

Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project Highlights

March 2017

Scholar Program 5

SCHOLAR ENGAGEMENT BENEFITS THEM, THEIR HOME COUNTRY AND MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project launched its USAID Visiting Scholars Program in 2016, with its first students enrolled at Michigan State University in the fall semester. One of the goals of the program is to strengthen food security policy expertise in Nigeria. The program's initiative is to organize and institute direct training collaborations between project researchers and Nigerian scholars.

econometrics and agricultural development, and are active members of the climate change and poultry value chain research teams. A third Nigerian MSc student, Aisha Ibrahim of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, has since joined the program.



Mr. Wale Ogunleye making a presentation on a conceptual model to study the adoption of maize dryers among poultry farmers in south west Nigeria, November, 2016



Ms. Ekerebi giving a presentation during the Tuesday Brown Bag seminar series held weekly in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics (AFRE) - Michigan State University

Nigerian graduate students, their research advisors and project researchers work on specific topics in research teams. Current topics include climate change impacts and the Nigerian poultry value chain. In the first quarter, Charity Ekerebi, an MSc student, and Wale Ogunleye, a PhD student, both from the University of Ibadan, were awarded the first Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project scholarship based on their academic standing, research impact potential and the imperative to maintain gender balance in offering this opportunity. They took classes in statistics,

In Fall 2016, Ekerebi and Ogunleye made presentations of their work in the department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics at MSU and got feedback from faculty and students. Ogunleye, who is an active member of the poultry value chain team, completed a policy paper focused on the poultry import ban in Nigeria vis-à-vis the country's domestic poultry subsector. This brief has been circulated to various stakeholders within and beyond Nigeria. It will also be presented to stakeholders, including the Ministries of Agriculture in Nigeria, during 2017. During the fall 2016 semester, Ogunleye met with the

rest of the poultry research team over 10 times for project work sessions and meetings.



Ms. Ekerebi giving a presentation during the Tuesday Brown Bag seminar series held weekly in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics (AFRE), Michigan State University

Ekerebi completed her Master's thesis during her time spent at MSU. Her thesis looked at the differential effect of various climate variables on the gender yield gap in Nigeria. She also worked closely with members of the climate change research team searching for data sources for systems dynamics model being developed. Ekerebi completed her coursework and research and safely returned to Nigeria in December 2016. When scholars return home, they will share their experiences, as well as their newly acquired scientific knowledge and skills, with their university, other Nigerian institutions and agricultural policy stakeholders. Ekerebi is expected to begin sharing her experiences starting in the next quarter.

While the scholars' research and presentations skills are strengthened during their time at MSU, the university also benefits significantly from their presence and shared experiences.

by Wale Ogunleye, Charity Ekerebi, and Saweda Liverpool-Tasie

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