



Tropentag, September 17-19, 2018, Ghent

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

## Constraints to Agricultural Research and Manpower Development in Nigeria Universities

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### Abstract

The 17 items captured in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations have either direct or indirect bearing on agriculture. Although the agricultural sector in Nigerian engages over 70 % of the workforce, it contributes just about 43.7 % to GDP. With farm holdings small and agricultural activities mostly informal, income of practitioners have not measured up to their investments. Achieving these goals also is a function of appropriate manpower development, right policy formulation and implementation. The pivotal roles played by Universities in the development of manpower and research in agriculture have been well recognised leading to establishment of specialised agricultural Universities, and faculties of agriculture in other conventional Universities in Nigeria. There are, however, several constraints limiting the functions of these Universities in Nigeria. One major limitation has been funding. Government has remained major source of funds for the Universities even in the face of dwindling income and competition from other obligations. This has in some instances, resulted in undue government interference and protracted labour disputes. Private sector participation in funding research has remained minimal. Dearth of funds has hindered research targeted at solving multifaceted problems in farmers' fields. Yearly enrollment for undergraduate agricultural programmes has also remained very low about 7 %. For Universities to perform their functions there is need for increased funding especially from the private sector and government policies have to be consistently implemented. Research also has to be consumer driven. Research also has to focus on being more multidisciplinary harnessing expertise from sciences, engineering and social sciences.

**Keywords:** Agricultural programmes, Funding, GDP, Manpower, nigeria, Policy, SDG