

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON
AFRICA'S INDIGENOUS STIMULANTS
(ICAIS -1) 2011
A REPORT

Lagos, Nigeria
November 15, 2011

Theme:

Economic Potentials

And Wealth Creation

**“With respect to Africa’s Indigenous
Stimulants, we realize that they are
Catalysts to wealth creation in
Africa and we cannot afford to neglect
them. As we forge ahead towards
Economic Development as a continent, we
must be careful to ensure that
these God-given Stimulants are not destroyed”**

Prince Ajibola AFONJA
In the presentation at
ICAIS (1) ECOWAS COMMISSION
AUDITORIUM
-Abuja, FCT,
Nigeria
Tuesday, July 12, 2011

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

1.1 The First International Conference on Africa's Indigenous Stimulants, ICAIS (1), a Private Sector Initiative, convened at the ECOWAS Commission Auditorium, Asokoro District, Abuja, FCT., from July 12-13 2011, with the Theme: ECONOMIC POTENTIALS & WEALTH CREATION.

1.2 ICAIS (1) focused on KOLANUTS: BITTERKOLA: ALLIGATOR PEPPER and COFFEE BEANS, in its response to the recommendations of the UN-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 1, 4, 5, and 7 under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) scheme.

1.3 Organized by Vertical Inspirations Ltd., and coordinated at the Africa Regional Level by Princess Bola ADESIDA, the Conference was sponsored by the First Bank of Nigeria Plc., an indigenous unstoppable Primus Inter Pares in the Banking Industry, which has been operating since 1894, and presently manages over 600 (six hundred only) Branches across the nation, apart from its global network.

1.4 ICAIS (1) was chaired by Professor Wande ABIMBOLA- Fmr. Vice-Chancellor, Obafemi Awolowo University- OAU and Recipient of the UNESCO Proclamation of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Award for Nigeria.

1.5 Through its line-up of respectable and sophisticated speakers, the First International Conference on Africa's Indigenous Stimulants-ICAIS (1) discovered that:

1.5(a) there are over 5000 (five thousand only) AFRICAN SHRINES in Bahir, EL SALVADOR, which consume a lot of Africa's Indigenous Stimulants:

1.5(b) Ekiti State generated about N14m (fourteen million Naira only) from the haulage of Indigenous Stimulants around its borders in the Year 2010:

1.5(c) "First Bank is willing to encourage the exploitation and exportation of these Indigenous Stimulants by putting in place products like First Bank suite of Agricultural Solutions, which is custom-made to meet the needs, expectations and peculiarities of various clientele in the agricultural business in Nigeria."

1.5(d) and that 4 (four only) seeds from one pod of Alligator Pepper are sold for USD2.50 (two US dollars and fifty cents only) in Venezuela.

1.6 The Conference established a 10-member Technical Committee of Experts in response to several demands made at the core and peripheral levels during the plenary sessions.

1.7 Mandated to redesign the future of Indigenous Stimulants in Africa, the Technical Committee comprises:

1.7(a) First Bank of Nigeria Plc.:

1.7(b) African Business Roundtable-ABR:

1.7(c) Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria – CRIN

1.7(d) Nasarawa State University – KEFFI-NSUK:

and

1.7(e) the Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization – CBAAC, amongst others

1.8. In view of the fact that the sale of Indigenous Stimulants at home and abroad can fetch Nigeria at least USD200 Billion per annum, Alhaji Bamanga TUKUR-ABR President and Chairman NEPAD Business Group, promised to take ICAIS (1) recommendations, both to the AFRICAN UNION and the United Nations.

1.8 With 80 (eighty) million Blacks in Brazil: thousands of members at the AFRICAN CENTRE in Havana, CUBA: over 5000 AFRICAN SHRINES in Bahir, EL SALVADOR (see inter alia), apart from identified consumers of Africa's Indigenous Stimulants in the USA, UK, Mexico and the Caribbean Community, just to mention a few, delegates and participants unanimously recommended that the First Bank of Nigeria, Plc., should look into the possibility of establishing a Branch, at least in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) to attract customers from the countries listed earlier - on.

1.9 It will be recalled that on account of its historic nature, ICAIS (1) attracted observers: delegates and participants from the academic and diplomatic communities: Specialized Agencies of the United Nations: House of Representatives: Regional Intergovernmental Organizations: Traders: Exporters of Indigenous Stimulants, Bankers and Women Farmers.

2.1 BACKGROUND:

The idea that unfolds into the First International Conference on Africa's Indigenous Stimulants was ignited at the 1996 UN-FAO, WORLD FOOD SUMMIT in Rome, Italy, at which some of the Delegates we met, regretted the Illegal Trade in our Indigenous Stimulants whereby foreigners carted them away into their countries: produced them in Powder, Liquid and Tablet forms, and consequently sold to us in plastic bottles through CONFIRMED, IRREVOCABLE LETTERS OF CREDIT which are paid (though our noses, so to speak) in Hard Currency.

2.2 Apart from the support given to the growth of these Stimulants, by Africa's environmental and ecological formations, we have land in quatum for mass plantation and because we also have unquatifiable human resources, we thought it was high time we embarked on a journey that would eventually facilitate the packaging and presentation of ICAIS (1) to the general public.

2.3 It was in the course of this journey that we made presentations to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization - FAO in Rome-Italy in 2009: the Ambassador of Nigeria to France (considering UNESCO's focus on Cultural Heritage); the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Belgium, and Luxembourg who also doubles as our Representative to the

European Union; the International Fund for Agricultural Development. (IFAD) and the Mayor of Milan-Italy Ms. Letizia MORATTI.

2.4 Our negotiations with the ECOWAS Commission was, of course, handled by the AFRICAN BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE. It was on the strength of our presentation to the (then) Hon. Minister of the Federal Capital Territory. Senator Adamu Ailero that we were allocated the ICAIS (1) Conference Secretariat at the FCTA Headquarters in Abuja. We discovered that in all these way stations, no institution had any authoritative data on the growing, harvesting; preservation; storage; transportation and even export of Indigenous Stimulants in Nigeria. Most of the times and usually at the weekly open village markets, buyers from far and near, priced the stimulants according to the size of the basket used by the traders.

2.5 One of the alarming discoveries we also made in the course of our preparatory activities towards ICAIS (1) was that foreigners do travel directly to the women Stimulants traders in the village open markets essentially for the sake of export. No customer handling charges were

paid by the foreigners, neither were the consignments weighed in order to ascertain exactly what will be the cost at any point in time, in any part of the country either in Ikoro-Ekiti; Ijare-Akure, Ondo State, or; Abidjan in Cote D'Ivoire.

2.6 In short, we wanted to know who was buying what from which part of the country at how much per tone, for what purpose, under the supervision of which government agency and with the payment of how much money in Customs Duties.

2.7. This continua of activities necessitated our trip to the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria where we discovered that CRIN is already using dried Kolanuts as part of the ingredients for the production of Table Wine. In the course of our visit to Bankemo Village in Ile-Oluji, Ondo State, we discovered that members of the nine groups of Stimulant traders who operate under a Female Head (Leader) are already using the empty pods (shafts) from which Kolanuts are removed to make soap. They also produce a lot of dried Kolanuts for sale to Bulk Buyers.

2.8 In the same village, there is one Hausa man who lives permanently in Bankemo and fronts for Bulk Buyers who smuggle our Indigenous Stimulants to Saudi Arabia; Bahrain and Niger Republic amongst others, without any kind of regulated procedural obligations.

2.9 As if this “slap in the face” of Nigeria is not enough, the foreigners do directly visit our local farmers on the farms to purchase dried Banana and Plantain leaves to preserve the Stimulants that are purchased from us.

2.10 In December 2009, as our preparatory activities for ICAIS (1) moved into top gear, Princess Bola ADESIDA, the Project Coordinator, Africa Region, travelled to Ikoro Kingdom-some 40 (forty only) kilometers from Ado Ekiti, the capital city of Ekiti State in the Company of Hon. ISIJOLA – (then) the Hon.

Commissioner for Agriculture: the Hon. Commissioner for Health Dr. THOMAS – a native of Ikoro and some representatives from ICAIS (1). Secretariat at the FCTA in Abuja. During that visit, His Royal Majesty, the Olukoro of Ikoro Kingdom explained in detail how the Notherners traded with his Kingdom – a phenomenon that had been going on for a very long time. They would bring their trucks to Ikoro, stay there for weeks while they traveled around the villages to assemble Stimulants.

2.11 And the women traders who are very active in the business of Stimulants would assist them until those trucks were full. The most painful aspect of the business, His Royal Majesty informed us, was that these traders from the North purchased at very low prices and made millions of Naira in profit when they sold to foreigners. He advised Princess Bola ADESIDA and her group to look into ways and means of assisting the Stimulant traders in Ikoro-his Kingdom, to reach the international market.

2.12 From Ikoro Kingdom, we took our Delegation to Professor Wole OGUNDELE, Executive Director of the Centre for Black Culture and International Understanding (CBCIU)- a UNESCO – affiliated institution based in Oshogbo – Osun State and informed him about where we were coming from and how far we like to go with Indigenous Stimulants in Africa.

2.13 After expressing his profound appreciation of our conceptualization of ICAIS (1) the Professor reiterated that this business of the forthcoming ICAIS (1) should have actually been a project of the Centre for Black Culture and International Understanding, so that his office would then invite Vertical Inspirations Ltd to participate. But that since we were fast enough to take the initiative, he sincerely congratulated us and expressed his commitment and that of the CBCIU to the entire success of ICAIS (1) and its subsequent follow-up activities.

2.14 February 16, 2010 marked the beginning of the success of ICAIS (1) in a very miraculous way, just as we were getting ready to re-examine our priorities regarding the Conference and why it was beginning to look like a “Wild Goose Chase:.”

2.15. After collecting a Letter of Support from the Centre for Black Culture in Oshogbo, we spoke with Professor Wande ABIMBOLA and he advised that unless, we met with him on that particular day (Feb. 16, 2010), it was not going to be possible until about three months after. It was already 4.30pm in Oshogbo. Oyo Town, where the Professor lives is not around the corner, and our driver didn’t know how to get there. As luck would have it, one of the

drivers at CBCIU arranged for another driver to escort us, and in no time we were in the Living Room of Professor Wande ABIMBOLA the Awise Agbaye.

2.16 Before we departed the home of Awise, he agreed to chair ICAIS (1) and also promised to speak at the first pre- ICAIS (1) press conference which was scheduled to hold at the CBAAC Headquarters on June 9th in Lagos.

3. CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:

3.1 Sensitization of the awareness of the public, governments, beneficiaries and international organizations.

3.2 Examination of the challenges confronting the growers, traders, as well as women and the youth who populate the farms that produce Stimulants.

3.3 Examination of government support to Stimulants farmers and the role of the AFRICAN BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE in energizing the Stimulants Industry on the continent.

3.4 Development of applicable solutions to current and evolving problems in the Stimulants Industry.

3.5 Establishment of mechanisms that will facilitate the exploration and exportation of Stimulants to foreign markets.

4 CONCEPTUAL MOTIVATION:

4.1 In conceptualizing the organization of ICAIS (1) we took into consideration the recommendations of regional and international mechanisms like:

(a) the 1979 Monrovia Symposium which issued the MONROVIA STRATEGY as well as the Monrovia Declaration of African Heads of State and Government:

(b) the 1979 UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women-CEDAW:

(c) the 1989/1990 Convention on the Rights of the Child – CRC:

(d) the 1991 Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community:

(e) the AFRICAN PLATFORM FOR ACTION (1994) which was packaged

by over 5,000 (five thousand only) women in Dakar, SENEGAL in preparation for Beijing 1995

(f) the Platform for Action and Beijing Declaration- an international mechanism issued by the (then) UN Global Conference on Women, and many more.

4.2 We also considered the possibilities of collaborating with National and International Institutes of Agricultural Research in the design of strategies for the accelerated growth of Indigenous Stimulants.

4.3 In light of the new interest in African Cultural Heritage at the international level, we thought about the urgent need to educate young Africans on the utilization of Indigenous Stimulants, culturally, economically and academically.

4.4 Change, from the passivity of the situation on ground in the Stimulants Industry was one of our major concerns, because unless there is this urgent reversal, the industry will continue to suffer.

4.5 Since available information on Indigenous Stimulants can be transmitted around the world instantly, we wanted to use ICAIS (1) to trigger the flow of pertinent data to everyone concerned.

5 SPONSORS:

5.1 The First International Conference on Africa's Indigenous Stimulants ICAIS – (1), was sponsored by:

5.1(a) First Bank of Nigeria, Plc., First Bank was also the Banker of ICAIS (1) and in the process, supplied a lot of promotional materials along with senior staff members who responded to questions from Delegates and Participants

5.1(b) Other sponsors were the AFRICAN BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE - ABR, which is registered and in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations – ECOSOC.

5.1(c) the Centre for Black Culture and International Understanding – CBCIU- a UNESCO - affiliated Institution based in Oshogbo- Osun State:

5.1(d) Alhaji Azeez ARISEKOLA –ALAO, Aaare Musulumi of Yoruba Land-an Ibadan (OYO STATE) - based business mogul who also operates at the global level:

5.1(e) The Center for Black and African Arts and Civilization-CBAAC, a Lagos-based parastatal of the Ministry of Culture:

5.1(f) Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria –CRIN., Mandated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources to develop Cocoa, Kola, Coffee and Tea, CRIN is located in Ibadan, Oyo State.

5.1(g) The Federal Capital Territory Administration, FCTA, Abuja, Fct. Our Focal Point with the FCTA was Mr. Idowu ANIFOWOSE.

5.1(h) - EKITI STATE GOVERNMENT

- OSUN STATE GOVERNMENT and

- LAGOS STATE, GOVERNMENT amongst others.

6. SPEAKERS:

6.1 The First International Conference on Africa's Indigenous Stimulants-ICAIS(1) –2011, attracted those international scholars who are some of the best brains in present- day Nigeria:

- Professor Wande ABIMBOLA:

- Prince Ajibola AFONJA:

- Hon. Abike Dabiri – EREWA

- Professor Shamsudeen AMALI:

- Alhaji Kamorudeen ADEGOKE:

- Alhaji Bamanga TUKUR:

- Professor Tunde BABAWALE:

- Professor Edvaldo BRITO (represented by the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Brazil-Abuja, Fct):

- Dr. Olatunde MAKINDE, just to mention a few.

6.2 While analyzing, evaluating and lamenting the challenges confronting the grossly- neglected but highly wealth creating Indigenous Stimulants Industry in Africa, almost all the speakers commended the laudable initiative of ICAIS (1) and committed themselves to juxtaposing support with awareness sensitization at the national, sub-regional, regional and global levels.

6.3 For instance, in his capacity as Chairman of the Conference , Professor Wande ABIMBOLA whose presentation was entitled OBI & OROGBO in THE IFA LITERARY CORPUS asked participants a rather pertinent question: "what are we doing with SWEDISH BITTERS when our own Bitterkola is wasting away on the farms?" In the area of Africa's Cultural Heritage – Wande ABIMBOLA – the Awise Agbaye, called the attention of Conference participants to the fact that "the verses of IFA (Book of Ifa Worshippers) are significantly marked with mention of these Indigenous Stimulants which indicate the relevance of Kolanuts and other Indigenous Stimulants to IFA belief and worship." Professor ABIMBOLA concluded his presentation by reminding ICAIS(1) that the use of Kolanuts and other Indigenous Stimulants cuts across other countries like Brazil, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, amongst others, where people of African descent reside.

6.4 There was a big round of applause by ICAIS(1) participants when Prince Ajibola AFONJA mounted the podium. Since he had just successfully completed the First Bank's Annual General Meetings which also convened in Abuja, the Chairman, Board of Directors at First bank had that historic success written all over him in his National Dress, as he stood before the audience.

6.5 For those who may be curious about how First Bank priorities agriculture in particular and intends to strategically energize the African Indigenous Stimulants industry in general, Ajibola AFONJA informed the Conference that "First Bank maintains a dedicated team of professionals in various Agricultural Disciplines and at the same time operates an organizational architecture that empowers over 600 branches of the Bank to respond to the needs of various segments of the Agricultural Sector."

6.7 "Futhermore" he continued "the bank is willing to encourage the exploitation and exportation of these stimulants by putting in place, products like First Bank's suite of Agricultural Solutions which is custom-made to meet the needs, expectations and peculiarities of various clientele in the agricultural business in Nigeria".

6.8 Prince AFONJA signed off by calling the attention of ICAIS(1) participants to the fact that "First Bank is also collaborating with the Nigeria NLNG Limited: Shell Petroleum Development Corporation and various State governments in financing small scale agricultural projects to complement government efforts in addressing the restiveness in the Niger Delta, through constructive engagement of youths."

6.9 On his part, Alhaji Bamanga TUKUR regretted that Africa's Indigenous Stimulants have been battered, neglected and destabilized for a painfully long time and that if we do not arrest the situation and reposition the industry very urgently, we may be forced in the future to purchase them from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and some other countries.

6.10 Hon. Abike Dabiri – EREWA, Chairman, House Committee on Diaspora Affairs at the House of Representatives, was quick to advise the organizers of the Conference that they should intensify the efforts on “a Presidential Initiative for Kolanuts” for which she is ready to sponsor a Bill.

6.11 Since he couldn't attend the Conference as originally scheduled, Professor Edvaldo BRITO – Attorney-at-law and former Deputy Mayor of Salvador was represented by the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Brazil in Abuja. BRITO informed ICAIS(1) that “there are over 5000 African Shrines in Bahir, El Salvador, and that the organizers should make the efforts to sensitize the awareness of these Shrines, along with millions of the other potential Stimulant consumers in the region. Professor BRITO promised to arrange to visit Nigeria at a later date when he would go into STRATEGY SESSIONS with State Governments and selected corporate establishments regarding the African Indigenous Stimulants Industry.

6.12 The Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization CBAAC was represented by its Director - General- Professor Tunde BABAWALE. Having sponsored the June 9th 2011 pre Conference press-conference that preceded ICAIS(1), BABAWALE re-emphasized his support and that of his Centre for ICAIS(1) and stated in his Position Paper that “one of the devastating blows suffered by Africa so far, since she came in contact with the west is the propagation of modernity to mean the superiority of western values and inferiority of African values and Best Practices.”

6.13 Tunde BABAWALE who is very deep into the Afrocentric Continuum like Professor Molefi Asante of Temple University-USA, lamented the phenomenon that “Christianity and Islam have excelled in turning Africans against their heritage which the two religions refer to as Fetish.” In that regard, he reiterated that “Africa's Indigenous Stimulants are not Fetish items but crops which the Almighty in His kindness, has blessed Africans with.”

6.14 The Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria-CRIN corroborated BABAWALE'S statement by telling participants that the Kolanut is not a narcotic, and that CRIN is actively working on a variety of strategies to energize the Stimulants Industry.

6.15 Vertical Inspirations Ltd-organizers of the First ever International Conference on Africa's Indigenous Stimulants was kind enough to invite Maurice IWU-Professor of Pharmacology, not only because of the extensive research that he had conducted on the BITTERKOLA, but also for the fact that he brought with him, documentary evidence.

6.16 A Former Chairman of INEC, IWU claimed that "Bitterkola is an adaptogen which prevents rapid ageing: cures diabetes: can be used as tonic for cough and also a major ingredient in the production of power drinks. IWU also informed participants that "the root of Alligator Pepper is used in the production of perfume".

6.17 One of the most memorable interludes we had on the first day of ICAIS(1) was the IGBO VERSION of the TRADITIONAL KOLANUT BREAKING CEREMONY which was performed by His Royal Majesty, EZE (Dr.) Sir Maxwell KANU, before the world press, EZE KANU, who is also the Chairman, AGURA HOTEL, Abuja, performed the ceremony in the company of selected members of the IGBO COMMUNITY in the FCT. EZE NDIGBO was also there.

6.18 THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW was the philosophical title of the paper presented by Mrs. Heather R. AKANNI, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Vertical Inspirations Ltd, which organized ICAIS(1). After elaborating upon the core and peripheral challenges confronting the growers, marketers and exporters of Indigenous Stimulants, she said she sees a future where these Stimulants are properly harvested, stored and exported: a future when comprehensive data is consistently available and utilized and a time when the governments of African countries will benefit tremendously from the sale of indigenous stimulants at all levels at the market place. Madam AKANNI recommended the empowerment of women and the youth in the Stimulants Industry.

6.19 Other speakers at ICAIS(1) included Dr. Olatude MAKINDE – Director of Produce at the Ekiti State Ministry of Agriculture. He was kind enough to supply the information that his State (Ekiti) generated about N14m (fourteen million Naira only) from the haulage of Stimulants around the State's borders in 2010.

6.20 There were also Alhaji Kamorudeen OLAGOKE and Dr. OLAORE from Osun State: Professor Shamsudeen AMALI-Vice Chancellor, Nasarawa State University –Keffi: Professor Mrs. Amali-also of NSUK: Chief BABADARA of the Kolanut and Bitterkola Marketers and Exporters Association of Nigeira: Christopher AYODELE of the AFRICAN BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE, and more.

7. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:

7.1 The First International Conference on Africa's Indigenous Stimulants established a 10-member Technical Committee which comprises:

7.1(a) Muhammed KAGU, First Bank of Nigeria Plc.:

7.1(b) Heather R. AKANNI Vertical Inspirations Ltd.

7.1(c) Dr. O. NELSON African Business Roundtable:

**7.1(d) Dr. O. Fademi, Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria
CRIN:**

**7.1(e) Professor Shamsudeen AMALI – VC. Nasarawa State University
– Keffi:**

**7.1(f) Dr. T. OLADOKUN, Centre for Black and African Arts and
Civilization.**

7.1(g) Hajia F. OTHMAN Nasarawa State University:

**7.1(h) Chief A. BABADARA Kolanut and Bitterkola Marketers and
Exporters Association of Nigeria:**

7.1(j) The International Trade Centre

**7.2. Mandated to develop a blue-print for the development of Africa's
Indigenous Stimulants Industry, the Technical Committee met on July
14 right after ICAIS(1) at the African Business Roundtable
Headquarters in Abuja.**

**7.3. Before the meeting came to an end, members unanimously
recommended that:**

**7.3(a) The ABR Headquarters should provide a Secretariat for the
entire project.**

**7.3(b) Mrs. Heather R. AKANNI should serve as Secretary to the
Technical Committee:**

**7.3(c) A 2-day International Workshop on Africa's Indigenous
Stimulants (mainly by experts) from within and outside Nigeria)
should convene at a most convenient date in cooperation with the
Federal Government, representatives of African governments and that
of selected Specialized Agencies of the United Nations:**

7.3(c) The Raw Materials Research and Development Council as well as the Nigerian Export Promotion Council should be approached to host the 2-day International Workshop:

7.3(d) The Central Bank of Nigeria –CBN: First Bank: House Committee on Diaspora Affairs and other relevant institutions should be approached for sponsorship of the Workshop.

7.4 Before the meeting of the Technical Committee closed, Mr. Muhammed KAGU- our Focal Point with First Bank, urged all Committee members to be actively involved in the project despite various commitments and official responsibilities.

8. MEDIA COVERAGE: PARTIAL LIST OF MEDIA HOUSES REPRESENTED:

8.1 On account of its historic nature, ICAIS (1) was covered by 22 (twenty-two) Media Houses, namely:

- NTA Channel 10/International:

- Radio Nigeria:

- Silverbird Television

- LTV 8

- THISDAY Newspaper

- Ben TV-UK

- Channels Television

- NEXT Newspaper

- SWAGGER AFRIQUE MAGAZINE

- THE GUARDIAN

- CHAMPION Newspaper

- THE PUNCH

- LEADERSHIP NEWSPAPER

- Some interviews were conducted by the VOICE of NIGERIA and LTV

8.2 Earlier – on, the COMPASS had showcased a 2-page comprehensive interview with Professor Wande ABIMBOLA, before he even agreed to chair the ICAIS (1).

8.3 In the same vein, THE GUARDIAN was kind enough to issue a one-page report on the Conference.

8.3 Mrs. Heather R. AKANNI had an interview session with the VOICE OF NIGERIA

8.4. It is on record that the KOLANUT BREAKING CEREMONY performed by His Royal Majesty, EZE KANU was broadcast live by NTA International.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS:

9.1 The First International Conference on Africa’s Indigenous Stimulants recommended the active participation of African Youth in the planting, harvesting, preservation, documentation, storage, marketing and exportation of Indigenous Stimulants. And that apart from the provision of jobs with this strategy, the Indigenous Stimulants Industry will be stimulated.

9.2 Identify the farmers and traders of Africa’s Indigenous Stimulants across the continent to facilitate penetration of the international market.

9.3 Identify, specifically the Bulk Buyers and consumers of indigenous Stimulants in Brazil, the United States of America, UK, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Trinidad & Tobago, amongst others

9.4 Establish a database for the export of Indigenous Stimulants, for wholesalers and end-users.

9.5 Encourage Africa’s Tertiary Institutions most especially the Universities of Agriculture, to include the study of Indigenous Stimulants in their Course Offerings.

9.6. Organize the World Summit on Indigenous Stimulants so that the awareness of Stimulants growers around the world can be sensitized to facilitate Trans-National and Multi-National Trade and the Manufacturing of Africa’s Indigenous Stimulants in tablet, liquid and powder forms for sale to the international market.

9.7 Encourage the First Bank of Nigeria Plc. to look into the possibility of establishing of a Branch in Brazil so that it can benefit tremendously from the sale of Africa’s Indigenous Stimulants to the thirsty audiences in that part of world, with special emphasis on the 5000 African shrines in Salvador, the eighty million Blacks in Brazil and all members of the Caribbean Community.

9.8 Liaise with the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry: Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources etc., to regularize the handling of Indigenous Stimulants in all its ramifications.

9.9 Issue the usual reports on these activities for the benefit of Africa's Tertiary Institutions.

9.10 Liaise with UN-FAO in particular and selected Regional Commissions of the United Nations like the ECA, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ESCAP, amongst others: AFRICAN UNION & The African Development Bank- ADB, to facilitate, not only the necessary and authoritative technical input into the growth of Africa's Indigenous Stimulants Industry, but also the buoyancy of the entire Industry.

10. CONCLUSION:

10.1 Having successfully completed ICAIS (1) we remain committed to our resolve to develop Africa's Indigenous Stimulants Industry in cooperation with National, sub-regional and international intergovernmental organizations.

10.2 We also intend to work with African and International Institutes of Agricultural Research to develop ways and means of accelerating the growth of Kolanuts and Bitterkola in particular, or creating the new specie of these farm products.

10.3 We must urgently find a way of implementing these strategies, not only because they take long to bear fruit, but for the fact that the world population is growing very fast: millions of foreigners have suddenly become conscious of and interested in all of the medicinal values of our Stimulants and as a consequence demand is now very high at the international level.

10.4 Another sensitive area of this plan is the serious documentation, authentication and provision of authoritative and pertinent data on the Stimulants in cooperation with our sub- regional intergovernmental organizations, i.e, the

AFRICAN UNION: United Nations Economic Commission for

Africa - UNECA: African Development Bank – ADB: the SADC

(South African Development Community): ECOWAS

Commission and ECCAS – the Economic Community of Central

African States.

10.5 Therefore, we fervently, believe that Nigeria shall prosper: that there will be MORE AND MORE Indigenous Stimulant growers on the continent of Africa in the 21st Century: that the First Bank of Nigeria Plc, which has supported the first ever International Conference on Africa's Indigenous Stimulants in the year 2011, will be compensated with BIG-TIME BANKING, when we open the Indigenous Stimulants market in Bahir El Salvador, the Caribbean Community and the Americas.

10.6 Africa is not going to vanish from the face of the Earth. As a matter of fact, we know for sure that those chronic human problems that seem to defy scientific solutions in present-day Nigeria, will one day belong to the pages of history. As we continue to stabilize and practicalize our strategic Afrocentric Ideologies, the African Indigenous Stimulants Industry will begin to luxuriate in evolving financial, institutional and sociopolitical support.

10.7 And the First Bank of Nigeria, Plc., will be there to witness the phenomenon when KOLANUTS, BITTERKOLA and ALLIGATOR PEPPERS, amongst others, are served on a regular basis at the:

10.7(a) Annual General Meetings of First Bank, Plc.: - Nigeria:

10.7(b) The Spring Meetings of the IMF/WORLD BANK: USA:

10.7(c) The General Conference of UNESCO – France:

10.7(d) The Annual Summit of African Heads of State and Government: Ethiopia:

10.7(e) That of the ECOWAS Commission: - Abuja, Fct:

10.7(f) Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank – ABD: Cote D'Ivoire

10.7(g) Conference of Ministers of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa-ECA: - Ethiopia

10.7(h) WORLD FOOD SUMMIT of the UN Food and Agriculture organization – FAO: -Italy:

10.7 (i) United Nations General Assembly: USA, and so on, ad infinitum.

Signed by me:

Princess Bola ADESIDA

Project Coordinator

Africa Region

Vertical Inspirations Ltd

Tel: 080-6678-6471: 080-5726-7190

Email: ceswidas@yahoo.com