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**AXD 503: PSYCHOLOGY IN EXTENSION**

**TOPIC: INTERESTING EXPERIENCE ON FARM**

On a bright Friday morning, the sun was not at its pick which also encouraged working for a long time without being tired. Fortunately there was an interesting experience that concise with the day. The experience was all about a tuber crop which is popular among Nigeria farmers and being propagated by them.

The great experience is all about cassava tubers from the harvesting to finish product. On that day, we were taken to a cassava plot, the distance of about half a kilometer which was threatening to the legs. The cassava of which some of us have never seen before and uprooting them one by one was thrilling, some even fell backward with their back, which made everybody to laugh.

As interesting as uprooting was, it was just a tip of an iceberg an introduction to more interesting experiences. While carrying the tubers to the processing station, Some of the students were tired due to long distance while some cassava tubers dropped sideways and are left unpicked due to fatigue while some said it will serve as feed for grass cutters and antelopes that have domicile in the bush.

On getting to the processing station on farm, the peeling was done with knives of different size which is difficult to describe. It thrilled some students who have never peeled cassava in their life before .Some while peeling, peeled the whitish part while others left some tubers unpeeled mingling them with the waste peels. Some male students were kegs to fetch water while some refused and argue that they could not when there was females .Those who went for water which I was among were splashing water on one another like children playing at the river side. All these spiced the activities up which made it difficult for us to get tired. Washing of the peeled cassava was done by almost everybody.

Beside the washing trough was a grating machine which was made of metal inside of which there is a cylinder like shape which is perforated outwardly and rolls inside the grating machine when it is connected to electricity. Majority who have not seen or operate a grating machine before joined in carrying out in grating process. The moist pulp came out during grating, splashing on those grating made it fun. The grated cassava was packed inside the sacks while it also remind us of when children are playing with moist sand.

The most interesting operation in cassava processing was the roasting process which started first by looking for firewood was carried by the male students while some put them on their head which can be likened to villager farmer who carries firewood for his wife to cook. A set up of stones and firewood was done using diesel to ignite the fire and for its sustainability in place of kernel waste and oil palm waste which are used in a typical village. A rectangular iron trough which is use for roasting was placed on already set up fire.

The cassava pulp was being added gradually to the pan and was being stirred continually to prevent it from burning. The premix which was made from sugar, citronella and coconut juice was being added. The coconut juice was prepared by breaking the coconut and the mesocarp was being removed scraping out the brownish back of the mesocarp. In the process some are really going to mouth which made it interesting, the coconut was blended and sifted out to have the juice. The juice was added to sugar and citronella to have the premix. The premix which was like honey in both taste, colour and its viscosity was being added to the roasting pulp in the pan .The fortified gaari roasting caught a lot of attention as many were eating right from the pan while others were busy making sure the gaari was well done.

In conclusion, the cassava processing has been a nice one despite the fact that ,it was tasking and stressful in which smoke of the fire was not helping matters, some even use specks to cover their eyes from smoke. The experience of making a fortified gaari from cassava on the farm was a thrilling one and cannot be forgotten in my lifetime .