OLUWATOBI SAMUEL AKOREDE

Agricultural Extension & Rural Development Scholar

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ACADEMIC PROFILE

Agricultural extension and rural development graduate (CGPA 4.90/5.0, IELTS 7.5) with more than seven years of applied field experience in smallholder and commercial agricultural systems across Nigeria. Research focus is on integrated agricultural systems, out-grower and nucleus-estate models that link smallholders to agro-industrial value chains, and livelihood diversification among rural households. Experienced in generating field data, farmer verification and farm mapping, and in monitoring multi-stakeholder programmes with AGRA, IDH and the Central Bank of Nigeria Anchor Borrowers Programme. Seeking a funded Master's research opportunity to study how climate-smart, inclusive production models improve smallholder livelihoods and food-system resilience.

EDUCATION

Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomosho, Nigeria

B.Sc. Agricultural Extension and Rural Development (First class Honors) CGPA 4.90/5.0 (98%) **2026**

- **Undergraduate thesis (submitted 2026):** Livelihood diversification strategies among smallholder farmers in Yewa South, Ogun State
- **Supervisor:** Dr. Janet T. Ojediran

The Oke-Ogun Polytechnic, Saki, Nigeria

Higher National Diploma. Agricultural & Bio-Environmental Engineering (Soil & Water Conservation) (Upper Credit) CGPA 3.41/4.0 (85%) **2023**

- **Research project:** Interactive effects of deficit irrigation and biochar amendment on the yield and water-use efficiency of cowpea in a derived savannah

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- **IELTS:** Overall, 7.5 (Listening 8.5, Reading 7.5, Writing 6.5, Speaking 8.0)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Nigeria.

Undergraduate Research **Submitted 2026**

Thesis: *Livelihood Diversification strategies to Climate change among Smallholder Farmers in Yewa South LGA, Ogun State*

Advisor: Dr. Janet T. Ojediran

- Examined the strategies smallholder farmers in Yewa South, Ogun State use to diversify their livelihoods in response to climate changes.
- Analyzed data using weighted mean scores, multiple regression and Pearson correlation, within the Sustainable Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation frameworks.
- Found that unpredictable rainfall (74% severe) and drought (64% severe) were the main climate stresses, while only 20% planted drought-resistant varieties and 24% had extension contact; farming experience significantly predicted diversification ($\beta = 0.315$, $p = 0.001$).
- Recommended improved credit, extension and climate-information delivery, and rural infrastructure to strengthen adaptive capacity.

Department of Soil and Water conservation Engineering, The Oke Ogun Polytechnic, Saki, Nigeria

Higher national Diploma (HND) Research **2022**

Thesis: Deficit irrigation and biochar in cowpea production

- Investigated the interactive effects of deficit irrigation and biochar amendment on cowpea yield and water-use efficiency in a derived savannah, linking soil and water conservation to climate-smart production.

Psaltry International Company Limited, Iseyin, Oyo State

Research officer/Extension Officer **Feb 2020 – Apr 2022**

- Generated field-level data used in grant proposals for the AGRA Youth Agripreneur Project and IDH (Sustainable Trade Initiative) project, contributed to proposal, action-plan and budget design for a nucleus-estate model.
- Led establishment of 45 validation plots across 3 clusters to test improved agronomic practices (staggered planting, high-yield varieties) with 300 cassava farmers under the ACAI Project.
- Supported the Semi-Autotrophic Hydroponic (SAH) Laboratory Initiative, which produces 500,000+ disease-free cassava plantlets annually, and the field adaptation of improved cassava multiplication technologies.
- Prepared monthly reports and terms of reference for donor-linked projects.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Agribusiness / Programmes Coordinator **July 2024 – Present**

Olabel Farms | Ilaro, Ogun State, Nigeria

- Lead planning, implementation and monitoring across 445+ ha of integrated operations (oil palm, cocoa, plantain, maize, cassava, soybean, livestock and processing units). Annual outputs include 290,000+ litres of crude palm oil from 140 ha, 36 MT of cocoa beans from 30 ha and 25,000+ plantain bunches from 25 ha.
- Designed a staggered planting system on 37 ha of fresh corn, vegetables, potatoes and groundnut to sustain cash flow for daily farm operations, delivering an average return on investment of 48.31%.
- Built the farm's KPI tracking and reporting system, and develop production budgets and risk-mitigation frameworks that inform management decisions.
- Manage relationships with 515 in-growers and out-growers, and supervise a team of 4-unit leads, 7 field technicians, 3 extension personnel, 22 contract staff and 130+ seasonal workers.

State Coordinator – Out-Grower Programmes **September 2023 – June 2024**

CropIT Nigeria Limited | Lagos, Nigeria

- Coordinated activities of 15,000+ farmers and 40+ extension agents under the Central Bank of Nigeria Anchor Borrowers Programme, supporting maize, rice, soybean, cotton, wheat and tomato production across farming communities in Oyo State.
- Established 7 farm hubs and delivered 200+ technical training programmes to build the capacity of smallholder farmers.
- Implemented Farmer Field Schools and entrepreneurship development initiatives for 4,000+ farmers.
- Facilitated market linkages connecting farmer groups with agricultural input suppliers and produce buyers.

Extension Agent – Anchor Programme **May 2022 – August 2023**

CropIT Nigeria Limited | Lagos, Nigeria

- Coordinated production activities of 1,000+ maize farmers across four Local Government Areas in Oyo State under the Anchor Borrowers Scheme, in partnership with MAGPAMAN.
- Oversaw the Terra project, a cowpea cultivation programme covering 3,000 ha across 10 clusters.
- Oversaw a Sterling Bank financing project with cassava processors covering 400+ ha in Isherin, Aagba and Osoogun areas of Iseyin, linking farmers to agro-industrial value chains.
- Conducted farmer verification, digital farmer data capture and farm mapping activities.

Extension Officer / Research Officer **February 2020 – April 2022**

Psaltry International Company Limited | Iseyin, Oyo State, Nigeria

- Aggregated and coordinated 1,500+ cassava farmers supplying 27,000+ MT of cassava annually to the company's processing facilities under the IDH project (Phases I & II), including farmer training, field monitoring and extension support.
- Mobilized and trained 50 youth farmers on cassava production and agribusiness sustainability under the AGRA Youth Agripreneur Project.
- Supervised farmer enlistment, access to inputs, mechanization and cash loans, cultivation, farm maintenance and harvesting across out-grower clusters.
- Supported the nucleus-estate model for sustainable raw-material sourcing and contributed to a cross-border trade initiative for Vitamin A-fortified Garri to the Niger Republic.

Intern, Agriculture Department **January 2019 – February 2020**

Psaltry International Company Limited | Iseyin, Oyo State, Nigeria

- Supported farmer coordination, mechanization access, field monitoring and harvesting activities involving smallholder cassava farmers.
- Assisted community engagement and stakeholder coordination across out-grower production clusters.
- Supported farmer supply-chain management, aggregation coordination and business planning.
- Assisted agricultural data collection, interpretation and reporting across out-grower and mechanization units.

TEACHING, TRAINING AND OUTREACH

- Implemented Farmer Field Schools and entrepreneurship development initiatives for 4,000+ farmers and delivered 200+ technical and agribusiness training programmes.
- As Regional Company Programme Coordinator, Junior Achievement Nigeria (2020–2022), reached 2,400+ students in 80 schools through the Cha-Ching financial literacy curriculum, 2,000 secondary school girls through SET4LYF, and 460 students through the Career Essentials in Generative AI programme.

RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Data and evaluation:** SPSS, Microsoft Excel, agricultural data collection, farmer verification, farm mapping, KPI tracking, MEAL systems, programme evaluation, operational reporting
- **Extension and capacity development:** Farmer Field Schools, training design, community mobilization, technical advisory services, stakeholder engagement
- **Agricultural systems:** mechanized crop production, tree crops, out-grower systems, agro-industrial supply chains, soil and water conservation

- **Programme management:** workplans and budgets, risk mitigation, team coordination, multi-stakeholder partnerships (AGRA, IDH, Central Bank of Nigeria)

CERTIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Sustainable Food Value Chains for Nutrition, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). **2026**
- Wetlands and Agriculture: Pathways to Sustainability, FAO **2026**
- Project Management Professional (PMP), LinkedIn Learning **2020**
- Global Agricultural Development Fellow, MyFarmbase Africa **2019**

LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING

- President, De-Group Socio-Academic Forum, The Oke-Ogun Polytechnic **2020–2022**
- Oke-Ogun Regional Company Programme Coordinator, Junior Achievement Nigeria **2020–2022**
- Member, Student Representative Council, The Oke-Ogun Polytechnic **2021–2022**
- Chairman, Academic Committee, De-Group Socio-Academic Forum; Public Relations Officer, Student Union Government;
- Director of Growth and Development, Junior Chamber International Saki Chapter **2017–2018**

REFEREES

Samuel Ogunleye
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Janet. T. Ojediran. PhD
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