

Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project Highlights

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Scholar Program 27

LABORATORY: WHERE THEORY MEETS WITH PRACTICAL. MY EXPERIENCE AT MSU

I am a visiting scholar under the USAID-Nigerian Agricultural Policy Project(NAPP). My visit to Michigan State University has been very eventful; it has exposed me and stretched me to dare to do more. I was, amongst many other fascinating experiences that welcomed me, carried away with the introduction of graduate students in class or in meetings. For instance,

“Hi I am Ally, a third year Ph.D. Student in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences (PSMS), I am in Professor Sieg’s Lab and working on soil... in Tanzania....”.

Every student working with a professor as adviser, was identified by the professor’s laboratory and research interests. Individual laboratories apart from the general departmental laboratories. Astounding! Walking through the hall way of the Plant Biology building daily for lectures, I could identify lab’s and the various researches they had carried out on poster presentations on the walls. I remember stopping to read that the Brandazzi Lab was celebrating 10 years of its existence. My background back home in Nigeria as a soil science student was totally different. We had just one laboratory shared by all (professors and students). I was thrilled and gladly changed my form of introduction accordingly.

“Hi everyone, I am Agada Iveren Blessing, a visiting NAPP Scholar and a 3rd year PhD student of soil and water management back in Nigeria, I am in Sieg’s Lab.”

It felt good!! Also to be identified with Professor Sieg’s Lab meant I could work in there. Wao! It took me time to take that in given my background. The laboratory was well equipped. I had the rare opportunity to work with Mrs. Vanessa the Lab Technician who showed me how to use their equipment to run analysis on soil samples. I assisted her with calculations of bulk density for some soil samples. This experience made me know I had something to offer too. This was the point for me where the theory I knew met

with practical experimentations. It was so much easier and a whole lot of fun.

“All theory can be proved by experiment; but no path leads from an experiment to the birth of a theory” Albert Einstein.

by Mrs. Agada, Iveren Blessing
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PREPARING SAMPLES FOR SOIL PARTICLE SIZE DETERMINATION(PSD) IN PROFESSOR SIEG’S LABORATORY.

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