



UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY

FOOD TECH NEWS



Highlights

News

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July - September, 2025

Brief on Department of Food Technology

Scholarships, Fellowships

UI-FOODTECH NEWS DEBUTS

Professor

G. L. Arueya

Head,
Department of Food Technology



This maiden edition of the Department of Food Technology, University of Ibadan e-Newsletter has been prepared with the intent of showcasing the Department to the wider world.

We would strive to periodically highlight our modest scientific breakthroughs, events and projects thus keeping all abreast with happenings in the Department. Major events involving our staff, students and indeed our Alumni with well written narratives will be encouraged for the benefit of all.

As this edition takes off, we remain grateful to the University of Ibadan led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. K. O. Adebawale, the Dean Faculty of Technology, Prof. A. I. Bamigboye, Members of Faculty Management Board and the entire Staff of the Department of Food Technology.

Developments of the 21st century in the world of Food Science and Technology are moving at a rather dizzying pace. Our Department cannot and will not be left out in the unfolding scheme of things.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY

With the creation of Institute of Applied Science and Technology at the University of Ibadan in 1967, a Faculty of Technology came on stream (1972/73 session) and thereafter (1975), four Departments including Department of Food Technology. Over the years the Department has grown to be a citadel of food research, with core vision aimed at providing dynamic and inclusive learning about various foods and equipping students with knowledge, skills and values that meet global standard.

The Department runs high quality undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Food Technology. Research areas are focused on improving traditional food processing practices, modern technology-driven food handling/storage techniques, packaging, extrusion technology, food microbiology, dairy technology, food safety and quality control, post-harvest technology, fruit and vegetable processing, food chemistry and food product development.

In years just gone by, the Department successfully migrated to a building complex constructed with the support of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) (2011-2014). All departmental staff offices, lecture rooms and laboratories (chemical, microbiological, processing and sensory evaluation) are housed here. The Department has a twin-screw extruder (courtesy Flour Mills Nigeria), a pilot insect rearing house and finally a Baking facility. Presently the department has a number of working partnerships with various food companies including Flour Mills (Nigeria) under the Chair (Prof. K. O. Falade) of George L. Coumantaorus.

The department is open to collaborations with other institutions of learning across the globe and hopefully would initiate professional food certificate courses in the near future to promote and bridge the gap currently been faced by Nigeria regarding food security.





Nigeria's Food Safety and Security: Solutions and Sustainability

Adebola O. Oladunjoye (PhD)
Senior Lecturer:
Department of Food Technology
University of Ibadan

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, faces a paradox: vast untapped agricultural potential chronic food insecurity and pervasive food safety challenges. According to the Global Hunger Index (2024), Nigeria was ranked 103rd position out of 125 countries, reflecting serious concerns in food availability, accessibility, and safety. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported that an estimated 25 million Nigerians faced acute food insecurity in preceding year. Evidently with this development, the inter linkage between food safety and food security has become imperative. Besides, an annual death toll of over 200,000 have been associated with contaminated food which not only exacerbate hunger and malnutrition but also pose grave public health threat.

Nigeria's food safety landscape is undermined by weak regulatory enforcement, infrastructural deficits, and poor handling practices across the supply chain. Street-vended foods, open markets, and informal agricultural processing dominate the food system, often operating outside the ambit of formal food safety governance. The indiscriminate use of agrochemicals, mycotoxin contamination and waterborne pathogens in irrigation and process water continue to represent critical hazards. Furthermore, limited surveillance capacity and fragmented institutional roles among agencies such as National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) have not helped matters either (Nordhagen, 2022).

In mitigating the aforementioned challenges a multi-pronged and system-based approach is a major requirement. Firstly, use of integrated policy reforms harmonizing food safety policies along with establishing a central coordinating authority is strongly advocated. This would be saddled with streamlined oversight and accountability function.

Secondly, capacity building by training farmers, vendors, and food processors on hygienic practices and hazard prevention; must be encouraged for the success of a risk-based approach to food safety. Thirdly, investing in infrastructure development via the cold chain, storage facilities, and food testing laboratories (especially in rural areas) is also vital in reducing contamination. Furthermore, strengthening research activity surveillance and partnership between academic institutions and regulatory bodies can make a difference. This should be especially in data collection geared at a better framework in evidence-based policymaking. Finally, promoting community engagement and use of ICT will promote food safety in Nigeria. Indeed using digital tools, mobile alerts, and community education targeted at bridging the knowledge gap at the grassroots level would make a difference.

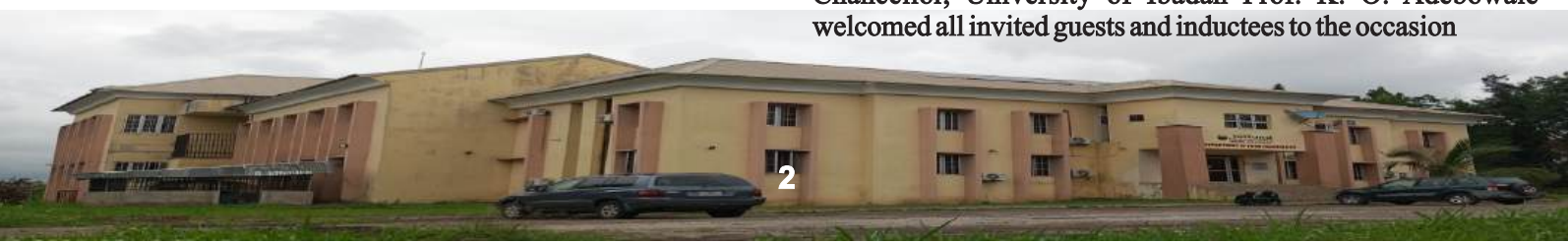
Undoubtedly, Food safety is foundational to achieving food security and public health. In today's Nigeria, sustainable food systems must prioritize safety as a non-negotiable standard. A resilient strategy grounded in regulation, education, robust infrastructure and innovation can transform Nigeria's vulnerable food sector into a sustainable, safe, and secure one.

NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY [NIFST] INDUCTION

The Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology through its Western Chapter recently conducted an induction ceremony for the graduating students of the Department. This was the third of its kind occurring within the department. In the past the students were inducted at NIFST conferences. A total of twenty-five (25) students found worthy in character and learning were inducted into the Institute.

The event was graced by the National President of NIFST Dr. Bola Osinowo (FNIST, FIAFoST) Western Chapter Chairperson Prof. Bolanle Aishat Akinwande (FNIST), Chairman for Oyo State Hospital Management Board, Mogaji Stephen Akin Fagbemi (PhD), Dean of the Faculty of Technology, Prof. A. I. Bamigboye, Staff members led by the Departmental Heads of Food Technology, Petroleum, Wood Products/Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical/Electronics and other Faculty staff, family-friends and members of the inductees. The event was chaired by the Dr. Julius Gbolade Famoriyo, Chairman, Jaagee Nig. Ltd. Ibadan.

The Dean, Faculty of Technology on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, University of Ibadan Prof. K. O. Adebowale welcomed all invited guests and inductees to the occasion



hosted by the Department of Food. He enjoined the graduating students to be good ambassadors of the Department and indeed the University at large.

The National President of NIFST, Dr. Bola Osinowo charged the Inductees to uphold the professionalism and training imbibed over the past five years of study. He reminded the inductees of NIFST regulations as well as the law establishing NCFST (Nigerian Council of Food Science and Technology) Act Cap A2 LFN of 15th October, 2019. According to him the body is saddled with the responsibility of defining and upholding professional standards of competence, integrity and ethical behaviour among food practitioners in line with best global practices. The law also prescribes that critical control areas of our food supply chain are handled in the best interests and well-being of all food consumers. The Inductees were further encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities while remaining accountable.

The Western Chapter Chairperson Prof. Bolanle Aishat Akinwande on behalf of all members of the Chapter, , appreciated the Department for the day's ceremony. She implored the inductees to represent the department effectively and strive to stand out among their peers in the wider world. She reminded them that the University of Ibadan is known for wealth of unadulterated knowledge and sound training of professionals who lead in spheres of life.

APPOINTMENTS

The Vice Chancellor, University of Ibadan, Prof. K. O. Adebowale, has appointed (17 July 2025) Prof. A. A Olapade as Hall Master of Alumni P.G Hall. This is for a period of three years starting 01 August 2025.

HONORS

Ms Nimotallahi Olajumoke RAJI one of our students, has emerged as one of the winners of "The SophiA Train Project" on Sustainable Off-grid Solutions for Pharmacies and Hospitals in Africa. This is an European Union Commission supported program initiated in 2021 under the Horizon 2020 Project.



Meet the First Emeritus Professor, Department of Food Technology

Prof. Ogugua Charles Aworh is a retired George Coumantaros Distinguished Professor, Department of Food Technology, University of Ibadan (UI), Nigeria; President of the International Academy of Food Science and Technology (IAFoST); Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS); and Chairman of the Technical Advisory Group of Nigeria's Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund). He obtained B.Sc. (Hons) from UI (1973); M.Sc. (1976) and Ph.D. (1978) in Food Science and Technology from Cornell University, USA. He is a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST), former Chairman of NIFST Body of Fellows (2008-2013), pioneer Chairman of the Multidisciplinary Central Research Laboratory, UI, (2008-2014), and served three-terms as Head of Department of Food Technology, UI.

A recipient of several prestigious international research fellowships including the Royal Society/Nuffield Foundation Fellowship, the Canadian International Development Agency/Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Fellowship and the Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship, Professor Aworh was at various times visiting Research Fellow/Professor at: the Procter Department of Food Science, University of Leeds, UK; the Department of Food Science, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada; and the Department of Biotechnology and the Institute of Technical Biocatalysis, Hamburg University of Technology, Germany. Professor Aworh has world-wide experience in food research, consultancy and public service and was a full-time consultant in sustainable community development to Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited, Warri (1999-2000). He is currently a mentor for African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) and for the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IU FoST) young scientists.

Prof. O. C. Aworh, was announced an emeritus Professor in the Department of Food Technology on 24 February 2025.

Departmental Photo Gallery



Photograph of Departmental Staff and Students at UI SME Trade fair held at International Conference Center University of Ibadan, November, 2024



Maiden Visit of Mrs. Yemisi Iranloye (4th L-R) (CEO Psaltry International Company) to the Department of Food Technology and other Departmental Staff



A cross section of members of Oyo State Health Management Board (OYHMB) and some staff of the Department of Food Technology University of Ibadan on the 07 May 2025 at the Oyo State Secretariat following the Departmental Technical presentation tagged "Selected Novel In-house breakthroughs with significant Health outcomes for Oyo State and Beyond"



A Cross section of Staff and Special guests at the Department of Food Technology NIFST Graduate Induction Ceremony on 07 May 2025



A Cross section of Departmental Staff and Officials of Psaltry International in one of their meetings following the signing of MOU this year



A Cross section of Staff and ING S.O Orisaya (Food Technology U.I. Alumni and scholar from University of Salemon, Italy) (4th L-R) during a courtesy visit to the Department on 16 July, 2025



A photograph of Staff (Mr. T. J. Ikyernum) and Students of the Department following a study visit on Irradiation of Fruits and Vegetables to Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority within the University of Ibadan Premises.



Evaluation visit by officials of NOTAP (National Office of Technology Acquisition and Promotion) and Nestle (Nigeria) Plc. to the Department on the 23 April, 2025 (From R to L:: HOD (Prof. G. L. Arueya), Mrs. Y. Akinkumi (of NOTAB), Mr. Bukola Ojo (PhD Student/Beneficiary), Mr. Dayo (Nestle), Prof. K. O. Falade (PhD Student Supervisor) and Mr. L. Olaredeigbe (NOTAP)

Recent Industrial Collaboration

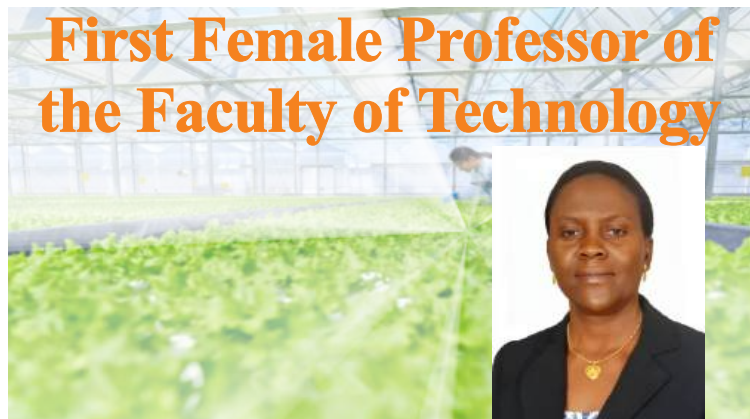
The Department of Food Technology, University of Ibadan, citadel of food research and innovations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated 10 June, 2025 with Psaltry International Company Limited Isenyi - Oyo State, Nigeria producers of cassava based products (Sorbitol, starch, garri etc). The MOU was signed by the Vice Chancellor, University of Ibadan and University Registrar on behalf of the Department of Food Technology, University of Ibadan.

This MOU is aimed at driving creativity and in areas of industrial processing of cassava. In line with this development, representative of Psaltry International Company, Isenyi - Oyo State were hosted by the Department of food Technology on 02 July, 2025. A steering committee was setup which comprised of four staffer each from the participating organizations.

INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATIONS

The Department of Food Technology, University of Ibadan, is open to working and collaborating with other higher institutions of learning within and across the globe. Open discussion on research collaboration and harnessing the benefits of scientific finding for knowledge is ongoing with the University of Teramo, Italy. Other Universities have also shown interest and these collaborative MOUs will all be signed for the growth of the Department.

First Female Professor of the Faculty of Technology



Professor

Olufunke O. Ezekiel

Prof. Olufunke O. Ezekiel elevation to the position of a Professor was announced after a senate meeting on 27 May 2025. This is a remarkable achievement in the Department of Food Technology and the Faculty of Technology since its inception in 1975. Prof. Olufunke. O Ezekiel is the first female to attain this position in the Faculty. She has definitely imprinted her feet in the sand of time as the First Female Professor in the Faculty of Technology.

Prof. Olufunke O. Ezekiel holds B.Sc. (1998), M.Sc. (2000) and PhD (2010) from the University of Ibadan. She was a Fullbright Junior Staff Development Fellow in Food Science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (2006 – 2007) and a visiting scholar at the Department of Microbial, Biochemical and Food Biotechnology, University of Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa (2008). She was also a Mastercard Foundation Scholar at the Sustainable African Future Programme (2023 – 2024). She is a highly accomplished scholar with publication track records in both local and international journals.

Prof. Olufunke O. Ezekiel until her appointment as a Professor was a Hall Warden of Queen Idia Hall and has been such since 2022.



43 Fully Funded PhD positions The University of Teramo, Italy

if you dream of advancing your academic career in Europe, the University of Teramo in Italy is offering an exceptional opportunity. For the XLI cycle, 43 fully funded PhD positions are now open to applicants from all over the world. These prestigious fellowships cover diverse research fields, supported in part by the European Social Fund (ESF) through the Abruzzo Region.

Available Fellowship by Program:

- Cellular and Molecular Bio-technologies: 11 fellowships
- Food Sciences: 6 fellowships
- Veterinary Medical Sciences, Public Health, and Animal Welfare: 4 fellowships
- Processes of Harmonization of Law Between History and System: 8 fellowships
- Economic and Social Sciences: 6 fellowships
- Historical Studies (Middle Ages to Contemporary Age): 3 fellowships
- European Studies for Innovation: 5 fellowships

Whether your background is in life sciences, humanities, social sciences, law, or European studies, there's an option tailored for you.

Requirement:

Applicants must prepare the following documents: Proof of payment for the €20 application fee; alid passport copy; Detailed CV; Academic transcripts with grades; At least one recommendation letter; Abstract of your Master's thesis; A focused research proposal aligned with the chosen fellowship topic. Your Master's degree must be completed before enrollment in October 2025.

PhD Position in Food Science and Biophysics, Cell Biology at Leibniz-LSB at TUM, Germany

Join the Leibniz Institute for Food Systems Biology at the Technical University of Munich as a PhD researcher in biophysics, cell biology and food science.

For more information: <https://wp.me/pbv48T-bL5>

Chevening Scholarships are now open the deadline for applications is 12:00UCT/GMT on 7October 2025

How to apply: prospective students should apply electronically through Chevening website and apply simultaneously to the university of your choice covered in the Chevening courses and host universities.

Further details: on what a Chevening scholarship cover is available on the www.chevening.org

Scholarships in Food Security; Masters and PhD

Students: The Leibniz Centre for Agriculture, Landuse Research (ZALF) Germany is offering a research stipend for fieldwork on food security and resilience in the Middle East. This is open to Master's and PhD students in agriculture, land use or food systems. For details of all available scholarships contact institutions and official online website.

The University of Queensland Australia through the Queens Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) announces a fixed term three years 2-Postdoctoral fellowships in biotechnology with a salary range of \$80,448 - \$107,104 + 17% superannuation (Academic Level A). Application deadline: 31 August 2025 and 04 September 2025

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