



CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN PROCUREMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS (CIPESS)

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MAKURDI (FUAM)
NOW KNOWN AS JOSEPH SARWUAN TARKA UNIVERSITY,
MAKURDI (JOSTUM)



Excellence & Professionalism

JULY, 2024

BULLETIN
Vol. 2, NUMBER 4

In an ever-changing society where information is power, creating long-term capability to empower minds and transform the future is critical. So, in accordance with its mandate, the Centre for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM), has made significant strides in human capacity building over the last two months through a series of impactful activities that have left an indelible impression on all those involved.

I am therefore delighted to once again introduce to you the July 2024 (Vol.2, No. 4) edition of CIPESS JOSTUM's bulletin which explicitly captured in text and pictures, some of the key activities undertaken by the Center within this period.

CIPESS JOSTUM's programmes are specifically designed to suit the educational and professional needs of the working class, despite their rigorous schedules, by including online teaching and learning. As a result, in accordance with the project concept, CIPESS swiftly adapted to the new normal and moved its short course training programme to an online platform. This relocation not only assured the continuation of learning, but also provided possibilities for people who would not have been able to participate otherwise. Participants could participate in interactive sessions, conveniently access course materials via the Learning Management System (LMS), and benefit from the knowledge of experienced trainers. The participants' feedback was overwhelmingly favourable, with many praising the quality of the training and the smooth online experience provided by CIPESS JOSTUM.

Research is the foundation of academic accomplishment, and providing students with the skills required to perform high-quality research is critical for their personal and professional development. To do this, CIPESS JOSTUM hosted a research clinic exclusively for postgraduate students. The research clinic offered postgraduate students practical advice on how to conduct research, collect data, analyze findings, and successfully communicate conclusions. CIPESS fosters a culture of research excellence, which not only nourishes the next generation of researchers but also advances knowledge in a variety of subjects. This hands-on approach to learning helps to develop critical thinking abilities and promote an academic excellence culture.

Furthermore, project management is critical to ensure the proper implementation of projects, and periodic reviews are required to monitor performance and make informed decisions. During the period under review, CIPESS JOSTUM conducted a detailed mid-year evaluation of project operations to assess progress, identify issues, and plan for the future. The mid-year review assessed the project's effectiveness, optimized resources, and adjusted targets to ensure continued success. This proactive approach to project management demonstrates CIPESS JOSTUM's dedication to quality and continual improvement.

Another notable achievement during this period was the recent graduation of the third batch of short course trainees in Abuja, which marked a key milestone in the organization's capacity-building initiatives. The graduation ceremony celebrated the trainees' hard work, dedication, and accomplishments as they completed the programme

successfully. CIPESS recognized the graduates' efforts by awarding them certificates, which gave physical evidence of their skills and knowledge gained throughout the three weeks of intense training in procurement, environmental, and social standards. Graduates expressed gratitude for the transforming and educational experience, as well as their readiness to implement their newly acquired talents in their respective fields. The 140 trainees who completed the third cycle of Short Course (Track A) training in Abuja joined hundreds of advanced Certificate Course (Track B) participants who had previously trained in the Federal Capital Territory. CIPESS JOSTUM empowers individuals by providing them with new skills and information, allowing them to pursue new possibilities, grow in their jobs, and positively contribute to society.

Furthermore, realizing that commencing a postgraduate study can be intimidating for many students, CIPESS JOSTUM organized a postgraduate orientation event to welcome new students and introduce them to the academic community. The orientation event allowed students to meet faculty members, network with their peers, and learn about the academic expectations and requirements of their programmes. CIPESS JOSTUM may have created the groundwork for postgraduate students' academic achievement by fostering a supportive and inclusive environment from the start.

Given these powerful activities, we are certain that CIPESS JOSTUM has left an everlasting mark on everyone who have had the opportunity to participate in its programmes. We are defined not only by meeting deadlines and remaining within budget, but also by accomplishing the desired results, satisfying stakeholders, and providing value that is consistent with our overall mission.

As we look ahead, it is our sincere aim to continue playing an important role in defining the future of education, professionalism, and research in Nigeria and beyond.

I hereby submit to you the CIPESS JOSTUM bulletin for July 2024.

Read with me.



Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu, FICCON, FCSN
Center Leader & Director, Center for
Innovation in Procurement Environmental
and Social Standards (CIPESS)



ENGR. PROF. ISAAC N. ITODO
 FNSE, FNIAE, FSESN, FAEng, NPOM
 VC. JOSEPH SARWUAN TARKA UNIVERSITY, MAKURDI



PROF. LAMI A. NNAMONU
 FICCON, FCSN
 CENTER LEADER & DIRECTOR, CIPESS



PROF. S.T. KPELAI
 DEPUTY CENTER LEADER
 PROCUREMENT STANDARDS



PROF. RUFUS SHA'ATO
 DEPUTY CENTER LEADER
 ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS



PROF. A.A. NASWEM
 DEPUTY CENTER LEADER
 SOCIAL STANDARDS



Dr. C.O. ECHE
 DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CIPESS

Table of Contents

Headline	Page
➤ From the Center Leader and Director's Desk -----	2
➤ Management Team -----	3
➤ CIPESS JOSTUM Holds Postgraduate Research Clinic -----	4
➤ CIPESS Graduates Fresh Batch of Short Course Cohort 3 Participants in Abuja -----	5
➤ Do Not Over Rely on Artificial Intelligence: Dr Obekpa Warns PG Students -----	6
➤ Environmental Sustainability: Definition and Concept -----	7
➤ Our Story in Pictures -----	8 – 10
➤ CIPESS PG Research Clinic: JOSTUM Experts Drill Students on Research Procedures -----	11
➤ CIPESS 2024 Mid-Year Performance Review Meeting: Center Leader and Director Salutes Staff Commitment -----	12
➤ Your Attitude Towards Research is Crucial: Dr Ofoegbu Tells CIPESS PG Students -----	12
➤ CIPESS JOSTUM Trains Over 500 Online Participants -----	13
➤ Call for Direct Entry Admissions -----	14
➤ CIPESS: Where We Are -----	15

Editors

Editor in chief: Prof. L.A. Nnamonu

Copy Editors: Dr. J.I. Ona

Uche Michael A.

Sub-Editors: Dr. Oladipo Olotu

Emmanuel Ziakere

Grace Ebe

Adejo Williams Enemona

Emmanuel Ijogo



CIPESS JOSTUM HOLDS POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH CLINIC

The Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi Makurdi (JOSTUM) recently organized a 3-day Research Clinic to properly guide postgraduate students at the Center on the fundamental steps of thesis writing.



Center Leader and Director, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu Addressing Students During CIPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Research Clinic

Delivering the welcome address at the event which was scheduled to hold from 22nd to 24th July 2024 at the College of Forestry and Fisheries' Auditorium, the Center Leader and Director, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu on behalf of the Vice Chancellor (JOSTUM), Engr Professor Isaac N. Itodo congratulated the students and stated that, the exercise became necessary to guide the postgraduate students of the Center in research best practices to enable them fulfil the core objectives of scientific research. Professor Nnamonu rated the exercise as a trailblazer in the University and encouraged the students to participate actively so as to benefit maximally from the exercise.

The Dean, Postgraduate School (PGS) JOSTUM, Professor R.A. Ofukwu in a keynote address commended the management of the Center for setting the pace and stated that the research clinic was principally meant to discuss research ideas, ethics, integrity funding, research management and in

addressing challenges even to writing of manuscripts. Professor Ofukwu added that, "It is actually a collaborative space that provides free check-up using experts to analyze progress so far made, interrogate the challenges encountered and proffer solutions.

The Dean also expressed his support for the exercise, recommending it to all colleges of the University, and wished the CIPESS Research Task Team a fruitful clinical practice that will diagnose and lay bare the prognosis of emerging and re-emerging challenges for accurate therapeutic regimens for continuous healthy research.



CIPESS Management Team and Postgraduate Students During CIPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Research Clinic

Earlier, the Dean of Student Affairs JOSTUM and the Research Team Leader, Sustainable Social Development, CIPESS, Professor S.A. Ejembi while given an overview of the research Clinic recapitulated the structure of the 3-day exercise, stating that, the event aimed to put the students through the basic steps involved in research writing for optimal results. Professor Ejembi further urged the students to effectively use the opportunity at their disposal to better their research works to make them publishable in reputable journals.

CIPESS GRADUATES FRESH BATCH OF SHORT COURSE COHORT 3 PARTICIPANTS IN ABUJA

Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) recently graduated 140 Short Course (Track A), cohort 3 participants following their successful completion of the three weeks training in the areas of procurement, environmental and social standards during a graduation event at National Open University of Nigeria, Abuja.



CIPESS Deputy Director, Dr Christopher Eche Delivering a Goodwill Message During CIPESS JOSTUM Cohort 3 Short Course Graduation Event in Abuja

On behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi, Engr Professor Isaac N. Itodo, the Center Leader and Director, Professor Lami. A. Nnamonu congratulated the graduands for the feat and stated that, the trainees were trained in viable areas that humanity deserves to liberate on to advance the country and the world at large. The Center Leader, represented by the Deputy Director, CIPESS, Dr Christopher Eche saluted the resilience and courage of the trainees for choosing to be part of the campaign for positive change which was championed by the National Universities Commission for the Federal Government of Nigeria under the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project. Professor Nnamonu expressed confidence that, the knowledge acquired by the participants during the training was sufficient to create a generational impact that will benefit the society. The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Professor S.A. Shomkegh charged the graduands to assume the role of change agents

and be courageous in the application of the skills acquired in their various offices for the benefit of the society. He asserted that, a time would come when lack of skills and certification in the thematic areas of procurement, environmental and social standards would hinder their career progression. He called on the graduands to be committed in promoting best practices by upholding integrity, professionalism and patriotism in their quest to reduce the incidences of corruption and mismanagement of public resources.

In separate remarks, the Class Governors of the respective standards including Omgboanga T. Elévation, Idik Egbara Owa and Akerele Tiamiyu Rahmate expressed gratitude to the Federal Government for initiating the SPESSE project and the National Universities Commission (NUC) for successfully executing the project. The participants attested that, the training has widened their scope of knowledge and provided them new tools, strategies and new lenses to view the society in a new dimension.



CIPESS Deputy Director, Dr Christopher Eche Delivering a Goodwill Message During CIPESS JOSTUM Cohort 3 Short Course Graduation Event in Abuja

Akerele Tiamiyu Rahmata also thanked CIPESS and the entire management team for their commitment to excellence and dedication in nurturing agents of change.

She charged her fellow participants to constantly remember the lessons learnt during the training as well as advocate for policies and practices that will ensure a better future for the generation to come.



DO NOT OVER-RELY ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: DR. OBEKPA WARNS PG STUDENTS

An experienced academic, Dr Hephzibah O. Obekpa has cautioned postgraduate students against relying too much on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in their research due to its significant limitations.



Dr Hephzibah O. Obekpa Delivering a Lecture During CIPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Research Clinic

Interacting on the second day of the 3-Day Research Clinic organized for Post Graduate Students by the Centre for Innovation in Procurement in Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), which took place from Monday, 22 to Wednesday, 24 July, 2024, at the College of Forestry and Fisheries' Auditorium, Dr. Obekpa stated that, while the benefits of AI were numerous, over-reliance on it was harmful because it could not substitute human intelligence.

Speaking through her presentation slides on the theme "The Use of Artificial Intelligence: A Caution Against Plagiarism," the Presenter defined Artificial Intelligence (AI) as "the simulation of human intelligence in machines programmed to think and learn like humans." She also stated that "these machines can perform tasks that

typically require human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and language translation."

Dr. Obekpa highlighted the benefits of AI, stating that it may increase user productivity, improve language and grammar, and produce ideas and content for the user. Other applications include conducting literature searches on academic databases, summarizing enormous amounts of information, and providing writing aid. In contrast, she claimed that some of the drawbacks associated with the employment of Artificial Intelligence software included the possibility of producing unoriginal content, incorrect use of AI tools, misreading of AI-produced proposals, and non-reference of the generated information.



A Section of students During CIPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Research Clinic

The lecturer reminded the students to constantly verify and correctly cite AI-generated content to escape the shackles of plagiarism which could plunge them into litigations, Loss of reputation, personal embarrassment as well as Copyright infringement.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: DEFINITION AND CONCEPT

Ugbaa M.S. & Eche C.O.

*Department of Environmental Sustainability
Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi
E-mail of Corresponding Author: ugbaa,macsamuel@uam.edu.ng*

The natural environment provides many resources we use in our everyday lives. We use it to grow crops, obtain water, harvest wood, mine for minerals and metals, and produce energy. However, overuse of these resources can cause them to become depleted, limiting our ability to use them in the future. This is why we talk about environmental sustainability,

Although environmental sustainability has been defined in several ways, it is generally seen as the processes and actions through which humankind avoids the depletion of natural resources, in order to keep an ecological balance that does not allow the quality of life of modern societies.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme, (UNEP), environmental sustainability involves making life choices that ensure an equal, if not better, way of life for future generations. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) defines environmental sustainability as an integrated approach that balances social, economic, and environmental factors. Environmental sustainability therefore encompasses social and economic factors as well.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines environmental sustainability based on a simple principle: Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. To pursue sustainability is to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations. Environmental sustainability within the European Union (EU) refers to meeting the world's needs both today and, in the future, while staying within the limits of our planet. The African Union (AU) in its own view of environmental sustainability, envisions a prosperous, sustainable, and climate-resilient Africa that harnesses its natural resources, protects its ecosystems, and ensures the well-being of its people for generations to come

Environmental sustainability therefore refers to the practice of responsibly interacting with the environment to avoid depletion or degradation of natural resources and allow for long-term environmental quality.

In simple terms, environmental sustainability is the practice of interacting with the planet responsibly to avoid depleting natural resources and compromising the future generation's ability to meet their daily needs. In other words, it entails that present generations can meet their needs through the benefits they derive from the environment without jeopardizing the needs of future generations.

Environmental sustainability aims to improve the quality of human life without putting unnecessary strain on the earth's supporting ecosystems. It encompasses practices that ensure the health and viability of ecosystems for future generations' use and benefits. Key principles include conserving resources, reducing pollution and carbon footprint, and fostering ecological balance. These principles are inherently interconnected. For instance, the African Development Bank is committed to promoting environmentally sustainable development in Africa, and recognizes the interconnectedness of economic growth, poverty reduction, and environmental protection.

The World Bank Group views environmental sustainability as a critical foundation for inclusive growth, food security, poverty reduction, and human well-being. In the African context, environmental sustainability is particularly vital due to the continent's rich biodiversity and the dependency of many communities on natural resources for their livelihoods. Sustainable practices are essential to protect Africa's unique ecosystems, support economic development, and enhance the well-being of its people.

The Concept of Environmental Sustainability

The concept of sustainability requires that the production of goods and services fulfils present demands without jeopardizing the potential to satisfy the needs of future generations. This concept is rooted in the understanding that human activities have significant impacts on the environment, and that these impacts must be mitigated to prevent irreparable harm to the planet and its inhabitants. This is because the environment is a finite resource; a healthy environment benefits the ecosystem and all life. Therefore, to sustain the planet, our ecosystem, and all life on it, it is critical that environmental resources be appropriately managed and preserved.

The concept of environmental sustainability hinges on three pillars:

- **Environmental integrity:** The preservation of natural systems and processes, including biodiversity, ecosystem services, and the functioning of the water cycle, climate regulation, and nutrient cycles.
- **Social equity:** The fair distribution of resources and opportunities, ensuring that all individuals have access to basic needs like clean water, sanitation, and a healthy environment.
- **Economic viability:** The adoption of economic models that prioritize long-term sustainability over short-term gains, recognizing the value of natural capital and the costs of environmental degradation.

In recent years, fighting environmental degradation has been a key priority for advanced and emerging economies. Environmental degradation has posed a danger to the economic well-being of the entire world, as it is linked to the success of various macroeconomic factors. Over the last two decades, research has contributed significantly to society by demonstrating how human beings influence global ecosystem changes. The effects of human activities originate from the use of the environment to produce goods for consumption and as a receptacle for waste.

Businesses play a key role in environmental sustainability by reshaping their operations to protect natural resources, reduce waste, and address climate change. Examples include creating sustainable products, using renewable energy, and implementing sustainable practices in manufacturing and supply chains. Ultimately, environmental sustainability is crucial for ensuring a healthy planet and quality of life for current and future generations. It requires a collective effort from individuals, businesses, and governments to make sustainable choices and minimize our environmental impact.

In conclusion, environmental sustainability is a critical concept that underpins the long-term viability of our planet. Its achievement requires a concerted effort to integrate ecological, social, and economic considerations into decision-making processes at all levels.



Dr Macsamuel Sesugh Ugbaa



Dr Eche C.O.



OUR STORY IN PICTURES



Professor Mrs C.D. Tuleun (left) Presenting Certificate of Participation to a Graduand During CIPESS JOSTUM Cohort 3 Short Course Graduation Event in Abuja



Professor E.J. Ekefan (right) Presenting Certificate of Participation to a Graduand During CIPESS JOSTUM Cohort 3 Short Course Graduation Event in Abuja



Dr Peter Tsue Addressing Graduands During CIPESS JOSTUM Cohort 3 Short Course Graduation Event in Abuja



Members of CIPESS JOSTUM Management Team Seated During Cohort 3 Short Course Graduation Event in Abuja



A Section of Short Course Graduands During CIPESS JOSTUM Cohort 3 Graduation Event in Abuja



A Graduand Delivering Valedictory Speech During CIPESS JOSTUM Cohort 3 Short Course Graduation Event in Abuja



Professor S.A. Shomkegh Delivering a Lecture During CIPESS JOSTUM Short Course Cohort 3 Graduation Event in Abuja



CIPESS JOSTUM Management Team and Graduands During Short Course Cohort 3 Graduation Event in Abuja





L-R: Professor Rufus Sha-Ato, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu & Professor S.T. Kpelai Seated During CIPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Research Clinic



Professor E.J. Ekefan Anchoring a Session During CIPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Research Clinic



Professor R.A. Wuana Addressing Students During CIPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Research Clinic



Professor I. Ahemen Making a Contribution During CIPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Research Clinic



Dr P.T.J. Jato Responding to Students' Concerns During CIPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Research Clinic



Dean Students Affairs, Professor S.A. Delivering a Keynote Address During CIPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Research Clinic



A Section of Students Seated During CIPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Research Clinic



Center Leader and Director, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu (3rd left), Deputy center Leaders and other Key Management Staff During CIPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Research Clinic



OUR STORY IN PICTURES



Center Leader and Director, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu Taking Notes During CIPESS JOSTUM 2024 Mid-Year Review Meeting



Assistant Project Accountant, Mrs Jane Onah Delivering a Presentation During CIPESS JOSTUM 2024 Mid-Year Review Meeting



Deputy Center Leader, Procurement Standards, Professor S.T. Kpelai Contributing During CIPESS JOSTUM 2024 Mid-Year Review Meeting



Industrial Liaison Officer Dr Maccsamuel Ugbaa Delivering a Presentation During CIPESS JOSTUM 2024 Mid-Year Review Meeting



Deputy Director, Dr C.O. Eche (front) and Participants During CIPESS JOSTUM 2024 Mid-Year Review Meeting



Legal Officer Barr. Mary A. Amara Contributing During CIPESS JOSTUM 2024 Mid-Year Review Meeting



Administrative team Leader, Dr Felix Igbahehah Making a Presentation During CIPESS JOSTUM 2024 Mid-Year Review Meeting



Deputy Center Leader, Environmental Standards, Professor Rufus Sha-Ato Anchoring a Session During CIPESS JOSTUM 2024 Mid-Year Review Meeting

CIPESS PG RESEARCH CLINIC: JOSTUM EXPERTS DRILL STUDENTS ON RESEARCH PROCEDURES

Experts drawn from various disciplines at the Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) have drilled the postgraduate students of the World Bank supported Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) on research procedures.

The three-day event which held between 22nd and 24th of July, 2024 at the College of Forestry and Fisheries' auditorium North Core of the University witnessed various presentations in thematic areas of research and thesis writing.

Professor S. A. Shomkegh of the Department of Social and Environmental Forestry, and CIPESS Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in his paper titled: Research Topic Selection and Introduction, said a research topic was basically the theme or question that guides a research project and helps to focus the research activities on a clear objective. He demonstrated five steps in the selection of a research question as identification of personal area of interest, review of literature,

consultation with researcher's mentor, consideration of the scope and feasibility of the study, and consideration of the relevance of the topic. The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer said these must, in the end, be relevant to the researcher's field of study and have the potential to contribute to existing knowledge.

The Don maintained that a researcher needs to give the background of the research topic, formulate the problem statement, provide research questions and give the research objectives which according to him must be specific and measurable, determine the significance of study, and exhibit enough relevance to attract funders. Professor Shomkegh further informed that, the task of selecting a research topic was Herculean but if objectively done, it paves the way for a fruitful research endeavour. He therefore encouraged the students to enthrone discipline and hard work while on a research mission.

Another expert at the Centre, Dr Chris Eche, Deputy Director, CIPESS JOSTUM and Dr Hephzibah Obekpa on Literature Review, Methodology and referencing, and Use of Artificial Intelligence: A Caution for Plagiarism respectively.

Dr Christopher laid out the purposes, characteristics and steps for writing an effective literature review. He described literature review as the critical consideration of existing research works that are significant to the research embarked upon by a researcher. According to him, literature review provides the needed background information, establishes importance and demonstrates

familiarity with the subject area. He said, therefore, that literature review must outline important research trends on the topic and assess the strengths and weaknesses of existing research in the area of study. Dr Eche added that there was therefore the need to plan carefully, conduct library research on the topic, analyze findings, make a draft of the review and revise it thoroughly, all in order to arrive at an effective literature review.

The Deputy Director proceeded to give tips on the organization of research methodology to include stating the type of research, how data was collected and analyzed, the tools or materials employed for data collection, and the rationale for choosing the data collection methods. Explaining referencing and adducing reasons for referencing, Dr Eche said referencing is important because it demonstrates that a researcher's work is based on knowledge and informed by appropriate academic reading. According to him, accurate referencing ensures that anyone reading a researcher's work can trace the sources used in the development of the work.

In a paper titled: "Research Results Presentation, Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendations in Graduate Research," A Professor of Environmental Chemistry and CIPESS Deputy Center Leader in charge of Environmental Standards, Professor Rufus Sha'Ato, while addressing the specificities in research presentation, noted that the existence of multiple academic disciplines has given rise to distinguishable approaches to research results presentation and discussion.

Narrowing the existing differences to what is obtainable in Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi, Professor Sha'Ato said Postgraduate research in the University recognizes subject peculiarities and the differences in how the sections of research are rendered. According to him, in Agricultural Economics and Extension, Education, Home Science and Management, and Management Science, research results and discussion are usually combined the same way as Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations. Professor Sha'Ato however said that in Agriculture, Science and Technology programmes, research results are presented separately and meticulously explained before the discussion which also appears in a different section of the research report.

He urged the students to take every section or aspect of their research work seriously as each section stands an equal chance of making or marring their efforts.



Professor S.A. Shomkegh Delivering a Lecture During CIPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Research Clinic



The Center Leader and Director of the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards, (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM), Professor Lami A. Nnamonu has praised the uncommon commitment of CIPESS project staff from inception to date. The Center Leader and Director who was represented by the Academic Programme Coordinator of Environmental Standards, Professor E.J. Ekefan made the commendation during the Center's 2024 Mid-Year Performance Review Meeting which held at the Electrical Electronics Engineering Large Lecture Hall on 30th July, 2024.



Academic Programme Coordinator, Environmental Standards, Professor E.J. Ekefan Delivering the Goodwill Message During CIPESS JOSTUM 2024 Mid-Year Review Meeting

Delivering the welcome address and the objective of the meeting, the Center Leader stated that, the meeting became necessary in order to analyse past performance and identify critical areas for future improvement for the achievement of greater results. While encouraging the project staff not to rescind in their commitment to moving the project forward, Professor Nnamonu urged resource persons and participants to interact freely by contributing meaningfully to their respective areas for the benefit of all.

Power point presentations from the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Professor S.A. Shomkegh, the Administrative Team Leader, Dr Felix Igbahenah and the Environmental and Social Safeguard Officer, Dr Macsamuel Ugbaa provided insights on the Status of CIPESS Training, Engagement of CIPESS Facilitators and Documentation, as well as Environmental and Social Safeguards Issues of the project respectively.

In the same vein, presentations from the Assistant Project Accountant, Mrs Jane Onah, Communications Officer, Uche A. Michael and Information and Communication Technology Officer, Engr T.J. Tingirrespectively provided explanations and updates on Financial and Retirement Procedures, CIPESS Communications and Media Outreaches, and the Center's Learning Management System (LMS) and emailing challenges respectively. Other presentations on the Status of Implementation of the 2024 Private Sector Partners Engagement plan, and the Status of CIPESS Assets and Maintenance Plan were done by the Administrative Team Leader, Dr Felix Igbahenah and the Property Manager, Mr G.A. Toranyiin in respective order.

The Project Management Officer, Dr John I. Ona in a vote of thanks expressed gratitude to presenters of various topic and every member of the team for participating actively during the event. He expressed optimism that, the take aways of the event would pave way for proper adjustment and as well offer new insights in respective units and departments at the Center

Dr. O. Ofoegbu, Principal Investigator, Polymer, Nano, and Molecular Recognition Materials Research Group, Department of Industrial Chemistry, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM), has urged postgraduate students at the Centre for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental, and Social Standards (CIPESS) to maintain a positive attitude in the pursuit of their research projects in order to meet set goals.

Dr. Ofoegbu made the call on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at the College of Forestry and Fisheries' Auditorium, while delivering a lecture on the topic "Research Attitude: Managing Time and Relationship with Supervisors," as part of a three-day Research Clinic exercise organised for Postgraduate students at the Centre for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM).

He charged the students to cultivate curiosity, tenacity, critical thinking, and open-mindedness as essential qualities for successful thesis writing. The presenter also stated that understanding effective time management tactics for research, such as efficiently allocating time to diverse research assignments to maximise productivity and learning how to create a productive relationship with supervisors, were necessary for meeting specified goals.



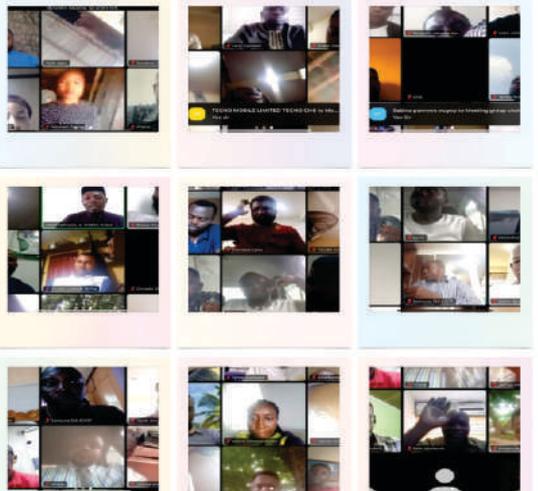
Dr O. Ofoegbu Delivering a Lecture During CIPESS JOSTUM Postgraduate Research Clinic

The Principal Investigator charged the students to avoid procrastination and maintain professionalism by respecting limits, observing professional etiquette, demonstrating respect and professionalism in all interactions, and appreciating the supervisor's time and work. According to him, requesting more support from peers, faculty, and academic resources, in addition to being proactive in finding answers to problems, were virtues to possess when conducting research projects.

CIPESS JOSTUM TRAINS OVER 500 ONLINE PARTICIPANTS

No fewer than five hundred participants on 15th July, 2024 commenced online short course training in the areas of procurement, environmental and social standards at the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM).

The Center Leader and Director, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu in a goodwill message congratulated the participants and charged them to be committed and disciplined in pursuing the dream to becoming professionals in their various chosen fields. Professor Nnamonu who was represented by Professor Adolphus A. Naswem (Deputy Center Leader, Social Standards), Professor Rufus Sha-Ato (Deputy Center Leader, Environmental Standard) and John Ona (Project Management Officer) during the three separate sessions of orientation events for online participants of procurement, environmental and social standards further implored the participants to cherish the moment and commit to fulfilling the necessary requirement for the award of their certificates of participation.



A Snapshot of Staff & Participants During CIPESS JOSTUM Online Short Course Orientation Event

Speaking on the theme “This is CIPESS,” during the separate orientation sessions, the Project Management Officer, Dr John Ona and the Academic Programme Coordinator, Environmental Standards Prof. E.J. Ekefan stated that, the project was aimed at building sustainable human capacity in procurement, environmental and social standards in a bid to curb corruption and other social and environmental concerns for the well being of the society. The presenters enjoined the participants to value the exercise stating that, henceforth, promotions to the next level in their careers would require evidence of professional training in either of procurement, environmental and social standards areas.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Professor Simon Shomkegh while delivering a lecture on “CIPESS Short Courses: Requirements and Obligations of Online Participants,” encouraged the trainees to participate actively and to be committed to fulfilling the necessary requirements as any default would lead to non-issuance of certificate of participation. Professor Shomkegh called on them to uphold respect for one another by ensuring inclusion, equality and diversity of fellow trainees to make the learning environment conducive for all. He further charged the participants to respond promptly to emails and call emanating from the center or the Independent Third-Party verification Agent to authenticate their participation in the Sustainable Procurement Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) programmes.

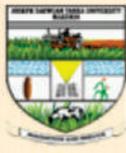
On Navigating the Virtual Learning Environment, the Information and Communication Technology Officer (ICTO) Engr Terngu Tingir explained that the three weeks self-spaced online training was to be run on the Learning Management System (LMS) using Moodle for maximum result. Engr Tingir called on the participants to be open minded, invest time, and observe the rules governing the Virtual Learning Environment, adding that, the ICT unit will provide the necessary support throughout the training period to enhance a hitch free exercise.

In separate remarks during the orientation event, the Administrative Team Leader, Dr Felix Igbahenah, Research Team Leader, Environmental Standards, Dr Sylvester Tongu and the Industrial Liaison Officer, Dr Macsamuel Ugbaa expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi Engr Professor Isaac N. Itodo, the Center Leader and Director, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu for their unique leadership style and the entire CIPESS JOSTUM team for their coordinated efforts to facilitate the success of the programme.

Dr Felix Igbahenah while commending the participants for their keen interest to participate in the programme also extended appreciation to the resource persons and the technical team of the Center for preparing the ground for the commencement of the online course. He expressed optimism that the insight received from the orientation event will become useful hints for the participants to navigate the programme effortlessly.



CALL FOR DIRECT ENTRY ADMISSIONS



JOSEPH SARWUAN TARKA UNIVERSITY, MAKURDI (JOSTUM)

DIRECT ENTRY ADMISSIONS

JOSTUM offers you a chance to be admitted through Direct Entry into 200 Level for a Bachelor of Science degree in the Departments of Procurement Management (PM), Environmental Sustainability (ENS), and Sustainable Social Development (SSD).

AVAILABLE COURSES

B.Sc. PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT

Direct Entry Requirements:

- Advanced level credit passes in at least two relevant subjects in addition to the five O' Level credits.
- OND and HND with a minimum of Upper Credit level are eligible for consideration for admission into 200- and 300- levels respectively in addition to meeting the O' Level requirement.

B.Sc. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Direct Entry Requirements:

- Candidates who fulfil the basic admission requirements and who have obtained G.C.E Advanced Level, HSC/JMB or equivalent passes in Biology and Physics, or Mathematics or Physics, or Geography and any other subject noted above as well as holders of the Advanced Diploma in Environmental Standards at Credit level may be admitted at the 200 level of the programme.
- Holders of OND and HND at minimum of Upper Credit level are eligible for consideration for admission into 200- and 300- levels respectively

B.Sc. SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Direct Entry Requirements:

- Candidates who fulfil the basic admission requirements and who have obtained G.C.E Advanced Level passes in at least two subjects.
- Also, to be considered are candidates with Diploma/Advanced Diploma in any of the following: Social Standards, Social Work, Social Development components and Impact Assessment components passed at upper credit level or National Certificate of Education (NCE) in Social Studies passed at 'B' level and above.

Apply through JAMB or do a change of course and University to stand a chance for admission into any of the prestigious programmes mentioned above

For further enquiries:

Contact: Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESSE) Building, Engineering Complex, JOSTUM, Benue State, Nigeria

www.cipessfuam.edu.ng

Email: info@cipessfuam.edu.ng
Twitter: [@cipess_fuam](https://twitter.com/cipess_fuam)
Facebook: [@cipessfuam](https://www.facebook.com/cipessfuam)
Instagram: [@cipessfuam123](https://www.instagram.com/cipessfuam123)
Youtube: [@cipess_fuam](https://www.youtube.com/cipess_fuam)

08024562933,
08038288040,
080339260253



The unwavering commitment of the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) to building human capacity and enhancing knowledge to stimulate growth and development of individuals, institutions, and communities is ultimately driving positive change and progress in the society.

Through various initiatives and programmes, CIPESS JOSTUM has been providing accessible and practical learning opportunities for individuals seeking to enhance their skills and knowledge to equip them with the tools and expertise necessary to succeed in their respective fields. The progressive delivery of the Center's programmes across states of the North Central recently culminated to the graduation of 140 short course (Track A) participants in Abuja for the third time. By offering a range of courses tailored to meet the needs of participants and of the society, CIPESS JOSTUM has consistently contributed to shaping the future for the forthcoming generation.

Within the period under review (June to July), CIPESS JOSTUM has had a variety of prominent activities ranging from Postgraduate Research Clinic, Postgraduate Orientation event, and an internal Mid-Year Review of the project. These activities were aimed at providing mentorship, empowering individuals to enhance steady

growth. The postgraduate research clinic initiative served as a valuable resource for students looking to deepen their academic pursuits and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in their specific areas of interest while the postgraduate orientation event provided them with essential information and guidance to navigate their academic journey successfully.

Overall, CIPESS JOSTUM's holistic approach to human capacity building and knowledge enhancement initiatives in the fields of procurement, environmental and social standards within this period reflect its dedication to fostering a culture of learning, innovation, and professional development. By celebrating achievements, supporting research endeavours, guiding students, and engaging in reflective practices, CIPESS JOSTUM continues to uphold its mission of shaping the next generation of leaders and change-makers.



Uche Michael Aondoemba
Communications Officer

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS ENHANCEMENT (SPESSE) PROJECT



SPESSE

MISSION

To produce a critical mass of highly skilled and fit-for purpose professionals in the areas of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards for sustainable development.

VISION

To be a Dynamic Regional Hub for Expert Training and Research in Public Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Based on Global Best Practices.

FOLLOW US

[@cipessuam](#) [@cipessfuam123](#) [@cipess_fuam](#) [@cipess_fuam](#)

CONTACT US

[09073888770](tel:09073888770) info@cipessfuam.edu.ng

www.cipessfuam.edu.ng

