**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND INSTITUTIONS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD OF FEBRUARY 2016 IN THE HOUSE MEETING ROOM 436, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NEW BUILDING, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.**

1. **ATTENDANCE**
   1. **PRESENT**
2. Hon. Linus Okorie Chairman
3. Hon. Olu Adewale Elijah Member
4. Hon. Solomon Maren Bulus “
5. Hon. Henry Okon Achibong “
6. Hon. Kayode Oladele “
7. Hon. Sergius Ogun “
8. Hon. Julius G. Pondi “
9. Hon. Afe Olowookere “
10. Hon. Lazarus Ogbe “
11. Hon. Oni Olamide Johnson “
    1. **Apology**
12. Hon. Abdullahi Garba Idris Deputy Chairman
13. Hon. Abubakar Hussaini Morki Member
14. Hon. Olusunbo Olugbemi “

4. Hon. Benjamin Wayo “

* 1. **Absent**

1. Hon. Saidu Yusuf Miga Member
2. Hon. Tatar Omar “
3. Hon. Barambu Umaru Kawuwa “
4. Hon. Monguno Tahiru “
5. Hon. Garba Datti Muhammed “
6. Hon. Munnir Babba Dan’Agundi “
7. Hon. Dumnamene Robinson Dekor ‘‘
8. Hon. Jones Oyereri ‘‘
9. Hon. Abubakar Sarki Dahiru ‘‘
10. Hon. Agbo Dennis Nnamdi “
11. Hon. Samuel Ifeanyi Onuigbo ‘‘
12. Hon. Aminu Suleiman ‘‘
    1. **Secretariat**
13. Olunike Adesina-Obube - Clerk
14. Omotayo Michael - Asst. Clerk
    1. **COMMENCEMENT**

The Meeting commenced at 10.00am with opening prayer said by the Chairman, Hon. Linus Okorie.

1. **CHAIRMAN’S OPENING REMARK**

The Chairman welcomed Members and apologized for the meeting coming up behind schedule. He said the meeting will be brief and essentially to deliberate on the approach to consider 2016 Appropriation Bill before the Committee which the leadership expects both Committees of the Senate and House to harmonize for easy pass of the Bill by National Assembly by 25th of February 2016.

Also, he informed the Members of two referrals received:

1. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute Act,Cap. 10, LFN, 2004 to allow other Federal Universities Participate on the board of the Institute: and for Other Related Matters (HB.241)**.
2. **A Bill for an Act to amend the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Establishment, etc.) Act to expressly provide that Colleges of Agriculture shall benefit from the Fund and Other Matters Connected therewith (HB, 38)** jointly referred; with Committee on Tertiary Education and services as the led Committee**.**

The Chairman stated that a third bill A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization Act was yet to be referred to the Committee. He however stated that the Committee will commence deliberation on the Bills immediately after the Budget process.

1. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF 25TH NOVEMBER, 15TH OF DECEMBER AND REPORT OF 7TH DECEMBER 2015.**

The following amendments were made on the Minutes of the meeting of 25th November, 2016:

1. To read Hon. Olu Adewale Elijah as against Hon. Adewale Ajaiyi.
2. To read Hon. Henry Okon Archibong as against Hon. Henry Archibong Okon.
3. To read Hon. Julius Gbabojor Pondi as against Hon. Julius Pondi Gbabojor
4. To read Hon. Jones Onyereri as against Hon. Jones Oyeneri

The Minutes of the interactive session of Tuesday 15th December, 2015, the word ‘for’ was deleted from Chairman’s response in line one to read ‘the Chairman in his response canvassed the need for Nigeria’.

**4.1 Adoption of the Minutes and Reports**

Motion for the adoption of the Minutes and Reports was moved by Hon. Oni Olamide Johnson and seconded by Hon. Bulus Solomon Maren.

1. **CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS**

The Chairman informed the Members that the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the House Committees on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions and Agricultural Production and Services have agreed to hold a joint Budget defence with the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on Thursday 4th February, 2016 by 10.00am.

He noted that he observed shortfall in the 2016 proposed Personnel cost of agencies. He therefore said letters would be written to Colleges and Institutions to provide details of their nominal roll.

The Chairman further informed Members that the Leadership of the House has confirmed the Committee’s jurisdiction over Federal Cooperatives Colleges.

He also informed Members of one of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture’s program; Agricultural Mechanized Equipment Scheme that would be of beneficial to Members and their constituencies. He said the equipment are for hire service and it is a private driving module.

The Chairman concluded by urging Members to remain close to the Committee to know the on-going programmes in the agricultural sector.

**6.0 MEMBERS CONTRIBUTION**

Members in their contribution raise the following contribution:

1. That the Committee should begin work on the referrals immediately after the Budget defence.

2. That the Committee should request for the list of on-going projects in pictorial form.

4. That there was a need to encourage government to adopt E-wallet programme.

5. Members also lament the inadequate budgetary provision for the Ministry.

3. That there was a need to review and upgrade some agencies like National Veterinary Research Institute of Nigeria, Vom to enhance their operation.

6. Members agreed to hold stakeholders meeting to turn around facilities the National Veterinary Research Institute of Nigeria, Vom through the of option of private partnership programme.

7. Members sought for an updated on the situation in Nigeria Cocoa Research Institute Ibadan’s.

8. Members lament the present position of the Government on Growth Enhancement Support scheme (GES) programme of the Ministry of Agriculture in which participants were still owed about forty-eight billion naira. They raised the need for government to secure loans taken by participants.

**7.0 CHAIRMAN’S RESPONSE**

The Chairman said the growth enhancement scheme (GES) is something to discuss with the Minister during the Budget defence tomorrow.

He said there was a need for the Committee to hold a Public Hearing on National Veterinary Research Institute, Vom with the Ministry and stakeholders. He noted that institute has facilities and manpower but lacks working capital.

Also, the Chairman said the government has intervened situation in Nigeria Cocoa Research Institute, Ibadan. He said the Executive Director has being asked to proceed on compulsory Leave.

**8.0 COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

The Committee resolved to:

1. Hold a joint budget defence with the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the House Committee on Agricultural Production and Services on 4th Thursday, 5th Friday and 8th Monday February, 2016.
2. Conduct Public Hearing on the Bills referred to the Committee after the consideration of the 2016 budget proposal of Agencies.
3. Hold stakeholders meeting on National Veterinary Research Institute, Vom in order to enhance its operations.
4. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11.40am.

**Hon. Linus Okorie *FCA* Olunike Adesina-Obube**

**Chairman Clerk**