

ACE for Development Impact (ACE Impact)

2021 Annual Workplan Narrative

(to be submitted along with the attached detailed work plan and budget)

Name of Center	ACEDHARS
Institution	UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS
Country	NIGERIA
Center Leader	DR. O.ADE-ADEMILUA
Annual Workplan (Month – Month Year)	JAN. – DEC. 2021

Narrative

1. **Center highlights in 2020**(maximum of 3 Highlights, maximum 100 words each) In a concise, descriptive statement suitable for public understanding, provide up to three Highlights from the Center accomplishments in the past year. You may attach: weblinks; press releases; photographs.

Center Publications

ACEDHARS has created public awareness through publication in the Natural Product Communications journal the current pandemic caused by COVID-19 virus and its effect in Nigeria and Africa. A general review of Nature's armamentarium and drug re-purposing against COVID-19 was discussed extensively in the article. The role of government in financing research and the need for integration and co-recognition of traditional medicine into national Health Care system were enunciated in the document.

Weblink:- journal.sagepub.com/home/npx

ACEDHARS UNILAG COVID-19 Response Team *et al.*, (2020). COVID-19 Pandemic: A case for Phytomedicines. Natural Product Communications 15(8): 1-9

Center Administration/Organization

Another important highlight is the constitution of ACEDHARS Sectoral Advisory Board. The maiden virtual zoom meeting was convened in July, 2020 where Industries and Regulatory bodies meet with institution partners to established Sectoral Advisory Board. The sectoral partners that attended were National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Neimeth International Pharmaceutical Plc, Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone and Liberia Medicines and Health Product Regulatory Authorities (LMHRA). Focus points, need for quarterly meeting, possibility of enlargement of the board and organizing

symposium for the SAB were discussed including area of cooperation. The intent for agreement was subsequently signed.

Verification:

- Attendees List
- Recording of the meeting
- Letter of acceptance from Partners
- Signed Agreement

Center Education

Center ran four out of her 5 short courses virtually through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous virtual delivery. There was an impressive turnout of participants on all courses.

See Files in SharePoint for Evidence of Short Courses – Zoom Webinar recordings, Zoom Attendee Report, Photographs of Class in Closing Ceremonies

2. **Key Center achievements in 2020**(Maximum 500 words) Describe the Key Accomplishments of the Center in the preceding Calendar Year. Focus on: Teaching, Research, Center-level Operations. In addition, comment on how the Accomplishments align with the ACE Impact project Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) and the Center Implementation Plan.

Teaching/Education

The center is currently running its short courses virtually. The initial plan, pre-COVID-19 was to run short courses physically and to have self-paced online short courses for future sustainability drive. However, the COVID-19 pandemic compelled the center to rework its implementation plan and include real-time Virtual delivery of short courses, a mode which was never in the initial plan. Today, the Center's virtual short courses have received accolades from participants and assisted in achieving DLI 3 despite the constraints of the pandemic. From feedback received and requests from participants, the center will be expanding its list of short courses and hopefully improve its sustainability drive via short courses faster than planned through this mode of teaching.

Research

The COVID-19 pandemic has become a paramount concern of the whole world. ACEDHARS took up the challenge to seek anti-COVID herbal remedies and applied for 3 external research grants:

- a). The Lagos State Research and Innovations Council Grant - Three million naira (\$8,333.33) was approved for the pilot study
- b). The Nigerian Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) – the Concept note was approved and so the Center submitted the final application
- c). The Central Bank of Nigeria grants application call for potential phytomedicines against SARS CoV-2: ACEDHARS is collaborating with one of the its Sectoral partners – Neimeth International Pharmaceutical Company Plc for the research and commercialization of the any product therein.

Bottomline, is that ACEDHARS is contributing to finding lastly solution to a global pandemic and the grants will serve as part of the center's sustainability drive which is DLI 5. The anti-COVID-19 herbal remedy will also serve as part of the Center's plan to commercialize its research products.

Operations

The virtual short course has further exposed the Center to offers of Sectoral Partnership from relevant organizations through staff of the former who participated in the Short courses.

3. **Status/Progress on Implementation** (Maximum 250 words) Describe in what ways, if any, the Center is ahead of schedule with respect to the Implementation Plan.

The Center is quite behind in almost all the deliverables because of peculiarity of several reasons:

- a). Late completion of implementation plan
- b). Threat from the World Bank experts on the possible viability of the Center led to halting of the process of admission of 22 regional students into old programs.
- c). Further admission of regional students to new Masters and Ph.D. programs have been forestalled due to non-approval of the postgraduate programs by SPGS and University Senate as a result of the National strike by Academic Staff UU
- d). Paucity of funds due to non-approval of University budget as a result of University Council-Management faceoff, the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that the Center has not received its earnings for Basic and full readiness. Despite having students on ground (all Nigerian students), the Center could not provide fund for purchase of research consumables has been promised to students.

4. **Plan for Acceleration** (Maximum 500 words) Describe in what ways, if any, the Center is behind schedule with respect to the Implementation Plan. How will the Center adjust to achieve the anticipated project deliverables by the conclusion of ACE Impact?

The Center is behind schedule in commencing new Masters and Ph.D. programs due to delay in approvals, this has setback the student drive to achieve DLI 3. The National Universities Commission in Nigerian (NUC) has promised to fast-track national accreditation of the programs. The Center is also planning to intensify efforts on the Short courses as a source of increasing student enrollment for DLI 3. The University has moved postgraduate programs online, therefore admission to M.Sc and Ph.D programs will continue in the pandemic such that students are spend the first year in their country.

5. **Key changes to approved IP, including Covid-19 Related Activities**(Maximum 500 words) Describe in what ways, if any, the Center proposes changes to its approved Implementation Plan. Focus on the reasons for the proposed changes, any impact on the

proposed activities, and how the proposed changes will affect the anticipated projects deliverables.

One of the key areas of the center's focus is the development and evaluation of herbal formulations into standard products for management of non-communicable diseases. Emergent of SARS CoV 2 virus has necessitated the inclusion of COVID- 19 viruses into the diseased conditions. The impact of COVID-19 is phenomenon most especially in its occurrence, spread and treatment thus the center has increased its ethnobotanical search/survey with a view to discover more active potential phytomolecules and repurpose existing drugs for new use as antiviral agents. Venturing into the area of COVID-19 drugs, the center is poised to share from the global fund designated for discovery and development of herbal remedies to combat surge from corona virus SARS CoV-2. Products developed from the phytomolecules for prevention and treatment of COVID-19 will be patented and commercialized thus herbal medicine products developed will place Nigeria on the global herbal medicine market. Proceeds emanating from these products will be ploughed back to the center for the purpose of earning more income.