



NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(INCORPORATED IN NIGERIA RC 247011)
EAST CENTRAL CHAPTER

Our Ref.

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Date: 13th June 2019

REGIONAL FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT (REFoSTS) OF EAST CENTRAL CHAPTER OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NIFST) ON SUSTAINABILITY OF INDIGENOUS FOOD PROCESSING METHODS: NUTRITIONAL AND FOOD SAFETY CONCERNS HELD ON 11th JUNE, 2019 AT MAIN HALL, ASCORT RESORT, NEW HAVEN, ENUGU.

REFoSTS COMMUNIQUE

The East Central Chapter of the Nigeria Institute of Food Science and Technology met at the Main Hall, Ascort Resort, New Haven, Enugu on 11th June, 2019 for her Regional Food Science and Technology Summit (REFoST). NIFST members from Government Agencies, Industry, Academia, as well as Student (NAFSTS) members from some institutions within the Chapter (Anambra, Ebony and Enugu States) and the press attended the Summit, which deliberated on “Sustainability of indigenous food processing methods: nutritional and food safety concerns” to minimize post harvest food losses and ensure nutritional safety of Nigerians.

5th REFoSTS Observations:

1. Food security interventions directed only towards production of agricultural food crops without integration of adequate processing and storage technologies cannot assure food and nutrition security.
2. Need to regulate the practice of Food Science and Technology in Nigeria and to develop infrastructures with upgraded facilities for processing indigenous foods at food production centers across the nation.
3. Indigenous food processing has attendant benefits of improving product shelf-life, detoxification, enhancing digestibility, creating variety, minimizing post harvest losses, creating employment and reduction of poverty.
4. Food processing in Nigeria has been significantly strengthened by indigenous food processing technologies (IFPTs).
5. Women are custodian of IFPTs in most communities for local food production, income generation and employment.
6. Indigenous food processing technologies commonly used in communities depend on the type of crop and its availability in that locality, and are influenced by indigenous knowledge, culture, values and beliefs of the locality.
7. Indigenous food processing technologies (IFPTs) are saddled with the following challenges: low nutritional quality of the end products, dearth of quality evaluation data, unhygienic production environment, un-mechanized technologies, labour-intensive and time-consuming, poor packaging and storage structures and use of untrained food processors.

The REFoST Summit recommends:

1. Increasing incorporation of food processing and value-chain technologies in food security interventions will contribute to National food and nutritional security.

Regional Food Science and Technology Summit, Enugu, 2019

2. To achieve sustainable food security the Practice of Food Science and Technology in Nigeria must be regulated by legal charter.
3. Establishment of sustainable indigenous food processing centers in communities will enhance production of safe food products with environmental protection, and fast track attainment of food and nutrition security in Nigeria.
4. Indigenous food processing technologies should be encouraged and upgraded to aid reduction of post harvest losses, generate products for local consumption and export, and foreign revenue.
5. In order to establish sustainable IFPTs the following should be implemented:
 - i. Appropriate policies, structures and infrastructures should be put in place by the government in conjunction with Nigeria Institute of Food Science and Technology to upgrade and ensure the safety of indigenous food processing technologies.
 - ii. Federal Government should establish Model Training Centres for NIFSTs training of local food processors on safe production of indigenous food products.
 - iii. The president of Nigeria Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST) should be appointed as member of Board of Agricultural Council of Nigeria, NAFDAC, SON, CPC and other relevant Agencies, for enhanced performance of the Agencies.
6. There is need to kick-start national collation of indigenous food processing knowledge for essential upgrade and dissemination through advocacy workshops for stakeholders in various localities to assure safe processing practices.
7. Sustainable channels of communication need to be established between local indigenous food processors and NIFST to drive technology upgrade and adoption of safe practices.

Long live NIFST, Long live Nigeria Communities, Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Professor Gabriel I. Okafor
NIFST East Central Chapter Chairman

Dr (Mrs) Laura Okpala
5th REFoSTS LOC Chairman