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Special Release

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## OBITUARY

### **PROFESSOR MALACHY OGHENOVO AKORODA (1953 – 2023) Professor of Plant Breeding and Seed Science**

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. O. Adebowale, mni, FAS, announces the transition of Professor Malachy Oghenovo Akoroda, a distinguished retired professor of Plant Breeding and Seed Science, Department of Crop and Horticultural Sciences, University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Saturday, 16 September, 2023. He was aged 70 years.

Late Professor Malachy Oghenovo Akoroda was born on 9 March, 1953 to the family of Mr. and Mrs. James Akoroda Eruwetaghware of Ovu-inland in Ethiopie East Local Government Area of Delta State. He had his primary school education at Okotie-Eboh Junior Primary and Academy Primary School, Sapele (January 1959 - December 1964). He attended St Malachy's Grammar School Ugbeyiyi, Sapele for his secondary education. His performance at the West Africa School Certificate Examination (WASC) got him selected among the top five in his class to attend Kings College, Lagos for Higher School Certificate (HSC) (Jan. 1970 - Dec. 1971). He passed all papers and got admission into the University of Ibadan on 26 September, 1972 with a scholarship to study Agriculture.

He graduated with a B.Sc. in Agriculture (Crop Science) in June 1975 and later proceeded for his postgraduate studies with the support of the Department of Agronomy and funding from IITA. He graduated with a doctorate degree in Plant Breeding in 1981.

He joined the services of the University of Ibadan as Lecturer II in the old Department of Agronomy in September 1983 and through hard work and unusual research productivity was promoted to the rank of Professor in October 1994.

Professor Akoroda retired from active service on 09 March, 2023 after 40 years of active academic service of which he was a full Professor for 29 years. During his period of active service, he taught courses in Plant Breeding, Statistics and Field Experimentation, Seed Science and Production Systems and special topics in Agronomy.

In scientific writings and presentations, Late Professor Akoroda had more than 300 publications on agriculture especially crop improvement of 36 plant species of food, horticultural and export cash crops during his years of work. It is on record that he successfully supervised more than 200 undergraduate and postgraduate students out of whom not less than 20 are Professors today.

Late Professor Akoroda served the University meritoriously as Chairman of the Sports Council, first term 2007-2010; second term 2010-2012, where he organized and coordinated sporting activities for over 30,000 students and 500 staff members between March 2008 - June 2012. He was the Director, Global Cassava Partnerships for the 21st Century, *Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical* (CIAT Colombia Office at IITA Ibadan, Nigeria), where he coordinated 3500 members in 105 nations that conducted research, grew and used cassava.

Between July 2012 - July 2017, Professor Akoroda was appointed by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for a 5-year term as the 7th Executive Director of the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (*CRIN*) Ibadan. Earlier in 2012, he was the IITA Seed Systems Specialist in the “Yam Improvement for Income and Food Security in West Africa (YIIFSWA)” project. Late Professor Akoroda had to his credit many more national and international engagements that cut across the globe, thus, he could be described as an academician of international repute.

Late Professor Akoroda was the Founding Editor-in-Chief of the Africa Journal of Root and Tuber Crops until volume 5, and Editor of the International Society for Tropical Root Crops-Africa Branch over a 15-year period until 2003. He was a very prolific author and co-author of many publications on Agriculture as well as member of many learned academic societies.

Late Professor M. O. Akoroda is survived by his wife, Mrs. Omawumi Akoroda and five children and family.

May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace. Amen.

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