



ISTRO NIGERIA INFO December 2024 Newsletter  
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Website: <https://www.istro-nigeria.org>

**New ISTRO President's Inauguration Speech**

Sequel to USA (Virginia Beach) 2024 International Conference and General Assembly was held at the Atlantic Ballroom, Wyndham, Oceanfront, Virginia Beach, USA on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 where a New President of Soil Tillage Research Organization (ISTRO) (2024 – 2027) was inaugurated. The address of the new President, Prof. Joshua Olanrewaju Olaoye as presented to Members of International Soil Tillage Research Organization (ISTRO) as the New ISTRO President is as following. He also presented Plans to Host the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of ISTRO in Nigeria in 2027.

**Distinguished members of the International Soil Tillage Research Organization (ISTRO), esteemed colleagues, and guests,**

**I accept with deep humility and a profound sense of responsibility to stand before you today, honoured to be elected as the President of our esteemed organization (ISTRO). This moment is not only a recognition of my personal dedication to the advancement of soil science and sustainable agriculture but also a testament to the growing importance of the African continent in the global agricultural research landscape.**

**As the first President from Africa, I am particularly moved by the confidence that you have reposed in me and in the strength and status of ISTRO's Nigeria Branch. This election signifies not just a new chapter for our organization but also a**

**recognition of the vital role that African research institutions and professionals play in the international soil science community. It is a vote of confidence in the capabilities of my colleagues and a reflection of ISTRO's belief in the rich potential of African soil and tillage research to contribute meaningfully to global challenges.**

**To our past leadership and all members, I extend my heartfelt appreciation for laying a solid foundation and for steering this great organization through various periods of transformation and growth. Permit me to mention the contributions of some of our past leaders in Nigeria ISTRO Branch to create this platform upon which we are building on, Prof. K. C. Oni, Prof. C. I. Ijioma, Prof. S. O. Ojeniyi, Prof. A. P. Onwualu, Prof. A. I. Ahaneku, Late Prof. J. O. Ohu, Prof. S. N. Asoegwu among others. I am committed to building on the legacy you have left, and I pledge to foster a renewed spirit of collaboration, innovation, and inclusion across all our regions. I am deeply aware of the trust you have placed in me, and I assure you that I will lead with integrity, transparency, and a steadfast focus on achieving ISTRO's objectives.**

**One of my primary goals during this tenure is to work tirelessly to ensure that ISTRO remains at the forefront of global soil tillage research, education, strengthen the status of our revered Journal Soil Tillage Research and policy advocacy. I am pleased to reaffirm the commitments and promises of our partner institutions and relevant bodies to support this administration in fulfilling these**



aspirations. I acknowledge the support of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN and the administration of the University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria; His 2

Excellence, Engr. Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum, MNI CON, the Executive Governor and Government of Borno State for the unprecedented support extended towards this inauguration and sponsorship of delegates from Nigeria to attend this conference; Engr. Margaret Aina Oguntala, FNSE the President and Chairman-in-Council, Nigerian Society of Engineers, NSE (the first Female President of NSE) and Prof. Sadiq Zubair Abubakar, the President and Chairman-in-Council of Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria. Together, we will continue to enhance our research capabilities, strengthen our professional networks, and provide critical insights that will shape soil management practices for sustainable agricultural productivity.

I am also excited to announce that we are making significant progress in our preparations to welcome all members of ISTRO worldwide to Nigeria in 2027 for the 23rd triennial international conference. This event will be a historic occasion, marking the first time an African will be leading the organization and the second time that such a prestigious gathering will take place on African soil. We are confident that Nigeria, with its robust agricultural research infrastructure and vibrant academic community, will provide an excellent platform for sharing knowledge, fostering partnerships, and advancing the science and practice of soil tillage.

Our partners, Nigerian Institution of Agricultural Engineers of which I am current Chairman, Nigerian Society of Engineers, Nigeria Institute of Soil Science, Agricultural Society of Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, National Agricultural Land Development Authority, River Basin Development Authorities, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, and University of Abuja, Abuja; including other universities, research institutes, government agencies, and the private sector, have expressed strong support for this vision. They are fully committed to working together to ensure a world-class event that will leave a lasting impact on the global soil research community. I look forward to welcoming each of you to Nigeria in 2027, where we will celebrate not just the progress of our research but also the rich cultural heritage and hospitality that our country has to offer.

As we embark on this new chapter, I am filled with a sense of optimism for the future of our organization. The challenges we face in soil and tillage research are complex, but they are not insurmountable. We must strengthen our resolve to address pressing global issues such as soil degradation, climate change, and food security. These challenges demand innovative solutions, interdisciplinary collaboration, and a willingness to embrace new ideas and technologies.

As your President, I will prioritize fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment where all voices within ISTRO are heard, and where our collective expertise can be harnessed to drive meaningful impact. My



administration will focus on three core areas:

**Strengthening Research and Capacity Building:** We will expand support for cutting-edge research, training programmes, and capacity-building initiatives, particularly in regions where resources are limited.

**Enhancing Global Partnerships:** By forging stronger ties with international research bodies, governmental organizations, and the private sector, we will create new opportunities for funding, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. 3

**Promoting Youth Engagement and Diversity:** We must invest in the next generation of soil scientists and agronomists. This means creating more opportunities for young professionals, promoting diversity within our membership, and ensuring that ISTRO remains a dynamic and forward-thinking organization.

I am confident that with your support, we will continue to advance the frontiers of soil tillage research and ensure that ISTRO remains a leader in promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Let us embrace this journey with enthusiasm, determination, and a shared commitment to excellence.

Thank you once again for your trust, and I look forward to serving as your President with dedication and vision. Together, let's make ISTRO's impact even more profound.

Come and enjoy great Nigerian music that have now become a global toast. The cuisines in Nigeria abound with a wide variety of local and continental dishes.

From the akpu and ogbono soup in the south east, to amala and ewedu in the south west; from pounded yam in the south west / middle belt to tuwon masara dai miyan kuka in the north, all inviting you to a time of sumptuous meal. Suya and kilishi, fura dai nono are in plenty supply at your time of relaxation. A large variety of international dishes including Nigeria Jollof Rice.

Let me conclude by reaffirming my commitment to serve with dedication and by inviting each of you to join me in this exciting journey. I believe that together, we can elevate ISTRO to new heights and make meaningful contributions to the sustainable management of our planet's soils. Thank you once again for this great honour, and I look forward to working closely with all of you in the years ahead.

Thank you and God bless.

Prof. Joshua Olanrewaju OLAOYE  
ISTRO President, 2024 – 2027  
September 24, 2024.

## **COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FROM ISTRO 2024 SYMPOSIUM HELD ON OCTOBER 6, 2024**

The followings are the recommendations and communique issued at the end of the 2024 ISTRO Symposium

1. Agriculture is not yet taken seriously in Nigeria despite the exploding population and food insecurity which has culminated to hunger, insecurity of lives and livelihood of people. This is despite the immense agricultural potentials of the county.
2. There is lack of attention, awareness, required skills and management strategies on





resilient and sustainable soil tillage systems among local farmers

3. There is no required national and international cooperation in supporting water conservation and irrigation management.

4. Optimization of field-level management with regard to crop science, environmental protection and economics is on the decline. This is consequent upon the inappropriate application of precision agriculture.

5. Nigeria like the world is still faced with increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and decline in food production which are implications of climate change affecting life and livelihood of Nigerians.

6. Nigeria lack the rapid economic growth it desired despite blessed with both human and natural resources.

7. There is Need for capacity building and extension services in order to ensure the resilience and sustainability of tillage systems.

8. Men generally have more decision-making power regarding tillage practices, often due to their control over machinery and inputs. Women face significant barriers to accessing resources such as land, credit, and technology, which are crucial for adopting improved tillage practices.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. There is need for integration of agro-ecological principles into tillage systems through minimal soil disturbance, soil organic matter enhancement, crop diversity, and natural process integration which will improves soil health and productivity and also enhances ecosystem services, and mitigates climate change impacts. Crop

diversity is also essential for global food security, resilience against climate change, and sustainable agriculture. It is essential to have continued research, policy support, and farmer education for scaling up agro-ecological tillage systems globally, ensuring food security while safeguarding natural resources for future generations.

2. For sustainable soil management (SSM) there is need for adopting practices that enhance soil health by farmers to mitigate the impacts of climate change, improve agricultural productivity, and ensure long-term food security. Overcoming the challenges to SSM requires concerted efforts from farmers, researchers, policymakers, and the international community. Through education, financial support, policy reform, and continued research, Nigeria can build a resilient and sustainable agricultural system that benefits both people and the environment.

3. The need for international cooperation and support in water conservation and irrigation management are essential for Nigeria to navigate the complexities of climate change and secure a sustainable future for its people. Regional bodies such as Lake Chad Basin Commission, Niger Basin Authority and development Partners such as the World Bank, UNDP and FAO can tremendously contribute in the area of policy advocacy, technical, financial and institutional support. Proper hydrologic monitoring and improved weather forecasting, Structural or civil-works-based soil and water conservation techniques, Developing the requisite synergies between strong research institutions, private sector organizations and professional bodies and development of policies and programmes in the area of Climate Smart Agriculture that would bring



about the building of resilience and sustainability are required.

4. There is need for continuous adoption and application of precision agriculture and its principles to agricultural practices which will lead to increased agricultural productivity hence promote economic growth and reduced environmental impact. Future of tillage systems lies in embracing emerging trends such as digital agriculture, precision technologies, and climate-smart practices.

5. There is need for agriculture to address simultaneously three intertwined challenges: ensuring food security through increased productivity and income, adapting to climate change and contributing to climate change which can be achieved by radical changes in our food systems through enhanced efficiency in resource use so as to become more resilient to changes and shocks. Emphases should be made on the need to addressing agriculture via the climate-smart strategy critical to achieving global climate change goals, both in terms of adaptation and mitigation.

There is need to develop a climatic framework that brings about sustainable environment through green alternatives and lowered emissions. Nigeria should develop frameworks based on Conservation Tillage (CT) to improve climate resilience. In the future, CT can be better implemented to achieve climate resilience under different conditions across Nigeria.

6. To stimulate economic growth and launch Nigeria onto a path of sustained and rapid socio-economic development, and industrialization, an agricultural revolution through the concept of Nature - Inclusive Agriculture (NIA) should be the catalyst.

7. There is need for Strengthening extension services through increased funding, better training, and improved infrastructure essential for achieving sustainable agricultural growth and food security in the country. The integration of effective capacity building and extension services is essential for promoting sustainable tillage systems and ensuring food security in a changing climate like Nigeria this is by addressing challenges, seizing opportunities, and embracing technological innovations.

8. Incorporating gender perspectives in tillage systems is essential for achieving equitable and sustainable agricultural development. Gender-sensitive policies and programs are needed to address these disparities. Addressing the disparities in labour division, resource access, economic opportunities, and social norms can empower women and enhance the overall productivity and sustainability of our agricultural practices.

## **NIGERIAN JOURNAL OF SOIL TILLAGE RESEARCH**

Members as well as general public have been sending in their manuscripts for peer review and possible publication in the ISTRO-NIGERIA journal.

## **TILLAGE BOOK PROJECT**

The work on first edition of the Nigerian Tillage Book is going on behind the scene. The book would be out in few months.



## **ISTRO 2024-2027 INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND LOCAL MEMBERSHIP DUES.**

While appreciating members' continued support of ISTRO Nigeria through your being financial member, more than sixty (60) members of ISTRO Nigeria have paid the required dues for 2024-2027. For those who are yet to pay, this is to remind them that the renewal of membership with ISTRO is due, and there is a need for members to effect payment, which will last till 2027

### **Exco meeting**

The next Exco meeting has been scheduled on Google Meet on January 7, 2025 at 8.00pm.

Soil Tillage Awareness and Development Initiative (Branch of International Soil Tillage Research Organisation), ISTRO-Nigeria ([www.istro.nigeria.org](http://www.istro.nigeria.org)).  
Email: [istronigeria@gmail.com](mailto:istronigeria@gmail.com)

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