciences in 1997. Professor Aworh was the only African inducted into the prestigious International Academy of Food Science and Technology (the global focus of food science excellence) at the 16<sup>th</sup> World Food Congress held in Iguassu Falls, Brazil in 2012. He was appointed Chairman of the Technical Advisory Group of Nigeria's Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) in August 2019 and member TETFund Standing Committee on Research and Development in March 2020.