



NIGERIAN COUNCIL OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NiCFoST)

MANUAL FOR REGISTRATION OF FOOD SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS IN NIGERIA

FEBRUARY 2022

NiCFoST TD004

ABOUT NiCFoST

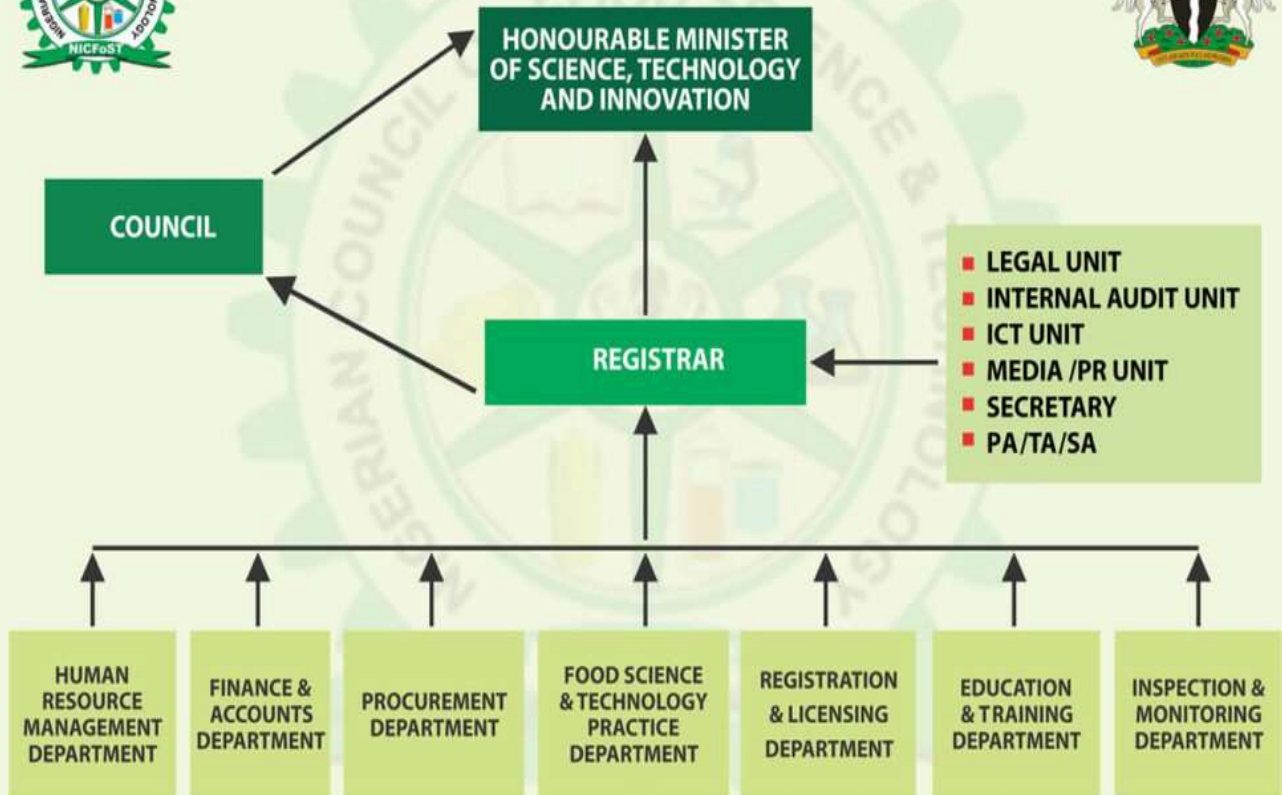
The Nigerian Council of Food Science and Technology (NiCFoST) was established by the NiCFoST (Establishment) Act, 2019.

The Council is domiciled in the Federal Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (FMSTI) to regulate the practice and profession of Food Science and Technology in Nigeria.

Pursuant to this, the Council is responsible for the development of curriculum of Food Science and Technology programmes and its variant Disciplines (Food Technology, Food Science, Food Science & Nutrition, Food Science and Biotechnology, Brewing Science & Technology, Brewing & Beverage Technology etc.) in the tertiary institutions and for accreditation of such programmes in partnership with National Universities Commission (for Universities) and National Board for Technical Education (for Polytechnics and Monotechnics).

It shall also grant practice licence to qualified Food Scientists and Technologists and approve the business locations for their practice.

ORGANOGRAM OF THE NIGERIAN COUNCIL OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NiCFoST)



NIGERIAN COUNCIL OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NiCFoST)

MANDATE

To regulate the Practice and Profession of Food Science and Technology in Nigeria, and for related matters.

OUR VISION

Efficient professional management of the various segments of the Nigerian Food Value Chains and Supply Systems following current best scientific practices for food security.

OUR MISSION

To develop and promote the highest standards in the training and practice of Food Science and Technology profession in Nigeria.



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1.0 Background

The Nigerian Council of Food Science and Technology (NiCFoST) was established by NiCFoST (Establishment) Act, 2019. The Council is domiciled in the Federal Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (FMSTI) to regulate the practice and profession of Food Science and Technology in Nigeria. Pursuant to this, the Council is responsible for the development of curriculum of Food Science and Technology programmes and its variant Disciplines (Food Technology, Food Science, Food Science & Nutrition, Food Science and Biotechnology, Brewing Science & Technology, Brewing & Beverage Technology etc.) in the tertiary institutions and for accreditation of such programmes in partnership with National Universities Commission (for Universities) and National Board for Technical Education (for Polytechnics and Monotechnics). It shall also grant practice licence to qualified Food Scientists and Technologists and approve the business locations for their practice.

FUNCTIONS OF NiCFoST

- a. Determine the standards of knowledge, exposure to equipment, practice, and skills to be attained by persons seeking to become members of the profession of Food Science and Technology and to be so registered.
- b. Promote the highest standards of competence, practice and conduct among the members of the food profession.
- c. Establish and maintain a register of persons entitled to practice the Food profession, register premises used for that purpose and publish list of persons and premises so registered.
- d. Determine the minimum scale of fees for members of the Food profession.
- e. Coordinate, regulate, facilitate, and promote the development of the profession in Nigeria.
- f. Collaborate with relevant national and international, governmental and non-governmental agencies.
- g. Be responsible for the discipline, promotion and the determination of the terms and conditions of service of the employees.
- h. Perform other functions as are necessary for attaining the objectives of this Act.

2.0 Registration as a Food Scientist and Technologist in Nigeria

The Nigerian Council of Food Science and Technology Establishment Act 2019 Part I, Section 3 provides that the Council shall:

- (a) “secure in accordance with the provision of this Act, the establishment and maintenance of a register of person entitled to practice the Food Profession, and the registration of the premises used for that purpose and the publication of the lists of the persons and premises so registered.
- (b) determine the minimum scale of professional fees for members of the Food Profession and review such scale, as circumstances may require”

And Part 1, Section 5 (4)provides that:

“Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-section (2), all members excluding licentiates, corporate and honorary members of NIFST whose names appear in the most recent editions of its directory of members and any person who has been a member of NIFST as at the date of the commencement of this Act or who but for this ACT would have been qualified to be admitted as a member of NIFST within six months from the commencement of this Act is deemed enrolled into the register of Food Professionals of the food profession in their various membership categories and years of membership in NIFST on fulfilling other requirement prescribed by the Council”

And Part III, Section 13, 1(b) also states that:

‘Any qualification which, as a result of an examination taken in conjunction with a course of training approved by the Council under this section, is granted to a candidate on reaching a standard at the examination, indicating, in the opinion of the Council, that the candidate has sufficient knowledge and skill for the practice of the Food Profession’.

Therefore, NiCFoST acting in fulfilment of these provisions shall register qualified Food Scientists and Technologists as follows:

2.1 Registration of Food Scientists and Technologists Trained in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions.

- A)** All qualified graduates of Food Science and Technology and related science Disciplines whose names are found in the membership register of NIFST as Members and Fellows as at 14th April, 2020 (i.e within six (6) months from the commencement of NiCFoST Establishment Act, 2019) shall be processed for

registration. They shall apply to the Registrar/CEO of NiCFoST for clearance and issuance of the Annual Practice Licence.

- B)** All qualified graduates of Food Science and Technology and related science Disciplines who are Professional members and Fellows of NIFST who were registered into NIFST after 14th April, 2020 and who seek to be registered by NiCFoST will obtain registration form either hard copy or online, complete and submit same to NiCFoST. They will be registered by NiCFoST after clearance and completion of the prescribed pre-registration conditions (pre-qualifying workshop, Internship, Qualifying Test, completion of finishing school certificate programme and executive interview/Special topics presentation) depending on the applicant's background. Food Professionals at advanced stages of their career who are not members of NIFST may be considered on their individual merit after joining NIFST with special consideration given to their significant and strategic contributions in the academia/research; government and policy making; and industry and trade.
- C)** A graduate (with HND, B.Sc, B.Tech) of Food Science and Technology (including its variant Disciplines of: Brewing/Beverage Science and Technology, Food Science and Nutrition, Food Science and Biotechnology & Food Engineering) and Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) graduates of Food Science and Technology (who had previously obtained HND, B.Sc, B.Tech. & MBBS from the related Disciplines of Microbiology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Agricultural Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Biotechnology & Medicine who are converting to the Food Science and Technology Profession) will be inducted into the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST) as the first step before they can apply to the Registrar/CEO of NiCFoST for registration and obtain the Annual Practice Licence.

Where graduates from related science Disciplines have already obtained a higher degree (M.Sc., M.Tech., Ph.D) in various areas of Food Science and Technology, it may no longer be necessary to obtain a PGD but they will be required to be inducted into NIFST and complete the prescribed NiCFoST pre-registration requirements (pre-qualifying workshop, Internship, Qualifying Test, completion of a finishing school programme and registration interview/Special topics presentation etc.) depending on the applicant's background. This provision applies to Nigerians and foreigners who graduate from Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria.

- D)** The qualified graduates of Food Science and Technology (including graduates converting from related science Disciplines who have obtained the PGD in Food Science and Technology) in their various Tertiary Institutions shall at an Induction ceremony, hosted by the Head, Department of Food Science and Technology (or Dean of Food Science and Technology

College/School/Faculty) be presented to NIFST for induction into NIFST and their names shall be forwarded to NiCFoST. Subsequently, such graduates of Food Science and Technology, who desire to practice in Nigeria, shall apply to NiCFoST for registration in order to obtain the Annual Practice Licence. They will be registered by NiCFoST after clearance and completion of the prescribed pre-registration requirements (pre-qualifying workshop, Internship, Qualifying Test, completion of a finishing school programme and registration interview/Special topics presentation etc.) depending on the applicant's background. Also graduates of related science Disciplines, who have obtained the Ordinary National Diploma (OND) and have been admitted into NIFST membership can apply to NiCFoST for registration and will be considered based on their relevant working experience and the prescribed pre-registration requirements.

- E) The graduates of Food Science and Technology applying to NiCFoST for registration shall complete the online or shall submit physically, the following duly completed documents to the Registrar/CEO:
- (i) A completed application Form.
 - (ii) Proof of NIFST membership.
 - (iii) The Food Scientist and Technologist Oath (photocopy), signed by the candidate and any of the following: Head Department of Food Science and Technology (or Dean of Food Science and Technology College/School/Faculty) or a Fellow of NIFST under whom the candidate has worked for minimum of one year.
 - (iv) The candidate's statement of result and if more than four years of graduation, a certificate.
 - (v) Two passport photographs of the candidate duly authenticated by the Head Department of Food Science and Technology (or Dean of Food Science and Technology College/School/Faculty) or a line supervisor who shall be a Certified Food Scientist and Food Technologist under whom the candidate has worked for a minimum of one year.
 - (vi) Receipt or evidence of payment of the prescribed fees payable to NiCFoST.
 - (vii) Birth Certificate or an affidavit of age declaration.
 - (viii) Evidence of successful completion of the prescribed NiCFoST pre-registration requirements (pre-qualifying workshop, Internship, qualifying test, completion of finishing school programme and executive interview/presentation).
 - (ix) NYSC Discharge Certificate or Exemption Certificate.

2.2 Registration of Foreign-Trained Graduates of Food Science and Technology.

A Food Scientist and Technologist trained outside Nigeria, Nigerians abroad who wish to be registered by NiCFoST and foreigners who seek to be registered and

practice in Nigeria, shall first obtain clearance from NIFST. He/she can then apply to NiCFoST for registration and to obtain the Annual Practice Licence. He/she shall apply to the Registrar/CEO of NiCFoST. The registration process shall proceed as described in 2.1 B. In addition, he/she shall obtain an authentication of his/her certificate (for those with foreign degrees) by the Federal Ministry of Education and complete the prescribed pre-registration requirements (pre-qualifying workshop, Internship, Qualifying Test, Completion of a finishing school programme and registration interview / Special Topics presentation etc.) depending on the applicant's background.

In the case of a foreigner (or a Nigerian expert residing abroad) coming to Nigeria for a short-term specialist work lasting not more than three (3) months, he/she must obtain a temporary clearance from NiCFoST through his/her employers and work under the supervision of the Lead Food Scientist and Technologist for the premises who shall approve the work done and take professional responsibility. A special consideration may be given to the individual after obtaining approval from NIFST, if he/she has already obtained a practice licence or its equivalent as a Food Scientist and Technologist from his/her previous country of abode.

2.3 Request for Annual Practice Licence.

A registered Food Science and Technology professional may apply to NiCFoST Registrar/CEO for his/her annual practice licence.

Renewal of Annual Practice Licence

The annual practice licence shall be valid for a period of one year (12 calendar months) from 1st January of any year to 31st December of the same year. However, a one-month grace period up to 1st February may be observed for the renewal of the practice licence before the prescribed fines and penalties shall be imposed on defaulters by NiCFoST. All outstanding fees must be paid in addition to the fines and penalties.

NiCFoST could be authorised to suspend the Annual Practice licence if it receives a written application from the Food Scientist and Technologist notifying the Council of his/her unavailability (with proof (s)) to practice during a certain period. In such a case, the registered Food Scientist and Technologist will not pay any outstanding fees, fines and penalties whenever the practise in Nigeria resumes.

The renewal of licence will require payment of the renewal fees and completion of the prescribed Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (MCPD) Programme

(see Manual for Continuing Education for Food Scientists and Technologists in Nigeria).