

# Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project Highlights

June 2018

Scholar Program 20

## TAKE HOMES FROM MY STUDENT IN THE PROJECT SCHOLARS PROGRAM

My student, Stella Chiemela, confirmed the numerous *take homes* she got from participating in the Feed the Future, Nigerian Agricultural Policy Project: Scholar Programme. With guidance from Dr. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie, she registered for some course and audited others. She also participated in study visits of some MSU centers and farms and gained hands-on knowledge and practical experience in demonstrations of some farm and post-harvest value addition practices.



**MSU STUDENT ORGANIC FARM USES BEST PRACTICES**



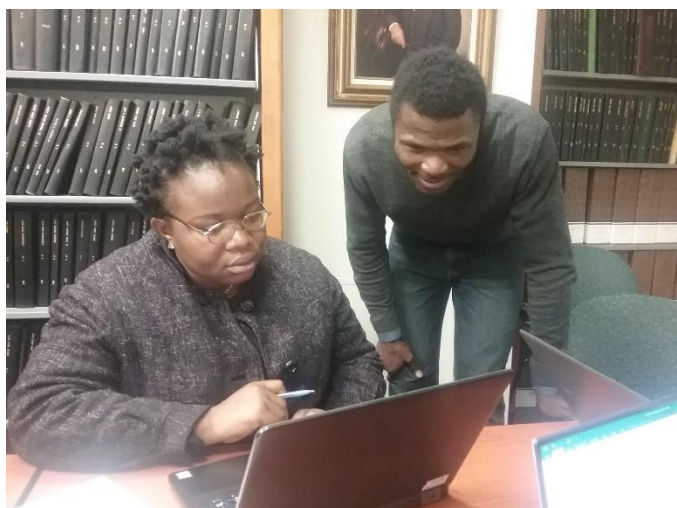
**PRESENTING HER PROPOSAL DURING A LAB SESSION**

With the knowledge and skills gained from the course, the student will be better able to develop clear research hypotheses that are derived from economic theory, identify research questions and a research design using experimental or non-experimental methods and this will add value to her dissertation research. The audited course CSUS 836 (Modeling Natural Resource Systems) exposed the student to how and why models are used by scientists to address research problems, and to reflect on the philosophical and practical benefits and challenges of using models. It also exposed her to the application of systems thinking in problem solving particularly those related to the natural environment.

She shared her ideas with me on her perceptions of some courses she took at MSU. According to her, the major emphasis of the course AFRE 874 (Empirical Methods in Field Research in Developing Countries) has helped to improve her understanding of the importance of research design, tradeoffs in research designs, and biases induced by different types of designs. It has provided her with an overview of how to measure and test research hypotheses through best practices in questionnaire design, sampling and practical fieldwork guidance. Moreover, the course introduced cutting edge analytical techniques for survey data analysis including treatment effect estimation and heterogeneity, and robustness analysis which she had little or no knowledge of.



**GETTING FEEDBACK ON HER PROPOSAL**



R TRAINING FROM DR. OLABISI, MSU FACULTY

The student perceived 'R' programming from the training conducted by Dr. Michael Olabisi as the best for statistical and data analysis compared to others she has used. She has used the software to create objects, functions and packages and she intends to use it in her PhD research and other research works.

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