I would like to thank the entire members of the Crop Science Society of Nigeria for entrusting me with the leadership of the society. It is indeed a great honour to be at the head of this prestigious Society made up of researchers, academics, commercial producers and industrialists, from both public and private sectors.

It is important to state that the idea to start the Crop Science Society of Nigeria was hatched in the Department of Crop Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka in 2012. That the University hosted the first national conference is an indication of its preparedness to form the critical basis for articulating the Society’s juvenile operational framework and perhaps nurture it to maturity.

As partners in the development of crop farming in Nigeria, at this point in time, providence has presented us with the opportunity to build an enduring Society which we shall proudly bequeath to posterity. Therefore, in addition to the support already shown, we must make the Society excel. Quite importantly, the Society, through its activities, will be filling a critical gap in the agricultural transformation agenda of Nigeria since a greater proportion of Nigerian agriculture is anchored on crops.

The overwhelming response of Nigerians who enlisted as members of the Society provides an elegant proof that the Society is long overdue. There is presently a great pool of talents in the Society. This pool can be harnessed to solve the ever-growing challenge of widespread food insecurity and malnutrition arising from the negative impact of climate change and environmental degradation. These challenges present a broad latitude of opportunity for all of us to sustain our dedication in our various research foci in crop science.

I enjoin all members to continue to assist us with ideas and innovations that will help to move the Society forward. Together we shall build a Society of our dream; a Society that will ensure a hunger-free Nigeria.

Prof. Michael Ifeanyi Uguru  
National President, Crop Science Society of Nigeria.