

OKOYE PAUL CHINAZA

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PERSONAL PROFILE

A passionate Agricultural Economics graduate turned agribusiness strategist and rural development advocate. With over 5 years of experience leading farmer training programs, managing agri-enterprises, and integrating digital tools into farming practices, I've impacted over 150 farmers across South-East Nigeria. My vision is to develop scalable agricultural solutions that bridge the gap between rural farmers and modern markets, using entrepreneurship, policy advocacy, and digital innovation. I aspire to lead a national agricultural transformation initiative that uplifts food systems, empowers youth in agribusiness, and supports Nigeria's drive for food security and sustainable development.

EDUCATION

ENUGU STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (ESUT) [2016- 2021]
ESUT is known for science, technology, and entrepreneurial education in Nigeria.
Bachelor of Agriculture in Agricultural Economics – Extension. CGPA (3.92/5.0)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CJ Agro Allied Global, Nigeria. - Chief Operating Officer [2020-Present]
Known for promoting sustainable agriculture through eco-friendly practices in fisheries, poultry, mushrooms, snails, and marketing.

- Directed daily operations across key agro-units (Fishery, Poultry, Mushroom, Snails, and Marketing), improving overall productivity by 25% and reducing downtime by 30%.
- Designed and implemented cost-saving strategies, leading to a 15% reduction in operational expenses.
- Facilitated training workshops for over 150 local farmers on sustainable practices and agro-marketing strategies.
- Coordinated internship programs for agricultural students, mentoring over 30 interns in agribusiness operations and research.
- Strengthened farmer-to-market linkages, expanding regional market access by 40% across South-East Nigeria.
- Maintained 98% budget efficiency, ensured full regulatory compliance, and provided strategic operational reports to the Director/CEO.

Simple Media Team Founder/Director of Research & Innovation (Remote) [2018-Present]
known for advancing academic research support and innovation in thesis writing, data analysis, and mentorship.

- Spearhead innovative research methodologies to improve thesis and academic writing support.
- Develop and implement cutting-edge solutions for data analysis, literature reviews, and proposal writing.
- Establish strategic collaborations with universities and research institutions to strengthen SCC's influence.
- Guide a team of research analysts to maintain high-quality academic standards.
- Oversee remote research training programs and mentorship initiatives for students and professionals.

Enugu State University Teaching and Research farm Student farm Manager [2018-2019]
The ESUT Teaching and Research Farm is known for hands-on training, agricultural research, and community-focused innovation.

- Supervised daily farm operations and a team of 15+ student assistants, ensuring resource efficiency, sustainable practices, and alignment with teaching and research goals.
- Conducted practical training for over 50 undergraduate students, covering pest management, crop planning, soil health, livestock care, and recordkeeping to build capacity in hands-on agricultural skills.
- Supported 20+ undergraduate and postgraduate research trials, guiding site setup, experiment design, and data collection, contributing to accurate results and academic success.

- Collaborated with faculty to develop farm plans and environmental practices, including organic farming and soil conservation, which improved crop performance and reduced environmental impact.
- Introduced cost-effective strategies and asset management systems, enhancing profitability, tracking performance, and strengthening accountability in farm operations.
- Mentored peers and underclassmen, facilitating professional development through career guidance, research support, and leadership in agricultural innovation.

Dept of Agricultural Economics Resource Centre (ESUT), Nigeria. Asst. ICT Technologist [2021 – 2022] Volunteer

Known for providing ICT practical training, supporting research in agricultural economics, and facilitating community engagement initiatives.

- I am responsible for managing and maintaining the ICT infrastructure of the department, including installing, configuring, and troubleshooting ICT systems to ensure optimal performance and reliability.
- I provide ICT user support to students (B.Sc, PG.D M.Sc, Ph.D etc.) faculty/departmental lecturers, and non-Academic staff.
- I assist users with ICT-related issues, answer questions, and provide guidance on using ICT resources effectively.
- I actively contribute to conducting training sessions, creating training materials, and providing ongoing support and guidance to students, using ICT tools, software, and systems.
- I contributed in developing and enforcing the implementation of ICT policies and procedures for students, faculty/departmental lecturers, and non-Academic staff. These policies includes; creating ICT usage policies, data protection policies, and ICT security policies that ensure compliance with relevant regulations and standards.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Nigerian Association of Agricultural Economists (NAAE) Member [Link] [Feb 2025- Present]

Promotes research, policy development, and professional collaboration in agricultural economics across Nigeria.

- Anticipated Contributor, 2025 Annual Conference of the Nigerian Association of Agricultural Economists (NAAE). Theme: “Rethinking Nigerian Agricultural Systems through Innovation, ICT, and Food Systems” Intending to submit a paper aligned with conference subthemes on digital agriculture, ICT, and sustainable food systems. Actively engaging with the association’s call for contributions.

Agricultural Policy Makers Association (APMA) ESUT CHAPTER Member [Sept 2016- Sept 2021]

Promotes agricultural policy awareness, leadership, and advocacy among students.

- Awarded the Best Student in Agricultural Policy and Leadership in APMA.

National Association of Catholic Corps Member (NACC) Member [Link] [June 2023-Present]

Known for engaging in community-based outreach, volunteer service, and faith-driven development initiatives during national service.

- Led or co-facilitated a rural outreach program in partnership with fellow NACC members, focused on promoting sustainable home gardening practices and simple record-keeping systems among families in underserved communities. Activities included demonstrating backyard vegetable farming methods, discussing composting, and distributing easy-to-use record books. The initiative was designed to improve household nutrition, reduce dependency on unstable markets, and encourage self-reliance.

Professional Foundations Certificate ALX Africa | Online [Link] [Jul 2024 – Sep 2024]

- Completed a 3-month intensive Professional Foundations program with ALX Africa, developing core career skills in leadership, teamwork, communication, critical thinking, and project execution through hands-on collaboration, personal branding, and tech-based tools like Canva, Figma, and Google Workspace.

Virtual Participant – FAO Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum 2024

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome, Italy [\[Link\]](#) **[October 2024]**

- Attended the third edition of the HIH Investment Forum focused on advancing global agrifood systems through sustainable investment strategies and multi-sector partnerships.

Virtual Participant, World Food Forum: Young Scientists Group Report Launch

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) [\[Link\]](#) **[October 2024]**

- Attended the Science and Innovation Forum session focused on digital technologies for youth engagement in agrifood systems transformation.

Climate Change Negotiations for Agriculture Stakeholders

FAO eLearning Academy, United Nations [\[Link\]](#) **[Aug 2024-Sep 2024]**

- Completed training and passed final assessment (75% pass grade) on climate change negotiation processes and their impact on agriculture, with emphasis on stakeholder engagement and policy frameworks for sustainable agricultural development.

Sustainable Food Systems – An Introduction

FAO eLearning Academy, United Nations [\[Link\]](#) **[Aug 2024-Sep 2024]**

- Completed certified training on the fundamentals of sustainable food systems, focusing on their components, challenges, and the role of policies and stakeholders in achieving food security and environmental sustainability.

Consumer Organizations and the Right to Adequate Food

FAO eLearning Academy, United Nations [\[Link\]](#) **[Oct 2024]**

- Completed training focused on the role of consumer organizations in promoting the right to adequate food, with emphasis on advocacy, governance, and rights-based approaches to food security.

AI Career Essentials (AiCE)

ALX Africa [\[Link\]](#) **[May 2024–July 2024]**

- Completed a 6-week intensive program focused on the application of AI tools for career advancement, digital communication, problem-solving, and entrepreneurship. Gained hands-on experience with tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Canva, and Beautiful.ai to enhance personal branding.

Foundations: Data, Data, Everywhere

Google via Coursera [\[Link\]](#) **[Apr 2024-May 2024]**

- Completed foundational training in data analytics covering data ecosystems, analytical thinking, spreadsheets, SQL, and data visualization. Developed skills in data cleaning, business analysis, and the use of spreadsheet tools for effective data-driven decision-making. (Grade: 91.5%)

Back-End Web Development Program

ALX Africa [\[Link\]](#) **[May 2024 – April 2025]**

- Completed an intensive 8-month training program in Python, RESTful APIs, database management, and scalable web application development. Gained practical skills in building digital solutions and managing backend infrastructure. The program also included leadership and personal branding development through the ALX Foundations module.
- Acquired skills are being applied to develop innovative, tech-driven solutions for the agricultural sector, with a focus on enhancing productivity, data systems, and resource efficiency for farmers and agri-businesses.

AI Starter Kit

ALX Africa [\[Link\]](#) **[April – May 2025]**

- Completed a 4-week program focused on applying AI tools to enhance productivity, critical thinking, and innovation across key sectors. Developed practical skills in using AI for data analysis, automation, and content creation, with a focus on exploring AI-driven solutions to support agricultural entrepreneurship, digital literacy in rural communities, and smarter resource management in agriculture.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND INTERNSHIP

Enugu State University Teaching and Research Farm, Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Management Enugu, Nigeria. Industrial Training Intern (SIWES) [Mar 2021 – May. 2021]

- Participated in hands-on agricultural training, applying scientific techniques in crop production, livestock management, and soil conservation, while contributing to sustainable farming practices within a research-focused environment.
- Gained practical skills in agricultural resource management and entrepreneurship, supporting field operations, data collection, and implementation of modern farming methods to improve productivity and self-reliance.

Federal College of Agriculture, Ishiagu – Ebonyi State, Nigeria

[1st Feb 2021 – 28th Feb 2021]

known for practical agricultural training, research, and developing skilled professionals for sustainable agriculture in Nigeria.

- Completed intensive hands-on training across various farm units including cassava multiplication and processing, pineapple and vegetable production, and oil palm establishment.
- Gained practical experience in animal agriculture, working with poultry, piggery, small and large ruminants, and aquaculture involving fish breeding, production, and processing.

Poultry and Piggery Training

CJ Agro Allied Global Limited – Enugu, Nigeria

20th October, 2020

- A hands-on intensive training in livestock management and sustainable production practices. Covered poultry housing, feed formulation, piggery operations, health management, and enterprise planning.

Internship in Sustainable Agriculture and Farm Operations

CJ Agro Allied Global Limited – Enugu, Nigeria

15th February, 2020

- Undertook hands-on internship involving crop and livestock systems, sustainable farm planning, and field-based agricultural extension under expert supervision.

Structured Training in Sustainable Agriculture and Extension Services

CJ Agro Allied Global Limited – Enugu, Nigeria

[May, 2021–June 2021]

- Focused on sustainable crop production, agri-entrepreneurship, and digital tools for agricultural extension and market access. Conducted under expert supervision, this program enhanced leadership capacity for rural agricultural development.

LEADERSHIP, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Recognition of Excellence in Agricultural Research and Sustainable Development

Enugu State University of Science and Technology

[\[Link\]](#)

[Mar 2025]

- Acknowledged for outstanding contributions as a Student Farm Manager, leading agricultural research and sustainable farming initiatives. Supervised IT students, managed greenhouse operations, and assisted in M.Sc. and Ph.D. research setups. Played a key role in the Fadama III project and rural development efforts, enhancing food security and agricultural sustainability.

Awarded by: Dr. R.U. Igugu, Head of Department, Animal/Fisheries Science and Management

Recognition of Excellence in Agricultural Leadership

Enugu State University of Science and Technology

[\[Link\]](#)

[Sept 2018]

- Awarded for exceptional leadership as Student Farm Manager during the 2017/2018 academic session. Recognized for contributions to sustainable agriculture, resource management, and student mentorship, with a focus on innovative problem-solving and food security.

Awarded by: Mr. P.C. Uke, Lecturer / Farm Manager

Award of Recognition – Agricultural Research & Development

Enugu State University of Science and Technology

[\[Link\]](#)

[Mar 2025]

- Recognized for outstanding contributions to agricultural research, farm management, and community extension programs. Commended for bridging academic research with practical agricultural solutions to support rural farmers and food security efforts.

Awarded by: Dr. D.C. Ochiaka, HOD, Agricultural Economics & Extension

Award – Outstanding Contribution to Sustainable Farming Award

Faculty of Agricultural Students, Enugu State University of Science and Technology [Link] [Aug 2024]

- Nominated for exemplary leadership and impact on sustainable farming practices, support for final-year research, and mentorship of IT students on the university farm. Recognized for promoting resource-efficient and environmentally responsible agriculture.

Award – Excellence in Agricultural Research and Innovation Award

15th SUG Parliament, Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT) [Link] [Aug 2025]

- Nominated by the Faculty of Agriculture & Natural Resources Management Students for exceptional contributions to agricultural research, innovation, and academic excellence within the university.

Recognition for Leadership in Sustainable Agriculture

CJ Agro Allied Global Limited – Enugu, Nigeria [Link] [Dec 2024]

- Recognized for outstanding leadership as Chief Operating Officer, driving sustainable agriculture and community-based agribusiness. Spearheaded farmer training and innovative techniques, significantly improving livelihoods of over 150 local farmers in Enugu State.

Staff of the Year Award for Leadership in Sustainable Agribusiness

CJ Agro Allied Global Limited – Enugu, Nigeria [Link] [Dec 2023]

- Recognized for leading sustainable, multi-sector agricultural projects impacting 150+ smallholder farmers, driving grassroots transformation in Nigeria. Aligns with AAS mission for sustainable development through innovative African solutions.

PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPT UNDER PREPARATION

Ngene, J. M., Mgbakor, M. N., Eneh, D. N., and Okoye, P. C. (2023). Evaluation of Perceived Effect of Covid-19 Shock on Cassava Output in Enugu State. Journal of Agricultural Economics and Extension, 2(2), 46–51. <https://doi.org/10.36265/jonages.2023.020208> [Link](#)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Data Support Volunteer (Youth Mapping Project)

UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) | Remote [Mar – Apr 2025]

- Supported the IFWY 2025 initiative by identifying and mapping youth associations and universities across Africa and the Middle East to enhance inclusive youth engagement in global policy dialogue.

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

SDG 3.4: Mental Health Arts Advocacy for Youth & Adults

Simuka Africa Youth Association (SAYA) | Online [Link] [Apr 2025-present]

- Managed online campaigns promoting mental health awareness through art, created content for social media platforms, and supported the 34Gallery.org initiative, engaging global audiences in mental health advocacy.

SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being.

Business Plan Writing Volunteer

Women for Positive Actions (WOPA) | Online [Link] [Apr 2025-present]

- Developed a comprehensive business plan for WOPA's 2025 agriculture project, translating ideas into actionable plans with a professional, corporate design, ensuring engaging and digestible content.

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

NYSC Community Outreach Volunteer (Medical Outreach for the Elderly)

National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) [Link] [Nov 2023]

- Participated in a medical outreach initiative providing healthcare services to elderly members of the community, assisting with health assessments, offering basic medical support, and raising awareness on health issues affecting seniors.

SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being

Personal Assistant to Prof. M.A. Mbagbose

Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (On Sabbatical to Enugu State University of Science and Technology) | Enugu, Nigeria [Link] [Jan 2019–Dec, 2019]

- Provided administrative and logistical support to Prof. M.A. Mbagbose during his sabbatical at Enugu State University, assisting in supervising Animal Science students in poultry management. Coordinated the sourcing of commercial birds, feeds, and equipment for agricultural purposes, enhancing the practical learning experience for students.

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger

ALX Community Service Volunteer (Food Distribution for the Aged)

ALX | Lagos, Nigeria

[\[Link\]](#)

[June 2024]

- Volunteered in the disbursement of food to elderly residents in a Lagos community, ensuring a smooth and organized process by coordinating logistics and managing crowd control to prevent chaos. Contributed to the efficient execution of the initiative, enhancing the impact of the food distribution.

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Conferences and Workshops Attended:

- 2nd International Conference on Innovative Pedagogical Approaches in the Post-COVID-19 World, Faculty of Education, Godfrey Okoye University – Enugu, Nigeria **(Oct 18–21, 2022)**
- Annual International Conference on Enhancing and Strengthening the Capacities of Doctoral Supervisors for Research Supervision, Enugu, Nigeria **(July 12–13, 2023)**
- Enugu Tech & Entrepreneurship Summit 2023 – Interactive workshop and fireside chat with experts from top tech companies including Google, Enugu, Nigeria **(2023)**
- Conference on Harnessing the Fourth Industrial Revolution for Combating Insecurity and Enhancing Sustainable Development, Enugu, Nigeria **(2023)**
- 30th Inaugural Lecture on Repositioning Agriculture Through Extension: The Role of Women, Enugu State, Nigeria **(2019)**
- 6th International Conference/Training Workshop on Energy for Sustainable Development in Africa, National Center for Energy Research and Development, UNN – Enugu State, Nigeria **(June 25–30, 2023)**
- **Academic Excursion – Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB)**
Participated in a faculty-organized agricultural field trip focused on innovative research practices, modern farm technologies, and practical learning exchange in Nigeria's leading agriculture-focused institution.

TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

- Agricultural research assistant with hands-on roles in experimental design, data collection, and statistical analysis using SPSS and Excel.
- Enumerator and analyst on 25+ field studies in agriculture, education, and rural livelihoods across Enugu and Ondo States.
- Farm operations manager experienced in sustainable farming systems, livestock integration, and student mentorship.
- Extension and training facilitator delivering practical advisory services to smallholder farmers in recordkeeping, agribusiness planning, and soil health.

DETAILS OF PRACTICAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

I am actively contributing to student-led and institution-supported research at Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT), offering technical and supervisory guidance. These projects explore sustainable agriculture, gender-responsive rural development, and integrated pest management — reinforcing the goals of community resilience, food security, and evidence-based planning. [\[Link\]](#)

Over the past five years, I have contributed to multidisciplinary research spanning agriculture, food systems, public health, and education in Nigeria. My roles have ranged from technical supervisor to data analyst, with practical outputs informing farmer training, agribusiness planning, and rural development programs. Summaries of these research engagements are available in a compiled document here. [\[Link\]](#)