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Inaugural Editorial: The Beginning of an Intellectual Journey

It is with great pleasure and a profound sense of accomplishment that we present the maiden edition of the *Journal of the Science of Food and Agricultural Development (JSFAD)*, Volume 1, Issue 1, hosted on the Kwara State University (KWASU) Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform. This landmark publication marks the realisation of a vision conceived to strengthen scholarly communication in the agricultural sciences and to establish a credible, accessible, and home-based platform where researchers, academics, professionals, and policymakers can share high -quality scientific findings with local, national, and global communities.

JSFAD was established in response to the growing need for a dedicated multidisciplinary journal that provides timely publication of scientific research, particularly for scholars in agriculture and related fields. The journal emerged from the recognition that researchers often face significant delays in disseminating their findings and that there is a need for additional reputable outlets capable of supporting academic advancement and research visibility. Beyond fulfilling promotion requirements, JSFAD was founded with the broader objective of contributing meaningfully to scientific innovation, agricultural transformation, food security, rural development, and sustainable livelihoods, in consonance with KWASU's mantra as the Green University for Community Development and Entrepreneurship.

The journal draws its strength from the rich academic diversity within the Faculty of Agriculture, KWASU, and its scope encompasses the broad disciplines of Crop and Soil Sciences, Animal Production and Health, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Food Science and Technology, and Agricultural Economics and Extension Services. By covering these diverse areas, JSFAD aims to drive agricultural development, value addition, rural growth, foster collaboration among researchers, and address complex contemporary agricultural and food-system challenges.

The journal's establishment was guided by an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and integrity. The Editorial Board was carefully constituted based on a track record of scholarly achievement, research productivity, mentorship, and professional experience. Associate Editors were selected from various departments within the faculty to ensure effective handling of submissions by area of specialisation, guaranteeing rigorous double peer review by at least two reviewers and upholding high editorial standards.

The articles published in this maiden edition reflect the breadth of the journal's mandate. Contributions span Crop and Soil Management, Animal Production, Food Safety, Food Microbiology, and Agricultural Innovations, showcasing original research that addresses practical challenges facing agriculture, food systems, and community development. The diversity of topics underscores the journal's commitment to publishing research with both scientific merit and societal relevance.

As a biannual publication appearing in March and September, JSFAD is dedicated to maintaining a sustainable publication model that supports quality peer review, editorial efficiency, and long-term accessibility. By embracing both national and international perspectives, the journal aspires to become a respected platform for the exchange of knowledge and evidence-based solutions that advance agricultural and food-sector development.

This inaugural issue would not have been possible without the support and dedication of numerous individuals and institutions. We sincerely acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Editorial Board, Associate Editors, reviewers, authors, and all stakeholders who believed in the vision of this journal and worked tirelessly to bring it to fruition.

Our gratitude goes to the Vice-Chancellor, Management, and the Director of the Strategic Planning Unit of KWASU for their support. We also express our profound appreciation to Professor Abdul Kabir Hussain Solihu, Director of the Centre for Research and Development (CR&D), and the entire CR&D team at KWASU for their outstanding effort, guidance, and institutional backing that facilitated the successful online publication of this first volume and issue. The technical assistance, encouragement, and commitment provided by the Centre played a pivotal role in overcoming the administrative and technical challenges associated with the launch of a new scholarly publication.

As we release this maiden issue, we reaffirm our commitment to promoting quality scholarship, fostering innovation, and supporting evidence-based agricultural development. We invite researchers, practitioners, industry stakeholders, and policymakers to join us in this journey by contributing their finest work and engaging with the knowledge shared through JSFAD.

The publication of Volume 1, Issue 1 marks not merely the beginning of a journal but the commencement of a lasting intellectual contribution to scientific advancement, agricultural transformation, and sustainable development. We look forward to building a vibrant community of scholars whose research will continue to shape the future of food systems, agriculture, and rural livelihoods in Nigeria, Africa, and beyond.



Prof. David F. Apata
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of the Science of Food and Agricultural Development (JSFAD)