



4683

Special Release

11 November, 2023

## OBITUARY

### OBITUARY PROFESSOR JOHNSON ADEBAYO ODEBIYI (1943 – 2023)

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. O. Adebawale, mni, FAS, announces the transition of Professor Johnson Adebayo Odebiyi, former Head, Department of Agricultural Biology (now Crop Protection and Environmental Biology), University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Saturday, 26 August, 2023 in Lagos, Nigeria. He was aged 79 years.

Late Professor Odebiyi was born on 11 September, 1943. He obtained B.Sc. (Agricultural Science) from the Department of Agricultural Biology, University of Ibadan in 1969, M.Sc and Ph.D from the University of California, Riverside in 1971 and 1974, respectively under the Rockefeller Foundation Scholarship.

Professor J. A. Odebiyi was appointed Lecturer II on 26 February, 1975 in the Department of Agricultural Biology, University of Ibadan. He was promoted Lecturer I from 01 October, 1971 with confirmation to retiring age effective 26 February, 1978. He was promoted Senior Lecturer, Reader and Professor in the Department of Crop Protection and Environmental Biology on 1 October, 1981, 1 October, 1986 and 1 October, 1991, respectively.

Professor Odebiyi was involved in teaching and conducting research in the field of Entomology, and other administrative activities during his journey through the University of Ibadan from where he retired on 11 September, 2008. Besides study and training positions, Professor J. A. Odebiyi was in active public service at the University of Ibadan for 34 years. Prof. Odebiyi worked on Bioecology of potato tuberworm parasites, biological control of the mango mealybug as well as biocontrol of water hyacinth, a noxious aquatic weed.

His Award-winning proposal: 'Improved Management of Agroforestry Parkland Systems in Sub-saharan Africa' won the European Commission grant in 1998 which served to kick-start the review and importance of Parklands in the Region. As part of his training, Prof. Odebiyi was a Research Associate at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Nairobi, Kenya, where he worked on Ecology of Cowpea pod borer. He thereafter engaged his networks and advocated the full participation of the University of Ibadan in activities of the Academic Board of the Africa Regional Postgraduate Program in Insect

Science (ARPPIS) in 2002 which led to continuing partnerships with ICIPE to date. His activities in Economic Entomology started the agroproduct that is today presented to the commercial world as UI Honey.

Late Prof. Odebiyi served the University of Ibadan in many capacities. He was Assistant Warden, Tedder Hall for 2 terms of 2 years each, effective 15 December 1981 and Warden for 3 years, effective 24 April, 1989. He was Warden, Nnamdi Azikwe Hall for 3 years from 09 September 1991 and Master of the same Hall for 3 years from 01 December, 1993.

He was a member of the Implementation committee for the Restructuring of the Teaching and Research Farm in 1980. He was Chairman, Academic Staff Union of Universities from 1985-1987. He was Head of Department of Crop Protection and Environmental Biology from May 1994 to May 1997. He served on the Senate Curriculum Committee in 1988, Faculty Committee on the 4-year degree program and served three terms on the University of Ibadan Governing Council. He was Director, Centre for Research Consultancy and Development (CRCD) for 2 years effective 01 April, 1999. He was elected Representative of Senate on the Governing Council of the University of Ibadan for a period of 4 years with effect from 01 August, 2003. He was external examiner to many Universities in Nigeria.

Professor Odebiyi was member, Entomological Society of Nigeria, Science Association of Nigeria, Nigerian Society of Plant Protection, Association of African Insect Scientists, Association of Applied Biologists as well as Association for the Advancement of Agricultural Sciences in Africa and attended several of their conferences. He was locally and globally recognized as a scholar per excellence, mentor, teacher, visionary leader, and father-figure to his students. He was conferred the Fellowship of the Entomological Society of Nigeria in 2002 for his outstanding contributions to the Science of Entomology.

Professor Odebiyi was a model for peace and harmony, humility, and benevolence to all who interacted with him. Prof Odebiyi was a teacher of teachers and a distinguished researcher in Entomology. He will be missed by the global academic community at home and abroad.

May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace. Amen.

●●● END ●●●