

Report of AGSNet-Nigeria participation at the 36th Annual Conference & General meeting of the Nutrition Society of Nigeria held at the University of Uyo, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, 19-22nd October 2005 with the theme “Adequate Nutrition for Good Health”

I. AGSNet Representatives and Presentation at the Conference

Due to very busy schedules of some of the Coordinating team members, two (2) people represented the Network at the conference. They are:

1. Victor Ohuruogu (Coordinator)
2. Dr Oladejo Adepoju (Ibadan)

Prior to the conference, the Coordinator contacted Dr. Nkoyo, Secretary of the local organizing committee to solicit support and slot for AGSNet presentation at the NSN conference. We got a positive support. Thereafter, at the conference, Dr Adepoju and the Coordinator met briefly with certain officers of the NSN to present the Network to them and to confirm the slot given.

At a slot during a technical session, Dr. Adepoju presented the Network to participants. This aroused great interest, especially among present undergraduate and graduate students p. A flurry of activities ensued as people jostled for the information leaflets and even older scientist who would like to give the leaflets to students (in their Institutions) who could not attend. Over the next two days, the representatives entertained series of questions. More than 200 leaflets were given out while 30 persons quickly filled and detached the pre-registration slip. Others promised to send theirs as soon as they open electronic mail account, for easy correspondence.

II. Printing of Information Leaflets

Sequel to AGSNet-Nigeria meeting held on October 7, 2005 at the University of Ibadan, Ibadan which main aim was to prepare the Network for participation in the annual conference of the Nutrition Society of Nigeria (NSN) to be held on the 19-23 October, 2005; decisions and promises made have been accomplished, though opening up more challenges.

About 800 copies of the Information Leaflets about the AGSNet was printed, a day before the conference commenced. The leaflet detailed background information and activities of the Network, etc. Prior to the printing of the leaflet, the Coordinator sent a draft to Nigerian members and to the International Coordinators for their inputs. The financial participation (and otherwise) and inputs of members were overwhelming and very encouraging. I wish to thank you all (and the International Coordinators) for the support and encouragement received.

III. CONTACT WITH ADVISORS AND OTHERS

AGSNet representatives also had a brief discussion with two of our select Advisors-Professors (Mrs.) H.N Ene-Obong and E.C Okeke (both from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka). The third Advisor-Dr F.T Aminu (Country Coordinator, MicroNutrient Initiative) is currently abroad. The two advisors shared delight at their selection and expressed their readiness and commitment to help the Network, in all capacity.

The team also met with the Dr. B.D Omotola (NSN Assistant Secretary who is on secondment to the National Planning Commission, Abuja) who agreed to granting us audience whenever necessary. Other persons were also talked to e.g. Prof. (Mrs. B Abbey of the University of Port Harcourt) etc.

IV. POTENTIAL MEMBERSHIP AND NETWORKING

There was relatively a large number of students (undergraduate and postgraduate) in attendance, especially from the Institutions of Nutrition in the Eastern states of Nigeria -Akwa Ibom (Univ of Uyo), Imo (Imo state Univ), Abia (Michael Okpara Univ of Agric.), and Univ. of Nigeria (Nsukka). Two undergraduate and one postgraduate student leaders were tentatively chosen to coordinate activities and spread the AGSNet gospel among other students in the region (though this will still be discussed when the Coordinating team meets). These leaders put the figure of both undergraduate and postgraduate student number at about 400 and over 120 respectively.

AGSNet also facilitated a stronger networking of both undergraduate and postgraduate students in attendance. The undergraduate student leaders shared plans on their upcoming nutrition weeks (especially Univ of Ibadan) and asked that AGSNet fully participate and motivate them. Modalities for this will be considered by the coordinating team.

V. CONCLUSION AND APPRECIATION

There is no doubt that AGSNet has come to stay and has a tremendous role to play in Nutrition development in Nigeria and Africa. The task is onerous and requires resources, shared vision and commitment. I must thank members of the coordinating team for their financial and otherwise contributions to making our participation in the conference possible, and for being a wonderful family. Thanks also to Mohamed, Joseph and Nkosi for the fine and technical inputs to the leaflets and for the encouraging support. Immense thanks to Dr. Adepaju for his financial assistance.

Thank you.

Victor Ohuruogu

Coordinator, AGSNet-Nigeria