INNOVATIVELY AND SUSTAINABLY BUILDING CAPACITY ACROSS GENERATIONS

Conducting research under the Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project is strategically designed to answer questions of relevance to policy makers in a way that sustainably builds the capacity of Nigerian researchers. Project research teams are composed of MSU and/or IFPRI researchers working with Nigerian faculty and students.

One example is the poultry value chain research team, composed of Dr. Liverpool-Tasie and Dr. Thomas Reardon (faculties at MSU), Dr. Bolarin Omonona (professor at University of Ibadan), Wale Ogunleye (PhD student at University of Ibadan), as well as Awa Sanou and Samantha Padilla (PhD students at MSU). The team has been exploring the rapid growth and transformation occurring along the poultry value chain in Nigeria. Between August and December 2016, members of the team held 10 working meetings on the topic and in preparation for their field work which commenced in December 2016.

This collaborative effort creates interaction between renowned experts and students, scholars at MSU and Nigerian universities and also among the students themselves. In the poultry value chain research team, each student leads a different component of the project but receives critique and feedback from the entire team. This helps to build research and critical thinking through informal training, while leveraging on the strengths of each team member to do better research. It is a win-win partnership.

by Saweda Liverpool-Tasie and Thomas Reardon