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Special Release

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## OBITUARY

### **PROFESSOR OPEYEMI ISAAC AJEWOLE (1962 - 2023)**

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. O. Adebowale, mni, FAS, announces the transition of Professor Opeyemi Isaac Ajewole, a professor in the Department of Social and Environmental Forestry, Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources, University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Monday, 05 June, 2023. He was aged 61 years.

Late Professor Opeyemi Isaac Ajewole was born into the family of the Late Pa James Olanbiwonnu Ajewole and Late Madam Abigail Duduyemi Ajewole of the Asae Family at Iloro, Igbara Oke, Ifedore Local Government Area, Ondo State, on March 6, 1962. He started his education at St. Mathew Primary School, Abanla, Idi Ayunre, Ibadan in 1969. Upon completion in 1975, he started his secondary education that same year at Prospect High School, also in Abanla. He gained admission to read Architecture in the University of Ibadan in 1983 but later transferred to the Department of Forest Resources Management due to the discontinuation of Architecture by the University. He graduated with a B.Sc.(Hons) from the Department of Forest Resources Management in 1989.

He had over 30 years' experience in teaching, research and consultancy in renewable natural resource economics and environmental management. He was a consultant Forest Economist with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome, Italy, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Yokohama, Japan, National FADAMA Development Programme, Abuja, Nigeria and Africa Forest Network (AFORNET), Kenya. He prepared the training manual on the Economics of Integrated Fish - Rice and Poultry Production and conducted a study on the Socio-Economics of Sustainable Integrated Aquaculture Development: Fish/Rice and Pigs Production in Nigeria. The study was conducted under Poverty Eradication and Grassroots Empowerment through Sustainable Integrated Aquaculture Development: Fish/Rice and Piggery Production Project for CORAF/WECARD, Dakar, Senegal. In 2016, he led a team of three on "Costing of Sustainable Forestry, Agroforestry and Biomass Energy in Rwanda. That same year, he also investigated Policies and other Issues Relating to Food-Fuel-Fibre Production nexus in the Context of Climate Change in West Africa for the African Forest Forum, Nairobi, Kenya.

He is a Life Member and Fellow, Forestry Association of Nigeria as well as Member, International Biometrics Society, International Development Economics Associates, World Council on Protected Areas and African Forest Forum.

Professor Ajewole started his teaching career at the University of Ado-Ekiti in 2002 where he was until 2008 when he was appointed as Senior Lecturer at the University of Ibadan. He became an Associate Professor in 2013 and a full Professor of Forest Economics, Urban and Environmental Forestry in 2016.

He was the Assistant Project Manager (Forester) for Heritage Resources Conservation Project, Nigeria between 2000-2001. In 2002 he was a forest economics consultant for Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome Italy on “Analysis of Trends in Forest Charges and Government Expenditure on Forestry in Africa”. In 2006, he was a resource person for Yamooof Nig. Ltd, Ibadan for a Training Workshop on Environmental and Social Impact Assessment as well as scientist/researcher for African Forestry Research Network (AFORNET) on a project “Impact of Charcoal Production on Biodiversity in Selected Countries of West Africa”.

In 2007, he was resource personnel for the National FADAMA Development project, Abuja for a Training Workshop on Sustainability of Local Development Planning at the Community Level. As a resource person for a University of Ibadan, organized workshop in 2008, he was a trainer on Data Collection, Management and Analysis in Academic Research.

In 2009 he was resource Person for the National FADAMA Development project, Abuja on the Review of CEMP Performance Indicators and Updating of the Monitoring Format. Between 2008 – 2009, he was the Consultant National Expert for International Tropical Timber Organization, Hiroshima, Japan on Promotion of Intra-African Trade in Timber and Timber Products: Untapped Opportunities for Tropical Timber Producers in Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Cameroon, Morocco, Republic of South Africa and Egypt.

In 2010, he was Sustainable Development consultant and trainer for Earthguard Limited, Abuja, Nigeria Environmental Impact Assessment Checklist and Procedures as well as the National FADAMA Development project, Abuja, Nigeria on Beneficiaries’ Impact Assessment of FADAMA-GEF Project. In 2011, he consulted for the National FADAMA Development Project, Abuja, Nigeria on Implementation Completion Review of FADAMA-GEF Project.

He was the ECOWAS (Lome) Expert Facilitator in 2012 for the Organisation’s Sub Regional Meeting of the Directors Board of Forestry and Wildlife on Forest Convergence Project. In 2013, he served on the Socio-Economics of Sustainable Integrated Aquaculture Development: Fish/Rice and Pigs Production in Nigeria and preparation of Training Manual on the Economics of Integrated Fish - Rice and Poultry Production.

He consulted for AFF in 2016 on Consultant Policies and other Issues Relating to the Nexus Food- Fuel-Fibre Production in the Context of Climate Change in West Africa, for FAO

(Rwanda office) on Costing of Sustainable Forestry, Agroforestry and Biomass Energy in Rwanda, for CORAF/WECARD (Dakar, Senegal). He was the Expert Facilitator for AFDB in 2018 for her Expert Group Meeting on Timber Value Chain in Abidjan.

Professor Ajewole had six (6) chapters in books already published, thirteen (13) articles that have already appeared in Refereed Conference Proceedings, thirty-one (31) articles that have already appeared in learned journals and seven (7) Technical Reports to his credit.

He is survived by a wife, two sons and relatives.

May his gentle soul rest in peace. Amen.

**Lying in State: 8.00 a.m. on Tuesday 04 July, 2023 in Trenchard Hall, University of Ibadan.**

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