

**CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN
PROCUREMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND
SOCIAL STANDARDS (CIPESS)**
**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE,
MAKURDI (FUAM)**



MOTTO: EXCELLENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM

MARCH, 2023

VOL. 1

BULLETIN

CIPESS PROGRAMMES

SHORT COURSES (TRACK A.) – THREE (3) WEEKS

- i. Procurement Standards
- ii. Environmental Standards
- iii. Social Standards

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE COURSES (TRACK B.) – THREE (3) WEEKS

- i. Procurement Standards
- ii. Environmental Standards
- iii. Social Standards

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS (TRACK C.) – ONE (1) YEAR

- i. Postgraduate Diploma in Procurement Management
- ii. Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Environmental Standards
- iii. Postgraduate Diploma in Social Standards

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE (TRACK D.) – TWO (2) YEARS

- i. M.Sc. Procurement
- ii. M.Sc. Environmental Standards
- iii. M.Sc. Social Standards

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREES (TRACK D.) – FOUR (4) YEARS

- i. B.Sc. Procurement Management
- ii. B.Sc. Sustainable Environmental Standards
- iii. B.Sc. Social Risk Management

Apply here: <https://cipessfuam.edu.ng/application/>



CIPESS JOSTUM TOPS CHART AS WORLD BANK PRESENTS IVA REPORT

Centre for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi (FUAM) now Joseph Sarwuan Tarkaa University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) has clinched the top spot in an independent verification exercise facilitated by an Independent Verification Agency (IVA) and vetted by the World Bank.

The Center Leader and Director, Professor L.A.



Ag Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Prof. P.A. Annune (right) with NUC Team During a Visit

Nnamonu disclosed this on December 1, 2022, when the Center Management Committee (CMC) paid a courtesy call on the Acting Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor P.A. Annune in his conference room.

According to the Center Leader/Director, the visit was driven by the need to congratulate the Interim Head on his emergence as the acting Vice Chancellor of the University and to also brief him on the activities and progress recorded by the Center so far. In her submission, the independent verification exercise was aimed at ascertaining compliance of Centers of Excellence to World Bank guidelines.

While appreciating the Acting Vice Chancellor for holding the Center dearly to heart, Professor Nnamonu further indulged the Vice Chancellor to use all available Media of Communication to place the Institution and the Center on a higher scale.

Presenting the IVA report, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, CIPESS, Professor S.A. Shomkegh proclaimed that, CIPESS outshined its contemporaries to sit top in the first verification exercise involving Centers of Excellence under the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) Project of the

World Bank hosted by six (6) Universities across six geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

Professor Shomkegh submitted that, the first report which covered a six-month period of January to June, 2022 with an expected number of 400 students, sixty two percent (62%) of students scored the Center Very Satisfied while the remaining percentages were shared between Satisfied and Neutral accordingly. He further identified JOSTUM with Federal University of Technology Oweri (FUTO) which had zero penalty for non-violation of the set protocols of the project. The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer expressed satisfaction that, though the work for the second phase of verification exercise was ongoing, the prospects to surpass the current average were unequivocally high.

Commenting, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor P.A. Annune appreciated the team for the visit and commended them for the good performance. The Acting Vice Chancellor who admitted having been deluded with fear of other premier Universities beating JOSTUM to the position maintained that



CIPESS MANAGEMENT WITH NUC TEAM DURING A VISIT

achievements of this nature are proves that Benue has a lot to offer.

Professor Annune further commended the Center Management for establishing a study Center in Abuja and also encouraged the management of the Center to speed up activities that will lead to the establishment of the Center's Postgraduate Programmes in the University. He finally pledged management's support for the activities of the Center to thrive, saying, success of the project will also put the Institution on a pedestal of glory.



NUC OKAYS CIPESS UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES



National Universities Commission (NUC) has approved undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes in the fields of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards to be run by the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and

Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM).

In a letter addressed to the Vice Chancellor JOSTUM, dated 25th January, 2023 and signed by the Director, Academic Planning, Dr N.B. Saliu for the Executive Secretary, the

Commission considered and approved full-time mode of Bachelor of Science degrees in Procurement Standards, Environmental Standards and Social Standards. Also, Postgraduate Diplomas and Master's of Science degrees in Procurement Standards Environmental Standards and Social Standards received full approval to be run on the main campus of the University with effect from 2022/2023 academic session.

The Commission however enjoined the University to provide adequate human and material resources by recruiting more lecturers in the core areas and providing more relevant books for the development and growth of the programmes.



A Section of NUC Team during a Visit to the Center

CIPESS GRADUATES FIRST SET OF ADVANCED CERTIFICATE COURSE TRAINEES

Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) on Monday, 20th February, 2023 at The Staff Development Center, Makurdi graduated its first set of trainees admitted for the Advanced Certificate Course programme of the



Center Leader and Director, CIPESS Prof. L.A. Nnamonu (right) Presenting Certificate to a Graduand

Center.

Delivering the goodwill message during the valedictory ceremony, the Center Leader and Director, CIPESS, Professor L.A. Nnamonu congratulated the graduands for being the first to achieve the feat in North Central Nigeria stating that, certificates were issued based on the internal examination, industrial visits, and presentations as well as full participation in class activities.

Professor Nnamonu who praised the resilience of the graduands further urged them to remain committed in their quest to become fully certified professionals in the fields of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards.

In his presentation on the topic “Drivers of Change” the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Professor S.A. Shomkegh called on graduands to endeavour to be good ambassadors of the Center by ensuring that the impact of the training is felt at their various places of work and businesses. Professor Shomkegh also enjoined the graduands to lead the fight against corruption by always upholding the principles of fairness, transparency and accountability saying, a positive change is possible through men and women of courage with

firm belief in human dignity and prosperity. He further urged them to remain resolute in their drive to becoming professionals in the areas of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards.

Responding, course representatives, Engr. Atser Roy and Mordecai S. Chahul of Procurement and Environmental Standards respectively, in separate remarks commended the World Bank for the initiative and CIPESS Management for their effort which culminated to effective coordination of the programmes. Engineer Atser further urged the Management of the Center to remain steadfast to ensure the sustainability of the programme.

On his part, the course representative for Environmental Standards, Noah Edson Tor unreservedly expressed gratitude to the World Bank for the life changing project saying, participating and obtaining an Advanced Certificate was one of his remarkable



Center Leader and Director CIPESS with Graduands

achievements in life. The course representative who also lauded the uncommon commitment and culture exhibited by CIPESS Management further called on all to apply the knowledge gained where and when necessary for the general good of the society.

The high point of the event was the presentation of Advanced Certificates to graduands in an atmosphere charged with excitement electric atmosphere.



CIPESS MANAGEMENT FELICITATES WITH JOSTUM NEW VICE CHANCELLOR

The Center Management Committee of the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental & Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) on 13th March, 2023 paid a courtesy visit on the newly appointed Vice Chancellor of the University, Engr.Prof. I.N Itodo to identify with him on his elevation.



Speaking during the visit, the Center Leader and Director, Professor L.A. Nnamonu stated that, the visit was to congratulate the Vice Chancellor on his emergence and assumption of duty as the 7th substantive Vice Chancellor of the University and to also update him on the activities and achievements of CIPESS.

The Center Leader expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor for spreading the news of CIPESS to the world especially the Air Force during his familiarization tour in Benue State, pleaded with the University administration to continue to support the Center to enable it achieve set targets. While presenting a high-quality HP laptop to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Nnamonu further assured that, CIPESS as a team will continue to work tirelessly to ensure the achievement of set goals for the improvement and continuous growth of the University.

Delivering a presentation, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, CIPESS, Prof. S.A Shomkegh stated that CIPESS was ranked first during a verification exercise conducted by the World Bank involving the other six (6) Centers of Excellence under the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental & Social

Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project across six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. He added that JOSTUM and the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO) had no penalties for non-violation of the protocols of the project. Prof. Shomkegh further highlighted the installation of 10 Smart Boards, upgrade of classrooms and offices, purchase of 100 KVA generator, 32-seater bus and a Toyota Hilux as well as the installation of an internet bandwidth optic fiber on campus to be among some of the recent milestones achieved at the Center.



The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer however enjoined the Vice Chancellor to facilitate the award of CIPESS Complex building (from TETFund), provide male & female hostels (for regional & national student) and not to relent in administrative support to CIPESS project team.

Responding, the Vice Chancellor, Engr Professor Isaac Itodo described the Center as the face of the new JOSTUM and expressed satisfaction on the level of achievement at the Center saying, he will continue to be an advocate of the Center. The Vice Chancellor further assured the Center Management of administration's complete and unreserved support to enable it succeed saying, his doors would always be open to receive and address the yearnings of the Center.

GRAB THE CHANCE AND MAKE A CHANGE: CENTER LEADER URGES TRAINEES

The Center Leader and Director, Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi, Professor L.A. Nnamonu has called on trainees to make the most of CIPESS trainings in a bid to effect the desired change the society is yearning for.



Project Management Officer, Prof. E.J Ekefan Addressing Trainees During the Orientation Event

Professor Lami Nnamonu stated this on 30th January, 2023 at Staff Development Center, Makurdi during an orientation event to kick start training for the Center's Advanced Certificate courses in the fields of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards.

Making a presentation on the theme "This is CIPESS" the Center Leader and Director, represented by the Project Management Officer, Professor E.J. Ekefan congratulated the trainees for being the first to be admitted for the Advanced Certificate course option at the center and for seeking knowledge that would transform the society.

Professor Ekefan who reminisced the activities that culminated to the award of the Center further charged trainees to maximally use the opportunity before them not just to gain knowledge, certificate or promotions at their places of work but to also seek to build a

formidable society for the forthcoming generation.

Delivering a talk on the topic, "Advanced Certificate Courses: Trainee Obligations and Requirements" the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Professor S.A. Shomkegh on his part called on trainees to uphold mutual respect for one another and to endeavour to fulfil the necessary requirements for the award Certificates. Professor Shomkegh who was represented by the Examination Officer for Procurement Standards, Dr Simon Tyoakosu noted that, certificates would be awarded to trainees based on commitment and active participation in training activities.

He further enjoined the trainees to prioritize the training and pay less attention to distractions that would threaten their set target.

In his vote of thanks during the orientation event, the Administrative Team Leader, Dr Felix Igbahenah specially appreciated the Center Management, Facilitators and



CIPESS MANAGEMENT AND TRAINEES

supporting staff of the Center for achieving greater feats in spite of daunting challenges.

Dr Igbahenah further congratulated the trainees for choosing to be part of the change agenda and urged them to feel relaxed as adequate measures were put in place to make their stay worthwhile.





CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN PROCUREMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS (CIPESS) JOSEPH SARWUAN TARKA UNIVERSITY, MAKURDI



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS INTO BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREES PROGRAMMES

Applications are invited from qualified and interested candidates for admission into Bachelor of Science degree programmes in the fields of **Procurement Standards, Environmental Standards and Social Standards** at the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi (FUAM) now Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM)

ABOUT US

The Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards is a World Bank sponsored Center of Excellence established at the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi now Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM), Benue State. Resource verified and accredited by the National Universities Commission (NUC), CIPESS is funded by the World Bank for a 5-year period in the first instance under the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project.

The SPESSE project is aimed at enhancing sustainable human capacity development in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards in public and private sectors in Nigeria and the West African sub-region. This is to support good governance, increase transparency, competition, equal opportunity and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery as well as improve value for money in public expenditure. This will be done through training, professionalization and cutting-edge research in Procurement Standards, Environmental Standards and Social Standards by means of robust collaboration with regional, national and international partners leveraging on Information & Communication Technologies.

VISION

To be a dynamic regional hub for expert training and research in Procurement, Environmental and Social standards based on global best practices.

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.

DEGREE PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE

B.Sc. PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT(COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCE) ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

UTME	DIRECT ENTRY
1. Candidates must score a minimum of 200 points in Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).	1. Advanced level credit passes in at least two relevant subjects in addition to the five O' Level credits as for UTME
2. At least Credit level passes in five subjects including English Language, Mathematics and Economics to form the core subjects with Credit in one other relevant science subject at the Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination.	2. 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.SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS (COLLEGE OF FORESTRY AND FISHERIES) ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

UTME	DIRECT ENTRY
1. Candidates must score a minimum of 200 points in Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination(UTME)	1. Candidates who fulfil the basic admission requirements and who have obtained G.C.E Advanced Level, HSC/IJMB 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.
2. Five Credit passes at SSCE (or its equivalent) including English Language, Mathematics, and any other three subjects from the following list : Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, Economics, Government and Agricultural Science.	2. 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. SOCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (COLLEGE OF FORESTRY AND FISHERIES)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

UTME	DIRECT ENTRY
1. Candidates must score a minimum of 200 points in Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME)	1. Candidates who fulfil the basic admission requirements and who have obtained G.C.E Advanced Level passes in at least two subjects.
2. Candidates must possess a minimum of five credits passes at SSCE (or its equivalent) including English Language, Mathematics, and any other three subjects from the following list: Geography, Economics, Government and Biology.	2. 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.

DURATION OF PROGRAMMES

The B.Sc.programmes shall run for a period of four (4) academic sessions (8) semesters.

HOW TO APPLY

- Interested and qualified candidates for admission into 100-Level of study must obtain the required cut-off points through Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).
- Candidates for Direct Entry (DE) admission into 200-Level must also follow the necessary procedures and fulfil the conditions in line with Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) to be eligible.

CONTACTUS

Address: CIPESS building, Engineering Complex, Middle Core, Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria
Website: www.cipessfuam.edu.ng

Email: info@cipessfuam.edu.ng

Twitter: [@cipess_fuam](https://twitter.com/cipess_fuam) - **Facebook:** [@cipessfuam](https://facebook.com/cipessfuam) - **Instagram:** [@cipessfuam123](https://instagram.com/cipessfuam123)

Call: 08066321522, 08024562933, 08038288040, 080339260253

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

JOSTUM NEW VICE CHANCELLOR PERFORMS FIRST OFFICIAL FUNCTION

The newly appointed Vice Chancellor of Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM), Engr. Prof. Isaac N. Itodo has applauded the commitment of the Management of the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) which has manifested in the achievement of commendable results in the country and with the World Bank.

attainment of greater heights. The Vice Chancellor who promised to maintain the structure of the Centre further urged the project staff to fervently pray for him and his administration to succeed.

Presenting a welcome address & retreat objectives earlier, the Center Leader and Director CIPESS, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu welcomed project staff



Engineer Professor Isaac Itodo who assumed duty as the 7th substantive Vice Chancellor of the University on 2nd March, 2023 made the commendation on Friday, 3rd March, 2023 while declaring open the CIPESS Project Staff Retreat, 2023 at the conference Hall of AES Luxury Apartments, Jabi, Abuja.

In his address, the Vice Chancellor lauded the team spirit among staff of the Center emphasizing that his administration will continue to support the Center management in critical areas of need to enable the

to the retreat maintaining that, the retreat became necessary to enable project staff have a serene atmosphere to reflect on activities of the center and plan effectively for the next quarter. regain the energy expended as a result of relentless work, and to design moves for the second quarter of the year 2023.

Speaking on retreat objectives, Prof. L.A. Nnamonu highlighted team bonding, reflection and evaluation of officers, creativity and drive as well as designing the future as anticipated results to be achieved from the retreat.

The event also witnessed presentations from the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Prof. S.A. Shomkegh, Procurement Officer, Arc. Gbenga Agbede and the Project Accountant, Mrs Margret Gwebe on CIPESS Training, CIPESS Procurement and CIPESS Finance respectively.



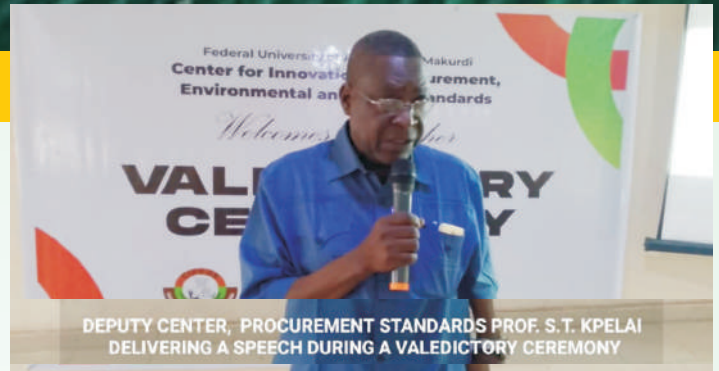
L-R, DCL PS, Prof. S.T Kpelai, CL&D, Prof. L.A. Nnamonu, VC, Engr Prof. I.N Itodo & DCL ES, Prof. R. Sha-Ato



OUR STORY IN PICTURES



Center Leader and Director Prof. L.A. Nnamonu delivering an Address



DEPUTY CENTER, PROCUREMENT STANDARDS PROF. S.T. KPELAI DELIVERING A SPEECH DURING A VALEDICTORY CEREMONY



Keffi Center Graduands Display Certificates



ACADEMIC PROGRAMME COORDINATOR PS, PROF. MRS C.D. TULEUN ADDRESSING AN AUDIENCE.



APC ES/ESSO, DR C.O. ECHE DELIVERING A LECTURE DURING AN ORIENTATION CEREMONY



Class representatives presenting a souvenir to one of the Facilitators



CIPESS Management Staff and Trainees



CIPESS Management Team(front row) and Trainees During Orientation Ceremony



Cohorts 11 Governor, Lucy Ihembeto Delivering a Valedictory Speech



Prof. E.G. Egbe-Okpene (L) Presenting Certificate to a Graduand

OUR STORY IN PICTURES Contd



Cipess Team & Disability Rights Advocacy Center, Abuja



Signing of MoU between CIPESS-FUAM & AUST, Abuja



Prof. E.A. Ekefan presenting draft copy of MoU to APPON National President



Cross Section of Short Courses Participants in Abuja



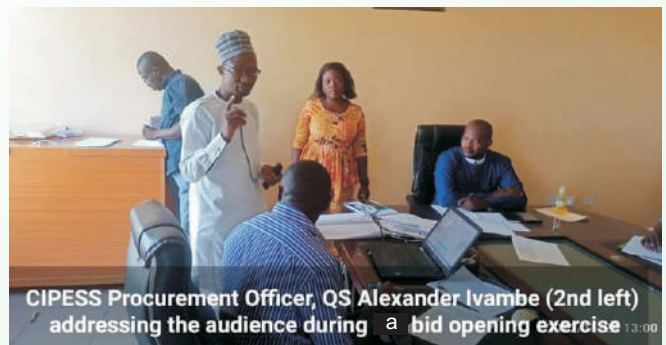
AUST Abuja President Prof. P.A. Onwualu delivering a goodwill message



A Section of NUC Team during a Visit to CIPESS



CIPESS 1st set of Track B Trainees taking an exam



CIPESS Procurement Officer, QS Alexander Ivambe (2nd left) addressing the audience during a bid opening exercise



Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Prof. S.A. Shomkegh making a Presentation



Center leader and Director CIPESS Prof. L.A. Nnamonu (M) with Track B Trainees

OUR STORY IN PICTURES Contd



CIPESS Newly Acquired Vehicles

CIPESS GRADUANDS EXTOL PROGRAMME: VOW TO BE PACE SETTERS

Short courses graduands of the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS) Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM) have expressed absolute satisfaction on the nature and quality of programmes offered by the center.



**Gender and Social Development Officer, Prof. E.G. Egbe-Okpengu
Presenting Certificate to a Graduand**

The graduands gave the commendations on 10th February, 2023 during the short courses valedictory ceremony of cohorts 11&12, Procurement Standards and cohorts 7 for both Environmental and Social Standards held at Staff Development Center, Makurdi.

Speaking during the valedictory speech session, the Class representatives (Class Governors), Lucy I. Ihembeto and Engr Jonathan Ashir of cohorts 11 and 12 Procurement Standards respectively in their separate remarks lauded the training exercise saying, it was interesting and impactful. The class representatives who vowed to be at the forefront in the fight against corruption and environmental degradation admitted that, they were better informed and guided towards making informed decisions that will benefit them and the society at large.

Also speaking, the class representatives of cohort 7, Environmental Standards, Adaaku D.P. and cohort 7, Social Standards, Ochigbo Innocent Ochigbo on their part expressed profound gratitude to the World Bank for the initiative and CIPESS Management for coordinating the programme effectively. The Class governors however called on the center management to address the little concerns threatening participants welfare and to also deem it fit to recommend them for job opportunities when the need arises.

Presenting a song titled "The Nigeria of our Dreams; We Can Make it Work", Engr Ashir enjoined graduands to put to practice the knowledge gained and remain steadfast in their quest to ensure a better Nigeria saying, the Nigeria of our dreams was realizable with the concerted effort of men and women who still believe that things can and will be changed. He further charged graduands to lead the fight against actions and inactions that were inimical to the growth and development of the society.

Earlier in presentation titled "Drivers of Change", the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, CIPESS, Professor Simon Shomkegh congratulated the graduands for attaining the feat and called on them to be good ambassadors of the Center by applying the acquired skills in their various places of work and businesses. Professor Shomkegh noted that, a positive change would be possible with men and women who believe in human dignity and posterity. He further called on the graduands to endeavour to explore other course options of the project including Advanced Certificate Courses, Postgraduate Diplomas, Master's Degrees and Bachelor of Science Degrees available at the Center.

Noteworthy, training and issuing of short courses certificates to participants has become a routine at the Center since commencement. Consequently, hundreds of participants from various spheres of life have benefitted from this



GRADUANDS SEATED AT THE EVENT

project. This particular edition of the Center's valedictory ceremony presented a total of 138 graduands in four (4) separate cohorts who received certificates in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards having fulfilled the necessary conditions for the award.



CIPESS: WHERE WE ARE

Bidding to host a World Bank sponsored Center of Excellence under the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) Project by the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi was a dream that seemed far from reach. However, Friday 8th November, 2019 became a remarkable day in the history of the University as it won the bid to host the prestigious World Bank Sponsored Center of Excellence in North Central Nigeria

SPESSE, formally launched on 29th October, 2021 retains the core mandate of building sustainable human capacity development in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards in public and private sectors in Nigeria. This is aimed at supporting governance, increasing transparency, competition, equal opportunity, sustainability and accountability. The SPESSE intervention of the World Bank supports the Economic Reform Agenda of the Federal Government of Nigeria via the much-needed training and will ensure holistic economic transformation of the country's procurement atmosphere. It will also assist the Nigerian government with a process of enthroning efficiency, accountability, integrity and transparency in government procurement and financial management systems.

By design, the Center is to roll-out five (5) professionalization tracks in each of the fields of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards including, Short Executive Certificate Courses (Track A), Advanced Certificate Courses (Track B), Postgraduate Diplomas (Track C), Master of Science Degrees (Track D), Bachelor of Science Degrees (Track E). This is excluding Doctorate Degrees to be launched to be mounted in the later years of the project. Since establishment, CIPESS has been a work in progress and the under-highlighted milestones have become identical with the Center.

Notably, the development of the project Implementation Plan (IP), Curriculum, Academic Operational Manual, Project Implementation Manual (PIM) and the participation of member staff in NUC/World Bank trainings to enhance the capacity of the project team for effective implementation of project activities. The formation of International Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) and Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) for the CIPESS project and also the training of over 664 FUAM Academic staff on digital pedagogy for effective online course delivery are noteworthy.

In her status as one of the implementing units, the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi has allocated an edifice comprising a boardroom, seminar rooms, offices and stores as part of its support for the project. Additionally, the allocation of over ten lecture halls, blocks of 300 students-capacity hostel accommodation for students and a piece of land for the situation of the Center's permanent site are commendable efforts made by the University for the activities of the Center to thrive. As an Information Communication Technology (ICT) incorporated Center, there has been massive physical upgrade of CIPESS data Centre to provide students and Faculties with 24/7 internet access. The mounting of a Local Area Network (LAN) mast at the premises and deployment of Learning Management Systems (LMS) by the Nigerian Research and Education Network (NgREN) in ten (10) Classrooms for 21st Century academic engagement is near completion.

To achieve the Project Development Objective (PDO), the Center has developed strong partnership with international academic institutions, private sectors and industries. Some of the international partners include Cranfield School of Management, Cranfield University-UK, Universiteit Gent-Belgium, Massachusetts Institute of Technology-USA and Norwegian University of Life Sciences-Norway. Others are University of Swansea-UK, George Mason University Virginia-USA and University of Groningen - Netherlands. National partners include; Benue Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BECCIMA), Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP), Benue State University and University of Lagos. The Center also extended its partnership to ATBU, ABU, Nigerian Environmental Study and Action Team (NEST), Ibadan, Benue State Environmental Sanitation Agency (BENSESA) and a host of others.

In assent to the saying, "employees cannot become more productive in every sense of the word unless they are provided with continuous on-the-job training", the Center in a deliberate attempt to build staff capacity for effective job delivery is continually sponsoring staff to seminars and workshops for optimization of skills in their areas of duty. Worthy of mention are; the Management team, Procurement team, Account Department, Monitoring and Evaluation team, Information and Communication Technology Officers team, the Communication team and a host of retreats and individual trainings.

Positioned to roll out five (5) professional and time-bound tracks, the Center has trained and issued certificates to an appreciable number of Tracks A and B participants across North Central Nigeria. Postgraduate Diplomas and Master of Science degree programmes are currently ongoing while the call for applications into Bachelor of Science degrees has also been made public for interested and qualified candidates.

So far, tremendous and commiserate feats in line with the project's aims and objectives have been recorded consequent to the launching and execution of track A programmes. With the current pace of activities at the Center, one would unequivocally say that, the attainment of mighty feats at the Center will only be a matter of time as the Center is picking up speed on a daily basis.

Uche Michael Aondohemba
Communications Officer



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



SPESSSE

MISSION

"To produce a critical mass of highly skilled & 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 & Research in procurement environmental and Standards based on global best practices"

www.cipessfuam.edu.ng

 [@cipessuam](https://www.facebook.com/cipessuam)

Follow us on
 [@cipessfuam123](https://www.instagram.com/cipessfuam123)  [@cipess_fuam](https://www.twitter.com/cipess_fuam)