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“Global food security and food safety:
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Sasakawa Africa Fund for Extension Education Model in African Universities for Food Security and Safety

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Abstract

This paper examines the features of Sasakawa Africa Fund for Extension Education Model in African Universities for food security and safety which since 1990s has been involved in reinforcement of the capacity of agricultural education institutions in sub-Saharan Africa to play more crucial role by developing responsive, farmer-focused, formal continuing education programs for mid-career agricultural and rural development workers who provide leadership in developing agricultural extension systems that effectively and efficiently contribute to sustained growth and transformation of agriculture. SAFE currently covers 9 countries and 27 universities and colleges. SAFE model involves the use of Supervised enterprise projects, Value chain —based curriculum and Enterprise centres where experiential learning and application of Kolb theory is predominant with practical implications for skill acquisition by extension officers to integrate gender, agriculture, standards and nutrition. The paper compares how research and field activities under SAFE programme and the conventional BSc agricultural Extension. Data were collected from the research and field activities of extension agents under SAFE programme and the conventional BSc agricultural Extension in selected universities in Africa. The results shows that extension agents under SAFE programme covered more research and field activities on gender, nutrition, processing, storage more than those trained under the conventional Agricultural Extension programme. The training model has implication for skill acquisition and more effective extension delivery on the integration of gender, agriculture and nutrition which implies that SAFE curriculum impact capacity for integration of gender, agriculture and nutrition than the conventional training programme. The model has facilitated higher competence for improving food security and safety competencies across African universities than the conventional training.

Keywords: Enterprise centres, sasakawa, supervised enterprise projects, value-chain curriculum