



Tropentag, September 17-19, 2018, Ghent

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

Assessing the Adoption and Impacts of Information and Communication Technologies in Agricultural Education Systems in Nigeria

AYOOLUWA OLUWAJOBA OKEDIJI¹, OLUBUNMI AYOBAMI DUDUYEMI²

¹*Agroinfotech Africa, Institute of Agricultural Research and Training, Ibadan, Nigeria, Nigeria*

²*Obafemi Awolowo University, Dept. of Animal Science, Nigeria*

Abstract

Every day, technology has a tremendous impact on our daily lives and the general economic interactions of our nation which cannot be over - emphasised. In close comparisons with present trends of globalisations, climate change, urbanisation and an aging population, information and communication technologies (ICTs) is helping to transform our society and the economic structures that have formed the basis of agricultural development since the industrial revolution. Digital Agriculture or ICT for Agriculture (ICT4Ag)- the use of ICTs to provide solutions to problems in the agricultural sector- is attracting youths to agriculture and some have identified opportunities for income generation through enterprises that deliver ICT empowered services to farmers and to other actors in agriculture. The advent of ICT in the agricultural sector is changing the face of Africa's agriculture and now forms part of what is attracting young people into the sector. In developed nations, ICTs has transformed agriculture while farmers across Africa especially in Nigeria still lack the basic access to innovations in ICT that could transform farming practices. Food and Agriculture are two industrial systems that are fundamental to human life and ICT has a major role to play, mostly in the supply chain management but is increasingly being included in farm management, extension and advisory services and even into food development itself including processing and marketing.

Hence, agricultural education holds a substantial promise for economic growth and development in Nigeria but it must be practised with the full inclusion of new technology innovations. While African youth have long shown a lack of interest in agriculture, the emerging trend of applying ICT solutions to agriculture, plus the limited availability of livelihood opportunities in other sectors, are attracting increasing number of youth to agriculture. Young people should bring their energy, creativity and tech-savviness to agriculture and change its landscape in Nigeria and across Africa by leveraging on ICT tools to promoting agriculture across the value chain through social media platforms; creating virtual platforms that help farmers connect to markets more easily and get better prices, develop ICT applications for livestock management, and engage in crop and livestock production.

Keywords: Agriculture, Education system, iCTs

Contact Address: Ayooluwa Oluwajoba Okediji, Agroinfotech Africa, Institute of Agricultural Research and Training, Ibadan, Nigeria, Institute of Agricultural Research and Training Ibadan, Nigeria, 234 Ibadan, Nigeria, e-mail: oluwajoba@agroinfotech.org