

REPORT OF THE 4TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY FOR COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH (SCCDR) HELD AT THE CENTRE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT, MICHAEL OKPARA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, UMUDIKE – AUGUST 12TH – 14TH, 2025

Preamble: The Society for Community and Communication Development Research is an interdisciplinary organization committed to the research and practice of communication and sustainable community development. It has in the last 10 years of her existence, organized 4 conferences of international standard, the most recent being the 4th Biennial conference which held from the 12TH – 14TH August, 2025. The theme – ‘Agricultural Extension for Food Security and Community Development’,”

Opening Ceremony: The 4th Biennial Conference of the Society opened on the 12th of August, 2025 with the arrival and registration of participants – A total of 55 articles were received from authors for presentation at the conference. The event opened formally with a welcome address from the President who applauded members of the Society for keeping fate for these ten years. He welcomed all the guests and encouraged members to effectively participate in all the proceedings of the conference.

The Event was declared open by the Vice-Chancellor of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, who was ably represented by the Dean of Postgraduate School – Engr. Prof. O. I. Okoro. At the behest of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Okoro highlighted the relevance of Agricultural Extension in attaining food security. He further applauded the Society for being consistent in her activities, including the quality of her journal which he said attained good recognition by the University in appraising academic staff.

A major highpoint of the event was the Keynote Address, presented by Dr, Chibuzor Anyim, a seasoned development and external relations expert on the theme – ‘Integrated Extension Services for Community Empowerment in Nigeria’. In his presentation, Dr. Anyim highlighted the need for

Agriculture and Community Empowerment in Nigeria, stating that Agriculture employs over 70% of the rural population, and, therefore should be given adequate attention. He further remarked that there are challenges; such as funding, low Extension-to-farmer ratio, outdated methods, lack of collaborations, fragmented focus among on farmers. He also observed that if the country can adhere to some recommendations, the extension service delivery will be greatly improved, thereby ensuring effective empowerment of our rural communities. Among other recommendations was, the Budgetary Allocations directly from LGA and the Federal Funds – where he opined that 5-10% of the Local Government Area funds from the Federal Government, should be allocated to Integrated Extension Service delivery.

At the end of the lecture and in recognition of the contributions of the Keynote Speaker to Agricultural and Community Development, as well as the development of the Society, the Society presented an award of excellence to Dr. Chibuzor Anyim.

Other important personalities who graced the occasion were, the Director, Directorate of University Research Administration – Engr. Prof. K. J. Simonyan, Dean of the College and the Head of Department of AGRICULTURAL Extension and Rural Development.

Plenary Sessions: Two plenary sessions were used during the conference – First was a presentation by the President of the Society, Prof. Ike Nwachukwu, on the title: Making a Profitable Success of Your Academic Career. In his presentation, he challenged participants on the need to pursue excellence and ensure they multiply their streams of income through their career activities. He noted that, it is unhealthy for an academician or researcher to solely depend on his monthly salary for sustenance, which is never adequate – he advised members to take advantage of the many opportunities that exist in the world of academics and research.

Next on the list in the plenary, was a training on ‘Modern research tools: Leveraging SPSS and R for effective data analyses’ by Dr. Aigbokie Sunday. This was apt, as many participants were enthusiastic in learning new approaches using these tools – However, due to time constraint – much of the expositions centered on SPSS. To bridge this gap, members were encouraged to go for online trainings on these packages.

Technical Sessions: The technical sessions started on the first day with 5 virtual presentations, which brought us to the close of Day 1 of the event.

Physical presentations were taken on the 13th August at three different venues within the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development facility – A total of 55 papers from the different sub-themes were presented at the conference, with over 50 participants in attendance.

Annual General Meeting: Prior to the 4th Biennial Conference, the Society had sixty-nine (69) registered members which also rose to 74 from new registrations recorded during the conference. At the AGM, the Society reviewed her performances and discussed ways forward to a more resilient society. Both the Financial report and minutes of the last AGM were received and discussed. A key takeaway from the AGM was the need to hold more events that will bind members of the Society- such as webinars and other quarterly and annual events outside the conference. The need for renewed membership drive was also emphasized.

Welfare of Participants: It is worthy of note that the University approved a coaster bus to convey members to and fro their lodgings and the venue. The welfare Sub-committee also ensured that

lunch was served to participants – a major colour to the event, was the 10TH Anniversary cake provided by the welfare sub-committee which was cut during the Cocktail party.

Appreciation: The LOC appreciates the President of the society, and our Mentor – Prof. Ike Nwachukwu and the Secretary – Prof. J. T. Ekanem, for their noble initiatives and guidance which led to a successful hosting of the event. Thanks to all the sub-committee heads and their members, who labored to birth a successful conference. Worthy of recognition is the contributions of the Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, Prof. K. C. Ekwe, who provided the Centre’s facilities for the hosting of the conference. Finally, the support of the Vice Chancellor and Chief Host of the event, Prof. M.O. Iwe, and his Management team which culminated in the serene atmosphere enjoyed during the conference is well acknowledged.

Dr Ukpai Kalu

LOC, Secretary

Appendix

SUB-COMMITTEES FOR THE 2025 SCCDR CONFERENCE

S/N	SUB-COMMITTEES	NAMES
A	Technical/ Mobilization Plan the whole conf. Receive papers from editorial committee and process. Organize the technical sessions of the conference. Mobilize for participation.	Prof. K C Ekwe, Prof Onwumere, Onu, Ashiegbu, Agboge,
B	Publicity. Publicize the conference. Develop publicity materials. Organize for PAS. Mobilise participation	Dr Nwaobiala, Nzeakor, Njoku, Onuoha, Ikenga, Joseph,
C	Welfare Ensure comfort of participants, provide tea and meals	Dr. Umeh, Kanu, Igwe, Ironkwe, Nmeregini
D	Editorial Edit abstracts and approve. Edit full papers for proceedings. Edit other materials	Prof. Leo Obinna, Prof Yinka Nwachukwu, Nwaobiala, Obiozor, Ukoha, Edith Nze

E	Finance/Secretariat Produce secretarial materials. Register participants	Prof L Odoemelam, Maduka, Ogbuji,
F	Venue and Decorations Identify venues and decorate them. Ensure cleanliness of venues	Dr. E. E.Osahon, Ekweanya, Udodirim, Kachi
G	Protocols, Transport, Accommodation Arrange sitting arrangement at the venues. Source for accommodation and transportation for participants.	Prof Apu, Njoku, Chijioke
H	ICT Provide all ICT services	Ejimchi, Ukpai, Nottidge, Ogbuji,
I	LOC Admin General administration	Ukpai, Nwachukwu, Ekanem, Odoemelam

Expanded List of LOC Members

ATTENDANCE

1. Aboh, J. A
2. Agboge U. Enakeno
3. Dr. Anyanwu, Ejimchi Victor
4. Dr. B. A. Ahamefule
5. Dr. Clara Igwe
6. Dr. F. C. Nzeakor
7. Dr. Jane Nwaekpe
8. Dr. Mark Tokula
9. Dr. Mary-Ann Mazza
10. Dr. N. M. Ekweanya
11. Dr. Ogechi R. Obiozor
12. Dr. Ogechi Umeh
13. Dr. Onu Samson Ejike
14. Dr. Pearl Amadi
15. Dr. R. U. Kanu
16. Dr. Esther Osahon
17. Dr.N. M. Ekweanya
18. Dr.Ogbuji Nwanneka
19. Dr.Oluchi Ada Maduka
20. Engr. Prof. Obinna, Leo. O.
21. Dr. Ibeneme Grace C
22. Dr. Idibia Emeka
23. Mr. Ebi Effia - ADP

24. Mr. Folarin Emmanuel
25. Mr. Nmeregini Daniel C.
26. Mr. Onuoha Lazarus, U.
27. Mr. Ikenga Kalu A.
28. Mrs. Nottidge Charity
29. Nwachukwu A. Chijioke
30. Onuoha Justice C
31. Prof. Ike Nwachukwu
32. Prof. Olayinka Nwachukwu
33. Prof. J. C. Onwumere
34. Prof. K. C. Ekwe
35. Dr. Ukoha, Joy C.I
36. Dr. Ukpai Kalu