

**GOODWILL MESSAGE BY FIIRO DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DR MRS JUMMAI
ADAMU TUTUWA AT THE 56TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL
MEETING OF THE NUTRITION SOCIETY OF NIGERIA**

Theme: “Delivering Better Nutrition for All: Connecting the Dots Across Life Cycle, Systems and Sectors”

The President and Council of the Nutrition Society of Nigeria, distinguished guests, eminent professionals, members of the Society, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and privilege to join you at the 56th Annual Conference and General Meeting of the Nutrition Society of Nigeria. On behalf of the management and staff of the Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi, I warmly congratulate the Nutrition Society of Nigeria on this important milestone and commend the Society for its sustained leadership in advancing nutrition science, practice and policy in Nigeria.

The theme of this year's conference, “Delivering Better Nutrition for All: Connecting the Dots Across Life Cycle, Systems and Sectors,” could not be more appropriate at this critical moment in our nation's development. It reminds us that nutrition is not the responsibility of one profession, one institution or one sector. It is a shared national responsibility that requires us to connect agriculture with health, food production with nutrition, research with policy, and innovation with industry and communities.

Indeed, the nutrition challenges confronting Nigeria are complex and interconnected. Malnutrition exists in multiple forms, while changing lifestyles, food environments, economic pressures, food insecurity and emerging health concerns continue to influence what people eat and how they live. Addressing these challenges therefore requires us to move beyond fragmented interventions towards coordinated, evidence-based and sustainable solutions across the entire life course.

As a research and industrial development institution, we recognize the critical role that science, technology and innovation must play in this process. We must strengthen the development of

affordable, nutritious and culturally acceptable foods; promote the responsible improvement of traditional African foods; reduce postharvest losses; enhance the utilization of underutilized crops; and support food processing technologies that preserve and improve nutritional quality. We must also ensure that the knowledge generated in our laboratories does not remain within academic publications. Research must translate into technologies, products, policies and interventions that improve the lives of Nigerians. This requires stronger partnerships among researchers, nutritionists, food technologists, agricultural experts, policymakers, industry, development organizations and communities.

I am particularly pleased that this conference provides a platform for such collaboration. The Nutrition Society of Nigeria has over the years demonstrated its commitment to bringing together professionals from diverse disciplines to advance the nutrition agenda. This multidisciplinary approach is essential because better nutrition begins with connecting the dots - not only across disciplines, but across the entire food and nutrition continuum. It means connecting agricultural production with food processing and value addition; research and innovation with industry and markets; food availability with food quality, safety and nutritional value; and policy with programs that reach households and communities. It also means recognizing that nutrition needs change across the life course - from maternal nutrition and early childhood, through adolescence and adulthood, to healthy ageing. When these connections are strengthened, we are better positioned to build food systems that deliver nutritious, safe, affordable and sustainable foods for all Nigerians. Therefore, from the farm to the food processor, from the laboratory to the marketplace, and ultimately from the food system to the health and well-being of every Nigerian, every link matters.

There is therefore an urgent need to promote greater investment in food and nutrition research, strengthen local capacity, support innovation and commercialization, and create stronger pathways for translating research outcomes into practical solutions. Institutions such as the Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi, remain committed to working with the Nutrition Society of Nigeria and other stakeholders in this endeavor.

As we deliberate during this conference, let us remember that the dots are already there - our task is to connect them. Let us connect knowledge with action, research with innovation, innovation

with industry, food production with nutrition, and policy with impact. Above all, let us connect our collective expertise to the needs of the Nigerian people.

Once again, I commend the Nutrition Society of Nigeria for convening this important gathering and for its continued contribution to improving the nutritional well-being of Nigerians.

I wish the Society a successful 56th Annual Conference and General Meeting, and I look forward to the emergence of ideas, partnerships and innovations that will contribute meaningfully to delivering better nutrition for all.

Thank you, and I wish you all a fruitful and successful conference.

Long live the Nutrition Society of Nigeria.

Long live our collective commitment to a healthier and better-nourished Nigeria.

Thank you.