



**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 36TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE OF THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA (HORTSON)
HELD AT NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE LAFIA NASARAWA
STATE 18TH - 22ND NOVEMBER, 2018.**

BY DR H. A. AKINTOYE

PRESIDENT-IN-COUNCIL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA (HORTSON)

His Excellency, Alhaji Tanko Almakura, The Executive Governor of Nasarawa State

Members of the State Executive Council

Honorable Minister here present

Permanent Secretaries here present

Royal Highness

My Lord Spiritual and Temporal

The Vice Chancellor

Management of the University

The Senate of the University

HORTSON Fellows

All invited Guests

Representatives of various media/Press Crew

Ladies and Gentlemen

With great pleasure, I welcome you all to the 36th Annual Conference of the Horticultural Society of Nigeria (HORTSON). This is another landmark occurrence in the life of our Society as we converge in the ancient city of Lafia in Nasarawa State; the nation's "Home of Solid Minerals". We are enjoying the full support of the University with the presence of the Chief Host the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Suleiman Bala-Mohammed.

The theme of this Conference "Horticulture for Improved Food Security, Sustainable Environment and National Economic Growth" is very relevant and appropriate in the current



drive of making Agriculture which horticulture is an integral part has an alternative source of earning other than crude oil to increase the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the nation. This is indeed timely as the country coming out of recession.

HORTSON is reaching out with numerous publications to disseminate our research findings namely: The Nigeria Journal of Horticultural Science with a new Editor (the latest volume available for launching) and Proceeding of Annual Conference (available at the registration desk).

The proceedings of the 3rd All African Horticultural Congress that was hosted by Nigeria will soon be out as Nigeria has already sent the edited manuscripts to ISHS for publication in ACTA Horticulturae. We are quite happy to inform you also that 13 participants attended this year IHC Congress in Turkey. It is a great improvement on the number that we have recorded in the past.

Also, we are to prepare to attend the 4th All African Horticultural Congress that will be hosted by Senegal in 2020. In addition, the next IHC Congress will be coming up in Japan in 2022. We will want more Nigerians/HORTSON representative in these future events.

The meticulousness and commitment of the members of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of this conference is highly commended. There was no communication gap between the Council and the LOC which led to smooth preparation for this conference and for this we are particularly grateful.

The financial and moral support of organizations, the private sector, Fellows of the Society, and individuals to this Conference is highly appreciated.

Thank you all.

LONG LIVE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA,
LONG LIVE NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE LAFIA,
LONG LIVE NASARAWA STATE,
LONG LIVE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA.