



AUTHORSHIP AND CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE BY HORTICULTURAL SCIENTISTS FROM 1996 – 2007 IN NIGERIA

FAGBOLA, BOLANLE OLUYEMISI

Department of Information and Documentation

National Horticultural Research Institute

P.M.B. 5432, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

bovicym@yahoo.co.uk

ABSTRACT

There are many factors that can motivate or demotivate conference attendance in developing countries such as Nigeria. Some conferences are general and can attract large attendants such as science associations or agricultural associations. Can similar things be happening in specialised fields like horticulture? Hence, Nigerian Horticultural conference attendance vis venue of conference among researchers, authorship pattern as well as contributions of authors from various institutions were investigated in this study. A total of five hundred and thirty nine (539) articles published in HORTSON proceedings from 1996 to 2007 were analysed. It was observed that collaborative research has preference over solitary research during the period under consideration in this study. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the articles published from 1996 to 2007 were co-authored. The Universities (41.9%) had the highest contributions closely followed by Nigerian Research Institutes (31.5%) in terms of number of publications. The locations of the conference do not reduce the number of participants. Conference participants of 1996 held at Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State recorded the highest number of participants, closely followed by Kano State with 129 participants in the year 2004. To encourage cross fertilization of ideas, students, pupils researchers as well as senior scientists should be encouraged to attend and participate more in HORTSON conference. This will increase productivity of horticultural scientists.

Keywords: Conference participants; Horticulture; Authorship pattern; Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Conference attendance plays a significant role in enriching the professional development of scientists and is highly priced among scientists globally. Participation in conferences enables scientists to improve their articles by getting feedback through questions and discussions of other researchers in the conference. It helps researchers to disseminate their research findings and extend their professional network (Brogaard *et al.*, 2014, Reinartz and Urban, 2016). Batson (2018) asserted the benefit of attending professional conferences to include professional development among others. This, according to the author, will significantly enrich the professional life of an attendee thereby giving him or her satisfaction, networking and informal sharing among colleagues. This is a vital valuable experience of a conference. Up-to date

information on new discoveries are also discussed and disseminated to delegates. Zhanga *et al.* (2007) stated that “conference program can satisfy the attendees’ by offering them an opportunity to keep up with any changes in their professional field and learn new skills”. Tonford *et al.* (2007) gave five factors that have impact on conference attendees as program, networking, location, cost and external activities. Research on authorship pattern and publications is a prominent area of knowledge generation by library professionals (Arya and Sharma, 2018). It is of importance that pattern of authorship in a very important research field like horticulture be examined. This paper therefore seek to identify research articles contributions by year at HORTSON conferences. Identify the degree of collaboration by author(s), examine contributions by Institutions and find out the relationship between venue of



conference and number of attendees at the conference.

METHODOLOGY

Horticultural Society of Nigerian was founded in 1977. A total of five hundred and thirty nine (539) articles published in Horticultural Society of Nigeria (HORTSON) proceedings from 1996 to 2007 were analysed. The factors examined include authorship trend, conference venue, conference attendance, date of conference, and contributions of various Institutions. Data were generated based on the objective of the study and analysed using descriptive statistics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study investigated the intellectual activities of scientists published in the conference proceedings of the Horticultural Society of Nigeria. The study cover a ten year period from 1996 to 2007 (1999 and 2006 exempted due to some inconsistencies observed in the proceedings, relative to the rest). Table 1 presents the year-wise distribution of the number of articles published. A total of five hundred and thirty nine (539) articles were published. The lowest number of articles was published in 2000 while the year with highest articles, 78 (14.5%) was in the year 2005. The contributions with reference to the number of papers reached a high point in year 2000.. This shows that the founding fathers of the Association were able to marshal their efforts in bringing together very good number of contributors to the conferences at the not too distant from its inception

In Table 2, conference of 1996 held at Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State from 1st – 4th April, 1996 recorded the highest number of participants (135), closely followed by Kano State with 129 participants in the year 2004. Hence, location/distance from

places of residence does not seem to affect participation of members in HORTSON conferences. More so, HORTSON draws her members from all over Nigeria. The findings of Dunjic *et al.* (2012) show that networking, gaining knowledge and conference program are key factors that affects conference attendance.

Table 3 reveals that joint authorship is prevalent among Horticultural Scientists. It can be deduced from the Table that out of five hundred and thirty nine (539) published articles, four hundred and ten (76%) were co-authored, hence the publications could be said to be skewed towards joint authorship. It has possibility of being more enriched going by the aphorism-“two heads are better than one”. The findings of the study also revealed that year 2001 had the highest single authored publications (37.3%) while year 2004 had the highest multiple authored publications (88.2%). Tables 4 and 5 showed the contribution of authors based on their institutions. The analysis revealed that Nigerian Universities (41.9%) had the highest contributions closely followed by Nigerian Research Institutes (31.5%).

CONCLUSION

Horticultural Society of Nigerian proceedings under study have shown collaboration among scientists. The two highest number of attendance at HORTSON conferences during the years under review are 1996 (Ago Iwoye, Ogun State, South-western Nigeria) and 2004 (Kano, Kano State, North-western Nigeria) suggesting that venue of the conferences had nothing to do with the number of scientists attending at the conferences.

REFERENCES

Arya, C. and Sharma, S. (2012) Authorship Trends and Collaborative Research in Veterinary



Sciences: A Bibliometric Study.
 Chinese Librarianship: an
 International Electronic Journal,
 34:38-47URL:
www.iclc.us/cliej/cl34AS.pdf.

Batsons, S. (2018) Benefits of Attending a
 Great Lakes Planetarium Association
 (GLPA) Conference
<https://glpa.org/sites/default/files/benefits-of-attending.pdf> Retrieved 20th
 September, 2018.

Brogaard, J., Engelberg, J., and Persons, C.A.
 (2014). Networks and Productivity:
 Casual evidence from editor rotations.
 Journal of Financial Economics
 111(1) 251-270.

Dunjic, J., Dragivcevic, V., Arsenovic, D.,
 Pantelic, M., and Stankov, U. (2012)
 Conference Attendances' Satisfaction:
 Evidence from Belgrade (Serbia).
 Turizam 16 (4) 170-179.

Reinartz, S.J. and Urban, D. (2016) Finance
 Conference Quality and Publication
 Success: A Conference Ranking.
https://www.idc.ac.il/he/whatsapp/Documents/reinartz-urban_conference%20-ranking.pdf
 Retrieved 20th September, 2018.

Tanford, S., Montgomery, R., and Nelson, B.
 (2012) Factors that influence Attendee
 satisfaction and Loyalty for
 Conventions. Journal of Convention
 and Event Tourism 13(4):490-318.

Zhanga, H.Q, Leunga, V., and Qu, H (2007) A
 Refined 22 model of factors affecting
 convention participation decision-
 making. Tourism Management
 28:1123-1127.

Table1: Year-wise distribution of articles published in HORTSON conference from 1996 to 2007

S/NO	Year	Venue of Conference and Date	Total number of participants
1	1996	Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State. 1-4 April,1996	135
2	1997	National Horticultural Research Institute, Idi-Ishin, Jericho, Ibadan, Oyo State.6 th -11 th April.	81
3	1998	University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State.7 th -10 th September.	81
4	2000	Institute for Agricultural Research, Samaru, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. May 28-June 1	81
5	2001	University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State. May 28-June 1.	77
6	2002	National Horticultural Research Institute, Idi-Ishin, Jericho, Ibadan, Oyo State.14 th -17 th May.	95
7	2003	National Horticultural Research Institute, Idi-Ishin, Jericho, Ibadan, Oyo State.10 th -13 th November.	118
8	2004	Duala Hotel, Hadejia Road, Kano, Kano State.4 th -9 th July.	129
9	2005	Rivers State College of Education, Rumuolumeni, Port-Harcourt. 18 th -22 nd September.	85
10	2007	National Horticultural Research Institute, Idi-Ishin, Jericho, Ibadan. Oyo State. 4 th -8 th November.	99
Total			981



Table 2: Venues of HORTSON conferences, date and number of participants from 1996 to 2007

S/No	Publication Year	Total articles published	Percentage (%)
1	1996	67	12.4
2	1997	59	10.9
3	1998	52	9.6
4	2000	32	5.9
5	2001	51	9.5
6	2002	69	12.8
7	2003	46	8.5
8	2004	34	6.3
9	2005	78	14.5
10	2007	51	9.5
Total		539	100

Table3: Single authored *vis* multi authored publications in HORTSON conference from 1996 to 2007

S/NO	Year	Single authored	Joint authored	Total articles published	%of Single authored articles	% of Joint authored articles
1	1996	24	43	67	35.8	64.1
2	1997	20	39	59	33.8	66.1
3	1998	19	33	52	36.5	63.5
4	2000	8	24	32	25	75
5	2001	19	32	51	37.3	62.7
6	2002	17	52	69	24.6	75.4
7	2003	6	40	46	13.0	86.9
8	2004	4	30	34	11.8	88.2
9	2005	7	71	78	8.9	91.0
10	2007	5	46	51	9.8	90.1
Total		129	410	539	23.9	76.1



Table 4: Contributions by Institutions in HORTSON conference from 1996 to 2007

S/NO	Year	Universities	Research Institutes	College of Agriculture/ Horticulture	College of Education	Others
1	1996	99	17	Nil	Nil	19
2	1997	29	42	Nil	Nil	10
3	1998	30	38	Nil	Nil	13
4	2000	40	26	Nil	Nil	15
5	2001	30	35	5	2	5
6	2002	32	33	7	2	3
7	2003	48	26	7	1	36
8	2004	33	23	21	Nil	52
9	2005	26	27	7	5	20
10	2007	37	36	9	2	15
	Total	404	303	56	12	188

Table5: Percentage contributions by Institutions to HORTSON conferences from 1991 to 2007

S/NO	Institutions	Percentage (%)
1.	Universities	41.9
2	Research Institutes	31.5
3	College of Agriculture/ Horticulture	5.8
4	College of Education	1.2
5	Others	19.5
Total		100