

OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY 50TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY: ACHIEVEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

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INTRODUCTION

Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development (formerly named Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology) is one of the pioneer department in the Faculty of Agriculture, established in 1962 when the then University of Ife which is named Obafemi Awolowo University was established.

Historical Note on Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development

At the commencement of the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University), Ile-Ife, Nigeria, in 1962/63 academic year, the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology (formerly Department of Extension Education and Rural Sociology) was not, until in 1967, immediately established when other departments also came into being in the Faculty of Agriculture. The faculty had earlier been founded in 1964. The pioneering academic staff members of the department were Professor Robert C. Clark who was the first Head of Department and Professor S. K. Taiwo Williams. Between 1968 and 1972, five other

academic staff members joined the department. These included Professor J. Ade Alao, Professor I. A. Akinbode, Dr Efionayi, Professor A. A. Jibowo, and Dr. P. Roberts who was seconded from the University of Reading, England, as a Research Fellow in charge of the Isoya Rural Development Project. The project, based in the department, has served as an avenue for the university to reach rural farmers with improvements in agriculture and rural development. The Department was, thus, established with the recognition that it would, in cooperation with other departments in the faculty, play an important role in helping to bring about improvement in agricultural production in Ife Division and by that enhance an improved level of living of the rural inhabitants.

Philosophy and Objectives of the Department

The goal of the Department is to produce graduates with the requisite knowledge, skills and attitudes in the agricultural development process, and those who possess the competence to effectively transmit such skills to farmers and

other members of the public. The objectives are to:

- (i) enhance students' acquisition of the understanding of basic natural science concepts, which are applicable to agriculture;
- (ii) enhance students' comprehension of agricultural science concepts, principles, theories and skills in crop production, livestock production and soil management; fisheries and renewable resources;
- (iii) help students' understand basic principles in agricultural economics and farm management;
- (iv) a mastery of the concepts, principles, theories and skills in agricultural extension and rural sociology, needed to effectively transmit improved practices in agriculture to the practicing farmers and other members of the public.
- (v) teach skills in research methodology needed to diagnose and approach agricultural development problems with confidence and effectiveness; and
- (vi) help students acquire experience in rural development projects in some rural communities in the catchment areas of the university through exposure to extending research information in agriculture, health, housing, home economics and other areas of rural life to improve the quality of life of the rural dwellers.

Role Performance

The department has since inception been successfully discharging its three missions of teaching, research and community development services as evident in most of its graduates currently occupying strategic positions in the nation and beyond, coupled with the testimonies of their excellent performances. The department has been playing the role of linking the university with the populace in the local community through packaging and dissemination of university research findings to the rural dwellers under its rural development project called Isoya Rural Development Project. The department has broken through

tremendously in the areas of staff development at the local, national, international research and collaborations, specifically:

Manpower Development

The department has contributed to the development of manpower resources of the nation, and people with varying degree of graduate and postgraduate degree programmes listed below are found doing excellently well in all works of life. These are as follows:

Number of Graduates Produced	-	570
Number of M.Sc. holders produced	-	68
Number of Ph.D holders produced	-	38
Number of M.Phil holders produced	-	16
Number of M.Sc in Progress	-	8
Number of Ph.D in Progress	-	9
Number of M.Phil in Progress	-	3
Number of Professors made	-	13

Academic and administrative leadership development

Many graduates of the department have held series of leadership position, by virtue of their social and academic status. So far, we have produced 13 Professors, four Deans (two within and two outside), Three Deputy Vice-Chancellors (one within and two outside), and three Vice-Deans.

Scholarship, Grants and Fellowship Awards

Many scholarships, research grants and fellowship awards have been won by academic staff as a demonstration of academic and scholarship prowess. Some of them are:

Scholarships: Oke-Ona Dynasty scholarship awards, Federal Government of Nigeria Post-graduate scholarship award, Ford Foundation, DAAD travel award, etc.

Fellowships: Norman Borlaug Fellows Program for African Women Scientists of United States of America, ACU/TITULAR Fellowship of the University of Manitoba, Canada, Alexander von Humboldt George Forster Fellowship for Experienced

Researchers in Germany, etc.

Research Grants: Obafemi Awolowo University Research grant, Marketing Board, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, National Agricultural Research Project (NARP), African Universities-MRCI-SUPL01, African Universities-MRCI-SUPL04, Association of Carnegie Corporation of USA, Department of International Development (DFID) UK, DelpHE Project 643-DFID, UK, IDRC Grant no. 106511, UNU/INRA Research Grant, Bill & Melinda Gate research grant, etc.; Netherlands Fellowship Programmes NFP for Short Course – 2012 and Fellowship for African Nutrition Leadership Programme – 2010;

Isoya Rural Development Project

Isoya Rural Development Project, an outreach project of the Faculty of Agriculture based in the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural development commenced in 1969 in nine contiguous villages around Ile-Ife such as: Isoya, Olorombo, Akeredolu, Walode, Wanisinmi, Obiri, Aroko, Iyanfoworogi and Ladin respectively. By the year 2012, the project now covered 26 communities located in Ile-Ife area Ede north and Esa-oke. Through the Inter-disciplinary approach, the project obtained and utilized research and technical inputs from other departments in the faculty, research institutes and government agencies. At present, the project operates at it Strategic Development Training Centres (SDTC) located at Iyanfoworogi, Ojo and Esa-Oke. For each SDTC, the communities covered are:

1. Iyanfoworogi SDTC - Iyanfoworogi, Akeredolu, Isoya, Erefe, Olorombo, Aroko, Ladin, Kundunrun, Obiri, Aganran and Walode,
2. Ojo STDC – Ojo, Aro, Sekona, Awo, Adebawale, Owode, Ikotun, Balogun and Iwoye.
3. Esa-Oke STDC – Esa-Oke, Kajola, Ajobamidele, Ayeso, Abaoyo and farm settlement

Number of farm groups

1. The project at present has 26 farmers' groups in its project areas; and
2. There are 21 functional women cooperative groups/societies in the project areas.

Networking/number of collaborative project/research

The project has collaborated with a number of universities, departments and government agencies over the years. The project collaborated in the area of establishing experimental field at postgraduate level with Department of Crop Pest and Soil Management, Federal University of Technology Akure in 2011. It also collaborated with the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, University of Ibadan in conducting field survey on evaluation of DelpHE Project 643 : African Women and Rural Environment domicile in OAU, Ile-Ife.

At the undergraduate level, the project has collaborated with students on research from Bowen University Iwo, Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, Adeyemi College of Education Ondo and Federal University Technology, Akure. At the University level, the project has worked extensively with Department of Agricultural Engineering. Some of the projects/ researches were:

1. Construction and adoption of hand operated Maize sheller
2. Extraction of oil from Moringa seed and effect of Bee hive construction and bating materials used on honey
3. Construction and adoption of okro harvesting and operated machine
4. Construction and adoption of okro drying machine and okro value addition

The project also collaborated with Department of Family, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences in the area of using local resources for feeding in rural household especially infant and lactating

mothers. It also collaborated with COPINE on the use of ICT by farmers. Also the project collaborated with Centre for Space Science on the use of Space Technology and GIS for better farm productivity.

Intervention

1. The project has enjoyed intervention from DelPHE project 643 “African women and rural environment” since 2009 when the project started under the leadership of Prof. M.O Faborode (project coordinator). The project was a partnership project between Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife; Institute of Agricultural, Research and Training, Moor Plantation, Ibadan and University of New Castle UK. Through the project, more than 400 women from the project communities have been trained and empowered in various rural enterprises.
2. Also the project enjoyed intervention from Osun State Fadama III. Ten groups were empowered by the Fadama III project in Ife area. The financial assistance was meant for Isoya Women Group in Ife area due to their local government participation and payment of their counterpart fund to Fadama III.

Technologies disseminated and adopted

Since 2007 when the project came back to life after about ½ decade of dormancy, the following technologies/improved practices have been disseminated to the farm families in Isoya project adopted communities based on the principle of Demand Driven Extension Approach.

The following are the highlights of some technologies/improved practices disseminated and adopted by farmer groups in the project communities for the past 5 years with the aim of ensuring food security and enhancing the livelihoods of the farm families in the project communities.

1. Improved methods of maize/ cassava

intercrop

2. Improved methods of grains/ cereal storage and preservation methods.
3. Use of No-tillage farming system
4. Introduction and adoption of about 10 new cassava cultivars
5. Safe use of Agro-chemicals
6. Introduction and adoption of protein quality maize (White and Yellow)
7. Appropriate methods of fertilizer application
8. Introduction and adoption of hand operated maize shelling machine
9. Introduction and adoption of modern methods of Apiculture management
10. Modern methods of processing high quality honey
11. Adoption of queen rearing techniques
12. Introduction of Moringa plant to farm families in project area
13. Processing and utilization of Moringa into Tea, powder, as vegetable and for water purification.
14. Adoption of modern ways of processing soybean and value addition
15. Adoption of improved methods of palm oil packaging and value addition
16. Adoption of improved methods of cassava processing, packaging and value addition
17. Introduction and adoption of improved methods of small ruminant management by rural farm families (sheep and goat)
18. Use of Moringa leaves for feeding small ruminants
19. Introduction and adoption of environmental sanitation and health of small ruminant
20. Introduction and adoption of soybean products for infant feeding by nursing mothers in rural areas
21. Introduction of soybean + cassava into soy-gari production

Entrepreneurship activities

For the past 5 years, from 2007 precisely, the project has introduced modern ways of

managing the following enterprises to more than 120 youths selected from the project communities. The enterprises include: (1) Apiculture (2) Snail (3) Fishery (4) Grasscutter rearing (5) Backyard poultry (6) Moringa plantation establishment. Leadership capacity building training was also organized for youth, women and farmers in the community on regular bases.

Cooperative organization activities

The project has successfully organized women in the project communities into viable cooperative groups. Many of the groups have been registered with the Ministry of Cooperative and Empowerment in Osogbo while others are undergoing registration process. Some of the societies are:

1. Iyanfoworogi (Ife East) Bolomope Cocoa Fadama women farmers multipurpose cooperative society Limited (registered).
2. Iyanfoworogi (Ife East) Ifelodun Cocoa Fadama Women farmers multipurpose cooperative society limited (registered).
3. Erefe (Ife East) Ajosedun Vulnerable Women Fadama users group farmers multipurpose cooperative society limited (registered).
4. Erefe (Ife East) Agbajowo Bee keeper Association Fadama farmers multipurpose cooperative society limited (registered).
5. Erefe (Ife East) Kajola Obiri Vulnerable Women Fadama users group farmers multipurpose cooperative society limited (registered).
6. Erefe (Ife East) Alasejere Vulnerable Women Fadama users group farmers multipurpose cooperative society limited (registered).
7. Borowaye (Isoya) group (Registration in progress)
8. Ifesowapo (Isoya) group (Registration in progress)
9. Ifelodun (Akeredolu) group (Registration in progress)
10. Olorunsogo (Akeredolu) group (Registration in progress)
11. Ifelodun (Olode) Atare sellers association (Registration in progress)
12. Ifelodun (Olode) Palm Oil Seller's Association (Registration in progress)
13. Ifelodun (Olode) Iyere seller's Association (Registration in progress)
14. Ifelodun (Ojo) women farmers group (Registration in progress)
15. Ifelodun (Aro) women farmers group (Registration in progress)
16. Ifelodun (Ede) women farmers group (Registration in progress)
17. Ifelodun (Owode) women farmers group (Registration in progress)
18. Ifelodun (Sekona) women farmers group (Registration in progress)
19. Ifelodun (Aafin 1) Esa-oke women group (Registration in progress)
20. Ifelodun (Aafin 2) Esa-oke women group (Registration in progress)
21. Ifelodun (Ayeso) Esa-oke women group (Registration in progress)

It is believed that these organized groups of farmers would facilitate and promote research uptake in the various and target communities in future. Researchers and extension specialists should, as a matter of concern and sincerity of purpose, recognize these groups to work with them for the attainment of MDGs i.e. reducing extreme poverty and hunger and enhance food security by 2015.

Cross cutting research: The department has been involved in cross-edge cutting

researches that have led to improved teaching and supervision at postgraduate level in the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in Nigeria. The research areas are Adoption of Innovation, Discontinuance, Gender Issues, Extension Administration and Communication, Child and Youth Studies, Evaluation and Impact Studies, Establishment of Crop Collection Unit on the Teaching and Research Farm: Crop collection unit has been established to re-establish threatened plant and crop species.

Challenges

1. Non availability of a functional means of transportation for the project which has handicapped effective and efficient operation of the project over the year. The moribund land Rover attached to the project was purchased in 1969.
2. Funding of the project at present is inadequate for the numbers of the communities the project covers.
3. The equipment/facilities bought at the inception of the project are obsolete and need replacement particularly Isoya Project building which use to accommodate staff and students on research and training visits to the rural communities is a shadow of itself.
4. The conventional working relationship between Agricultural

Extension and other departments in the Faculty of Agriculture which could have brought about harmonious and consistent research uptake in agriculture particularly in Obafemi Awolowo University is lacking or non-existent.

Conclusion

The Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development no doubt has played a significant role through the performance of its traditional role of taking the resources of the university to the public for adoption and utilization. Conventionally, it has performed its roles of teaching, supervision and community services as academic department which has contributed to the development of manpower resources and economy of Nigeria. The department is focused and it remains focused as the hub for facilitating prompt research uptake in Agriculture. It is expected that there would be renewed commitment for better working relationship between the project and various departments in Faculty of Agriculture and other departments in the university like Community health in College of Health Sciences, Department of Food Science and Technology in Faculty of Technology, Department of Demography and Social Statistics in Faculty of Social Sciences and Department of Adult Education in the Faculty of Education.