

## THE ROLE OF ETHICS IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH: A REVIEW

Agulanna, F.T

Economics and Extension Division, Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), Idi- Ayunre,  
P.M.B. 5244, Ibadan, Nigeria

Corresponding author's email: foluagu@yahoo.com

Ethics is crucial in research generally. Its role in agricultural research has to do with the application of moral rules and professional codes of conduct to the collection, analysis, reporting and publication of information in the field of agriculture. Respect for persons is an important ethical norm that should guide researcher-farmer relationship. To respect persons means to respect their values, belief and choices; it also means not to use persons as mere resources. Ethics also aims to eliminate misconducts in agricultural research; this it does by rejecting such practices as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing or reporting research results. Research misconducts are practices that deviate from those normally accepted within the scholarly or scientific community, that is, deviations from the moral norms of honesty, veracity and integrity, which are essential to responsible conduct of research. Conscious effort must be made, therefore, to teach ethical norms in agricultural research.

**Keywords:** Agricultural research, Ethics, Ethical norms, Research misconduct, Responsible conduct of research

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