



NATIONAL VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, VOM

END OF YEAR LETTER TO ALL STAFF 2021

My dear Colleagues,

It gives me great joy to write you once again as we approach the beginning of 2022. It has been an eventful year 2021 the world over as we continue to adjust to the changes brought about by COVID-19 and the different variants that have emerged.

We are in the first year of the implementation of the NVRI Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and it is only fitting that I acknowledge the input, contributions, achievements and sacrifices made by you all. Collectively, we have all served as the architects and torch bearers behind the successes achieved so far which reflects the positive outcomes that we continue to enjoy through the **TEAM NVRI approach**. A team I am fortunate and delighted to lead and be a part of.

Some of the successes achieved in 2021 in line with the five cardinal pillars of the strategic plan include;

Vaccine Production: Efforts are in place to replace and refurbish ageing equipment in order to upscale vaccine production to meet national and regional demands. The agreement for the SCADA software upgrade on the freeze-dryer has been signed as well as procurement plans for a new Lyofast machine. This we hope should be completed within the first quarter of 2022.

Research: Research for innovation and development targeted at providing solutions to animal and public health challenges of our time remain the main thrust of our management. The Institute's crop of excellent scientists are working on important subjects such as emerging zoonoses, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and Transboundary Animal Diseases. A mega grant worth 450 million naira has been approved by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) on collaboration with NVRI leading the cluster of five institutions in the area of COVID-19 vaccine development and production.

Disease Surveillance and Diagnosis: The Institute continues to ensure that its BSL3 facility is routinely maintained to serve its purpose as a critical national asset. NVRI's network of 23 Outstation laboratories and sentinel laboratories continue to generate data from processed samples for disease mapping and containment strategies. Sero-monitoring of some of our vaccines have taken off with CBPP, PPR & Rabies.

Digitalisation programme: The Institute continues to leverage on technology to work smarter in laboratories and outstations. Under the AMR project the sentinel laboratory has full internet access. Once the full deployment of the pathogen asset control system (PACS) in collaboration with the United States Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) is completed, the Institute will obtain a second server to ride on in its drive to fully digitize operations within the Institute.

Quality Management System: The Institute has conducted trainings for Quality Management and is being assessed for ISO17025 accreditation in partnership with the FAO-ECTAD office in Nigeria. By January 2022 our laboratories for the first time since inception will be accredited in line with international standards.

Partnerships: We continue to engage stakeholders, international partners and other agencies of government to key into our vision. These efforts in re-engagement have led to an upsurge in interest in the activities of NVRI and elicited visits by multiple contingents to the Institute throughout 2021. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has donated a fill and finish line to revamp the obsolete vaccine production equipment and has extended a grant to the Institute for vaccine production, training of community animal health workers, and consultancy for a Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement to scale up vaccine production. We continue to build on existing partnerships with many partners. The Institute has signed several Memoranda of Understanding with organisations seeking collaborations at different levels.

Staff Welfare & Training: Management has prioritised training in order to equip staff to perform better on the job. These trainings will be sustained in the coming year and will continue to cut across all cadres of staff. I remain committed to improving the welfare of all staff as I strive to engender unity, industrial harmony and team spirit within the workforce.

I am inspired by what I see on the horizon and my optimism is hinged on the willingness I have seen from all of you to take on any challenge and your firm resolve to stay the course as we continue to implement the various phases of the strategic plan. Let us continue to aim above and beyond our goals and objectives.

2021 had its unique challenges some of which often dampened our spirits. Security of life and property is one major challenge that we continue to redouble our efforts on and I am counting on all to support management with the cooperation required to overcome this challenge.

Finally, on behalf of myself and the entire management team, we wish to extend our genuine appreciation to each and every one of you for your valuable contributions to this great Institute and what it stands for.

We offer our best wishes and happiness to you and your families as we all look forward to a successful 2022.

Happy new year!

Sincerely.



Dr. Maryam Muhammad
Director/Chief Executive