



Tropentag, September 17-19, 2018, Ghent

“Global food security and food safety:  
The role of universities”

## Determinants of Innovativeness in Research among Agricultural Undergraduate Students in Selected Nigerian Universities

OGOCHUKWU ANOZIE<sup>1</sup>, OGHENEKARO ELEM<sup>2</sup>, NATHANIEL SIJI OLUTEGBE<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Benin, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension Services, Nigeria

<sup>2</sup>University of Benin, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension Services,

<sup>3</sup>University of Ibadan, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development,

### Abstract

The need to improve agricultural productivity to match growing population necessitates agricultural students of the graduating class to present an original research paper with the main purpose of bridging knowledge gap and provide workable solutions to food insecurity. This study investigated the determinants of innovativeness in research among agricultural undergraduate students in selected Nigerian universities. Multistage sampling procedure was employed to select 129 respondents. A semi-structured questionnaire was administered to all 129 randomly sampled agricultural undergraduate students from universities in the North (Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria), South (University of Benin), West (Obafemi Awolowo University) and Eastern (Michael Okpara University of Agriculture) parts of Nigeria. Data were analysed using percentages, means, Chi-square, Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) and multiple regression at 0.05 level of significance.

Majority (65.1%) of the students had an unfavourable perception about research and 62.0% had a moderate level of innovativeness in their research. The proper collation of past research work ( $\chi^2 = 2.05$ ) and assistance of library staff ( $\chi^2 = 2.01$ ) were the best efforts made by the universities to promote innovativeness amongst the students, while the flexibility to choose and change supervisors ( $\chi^2 = 0.74$  and  $0.60$  respectively) were the least ranked efforts. Inadequate fund ( $\chi^2 = 1.84$ ), too much workload ( $\chi^2 = 1.69$ ), and lack of time ( $\chi^2 = 1.60$ ) were severe constraints that affected respondents' level of innovativeness in research. Students' perception ( $r = 0.204$ ,  $p = 0.021$ ), sex ( $\chi^2 = 14.116$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ), marital status ( $\chi^2 = 6.784$ ,  $p = 0.009$ ), father occupation ( $\chi^2 = 23.680$ ,  $p = 0.003$ ), mother occupation ( $\chi^2 = 16.331$ ,  $p = 0.012$ ), father educational qualification ( $\chi^2 = 13.379$ ,  $p = 0.004$ ), and GPA ( $\chi^2 = 27.979$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ) had significant relationship with their level of innovativeness. Marital status ( $\beta = 0.354$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ), constraints ( $\beta = 0.222$ ,  $p = 0.022$ ) and father educational qualification ( $\beta = -0.234$ ,  $p = 0.043$ ) were the predictors of students' innovativeness.

The study recommends that the universities as a matter of priority design pragmatic interventions and identify pedagogical techniques that would improve students' perception to research so as to undermine the socioeconomic factors and constraints that impede quality learning and execution of innovative researches.

**Keywords:** Agricultural undergraduate, Innovativeness, Nigerian Universities, Research

---

**Contact Address:** Ogochukwu Anozie, University of Benin, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension Services, 7 Bendel Cement Road Off 19th Street Bdp Ugbowo, Benin City, Nigeria, e-mail: ogochukwu.anozie@uniben.edu