

ACS Nigeria Chapter Celebrates Earth Week 2026: Exploring the Chemistry of the Woods

The ACS Nigeria International Chemical Science Chapter joined the global scientific community on Thursday, April 23, 2026, to celebrate Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW). Held virtually via Zoom, the event centered on the evocative theme, ‘Into the Woods with Chemistry’, drawing participants from colleagues, researchers and all the ACS student chapters across the country to discuss the vital intersection of chemical science and forest conservation.

Opening and Keynote Highlights

The program commenced at 11:00 AM (WAT) with an introduction by Chemist Faith Sutu Patrick-Inezi, the Chair of the CCEW LOC and Moderator of the event, who set the stage by emphasizing the significance of the CCEW celebration and the importance of sustainable chemistry in preserving our natural ecosystems. This was followed by a warm welcome address from Prof. Tolulope Fasina, the Chair-Elect, ACS Nigeria, who highlighted the chapter’s commitment to environmental advocacy and education.

A significant highlight of the morning was the keynote presentation by Prof. Stephen Shaibu Ochigbo, a Professor of Polymer Technology at the Department of Chemistry, Federal University of Technology Minna (FUTMINNA). Following a citation read by Dr. Bisiriyu Mohammed, the Faculty Advisor, Federal University of Technology Minna (FUTMINNA). Prof. Ochigbo delivered an insightful lecture that bridged the gap between fundamental science and economic development.

Prof. Ochigbo’s keynote was particularly distinguished by its focus on ‘Innovation and Entrepreneurship’. He challenged participants to look beyond the woods as mere raw materials, instead viewing them as a frontier for high-value chemical entrepreneurship. He highlighted how innovative chemical processing of lignin and cellulose could lead to the development of sustainable bioplastics, pharmaceuticals, and renewable energy solutions, effectively turning environmental stewardship into viable, green business models for the next generation of Nigerian chemists.

The session featured an engaging Q&A segment moderated by Chemist Okeh Ochulo, where participants delved deeper into research and the commercialization of wood.

Student Chapter’s Presentations: ‘Fostering Future Chemists’

The event also served as a platform for the next generation of scientists. Under the coordination of Prof. Atim Johnson, the Chair, Committee on Student Chapters, the students from various chapters presented their research and projects related to the theme which was assessed by panel of judges; Prof. Lami Nnamonu, Prof. Olubunmi Atolani, Dr. Felicia Umana and Dr. Oluseun Popoola. These presentations show-cased innovative ideas on how chemistry can mitigate deforestation and enhance the management of timber and non-timber forest resources.

Between the technical sessions, Chemist Okeh Ochulo hosted short, interactive quiz sessions that tested the participants' knowledge of Earth Week facts and wood-based chemistry, adding a spirited and educational element to the virtual gathering.

Awards and Recognitions

As the event drew to a close, Dr. Thompson Izuagie, the Secretary of the ACS Nigeria, announced the results of the fiercely contested Student Chapter presentations. The quality of the research and the clarity of the presentations were highly commended by the panel, with these student chapters emerging as winners. See below:

The 2026 CCEW Presentation Winners:

1st Place: University of Lagos (UNILAG)

2nd Place: University of Uyo (UNIUYO)

3rd Place: University of Ibadan (UI)

Closing and Reflections

In her closing remarks, Dr. Felicia Ejiah, the Chair, Committee on Activities and Outreach, thanked the speaker, the students for their contributions to a successful virtual event and the LOC members (Chemists Faith Sutu Patrick-Inezi, Dr. Bisiriyu Mohamed, Prof. Atim Johnson, Okeh Ochulo). She reiterated that the theme 'Into the Woods with Chemistry' is a call to action for chemists to lead the way in sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

Virtual Photo Session

The celebration concluded with a virtual group photo and screenshot session, capturing the collective spirit of the ACS Nigeria Chapter members dedicated to a greener, chemically-informed future in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Some photos from the event are attached below:

zoom Workplace Meeting Felicia Ejah's screen

Participants (28)

Find a participant

- AN ACS Nigeria (Host, me)
- FE Felicia Ejah (Co-host, guest)
- FS Faith Sutu Patrick-Ikeji (Co-host, guest)
- MT Muhammad Tachewi B. (Co-host, guest)

2025 ACS Nigeria CCEB Event

Everyone New chat

1:00 - 1:05PM* Closing
Remarks: _Dr. Felicia Ejah_

1:05 - 1:10PM* Group Photo /
Closing Screensho

Message addressed to "meeting group" posted in the meeting about what is
Who can see your messages? Recording on

Message everyone

zoom Workplace Meeting Felicia Ejah's screen

zoom Workplace Meeting USER's screen

Participants (37)

Find a participant

- AN ACS Nigeria (Host, me)
- USER (Co-host, guest)
- FE Felicia Ejah (Co-host, guest)
- MT Muhammad Tachewi B. (Co-host, guest)
- FS Faith Sutu Patrick-Ikeji (Co-host, guest)
- T Tolulope Fasina (Co-host, guest)
- ikemefuna (Guest)
- 21004059 Ala Gbemi Oluwagbire... (Guest)
- Abdul aziz sari (Guest)
- ADARA FAYOOLA E (Guest)
- Adedigbo Oluwafemiade (Guest)
- Adedot Daniel (Guest)
- ADOTOLA OLUWASUN OWOYEDAL... (Guest)
- ADETODU OLANYEMI (Guest)
- Adeniyemi Idajayo (Guest)

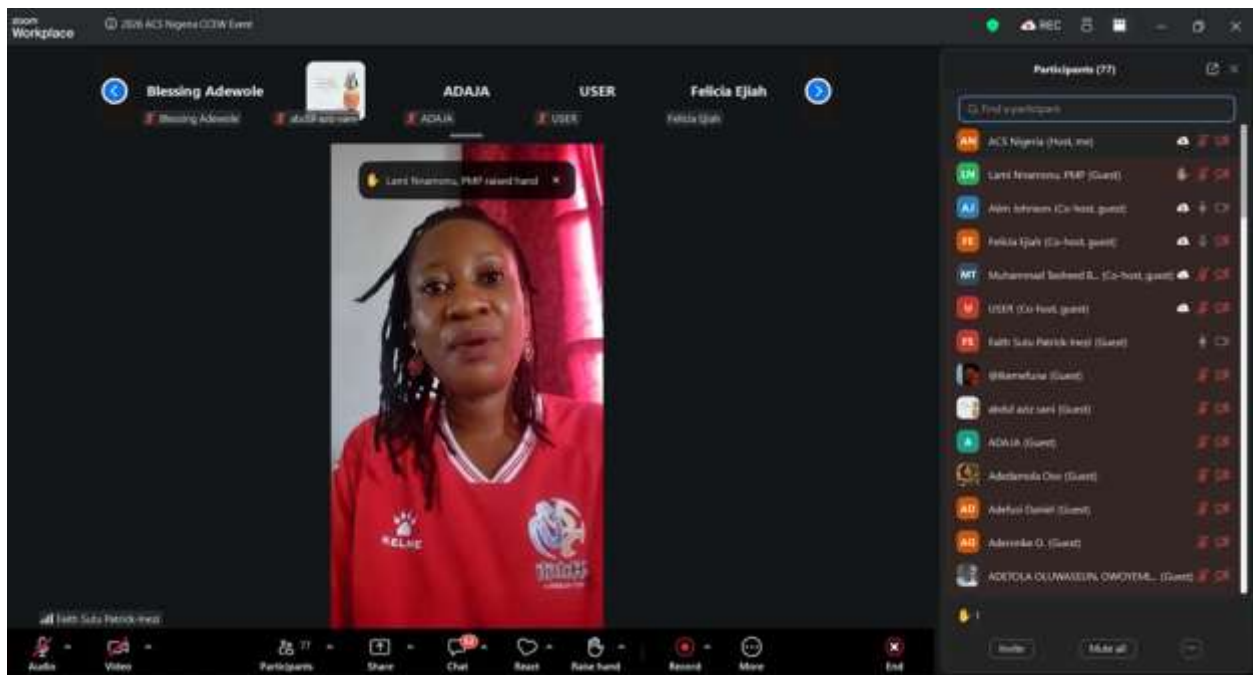
Info Mute all

3. THE ROLE OF CHEMISTS WITH WOOD AND FOREST RESOURCES TO PURSUE A HEALTHY/SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTS

- One time Prime Minister of India once said: "It is science alone that can solve the problems of hunger, poverty, sanitation and literacy, superstition and deadening customs and traditions, of vast resources running waste, of a rich country inhabited by starving people."
- Chemistry, as a branch of science, deals with the properties of matter; changes in matter, the laws and principles describing these changes and the concepts and theories that interpret them.
- If chemists can subdue and harness ametic atoms and molecules and even probe their minutest details, and make laws which they obey, certainly it will be an easier task for chemists to arrest the problems of this country, if given a free hand" (Dr. C.A. Nwadiogwu, a National President of Chemical Society of Nigeria, 1998)

Click to add notes

zoom Workplace Meeting USER's screen



zoom Workplace 2024 ACS Nigeria ECEW Event

Participants: Blessing Adewole, ADAJA, USER

Participant: Lami Nnamonu, PMP (Co-host, guest)

Participants (76)

Find a participant

- ACS Nigeria (Host, me)
- Lami Nnamonu, PMP (Guest)
- Adim Johnson (Co-host, guest)
- Felicia Ejah (Co-host, guest)
- Muhammad Tachend B... (Co-host, guest)
- USER (Co-host, guest)
- Okesh Ochuks, FCSI (Guest)
- Abimbola (Guest)
- Abdul Aziz Sani (Guest)
- ADAJA (Guest)
- Adedamola Oso (Guest)
- Adedunni Reday (Guest)
- Ademola O. (Guest)
- ADETOLA OLUWASEUN, DWOYE... (Guest)

Audio Video Participants Share Chat Reactions Raise hand Record More End

zoom Workplace 2024 ACS Nigeria ECEW Event

Participants: USER, Lami Nnamonu, ADAJA, Alfred Obar

Participants (53)

Find a participant

- ACS Nigeria (Host, me)
- Adim Johnson (Co-host, guest)
- Felicia Ejah (Co-host, guest)
- Muhammad Tachend B... (Co-host, guest)
- USER (Co-host, guest)
- Dr Olajuwola Yetunde (Guest)
- Abdul Aziz Sani (Guest)
- ABOGEDE ADEWEMI (Guest)
- ADAJA (Guest)
- Adedamola Oso (Guest)
- Adedunni Reday (Guest)
- ADETOLA OLUWASEUN, DWOYE... (Guest)
- Adewumi Redayo (Guest)
- Adu Temidayooluwa Christabel (Guest)
- Alagbe Esther Oluwasemilore, Z33L... (Guest)

Windows Taskbar: 13:30 23/04/2024

Zoom Workplace | 268 ACS Nigeria (ZEP Event)

ACS Nigeria is talking...

Participants (36)

Find a participant

ACS Nigeria (host, me)

Aden Johnson (Co-host, guest)

Fekola Guri (Co-host, guest)

Muhammad Saheed E. (Co-host, guest)

USBR (Co-host, guest)

Dan Sadiku (Guest)

Dr. Oluyede Wande (Guest)

Abdul Aziz vani (Guest)

ABOSEDE AMINEM (Guest)

ADOLA (Guest)

Adeniyeye Olu (Guest)

Adeniyeye Sulley Adeniyeye (Guest)

ADEOLA OLUWASEGUN, OWOYINLA... (Guest)

Adeniyeye Sulley (Guest)

Adu Temidayosunwa Christabel (Guest)

Dr. Ibanga Isaac

OREBIYI Kazeem

Sulaiman Luqma

Chemist Aderibi...

Emajemite John

Joshua Douglas

ABOSEDE AKIN...

Adu Temidayoo...

Audio

Video

Participants

Share

Chat

React

Raise Hand

Record

More

End

1760

12:01