

Oluwafunmilayo Esther Ajiferuke

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Education

The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia **2027**
Ph.D in Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication
Major- Science Communication.

Joint Master of Science (MSc) Degree **2024**
Ghent University, Belgium
Slovak University of Agriculture, Slovakia
University of Pisa, Italy
International Master of Science in Rural Development (*Summa Cum Laude*)

Certificate:

Summer Internship, Slovakia, 2023

University of Ibadan, Nigeria **2022**
Master of Science, Agricultural Economics (*PhD Grade*)

Osun State University, Nigeria **2017**
Bachelor of Agriculture, Agricultural Economics and Extension (*First-Class Honours*)

Professional Experience

Graduate Research Assistant **January 2025 - present**

Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication

University of Georgia, USA

Major Responsibilities

- Assist with co-moderating focus groups with Peach and Apple growers in Eastern U.S
- Analyze qualitative and quantitative data using MAXQDA and SPSS respectively
- Assist in writing and editing of manuscripts that utilized qualitative and quantitative research approaches.
- Designing research poster for conference presentation.

- Graded undergraduates' posters during a class presentation (volunteer).

Research Co-Supervisor (volunteer)

2024

University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Major Responsibilities

- Co-supervised research proposal writing of a graduate student at the university
- Organized & trained on use of ODK collect for a team of six (6) enumerators
- Guided statistical analysis and report writing of the post-graduate student

Summer School

2023

Slovakia University of Agriculture, Nitra, and Slovakia

Major Responsibilities

- Developed strategy document on regional branding of local products
- Conducted semi-structured interviews with about 20 local producers in the Ponitrie region on their products
- Performed stakeholders' analysis with the local producers and the tourism board

Software/ Project Operations Officer

2022

Abba and King Systems LLC, Nigeria.

Major Responsibilities

- Organized meetings and documented meeting outcomes with front line clients of insurance company.
- Trained about clients together with the product team on the development workflows
- Organized trainings consisting of five (team members
- Regulated the clients' need with the developers' figma for our backend and frontend developers.

Research Assistant

2021-2022

Agricultural Policy for Research in Africa (APRA), University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Major Responsibilities

- Conducted statistical analysis of cocoa value chain actors'
- Engaged in writing manuscripts and working papers
- Led and organized the dissemination workshop events in Osun and Oyo states with over 100 cocoa farmers and other key stakeholders

Research Fellow

2020-2021

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

Major Responsibilities

- Conducted survey on factors influencing cassava farmers' decision to sell or process roots
- Supervised and coordinated a team of enumerators for data collection from a total of five hundred and forty (540) farmers and processors in Oyo, Osun and Ogun states
- Develop ODK survey tool used for data collection
- Data coding and analysis using statistical software such as SPSS and STATA

Research Intern

2019 - 2020

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

Major Responsibilities

- Monitoring the use of Decision Support tools (DSTs) of African Cassava Agronomic Initiative (ACAI) with over 200 participants and non-participants (control) farmers across six states in Nigeria.
- Survey on cassava roots and products prices with over 100 farmers across six states in Nigeria
- Data mapping of financial reports with the project administrative officer.

Graduate Intern (National Youth Service Corps)

2018 - 2019

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

Major Responsibilities

- Collected and prepared over 1000 cassava roots stem and leaves and soil samples for laboratory analysis
- Performed agronomic data management tasks
- Conducted evaluation and agronomic readings of plants including cassava, maize and plantain.

Industrial Trainee

2016

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria &

Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER), Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

Major Responsibilities

- Contributed to successful operations in screen house, seed processing center, operators and sales units

- Learned research proposal and report writing at the Economic Policy Research Department (EPRD).
- Participated in data analysis procedures using SPSS package

Professional Affiliations

Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA), Member **2024**
Nigerian Association of Agricultural Economists (NAAE), Member **2025**

Peer Reviewed Publication

AJIFERUKE, O. A *et.al* (2017). “Assessment of Fish Farming in Oshogbo Metropolis”
International Journal of Agriculture and Food Security, IJAFS 6, 2016, 20: 1058-1071.

Conference Papers

Alexa J. Lamm, **Oluwafunmilayo Ajiferuke**, Masoud Yazdanpanah, Jim Owen, Kevan W. Lamm, and Jeb Fields *Discussing the Adoption of Alternative Substrates in the USA to Enhance Agricultural Communication Associated with Peat Reduction* at the International Symposium on Growing Media, Compost Utilization and Substrate Analysis for Soilless Cultivation, 2025

Ajiferuke O.E, Hauser S., Olajide O.A **2021** *Factors influencing cassava farmers’ decision to sell or process roots in Southwest, Nigeria*. Oral Presentation at the 24th IARSAF Annual Symposium held at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Ibadan, Nigeria, 2nd – 4th November 2021

Ajiferuke O.E, Hauser S., Olajide O.A **2021** *Factors influencing cassava farmers’ decision to sell or process roots in Southwest, Nigeria*. Oral Virtual Presentation at the AFMA-12 conference, Panari Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, 21st -25th November 2021

Conference Presentations

Ajiferuke O.E, Hauser S., Olajide O.A **2021** *Factors influencing cassava farmers’ decision to sell or process roots in Southwest, Nigeria*. Oral Presentation at the 24th IARSAF Annual Symposium held at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Ibadan, Nigeria, 2nd – 4th November 2021

Ajiferuke O.E, Hauser S., Olajide O.A **2021** *Factors influencing cassava farmers' decision to sell or process roots in Southwest, Nigeria*. Oral Virtual Presentation at the AFMA-12 conference, Panari Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, 21st -25th November 2021

Manuscripts Undergoing Submission

Manuscript 2: Ajiferuke O.E, Hauser S., Gianluca B., Olajide O.A. Evaluation of User Readiness in the uptake of digital technology: A case study of AKILIMO

Manuscript 1: **Ajiferuke O.E**, Hauser S., Olajide O.A, Arayombo T. J (submitted-in review) Factors influencing cassava farmers' decision to sell or process roots in Southwest, Nigeria. *African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*

Honors And Awards

Graduate Assistantship **2025 - 2027**
University of Georgia

Erasmus Mundus Scholarship **2022 - 2024**
Ghent University

Research Fellowship **2020 - 2021**
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

Skills

SPSS	STATA	QGIS
R- Programming	MS-Word, MS-Excel, MS-PowerPoint	Graph Pad
Open Data Kit (ODK) Survey Design	Qualtrics Survey Design	MAXQDA

Certificates

- Certificate of Participation, Slovak University of Agriculture 2023
- Certificate of Completion, MSc. Research Thesis at IITA 2022
- Certificate of 23rd Annual Symposium of International Association of Research Scholars and Fellows (IARSAF) 2020
- Project Management Practitioner, Practical and Professional Management Signatures 2018

Volunteer Experience

Volunteer worker

Martin Luther King (MLK) Day

2025

Organized elementary school play toys and performed cleaning exercise for the safety of the school pupils and administrator

Secretary

2018-2022

ALLY Afrik Initiative

Instrumental to planning and organizing major activities of the initiative involving women's leadership advancement.

Trainer

2019

Ololade African Arts Foundation

Trained secondary school students on the effects of plastic pollution and coached them for satisfactory performance in a statewide talent competition.

Languages

English
Yoruba

Hobbies

Reading Novels
Travelling

Event organization
Meeting people
