

## **Abstract**

The need for rational use and management of land resources by human beings not only in sustaining the quality of the resources from generation to generation but also ensuring its use for developmental purposes cannot be overemphasized. In most developing countries including Nigeria, more than 65% of the population depends solely on the use of land resources for their livelihoods. Unfortunately, the resources of land are limited and with the uncontrollable population growth coupled with the effects of climate change most developing countries are increasingly becoming vulnerable to the problem of land and environmental degradation. In this lecture, research efforts were reviewed in the area of land and environmental conservation focusing on my contributions in soils use and management for crops production and management of forest resources in southwestern Nigeria.

The lecture is divided into seven major sections. The first section focused on the global view of soil, land and sustainable development. This is followed by the section on the issues of soil and agricultural productivity in Nigeria highlighting some of my contributions in identifying soil parameters influencing crops production especially Maize in Southwestern parts of Nigeria. In the third section issue of soil management as Climate Change mitigation strategy was examined. Following this, the dwindling fortunes of forest resources in the country and next addressed the challenges of sustainable environment in Nigeria was looked into. Some turn around options were suggested in the next section especially the need for a paradigm shift in the management of environmental resources that would involve all Stakeholders. The last section is the conclusion with some recommendations for the effective and sustainable use of the Nation's environmental resources.

In conclusion, the lecture addressed the issue of land ownership and reform in the country suggesting the rejuvenation of the Presidential Land Reform Committee set up by President Umaru Yar'Adua in 2009 and the eventual setting up of the National Land reform Commission to complete the Cadastral mapping of the Country's land resources. This will ensure the sustainable conservation of the nation's land and in particular soil resources since the farmers and other stakeholders will now have titles on their properties and could use it as collateral to secure funds for the development and productive use of the land.