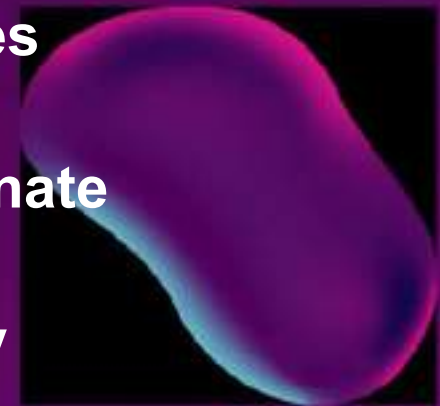


**Synergy: Not Property:
Way out to Sustainable
Agricultural Extension
and Rural Development.**



Protocols

- **The Vice- Chancellor, Sir**
- **The Registrar**
- **The Bursar**
- **The University Librarian**
- **The Provost of the College of Health Sciences**
- **Deans of various faculties**
- **Distinguished members of the University Senate**
- **Other respected Colleagues here present**
- **Other members of the University Community**
- **Students of this great University**
- **Gentlemen of the Press**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**



Preamble

The coming up of this lecture in the month of April is unique and divine as it happens to be the greatest birthday gift to my family. In this significant month, 3 members of the family were born.

My husband blazed the trail being 2nd of April, mine 6th and the baby of the home, 9th.

I give all the glory to God who has favoured the family with the month.

Introduction

**SYNERGY IS
DEFINED IN
VARIOUS WAYS**



Introduction

The Cambridge English Dictionary defines synergy as “the combined power of a group of things when they are working together that is greater than the total”.

Oxford English dictionary of current English refers to it as “The interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect that is greater than the sum of their separate effects”.

Introduction

Greek word refers to it as working together.

Agriculture is the science or practice of farming including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food and other products.

Sustainable Agriculture is based on the word 'sustained'. It implies an agricultural system that will be prolonged i.e it will continue to operate over a long period of time.

Rural Development is defined as the "overall development of rural areas, to improve the quality of life of rural people"

Therefore, sustainable development would be achievable with the efforts of all the stakeholders in the business rather than focusing on just a segment of the stakeholders.

Introduction

Gen 22:23 followed the fundamental principle of synergy

It emphasizes co-operation and harmonious living to bring comfort to the inhabitants on the earth.

The creation of Adam and Eve explained the mind of God for both sexes to co-habit in cooperation but not in competitiveness.

In Gen 1:27 God created them male and female in His own likeness.

In Gen 2:23 “The MAN said” This is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh and she shall be called woman because she was taken out of man.”

Introduction

Gen 2:15 clarifies God's purpose for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden as manager of the garden for food production.

Therefore, Agricultural practice was the first profession that God established; making it a number one God-ordained profession.

The historical information about agriculture reflects the misconception of agriculture to be a man's job alone.

Most of the agricultural policies and intervention programmes failed to give attention to the female gender.

Introduction

God himself was aware that agriculture cannot be developed without the interplay of the two sexes. Hence, the need for the men and women to cooperate together to achieve progress in the business.

Introduction

This neglect of the biblical foundation of God by the extension approach in Nigeria has brought us to this stage of unsustainability.

However, in actual fact, rural women farmers play a vital role in food production and food security as would be highlighted soon.

Why Agricultural Extension?

Agricultural Extension is the educative arm of agriculture;

Extension is a social science study of behaviour ;

It is the information arm that carries research studies of other departments in the Faculty of Agricultural sciences and other Faculties in the University community to the farmers.

It serves as a link between the farmers and researchers in other aspects of agriculture;

Extension personnel study the farmers in their rural environment, understand their culture and the best ways relating to the farmers;

Hence, agricultural extension is the core of agriculture.

Why This Inaugural Lecture?

African culture was not on the side of women for any appreciable development;

This has placed women at the background seeing them as a property and nothing else;

It is this syndrome that has made the contribution of women to development, especially in the area of agriculture, unrecognised;

Aina (2012) in her inaugural lecture of “two halves make a whole” stressed complementarities rather than competitiveness in gender role relations;

Why This Inaugural Lecture?

Development requires the participation of men and women actively; they must be given equal voices in the developmental process and implementation of programmes;

Little wonder why UNDP (1997) as quoted by Aina (2009) says if development is not engendered, it is endangered;

13

On this note, the title of today's inaugural derives: "Synergy: Not Property: Way out to Sustainable Agricultural Extension and Rural Development.

Journey to the Field of Agriculture / Extension

The journey started as early as my childhood days; being born into a 'farm family';

Nurtured by farming parents coupled with the inception of rain that always produces a lovely greenish and beautiful environment;

There were a lot of enjoyment attached to going to the farm that were then referred to as 'bush allowance';

All these were the fascinating factors that enticed me to the study of agriculture ;

Journey to the Field of Agriculture / Extension

I veered into Extension through the journey with my appointment as Block Women In Agriculture [BWIA] with Osun State Agricultural Development Programme (OSSADEP) in 1992;

In 1995, I went back for postgraduate studies in the department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. I graduated M.Sc. Agricultural Extension Communication and Ph. D Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology in 1998 and 2002 respectively.

Women's Agricultural Activities in Nigeria

PRE-COLONIAL PERIOD

Women's economic roles as traders, house-makers, farm assistants and farmers' wives but never as farmers (Olatunji, 2001).

THE COLONIAL PERIOD

This era saw women as only giving assistance but were not actually reckoned with as farmers themselves. It held the view that men were better farmers and the place of the women was in the home.

Women's Agricultural Activities in Nigeria

POST COLONIAL PERIOD

African women were found to have carried out about 60-80% of all agricultural Production activities:

1. Food production;
2. Animal husbandry;
3. Transportation of crops from farm to the house;
4. Processing of agricultural produce;
5. Storage; and
6. Marketing.



Highlights of My Research Findings on Women as Stakeholders in Agriculture

The following aspects of women were mirrored:

1. Leadership attributes of women to enhance agricultural growth;
2. Adoption capacity behaviour of women in agricultural activities;
3. Participation of women in enhancing food security; and
4. Communication methods that best suit information dissemination among women farmers.

Leadership Attributes of Women to Enhance Agricultural Growth

This viewed women farmers' attributes as a major determinant of their performance in agricultural/rural development activities.

The leadership characteristics of women found to have significant relationship with women participation in agricultural activities are:

- High level of recall;**
- Empathy;**
- Consideration;**

Leadership Attributes of Women to Enhance Agricultural Growth

- **Surgence;**
- **Competence;**
- **Ability to share leadership role;**
- **Literacy;**
- **Communication;**
- **Honesty; and**
- **Humaneness.**

Hence, all these traits have the ability to influence the participation and performance of women in agricultural and rural development activities (Okunade, 2002).

Leadership Attributes of Women to Enhance Agricultural Growth

Leadership Bases of Influence

- It is the means employed by leaders to have control over their followers. The performance of leadership functions involves the use of power in influencing controlling and directing the group members, hence a leader's power could be derived from either within or without the group.**

Okunade and Adisa (2004) identified leadership bases of influence among women local leaders as esteem (i.e being admired by people) intelligence, humility, ability to contribute to community development, good interpersonal contact and popularity.

Leadership Attributes of Women to Enhance Agricultural Growth

Community Acceptance of Women into Leadership Position

Women are accepted into formal leadership positions such as heads of Primary schools, principals, heads of health centres, and as chiefs by the virtue of their education

Generally, women are not acceptable to be heads of households, Imams of mosques and Baales of communities (Okunade and Jibowo, 2010)

Leadership Attributes of Women to Enhance Agricultural Growth

In essence, the cultural stipulation of the rural community is still very strong about the traditional position and hence rural development programme policies must be conscious of that in planning and implementing programmes of development.

Okunade (2002) highlighted eleven factors that are unique and crucial to women participation in agricultural activities/development programmes to include: Leadership characteristics, High personality tendencies, Social interaction benefit, Leadership role, Communication ability, Leadership reliability, Leadership interaction, High level intelligence, Humanitarianism, Accessibility and Social recognition.

Leadership Attributes of Women to Enhance Agricultural Growth

Therefore, harnessing women leadership status optimally in both agricultural and Rural development programmes would enhance their participation and stimulate growth in agricultural sector.

It was found that there was a significant difference in the participation of leaders and non-leaders in development projects based on some attributable characteristics such as the difference in the socio-economic characteristics of leaders and non-leaders. Okunade *et al.*(2005).

Adoption Behaviour of Women in Different Agricultural Activities.

Okunade *et al.* (2006) discovered factors that influence adoption of women farmers to include:

1. Innovation characteristics (cost, relative advantage, technical appropriateness);
2. Characteristics of the adopters' technical skill, attitude towards change, attitude towards risk taking, farmers exposures, educational level;
3. Cultural factors (beliefs, norms and labour);
4. Characteristics of change agents (competency, credibility);
5. Other factors were government policy and weather conditions.

Adoption Behaviour of Women in Different Agricultural Activities.

However, Okunade and Jibowo (2007) discovered that women farmers showed positive and significant relationship between compatibility, divisibility, simplicity, relative advantage and adoption. Hence, the characteristic of the innovation to be introduced is a major determinant of the adoption of that technology.

Participation of Women in Ensuring Household Food Security

My research focus on women ensuring food security at household level unravelled the following:

Okunade (2004) examined the effect of rural development projects on the Household food security of women. The result revealed a significant difference between household food security before and after the introduction of women rural development project. The result implied that women are highly significant in aggregation of food at the household level and play a key role in maintaining household food security level (Okunade and Adewumi, 2016).

Participation of Women in Ensuring Household Food Security

Okunade *et al.* (2004) revealed that household food security had a direct association with years of schooling, marital status, and farm size.

However, age and religion had an inverse relationship with household food security (Adewumi and Okunade, 2016).

It therefore implied that all these are the determinants of food security at household level but the variables with inverse relationship, especially religion should be carefully managed to an advantage, otherwise its effect may be detrimental to the consumption of some food items (Okunade *et al.*, 2015).

Participation of Women in Ensuring Household Food Security

Okunade and Yekinni (2007); Kayode and Okunade (2019) confirmed that women are actively involved in the collection of seasonal fruits, wood, fodders for animal use, mushroom, leafy and wild vegetables, edible insects, snails and herbs for medicinal use.

Yekinni and Okunade (2007) opined that the uses to which natural resources are put showed that they are to fulfil the basic needs of people in the rural areas. It therefore implied that a programme on natural resource management is equally one on food security as well as poverty alleviation to the rural populace.

Participation of Women in Ensuring Household Food Security

Anibaloye and Okunade (2009) further revealed that there was significant difference in the poverty level of women farmers before and after participation in the poverty alleviation programmes hence, intensification of such programmes among rural dwellers would reduce poverty as well as ensuring food security.

Agricultural Extension Communication Methods Used for Women Farmers

Okunade *et al.* (1999) study of extension teaching methods with particular reference to women farmers revealed the characteristics of extension teaching methods that would support its usage for effective communication as: cost, openness, feedback, linkage, synergy, proximity, structure, reward. Openness had positive and significant relationship with effectiveness of the communication methods.

There is also an association between effectiveness of extension teaching methods and satisfaction. Hence, the highest level of satisfaction of women with the methods that involve their participation during the process of teaching them.

Agricultural Extension Communication Methods Used for Women Farmers

Okunade and Laogun (2005) found out that there was positive association between the age, cosmopolitaness, farm size of women farmers and the extension teaching methods used in passing across agricultural information. Hence, extension workers/agents must be aware and take necessary precaution to take advantage of such variables.

Okunade and Oladosu (2005) discovered that there was significant relationship between the frequency of extension teaching methods to be used and the characteristics of the extension agents.

Agricultural Extension Communication Methods Used for Women Farmers

A positive and significant relationship exists between the age and the frequency of use of extension methods while a negative but significant relationship exists between marital status and extension method to be used.

The implication is that married women demand special treatment, especially from male extension agents; since culture restrains a woman from direct contact with strange male without the permission of the spouse and hence, the limitations of interaction between male extension agent and women farmers.

Agricultural Extension Communication Methods Used for Women Farmers

However, women farmers' perception of extension agents showed special attributes such as: punctuality, reliability, energy, patience, transparency, approachability, knowledge, cheerfulness, politeness and skilfulness in the dissemination of the messages. These are reported influential factors that enhanced their performances (Oladosu and Okunade, 2006).

My Town and Gown Experience over the Years

1. Improvement of the Nutritional Status of the Rural Households through promotion of Soybean as Protein Substitutes in their nutrition, especially for the Children.

The women groups were taught how to process soybean hygienically and include it as supplement in any consumable food for the children with the aim of increasing the protein content of the meal. Examples of such meals are Soy milk, Soy ogi, Soy Eko, Soy Gari, Soy Eba, Soy Cheese, Soy Meat, Soy vegetables etc. This attempt led to the improvement of the nutritional status of the rural farm families especially the children in the rural poor households who could not afford to depend on protein from animal source because of the price.

My Town and Gown Experience over the Years

The multiplier effect of these were all over the places now in towns and villages where many women rely on the production of Soy cheese popularly known and called 'BESKE' as a means of their livelihood.

My Town and Gown Experience over the Years

2. Capacity building on oil - palm processing

Trainings and workshops were conducted among women farmers for capacity building on oil – palm processing and hygienic gari processing that would reduce the cyanide content after all. The essence of the training is to have high quality and quantity of the end products. Figure 2b shows improved palm oil milling machines that were introduced and training was provided on the usage hence, oil palm is now produced with ease as opposed to the much drudgery involved in the past. The volume of oil realized is much more than the one realized while using manual or traditional method of production (Figure 2a)

Capacity building on Oil – Palm processing in Ife-Odan, Osun State



Figure 2a



Figure 2b

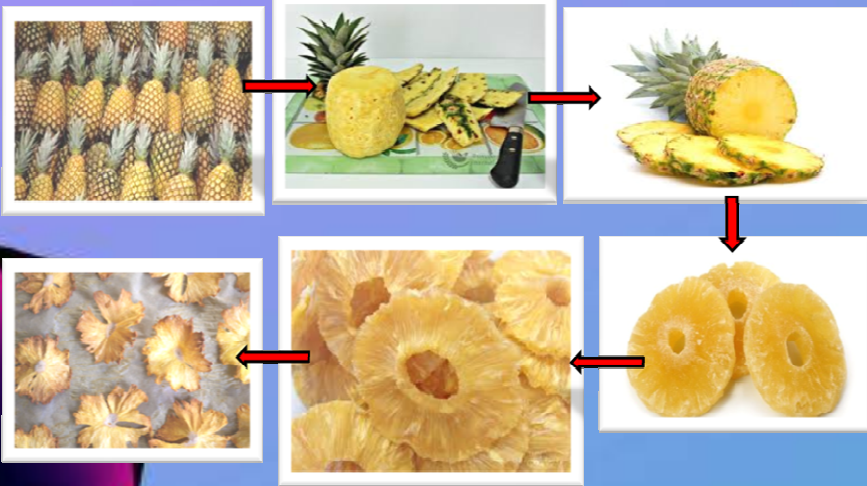
My Town and Gown Experience over the Years

3. Creation of Awareness on Post harvest losses of Crops

In my adventure into household food security of rural women, I discovered that even from the little food produced from small scale farming not all that is produced gets to table. A lot of the food produced is lost through post harvest handling. Hence, I liaised with the Extension Department, Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute (NSPRI) with headquarters in Ilorin, Kwara State. The goal of NSPRI is to conduct research to develop technologies for the prevention of post harvest losses of durable and perishable crops through the use of competent scientists. NSPRI has come up with quite a number of post harvest technologies but of paramount interest to this work is Multipurpose dryer that can handle many Agricultural produce of interest to women farmers. It dries different Agricultural products: Fruits, vegetables, Cassava chips, Grains, Fish and Meat.

Creation of Awareness on Post-harvest losses of Crops at Surulere Local Government, Oyo State.

PINE APPLE FRUITS TO FLAKES



MANGO FRUITS TO MANGO FLAKES



My Town and Gown Experience over the Years

4. Empowerment at various Levels

Economic empowerment of women farmers have witnessed tremendous improvement through the intervention of different small scale entrepreneurial trainings they were exposed to. Through the practices of the trainings on different farm produce, addition of values to crops and repackaging of food items, women are able to have improved economic development which gave them some level of economic autonomy.

My activity is not limited to women farmers alone; I was also involved in giving career talks to secondary school students on making Agricultural Science a career in life. This has made an impact in the lives of these young ones in the choice of their future career

Giving career talk at LAUTECH International College, Ogbomoso.



My Town and Gown Experience over the Years

5. Introduction of yellow cassava with Vitamin A and orange-fleshed sweet potato.

The ongoing work is the introduction of yellow cassava with Vitamin-A and orange fleshed sweet potato. Women were trained on the importance of the inclusion of both in their diet for fortification of their menu with Vitamin A. Included in the training is the development of skill to produce different snacks such as cassava chips, chin-chin and potato flakes. All these were done with the aim of empowering them to become independent instead of remaining perpetual dependants.

My Town and Gown Experience over the Years

6. Academic Development of Students in my Department

I have supervised over 100 undergraduate students in the department, successfully supervised (and co-supervised) eleven (11) M. Tech students and ten (10) Ph.D. students. Currently, I am supervising fifteen (15) undergraduates and four (4) Postgraduate students comprising 2 M.Tech, 1 M.Phil and 1 Ph.D.

My Town and Gown Experience over the Years

7. Service to the University

I have once served as a member of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences Board; Social committee, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension; Local organizing committee at the 13th annual congress of Nigerian Rural Sociological Association (NRSA), LAUTECH.

I also served as chairperson for the organization of the Faculty Album; Faculty library committee and Home Economics Unit, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension between 2004 and 2010.

My Town and Gown Experience over the Years

I was privileged to be the orator at the University Convocation ceremonies for conferment of Honorary degrees in 2007 and 2009. I was the Acting Head of Department between 2010 and 2012. I was also the coordinator for the Gender mainstreaming unit LAUTECH between 2015 and 2019 and later became the director of the unit from 2019 till date.

I am currently a university internal examiner to other Departments and Faculties and I served as the Secretary to the Strategic Intervention team for LAUTECH between 2016 and 2019.

Way Forward to Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development

The gap in food production can perfectly be filled by women farmers if adequate recognition of all their contributions in the agricultural industry would be acknowledged and their capacity be built the more to further boost their performance.

The design of many development policies and projects that continue to assume incorrectly that farmers and rural workers are mainly men, meaning that women's contribution are still undervalued in conventional agricultural and economic analyses and policies.

Way Forward to Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development

- This is a wrong perception and presentation. WHY ?
- These women farmers assume almost the same population figure with men in the rural areas (Statistical Report, 2015); yet efforts at improving agriculture was not focused on them.
- Can a bird fly with one hand? NO

Factors Hindering the Optimum Performance of Women in Agricultural Development

- The Stipulated Cultural, Social and Religious Embargo placed on women ;
- Lack of Recognition of the Productive Role of Women;
- Poor Access to Factors of Production as their Male Counterpart;
- The Low Economic Status of Women; and
- Poor Information Technology;

Recommendations

- **Recognize Women as strong stakeholders in the economy**
- **Awareness Education Campaign on the Culture**
- **Landed Property should be made available to women and the girl-child**
- **Women should be targeted for intensive training**
- **Formation of Women into groups**
- **Empowerment of Women**

Conclusion

In conclusion, sustainable agriculture must emphasize production and food system that are profitable, farming practices designed to meet current and future needs for food, fibre, energy and ecosystem services including but not limited to, soil conservation, clean water and biodiversity (Fabiain Menalled et al., 2008).

From Economic point of view, agriculture would be sustainable if farmers are able to generate and sustain output levels that support a decent living standard in ways that are both equitable and protective of natural and human capital. If hunger and malnutrition are prevalent, then agricultural production will need to be boosted especially in the countries where populations are likely to explode (Nigeria).

Conclusion

Therefore, whether in the physical, spiritual or military or even in Agricultural practice, the two halves that make a whole should be deeply involved in the production process to enhance sustainable development. The role of the two halves is germane to agricultural growth; efforts in this regard should be targeted to both gender (male & female), especially the neglected (women), to harness their stored potential to an advantage.

Their contribution should be given recognition to encourage better future performance. This will prove in reality that synergy is the answer, not that a particular gender is the “Lord” and the other is just a “serf” as in the historical manorial system under the feudal system in England. All that is needful is the recognition of the female gender as working in concert with the male counterpart, even in agricultural practice.

Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to put on record that all hopes are not lost as a Nation but I am charging our leaders to rise to the challenge before them and accord the agricultural sector all that it deserves by coming up with agricultural policies that would mainstream gender (equal attention to both sexes involved) to display their potentials in building the Nigerian economy. Enough of providing short term solutions. Let us move a step further by inwardly looking at issues and ways to enhance sustainable agriculture in order to ensure food security. Let our leaders pump money into agricultural research and mainstream gender by building the capacity of women farmers with small holdings, encourage their sustainability through subsidized inputs and credits and introduce new Communication technologies for innovation.

Acknowledgments

- Mr Vice Chancellor sir, this lecture cannot end without showing profound gratitude to numerous people that have contributed in one way or the other towards my advancement in life. Without their contributions and sacrifices to my life, there would not have been a day like today for me. I am grateful to the Lord God Almighty for the gift of life that I enjoy, I will forever be grateful to HIM for bringing this great transformation to my life. Thank you Lord.
- There would have been no inaugural lecture today, if the road to LAUTECH had not been opened to me through the concerted efforts of The following: Late Prof M. Salawu (Former Vice - Chancellor), My big Uncle Adebimpe, Prof. A. B Ogunwale, Prof. J. G Adewale and Prof. I. O Oladosu. I thank you all.

Acknowledgments

My Parents, of blessed memory Pa Simeon Abimbola Beyioku and Madam Ruth Faderera Beyioku, who joined forces together to educate all their children. Although you are no more, your legacy of education lives after you. My appreciation goes to my late siblings: Late Emmanuel Adebayo Beyioku and Modupe-ore Labayo Olaifa (nee Beyioku) who in their life time sacrificed a lot to give me quality education. My earnest prayer is that all the seeds you left behind will continue to make waves in life.

I also appreciate all the Beyioku family herein present: My only surviving elder sibling, Mr Abiodun Beyioku and wife Aderonke Beyioku, Mrs Temilola Beyioku (my small mother) and all the 2nd generation Beyioku family here present. To all the Ojo Family from my mother's side in Irefin, Ibadan, I appreciate you: Mrs Tundun Igbintade & Mr Sesan Olubode.

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- To my Uncles, Aunts and Sisters from Oke - ofa Baba Isale (My father's side) in Ibadan: Rev. and Mrs Ogunlowo, Mr. Fenwa Bolaji. To all my uncles and aunt from Oke- balogun in Ijaiye - Orile Ibadan: Mr. & Mrs Adebimpe Ojediran (Former Permanent Secretary, Oyo - State), Uncle Oladipo(late) and Mrs Ebun Oyewale, God bless you all.
- To my big Uncle, Prof. I. O. Obisesan and family. I thank you for mentoring and supporting me since undergraduate days till date. I am grateful sir.

Acknowledgments

- I specially appreciate all my teachers who set the building block from my primary school through secondary to university. I am sincerely grateful to Prof. E.A Laogun for initiating my return to postgraduate school even when I was least prepared for it after 9 years of floating. He eventually supervised my Ph.D thesis. I am grateful Sir. I cannot forget the role of Prof. A.A Jibowo during my postgraduate studies. He supervised my M.Sc and initiated my Ph.D even in the face of opposition. May God bless you Sir.
- Prof. A. J Farinde who operated in the background to give my Ph.D thesis form and substance and offered wise and timely counsel; your labour of love is not forgotten. May God bless you sir,

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- Dr. Banji Adisa, you supported me wholeheartedly during my P.G. days, I doff my hat for you. Late Prof Ajala of University of Nigeria Nsukka, though you have gone to the life beyond but your passion for my development is being fulfilled today. May the Lord keep all that you left behind.
- To my Erudite Mama, Professor Janice E Olawoye who mentored me through African Women In Agricultural and Rural Development (AWARD) fellowship that took me to various African countries and United States of America. I am grateful ma, May you continue to enjoy divine lifting in Jesus Name. Thank you ma.
- Thanks and appreciation to all the bodies who added value to me by way of Award: Netherland Fellowship Award in 2008 and 2009, African Women In Agricultural and Rural Development (AWARD) in 2012 - 2014. You all facilitated my travels abroad free of charge for many years.

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- My appreciation goes to Christ Apostolic Church (Mt. Bethel), Ile - Ife, especially our father in the Lord, Pastor (Prof.) & Mrs A. M. A Imevbore, Pastor(Prof.) C.E Onukaogu, all Pastors, Elders & Deaconesses, Men, Women, Youth and Children. May God bless and uphold you all in the faith.
- I also appreciate the Oke - Imuse prayer group and family: Late Prophetess Ajijolaoluwa, Elder Abolaji, Rev Sunday Adebolu, Pastor (Prof) J.F. K Akinbami and Pastor (Prof) Akin Lawal for their prayer support always. May the Lord sustain us to the end. Professor John Blackie Arubayi and family are highly appreciated for standing by me when all hopes seemed lost. You are a dogged encourager who put smiles on the faces of the discouraged. May the Lord bless and continue to encourage you.

Acknowledgments

To my entire old school mates: Igbo-Elerin Grammar School Ibadan 77 set, University of Ife (Agric 85 set) and Post graduate Students of the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development (1995 - 2002), God bless you.

To the age long family friends: Chief and Chief (Mrs) Adebisi Adesola (former Head of service and Secretary to the Military Government, Oyo - State), Mr & Mrs Owoade Adigun (Retired Permanent Secretary, Osun state), Late Sanjo and Mrs Jumoke Olaniyi, Mr Mukaila Omisore. I am grateful to you all for the roles that God enabled you to play in my life.

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I also wish to appreciate friends from other Universities who have come to grace this occasion: Department of Agricultural Extension & Rural Development: O.A.U, Ile – Ife; U.I, Ibadan; FUNAAB, Abeokuta; EKTSU Ado – Ekiti; Unillorin; FUTA; O.O. U, Ago- Iwoye; Hallmark University; Landmark University and NSPRI Ilorin.

To my Agricultural Family in LAUTECH, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (Professors, colleagues and non- teaching staff) I appreciate you all. I am grateful to the Dean (past and current), Prof Jide Ajao and Prof A.A Akingbade for the support given me as the FIRST female Professor to deliver the 7th inaugural lecture in the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and the 3rd in the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development.

Acknowledgments

To the National Association of Women Academics (NAWACS) LAUTECH chapter, I say a big thank you for your support and presence at this occasion.

I appreciate all the members of staff of the Department of Agricultural Extension & Rural Development LAUTECH: Profs A.B Ogunwale, J.G. Adewale, I. O. Oladosu, F. A. Kuponiyi, R.G. Adeola, E. Ayanwuyi, O. A Olaniyi, A. R Ayoade, Dr. O.O. Adebayo, Dr. K. Y. Ogunleye, Dr. O. Oyetoro, Dr. Akintonde, Dr S. I Adetunbi, Mr Akinboye, O, all the teaching assistants and non - teaching Staff. God bless you all.

My appreciation also goes to my Students both undergraduate and postgraduate (past and present) for a good time spent together. May you all be elevated to greater heights.

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To all members of the Okunade Family, for accepting and encouraging me, I say a big thank you. Also, to all my in-laws: Abiri, Odeleye and Mobio Families, I give appreciation to God for being connected with you. Thanks to all my colleagues who have added value to the manuscript that produced this lecture: Prof R.G Adeola, Dr K.Y. Ogunleye, Dr. O. O. Oyetoro and the Inaugural lecture committee. I am grateful.

Acknowledgments

I would have had no story to tell today but for the divine intervention of God through the man He has placed in my life, Pastor Julius Oladepo Okunade. He is my mentor, encourager, adviser, editor and companion. He stood solidly behind me when the going was very rough at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. He sacrificed everything possible to add value to my life. He did not see me as property; instead he gave me all the support to grow the natural endowment of the God-given potentials in me. I am indeed grateful sir. It is my prayer that God will spare our lives to enjoy together our labour. We shall all our lives be lovers and good friends.

I thank all my virtual attendees from all over the world, for taking time out to grace this occasion.

Acknowledgments

I thank all who are here present but have not been captured by my grouping, you are all too numerous to mention by name. I appreciate you all.

Lastly, I am also grateful to the leadership of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso, led by Prof. Micheal Olufisayo Ologunde for providing me a conducive environment to flourish academically and to deliver this lecture at this time. Great Ladokites, I thank you all. I also acknowledge the immediate past Vice-chancellor, Prof. A.S Gbadegesin for giving me the platform to start the gender mainstreaming unit in LAUTECH. Thank you sir.

Mr Vice Chancellor Sir, before I conclude, permit me to draw my point home further that synergizing with women pays off through this quotation:

WHO IS A WOMAN?

When she is quiet, millions of things are running through her mind.

When she stares at you, She is wondering why she loves you so much in spite of being taken for granted.

When she says I will stand by you, she will stand by you like a solid rock.

Never hurt her or take her for granted.

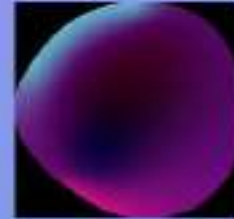
Someone asked her, Are you a working woman or a housewife?

She replied: Yes, I am a full-time working housewife. I work 24 hours a day. I'm a Mum.

WHO IS A WOMAN?

- I'm a Wife. I'm a Daughter. I'm a Daughter-in-law.
- I'm an Alarm clock. I'm a Cook. I'm a Maid.
- I'm a Teacher. I'm a Waitress. I'm a Nanny.
- I'm a Nurse. I'm a Handywoman. I'm a Security officer.
- I'm a Counsellor. I'm a Comforter. I don't get holidays. I don't get sick leave.
- I don't get day off. I work through day and night.
- I'm on call all hours and get paid with a sentence. "What do you do all day?"
- This is dedicated to all women. A Woman has the most unique character like salt!
- Her presence is never remembered, but her absence makes all the things tasteless.

- I salute all the women in the house .



- Thank you Mr. Vice chancellor, I thank you all for coming, May the good Lord grant you all journey mercies to your various destinations.