

Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project Highlights

June 2018

Scholar Program 23

MSU: A TRUE REFLECTION OF ACADEMIC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

As a faculty member at the University of Agriculture Makurdi, Nigeria, my desire was to see how a university can truly be defined and referred to as an Academic Center of Excellence. My tenure at MSU as a Nigerian visiting professor under the Nigerian Agricultural Policy Project Scholar Program has provided me the unique opportunity to visit, tour and interact with both faculty and non-faculty members as well as visit research centers.



I WAS 1 OF 3 NIGERIAN FACULTY VISITING MSU UNDER THE PROJECT.

I visited MSU under the project scholar program from 13th April – 12th May 2018. While at MSU, I gave a seminar on Climate change and its implications on soil and crop management in the Department of Agricultural Food and Resource Economics (AFRE).



GIVING MY PRESENTATION

I also interacted with 16 faculty members, visited 5 other agricultural research centers and sat in on post graduate lectures.

A visit to Soil Science Laboratories was fascinating. I was amazed at the number of laboratories I saw. The equipment was modern, expensive, reliable and accurate. The labs were well structured and organized. The total number of sub laboratories under Soil Science were 10: Comprising of 1 General Lab, 5 Chemistry Labs, 2 Soil Physics Labs and 2 Soil Microbiology Labs. Apart from the general lab, all the other labs were linked to each other for easy accessibility and contact during research activities.



DISCUSSING WITH FACULTY FROM MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS THE VALUE OF COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH.

The lecture halls were more than enough, both small, medium and larger ones were installed with modern teaching aids compared to what is obtainable at my university.

Visits to some research centers, like Kellogg Biological center, show that they are being used both as a research center and as a commercial center for crops and animal production.

I now understand better the conditions by which a university could be referred to as an “Academic center of Excellence”. Hence MSU is an Academic Center of Excellence.

My experience/insight from the the visit around campus show that research activities are collaborated among diverse

researchers in different fields while faculty members are not over loaded with teaching assignment.

I learnt that departments and colleges are headed by chairpersons and deans respectively while meetings are called periodically at the two levels.

The visit has been very rewarding, professionally encouraging and fullfilling. The good posture of MSU which makes it an academic center of excellence will be taken back to my country university “University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Nigeria”

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THE KELLOGG STATION'S "LONG TERM ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT" PROVIDES EMPIRICAL RESEARCH FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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