The Second African Nutrition Congress was organised in Ibadan, Nigeria from February 27 to March 3, 1983 by the Nutrition Society of Nigeria and the Department of Human Nutrition, University of Ibadan, Nigeria with support from various international organizations like, WHO, LAMBO Foundation, COSTED, etc.

The theme of the Congress was ‘Foods and Nutrition in the 80’s in Africa’. There were 161 delegates from Nigeria, Cameroun, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Zambabwe, Angola, Egypt, Sierra-Leone, Congo, Gambia, Lesotho, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Uganda, India, Australia, France, and Denmark. The Congress was inaugurated by the Vice President of Nigeria.


From the deliberations it is found that the countries of Africa do not produce enough good quality foods and they are poorly and inequitably distributed. The Congress, therefore, felt that African Governments should give priority to Food and Nutrition in their development plans; promote rural development and control production and marketing of proprietary infant foods, especially breast milk replacers.

After the Congress, a training workshop on ‘Foetal and Neonatal development in relation to maternal nutrition and ecological factors was organized from March 3-6, 1983 at Ibadan University by Prof. R. Rajalakshmi of Baroda University, India, Prof. A. Omololu of Ibadan University, Nigeria and Prof. C. V. Ramakrishnan of Baroda University, India, supported by COSTED, WHO, UNICEF and LAMBO Foundation.

The Workshop was attended by 36 African scientists.

Data on pre-pregnant nutrition, foetal growth, lactation and milk composition, breast feeding, infant-weaning practices and public health aspects were presented and discussed.

In the light of the discussions, Prof. Rajalakshmi and Prof. Omololu prepared a questionnaire to elicit information from different African Countries on various points discussed in the workshop and requested the participants to fill up the questionnaire and indicate the lines of research which could be carried out in their respective countries. A detailed technical report will appear in 1983 issue of Baroda Journal of Nutrition which has also published a book on Nutrition and Development of the Child in 1982.