

Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project Highlights

June 2018

Scholar Program 24

VISIT OF MY PROJECT SCHOLAR: TAKE HOME BENEFITS AND EXPERIENCES

My PhD candidate, Mrs. Blessing Iveren Agada of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Nigeria who is a scholar under the Nigeria Agricultural policy project, confirmed to me the numerous benefits and experiences she got by participating in the programme.

Mrs. Blessing Iveren Agada informed me that the rigorous process of selecting the participants prompted her to better prepare for the training.

Her arrival, she noted, was during the snow/cold period of the winter. She was pleasantly surprised that she was able to survive the intimidating and ravaging speed of the seasonal winds.

While at MSU, Agada registered for and took two courses: CSS 431 (International Agricultural Systems) and CSS 850 (Soil Chemistry). According to her, the courses helped improve her understanding of soils generally. With the knowledge and skills gained from the courses, the scholar will be able to teach soil science courses better back home in Nigeria.

Mrs. Blessing Iveren Agada worked with Professor Sieglinde Snapp as her advisor under the Feed the Future Innovation Laboratory for Sustainable Intensification. With the knowledge and skills gained from Professor Snapp, Mrs. Agada will be able to clearly design any soil research proposal.



MASTERING R FOR POWERFUL DATA ANALYSIS

Mrs. Agada told me she received intensive training on the R software, with Dr. M. Olabisi. She intends to use the knowledge gained from the training on her PhD and further research work.

While at MSU, she also presented seminars at: The African Graduate Students Association Conference and at the Africa R and D Connect seminar series. She remarked that, she became more exposed to modern ways of seminar design and presentation. She promised to pass on this methodology of seminar presentations to her students.



PRESENTING NIGERIAN RESEARCH FINDINGS

She mentioned that, experience gained in attending seminars delivered by professors in the faculty and those from other universities as well as her interactions with faculty members, gave her a balanced perception on well organised academic activities. Her submission on experiences was fully complimented by her interaction with the other two scholars on the programme: Mr. Osayanmon Wellington Osawe from University of Ibadan and Mrs. Stella Chiemela from University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Mrs. Blessing Iveren Agada was full of gratitude to Professor Liverpool Tasie and Mr. Steve Longabaugh for their support. Summarily, the presence of Mrs. Blessing Iveren Agada in MSU has widened and reshaped her

knowledge and skills as an academic while providing materials for use at the University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Nigeria and the world over.



MRS. AGADA WITH FELLOW PROJECT SCHOLAR MR. OSAYANMON OSAWE

She promised to share her gained experiences with her colleagues back home.

by Dr. Philip Ijirbee Agber
Department of Soil Science
University of Agriculture, Makurdi, 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 © 2017, 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.