



AfricaRice

08 December, 2017

Prof. Michael O. Ajisafe
Vice Chancellor
Afe Babalola University Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD)
PMB 5454, Ado-Ekiti
Ekiti State
Nigeria

Dear Prof. Ajisafe,

Letter of Support for UNESCO Chair

The Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) is a leading pan-African rice research organization committed to improving livelihoods in Africa through strong science and effective partnerships. AfricaRice is also one of the 15 international agricultural research Centers that are members of the CGIAR Consortium. The Center was created in 1971 by 11 African countries. Today it is an intergovernmental association of 25 African member countries. Its mission is to contribute to poverty alleviation and food security in Africa, through research, development and partnership activities aimed at increasing the productivity and profitability of the rice sector in ways that ensure the sustainability of the farming environment.

The *modus operandi* of the Center is partnership at all levels. Recently, AfricaRice has been collaborating with ABUAD on two development projects to be funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). As partners in youth empowerment in agribusiness in Nigeria, AfricaRice is pleased to support ABUAD's bid for a UNESCO Chair and subsequent grant opportunities that UNESCO Chair will offer both institutions to conduct research and development activities relevant to national needs.

AfricaRice fully support the creation of this UNESCO Chair in ABUAD because the latter has the platform for vocational training in agribusiness enterprises that will drive food security and job creation.

With our best regards,



AfricaRice

Francis Nwilene, PhD
Regional Representative & Coordinator

Africa Rice Center – Centre du riz pour l'Afrique

Address / Adresse	Telephone / Téléphone	Fax / Télécopieur	E-mail / Courrier électronique	Web Site / Site Internet
AfricaRice Nigeria Station c/o IITA, PMB 5320 Ibadan, Nigeria	(234-2) 241 26 26 Ext. 2772; 2617.	(234) 241 22 21	f.nwilene@cgiar.org	www.AfricaRice.org