

GOODWILL MESSAGE DELIVERED BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MRS. RABI S. JIMETA, mn, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF HERBS, HEALTH FOODS AND NATURAL PRODUCTS EXPO AND BIOENTREPRENEURSHIP /BIOBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP (HERBFEST 2013) HOLDING AT THE RAW MATERIALS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (RMRDC), ABUJA FROM 8TH - 10TH OF OCTOBER, 2013

Protocols

I am highly honoured and delighted to be invited to participate at this Workshop tagged “HerbFest 2013” which is being organized by the Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme (BDCCP) in collaboration with the Nigeria Natural Medicine Development Agency (NNMDA) and the International Centre for Ethno Medicine and Drug Discovery (InterCEDD). The theme of this Workshop titled: **“Development of Novel Natural Products as Dietary Supplements, Phytomedicines and Nutraceuticals”**; is a topical issue in our nation’s quest for promoting research and development (R&D) as well as sustainable utilization of biological resources to improve the nation’s health-care services, facilitate conservation of the environment and promote economic growth.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the African continent had suffered great losses from insufficient exploitation of her bioresources and inadequate deployment of Science, Technology and Innovation (S,T&I) tools to properly harness these resources for the delivery of internationally competitive products and services which can promote investment opportunities, enhance healthcare services, reduce poverty, create employment and wealth thereby contribute to the nation’s socio-economic growth and sustainable national development.

It is important to emphasize that the Nigeria Natural Medicine Development Agency (NNMDA), an Agency of Federal Ministry of Science and Technology (FMST) has been engaging in critical partnerships which aimed at enhancing the capacity of Nigerians to support the documentation of Medicinal, Aromatic and Pesticidal (MAP) plants that are raw materials for the production of medicines, nutritional supplements and cosmetics.

Records show that Traditional Medicine is gaining global recognition and perhaps it has the capacity to address many of the world's health challenges through the application of qualitative and standardized traditional therapies developed for the management of various topical ailments, including HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Epilepsy, Sickle Cell Disease, Tuberculosis, etc.

I therefore appeal to you to evolve a vibrant and robust system that can catalyze the integration of Traditional Medicine Technologies and Practices (TMTP) into the nation's economy to make its products and services readily available, accessible and affordable. I wish to add that FMST will continue to provide a credible platform for bioresources development and support innovative researches to develop R&D outputs which will contribute to improve the lives of the Nigerian populace.

I urge all the participants to actively participate in the deliberation with a view of articulating a good communiqué. I wish you a hitch-free and fruitful deliberation during the Workshop.

Thank you and God bless.

Mrs. Rabi S. Jimeta, mni
Permanent Secretary