

TETFund Center of Excellence in Food Security

NEWSLETTER



Advancing Food Security through Research, Innovation and Partnerships

The TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS) continues to strengthen its role in advancing sustainable agricultural systems through research, capacity building, policy engagement and regional collaboration. This edition highlights key international, national and institutional activities that reinforce the Centre's mandate and growing impact.

This combined issue captures milestones from international study visits, national policy engagements, institutional capacity development and practical demonstration initiatives aimed at translating research into action.

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR.

**TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS),
University of Jos
TCoEFS Quarterly Newsletter
December 2025 (Second Quarter)**



LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

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TCoEFS STRENGTHENS INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP WITH NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Eunice Kyenpiya Deshi is a Reader in the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, University of Jos. She holds a B.Sc. in Botany, an M.Sc. in Cytogenetics and Plant Breeding, and a Ph.D. in Plant Physiology. Her international and professional training includes seed potato technology and certification at Wageningen University, the Netherlands; post-harvest management of maize, rice, and legumes at the University of Sydney, Australia; project management at CRUDAN Headquarters, Jos; and plant breeding for food security at Michigan State University, USA.

Dr. Deshi has served in key leadership roles at the University of Jos, including Postgraduate Programme Coordinator and Examination Officer in the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology.



Dr. Deshi Kyenpiya Eunice

Deputy Director (*Innovation and Entrepreneurship*)

She has published in reputable journals, presented research at national and international conferences, and taught Plant Physiology, Genetics, Plant Breeding, and Plant Anatomy at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Her research focuses on potato production and improvement, particularly seed and ware potato storage, seed potato quality, and rapid multiplication techniques.

She is actively involved in farmer training and community outreach, especially supporting smallholder farmers and rural women through collaborations with the Country Women Association of Nigeria (COWAN) and the University of Jos Potato Research Team. She is the founder of Ritdun Integrated Farms and an agricultural consultant.



Prof. Uchele Okpanachi

Deputy Director (*Training and Research*)

Prof. Uchele Okpanachi is a Professor of Animal Science (Ruminant Nutrition and Production) in the Department of Animal Production, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jos.

He holds a B.Agric. (Animal Production), M.Sc. (Animal Nutrition and Biochemistry), and Ph.D. (Animal Nutrition), and has received extensive training in low-cost animal feed formulation, animal production and management, in vitro gas production, small ruminant and rabbit production, and animal science software applications.

Prof. Okpanachi has held key academic leadership positions including Examination Officer, Head of Department, and currently Deputy Dean, Faculty of Agriculture.

He has over 82 scholarly publications, has presented at national and international conferences, and has taught and supervised undergraduate and postgraduate students. He has also served as an external examiner to universities within and outside Nigeria.

A Registered Animal Scientist (RAS), he is a member of several professional bodies, including ASAN, NSAP, NIAS, NIM, APRNet, and the Bioethics Society of Nigeria. His research focuses on low-cost animal feeds, greenhouse gas mitigation, and the use of natural antibiotics from medicinal plants. He is actively engaged in capacity building, livestock consultancy, and has attracted grants and consultancy support from organizations including the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

HIGHLIGHTED INSIGHTS

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TCoEFS STRENGTHENS NIGERIA'S AGROFORESTRY CAPACITY THROUGH CAMEROON STUDY VISIT

Yaoundé, Cameroon — June 5–13, 2025

The TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS) at the University of Jos recently participated in a high-level study visit to Cameroon under the Global Programme on Sustainable Agricultural Systems and Policies (GP AgSys). The programme, implemented by GIZ GmbH and commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), promotes sustainable agricultural practices and strengthens institutional frameworks for resilient food systems.

Representing Nigeria, Prof. Dauda Bawa, Director of TCoEFS, joined fellow academics and policymakers for a week of intensive workshops, field demonstrations, and peer-to-peer learning. The mission offered a unique opportunity to observe and engage with institutions that have successfully integrated agroforestry into both education and practical agriculture programs.

Sustainable agriculture is a central priority for Nigeria's food security strategy. With the pressures of climate change, soil degradation, and growing population, there is a pressing need to implement solutions that enhance productivity while conserving natural resources.



The Cameroon visit provided practical models and insights that TCoEFS can adapt for Nigerian contexts.

"This mission reinforced how agroforestry can boost productivity, restore soils, and strengthen resilience," said Prof. Bawa.



OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY VISIT

The mission focused on:

- Sharing strategies for integrating agroforestry and good agricultural practices (GAP) into academic curricula.

- Observing field-level demonstrations and farmer engagement models.
- Identifying institutional partnerships for staff training and joint research.
- Informing the development of Nigeria's National Agroforestry Training Manual and Green Colleges roll-out.

These objectives reflect TCoEFS's broader mission of linking research, education, and field application, ensuring that knowledge translates into tangible benefits for farmers and communities.



KEY LEARNINGS FROM THE VISIT

The programme combined theory and practice, offering a holistic perspective on agroforestry implementation.

Workshops in Yaoundé focused on curriculum design, assessment methods, and competency-based teaching strategies. Participants engaged with Cameroonian experts and GIZ technical teams to learn practical ways to embed sustainable agriculture into training programs.

Field Demonstrations allowed delegates to observe agroforestry plots and model farms showcasing tree-crop integration, soil conservation, water management, and post-harvest handling. These demonstrations highlighted the real-world impact of integrated systems on productivity and environmental resilience.

Extension Models emphasized farmer field schools and co-created learning approaches that position farmers as active innovators, ensuring that knowledge adoption is both practical and sustainable.

Institutional Coordination sessions illustrated how ministries, training colleges, and development partners align curricula, field activities, and policies to achieve scalable, coordinated programs.



APPLYING LESSONS IN NIGERIA

TCoEFS plans to translate these insights into concrete actions:

- Curriculum Integration: Embed agroforestry modules with hands-on practicums in partner colleges.
- Demonstration Plots: Establish pilot farms linked to training programs for real-life learning experiences.
- Assessment Tools: Develop rubrics and teaching aids to measure practical competencies and learning outcomes.

This approach ensures that students and extension staff not only learn concepts in the classroom but also acquire the skills to implement them effectively in the field.

STRATEGIC NEXT STEPS

Looking ahead, TCoEFS will:

- Expand Curriculum: Integrate agroforestry and regenerative practices into university courses and certificate programs.
- Research & Demonstration: Launch pilot agroforestry blocks for training, data collection, and technology validation.
- Training of Trainers: Build a nationwide cadre of lecturers, extension staff, and graduate fellows to cascade skills.
- Strategic Partnerships: Explore MoUs with Cameroonian institutions and expand collaboration under GP AgSys.



APPRECIATION

TCoEFS extends sincere gratitude to GIZ Nigeria, GIZ Cameroon, and BMZ for funding and organizing the programme. The Centre also acknowledges the Green Colleges Initiative and all partner institutions whose collaboration made the mission a success.

FEATURED INSIGHTS

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TETFUND MONITORING AND EVALUATION TEAM UNDERTAKES STRATEGIC REVIEW OF TCoEFS

University of Jos, June 4, 2025

The TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS), University of Jos, recently hosted a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team from the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) Head Office as part of its routine oversight and institutional support process for Centers of Excellence.

The visit focused on assessing implementation progress, strengthening accountability frameworks, and identifying opportunities to enhance the Centre's delivery of its mandate in research, capacity development, and policy engagement.

During the engagement, the M&E team held interactive sessions with students affiliated with the Centre, providing a platform for participants to share their academic experiences, research exposure, and professional aspirations. The discussions offered valuable insights into the Centre's growing role in shaping high-level human capital in food environment studies.



The team also met with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jos, Prof. Tanko Ishaya and the Director of TCoEFS, Prof. Dauda Bawa where key achievements to date were reviewed, ongoing



projects were outlined, and strategic priorities for the next phase of implementation were discussed.

Emphasis was placed on strengthening institutional systems, expanding interdisciplinary collaboration, and deepening the Centre's impact at national and regional levels.



In their remarks, the TETFund delegation commended the progress recorded by the Centre and offered strategic guidance on sustaining momentum, enhancing implementation efficiency, and aligning future activities with global best practices. The visit reaffirmed TETFund's commitment to supporting excellence, innovation, and accountability across its funded Centers.

POLICY AND PRACTICE

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TCoEFS LEADS STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION REFORM AT SENATE SESSION

Abuja, Nigeria — July 24, 2025



The TETFUND Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS) – University of Jos took an active role in the pivotal Senate Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions' stakeholder interactive session held on July 24, 2025, at the National Assembly Complex, Abuja. The event was hosted by the Federal Republic of Nigeria's Senate, and the theme of the session, "Challenges and Opportunities in Agricultural Education," underscored the need for comprehensive reforms to strengthen agricultural colleges and institutions across the nation.

Chaired by Senator Sharafadeen Abiodun Alli, the session's primary objective was to engage collaboratively with all stakeholders in the agricultural education sector. Senator Alli outlined the Senate Committee's reform agenda and work plan, which aims to transform agricultural education in Nigeria into a globally competitive, climate-smart, and innovation-driven system.

The session was not just another meeting, but a pivotal step in addressing the current challenges facing agricultural colleges. Key issues such as outdated curricula, inadequate infrastructure, and limited industry partnerships were discussed.

The TCoEFS team, including Professor Dauda Bawa, was actively involved in deliberations on modernizing Nigeria's agricultural education framework to better align with global best practices.

A major highlight of the session was the announcement that Nigeria will lead a delegation of agricultural educators and stakeholders to the COP30 Climate Conference in Brazil. This global event will provide a platform to showcase Nigeria's agricultural innovations and promote the country's green colleges as models for climate-resilient food systems.



The Senate's involvement in this conference aims to position Nigeria as a leader in climate-smart agricultural practices and foster international partnerships to drive knowledge transfer and investment in sustainable agriculture.

Promise Amahah, Technical Consultant to the Senate Committee, highlighted the significance of Nigeria's participation at COP30, saying that the delegation would not only showcase local agricultural innovations but also advocate for the integration of green institutions into the global conversation on sustainable agriculture.

During the session, the Senate also outlined plans for the First Legislative Summit and Expo on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions, scheduled for October 2025.



This initiative will provide a platform for stakeholders to discuss research, innovations, and policy reforms that will reshape Nigeria's agricultural education landscape. Additionally, a Global Benchmarking Tour is planned for early 2026, where Nigerian representatives will visit leading agricultural institutions in Brazil and the European Union to study best practices.

TCoEFS, in collaboration with development partners like the German development agency GIZ and Sasakawa Africa, stressed the importance of integrating agroforestry modules into agricultural college curricula. GIZ's representative, Lata Rieger, applauded the Senate's leadership in driving innovation within Nigeria's agricultural education system, calling for the institutionalization of agroforestry training across the country.

Professor Dauda Bawa, speaking on behalf of Sasakawa-GIZ, emphasized that agroforestry integration would help build a more resilient and sustainable food system. He urged that these programs be embedded within Nigeria's national agricultural education framework. Through the collaboration between TCoEFS and Sasakawa-GIZ, crop-specific agroforestry training programs, including those for rice, cassava, and Irish potatoes, are already being developed and incorporated into the curriculum of agricultural institutions across Nigeria.

As the session concluded, there was a renewed commitment from all stakeholders to support the shared vision of transforming Nigeria's agricultural education system into one that is future-ready, climate-resilient, and globally competitive. The Senate's reform agenda, bolstered by TCoEFS's advocacy, aims to ensure that Nigeria's agricultural colleges become incubators of innovation, research, and entrepreneurship, ultimately contributing to the nation's food security and sustainable development.

AGROFORESTRY INTEGRATION AND COLLABORATION

TCoEFS, in collaboration with development partners such as GIZ and Sasakawa Africa, emphasized the importance of embedding agroforestry modules into agricultural college curricula.

Lata Rieger, GIZ representative, applauded the Senate's leadership in promoting innovation in Nigeria's agricultural education system and highlighted the need to institutionalize agroforestry training nationwide.

Speaking on behalf of Sasakawa-GIZ, Prof. Dauda Bawa noted that agroforestry integration is critical to building a resilient and sustainable food system. He stressed that crop-specific agroforestry programs for rice, cassava, and Irish potatoes are already being developed and incorporated into the curriculum of agricultural institutions across Nigeria.

"Embedding agroforestry into agricultural education ensures that students and farmers are equipped with the skills to build a sustainable and climate-resilient food system," said Prof. Bawa.

A SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE

As the session concluded, stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to transform Nigeria's agricultural education system into a future-ready, climate-resilient, and globally competitive framework.

The Senate's reform agenda, supported by TCoEFS advocacy and development partners, aims to position agricultural colleges as incubators of innovation, research, and entrepreneurship, ultimately contributing to national food security and sustainable development.

FROM STRATEGY TO ACTION

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UNIVERSITY OF JOS ALLOCATES DEDICATED FACILITY FOR TCoEFS LABORATORY DEVELOPMENT

University of Jos, July 23, 2025

The University of Jos has taken a significant step toward strengthening its research and innovation ecosystem with the allocation of a dedicated building to serve as the future laboratory facility for the TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS). This strategic decision underscores the University's growing commitment to advancing cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research that addresses pressing challenges in food systems, nutrition, and public health.

The allocated facility was recently inspected by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Tanko Ishaya of the University of Jos, accompanied by the Deputy Administrator, Prof. Joash Amupitan in a visit that reaffirmed the institution's strong institutional backing for the Centre. The inspection provided an opportunity to assess the suitability of the building for its intended purpose and to outline the next phases of development required to transform the space into a fully functional, modern research laboratory.



Although the building is yet to be fully equipped, its formal allocation represents a major milestone in the growth trajectory of TCoEFS. Once furnished with state-of-the-art laboratory infrastructure and equipment, the facility will support advanced scientific research, postgraduate training, and multidisciplinary collaborations. It is expected to serve as a hub for innovative studies aimed at improving food environments, enhancing nutrition outcomes, and informing evidence-based public health policies.



Complementing this development, the University has also allocated four hectares of land to the Centre. This land will be utilized for research, training, and demonstration activities, enabling field-based experimentation, pilot interventions, and applied learning that translate research outputs into scalable, real-world solutions.

Together, the provision of a purpose-designated laboratory facility and dedicated land allocation positions TCoEFS as a fully operational, impact-driven Centre of Excellence, reinforcing its readiness to deliver innovation, capacity building, and policy-relevant outcomes at national and global levels.



Complementing the laboratory development, the University of Jos has also allocated four hectares of land to the Centre. This expansive land resource will be dedicated to research, training, and demonstration activities. It will enable field-based experimentation, pilot interventions, and applied learning initiatives designed to bridge the gap between academic research and real-world impact.

The integration of a purpose-designated laboratory facility with substantial land for field research places TCoEFS in a strong position to deliver on its mandate as an impact-driven Centre of Excellence. Together, these provisions enhance the Centre's capacity to generate high-quality research outputs, build human capital, and translate scientific findings into scalable solutions with relevance at local, national, and global levels.



This development further reinforces the University of Jos's role as a leading institution committed to innovation, capacity building, and policy-relevant research, while positioning TCoEFS as a key contributor to addressing complex challenges within food systems and public health across Africa and beyond.



FROM PLANNING TO PERFORMANCE

TCoEFS CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP: REPOSITIONING FOR PERFORMANCE, SUSTAINABILITY, AND IMPACT

University of Jos, July 23, 2025

**TETFUND CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN FOOD SECURITY,
UNIVERSITY OF JOS.**

WORKSHOP TRAINING

**FOUR-DAY CAPACITY
BUILDING TRAINING
WORKSHOP FOR TCoEFS
STAFF**

**Theme: Repositioning TCoEFS for Teaching, Research,
Innovation Excellence and Institutional Sustainability**

Meet Our Speaker

PROF. OLUKAYODE AKINYEMI
DVC ACADEMICS, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA (FUNAAB)
TRAINER

PROF. TANKO ISHAYA
VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF JOS
CHIEF HOST

PROF. DAUDA BAWA
DIRECTOR, TETFUND CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE IN FOOD SECURITY
HOST

Date : 22nd – 25th September 2025.

Venue: Miango Rest Home, Miango, Jos.

The TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS) successfully convened a Four-Day Capacity Building Workshop from 22nd to 25th September 2025 at Miango Rest Home, Jos. Travel days were designated on 21st and 26th September. The facilitators at the workshop were Prof. Olukayode Akinyemi, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Prof. Olusesan Adeboye Fafiolu, Director Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Development and Sustainable Environment (CEADESE) FUNAAB, and Dr. Comfort Ochepo of the Directorate of Research and Development/Centres of Excellence, TETFund.



At four years and six months into its implementation, the Centre had not fully delivered on its TETFund mandate. The workshop, initiated by Professor Dauda Bitrus Bawa, Director of TCoEFS, aimed to realign the Centre's strategies, strengthen capacities, and accelerate its impact in food security through teaching, research, innovation, and institutional sustainability.

The workshop opened with remarks from Vice-Chancellor Professor Tanko Ishaya, who emphasized that food security remains one of Nigeria's most pressing priorities. He reminded participants that Centres of Excellence are performance-driven initiatives designed to deliver measurable outcomes. The Vice-Chancellor urged participants to reflect on TCoEFS's journey, align programs with TETFund Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs), and implement strategies to enhance visibility, credibility, and long-term impact.



In his welcome address, Professor Dauda Bawa highlighted the urgent need to strengthen industry partnerships, launch postgraduate and short courses, and develop sustainable revenue-generation mechanisms. He described the workshop as a platform for reflection, realignment, and strategic repositioning, ensuring the Centre meets its mandate and becomes a hub of excellence in food security.



The first day focused on foundations of Centre-based excellence. Participants explored the core principles of designing and operationalizing a high-performing Centre of Excellence. Sessions included institutionalization, curriculum development for postgraduate programs, and strategies for innovation and teamwork. Resource persons emphasized immediate actions, such as launching greenhouse crop production and poultry rearing to demonstrate early impact



Day two highlighted applied research, industry partnerships, and commercialization. The team visited key facilities, including the Tissue Culture Laboratory, prospective demonstration farm, animal farm, Veterinary Teaching Hospital, and TCoEFS offices. Dr. Comfort Ochepo of TETFund Monitoring & Evaluation reinforced the performance-based orientation of the Centre, urging participants to convert strategic objectives into practical, time-bound actions.

Discussions also centered on strengthening human resource capacity, initiating postgraduate programs, and developing income-generating projects. Emphasis was placed on creating strategic partnerships with leading agricultural companies, improving visibility through branding, and linking research outputs to real-world solutions.



Day three focused on DLIs implementation and strategic planning. Participants visited the Miango Rest Home Farm, observing vegetable cultivation and irrigation systems designed for year-round production. Recommendations included introducing battery cage fish farming and reviewing the TCoEFS Implementation Plan (2021–2025) to prioritize tangible outputs before December 2025.

Immediate action points included bell pepper cultivation, poultry operations, short course launches, and the development of three postgraduate programs. Staff were encouraged to publish research outputs under the Centre's name to enhance visibility and academic reputation.



The final day centered on consolidation, networking, and planning next steps. Thematic teams presented proposals for postgraduate programs, short courses, and income-generating ventures aligned with the Centre's mandate. Prof. Olukayode Akinyemi, joining virtually, emphasized cross-team collaboration, international partnerships, and focus on DLI-aligned activities.



The workshop concluded with a closing ceremony, including certificates of participation, Unijos-branded souvenirs, and a group photograph. Professor Bawa thanked the Vice-Chancellor, resource persons, and TETFund representatives, urging participants to translate workshop outcomes into actionable steps to ensure measurable progress in food security research, training, and innovation.



Post-workshop feedback highlighted high satisfaction. Participants praised the relevance of content, practical exercises, and facility tours. Teamwork, innovation, accountability, and actionable strategies were key takeaways. Suggestions included regular refresher trainings, better time management, and maintaining focus on immediate practical outputs such as greenhouse farming, poultry production, short courses, and academic publications.



Overall, the workshop was described as a resounding success, equipping TCoEFS staff with knowledge and strategies to drive performance, sustainability, and long-term impact.



FROM ENGAGEMENT TO IMPACT

U.S. DELEGATION EVALUATES SMALL RUMINANT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES AT UNIVERSITY OF JOS

University of Jos, October 14, 2025



USLGE
U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc.



RSG

United States Livestock Genetics Export Inc. (USLGE) in conjunction with
Reproduction Specialty Group (RSG)

**DELEGATION FROM USLGE AND RSG
TO VISIT FOR EVALUATION OF
PROPOSED SMALL RUMINANT
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**



(SRDEP)



**TETFund CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN FOOD SECURITY
UNIVERSITY OF JOS
(TCoEFS)**



On October 14, 2025, a high-level delegation from the United States Livestock Genetics Export, Inc. (USLGE) and the Reproduction Specialty Group, Inc. (RSG) visited the University of Jos as part of the evaluation mission for the Small Ruminant Development Enhancement Project (SRDEP). Led by Dr. Martin Sieber (President/CEO, USLGE) and Mr. Doug Edge (Chief Strategy Officer, RSG), the delegation met with the leadership and technical teams of the TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS). The purpose was to assess the Centre's preparedness to implement SRDEP initiatives, review ongoing research and extension activities, and explore potential pathways for scaling small ruminant development interventions in Nigeria.



Prof. Dauda Bawa, Director of TCoEFS, presented the Centre's portfolio of applied research, capacity-building programs, and farmer-centered initiatives. He emphasized the Centre's readiness to contribute to sustainable livestock production, noting its operational structures, skilled personnel, and ongoing demonstration projects as critical enablers for rapid SRDEP implementation.



Dr. Sieber and Mr. Edge commended TCoEFS for its strong institutional framework, noting the Centre's focus on evidence-based interventions, capacity development, and integration of research outputs into practical solutions for smallholder farmers.

Following the engagement at TCoEFS, the delegation toured the University of Jos Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH), a key partner in livestock health and productivity. The visit included livestock wards, diagnostic laboratories, and veterinary research units.

During the tour, the delegation engaged with veterinary staff and researchers to review breeding programs, disease control measures, and clinical management systems. Prof. Bawa highlighted the hospital's role in supporting SRDEP objectives through practical training, veterinary services for small ruminant farmers, and applied research that enhances livestock resilience and productivity.



The delegation praised the VTH's operational efficiency, research capacity, and readiness to support collaborative interventions. They emphasized that institutions like TCoEFS and VTH are critical to ensuring SRDEP achieves measurable impact for smallholder farmers across Plateau State and beyond.

The visit reaffirmed TCoEFS's position as a strategically prepared, high-impact research and training hub capable of leading small ruminant development initiatives.



The Centre's infrastructure, experienced staff, and established partnerships with farmers, research institutes, and extension services demonstrate a high degree of operational readiness.

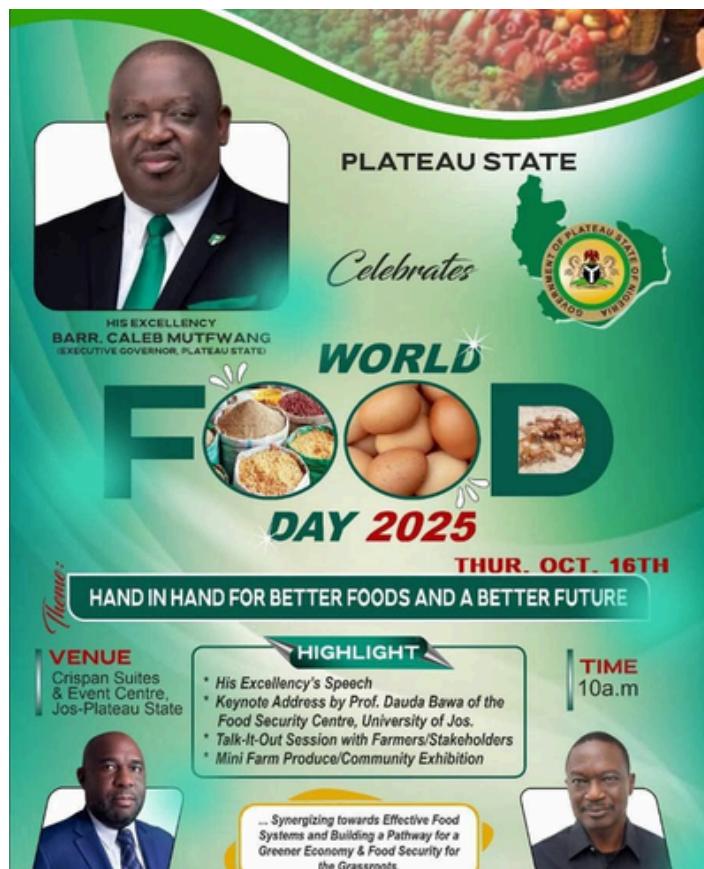
By integrating applied research, capacity-building, and practical extension interventions, TCoEFS is positioned to deliver on SRDEP objectives while contributing to national livestock productivity and food security goals.



FROM VISION TO FOOD SECURITY

TCoEFS LEADS THE WAY: DIRECTOR PRESENTS STRATEGIC ROADMAP AT PLATEAU STATE'S WORLD FOOD DAY 2025

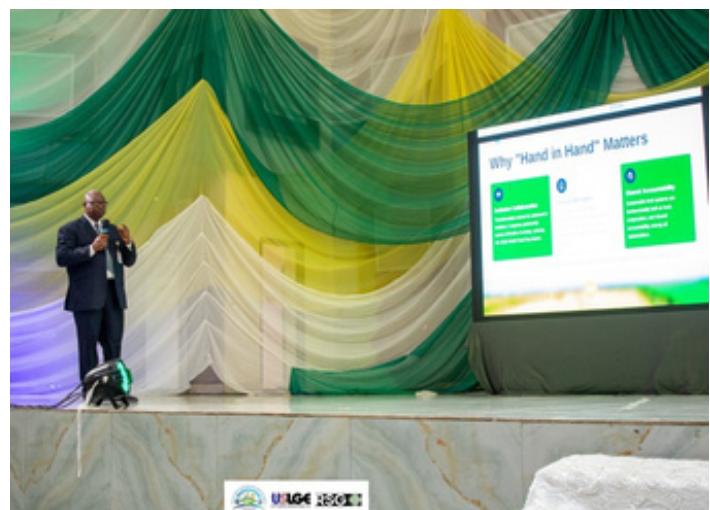
University of Jos, October 18, 2025



The TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS), University of Jos, proudly joined the Plateau State Government in commemorating World Food Day 2025, under the global theme: "Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future."

The event highlighted the critical role of collaboration in driving sustainable food and nutrition security. Special appreciation was extended to His Excellency, Barrister Caleb M. Mutfwang the Executive Governor of Plateau State, for his visionary leadership, as well as to the Honourable Commissioners for Agriculture, Livestock Development, Veterinary Services, and Fisheries, and the entire Ministry of Agriculture

team for their commitment to advancing the state's food agenda.



During the event, Prof. Dauda Bawa, Director of TCoEFS, delivered a keynote presentation outlining a strategic roadmap for transforming Plateau State's food systems. The presentation emphasized research, innovation, and partnerships as the pillars for building resilient, inclusive, and nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

Prof. Bawa highlighted the Centre's commitment to applied research and farmer-centered interventions, demonstrating TCoEFS's readiness to drive measurable impact in local agricultural value chains. He stressed that advancing "Better Foods" requires alignment of production systems with nutritional needs, improved post-harvest management, and enhanced access to markets.



Plateau State, often described as the “Food Basket of the Middle Belt,” offers fertile soils, diverse agroecological zones, and a favorable high-altitude climate. The region produces crops such as potatoes, maize, rice, vegetables, and legumes, alongside significant livestock and poultry farming. However, local productivity faces challenges including climatic variability, limited access to improved technologies, post-harvest losses, and socio-economic inequalities, particularly affecting women farmers. Despite these constraints, the state’s vibrant agribusiness ecosystem, research institutions, and youth population create immense opportunities for food system transformation.

Livestock and poultry are vital components of Plateau State’s food and economic landscape. The proposed Plateau State Livestock Masterplan envisions harnessing the state’s pasture resources, high-altitude climate, and veterinary infrastructure to scale dairy, meat, and poultry production.

Key strategies include sustainable pasture development, modern ranching clusters, improved feed production, and cold-chain systems. These interventions are expected to increase productivity, generate income for rural households, and reduce post-harvest losses while promoting peace through regulated grazing practices.



The “Better Foods” vision integrates climate-smart practices, agroforestry, water-efficient irrigation, and soil restoration to enhance resilience. TCoEFS continues to promote interventions such as drought-resistant crops, conservation agriculture, modular cold storage, and biofortified crops to improve nutritional outcomes and stabilize farmer incomes.



The Centre emphasizes inclusivity by empowering youth, women, and marginalized farmers through training, digital agri-tech solutions, and access to improved seeds and extension services. These initiatives ensure that food system transformation is equitable, sustainable, and community-driven.



Plateau State’s pathway to a “Better Future” envisions an agricultural ecosystem that is innovative, resilient, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable. By aligning local interventions with global best practices and SDGs, Plateau can serve as a model for nutrition-sensitive, climate-smart, and commercially viable agriculture in Nigeria and West Africa.

TCoEFS stands ready to lead this transformation, leveraging partnerships with research institutions, government agencies, and development partners such as FAO, IFAD, and WFP, ensuring that collaborative efforts translate into real impact for smallholder farmers and communities.

VISION TO STATEWIDE IMPACT

TCoEFS BRIEFS PLATEAU STATE GOVERNOR ON STRATEGIC FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVES FOLLOWING WORLD FOOD DAY 2025

University of Jos, October 18, 2025



Following the Plateau State Government's World Food Day 2025 celebrations, the TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS), University of Jos, engaged in a high-level briefing with His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Plateau State. The session highlighted the Centre's recent evaluations, ongoing initiatives, and future strategic plans for enhancing sustainable food systems across the state.

During the World Food Day event, held under the theme "Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future," the Governor was represented, while the TCoEFS team actively showcased the Centre's research-led approaches, innovative strategies, and ongoing interventions in agriculture and livestock development. Immediately after the ceremony, Prof. Dauda Bawa, Director of TCoEFS, alongside the Plateau State Commissioner of Agriculture, Hon. Samson Ishaku Bugama paid a working visit to the Governor at the Government House.

The discussions focused on the outcomes of recent field evaluations, strategic initiatives in livestock and crop value chains, and the proposed interventions under the Small Ruminant Development Enhancement Project (SRDEP).

The Governor was briefed on the Centre's on-ground achievements, recent innovations, and potential plans for scaling sustainable food security solutions. Emphasis was placed on the role of research, international collaboration, and farmer-centered approaches in driving productivity, resilience, and inclusive growth in Plateau State's agricultural sector.

This engagement underscored TCoEFS's readiness to implement transformative interventions, leveraging evidence-based strategies to strengthen food systems, enhance nutrition-sensitive production, and support climate-smart agriculture. It also reinforced the state's commitment to collaboration with research institutions, international partners, and local stakeholders to achieve a resilient, sustainable, and prosperous agricultural landscape.



FROM STRATEGY TO IMPACT

POULTRY PRODUCTION AND UPCOMING BELL PEPPER COMMITMENT TO FOOD SECURITY AND INNOVATION

University of Jos, October 18, 2025

TETFUND CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN FOOD SECURITY - UNIVERSITY OF JOS
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Jos, Nigeria.

Building on recommendations from a capacity-building workshop facilitated by Professor Adeboye O. Fafiolu, TCoEFS established a high-yield poultry production as a proof of concept for sustainable, market-oriented food production.

The project successfully raised over 1,500 broiler chickens, each attaining an average live weight of over 4 kg, reflecting sound husbandry practices, effective feed management, and strong technical oversight. Beyond production success, the most significant outcome was the rapid market absorption of the broilers, which were sold out faster than anticipated, confirming strong demand for safe, locally produced poultry.

This outcome demonstrates that the initiative not only met its production objectives but also directly addressed food security needs, supplying high-quality animal protein to households, retailers, restaurants, hotels, and bulk buyers within the University community and surrounding areas.

The swift sell-out of the poultry stock underscores the Centre's ability to translate research and training into real economic and food security outcomes. Rather than operating as a marketing exercise, the poultry initiative served as implementation evidence, reinforcing TCoEFS's readiness to deliver scalable, demand-driven solutions.

Building on the success of the poultry project, TCoEFS is preparing to launch a bell pepper greenhouse production initiative. This next phase will focus on climate-smart horticulture, diversification of food production, and expanded hands-on training for students, staff, and local farmers.

The greenhouse project is designed to further strengthen food system resilience, enhance year-round production, and create additional revenue and learning opportunities aligned with sustainable agriculture principles.



Through these initiatives, TCoEFS continues to demonstrate that food security is achieved not only through research and policy dialogue, but through deliberate implementation, market engagement, and delivery of results. The Centre remains committed to transforming knowledge into action that strengthens livelihoods, builds capacity, and supports sustainable food systems across Plateau State and beyond.



LEARN MORE

Discover how the TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS) is advancing research, innovation, and policy-relevant solutions for sustainable food systems in Nigeria and beyond.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

TCoEFS invites partners to join in scaling impact across research, policy, and practice:

Private Sector and Enterprise Engagement

Partnerships in agribusiness development, demonstration farms, value addition, greenhouse production, poultry and livestock systems, and sustainable food supply chains.



Research and Academic Collaboration

Joint research in food security, climate-smart agriculture, livestock and crop production systems, nutrition, food environments, and evidence-based policy analysis.

Community, Extension, and Capacity Building

Collaboration on farmer training, youth and women-led agribusiness initiatives, extension services, and applied learning programmes that translate research into practice.

"Strategic partnerships with government institutions, development partners, academia, and the private sector remain central to TCoEFS's mission. Through collaboration, we are translating research into action and strengthening resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems." – TCoEFS Management

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PRODUCTIVITY TIPS

TCoEFS Tips for Food Security, Innovation & Sustainability



01 Embrace Agricultural Innovation

Use modern tools, climate-smart techniques, and precision farming to boost productivity and efficiency.

02 Promote Sustainable Agroforestry

Integrate trees with crops and livestock to improve soil fertility, reduce erosion, and provide extra income.

03 Improve Post-Harvest Practices

Adopt proper storage, processing, and handling to reduce losses and enhance food quality.

04 Efficient Resource Management

Practice crop rotation, water harvesting, and organic fertilization to protect the environment and increase yields.



Did You Know?

- Up to 30–50% of agricultural produce in Nigeria is lost after harvest due to poor handling, storage, and transport — meaning nearly half of what farmers grow never reaches the market.
- Worldwide, over 1.3 billion tonnes of food are lost or wasted each year — that's food produced but never eaten, impacting food security globally.
- Integrating trees into farms (agroforestry) improves soil structure, increases nutrient cycling, and supports long-term productivity — making farms more resilient to climate shocks.
- Many smallholder farmers in Nigeria produce less than half their potential output per hectare due to limited access to finance, land titles, and modern inputs.
- Climate-smart agriculture practices, such as drought-tolerant seeds and soil conservation, can significantly boost crop yields and help farmers adapt to changing weather patterns.



Compliment of the Season

As we celebrate the festive season, I extend warm appreciation to all our partners, collaborators, and stakeholders for your invaluable support this year. On behalf of the TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security (TCoEFS), University of Jos, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

May the coming year bring renewed collaboration, innovation, and measurable impact in advancing food security.

Prof. Dauda Bawa,
Director,
TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security
University of Jos

Contact Us:

Are you passionate about food systems, climate-resilient agriculture, or rural innovation? So are we. Let's connect.

[Learn More](#)

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Don't miss the gallery from all our events — Also live on our social media handles



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VISION STATEMENT:

To be a Centre of Excellence for training and applied research that enhance households' food security and improved livelihoods in Nigeria and Africa.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Our applied research in Food security is to enhance access by all people to safe and nutritious food needed to maintain a healthy and active life and are not at risk of losing such access.

...Feeding the Future through knowledge and Innovation



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