

University of Ibadan
NIGERIA'S PREMIER UNIVERSITY



The Evolution and Future of the TETFund Book Development Project, with a Focus on Digital Publishing Opportunities

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Group



- Up till the 1970s, Nigerian universities were highly rated globally on the basis of their academic content, research output, innovation, contributions to national development and global knowledge production and dissemination
- There was a culture of excellence, scholarship and academic publishing
- Nigerian University Presses were patterned after Oxford and Cambridge University Presses and were the hub of academic publishing in Africa reputed for the quality of their books and their globally acclaimed authors. Indigenous and foreign books were available.
- Nigerian universities housed several high-quality reputable journals that were truly international based on the diversity of their contributing authors and Editorial Boards made up of world-renowned academics from across the globe such as Journal of the Historical Society of Nigeria first published in 1956, the Nigerian Medical Journal first published in 1964 and Tropical Veterinarian published by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, UI

Present State of Book and Journal Publication in Nigerian Universities and the need for TETFund Intervention

- Regrettably, the culture of producing scholarly books that contribute to global knowledge that once made Nigerian Universities highly regarded globally has been replaced with the production and selling of handouts to students
- The focus of our University Presses has shifted from scholarly, research-based publishing to commercial and sundry printing including printing of almanacs, calendars, invitation cards, brochures and the likes
- Only one Nigerian journal, Nigerian Journal of Clinical Practice, is listed in the highly regarded International Scientific Indexing (ISI) with over 9300 titles
- In contrast, South Africa has nine ISI listed journals

- The TETFund Higher Education Book Fund is backed by law- the Education Tax Act 2004 [Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) is, among other duties, mandated by Sec. 7(1)(e) of the Education Tax Act 2004 LFN Cap. E4 (which consolidated No. 7 of 1993 as amended by Act No. 40 of 1998) to establish a Higher Education Book Fund]
- The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of the ETF Book Development Project was constituted on 9 September 2009 by the then ETF Executive Secretary, Prof Mahmoud Yakubu, with Prof Abubakar Rasheed, Vice-Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano as Chairman
- The first interactive meeting of TAG took place on 10 September 2009 at the Zuma Hall of Rockview Hotel (Annex), Abuja with the ETF Board of Trustees led by the Chairman, Dr. Musa Babayo (Talban Katagum) in attendance
- The Blueprint document entitled 'Higher Education Book Development Fund and the Mandate of ETF' was presented by Dr. Hafiz Abubakar, Chairman, ETF Book Development Committee

Foundation Members of Central Coordinating Committee of TAG

1. Prof. Abubakar Rasheed- Chairman
2. Prof. O. Charles Aworh- Convener,
Book Publication Sub-Committee
3. Prof. Tanimu Abubakar- Convener, Academic
Publishing Centres Sub-Committee
4. Prof. L. S. Bilbis- Convener,
Journal Publication Sub-Committee
5. Prof. Mohammed Y. Bello (North West)- Rapporteur
6. Dr. Hamid Bobboyi (North East)
7. Prof. John Illah (North Central)
8. Prof. Chike Anibeze (South East)
9. Prof. Mary Kolawole (South West)
10. Dr. Solomon N. Enyidah (South South)



Foundation Members of the Central Coordinating Committee (Cont'd)

11. Dr. Nasir Isa Fagge (ASUU)
12. Mohammed Ali Kabir (ASUP)
13. Mohammed Auwal Ibrahim (COEASU)
14. Mr. Rotimi Oyekanmi (Media)
15. Mrs. Miriam Menkiti (Media)
16. Mal. Mahmud Jega (Media)
17. Alh. A. B. Lawan- Assistant Rapporteur

To facilitate the implementation of the Book Development Project, the BOT set up TAG with the following responsibilities:

- (i) Advising the Fund on all matters relating to book development in the country in general and Tertiary Education Institutions in particular through the ETF Book Development Committee (BDC).
- (ii) Identifying for the Fund various areas and fields of Book Development that require funding by ETF.
- (iii) Concluding and guiding the Fund on copyright matters issues, etc for appropriate publication of books that are essential to Nigeria's tertiary education sector.
- (iv) Proposing ways and means of **encouraging the writing of (indigenous) books and reviving printing presses.**

(v) Collaboratively working with the Fund in fine tuning the ETF Book Development Blueprint Document into a Strategic Working Document (SWD) that clearly spells out the administrative procedures, frameworks and guidelines for effective Book Development interventions in Tertiary Education Institutions (TEIs) in the country and **reviewing** the document(s) whenever the need arises.

(vi) Generating specific innovative book development intervention project types to be implemented in TEIs in the country and for showcasing Nigerian excellence in global knowledge market among comity of nations.

(vii) Developing intervention projects Implementation and Action Plans with respect to Book Development Intervention programmes in TEIs to enable proper execution.

(viii) Performing any other Book Development activities and related tasks as at when called upon to do so by the Fund through ETF BD Committee.

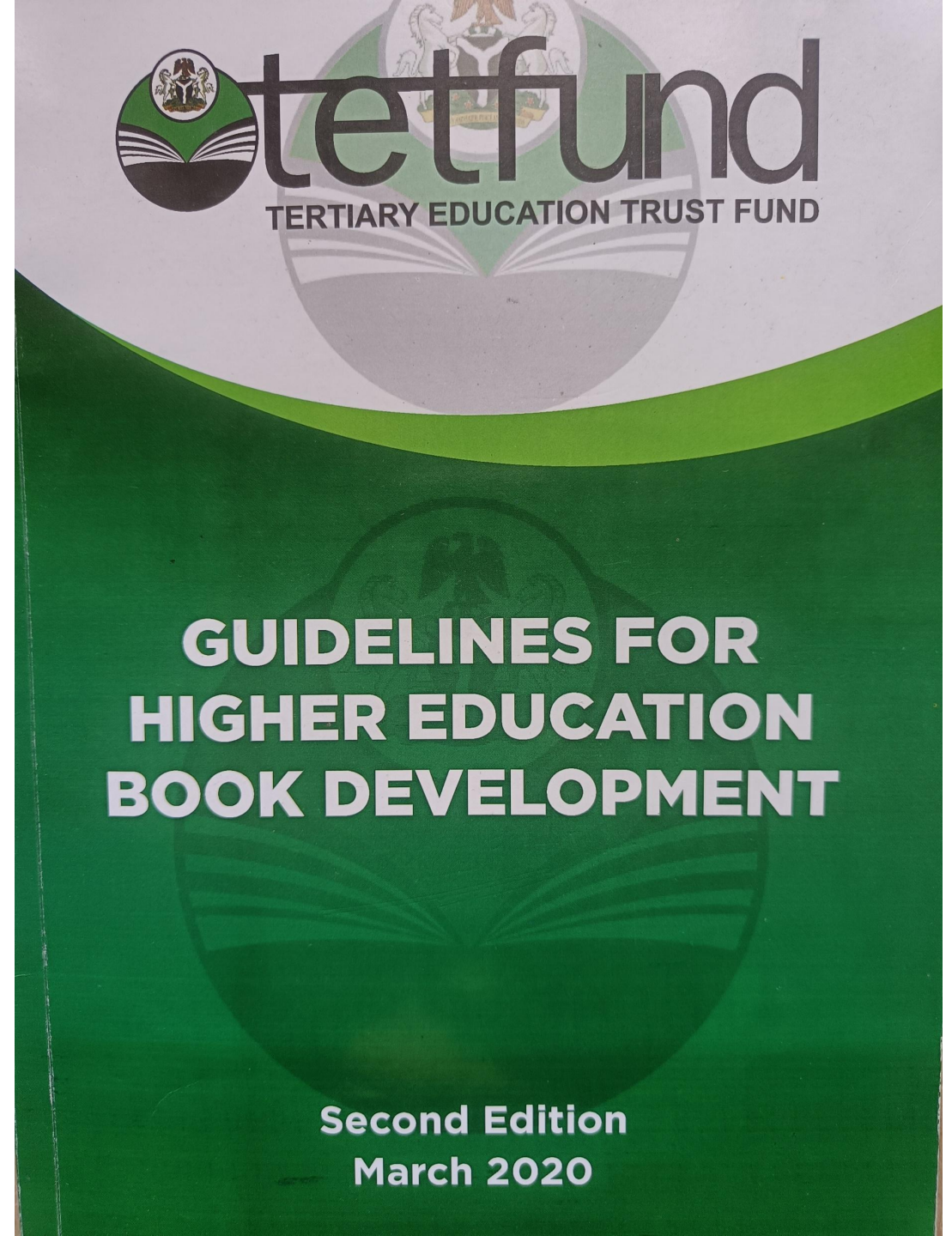


25 June 2014



26 May 2022

The Blueprint Document “Higher Education Book Development Fund and the Mandate of ETF” of 2009 went through several revisions culminating in the current “Guidelines for Higher Education Book Development”, Second Edition, March 2020



The Overarching Objective of the Book Development Project

The overarching objective of the TETFund Book Development Project is to address the crisis of the paucity of reading and learning materials in Nigeria's higher education institutions through the reactivation and nurture of research and the publication of academic books and journals **in hard and electronic forms** thereby empowering tertiary education institutions in Nigeria to benefit from and contribute to knowledge production and dissemination both nationally and globally.

The Tripod of the Book Development Project

TETFund Book Development initiative was carefully thought out to comprehensively restore research, scholarship and excellence, and the global competitiveness and ranking of Nigeria's Tertiary Education Institutions (TEIs) through three inter-related critical interventions (Tripod):

- 1. Book Publication that deals with the production of academic books from quality manuscripts and the conversion of quality theses into books**
- 2. Journal Publication that supports Professional Association Journals**
- 3. Academic Publishing Centres (APCs) aimed at reviving academic publishing in Nigeria's TEIs**

Book Production Component

The book production component of the TETFund Book Development Intervention is aimed at:

- Addressing the scarcity of books that has reached a crisis proportion in Nigeria's TEIs
- Promoting indigenous authorship and the resuscitation of local publishing of books including basic and specialized textbooks that are global in outlook (universal) but also situated within the Nigerian milieu and recognize Nigerian peculiarities, thereby safeguarding national pride

Journal Publication Component

Journals are the choice platform for dissemination of research findings and top-rate journals such as Elsevier, Springer and Wiley journals confer prestige on institutions and academic societies.

The intervention is meant to:

- Restore Nigeria's TEIs to the path of producing quality, peer-reviewed journals that meet international standards
- Promote web visibility of Nigerian journals including facilitating their indexing with reputable organizations
- About 100 professional journals have received support so far



Academic Publishing Centres Component

- The intervention is to dramatically change the fortune of Nigeria's TEIs in the generation and dissemination of knowledge
- Restore Nigeria's TEIs to the path of academic publishing by creating the capacity for the publishing of quality academic books, journals and other teaching and learning materials both in hard copy and e-forms through the provision of modern, state-of-the-art facilities
- Seven APCs (one in each geo-political zone and FCT) have been established



- Each of four APCs- **University of Lagos (South West)**, **Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, (North West)**, **Federal University of Technology, Minna (North Central)**, and **Modibbo Adama University, Yola (North East)**- published ten TETFund-sponsored books that were among the fifty textbooks presented to the public on 5 January 2023.
- **University of Calabar APC (South South)** published ten of the fifty TETFund-sponsored textbooks presented to the public on 25 March 2025.
- The other APCs are **Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka (South East)** and **University of Abuja (FCT)**.



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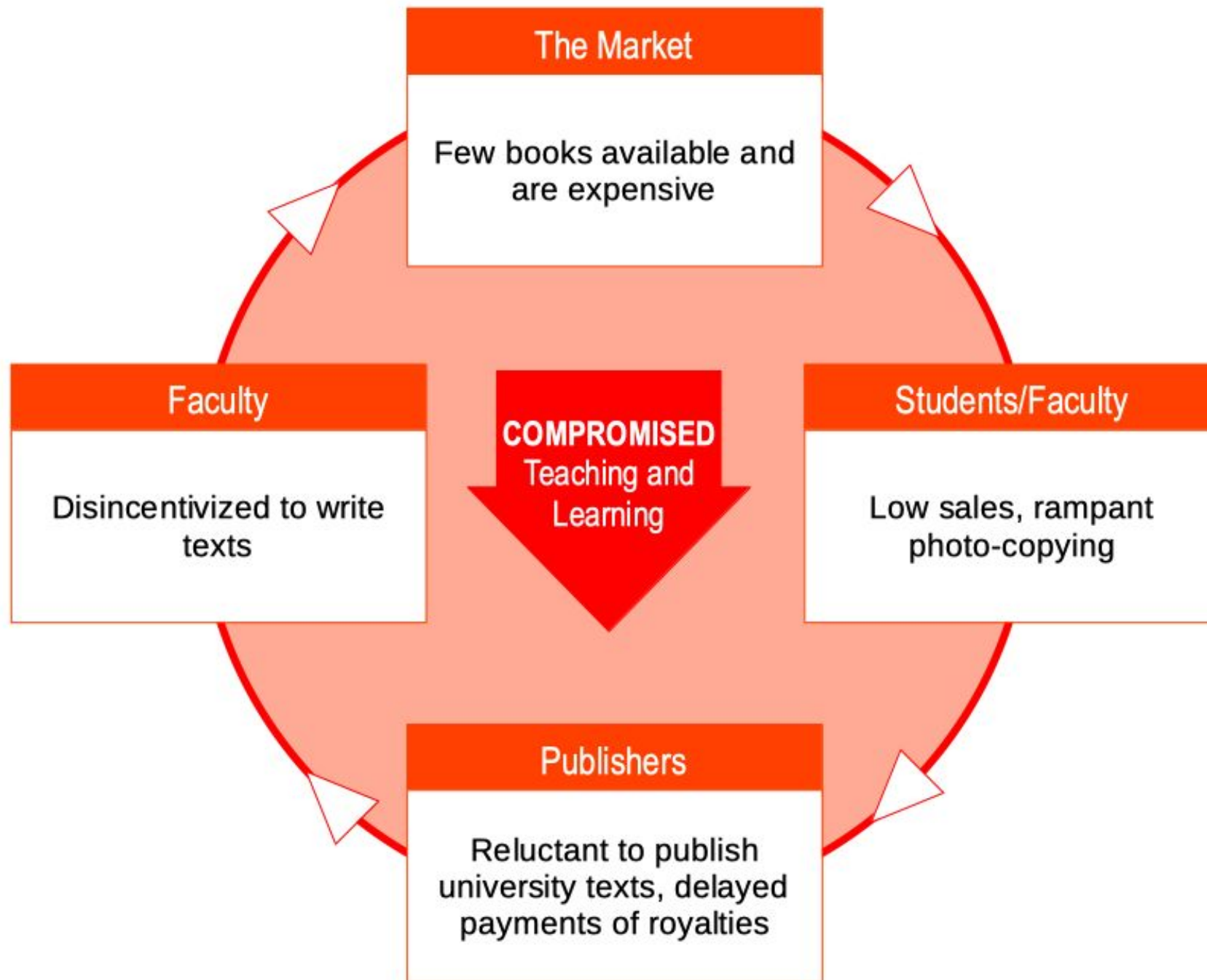
- **Pedagogical approaches** largely remain out-dated, primarily occasioned by a lack of relevant, affordable textbooks
- **Rote learning is common:** lecturers spend significant time dictating notes, transcribing on whiteboards, students busy copying





- The few textbooks available are often unaffordable for the vast majority of students, further **exacerbating social exclusion of those economically disadvantaged**
- Required textbooks on course syllabi are often unavailable in the universities' libraries, with those that are available, frequently out of date or not directly relevant to the courses on offer.

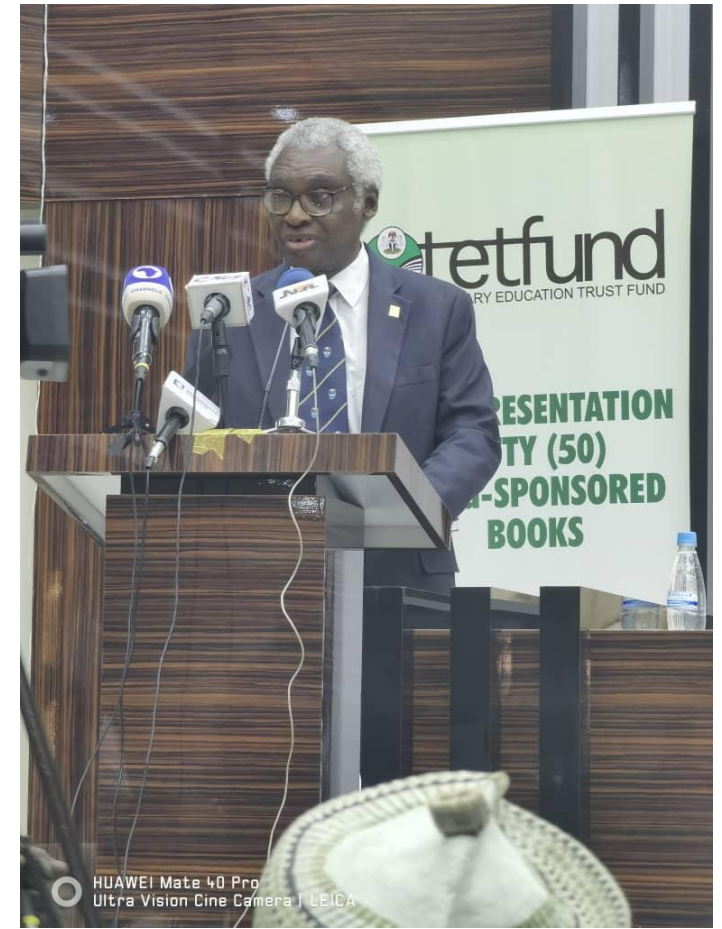
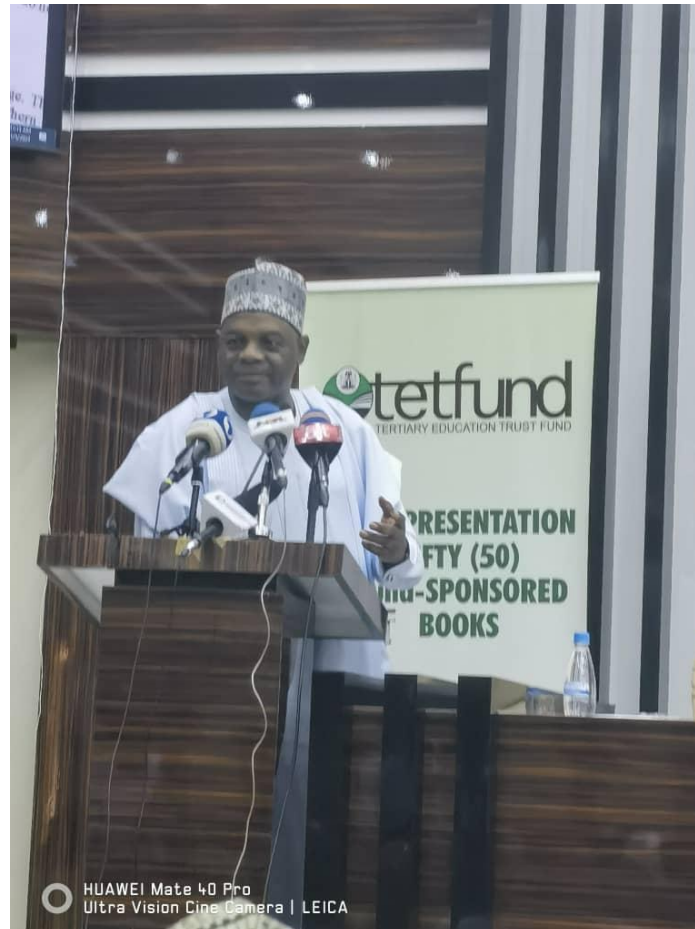




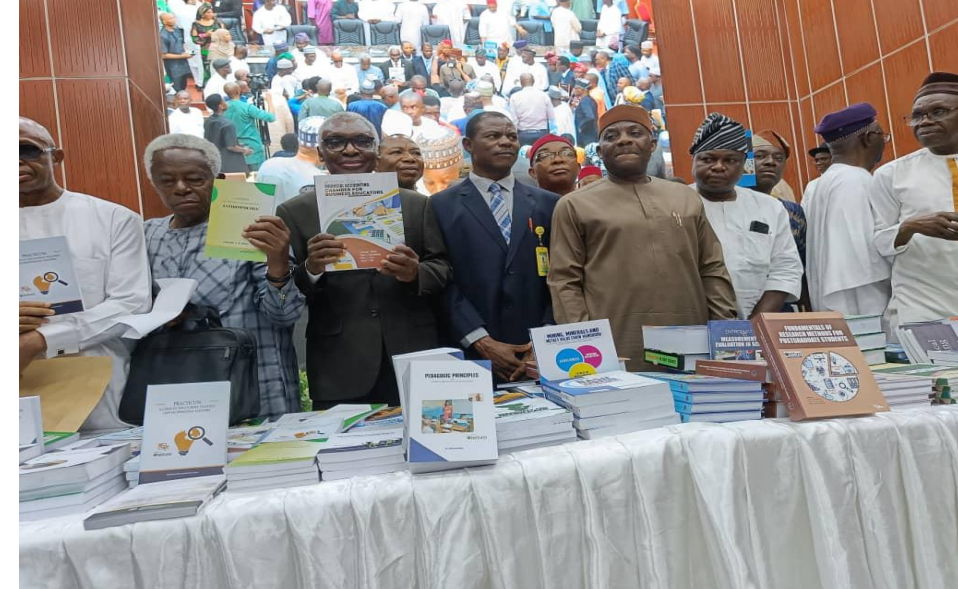
The first set of 20 TETFund-sponsored books were published in 2014 by the University of Ibadan Press in collaboration with Mosuro The Booksellers Ltd, Ibadan and were presented to the public on **13 November 2014** in Abuja at a ceremony chaired by the **Honourable Minister of Education Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau**, with Dr. Musa Babayo, Chairman TETFund BOT, Prof. Suleiman E. Bogoro, TETFund Executive Secretary, and Prof. Patricia Donli, Member TETFund BOT and Chairperson, TETFund Book Development Committee, amongst many dignitaries present.



The public presentation of the second (10 books) and the third (50 books) sets of TETFund-sponsored textbooks published by University Presses and TETFund Academic Publishing Centres were on **23 August 2022 and 5 January 2023** respectively by the Hon Minister of State for Education RT. Hon. Goodluck Nanah Opiah at the Ministry of Education, Abuja.



The fourth set of TETFund-sponsored books consisting of 50 textbooks published by University Presses and one of the Academic Publishing Centres were presented to the public by the **Honourable Minister of Education Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa on 25 March 2025** at the Federal Ministry of Education. In his Welcome Address, the **Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S. T. Echono**, highlighted the tremendous achievements that have been made in book production since 2022 when he assumed office, and indicated that “authors will now receive monetary compensation based on the number of pages in their books instead of the one thousand (1000) copies of their books being given them.” **This is in line with the recommendation of TAG at its meeting of 7-8 Nov 2023 and marks a shift in emphasis from production of expensive hard copies to digitization.**



In all 130 academic books sponsored by TETFund have so far been published for Nigeria's TEIs including **21 multi-authored** basic textbooks commissioned by TETFund, edited by carefully selected foremost Nigerian scholars in diverse disciplines such as **Literature in English** by David Ker, Olu Obafemi & Tanimu Abubakar; **Principles of Veterinary Surgery** by J. B. Adeyanju & A. Z. Hassan; **Fundamental Concepts of Physics** by E. O. Oladiran & V. U. Chukwuma; **Fundamentals of Chemistry** by A. O. Oyewale, S. Okwute & Y. Lohdip; **Artificial Intelligence with Practical Examples** by Sola Aderounmu & Adenike Osofisan; **Software Engineering** by Sahalu Junaidu & Tanko Ishaya; **Fundamentals of Human Physiology** by Eme Osim & Nuhu Sambo; **Materials Engineering** by John Ade Ajayi & C. N. Anyakwo; **Engineering Drawing/CAD** by S. B. Adejuyigbe & Adisa A. Bello; **Agricultural Economics** by P. S. Amaza & E. A. Aiyedun; **Introduction to Special Needs Education and Rehabilitation** by J. I. Ihenacho & Gaji Fatima Dantata. Others such as **Basic Principles and Practice of Surgery** by P. C. Akpuaka, A. E. Ameh & M. A. C. Aghaji are In Press.

Every year TETFund advertises in prominent national newspapers a call for quality manuscripts in diverse disciplines from Nigerian scholars to address the paucity of reading and learning materials in Nigeria's Higher Education Institutions. The number of manuscripts received has grown steadily since 2009. **Digital publishing and open access offer great potentials for dramatically increasing the number of academic books published every year and at a lower cost, with great impact on the availability and accessibility of high-quality teaching and learning materials in Nigeria's TEIs.**



REQUEST FOR QUALITY MANUSCRIPTS AND PROPOSALS FOR GRANT TO PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

The Board of Trustees of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) in the implementation of its mandate to establish and nurture Higher Education Book Development Culture has set up a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to execute the Mission.

1. Request for Quality Manuscripts

This call for quality manuscripts is to address the paucity of reading and learning materials in Nigeria's Higher Education Institutions. Book scarcity has reached a crisis proportion as evident not only in the quantity of books available, but also in the quality of locally produced books. In view of this, TETFund is hereby **inviting quality manuscripts** for publication as books from scholars within the Public and Private Tertiary Education Institutions in the following areas:

- | | |
|--|---|
| (i) Medicine and Health Science | (vi) Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science |
| (ii) Engineering Technology and Environmental Sciences | (vii) Life Sciences |
| (iii) Arts, Social and Management Sciences | (viii) Physical Sciences |
| (iv) Education | (ix) Law |
| (v) Agriculture | (x) Information and Communication Technology. |

Those wishing to submit manuscript should prepare them in accordance with the TETFund Style Manual available in hard copy at all tertiary institutions' libraries and at the TETFund website- www.tetfund.gov.ng. Potential contributors should note that all manuscripts are to be subjected to peer review. Only one (1) hard copy and soft copy of the manuscripts should be submitted **within six months of this publication (i.e., on or before 31st December, 2022).**

2. Request for proposals for Grants to Professional Association Journals

TETFund's support to Professional Association Journals is to improve their quality, impact, visibility and contribution to global knowledge dissemination. Professional Associations wishing to apply for support for their journals in the form of grants of up to N5 million should:

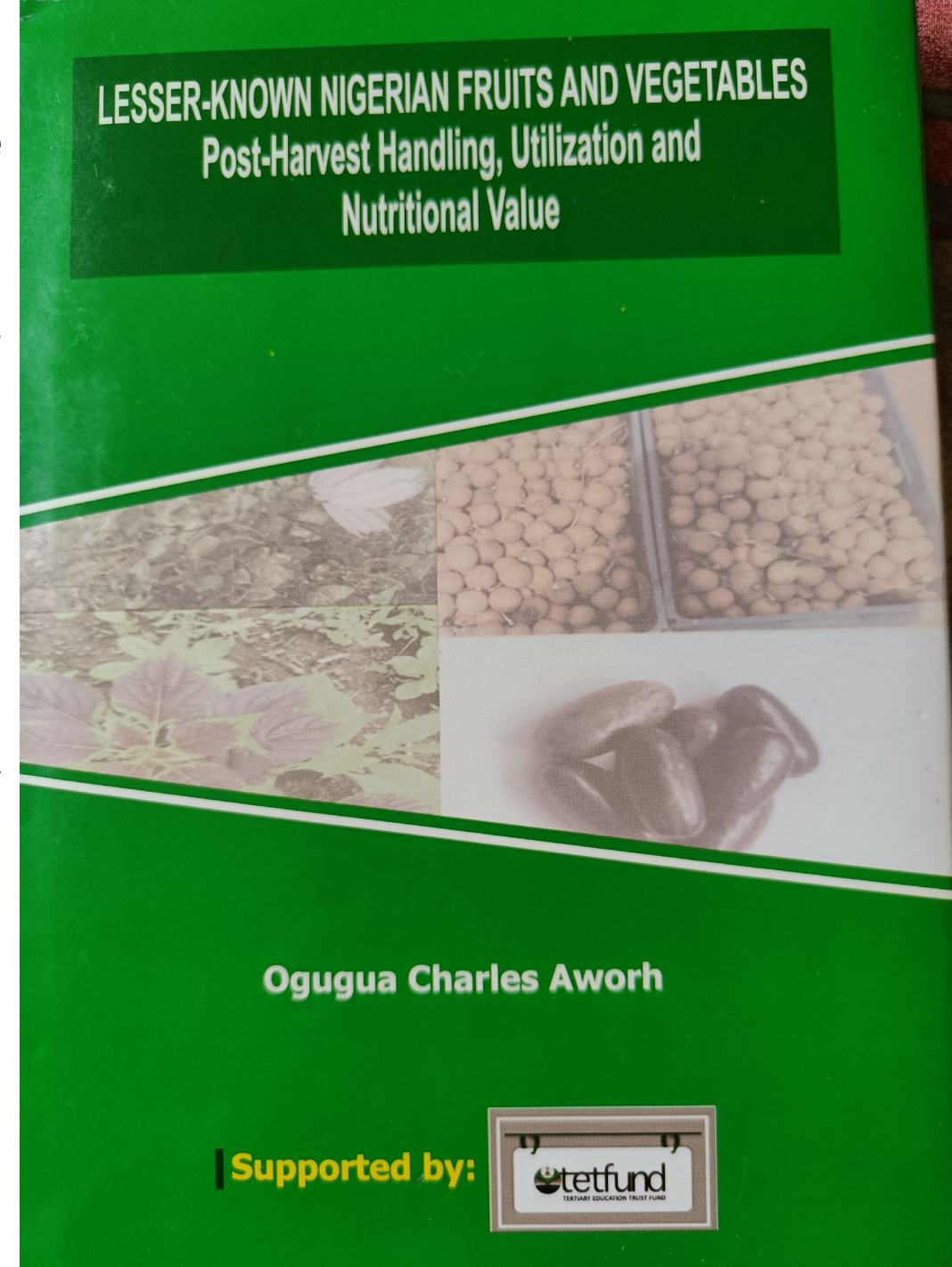
- (i) Submit a formal application specifying the name of the journal, location of the secretariat, the name and address of the Editor-in-Chief and the composition of the Editorial Board;
- (ii) Provide evidence of consistency of publication, peer review mechanism, editorial policy, abstracting and indexing;
- (iii) Submit one copy each of the last three volumes of the Journal for inspection. **This must be done within six months of this publication (i.e., on or before 31st December, 2022).**

All applications and submissions should be addressed to: The Executive Secretary, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund). **No. 6. Zambezi Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja.**

Signed:

Arc. Sonny Echono

My book “**Lesser-known Nigerian Fruits and Vegetables**”, a Google book, was one of the first 20 TETFund-sponsored books published in 2014. 2000 hard-back copies of each book were produced, of which the authors received 1000 copies, to get some returns for their efforts, and TETFund retained 1000 copies to be distributed free of charge to all Nigerian public TEIs. My 1000 copies were to sell for ₦2000 per copy in an arrangement with Mosuro The Booksellers Limited, Ibadan.





All Items

All Subjects

All Countries

All Languages

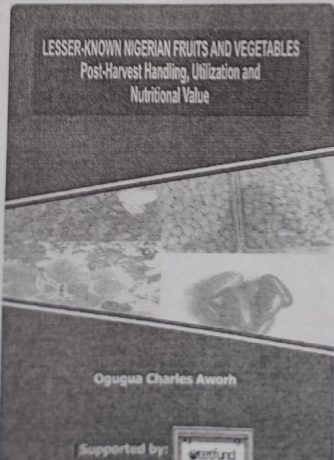
Publication Years

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Cover

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Lesser-Known Nigerian Fruits And Vegetables : Post-Harvest Handling, Utilization And Nutritional Value

Author : Ogugua Charles Aworh



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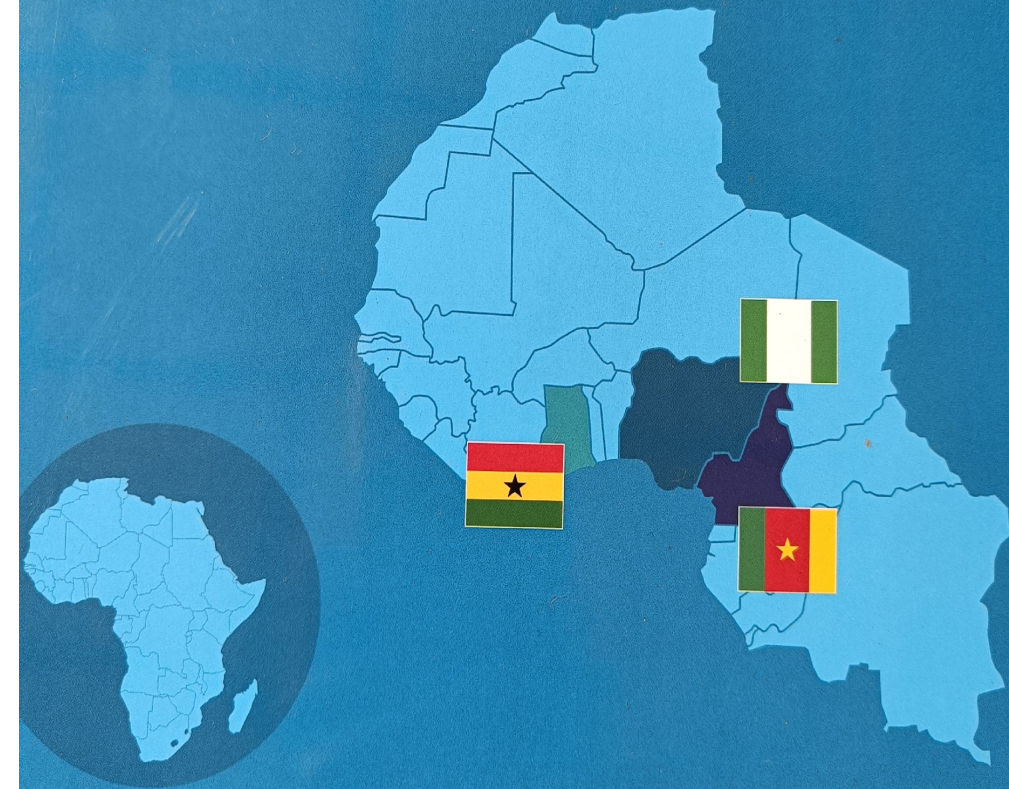
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This book, **published by Elsevier (2024)**, written by about 50 scholars from West Africa that I assembled to document West African traditional foods that are part of our rich cultural heritage for the global audience; highlight their health and nutritional benefits, especially given the health concerns with the so-called ultra-processed foods; highlight the critical importance of our indigenous food processing techniques that have been in existence since ancient times and that have served us very well for several centuries, but are often undervalued, such as cassava fermentation that detoxifies cyanide in cassava leading to the production of such safe products as gari, lafun etc. **Price \$150**

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Need for Digital Publishing and Open Access

- About 75% of published articles do not have direct universal or even marginal access; constraining the potential impact of research articles, impeding scientific progress and negatively affecting the recognition of individual researchers and the funding agencies that support their work (Tennant et al. (2016). F1000 Research)
- A publication is defined as 'open access' when there are no financial, legal or technical barriers to access it. Anyone can read, download, copy, distribute, search for, or use it in education or in any other way within the legal agreements. Open access publishing makes research information and academic contents available to readers at no cost, as opposed to the traditional subscription where readers have access by paying a subscription (usually through libraries).

Constraints to Open Access Book Publishing

- Lack of enabling policies and laws
- Inadequate funding and institutional support for initiatives that promote open access
- Infrastructural deficits including power, poor internet services, limited broadband penetration, and other ICT infrastructures
- Lack of a robust system of institutional repositories linked to a national repository
- Poor digital literacy and inadequate training and skills of scholars, researchers and other users
- Lack of incentives for scholars and researchers to adopt open access
- Copyright and other intellectual property rights
- The overriding influence of expensive commercial publishers that dominate academic publishing and the prestige associated with publishing with them

Concluding Thoughts

The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S. T. Echono, in his recent Convocation (22-24 Sept 2025) Lecture at Osun State University, Osogbo eloquently articulated the critical importance of digital transformation in the development of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). This National Open Access Stakeholders Conference 2025 “From Pilots to Policy: Advancing National Framework for Open Access Books in Nigeria” clearly advances the cause of TETFund’s Tertiary Education Research, Applications, & Services (TERAS) Platform, as a centralized digital hub for tertiary education services that is “poised to address many of the challenges faced in Nigerian higher education and push the country’s educational trajectory toward global competitiveness”, especially providing “students and researchers with free or low-cost access to e-resources, journals, and learning tools, which helps reduce cost and educational barriers.”

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

