

**2024 WIPO National Intellectual Property Essay Competition Report**  
*IP and Sustainable Agriculture: Combating Food Insecurity in Nigeria*

**October, 2024**

### **Competition Overview**

The maiden edition of the *WIPO National Intellectual Property Essay Competition* was launched on April 26, 2020, by the WIPO Nigeria Office (WNO) as part of efforts to support student engagement and research in the field of intellectual property (IP) in Nigeria.

Building on the success of the maiden edition, WNO launched a second and subsequently a third edition of the competition in 2021 and 2023 respectively as part of the office's World IP Day activities in both years.

A fourth edition of the competition was launched this year on April 27, 2024, inviting students of tertiary institutions across Nigeria to submit essays not exceeding 1500 words on the topic "*IP and Sustainable Agriculture: Combating Food Insecurity in Nigeria*". The objective was to provide an opportunity for students to research and learn more about the field of IP, as well as contribute to policy development in this area by exploring suggestions or ideas that could help Nigeria in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 – Zero Hunger.

By the final submission deadline of June 14, 2024 the WNO had received a total of 256 entries.<sup>1</sup> These entries emerged from students representing a total of 29 tertiary institutions across Nigeria and 19 distinct disciplines, including undergraduate and graduate students of universities as well as the Nigerian Law School.

### **Planning Committee**

A planning committee was set up to assist with the planning and coordination of the competition. The members of this committee were:

- a. Ms. Victoria C. Onyeagbako, Doctoral Researcher, Queen Mary University of London
- b. Ms. Juliana Oboh-Joseph Owajimam, Women and Youth Project Assistant, WIPO Academy
- c. Ms. Emmanuella Edevbaro, Graduate Intern, Banwo and Ighodalo

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<sup>1</sup> The deadline for submissions was extended from May 30 to June 14, 2024.

## Panel of Judges

The WNO appointed an independent panel of 20 expert judges to assess the entries. The Panel of Judges comprised academics, policy stakeholders, government officials, WIPO representatives, industry practitioners and emerging leaders in the IP field in Nigeria. The judges for the 2024 competition were:

- a. Mr. Sand Mba Kalu, *Executive Director, Africa International Trade & Commerce Research, Abuja.*
- b. Dr. Ifeoluwa Olubiyi, *Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti.*
- c. Dr. Folarin Okelola, *Ag. Registrar, Plant Variety Protection Office, National Agricultural Seed Council, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Abuja.*
- d. Mr. Amala Umeike, *Founding Partner, Stren & Blan Partners, Lagos.*
- e. Ms. Martha Chikowore, *Ag. Head of Academic Institutions and Executive Program, WIPO, Geneva.*
- f. Ms. Loretta Asiedu, *Ag. Director, Division for Africa, WIPO, Geneva.*
- g. Mr. Ibrahim Isiaka, *Nutrition and Food Systems Specialist, Food and Agriculture Organization, Abuja.*
- h. Dr. Ifeanyi Okonkwo, *Deputy Head, Technology, Media and Entertainment Sector, Jackson, Etti & Edu, Lagos.*
- i. Mr. Mike Akpan, *Intellectual Property Attorney and Corporate Consultant, Abuja.*
- j. Professor Nelson Ojukwu-Ogba, *Professor and Head, Business Law Department, University of Benin, Benin.*
- k. Mr. Samson Ogbale, *Founder and Team Lead, Soilless Farm Lab, Abeokuta.*
- l. Prof. Ibrahim Katampe, *Professor and Assistant Director, Innovation and Technology Transfer (ADITT), John W. Garland College of Engineering, Science, Technology, and Agriculture, Central State University, Ohio.*
- m. Dr. Umar Bindir, *Agricultural Engineer and Babban Mufti Adamawa, Yola.*
- n. Mr. Edward Kwakwa, *Assistant Director General, Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, WIPO.*
- o. Mr. Nonso Obikili, *Development Coordination Officer/Economist, United Nations, Abuja.*
- p. Ms. Aisha Salihu, *Assistant Chief Registrar, Trademarks Registry, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Abuja.*
- q. Dr. Sugra Mahmoud, *Director of Nutrition, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Abuja*
- r. Ms. Ogochukwu Iloduba, *Senior Assistant Registrar Patents and Designs Registry, Commercial Law Department, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade & Investment, Abuja*
- s. Dr. Barrister Obiageli Amadiobi, *Director General, National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion*
- t. Ms. Rita Anwiri-Chindah, *Second Vice Chairperson @ NBA SBL Sports, Lecturer | Intellectual Property & Information Technology Lawyer*

## Assessment of Entries

### *Preliminary Review*

Two main tasks were completed by the planning committee as part of the preliminary review process.

- a. First, all entries were completely anonymized for the assessment process and assigned unique competition identification numbers (WNO 001 – WNO 256). These serial competition identification numbers were assigned in accordance with the submission timestamp of each entry.
- b. Second, an initial preliminary review of the 256 entries was carried out by the planning committee, focused on form and aimed at ensuring compliance of submissions received with the stated rules of the competition. This review resulted in the disqualification of 18 entries to the competition. A total of 238 valid entries were consequently maintained for transmission to the panel of judges for formal assessment. The studentship of contestants was verified through their student identity cards or letters from relevant authorities in the institution.

## Judges' Assessment

The assessment by the Panel of Judges was based on a pre-determined set of criteria which was maintained through the competition's three stages of assessment. In keeping with the competition's objectives, the equally weighted assessment criteria, was as follows:

- Author's imagination and originality (20)
- Relevance of essay to broader national, regional, and/or international developments (20)
- Author's demonstrated understanding of the field of intellectual property, and ability to link concepts and/or issues associated with IP, to ideas or suggestions expressed in essay (20)
- Grammatical accuracy, clarity of expression, flow, and thought, integrity of structural layout (20)
- Practicability and relevance of policy suggestions and/or pathways to Nigeria (20)

As noted above, a three-stage process was adopted in assessing the entries:

### *Stage one*

For the first round of assessment, 18 out of the 20 judges were each assigned 12 serial anonymized entries, while 2 judges were assigned 11 serial anonymized entries. All the judges were tasked with the responsibility of identifying the top 3 entries from the entries received. The top three entries from each judge's first round assessment automatically proceeded to the second stage of the competition. However, three entries, WNO\_041, WNO\_126 and WNO\_235 were discovered to be duplicates and were disqualified.

A total of 57 shortlisted entries therefore proceeded to stage 2 of the assessment process. The 57 shortlisted entries are indicated below:

Code	Position	Name	Institution	Discipline	Level
WNO_001	1	Enoch Akinlabi	University of Lagos	Law	500 L
WNO_011	2	Mubarak Adebayo	Bayero University	Law	400 L
WNO_012	2	Adekunle Olajide	University of Ilorin	Law	400 L
WNO_015	3	Faridat Adejumo	Osun state university	Law	500 L
WNO_022	2	Ogonna Onwudiegwu	Nnamdi Azikiwe University	Law	500 L
WNO_023	1	Frank Okike	University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus	Law	300 L
WNO_029	2	Orire Agbaje	University of Ibadan	Economics	400L
WNO_032	1	Tofunmi Oluwadoro	University of Ibadan	Medicine and Surgery	200 L
WNO_033	3	Maryam Jimoh	Ahmadu Bello University	Law	500 L
WNO_043	3	Mokwe Emmanuel	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	Law	400 L
WNO_046	2	Chibuike Okorie	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	Metallurgical and Materials Engineering	500 L
WNO_052	2	Ayomide Ogundipe	University of Ibadan	Law	100 L
WNO_057	3	Basseyy Basseyy	University of Calabar	Mechanical Engineering	500 L
WNO_058	1	Williams Asogwa	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	Law	300 L
WNO_064	1	Paul Michael	University of Ibadan	Medicine and Surgery	500 L
WNO_067	3	Oluwagbenga Adeyeye	Lagos State University	Law	500 L
WNO_072	2	Victor Ayoola	University of Ibadan	Law	400 L

WNO_074	1	Abeeb Mutalib	University of Ilorin	Law	400 L
WNO_078	3	Anuoluwapo Olanrewaju	University of Ilorin	Law	300 L
WNO_082	2	Okeke Johnpaul	University of Lagos	Petroleum and Gas Engineering	300 L
WNO_086	3	Fawaz Adediran	Osun State University	Law	500 L
WNO_092	2	Francis Onuorah	Nnamdi Azikiwe University	Bsc.	300 L
WNO_096	1	Oluwabukola Abolade	University of Ibadan	Bsc	300 L
WNO_098	1	Chinonso Izundu	University of Port Harcourt	Law	500 L
WNO_103	3	Moses Akande	Lagos State University	Law	500 L
WNO_105	1	Abdulsamod Toheeb	University of Ilorin	Law	300 L
WNO_109	2	Enoch Ajewole	University of Lagos	Cell Biology and Genetics	400 L
WNO_116	3	Emmanuel Oyelami	University of Ibadan	Law	500 L
WNO_117	1	Ifunanya Nnubia	University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus	Law	400 L
WNO_123	2	Oluwatosin Ayeni	Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba-Akoko	Law	300 L
WNO_124	1	Adeoye Moronkola	Lagos State University, Lagos state	Law	500 level
WNO_135	2	Temitope Oyawoye	Obafemi Awolowo University	Ph.D, ZOOLOGY (GENETICS)	Postgraduate
WNO_136	3	Emmanuel Lafenwa	Ladoke Akintola University of Technology	BTech Mechanical Engineering	300 L
WNO_143	1	Adetomiwa Fowowe	Adekunle Ajasin University	Law	500 L

			Akungba-Akoko		
WNO_147	1	Isaac Olugbenga	Federal school of surveying Oyo	Diploma in computer science	200 L
WNO_151	2	Ikenna Mba	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	Law	400 L
WNO_152	3	Francis Wayo	Obafemi Awolowo University	Law	500 L
WNO_164	2	Boluwaji Adegboye	University of Ibadan	Law	300 L
WNO_165	3	Covenant Joseph	Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko	Law	400 L
WNO_166	1	Aremu Ololade	University of Ibadan	Law	400 L
WNO_170	1	Akinwumi Akinyemi	Obafemi Awolowo University	Bachelor of Laws (LLB)	500 L
WNO_174	2	Marion Emmanuel	Afe Babalola University	Law	400 L
WNO_177	2	Imran Ridwan	University of Maiduguri	Law	500 L
WNO_183	1	Oluwapelumi Aremu	University of Ilorin	Law	200 L
WNO_185	1	Clara Amoke	Enugu state university of science and technology	Law	500 L
WNO_187	1	Adedeji Latona	University of Ibadan	Law	400 L
WNO_194	2	Ogechi Ifezie	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	Law	500 L
WNO_197	3	Akinnola Oluwafeyisemiire	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	Law	400 L
WNO_201	1	Iyiola Abosede	University of Ibadan, Ibadan.	B.Sc Mathematics.	400 L
WNO_205	2	Tom Utum	Obafemi Awolowo University	Law	500 L

WNO_208	1	Omowunmi Ojo	Lagos State University	Law	500 L
WNO_209	3	Clinton Atanda	University of Ibadan	Law	400 L
WNO_218	3	Quam Abdulganiyu	Bayero University Kano	Law	500 L
WNO_221	2	Joshua Solomon	University of Ibadan	Law	500 L
WNO_222	1	Elizabeth Chris	Ahmadu Bello University	Law	400 L
WNO_230	1	Precious Onuabuchi	University of Ilorin	Law	400 L
WNO_238	2	Lydia Aganin	University of Uyo	Law	500 L

<i>1st choice pick in 1<sup>st</sup> assessment</i>	<i>2nd choice pick in 1<sup>st</sup> assessment</i>	<i>3rd choice pick in 1<sup>st</sup> assessment</i>
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### Stage Two

For the second assessment round, the judges were placed into five blind-groups<sup>2</sup> comprising four judges each. Each blind group was assigned 12 entries from the shortlisted 60 entries above. In the assignment of entries to groups, the planning committee ensured that none of the groups was assigned an essay that any of the respective group members had previously assessed; while also ensuring that the entries assigned to each blind group were based on a random combination of the top 3 in the initial judging stage (stage one). Adopting the same criteria from the previous round, the judges were required to assess the 12 entries.

Based on an average of the scores assigned to each entry by the four judges in each group, the top four entries of each group were determined. These top four picks of each group emerged as the 20 finalists of the competition. The overall top entry of each respective group however formed the top five essays from the competition and proceeded to stage three of the judging process. This third stage was aimed primarily at ascertaining the winners; overall winner, first and second runners up. The 20 finalists are indicated below:

WNO_001	Mr. Enoch Akinlabi	University of Lagos, Lagos state	Law	500 level
WNO_011	Mr. Mubarak Adebayo	Bayero University, Kano	Law	400 level
WNO_012	Mr. Adekunle Olajide	University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State	Law	400 Level
WNO_033	Ms Maryam Jimoh	Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State	Law	500 level

<sup>2</sup> Under this grouping system, no judge is aware of the other members in their group.

WNO_064	Mr. Paul Michael	University of Ibadan, Oyo State	Medicine and Surgery	500 level
WNO_067	Mr. Oluwagbenga Adeyeye	Lagos State University, Lagos state	Law	500 level
WNO_078	Ms. Anuoluwapo Olanrewaju	University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State	Law	300 level
WNO_096	Ms. Olubukola Abolade	University of Ibadan, Ibadan	Bsc	300 level
WNO_098	Mr. Chinonso Izundu	University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Rivers State	Law	500 Level
WNO_116	Mr. Emmanuel Oyelami	University of Ibadan, Ibadan	Law	500 level
WNO_124	Mr. Adeoye Moronkola	Lagos State University, Lagos state	Law	500 level
WNO_126	Mr. Enoch Ajewole	University of Lagos, Lagos state	Cell Biology and Genetics	400 level
WNO_147	Mr. Isaac Olugbenga	Federal school of surveying, Oyo state	Diploma in computer science	200 level
WNO_151	Mr. Ikenna Mba	University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State	Law	400 level
WNO_166	Mr. Aremu Ololade	University of Ibadan, Ibadan	Law	400 level
WNO_170	Mr. Akinwunmi Akinyemi	Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife	Law	500 level
WNO_194	Ms. Ogechi Ifezie	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	Law	500 Level
WNO_197	Mr. Akinnola Oluwafeyisemiire	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	Law	400 level
WNO_221	Mr. Joshua Solomon	University of Ibadan, Ibadan	Law	500 level

**Top entry from each group**

*Stage three*

To ascertain the winner of the competition, the top five entries were reassigned to all 20 judges for a final assessment. Once again, this was based on the same criteria established from the outset. At the end of the third assessment process, using a weighted average of scores allocated to each entry by the participating judges, the Panel of Judges returned an overall winner, a first runner up and a second runner up. The representation of the stage three assessment is indicated below.

Code	Name	Total Score	Average
WNO_151	Mr. Ikenna Mba	1067	82.077
WNO_098	Mr. Chinonso Izundu	1051	80.846
WNO_012	Mr. Adekunle Olajide	1048	80.615



WNO_197	Mr. Akinnola Oluwafeyisemiire	1038	79.846
WNO_096	Ms. Olubukola Abolade	990	76.154

### *Ratification of results*

A final review and ratification of the results was done by the Panel of Judges via email to confirm the results of the competition. A quorum of 12 judges was set as the benchmark for ratification of the results. 17 of the judges responded to the request for confirmation, which exceeded the quorum and ratified all results of the competition. The winners of the competition are as follows

1. Mr. Ikenna Mba, University of Nigeria – Overall Winner
2. Mr. Chinonso Izundu, University of Port Harcourt – First runner up
3. Mr. Adekunle Olajide, University of Ilorin – Second runner up

It is worth reiterating that the judges concluded their assignments, including their final determinations, without knowing the identities nor affiliations whatsoever of the winners and finalists.

### **Winners Announcement**

On October 4, 2024 the WNO announced the results at a virtual event attended by the participants of the essay competition and some of the members of the panel of Judges. Mr. Edward Kwakwa, Assistant Director General, Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, WIPO, delivered the keynote address at the event. Additionally, a detailed breakdown of the competition and assessment processes and timelines were shared by Mr. Oluwatobiloba Moody, Director, WIPO Nigeria Office and Ms. Taiwo Farai, Communications Officer, WIPO Nigeria Office.

The announcement of the 17 finalists was made by Ms. Taiwo Farai while the announcement of the winners was made by Mr. Edward Kwakwa.

### **Prizes**

In line with the mandate of the WNO as well as the objectives of the competition, the winners and 15 finalists from the competition will all benefit from competition prizes primarily focused on capacity building and professional development. Each of the 20 finalists and winners will receive:

- A Certificate of Achievement signed by the WIPO Director General, Mr. Daren Tang.

- A WIPO Academy Scholarship to undertake any of the Distance Learning Courses of their Choice
- An internship or fellowship opportunity with local partners and/or government agencies.
- An executive IP mentoring session with WIPO
- An invitation to participate in the WIPO National IP Study Tour
- WIPO Resources

## **Appreciation**

The WIPO Nigeria Office extends its sincere gratitude to all participants for elevating the standards of the competition through their brilliant essays. The immense support received in the planning and execution of this competition from the members of the Planning Committee, and the members of the Panel of Judges are deeply appreciated. Particular thanks to the Office of the Director General, the Office of the Deputy Director General (CCIS) for the provision of WIPO Certificates for the competition winners; to the Office of the Deputy Director General (RNDS) for the excellent support with respect to the planning and execution of the competition; to the [WIPO Academy](#) for the learning and scholarship opportunities for the winners and finalists; and, to the WIPO publications team for engaging the winning essays for publication in the WIPO Magazine.

Special thanks to the Federal Ministry of State for Agriculture and Food Security, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion, the Nigerian Copyright Commission, the Patent and Designs Registry and the Trademarks Registry for supporting the competition through the entire process. We also thank the [Young Innovation Leaders Fellowship](#) for offering fellowship awards to each of the competition winners/finalists.

### Quotes

“Intellectual Property rights in the agricultural sector happens to be directly linked to basic food needs. I was excited to see that the youth in particular were given the opportunity to participate in the essay competition and they have come up with ground-breaking essays”.

- *Mr. Edward Kwakwa, Assistant Director General, Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, WIPO*

“The opportunity to serve as a Judge has been an interesting and rewarding experience which enabled me to be actively engaged with the thought flow of very intelligent and highly imaginative Nigerian youths on a critical national issue. The technicality of their presentations, depth of knowledge and recommendations on the subject matter were top notch. Indeed, all the candidates are winners and are worthy of my hearty congratulations. Kudos to the WIPO Nigeria Office for another successful and impactful essay competition.”

- *Dr. Barrister Obiageli Amadiobi – Director General, National Office For Technology Acquisition And Promotion (Notap).*

“WIPO Nigeria has created an effective blind-judging-process that should be adopted for competitions in Africa. Through the process of round 1, I saw weak scripts simultaneously fell. Scripts of round 2, are evidence of the intelligent and research-talents Nigeria is blessed with. But I had such a hard time scoring the fine scripts of the final round. No wonder the gap margin for all judges were not more than two-digits far.”

- *Mr. Ifeanyi Okonkwo, Deputy Head, Technology, Media and Entertainment Sector, Jackson, Etti & Edu, Lagos*

“It was an honour to serve as a judge in this competition for the first time. I'm highly impressed by the exceptional entries in terms of the quality of writing and submissions”.

- *Ms. Aisha Salihu, Assistant Chief Registrar, Trademarks Registry, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Abuja*

“This annual exercise of WIPO National IP Essay Competition is a brilliant WIPO intervention for engendering the understanding and application of IP in Nigeria, especially among the intellectual youth. It should be sustained.”

- *Dr. Umar Bindir, Agricultural Engineer and Babban Mufti Adamawa, Yola*