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Special Release

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR SAMUEL OLADEJI ADESIYAN (1940 – 2022)

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. O. Adebowale, FAS, mni, announces the transition of Professor Samuel Oladeji Adesiyan, former Head, Department of Agricultural Biology (now Crop Protection and Environmental Biology) and former Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Ibadan. He passed on peacefully on 13 November, 2022 in Ibadan.

Late Professor Adesiyan was born on 13 February, 1940. Professor Adesiyan obtained B.Sc. (Agricultural Science) from the University of Nottingham, Division One, in June 1971 and was an Academic Visitor to Imperial College, University of London, where he attended M.Sc. course and practicals in Residue Analysis of pesticides (Toxicology) using yam tubers as case study. During this period, he performed study visits to I.C.I. Jealots Hill, United Kingdom, Shell Chemical company, Kent and Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, U.K to enhance his understanding of nematological and toxicological set-ups. He obtained PhD (Agricultural Biology) from the University of Ibadan in October 1975. He was at M. I. Biol. Institute of Biology, United Kingdom and went for a Post-doctoral training in Toxicology from January to June, 1976.

Professor S. O. Adesiyan was appointed Junior Research Fellow (Nematology) on 15 April, 1972 in the Department of Agricultural Biology, University of Ibadan. He was later appointed Temporary Lecturer II on 01 July, 1976 and Lecturer I from 04 May, 1977 with confirmation to retiring age effective 01 July, 1979. He was promoted Senior Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Biology on 01 October, 1980 and Professor six years after on 01 October, 1986. Professor Adesiyan was involved in teaching and conducting research in the field of Nematology and Pesticide Toxicology, and other administrative activities during his journey through the University of Ibadan from where he retired on 30 September 2006. Besides study and training positions, Professor S. O. Adesiyan was in active public service for 35 years all of which he spent at the University of Ibadan.

His research activities covered the histopathology, economic losses, mechanism of action, host range studies, control and distribution of root-knot nematode disease of yams in Mid-West State, Nigeria. He also studied amino acid changes in yam due to nematodes, in addition to residue analysis of pesticides in treated, nematode-infected yam tubers.

He served the University of Ibadan in many capacities. He was Assistant Warden, Kuti Hall from 15 November 1978, Acting Warden in Kuti Hall from 01 June to 05 December, 1980, Warden in the same Kuti Hall from 01 June, 1984 for three years and Acting Dean of Students in April, 1991.

He served on the National Pesticide Committee to assess facilities available for pesticide analysis in the country and contributed to the drafting of 'Pesticide Legislation' in Nigeria which led to the set-up of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. He was a member of the curriculum committee that developed the Environmental Management and Toxicology Curriculum at the University of Agriculture (now Federal University of Agriculture), Abeokuta. At various times, he was consultant on Pesticide Residue Analysis to Oyo and Osun States' Ministries of Agriculture and UNDP/WHO Agromet Project NIR/88/004. He co-authored the first tertiary book on Nematology in Africa. He was an external examiner on many occasions to many Universities in Nigeria.

Professor Adesiyani was life member, European Society of Nematologists, member, Science Association of Nigeria, Agricultural Society of Nigeria, Brazilian Phytopathological Society, American Society of Nematologists, Organization of Tropical American Nematologists and the Institute of Biology, M. I., U.K. He was President, Nigerian Society for Plant Protection from 1991-1994 and attended many conferences while also being resource person at capacity building workshops.

Prof. Adesiyani was locally and globally recognised as scholar *per excellence*, mentor, teacher, visionary leader and father-figure to his students. He was model for peace and harmony, humility, and benevolence to all who interacted with him. Prof Adesiyani was teacher of teachers, distinguished researcher and outstanding consultant in environmental pollution control.

He will be missed by the global academic community at home and abroad.

May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace. Amen.

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