

**Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting of the Nigerian Association of Agricultural Economists (NAAE) Held at the Nigerian Institute of Surveyors House, Owerri, Imo State
On 17th October, 2024**

S/N	DESCRIPTION	LINE NO.	ACTION BY
	1.0 Agenda 1. Opening Prayer 2. Adoption of the Agenda 3. President's Opening Remarks 4. Reading, Correction and Adoption of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM 5. Matters Arising 6. President's Report 7. Ibadan Final Report 8. NAAE Financial Report 9. Journal Report 10. KWASU Final Report 11. Imo State University of Agric and Env. Science Preliminary Report 12. Elections 13. Communique 14. 2025 National Conference 15. A.O.B. 16. Closing		
1.1	Opening Prayer The meeting started at about 09.20 am with an opening prayer by Prof. Abdul Yaro of Aliko Dangote University of Science and Technology, Kano State and Dr. Nneka Chidiebere-Mark of Imo State University, Imo State.		
2.0	Adoption of the Agenda The motion to adopt the agenda was moved by Dr. M. T. Adio of Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State and seconded by Prof. Mercy E. Ogaraku of University of Port-Harcourt, Rivers State.		
3.0	President's Opening Remarks The President of the association, Prof. J. N Nmadu, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He appreciated the fact that the conference could hold as planned. He, however, noted that attendance was poor yet there were many opportunities available for members to participate in effectively. He emphasized the need to encourage more senior colleagues (especially Professors), heads of departments and Agricultural Economists in related institutions and fields to attend the conference and meetings regularly irrespective of location or region.		
4.0	Reading, Correction and Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting Members read the minutes of the previous meeting. Minor changes were made Dr. D. Oyoboh of Dennise Osadebe University, Delta State moved the motion		

	for its adoption and was seconded by Dr. Dorothy P. of the University of Markurdi, Benue State.		
5.0	Matters Arising FCFM Final Reports: The secretariat should write to them concerning the missing cheque book. NIAE Bill: Members appreciated NEC on the successful reading of the Bill of the proposed Nigerian Institute of Agricultural Economists. There was a debate on the extent to which the Institute would be inclusive of all areas within the field of Agricultural Economics. The meeting was informed that representatives of all the areas within the field had read the Bill. A few members suggested that additional areas such as Development Economics, Project Management and Agricultural Marketing and Production Economics be explicitly included while some others drew attention to the possible overlaps with the Nigerian Economic Society (NES) and a likely response from them as an Association. The discussion on the NES was laid to rest based on the fact that the common areas such as marketing had several distinctive features. During the discussion it was suggested that the proposed Institute be called Nigerian Institute for Agricultural and Applied Economists but no definite position was taken on it. Website: Members were informed the paper submission process was affected by the fact that the proposed online paper submission site, E-reviewer, the site had problems as such no approval was issued by the host. The alternative, Easy Chair, which could have been used had a price of 40 British Pounds attached to each paper submitted. In the meantime, the NAAE webmaster was asked to develop one for the Association which should be ready before the next conference at Zaria. Quiz Competition and Thesis Award: The first round of the quiz competition is expected to start at the Zaria conference. However, the Thesis Award has been instituted with the hope that it would continue. It was said that the award has generated some interest including financial support from a member of NEC. Members were informed that Prof. R.N. Echebiri instituted a prize for the Thesis Award competition which was won by Dr. Mrs. H. Salau.		
6.0	President's Report The president informed the meeting that it was his last day of chairing the AGM. He reported that the Association functioned effectively during his tenure; conferences held regularly except in 2019 when the Association co-hosted the conference of the African Association of Agricultural Economists. He		

	appreciated the current NEC and everyone at the meeting while and stating that the new NEC which would be formed should be given full support as well. NIAE Bill: The President informed the meeting that the first reading was achieved and that the second reading should be expected to hold in a relatively short time. Members were enjoined to prepare to be at Abuja for the public hearing in order to convince politicians about its importance. Liaison Officer: The current officer in the person of Dr. Mrs. Ebukibe was re-appointed as the liaison officer. Editorial Board: The existing board expired and a new Editor-in-Chief in the person of Prof. Mercy E. Ogaraku has been appointed. Dr. D. Oyoboh has been appointed as the Business Manager. He enjoined both to keep the journal publications consistent with high quality while informing the meeting that the 2023 edition was in process. He stated that the journal issues were up to date because publication has been consistent. He, however, expressed displeasure at the fact that the members' awareness of the Association's journal was low and that the journal always had to depend on the conference to have articles to publish. He said submitting an article to the journal can be done seamlessly online and that publishing in it leads the paper to AgEcons Search, a major repository for economic papers. He counselled that the new president should write to all Heads of Departments (HODs) to explain the importance of participating in the Association's conferences as well as publishing in the flagship journal. In response to the advice, the motion that all HODs be contacted as suggested was moved by Dr. Shakirat B. Ibrahim of Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Ogun State and seconded by Mr. M. Ebilade of Isaac Jasper Boro College of Education, Bayelsa State. It was also suggested that members be allowed to contribute to such letters. 2025 Hosting Rights: Ahmadu Bello University, Kaduna State accepted to host the conference. The Secretariat should send a formal letter informing them officially. The themes that were suggested by members: • AI and Digital Agricultural Production or Food Security • ICT driven Innovations • Food Safety • Food Distribution Improvement Through Cooperatives • Sustainable Agriculture with AI • Agriculture Re-Imagined and Use of AI • Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems • AI and Climate Change The meeting agreed that the suggestions should be reviewed and a summary given. In the meantime, a working theme was arrived at: Innovation, ICT and Food Systems. It was suggested that the sub-themes should be made broader.		
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7.0	Ibadan Final Report: The team has cleared all expenses and a formal report was sent to the president.		
8.0	NAAE Financial Report: The report was distributed at the AGM and presented by Prof. A. Yaro. Members suggested that coded NEC expenses such as transportation should be broken down; however, the meeting agreed that anyone who was interested in the details could approach financial secretary. Dr. A. Oredipe while appreciating the NEC made the following suggestions: • Sources of income should be mentioned in order to create room for improvement. • The bulk of income is from registration and it is not sustainable. • Additional sub headings should be created in the report to improve its presentation. • The new administration should have a budget that will guide performance; support approval while creating an avenue to measure performance against targets. • Members should take advantage of the fact that the registration process is open and continuous. • Budgets should be drawn based on experience. Additional information given to members included the fact that the LOC was not given additional money, apart from the initial seed money, for the conference. The LOC raised funds to organise the conference. The seed money was a loan which should be refunded to NEC. The LOC was appreciated and it was suggested that the funds raised should be invested or used to sponsor undergraduate students to the conference. Fellows were also encouraged to come with their students to the conference. With respect to the comments on raising additional funds, the following approaches were mentioned: • Joining Agricultural Policy Makers Association • Sale of journals • Departments should pay a token to the Association • Corporate membership • Attract big time farmers who are Agricultural Economists • Set up a funds mobilisation team to drive fund raising activities The motion to adopt the report was moved by Dr. S. Owen from Delta State University and seconded by Mrs. Ogonna O. Osuafor of NAEL, Awka		
9.0	Journal Report: The meeting was informed that the report for the current year would be submitted later. The delay was attributed to unforeseen circumstances which prevented the former Editor-in-Chief from being in attendance.		
10.	KWASU Final Report: There was no one from the institution to present the report, no updates were given and no apology was sent.		

11.0	IMSUAE Preliminary Report: The report was presented by the LOC Chairman, Prof. C. C. Eze. He informed the meeting that the team got ₦1,000,000.00 (One Million Naira only) while total expenditure was ₦2,449,110.00 (Two Million Four Hundred and Ninety-nine Thousand, One Hundred and Ten Naira only), leading to a deficit of ₦1,499,110.00 (One Million Four Hundred and Ninety-nine thousand, One Hundred and Ten Naira only). In response to the report, the president remarked that the LOC account which was opened specifically for conferences was not used and that ideally, all moneys should have passed through the account. He stated that it was bad precedence, given that UI LOC passed the money raised through the account. A member from the University of Port-Harcourt indicated that the sum of ₦100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira only) was paid into the LOC account. The financial secretary, was asked to follow up with him. The nature of the seed money, ₦250,000.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty-Thousand Naira only), received from NEC was discussed but no further clarifications were given. The president also reiterated the fact that the NEC does not accept liabilities and that paper processing was the editorial board's responsibility and not the LOC's. He then informed the meeting that the North may host the conference in 2026 because the Nigerian Institute of Agricultural Economist may be established and launched at Abuja; and as such the South should get ready to host the conference again in 2027. The LOC chairman, while appreciating those who reviewed papers for the conference, informed the meeting that the proceedings for the conference would soon be available and that some papers from the proceedings would be upgraded to journal articles in the NJAE. The meeting was also told that the 2022 and 2023 proceedings would be made available. Members noted that the conference registration fees were too low. The meeting drew comparisons with other professional associations such as the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, the Nigerian Economic Society and the African Association for Agricultural Economists; and after several deliberations decided that a gradual increase from ₦17,000 to ₦50,000 over a 3-year period be adopted as follows: 2025, ₦30000; 2026, ₦40000 and 2027, ₦50000. The motion to adopt the LOC report was moved by Dr. Henrietta U. Ukpe of the Federal University Wukari, Taraba State and seconded by Prof. Mercy E. Ogaraku.		
12.0	Elections The existing NEC was appreciated for their service and then dissolved. The Immediate Past President (IPP) then gave the rules for the elections: (a) The office of the president was not to be elected; the Vice-President I (VP I) would become the President while the Vice-President II (VP II) would become the VP I; and the persons ascending to these offices must be acclaimed.		

	(b) All other positions were open for election. To qualify, a candidate must have attended three (3) consecutive Annual General Meetings (AGM), that is, Ibadan, Maleté and the on going one. Professor C. C. Eze was unanimously affirmed by the AGM as the President of NAAE. The IPP, then, stated that the position of the legal adviser for the association was open since the former legal adviser, Prof. C. C. Eze, had become the president. The former VP II, Prof. Sola Adepoju became the VP I. He was affirmed by Dr W. E. Oko of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri and Dr. Loveth O. Okuma of Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State. The following offices were filled based on recommendations because many of the members who were present at the AGM were unqualified. As a result, those who could be vouched for by former members of the NEC were recommended to the following positions: <table><tr><td>Vice-President II</td><td>Prof. Abdul Yaro</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">He was nominated by Prof. Grace O. Alufohai of Babcock University, Ogun State. The nomination was seconded by Dr Henrietta U. Ukpe. He was affirmed by Prof. N. Ehirim of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri and Dr. M. O. Adio.</td></tr><tr><td>General Secretary</td><td>Prof. I. A. Ayinde</td></tr><tr><td>Assistant General Secretary</td><td>Dr. O. Ojeleye</td></tr><tr><td>Treasurer</td><td>Dr. Halima Salau</td></tr><tr><td>Financial Secretary</td><td>Prof. N. Ehirim</td></tr><tr><td>Internal Auditor</td><td>Dr. Phidelia Waziri-Ugwu</td></tr><tr><td>Editor-in-Chief</td><td>Prof. Mary Ogarakwu</td></tr><tr><td>Business Manager</td><td>Dr. Dan Oyoboh</td></tr><tr><td>Public Relations Officer</td><td>Dr. C. Akpe</td></tr><tr><td>Ex Officio</td><td>Prof. J. N. Nmadu</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Dr. A. Oredipe</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Dr. Oluwafunmiso A. Olajide</td></tr></table> The IPP, who coordinated the elections, told members that they had the right to reject any nomination that they did not agree with. He then implored members to attend conferences regularly and participate in the AGMs in order to qualify for elections. He said the issue of poor attendance at conference and low participation at AGMs was a problem that the association had been grappling with for some time. No objections were raised to the nominations and no comments were passed. Dr. I. A. Okidim of Rivers State University of Technology, Rivers State moved the motion to adopt the new executives while Dr. Dorothy P. Ani of University	Vice-President II	Prof. Abdul Yaro	He was nominated by Prof. Grace O. Alufohai of Babcock University, Ogun State. The nomination was seconded by Dr Henrietta U. Ukpe. He was affirmed by Prof. N. Ehirim of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri and Dr. M. O. Adio.		General Secretary	Prof. I. A. Ayinde	Assistant General Secretary	Dr. O. Ojeleye	Treasurer	Dr. Halima Salau	Financial Secretary	Prof. N. Ehirim	Internal Auditor	Dr. Phidelia Waziri-Ugwu	Editor-in-Chief	Prof. Mary Ogarakwu	Business Manager	Dr. Dan Oyoboh	Public Relations Officer	Dr. C. Akpe	Ex Officio	Prof. J. N. Nmadu		Dr. A. Oredipe		Dr. Oluwafunmiso A. Olajide		
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	of Agriculture, Makurdi, Benue State seconded it. Professors Grace O. Alufohai and Miriam N. Mgbakor encouraged and prayed for the new executives. The President, Prof C. C Eze, in his acceptance speech, appreciated the IPP and promised that the newly constituted NEC would do their best to move the association forward. He stated that the Association which was founded in the 60s once died and that it took late Prof. P. B. Okunneye, Prof. Sola Adepoju and several others to revive it. The efforts of the founding fathers were deeply appreciated. He went on to trace the history of the institutionalisation bill and promised that it would be top priority on his agenda. He also said that the ex-officio would be given specific responsibilities in order to draw from their experience. He also promised that efforts would be intensified to revitalise state chapters, which were started by Prof. P. B Okunneye.		
13.0	The Communique: Dr. D. Oyoboh was charged with the responsibility of preparing the communique.		
14.0	2025 Conference will be held at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State. The minimum requirement for hosting the conference were reiterated as: Travel location (e.g. travelling 3 hours to be there) Ease of movement and transportation A university which does not meet the requirement above will not be allowed to host.		
15.0	A.O.B Conference location: Members discussed the possibility of holding the Association’s conferences at other locations apart from Universities. After several deliberations, it was agreed that the status quo should remain while the idea of using other locations should be tried gradually.		
16.0	AGM: The meeting also agreed that the AGM should be held before the opening ceremony so that officers can be introduced to the meeting before the conference. Closing Prof. Mariam N. Mgbakor moved the motion for adjournment. Dr. O. Fakunle of Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State seconded the motion. The meeting came to an end by 2.00 pm. The closing prayer was said by Mr. M. Ebilade		

Olajide O. Adeola, Ph.D

Prof. Job Nmadu

Attendance at The 24th Annual General Meeting of the Nigerian Association of Agricultural Economists

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