

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

Prof. Adeolu B. Ayanwale
Department of Agricultural Economics

INTRODUCTION

With the establishment of the Faculty of Agriculture in 1964 came the creation of the department out of the faculty in 1965. From initial academic staff strength of three in 1965, the department has grown to sixteen in number, comprising five Professors, one Reader, seven Senior Lecturers, two Lecturers (Grade 1) and one Assistant Lecturer (Table 1). The non-academic staff strength of the department currently consists of two administrative and one field staff.

From its initial undergraduate programme, being part of a general agriculture programme, the department has evolved to have a second programme offering M. Sc. And Ph. D with 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 35Ph.Ds, 14 M.Phils, 105 M.Sc. and a total of over 500 men and women with Bachelor's Degree.

UNDERGRADUATEPROGRAMME

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 1996/70 academic session. Graduate study in Agricultural Economics is designed to enable the graduates qualify as professionals in Agricultural Economics through intensive study of economic theory, methodology and application 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, Environment Design and Management, and Technology within the last fifty years. During this period, over ten thousand (10,000) students had taken some of these courses.

SUB-DISCIPLINES 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 Resources and Environmental Economics and
- e. Agricultural Development Planning and Policy

Table 1: Staff of the Department as at 2011/2012				
S/NO	Name	Qualification	Post Held	Staff on Ground
Academic Staff				
1	Prof. A. B. Ayanwale	B. Agric., M.Phil., M.B.A., Ph.D. (Ife)	Professor and Head	Yes
2	Prof. R. Adeyemo	B. Sc. (Florida A & M Univ.) M.S. Ph.D., (Missi State Univ.)	Professor	Yes
3	Prof. T. Alimi	B.Sc. (Ife), MBA (Lagos), Ph.D. (Ife)	Professor	Yes
4	Prof. E. O. Idowu	B.Sc. (Agric.), M.Phil., Ph.D. (Ife)	Professor	Yes
5	Prof. A.S. Bamire	B.Agric., M.Phil., Ph.D. (Ife)	Professor	Yes
6	Dr. A.A. Tijani	B.Agric.M.Phil., Ph.D. (Ife)	Reader	Yes
7	Dr. O. Oluwasola	B. Agric., M.Sc. Ph.D. (Ife)	Senior Lecturer	Yes
8	Dr. R. Kassali	B.Agric. (Niamey), M.Sc., Ph.D. (Abidjan)	Senior Lecturer	Yes
9	Dr. (Mrs.) O.A. Yesufu	B.Agric., M.Sc., Ph.D. (Ife)	Senior Lecturer	Yes
10	Dr. A.A. Akinola	B.Agric., M.Sc., Ph.D. (Ife)	Senior Lecturer	Yes
11	Dr. J.T.O. Oke	B. Agric., M.Sc. (Ibadan), Ph.D. (Ife)	Senior Lecturer	Yes
12	Dr. A.T. Adesiyun	B. Agric., M. Sc., Ph.D., (Ife)	Lecturer I	Yes
13	Dr. (Mrs.) O. F. Adesiyun	B.Agric.(UNAAB), M.Sc., Ph.D.(Ife)	Lecturer I	Yes
14	Mrs. V.O. Tanimonure	B. Agric. M.Sc. (Ife)	Ass. Lecturer	Yes
Technical Staff				
15	Mr. A. O. Adedigba	HND (Ibadan)	Chief Agric. Superintendent	Yes
Administrative Staff				
16	Mrs. Ajekiigbe	HND (Ibadan)	Confidential Secretary I	Yes
17	Mr. E.O. Ademiju		Head Messenger	Yes

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

1962 – 1977	
AEC 201	Introduction to Agric. Economics 1
AEC 301	Farm Management
AEC 300	Agricultural Statistics
AEC 302	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 and Accounting
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
1980 – Date	
AEC 201	Introduction to Agric. Economics I
AEC 202	Introduction to Agric. Economics II
AEC 301	Statistics and Biometrics
AEC 302	Introduction to Farm Management
AEC 303	Principles of Agric. Agric. Economics I
AEC 304	Principles of Agric. 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 516	Non-Parametric Statistics

Table 3: Available Courses for Postgraduates Studies	
AEC 601	Micro Economic Theory and Agricultural Analysis
AEC 602	Macro-Economic Theory and Agricultural Analysis
AEC 603	Advanced Mathematics for Agricultural Economics
AEC 609	Advanced Statistics
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
AEC 613	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, the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), West African Rice Development Authority (WARDA) now Africa Rice Center, Rockefeller 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 and Civil Service after further training.

The graduates of our programmes are occupying many niches in the national economy and International Organizations and civil Services. For instance, the current Federal Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (Dr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina) graduated from the department in 1981. We have similarly produced a core of graduates who are Lecturers and Professors in many Nigerian universities and abroad. For example, the current Vice Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA) Prof. G. Daramola is also a graduate of the department.

Two of our Ph.D. graduates recently won awards of National University Commission (NUC) sponsored award for excellence in Postgraduate theses.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO TEACHING AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The staff members 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 foci of research have been on farming, agricultural

marketing, agricultural credit, finance and resources 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 cooperates 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 works 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 society's 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 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 implementations 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 Sixteen books had been published by staff members in addition to numerous contributions to conferences in the form of proceedings.

SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

The department in collaboration with other departments in the faculty renders services to local farmers as well as to the outreach programme.

The department also hosted several conferences and workshops for example, the department hosted in 1988, 1998 and the 2012 Conference of the National Association of Agricultural Economists.

Our staff members have made their impact in national economy and have been acknowledged by being appointed into various boards. For example, one of our former staff members served on the maiden board of National Agricultural and Cooperative Bank (NACB) and the Agricultural Management and Training

Institute (ARMTI). A member of the department had also served as the National Co-ordinator of the Cocoa Development Unit phase I post-project appraisal, Assistant National co-ordinator/consultant to Collaborative Study of Cassava in Arica, Resource and Crop Management and a Consultant to Water Resources Management Strategy.

The department staff members had served and continue to serve as consultants to various institutes, national 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 departments were clearly defined.

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, and Prof. A. S. Bamire.

International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

Prof Owolabi Ajobo was an Assistant National Co-ordinator /Consultant on the Collaborative Study of Cassava in Africa (COSCA), Resources and Crop Management Division, IITA, Ibadan. Prof. A. S. Bamire is a Research Fellow to the Institute. Other staff members who benefitted from the Postgraduate fellowship of the Institute are Dr. T. A. Adesiyan (Ph.D. fellowship -2007), Dr. (Mrs) O Adesiyan (Ph.D fellowship -2006)

Staff Fellowships

Prof Remi Adeyemo was a recipient of the Alexander Von Humboldt fellowship during the period 1987 – 1989 while he bagged the German Academic Exchange in 2008. In addition, Professor Remi Adeyemo benefited from Grants given by the French Institute for Research in Africa in 1993 while the German Foundation for International Development (DE) Food and Agriculture Development center (ZEL) also gave a traveling Grant to him in 1996.

Dr. JTO Oke won the Fulbright Fellowship to Winston Salem State University, NC in 2008.

Miss V. Adeyemo won the African Women in Agriculture Research Award (AWARD) in 2010.

Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) International

Prof A. S. Bamire and Dr. Oluwasolawere fellows in the Leadership for Environment and Development international based in the U.K. in the year 2001.

African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) Nairobi, Kenya

The AERC is a foremost consortium of leading Economists in Africa that provides technical training as well as grants on a competitive basis to members. Prof A.B. Ayanwale as a member has received several grants and technical backups from the consortium since 1999. Other members of the Department who have at one time or the other attended the meeting of the consortium are Prof. Adeyemo, Prof. Bamire and Dr. J. T. Oke.

FAO/IIED/World Bank Project on Large Scale Land Acquisition for Agriculture and Natural Resource Use

Prof. Ayanwale was the country representative for this study in Nigeria. The study has since produced a book “Rising Global Interest in Farmland: Can it yield Sustainable and

Equitable Benefits?” by the World Bank. 2011

National Fadama Coordinating Office (Fadama)

The department undertook a training programme on Profitable Fadama Management for facilitators of the Fadama II project from all over the coverage of the project at Abuja in 2008.

In addition, two postgraduate students of the department benefitted from the Fadama II fellowship in 2009/2010 for their M.Sc. Agricultural Economics programme.

Members of the department – Prof Ayanwale and Dr. Adejobi were consultants in the Baseline study of the Fadama III project in Osun State and the Federal Capital Territory respectively in 2009. Prof. Ayanwale was equally involved in the Midline survey of the same project in 2012.

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

The FARA is a continental body serving the agricultural sector in Africa. It provides a platform for professionals to contribute to Agricultural Research and Development issues on a continental basis. The SSA CP of the FARA through a memorandum of understanding with the Obafemi Awolowo University, conducted the Ex Ante Impact Assessment for the SSA CP in eight countries of Africa in 2010 in a \$126,400.00 contract. Prof. Ayanwale provided leadership for the team.

In 2011, the KKM TF of the FARA granted end line report analysis and write up of Sahel Savanna to two members of staff of the department Dr.R. Kassali and Dr.A.Akinola.

International Development Research Council of Canada (IDRC)

Prof. Ayanwale together with colleagues in other departments and the Osun State University, won the IDRC research grant on

“Sustainable Production and Utilisation of Underutilised Vegetables to enhance Food Security” worth \$2.9 million in 2011.

Technical Assistance to Federal Ministry of Agriculture

As part of our mandate to provide technical backstopping to governments and parastatals, Dr. Adejobi was at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development during the period 2008-2009 as special technical adviser to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry. In addition to this assignment, Dr Adejobi was assigned the responsibility as Head of Operations of the Multinational NERICA Rice Dissemination Project between the period 2008 and 2010.

Nigerian Association of Agricultural Economists. (NAAE)

This is the Professional body of agricultural economists in Nigeria. The department has had the privilege to contribute significantly to the development of the Agricultural Economics profession in Nigeria. It is on record that anytime there seems to be downturn in the affairs of the association, the department has always been on hand to provide the needed solution. For instance it was the department that hosted the national conference of the association in 1988, and ten years later in 1998 the department resuscitated the association. The department also hosted the conference of the association in 2012. To provide the needed facilitation for the hosting in 2012 were Prof. E.O. Idowu and Dr. Adejobi.

Conferences

To provide needed platform for agricultural scientists and related disciplines to lend their voice to the current issues on Cities, Health and Climate Change in Africa, Prof Adeyemo hosted the Humboltz International Conference in Ile-Ife in 2011.

RUFORUM

The department has a memorandum of

understanding with the RUFORUM on capacity building for the Agricultural Economist in Africa. Towards this end, two members of the department Dr. Mrs Yesufu and Prof Adeyemo attended workshops organized on strengthening capacities of African Partners in Uganda.

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 globalization process, employers now look for graduate 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 mainstream 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 and Finance, Agricultural Marketing, Environmental and Resources Economics and Farm Management and Production Economics

At present, the department is exploring linkage programme 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. One of such linkages is the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) based in East Africa.

Finally as a way of community service the department is exploring ways to build capacity of young graduates and early career professionals in agribusiness management by floating a diploma programme in agribusiness. This programme will build capacity of our youths in packaging their proposals in a way that will be acceptable and will enable them take advantage of the value chain of the agricultural enterprises of interest.