

## 2<sup>ND</sup> LANDMARK UNIVERSITY INAUGURAL LECTURE: DON TRAILBLAZES MUSHROOMS RENAISSANCE

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, the University community together with her distinguished guests comprising academics and other well-meaning Nigerians from diverse walks of life converged on the University Multipurpose Hall for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inaugural Lecture of the University titled, **“Mushrooms Renaissance: Biodiversity, Ethnomycological and Agro-Perceptions.”** The lecture was delivered by the Professor of Mycology/Plant Pathology, Osarenkhoe Omorefosa Osemwegie, Head, Department of Biological Sciences, Landmark University.

According to the Professor, the spread of mushroom production and its success rate in meeting human culinary, medicinal and economic needs is gaining wider acceptance globally. He noted the high value placed on their nutritional and pharmacological derivatives and the global business potentials which has moved from 2.18 to 3.5 million tons between 1998 and 2013. He added that mushrooms have been a major revenue earner estimated at over 7 billion dollars shared among many developed nations of the world. According to him, China controls about 87% of mushroom production globally, giving no room to any African nation in the list of world top 20 mushroom producers. It is, however, surprising as he further revealed that only 30 out of the estimated 68,000 edible species have been successfully cultivated with China, France and the United States leading the trend.

Signposting its contributions to agricultural development with a view to improving the dismal level of commercialization of edible and medicinal mushrooms in Nigeria, the Inaugural Lecturer emphasized that the cultivation of mushroom is unlaborious. He said its cultivation only requires **“less space, little or no worries with soil state, disease threat, mechanization, farm inputs and meteorological data but rather ... flexible manipulation of the environmental conditions... [relying] on the use of diverse locally generated waste bases.”**

While calling on farmers to avail themselves of the potentials in mushrooms, Professor Osemwegie expressed readiness to foster a mushroom farm in Landmark University. This he said would not only energize his research engagements, thereby giving expression to the University’s research agenda but also open the opportunity for the optimal exploration of mushroom potentials in the University.

The Chancellor, Landmark University, Dr David Oyedepo, who was ably represented by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Aize Obayan, remarked that Professor Osemwegie’s research endeavor on mushrooms was remarkable

because of the value added to humanity. He said that the 2nd Inaugural Lecture of the University was a great addition to the corpus of academic accomplishments towards Africa's development which according to him validated the essence of a university. **'A University is not a monastery but a factory that produces values and drives research. The real value of a university is only established by the problems it solves,'** he concluded.

In her welcome address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Aize Obayan emphasized the importance of an inaugural lecture in universities globally. She noted that the platform has enabled the new professor to present to the world his proven pedigree of scholarship through the deeper pathways of academic enquiry and findings his work represents. The Vice-Chancellor, therefore, gave the assurance of sustaining the enabling ambiance of the University for more academic breakthroughs.



The 2nd Inaugural Lecturer, Professor O.O. Osemwegie delivering the lecture.



A cross section of distinguished guests at the 2nd Inaugural Lecture



The 2nd Inaugural Lecturer in a group photograph with members of the University Management and Senate