**Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta (FUNAAB)**

**Farm practical year report**

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**INTRODUCTION**

The farm practical year (FPY) orientation program is an initiative implemented by the Centre for community-based farming scheme (COBFAS) under the auspices of the federal university of Agriculture Abeokuta (FUNAAB) for bachelor of agriculture degree candidates at the penultimate year of the program. The 2021 edition of the FPY orientation program took place on Thursday 25th of November 2021. The aim of the program is to equip student with first-hand information as regarding COBFAS staff, farm activities, community history, tradition and norms of people, courses taught under COBFAS training program and students code of conduct. The Centre for community-based farming scheme was established by FUNAAB’s Governing council in December 17, 2010 to coordinate the implementation of the one-year farm practical program.

**VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES OF COBFAS**

**VISION**: To produce highly skilled man power that will drive the economy in the rural communities in Nigeria through agriculture for sustainable development and food security.

**MISSION**: To contribute to sound training of agricultural student towards building great future modern farmers for sustainable development in line with the mission of FUNAAB.

**OBJECTIVES**: Some objectives of COBFAS include:

1. Training and capacity building pf young agricultural undergraduate for improved and sustainable increase in agricultural production and productivity.
2. To provide generation of modern farmers that is willing to take up agriculture in the rural communities and impact positively on the lives of the communities
3. To accelerate agricultural commercialization and agro-industrial development in the communities.

**FPY ORIENTATION DAY**

The 2021 edition of the farm practical year (FPY) orientation program began on Wednesday november 25th, 2021 at 8:00 am at the FUNAAB ceremonial building with opening prayer led by Dr. M. A. Busari, a lecturer from the department of soil science and land management (SSLM), college of plant science and crop production (COLPLANT). A minute silence was observed for decease 400 level students. COBFAS staff were introduced, some of which include:

PROFESSOR SUNDAY ADIGBO [COBFAS DIRECTOR]

DR AMUSAN [HEALTH CENTER DIRECTOR]

MRS FUNMII COKER [ITF DIRECTOR]

MRS JOY GEORGE [SIWES DIRECTOR]

MR BOLARINWA [CSO FUNAAB]

PROFESSOR MOBOLAJI.O [DEAN STUDENT AFFAIRS

**BRIEFING ON THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING FUND (ITF) AND STUDENTS INDUSTRIAL WORK EXPERIENCE SCHEME (SIWES)**

The ITF, established in 1971, is responsible for ensuring the smooth implementation of SIWES in collaboration with supervising agencies such as the National universities commission (NUC), the National Board for technical Education (NBTE), i.e in polytechnics, and the national commission for college of Education (NCCE).The scheme was designed to provide an avenue for students to acquire industrial skills and experience which will help them compete favorably in the industrial environment after graduation. The scheme lasted for 6 months during which students under the scheme are entitled to a sum of 2,500 naira per month which amount to a sum of 15,000 naira only for 6 months. The same amount applies to FPY students who, in their own case, undergo one-year training. Students are expected to be good ambassadors of FUNAAB wherever they are posted for training. It was announced that, for the 2021/2022 farm practical year (FPY), students would be graded thus:

Attendance 20 marks

Logbook - 20 marks

Work done - 40 marks

Exams - 20 marks

Total - 100 marks

**SUMMARY OF FPY COURSES TAUGHT DURING THE ONE-MONTH LECTURES**

The following courses were taught during the one-month period of lecture:

1. FPY 401 – plantation, crop production techniques (Dr. A. L. A. SHOTUYO): Nursery production, establishment and management of cocoa, oil-palm, cashew, kolanut, etc.
2. FPY 402 – Arable crop techniques (Dr. T. O. FABUNMI): site selection; land clearing and preparation using farm implements. Establishment and production of root and tuber crops, legume and cereals, fertilizer application, harvesting, threshing, cleaning, shelling, sorting and grading of maize.
3. FPY 403 – Horticultural crop production (Dr. A. W. SALAU): fruits, Vegetables e.g. Amaranthus spp, tomato, etc., site selection, nursery management, pest/disease control.
4. FPY 404 – Soil fertility and soil management techniques (Dr. M. A. BUSARI): Plant essential mineral nutrients e.g. Nitrogen, phosphorus, Iron, Etc. and deficiency symptoms, soil sampling method and soil water/nutrient conservation.
5. FPY 405 – Crop protection techniques (Dr. G. G. AFOLABI): Seed dressing of maize, pesticide dosage calculation, identification of disease symptoms in maize and cassava.
6. FPY 406 – Crop post-harvest techniques (Dr. O. A. ODUWOYE): Produce harvesting, treatment, storage method/structures and conditions
7. FPY 412 – Monogastric Animal production (Dr. R. A. SOBAYO): Poultry production; breed identification, housing and hygiene, feed formulation.
8. FPY 413 – Positive production and management (Dr. Mrs. V. O. A. OJO): positive management, positive establishment techniques; site selection, seed selection and treatment using hot water and conc. H2SO4 acid.
9. FPY 414 – Micro-livestock and fish production techniques (Dr. D. E. OKE): Rabbit breeds, management, feeding and housing. Fish: site selection, pond construction and management.
10. FPY 421 – Farm management, farm records and accounting (Dr. A. E. OBAYELU): Farm record keeping, financial statements, Farm planning and farm budgeting.
11. FPY 422 – Agricultural extension practices (Dr. A. K. AROMOLARAN): extension trip to rural communities/villages.
12. FPY 431 – Farm design, farm survey and land use planning (Dr. B. A. SENJOBI): Farm survey equipment and uses. Types of survey and mapping.
13. FPY 432 – Agricultural mechanization and workshop practice (Engr. I. O. OLA): concepts of agricultural mechanization, farm machinery operation and maintenance: tractor and tractor components.
14. FPY 433 – Agricultural meteorological practice (Dr. A. A. MAKINDE): Agricultural meteorological elements and their observation. Simple layout of agro meteorological station and required weather instruments, procedure of data collection and simple processing, analysis of agro meteorological information.
15. FPY 441 – Organic agricultural practices (Dr. S. G. ADERIBIGBE): Cultural practices-wee, insect pest and disease control strategies. Soil fertility maintenance strategies, composting, benefits of organic agriculture, knapsack sprayer calibration.
16. FPY 499 – Program writing and report (Dr. A. E. OBAYELU): Detailed reports of all activities in the FPY program.

**ACTIVITIES ON THE LOCATION SITE (BOTANICAL GARDEN)**

Location site are environment were only one out of the two systems that agriculture entitle takes place. Having known that agriculture involves both REARING (animals) and CULTIVATION (crop). The crop planted in location site was 3 varieties of vegetable which are: **Amaranthus spp**, **Celosia spp** and **Corchorus olitorus**. The operation on these three [3] varieties of vegetable are divided into three which are; pre-planting operation, planting operation and post-planting operation.

**Pre-planting operation**

These involve activities that took place before planting. They are measure, strategies or plan that must be carried out before planting started. factors considered before selecting of our site are Availability of water, Accessibility of site, Slope or land gradient, Soil.

*Land preparation*: Vegetable differ widely from field crops in their requirement for land preparation and cultural practices because of their differences in their morphologies, Growth habit and socio-economic value, in preparing land for vegetable production, the following factors are taken into consideration, Ecological location, and mode of cropping season, crop disposition and the type of vegetable to be grown.

*Allocation of plot*: A plot of 5m wall allocate for each student. This was done to complement the mapping out of plot. The tools used are ranging pole, pegs and twine (used in demarcation of assigned plot).

*Clearing*: Removing of previous crops and undergrowth, cutting back the woody shrubs and trees. Machete/cutlass is used for clearing in a small-scale production, while heavy machine like bulldozer is used in a commercial production.

*Leveling*: When site has been cleared uneven land may have to be leveled. This facilitate the process of ploughing, harrowing, ridging and layout of the site.

*Tillage*: Used for manual or mechanical manipulation of the soil to prepare it for use.

In vegetables production, the main objectives for tillage are to secure increased growth and yield to obtain suitable seed bed, to eliminate competition with weeds during early growth, improve the physical condition of the soil and conserve its water and nutrient content.

**PLANTING OPERATION**

The sowing/planting of vegetable seeds or nursing process were not carried out on our vegetable crop but sown n the beds made. The making of the bed is for two types in vegetables planting which are raised bed and sunken bed. Planting Method used are;

Seed drilling method: This is a method for planting small seeded vegetables in rows shallow furrow which made at the spacing of 0.3m. This method is used for leafy vegetables planted, Amaranthus spp, Celosia spp, Corchorus olithorius, 0.3m inter rows and 0.5 intra row. The seed was mixed through with fine sand. A good quantity of fine sand is mixed with and then sown using **seed drilling method.**

*ROUTINE OPERATION;* The following operations were done on the farm which include; Thinning, Watering, Fertilizer application, Weeding, Pest and diseases control, Harvesting of vegetable

**POST-HARVEST CULTURAL PRACTICES**

These are activities carried out after harvesting till disposal; they include preservation, processing, storing and marketing. The major post-harvest practice carried out on the farm was the marketing activity

**LIVESTOCK UNIT**

The livestock unit was situated at the campus site close to COLANIM farm. The core enterprise in this unit is broiler production and management. Broiler chicken is mainly raised for meat production. Poultry at large refer to group of birds raised for food and other purposes. Quite a number of them are domesticated fowl, turkey, goose, guinea fowl and duck. They are ruminant animals.

**PREPARATION OF BROODING PEN OR HOUSE**

1. Clean and disinfect or fumigate the brooding room before the arrival of the chicks
2. The floor brooder house should be made of concrete and with the wall made of rat roof.
3. Covering the floor with wood shavings before arriver of chicks.
4. Availability of clean feeders, waterers, source of heat(stoves, charcoal pot) starter chick mash (feed) and some anti-stress drugs
5. Provision of warmth (heat energy) with charcoal pot.

**NEONATAL DAILY MANAGEMENT OR DAILY ROUTINE MANAGEMENT**

1. Washing of drinkers
2. Serving of water mixed with drugs
3. Cleaning of feeders plates
4. Serving of broiler feed etc.

***OCCASSIONAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES* *IN BROILER PRODUCTION***

Vaccination, Culling, Despuring, Debeaking etc. Other unit in livestock includes rabbitry, piggery, small ruminant and fishery management.

Some other operations executed include hay making, castration, milking and sexing of small ruminant animals.

**THE BROOODING ROOM**



**CROP UNIT (IFSERAR)**

Briefing on the code of conduct by the managers Mr. ADEOYE ADENIYI and Mrs. TOPE ADESIPE on crop enterprise.

Mapping out and allocation of plot: the siting of new plot for allocation for we the current batch was situated at ifserar along mawuko (minicampus).

The clearing of selected site was done with tractors and also carrying out ploughing. Allocation of plot was done by the farm manager. A plot size of 10\*10m was allocated to each student for the whole location.

Stumping operation was done by removing root of trees form the plot allocated.

Leveling of land was done which involve the breaking of hard pan of soil and leveling of the plot follow suit.

**VARIOUS ACTIVITIES DURING ENTERPRISE**

Enterprise section was held at the following places on every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. According to the enterprise schedule for my group and batch (**BATCH B GROUP 8**), Enterprises consist of the following; I) RUMINANT II) RABBITARY III) COLAMRUD IV) TRACTOR DRIVING V) PASTURE VI) COBFAS PINNEAPPLE VII) PIGGERY VIII) COPLANT IX) AGRONOMETROLOGY X) PALM OIL PROCESSING XI) GARRI/FUFU PROCESSING XII) POULTRY XIII) VETENARY XIV) WORKSHOP XV) HATCHERY

**CONCLUSION**: it is expected that with the recently concluded FPY orientation program/one-month lectures, students have been well informed and prepared for activities they would most likely engage in during the Farm Practical Year.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It will speak well of a big and well pronounced body like COBFAS to increase the level of mechanization of the farming operation initiated so that they can meet their targeted aim and objectives of the FPY program. For if this style of farming continues where modern farmer we tag ourselves to be can’t operate virtually all the farming implements effectively.