

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF 2ND PHARMA-FOODS CONGRESS HELD AT COVENANT UNIVERSITY, OTA (VIRTUAL CONFERENCE)

The 2nd Pharma-Foods Congress (PFC 2020) held on September 8 – 9, 2020 at Covenant University, Ota (virtually). The following conclusions were reached at the end of the two-day conference.

1. Translational studies on functional foods are critical to transform the outcomes of basic science to bedside to bridge the gaps of unmet medical needs in Nigeria.
2. Research is incomplete until a functional product is developed i.e. from papers to products.
3. It is important for functional food products to undergo scientific investigations of their medicinal properties..
4. It is imperative to reorient the research community on the need to focus on translational research that translate to product development alongside scientific publications.
5. Industry-centered, collaborative and multidisciplinary research should be a major focus for the research community; which will result in product development and productive partnership with pharmaceutical and allied sectors.
6. Bioresources in Nigeria for economic gain by foreigners should be discouraged while Nigerians should further explore these resources.
7. Phytomedicine should be promoted to global levels and a new Pharmacopoeia of Nigerian plants should be pursued.
8. Standardized methods and protocols based on modern technologies and to reduce toxicity of plant-based products should be established for characterization of indigenous plants used for functional foods and medicine by regulatory agencies in the country.
9. Governmental agencies should reconstitute committees on resuscitating phytomedicine in Nigeria.
10. NAFDAC requires the understanding and capacity in properly assessing and characterizing natural products to promote the usefulness of Nigerian plant products.
11. Terminologies and terms related to functional food and medicines should be defined from an African/National perspective. These include but not limited to terms like: functional foods, phytomedicine, medicinal products, and herbal products.
12. For the treatment of COVID-19, other prevalent, recurrent and emerging viral and non-viral diseases, the rich bioresources of the country should be screened for indigenous plants that show potency by the relevant agencies.
13. Modern technologies should be employed for research and to reduce toxicity of herbal compound