

## Nigeria Agriculture Policy Activity

August 2023

NAPA Highlight #21

### Feed the Future Nigeria Agriculture Policy Activity Capacity Strengthening Program on Soil Productivity Linked to Extension: My Testimony

My name is Mary Anyebe. I am a 4<sup>th</sup> Year (400 Level) student of the Department of Soil Science, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria.

By virtue of my faith, I am thankful to God for the opportunity given to me, particularly that I was selected as a beneficiary of the capacity strengthening program of the Feed the Future Nigeria Agriculture Policy Activity on merit.

Under the program, students of agriculture (broadly defined) closely work with Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to better understand their operations towards enhancing the adoption of evidence based Most Impactful Practices.

The core objective of the Program is to strengthen the knowledge bank of young researchers (in this case 400 level students of J.S. Tarka University) gained through theoretical and practical learning to impact the production and processing activities of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises operating in the agriculture value chain within the community. This is indeed refreshing and very pleasing!

Prior to this opportunity, I struggled as an upcoming soil scientist to practicalize the theoretical aspects of my training. The two-day training facilitated by Dr. Blessing Agada, a Michigan State University Lifelong Scholar and Alumnus of the MSU Scholar Program under the Nigeria Agriculture Policy Project as well as

a Lecturer and Researcher at J.S. Tarka University has made the difference.



Enjoying a break during the training.

Day 1 of the training focused on understanding the concept of Most Impactful Practice (MIP) aimed at innovating farmers to adopt evidence-based practices that increase productivity and ultimately income. Mr. Adayi Joseph Unogwu of the Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services also covered some aspects of the training such as Intro to Lean Methodology, Most Impactful Practices, and their business cases as a commercial product.

Day 2 focused on technology use such as Rice Advice, Landpks, KoboCollect and Plantix.

- Rice Advice gives advice on the site that is productive for rice and envisaged production challenges on the subject field.
- With Landpks, I learned how to use the app to take measurements of farm sizes.
- KoboCollect is an open-source Android app for collecting survey data.
- Plantix is a mobile crop advisory app for farmers, extension workers and gardeners to diagnose pest damage, plant diseases and nutrient deficiencies affecting crops and offers corresponding treatment measures.

Dr. Blessing Agada painstakingly discussed several methodologies and processes including use of the Benue State Soil Productivity Index Map - <http://bitly.ws/J5gv>.

The practical session included learning best practices of taking soil samples and conducting analysis on the spot without going to the lab. Today, I feel equipped to transfer the knowledge gained to farmers within my immediate community and expect that the impact of this transfer will be increased productivity and income. This is my testimony.

*Mary Anyebe*

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 © 2023, 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.