

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Covering the discussions on sustainable development must be truly multidisciplinary in scope. This issue of JDSA presents topics which deal with matters that impinge upon biological, economic, environmental, political and sociological components of sustainable development. Many of the authors in this issue approach their topics from an interdisciplinary perspective. Overall, they all endeavor to shed some light on the theoretical and applied perspectives of sustainability and sustainable development. The case studies from Cameroon, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe enable the readers to understand the challenges of sustaining or operationalizing sustainability and sustainable development concepts.

Ecological regimes must be understood and harnessed properly in order to maintain their integrity and encourage the balance that is required to sustain them in perpetuity. This issue of JDSA contains an article that explores hydrological trends. This issue also contains an article that examines the impacts of land use activities on ecological systems and the use of plants to stabilize the environment and hence ensure healthy biological diversity.

The economic implications of poor planning and development strategies are wrestled with in many of the articles in this issue. The implications of poor planning are usually devastating to developing economies because of the social and political instabilities that emerge as a result of corrupt environments that are breeding grounds for unsustainable development. The articles in this issue shed light on the challenges of development in Africa but in one way or the other, they provide ideas and perspectives for real positive changes that can make a difference and hence sustainable development can truly be fostered.

Please send your comments on the articles and thank you for your continued support.

Dr. Valentine U. James  
Editor-in-Chief