

## OPENING CEREMONIES

**PROFESSOR T. A. TAYLOR:** The representative of the Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, the acting Vice-Chancellor, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure and privilege to introduce our guests for the formal opening of the Second International Working Conference on Stored-Product Entomology. On behalf of the Organisers, I wish to welcome our colleagues in Stored-Product Entomology from different parts of the world. Of course, I will not take over the role of the Vice-Chancellor, because both the acting Vice-Chancellor of Ibadan University and the Honourable Commissioner, who is represented here by the Federal Director of Agriculture, will be welcoming you formally to the campus of the University of Ibadan and to Nigeria.

Our main guest for this morning is the representative of the Honourable Commissioner of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He will convey the apologies of the Honourable Commissioner, who owing to pressing State duties, is unable to come in person to open the Second International Working Conference on Stored-Product Entomology. Alhaji Liman, who is sitting on my immediate right and who is the Federal Director of Agriculture has had a long and abiding interest in Storage Technology and I think it is very appropriate that he should represent the Honourable Commissioner at this opening. Our next guest and host, and he wears two caps, is the acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, whose Institution is providing the essential facilities for this Conference, is Professor N. O. Adedipe, the Dean of Agriculture; he is on my immediate left. Thirdly, and unfortunately, the Executive Secretary, N. S. T. D. A. is unavoidably absent. I am told he has just arrived from a trip abroad yesterday and much as he would have wished to be here in person, he is unable to attend the formal opening. However, we have Mr. J. C. Obi, who is sitting next to Mr. Alhaji Liman, as representing the N. S. T. D. A. as one of the major sponsors of this Conference. Next to Mr. Obi is Dr. S. A. Adesuyi, acting Director of the Nigerian Stored-Products Research Institute.

On my extreme left is Dr. Robert Davis, who was Chairman of the First International Working Conference on Stored-Product Entomology and is Chairman of the Permanent Committee of International Working Conferences on Stored-Product Entomology. He is handing over the baton to me for this Conference in Nigeria, but he can be rightly referred to as the father of the International Working Conferences on Stored-Product Entomology because it was as a result of his initiative, his imagination and drive that the first International Working Conference was held in Savannah, Georgia, in 1974. On that occasion, the Stored-Product Insects Research and Development Laboratory, USDA, was host and organised the first Working Conference. Therefore, it is a great pleasure

to see him continuing not only as the Chairman of the Permanent Committee of the International Working Conferences on Stored-Product Entomology, but to be present on this occasion when Nigeria is playing host to the Second International Working Conference on Stored-Product Entomology. I now have the pleasure to call on the acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan to deliver his welcome address.

**PROFESSOR N. O. ADEDIPE (acting Vice-Chancellor):** Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I am standing in for the Vice-Chancellor, who is unavoidably absent due to previous commitments since he is now outside Ibadan. May I therefore on his behalf welcome you all to this International Conference. The Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, the Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture Oyo State, the Executive Secretary N. S. T. D. A., eminent entomologists and scientists, ladies and gentlemen, I have the pleasure to welcome you all on behalf of the University community to Nigeria and particularly to the University of Ibadan campus. I learnt that the first Conference of your organisation took place in Savannah, Georgia, U.S.A., four years ago, and that the University of Ibadan is happy to host the Second International Working Conference on Stored-Product Entomology. The very important role of entomologists as biologists who concentrate most of their efforts on the boundless limits of the insect world in the production of food and supply to mankind cannot be overemphasised.

Insects as the most biologically successful animals in terms of their large numbers, ability to survive and to reproduce under varying environmental conditions, and also to occupy almost every ecological niche, constitute one of the major constraints to agricultural production throughout the world. Insect pests are the greatest competitors of men for food and their devastating effects both in the field and in the storage are well pronounced in the tropical and subtropical regions where the physical factors of the environment favour their development and activities almost all the year. Food and food products, especially grains, legumes, dried fish and other animal and forest products are stored for a number of reasons as you all well know. These include the seasonality of crops and the fluctuation of market prices, but most of the present farmers in the third world store part of their harvest primarily for consumption during the period of scarcity. I am informed that about 40-60% losses have been recorded in many parts of this country for such crops as maize, guinea corn and cowpea within six months of storage. These grains and legumes constitute the major source of carbohydrates and protein to the teeming population of this country.

Many of our cash crops like cocoa, groundnuts and kolanuts on which this country depended for a long time for economic development and take-off also suffer heavy losses from insect pests. Our experiences in the last couple of years from instability and uncertainties surrounding all revenues have shown that agricultural

products are the most reliable sources of foreign exchange earnings. However, one notes with pleasure and with a feeling of hope that your Conference is holding at this point in time when the various governments of the developing countries are making frantic efforts to increase food production. The N. A. F. P. P. and the O. F. N. are some of the efforts of the Federal Military Government of Nigeria at the national level to encourage increased food production.

The problem of storage therefore requires serious attention by stored-product entomologist, microbiologists and engineers in order to minimise the losses in storage. It is my belief that you would use your knowledge and wealth of experience to formulate effective and efficient controls against the storage pests under the tropical and subtropical conditions, bearing in mind especially the limitations of most of our present day farmers which include illiteracy, poverty and total lack of modern technology. I like to say at this juncture that this University is very proud of the activity of its Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry with reference to its contribution to the development of Agriculture in this country and particularly the Department of Agriculture Biology in which Entomology is one major component.