The need for a medium for disseminating information on food science and technology was recognised at the inauguration of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST) in June, 1976 as a formal body to promote the development of the food science and technology profession in Nigeria. This need was clearly reflected in the Editorial of the Proceedings of the Launching and First Annual Conference of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology where the Board of Editors highlighted two dominant considerations that guided its work, namely (1) to prepare an accurate and readable account for posterity, and (2) to distil the enormous body of diverse, individual contributions into a coherent publication which will be relevant and useful to a wide sector of the profession (Onyekwere et al., 1977). In effect, right from the outset, NIFST had a definite commitment to the dissemination of knowledge in food science and technology. In order to address the two fundamental objectives of preparing an accurate and readable account of the transactions of NIFST Annual Conferences and at the same time provide scientific information useful to a wide sector of the profession, the Proceedings of the First and Second Annual Conferences contained presidential and other addresses delivered at the plenary sessions, minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM), including balance sheets and statements of account, papers presented at symposia and scientific papers presented at technical sessions. For example, apart from all the addresses and other presentations, the Proceedings of the First Annual Conference contained 27 scientific papers in various aspects of food science and technology grouped on commodity basis into (1) Food Grains and their Products, (2) Baked Goods, (3) Fruits, Vegetables and their Products, (4) Roots and Tubers, (5) Fish and Meat Products, (6) Dairy Products, and (7) Policy and Food Quality. The Proceedings of the Second Annual Conference contained presentations made at four symposia, namely (1) Adaptation of Imported Technology to the Development of Small and Intermediate Scale Food Industries, (2) Financing Small and Intermediate Scale Food Industries, (3) New Product Development in Nigerian Food Industries, and (4) Food Legislation in Relation to Small and Intermediate Scale Food Industries. This approach had the advantage of providing a comprehensive source of information on NIFST activities and original food research and development work in Nigeria in one single document. However, it had the limitation that such a document cannot be classified as a journal, the globally accepted most important medium for disseminating original research work and new knowledge, even though the scientific papers were peer reviewed.

The establishment of the Nigerian Food Journal (NIFOJ) in 1983, as a journal of international standard, concerned with the publication of information regarding the science and technology of food was a watershed in the history of NIFST and reflected the commitment of NIFST to the advancement of knowledge in food science and technology. As noted in the introductory editorial of the maiden issue (Nigerian Food Journal, Volume 1, Number 1, October 1983) entitled “A New Beginning”, ‘the philosophy
on which NIFOJ is based stems from the belief of its editorial board that a developing nation like ours can achieve meaningful scientific and technological advancement only through the collaborative efforts of the various “developmental units” in the system towards a common purpose. Neither the academics nor industries can perform satisfactorily enough to benefit the society without the other’ (Odumosu, 1983). The Foundation Editorial Board that was carefully constituted to drive this philosophy comprised:

O.T. Odumosu, Editor-in-Chief (Board Chairman), Lever Brothers Nigeria Limited, Agbara
O.F. Owoso, Associate Editor – Zone 1, Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna
O.C. Aworh, Associate Editor – Zone 2, University of Ibadan, Ibadan
P.E. Okechukwu, Associate Editor – Zone 3, Institute of Management and Technology, Enugu
A.T. Ogunlesi, Sub-Editor I (Board Secretary), Pfizer Livestock Feeds Limited, Ikeja
S.N. Ibe, Sub-Editor II, University of Lagos, Akoka
A.O. Onagoruwa, Sub-Editor III, Food and Drug Administration, Oshodi
E. Balogh, Sub-Editor IV, University of Ife, Ile-Ife
S.O. Ajayi, Sub-Editor V, Food and Drug Administration, Kaduna

Over a period of 30 years, NIFOJ has witnessed progressive changes that have now made it the foremost journal in all aspects of food in Nigeria, publishing original research articles in diverse areas of food science and technology, including food chemistry/biochemistry/nutrition, food microbiology/biotechnology, and food processing/food process engineering. It is now the Nigerian journal of first choice for research scientists working in the field of food science and technology. The success of NIFOJ is attributable, to a large measure, to the hard work and commitment of successive Editors-in-Chief and their Editorial Boards. A list of the Editors-in-Chief of NIFOJ from 1983 to date is as follows:

Dr. O.T. Odumosu 1983 – 1985
Prof. O.C. Aworh 1986 – 1989
Prof. E. Balogh 1990 – 1993
Prof. J.O. Akingbala 1994 – 1996
Prof. J.C. Okaka 1997 – 2001
Dr. A.B. Meadows 2002 – 2004
Prof. O.A.T. Ebuehi 2004 – 2007
Prof. M.O. Iwe 2007 – 2010
Prof. O.A.B. Ogunmoyela 2010 – Date

Successive NIFST Governing Councils deserve special commendation for devoting substantial financial resources that ensured the sustainability of NIFOJ in an environment notorious for instability. As noted in the introductory editorial of the maiden issue of the journal, ‘The publication of a new Nigerian Journal has been considered by some people to be of doubtful merit judging by the fate of similar well-meaning journals which made their entry in the past with pomp and pageantry only to fade into oblivion soon afterwards’ (Odumosu, 1983). As NIFST celebrates the 30th anniversary of NIFOJ, it has every right to be proud of its investment in NIFOJ and the fact that today NIFOJ is comparable in presentation, editorial quality and scientific content with the best journals in the field of food science and technology including
highly rated journals such as *Journal of Food Science, International Journal of Food Science and Technology, Food Chemistry, Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture* and *Journal of Food Engineering*.

The unique occasion of the 30th anniversary of NIFOJ also provides an opportunity for some reflection. There is the need to revisit the issue of having an ‘accurate and readable account’ of the transactions of NIFST Annual Conferences for posterity as was the case in the beginning and up till the 1990s when NIFST also published the Proceedings of the Annual Conferences that contained a record of all the activities including pre-conference press briefing by the President, all addresses delivered at the opening ceremony, papers presented at symposia, and all reports presented at the AGM including annual reports from the Editorial Board of NIFOJ, all committees including Corporate Affairs, Scientific and Training and Students’ Affairs, and all chapters of the institute. It is regrettable that today this vital source of information that represented a record of the activities of the institute in that year and that was also a veritable source of useful materials for teaching, research and public enlightenment is no longer readily available. In those days of the 1970s to 1990s, every Editor-in-Chief knew that his work for the year was not completed until he had edited and produced the Proceedings of the Annual Conference. The present Board has made an effort by publishing the proceedings of the 33rd and 34th Annual Conferences, which must be sustained.

There is no doubt that NIFOJ will continue to promote research and professionalism in food science and technology in Nigeria and it is hoped that in the coming years the journal would attain a truly international status and be more visible globally, attracting authors from all parts of the world, with the best libraries and institutions of learning and research in the world subscribing to the journal.

**References**
