

Minutes of the first AGSNet (Nigeria chapter) held at the Human Nutrition Dept, University of Ibadan, Ibadan on October 7, 2005.

I. Opening

The meeting started at 5:20pm with an opening prayer said by Dr. Adepoju. Members present were those who attended the AGSNet Inaugural and IUNS conference in Durban, South Africa.

In attendance were:

1. Dr Oladejo Adepoju (Ibadan)
2. Mr Diran Oyewole (Ibadan)
3. Dr (Mrs) Folake Samuel (Ibadan)
4. Mr Adeniyi Adekoya (Lagos)
5. Miss Isi Egbele (Ibadan)
6. Mr Victor Ohuruogu (Ibadan)

Mr Oyewole (who hosted the meeting) welcomed the group to the first meeting of the AGSNet, especially after attending the 18th IUNS conference at Durban, South Africa. Victor had stated, earlier, that the emergency meeting was called to chart directions for AGSNet Nigeria, and to prepare the Network for participation in the annual conference of the Nutrition Society of Nigeria (NSN) coming up on 19-23 October, 2005.

II. Agenda for the meeting

1. Report of the AGSNet Inaugural Conference in Durban

The group was briefed on the vision, aims, structure and proposed activities of the newly inaugurated AGSNet. It was agreed that the mission document and the communiqué be sent to all members by e-mail.

The issue of the role of Foreign Food Industries in Africa, stemming from the INF/Kraft Foods breakfast meeting held on the 22nd of September in Durban was also discussed. The group was of the firm opinion that the food industry should not see Africa as a dumping ground for their products, but rather they should establish food industries here. This will enhance the utilization of local produce (post harvest losses will reduce) and also create jobs and improve livelihoods. Other proceedings of the conference were also discussed.

2. Membership and update of registry

It was decided that AGSNet (Nigeria) should design a pamphlet introducing the Network to others. The pamphlet should include an application/registration form. The Nigeria Coordinator would design the form and send it to other members of the group for appraisal/inputs and then directly forwarded to the International Coordinator for approval and onward transmission to the Regional Representative for West Africa.

The aim is to get the pamphlet ready before the Nutrition Society of Nigeria (NSN) conference at Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. However the issue of mode of payment of membership dues was not resolved as none of the group members have a domiciliary account yet. Options are still being considered on this issue.

3. AGSNet structure and relationship with NSN

A tentative structure was proposed which was passed by members to include:

Coordinator – Victor Ohuruogu

Secretariat – Isi Egbele

Programmes – Diran Oyewole, Victor Ajieroh

Treasurer – Folake Samuel

Zonal Coordinator (Lagos/Abeokuta zone) - Adeniyi Adekoya.

In addition, we proposed and agreed that a website for Nigeria Agsnet be created and hosted with a link on the main AGSNet website.

Concerning our relationship with the Nutrition Society of Nigeria (NSN), it was made clear that AGSNet is not a rival body, and it does not seek to pluralize any current efforts of sister societies. AGSNet members were encouraged to pursue the vision of AGSNet in unity of purpose; but that we must first be active and committed to the activities of the NSN, which is our parent body.

4. Activities for the year

The only major activity for the rest of the year is the Network's participation in the NSN conference at Uyo (19 – 23 October). It was agreed that before the commencement of next year, ideas for activities would be collated and developed to address AGSNet members' needs.

The Coordinator spoke on the need to bridge the gap between classroom principles and pragmatic field experiences in regard to nutrition. Proposed activities of the Network will include special lectures, field visits, relationship with international NGOs in Nigeria (some of whom had been addressed by the coordinator) capacity building exposures, involvement as nutrition consultants in nutrition surveys and intervention projects etc.

5. Information on Upcoming Conferences

Notices were served members on certain upcoming international conferences. Some of which include: Experimental Biology (EB) 2006 (USA); International conference on Obesity, Sydney (2006); Dietary Assessment conference, Compehagen (2006); Federation of African Nutrition Societies (Morocco 2007). Information will also be passed and requested from the international coordinator.

6. AOB:

- a). Isi Egbele brought up the need for the professionalization of nutrition in Nigeria. This was discussed and it was decided that at the next NSN meeting, this issue will be raised.
- b). A plan on how to effectively reach other Institutions of Nutrition in Nigeria and other nutrition graduate students was also discussed.
- c). Suggestions were made for Advisors and after discussions, three names were agreed upon to include: Dr. Aminu (MI Coordinator, Nigeria); Prof. (Mrs.)Ene-Ubong (HOD Nutrition &Dietetics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka) and Prof.(Mrs.) Okeke (University of Nigeria).
- d) The group also had a nice time perusing photographs taken at Durban. The photograph of Formula 1 hotel particularly elicited much laughter and nostalgic feelings from the group!

7. Closing

The meeting ended at 6:45 pm.

Signed,

Folake Samuel

For Secretariat

Victor Ohuruogu

Coordinator