

# Nigeria Agriculture Policy Activity

July 2021

NAPA Highlights #4

## SOIL SAMPLING, SOIL TESTING AND SOIL ANALYSIS FOR SOILS OF BENUE STATE

My name is Iorchir Iorember Christian, I am a 500-level student of the Department of Soil Science, College of Agronomy, Joshua Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi Nigeria (JOSTUM).

I was selected to be part of a great team. The project featured 1) soil sampling (Guma Local government area (LGA)) to its conclusion (Obi LGA, seven LGAs in total), 2) a one day training held at the University Teaching and Research Farm where we had close to a thousand (1,000) participants, 3) a trip to University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) where we worked under the guidance of the laboratory assistants in the Soil Science laboratory and 4) the analysis of over 600 soil samples collected for Carbon, Nitrogen and CEC.

While in the field, we were taught by Dr. Agada. She explained the need to manage the soil's physical, chemical and biological properties since soils vary considerably. I also understand the need to manage soil separately given that the best solution for deep soils may not be effective for shallow soils.



**I AND SOME TEAM MEMBERS AT WORK: COLLECTING SOIL SAMPLES**

My gratitude knows no bounds. I have been exposed to the practical side of soil science and agronomy. I can relate to why crops don't grow well even when fertilizers are added. I will be a change agent amongst my fellow small holder farmers in my community.

At every turn there was something new to learn!!



**PREPARING ANALYSTS, REAGENTS FOR USE DURING SOIL CHEMICAL ANALYSIS**

Firstly, I thank God for his mercies guiding us as we travelled through some troubled LGAs while collecting soil samples and even to UNN (no accident or kidnapping by herders men). Secondly, to my Project supervisor for finding me worthy. Thirdly, we also appreciate the Divisional Agriculture officer (DAOs) from the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural resources (MANR) Makurdi for assisting us to carry heavy wet

soil samples and organize meetings with locals farmers in the council wards.



AT THE FISHERIES UNIT OF THE ANIMAL FARM OF UNN.

To USAID, Nigerian Agricultural Policy Activity (NAPA) and Michigan State University USA, I say a huge thank you for all the fundings provided and also want to recommend that these trainings should not stop with us. It should be continuous please so we can increase our production and fight hunger achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SGGs) 1 (No poverty), 2 (zero hunger) and 3 (Life on land).

By Iorchir Iorember Christian

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