

# Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project Highlights

June 2018

Scholar Program 28

## NIGERIA POLICY PROJECT SCHOLAR LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT AT HER HOME INSTITUTION - FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MAKURDI

*How do you spend your long vacation break?* Many academics take time to recreate but project scholar Mrs. Blessing Agada is conducting never before done research.



**SOIL SAMPLING AND SOIL DATA COLLECTION.**

Returning to Nigeria for the long break, between her two semesters of study at Michigan State University (MSU), Mrs. Agada is studying low to address low agricultural productivity in Makurdi, Benue State. Though not a new topic, Blessing is going much deeper based on the knowledge that she has gained studying at MSU with support from her advisors: Dr. Seig Snapp and Dr. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie.

Mrs. Agada recently described her work accordingly: ...at MSU we looked at refining what I had done so far with the

relationship between soil erosion and crop productivity. We want to quantify the loss of nutrient in farmer fields across different soil depths and determine the effect of soil depth on the profitability or inorganic fertilizer use. This would guide the development of proper recommendations for fertilizer use in respect to site soil-specific nutrient management. This will help to reduce loss from added inorganic fertilizer and teach farmers proper application and other management practices that could boost yields... Key operations proposed include:

- *Profile pits across the state will be dug to determine the soil productivity and possibly the soil type.*
- *I was tutored to use the Land PKS app at MSU and provided with equipment to facilitate the work back home in Nigeria. Some of the equipment are, a carbon reflectometer, soil compaction tester, soil sieves, sample bags, and a 3 in one meter to take readings of pH, moisture and sunlight. The equipment and the app will be used to collect and analyze data.*
- *Field activities have been initiated for this growing season. It will serve as a long term experiment hopefully.*



**PROJECT SCHOLAR MRS. BLESSING AGADA IN THE FIELD TEACHING BEST RESEARCH PRACTICES TO HER STUDENTS**

This is an example of the short and long term payoffs of USAID's investment in the lives of the Project Scholars.

By: Steve Longabaugh and Saweda Liverpool-Tasie

The application of new knowledge, techniques and equipment to produce empirical evidence for agriculture policy debate is not the only positive outcome anticipated from Mrs. Agada's research activities. The active involvement of her students from the Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi (where she is an Assistant Lecturer) passes the knowledge on to the next generation.

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