

# Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project Highlights

June 2018

Scholar Program 18

## THE NEED FOR MORE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT

There is a lot to take home from MSU. One is the need to strengthen collaborative research efforts and stakeholders' engagement back at home. Although faculty members in University of Ibadan now receive more calls for collaborative research proposals from the University, I feel this could be deepened by encouraging and facilitating more impactful collaboration with other universities, research institutes and international organizations. I noted healthy research collaboration among faculty members in our host department (Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics) and other departments in MSU. It also exists between MSU and other universities and international organizations. In many cases, societal or community problems are multidimensional and could therefore require multidimensional approaches. For instance, farmers' problem may not only be resolved by agricultural scientists or economists alone. While at MSU I discovered a working collaboration between Department of Agricultural, food & Resource Economics, Department of Community Sustainability and Department of Geography, Environment & Spatial Sciences. They work towards providing more insights into climate change issues among the farmers and communities. I see this as a reasonable collaboration given their respective areas of expertise.

University improve its service to and engagement with its immediate community? For instance, do the farmers, industries/business organizations and markets in its neighborhood feel the impact of the university in problem solving? Is there a documented relationship between these entities and the university? If there is, how can we improve on the existing relationship? These efforts are essential for stakeholders to timely reach their growth potentials and contribute to economic development.



GENERATING POLICY IMPACT FROM LONG TERM ECOLOGICAL STUDIES



LOOKING FOR RESEARCH SYNERGIES ACROSS DISCIPLINES

There is currently a disconnect between research findings and policies because drawing from the research outputs of Nigerian Universities is not a priority for government and other stakeholders. So how do we change this? Most government policies are not evidence-based and Nigeria is always caught in the policy implementation trap. Conversation on best practices in stakeholders' identification, communication and engagement towards influencing policies is therefore required, now more than ever. There should be shared knowledge of policy options. The university should be the hub of such conversations as we rise to our responsibilities.

There is therefore a strong need to initiate a conversation around these practices. For instance, how does University of Ibadan see collaborative research as a vision that must be jealously guarded and rewarded? Could there be a special budget for collaborative research? To what extent does the university communicate its support to collaborative research discourse in the research space? How does the

by Dr. Kabir Kayode Salman,  
 Department of Agricultural Economics,  
 University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

This work is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Feed the Future initiative through the Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project, Associate Cooperative Agreement Number AJD-620-LA-15-00001. The contents are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

Copyright © 2018, Michigan State University, and the International Food Policy Research Institute. All rights reserved. This material may be reproduced for personal and not-for-profit use without permission from but with acknowledgment to MSU, and IFPRI.

Published by the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University, Justin S. Morrill Hall of Agriculture, 446 West Circle Dr., Room 202, East Lansing, Michigan 48824.