

40 YEARS OF EXISTENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS: THE JOURNEY SO FAR

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INTRODUCTION

Although the Faculty of Agriculture was established in 1964, the Department was created out of the Faculty in 1965. From initial academic staff strength of three in 1965, the Department has grown to nineteen in number, comprising four professors, six Senior Lecturers, two Lecturers Grade II, two Assistant Lecturer and two Graduate Assistants. (Table 1). The non-academic staff strength of the department currently consists of five administrative and one field staff.

From its initial undergraduate programme, being part of a general agriculture programme, the Department has evolved to have a sound programme offering M.Sc. and Ph.D with a strong honours undergraduate programme emphasizing Production Economics and Farm Management, Agricultural Finance, Agricultural Marketing and Agribusiness, Resource Economics, Fisheries Economics, Policy and Development.

The Department has awarded 20 Ph.Ds, 12M.Phils 50 M.Sc. and a total of over 500 men and women with Bachelor's Degree.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME

The rate of growth in curriculum development of the undergraduate programme has been phenomenal. It grew from six courses at inception to seventeen courses (1978-80) and currently twenty eight (1991-2003) in response to change within and outside the country. (Table 2)

The Department remains very attractive to prospective students, as at least 80 percent of candidate who choose Agriculture opt for Agricultural Economics.

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME

The Department started offering postgraduate courses in the 1969/70 academic session. Graduate study in Agricultural Economics is designed to enable the graduates qualify as professional in Agricultural Economics through intensive study of economic theory, analysis and methodology in relation to the problems of economic organization. Table 3 shows the postgraduate courses that are currently taught in addition to the requirement of a research thesis at both master and doctoral levels. Tables 2 and 3 show undergraduate and postgraduate courses available to Agriculture/ Agricultural Economics majors and other related programmes. Table 2 shows the kind of courses that had been taught to the postgraduates of the University and Faculties of Agriculture, Environmental Design and Management; and Technology within the last forty years. During this period, over four thousand (4,000) students had taken some of these courses.

SUB-DISPLINES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT

The following areas of specialization are available in the Department.

- a. Farm Management and Production Economics
- b. Agricultural Business Management and Agricultural Finance
- c. Agricultural Marketing and Co-operatives
- d. Agricultural Resource and Environmental Economics and
- e. Agricultural Development Planning and Policy.

Table 1: Staff of the Department as at 2002/2003

S/NO.	NAME	QUALIFICATION	POST HELD	STAFF ON GROUND	STAFF NOT ON GROUND
<i>Academic Staff</i>					
1.	Dr. T. Alimi	B.Sc. (Ife), MBA (Lagos), Ph.D. (Ife)	Senior Lecturer and Acting Head	Yes	
2.	Prof. Y.L. Fabiyi	B.Sc. (Agric.)(Ife), M.S., Ph.D.. (Wisconsin)	Professor		Retired
3.	Prof. B. Olufokunbi	B.Sc. (Agric.)(Ife), M.S. (Oregon State), Ph.D. (Hawaii)	Professor		Deceased
4.	Prof. R. Adeyemo	B.Sc. (Florida A & M Univ.), M.S. Ph.D. (Missi State Univ.)	Professor	Yes	
5.	Prof. O. Ajobo	BSc.(Econs)(Ife), M.S.(Michigan State), Ph.D. (Ife)	Professor	Yes	
6.	Dr. (Mrs) S.B. Williams	B.Sc.(Dunelm),M.Sc.(Ucom), Ph.D. (Auburn)	Senior Lecturer	Yes	
7.	Dr. E.O. Idowu	B.Sc. (Agric.), M.Sc., Ph.D. (Ife)	Senior Lecturer	Yes	
8.	Dr. A.B. Ayanwale	B.Agric., M.Phil. M.B.A.,Ph.D(Ife)	Senior Lecturer	Yes	
9.	Dr. K.O. Osoimehin	B.Sc.(Soc. Sc.), M.Sc., Ph.D (Ife)	Senior Lecturer		Redeployed
10.	Dr. A.S. Bamire	B.Agric., M.Phil., Ph.D. (Ife)	Senior Lecturer	Yes	
11.	Dr. A.A. Tijani	B.Agric., M.Phi., Ph.D (Ife)	Senior Lecturer	Yes	
12.	Dr. R. Kassali	B. Agric. (Niamey), M. Sc., Ph.D. (Abidjan)	Lecturer II	Yes	
13.	Mrs. O.A. Yesufu	B. Agric., M.Sc. (Ife)	Lecturer II	Yes	
14.	Mr. A.A. Akinola	B.Agric., M.Sc. (Ife)	Assistant Lecturer	Yes	
15.	Mr. O.O. Olubode-Awosola	B. Agric., M.Sc. (Ife)	Assistant Lecturer	Yes	
16..	Mr. J.T.O. Oke	B.Agric. (Ife), M.Sc. (Ibadan)	Graduate Assistant	Yes	
17..	Mr. A.T. Adesiyani	B. Agric. (Ife)	Graduate Assistant	Yes	
<i>Technical Staff</i>					
18.	Mr. A.O. Adedigba	HND (Ibadan)	Chief Agric. Superintendent	Yes	
<i>Administrative staff</i>					
19.	Mrs. J.I. Onigiobi	HND (Iree)	Principal Confidential Secretary	Yes	
20.	Mrs. F.F. Omoyeni		Chief Typist	-	Redeployed
21.	Mr. T.A. Adebawale		Senior Superintendent Driver	Yes	
22.	Mrs. F.O. Adeyanju		Typist	Yes	
23.	Mr. E.O. Ademiju		Head Messenger	Yes	

Table 2: Significant Periods of Curricular Development: 1962-2003

1962-1977

AEC 201	Introduction to Agric. Economics I
AEC 301	Farm Management
AEC 300	Agricultural Statistics
AEC 302	Economics of Agricultural Development
AEC 303	Agricultural Marketing
AEC 305	Land Economics

1978-1980

AEC 201	Introduction to Agric. Economics I
AEC 202	Introduction to Agric. Economics II
AEC 301	Principles of Agric. Economics I
AEC 302	Principles of Agric. Economics II
AEC 501	Farm Management
AEC 503	Statistics and Biometrics
AEC 505	Problems of Agric. Dev. In Nigeria
AEC 507	Agricultural Marketing
AEC 509	Agricultural Finance
AEC 511	Agricultural Economics Analysis
AEC 513	Mathematics for Agric. Economics
AEC 504	Agricultural Cooperation
AEC 506	Land Economics
AEC 508	Agribusiness Management
AEC 510	Introduction to Research Methods
AEC 512	Fundamentals of Econometrics
AEC 514	Production Economics

1991 – Till Date

AEC 201	Introduction to Agric. Economics I
AEC 202	Introduction to Agric. Economics II
AEC 301	Statistics and Biometry
AEC 302	Introduction to Farm Management
AEC 303	Principles of Agric. Economics I
AEC 304	Principle of Agric. Economics II
AEC 305	Farm Management for Agricultural Engineers I
AEC 306	Farm Management for Agricultural Engineers II
AEC 401	Farm Budgeting and Accounts
AEC 402	Farm Management
AEC 403	Fisheries Management
AEC 408	Report Writing in Agricultural Economics

AEC 501	Fundamentals of Econometrics
AEC 503	Mathematics for Agricultural Economics
AEC 505	Agricultural Development and Policy
AEC 507	Agricultural Cooperation
AEC 509	Agricultural Finance
AEC 511	Agricultural Economics Analysis I
AEC 513	Farm Management and Accounting
AEC 515	Statistics for Agricultural Economics
AEC 502	Agricultural Project Appraisal and evaluation
AEC 504	Agricultural Marketing
AEC 506	Land Economics
AEC 508	Agribusiness Management
AEC 510	Production Economics
AEC 512	Agricultural Economics Analysis II
AEC 514	Research Methods in Agricultural Economics (Project)
AEC 516	Non-Parametric statistics

Table 3: Available Courses for Postgraduate Studies

AEC 601	Micro Economics Theory and Agricultural Analysis
AEC 603	Advanced Mathematics for Agricultural Economics
AEC 609	Advanced Statistics
AEC 602	Macro Economics Theory and Agricultural Analysis
AEC 604	Research Methodology
AEC 618	Agricultural Development and Policy
AEC 612	Econometrics
AEC 600	Seminar
AEC 605	Advanced agricultural Production Economics
AEC 607	Advanced Agricultural Marketing
AEC 611	Advanced Agricultural Business Management
AEC613	Agricultural Planning I
AEC 615	Advanced Project Appraisal and Evaluation
AEC 625	Agricultural Price Analysis
AEC 617	Advanced Agricultural Budgeting
AEC 619	Advanced Agricultural Demand Analysis
AEC 606	Advanced Agricultural Resource Economics
AEC 608	Advanced Agricultural Cooperatives
AEC 610	Advanced Land Economics
AEC 614	Advanced Farm Management
AEC 616	Advanced Agricultural Finance
AEC 626	Agricultural Policy Analysis
AEC 620	Agricultural Planning II
AEC 622	Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics
AEC 624	Agricultural Insurance

TRAINING

Many of the graduates have been employed in the academics and are found manning the Department of Agricultural Economics and related fields all over the country. Many of our graduates found employment in the public and private sectors as well as in International Organizations such as the World Bank, IITA, ILRI, WARDA, Rocky Meller Foundation etc.

The quality of our products is such that they are the toasts of employers. Our products are so versatile that many found employment in banks, marketing organizations, and accounting firms as Accountants and Auditors – after further training.

The graduates of our programmes are occupying many niches in the natural economy and International Organizations. We have produced a core of graduates who are Lecturers and Professors in many Nigerian Universities and Abroad.

One of our Ph.D graduates recently won an award in the Maiden edition of National University Commission's (NUC) sponsored award for excellence in postgraduate theses.

CONTRIBUTIONS

TEACHING & RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The staff of the Department have been very active in research. The research activities of the Departmental staff have been varied in line with different specializations. The focus of research have been on farm management, entrepreneurship in farming, agricultural marketing, agricultural credit, finance and resource and environmental economics.

Agricultural Production Economics and Farm Management is the bedrock on which other activities in agriculture are built. However, if the activities are not economic farmers will stay out of production and / or not adopt improved agricultural production techniques. Hence, the need to understand the economics of improved agricultural production and productivity. A good number of staff cooperated with lecturers in laboratory sciences in the faculty to conduct experimental as well as survey researches in crops and livestock production from which relevant

recommendations were proffered. The experimental research was to produce benchmarks against which actual farmers' production activities could be compared for recommendations to achieve optimal production performance. The selection of the most appropriate varieties of crops and/or breeds of livestock and technology/activity in agriculture is very important for optimal performance. A number of staff members cooperated on dwarf goat production studies as well as in the selection of cassava varieties such as "IITA," "IAR&T" and Local "Odongbo" for profitability of production and processing to gari and other products.

A number of staff members also researched into the institutional aspects of agricultural development. Institutions are a "collective action in the restraint and liberation of individual actions". Progress – oriented institutions will liberate the creative energies of farmers.

Erven J. Long posits that economic underdevelopment is itself largely a consequence of institutional underdevelopment and that in the absence of fundamental institutional changes throughout underdeveloped societies agricultural science will continue to preach its sermons to an empty house. Consequently, a number of researchers from the Department have researched into agricultural credit and economic organization of production in order to identify the points of tension and change in the system capable of giving positive support to agricultural development.

Macro-economic policies and agricultural development programmes are designed to influence agricultural production. An examination of the effects of macro-economic policies such as Land Use Act, Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), Agricultural Development Projects (ADP) and National Directorate of Employment (NDE) on Agriculture had been undertaken by several members of staff. Modifications and adjustments to the policies to ensure successful implementation have been proposed in several publications emanating from the Department.

The members of academic staff of the Department have published not less than four

hundred articles in reputable local and international journals. About eight books had been published by the staff members in addition to numerous contributions to conferences in the form of proceedings.

SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

The Department, in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, render services to local farmers as well as to the outreach programme-Isoya Rural Development Programme.

The Department also hosted several conferences and workshops for example, the Department hosted in 1988 and 1998 the conference of the National Association of Agricultural Economics and hosted the executive (President and Secretary) of the Association between 1998 and 2001.

Our staff members have made their impact in the National economy and have been acknowledged by being appointed into various Boards. For example, one of the staff members served on the maiden board of National Agricultural and Cooperative Bank (NACB) and Agricultural Management and Training Institute (ARMTI). A member of staff had the distinction of being the first to occupy the distinguished Adeola Odutola Chair of Business Administration at the University of Lagos; and Marley Chair of Consumer Food Marketing at Texas Agricultural and Mechanisation University, College State, Texas, U.S.A.

A member of the Department had also served as the National Coordinator of Cocoa Development Unit phase I post-project appraisal, Assistant National Co-ordinator/consultant to collaborate study of cassava in Africa, Resource and Crop Management and a Consultant to water resource management strategy.

The Department staff had served and continue to serve as consultants to various institutes, national and international organizations and they are members of professional bodies and associations where their roles have earned respect, dignity and honour for the Department and the University.

LINKAGES: Past and Present

- USAID/University of Wisconsin, Madison, U.S.A., 1962-1975
The Department benefited from this linkage just like other departments within the Faculty. Early teaching and research foci of the Department were clearly defined. Some of the existing staff members benefited from training programmes initiated by this linkage.

CODESRIA

Some members of the Department benefited from grants given by Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa. Notable members of staff were Prof. Remi Adeyemo, Prof. Owolabi Ajobo, Dr. A.B. Ayanwale and Dr. A.S. Bamire

IITA

Prof. Owolabi Ajobo was an Assistant National Co-ordinator/Consultant in Collaborative Study of Cassava in Africa, Resource and Crop Management Division, IITA, Ibadan. Dr. A.S. Bamire is a Research Fellow to the institute.

Alexander Von Humboldt

Prof. Remi Adeyemo was a Research Fellow to Alexander Von Humboldt between 1967 and 1980

German Academic Exchange

Service Prof. Remi Adeyemo was a Fellow in the German Academic Exchange Service in 1999.

LEAD, International, U.K.

Dr. A.S. Bamire was a Fellow in Leadership for Environment and Development international based in the U.K. in the year 2001.

French Institute for Research in Africa Professor Remi Adeyemo benefited from Grants given by French Institute for Research in Africa in 1993.

The German Foundation for International Development (DE) Food and Agriculture Development Centre (ZEL) gave a traveling Grant to Prof. R. Adeyemo in 1996.

**World Society Switzerland
Foundation Research.**

The Foundation gave research grant to Prof. R. Adeyemo in 2000.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

The Department continues to strive to make her programmes more marketable in response to the development within and outside the country. Because of the globalisation process, employers now look for graduates who are knowledgeable in the areas of marketing, agribusiness, finance and computer management information system.

Our programme is consequently being restructured to find relevance in the main streams professions such as marketing, accounting, banking, agribusiness, environmental economics, energy economics etc., in addition

to technical competence in Agriculture.

The Department has adopted foci distinct modules from which students can make a choice of specialization. The modules are: agribusiness management; Agricultural Marketing; Environmental and Resource Economics; and Farm Management and Production Economics. The name of the department is now being changed to Agricultural and Applied Economics in line with the new emphasis of our undergraduate programme.

At present the Department is exploring linkage programmes with some highly acclaimed universities where student and staff exchange would be practiced for the enhancement of the quality of education and experience of the Department. It is also planning to have a town-grown programme where the problems in the town could be relayed to the Department for relevant and appropriate solutions.