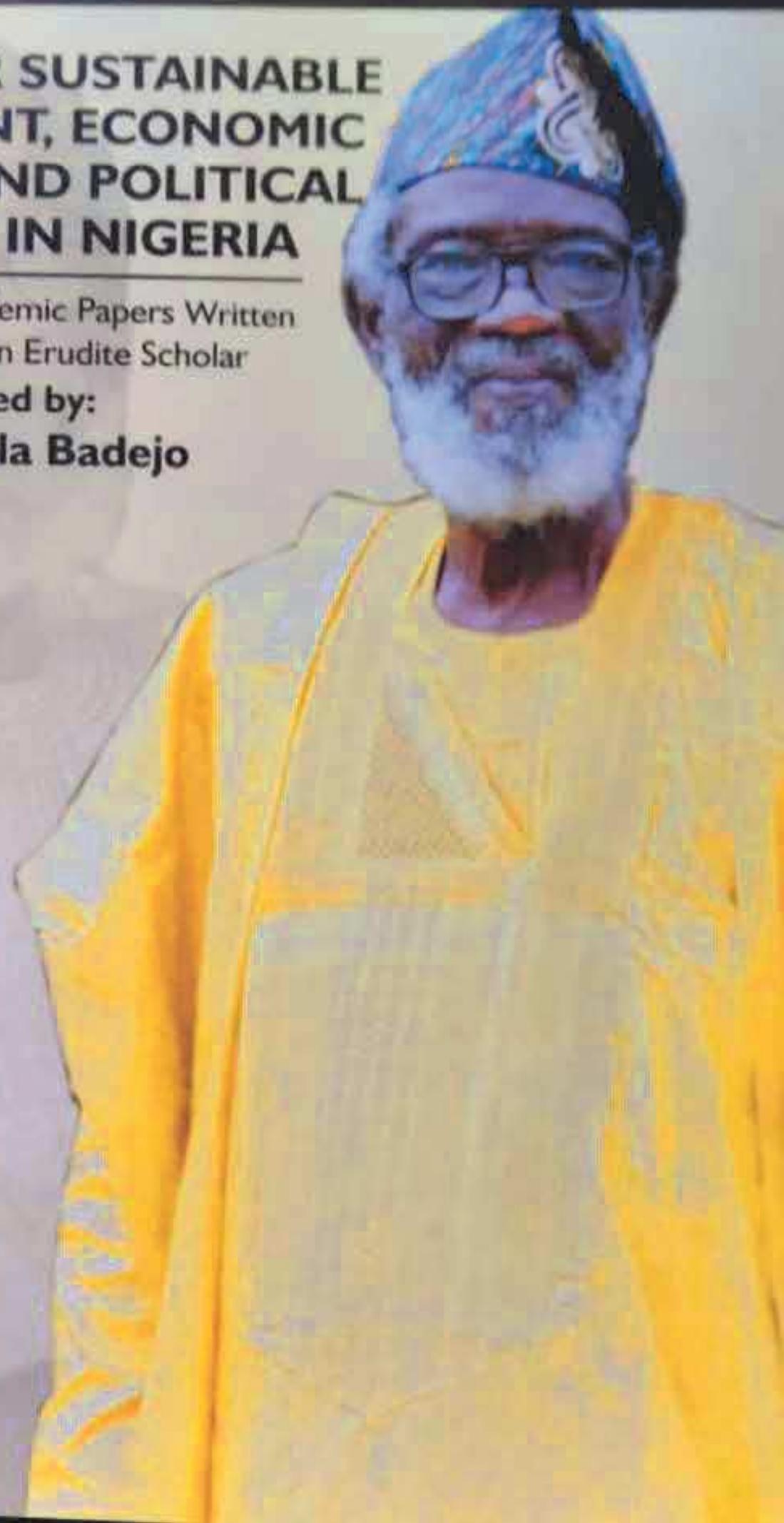


OPTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND POLITICAL STABILITY IN NIGERIA

A Collection of Academic Papers Written
in Honour of an Erudite Scholar

**Edited by:
Prof. 'Tola Badejo**



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Options for Sustainable Development, Economic Progress and Political Stability in Nigeria.

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PREFACE

You are all welcome to the Colloquium organised to mark my 80th Birthday. All my children and other members of my family join me in welcoming you. We are most pleased and honoured by your presence.

Our whole-hearted thanks specially go to our presenters, and for their continuing investigations in their respective fields of study. *Opolo nyin ko ni j'oba o.*

We sincerely hope and pray that our efforts here today will not be in vein but will be successful and form part of other efforts to move our nation forwards whilst fostering sustainability.

The title of this Colloquium - “Options for Sustainable Development, Economic Progress and Political Stability in Nigeria” – is chosen because of our genuine concern and desire to see that most indices needed for a holistic national development are enduring and adopted to ensure that the factors and challenges against Nigeria being a stable and sustainable project are sincerely and painstakingly dealt with.

When I told some of my friends that my children, in collaboration with some academics are planning for a colloquium with the above mentioned title to mark my 80th Birthday, the reaction of most of them is that “Do I and my children believe in a politically stable Nigeria?” I said “Yes” but depending on several conditions many of which will be highlighted at the Colloquium with solutions proposed.

Ladies and gentlemen, nearly all the presentations at this Colloquium today deal with issues essential for realistic and holistic development of a nation, namely:

- Sustainable Development
- Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction
- Entrepreneurship
- Agriculture – enlarged for food security
- Education – Qualitative and Universal
- Science and Technology
- Infrastructural Facilities, notably Transportation – Roads and Rails
- Utilities Sufficiency – Electricity, Gas and Water
- Healthcare Facilities
- Population Growth
- Reducing Corruption
- Good Governance and Security of Life and Property

The presenters do not only identify these issues or problems, corresponding and realistic solutions are offered. Our belief, therefore, is that if our academics continue their researches and/or provide guidance in the above identified areas, and our policy makers/think tank in governments and private enterprises wake up and realise that research is the bedrock of any sustainable development; it is very certain that Nigeria can achieve meaningful and sustainable development.

In spite of my being optimistic that Nigeria can become a politically stable country with sustainable development, that dream or wish may not be realised if we fail to stop chasing

shadows as I pointed out in an article published in *The Punch* newspaper sometime in March 2007. Please permit me to quote the relevant portion here.

“We assumed, at our independence, that all the essential ingredients of democratic governance were put in place. But we forgot to realise that the constitution handed over to us, like the state itself, was imposed and lacking in broad participation as only a few hand-picked leaders were involved in the series of talks or conferences that gave birth to the constitution. Although the colonial masters believed that they were putting a democratic government in place, the government they left behind has been described as “alien, hierarchical and imposed” and, rather than being a source of democratic values, it had quite the opposite effect

“We continued with the above false assumptions, and many more, for five years and about three months before another tragedy, the *coup d'état* of 15 January 1966, hit Nigeria. I call that military coup a tragedy because it truncated the probable evolutionary development of good governance which would have led to Nigeria attaining a true nationhood and stable, meaningful and lasting democratic values.

“We did not realise that synonymous with any military rule is generally the introduction of the culture of authoritarianism, intimidation and terrorization of people, vandalization, laziness and corruption. Added to the above are the following features of military rule which the nation experienced for over thirty years of her post-independence existence:

- The introduction of government by exhortation instead of government by example;
- Poisoning of people’s mind, most especially the youth, with systematic lies;
- Collapse of education, from primary to tertiary;
- Inadequate public healthcare systems;
- Social irresponsibility, that is total disregard for people’s welfare, including abnormal tariffs for water, electricity, telephone, fuels (kerosene, diesel, petrol and cooking gas) and other utilities, even when many of these utilities are never continuously available or provided;
- Mismanagement of money which includes lack of accountability and downright conversion of people’s money and property to personal property;
- Politicisation of bureaucracies – the public service swelled to satisfy the patronage demands of the ethnically and religiously driven political machine, with postings and promotions being equally manipulated; and much more;
- Disorientation of the psyche of the people; and
- Introduction of the culture of “deaf and dumb” to the clamours of “bloody civilians” for national development and genuine democratic values.

The above features of military rule are definitely not exhaustive. There is no doubt that many more can be added.

“After emerging from the colonial bondage, the country experienced series of the so-called ‘revolutionary’ or ‘corrective’ coups, and a very bloody war for over three years. One would have thought that we needed to carry out a very critical and intellectual analysis of the debilitating and destabilising features of those three landmarks in our political history with a view to knowing what right questions to ask. One would have expected that our first priority would be to settle the very vital national questions of how do we build a nation out of the diverse nationalities forced together by the colonial masters and how do we formulate a broad and popular consensus over what type of a nation we want and how politics should be conducted in the nation. We should have tried, if possible, to

forge a nation that would respect and recognise the different cultures, religions and socio-political attributes of each nationality; a nation where there is no discrimination, no masters and serfs, no born-to-rule and born-to-serve and a nation strengthened by unity in diversity. We, all of us, the rulers and the ruled, the rich and the poor, the haves and the have-nots, the Christians and the Muslims and the Traditionalists should have formulated and articulated clearly and unambiguously the ‘DREAM OF A NEW NATION CALLED NIGERIA’

“It is because we have failed to seriously and genuinely address the above vital NATIONAL QUESTIONS that we are still at the STATE LEVEL after forty-six years, **(now 60 years)**, of independence. Unfortunately, we continue to strengthen the state every day by our covert and overt actions. Integration of the different nationalities continues to elude us. It is still North versus South; East versus West; Hausas versus Igbos and Igbos versus Yorubas, etc.

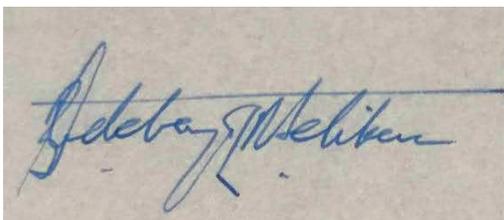
“It ought to have dawned on us that failure to address our colonial and military heritages in an atmosphere devoid of deceit, dishonesty, parochialism, selfishness and ethnic and religious intolerance and bigotry, to mention just a few of our crippling national maladies, will make all our efforts at good governance appear as if we are looking for right answers for wrong questions – that is, continuing to chase shadows.”

Ladies and gentlemen, I believe we may not make any sustainable impact in our nation building until we completely discard our colonial and military heritage and mentality, coupled with the need for us to shift from complain mindset to solution mindset; and adopt the age-long principle that “if something does not work, change it”.

Our efforts here today show that we believe in one Nigeria. But it has to be a Nigeria devoid of discrimination, masters and serfs, born-to-rule and born-to-serve and oppression and subjugation of one ethnic group by another; a country where our deep structural, socio-economic and political problems – ethnic rivalry, religious fanaticism and bigotry, unregulated population growth, poverty, warped constitution, etc. are dispassionately addressed; a country blessed with people in government who are endowed with sound leadership qualities, notably being patriotic, visionary, transparent, inspiring, disciplined, putting the nation first and not personal or group interest, and with foresight and profound intellectual and administrative capacity that fosters diversity and inclusivity.

Execution of all the recommendations in this Colloquium can only be effective under a restructured Nigeria where the above national malaise and contradictions are removed, a restructured Nigeria that ensures equitable sharing and devolution of power, resources and responsibilities, a decentralized and truly democratic federal system.

Once again, I heartily thank you all. To our eminent scholars, I wish you happy presentation. Ladies and gentlemen, I wish you happy listening. God bless Nigeria.



B. ADEBAYO LASEBIKAN
April 17, 2021.

FOREWORD

Prof. Bamidele Adebayo Lasebikan (popularly known as Prof. Lash) turned 80 on March 12, 2020. A few months before this date, his children had told him that they would like to celebrate him on that day. He agreed on one condition, that there must be an academic programme focused on our existential problems in Nigeria and solutions to them on that day. He advised them to discuss this with one of his mentees who had been adopted through mutual unwritten agreement as his first son. That mentee was my humble self. ‘Tokunbo, the last born of Late Mrs. Catherine Olufunke Lasebikan, was mandated by his siblings to discuss the issue with me. ‘Demola, his first born, as well as Ayoola also engaged me in telephone discussions on the issue. For me, it was a case of ‘order from above’. My response was: consider it done.

The first task before me was to choose the topic of the intellectual discourse. Within a few days, I came up with the title of the discourse: **Options for sustainable development, economic progress and political stability in Nigeria**. I drew my inspiration from the passion of Professor Lasebikan which he never concealed from me during our informal discussions outside the laboratory. To confirm this, Professor Lasebikan himself wrote in the Preface to this book that:

The title of this Colloquium ... is chosen because of our genuine concern and desire to see that most indices needed for a holistic national development are enduring and adopted to ensure that the factors and challenges against Nigeria being a stable and sustainable project are sincerely and painstakingly dealt with.

The second task was choosing the Panel of discussants who will address the theme from their individual perspectives. This was a herculean task but I surmounted all obstacles and got seven colleagues including myself, making eight, to accept to present papers on that day. One of them was Prof. Lasebikan’s contemporary who was also my teacher in Ife. Prof. ‘Toye Olorode, a Professor of Botany and well known activist who agreed to be the moderator of the symposium, Another was Professor Olu Odeyemi, a microbiologist and junior colleague and friend of Professor Lasebikan. The rest were my contemporaries, one of who had served as Vice-Chancellor like me.

Within a period of six months, all presentations had been submitted and edited. The papers were sent to Prof. Lash who, after reading through each presentation, wrote a well crafted Preface in which he appreciated the contributions of each scholar. One does not need to be told that the content of the presentations was satisfactory to Prof. Lasebikan. For him, it was a dream fulfilled.

Then COVID-19 struck! ‘Demola, a professional Corrosion Engineer, lives in the UK, Nike, a Chartered Accountant, the second born is based in Lagos. Ayoola, a Medical Doctor, lives in Enugu. ‘Tokunbo, a Civil Engineer could no longer shuttle between Ibadan and Lagos. The event had to be postponed until further notice.

At a time, I thought the event would take place a year after the birthday. This idea faded away as a result of the circumstances imposed on all global citizens by Post-COVID restraints and

constraints. Then came the idea of 80⁺² which also became a mirage due to ASUU strike and all its attendant consequences. The family eventually decided to keep the birthday celebration in abeyance while the write-ups of the contributors are published in a Book in honour of Prof. Lasebikan.

Little did we know that this idea would never materialise as conceived. Prof. Lasebikan passed on in the early hours of Friday November 04 after a brief illness. The erudite scholar left us without seeing this book in print.

The Preface written by him has encapsulated quite a sizeable number of the endemic problems of sustainable development, economic progress and political stability in Nigeria. How I wish I have access to a letter written by Prof. Lasebikan to the Military President, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, sometime in the late 80s. This letter would have been published along with this book. I believe the content of the letter would not be very different from the theme of this book. Up till his demise, Prof. Lasebikan did not know whether his letter was read by the recipient. The idea of posting a letter by courier to the President reveals the type of activist Prof. Lasebikan was. He might not be the placard carrying ASUU activist, but those of us who were close to him knew the stuff he was made of. By my assessment, he was right at the centre of the continuum of the ideological line.

In conclusion, I feel proud to have been mentored by this tough academic who was very allergic to mediocrity and would not touch charlatans with a long pole. He also avoided pretenders like a plague. In spite of tough and nearly frustrating back-to-the-drawing board criticisms of my Ph.D thesis under his supervision, he thereafter told one of his colleagues that the thesis was a Bible in Soil Microarthropod Ecology in Nigeria. That is Prof. Lash for you. A foremost soil ecologist in Nigeria; a world renowned Acarologist; a Collembolan taxonomist; a great Entomologist and Ecology teacher. It is extremely painful that our proposed celebration of Professor Lasebikan turned into a tribute. As the saying goes, “Man proposes, God disposes.” Who are we to question God?

Sleep well my mentor, till we meet to part no more. *Òjò pa sèkèrè ma dè. Omo Àtìbà. Omo ejò njo wèrè. Omo arikú o másă. Omo arikú olá yan. Ijó lajótà nísàlè àkà. Omo àkà ilé, àkà òde. Omo àkà òde ò bèrù òkùnkùn. Sùnre ò.*



Prof. Tola Badejo
November 30, 2022.

Professor Omotoye Olorode.

Omotoye Olorode retired as a Professor of Botany at Obafemi Awolowo University Ilé-Ifè, in 2008. He joined the University of Ifè faculty in 1967. He worked closely and published with Professor Bayo Lasebikan in the Department of Biological Sciences since the early 1970s. He was also, with Professor Lasebikan, a member of the radical Ifè Dialogue Committee which published the journal of Ideas--Ifè Dialogue. The Committee was the predecessor of the famous Ifè Collective. which published the Socialist Forum. Omotoye Olorode researched, published, and taught Cytogenetics, Systematics, Biometry, and Organic Evolution. He is active in the trade union movement and he has written and published extensively in political economy and history. He now lives in Ogbomosho where he is Consulting Scientist at the Odòjé Biodiversity Center.

Professor Adeniyi Gbadegesin

Professor Adeniyi Gbadegesin attended both Oranyan Grammar School and Olivet Baptist High School in Oyo for his secondary school education. He received his University education at the University of Ibadan between 1976 and 1984. He completed his undergraduate program with a First Class degree in Geography in 1979. His doctoral program was completed in 1984 specializing in soils, natural resource analysis and management. He is currently a Professor of Geography at the University of Ibadan, having served as the Vice-Chancellor of the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomosho, Oyo State, between 2011 and 2019. He initiated the establishment of the Disaster Risk Management Program in the Department of Geography in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency, Abuja in 2009.

Professor ‘Tunde Lawuyi

Prof Olatunde Bayo Lawuyi Bsc (Ife); MA (University of Illinois, Urbana- Champaign); M.Phil (University of Jos); and Ph. D (University of Illinois (Urbana -Champaign, USA) He has written six books and over a hundred articles and essays on culture, society, and development in local and International journals. He, also, served as Professor and Head of Department, in his chosen field of Socio-Cultural Anthropology, in several universities in Nigeria and abroad. The last being at University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

Professor Olajire Bamisaye.

Professor Olajire Abiola Bamisaye is a long standing University teacher, Researcher and Administrator. He assumed, duty as Graduate Assistant of then University of Ife, (now Obafemi Awolowo University Ife), on January 6, 1982 and rose through the ranks to become a professor of Political Science, in 2011. He has to his credit about four Books, 5 Edited books, 10 Monographs and more than 50 published Articles both in Local and International Journals. He was Head of Department of Political Science twice at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. It was Pioneer Provost of Postgraduate Studies during approved leave at Oduduwa University, Ipetumodu. Also, Head of Department of Political Science, Redeemer University, Ede, in 2016 (during an approved leave). He is a member of Governing Council of Oduduwa University, Ipetumodu, as well, Chairman, Governing Council of Ife Polytechnic, Ile-Ife. He is presently an External Examiner of various Universities in Nigeria. He is happily married with children.

Professor Stephen Akinade Adegbite

Professor Adegbite attended Howard University, USA where he obtained a Bachelor of Science (BSc) and Master of Business Administration (MBA) degrees in *Finance, Banking and Industrial Management*. He also has a Master of Science (MSc) degree in Technology Management with specialization in *Technological Entrepreneurship* and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Technology Management with specialization in *Technology Innovation* from the Faculty of Technology, Obafemi Awolowo University. He is a *Master Trainer* for various international programmes such as Know About Business (KAB) and Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB). Professor Adegbite is the

first *Professor of Entrepreneurship* in the *Institute for Entrepreneurship and Development Studies (IFEDS)*, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. His professional assignments are in the areas of Project Design and Implementation and Entrepreneurship Development and Training to mention a few.

Dr. Adetunji Ojo Ogunyemi

Dr. Adetunji Ojo Ogunyemi, a Lawyer and an Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria is a Budget Historian and expert on the laws of public finance in Africa. He is Reader (Associate Professor) in Economic History at the Department of History, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, where he recently completed a 3-year tenure as Acting Head of the Department. Dr Ogunyemi is known for his multidisciplinary approaches to scholarship and multiple competencies in Law, History and Public Finance. He has published 60 articles in books and learned journals.

Professor ‘Tola Badejo

Prof. Mosadoluwa Adetola Badejo is a seasoned university teacher, researcher and administrator. He started his career as an academic staff in the University of Ife in 1981 and rose steadily through the ranks to become a Professor of Zoology in the same university {now Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife} in 1998. A researcher and scholar of International repute, Prof. Badejo has published 3 books, 4 Edited books and many academic papers in the broad field of Soil Entomology, Acarology, Ecotoxicology of Microarthropods and Environmental Studies in Agriculture. He also has to his credit many workshop papers and technical reports. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of *Environtropica*, a Journal of the Tropical Environment which has published 17 Volumes since inception in 2004. Prof. Badejo served as the Pioneer Vice-Chancellor of Wesley University in Ondo from 2008 to 2015, as well as from July 2020 to June 2021 in Eastern Palm University (now K.O. Mbadiwe University) in Ogboko, off Owerri.

Professor Olu. Odeyemi

Professor Olusuyi Odeyemi began his academic career in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University), Ile-Ife, and rose through the ranks to become a Professor in October 1987. He is an erudite scholar who has published extensively in learned journals and authored at least five books. Of special mention is “Two Centuries of Oil and Gas (1860-2060). His 1976 doctoral thesis on “Fungicide-resistant rhizobia for legume inoculation” received the most valuable thesis award at Cornell University. The research outcome was patented by the Government of the United States of America (US Patent No. 4094097). He is widely acclaimed as the first scientist to build a biogas generator in Nigeria. In January 1993, he was appointed as the Pioneer Rector of the Osun State College of Technology, Esa-Oke, and served meritoriously for eight years. Professor Odeyemi is a recipient of several awards, including the National Merit Award for Excellence in Science and Technology (1990) and the Officer of the Federal Republic (OFR) by the Federal Government of Nigeria.