

# ***WOMEN AND YOUTHS IN AGRICULTURE***

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- Texas State University, San Marcos TX  
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# OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

- Objectives**
- Introduction and The Shoulders We stand on**
- Role of WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE**
- Role of YOUTHS IN AGRICULTURE**
- Challenges Faced by WOMEN AND YOUTHS IN AGRICULTURE**
- Turning Challenges Into Opportunities**
- Summary of Agro-related YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ACTIVITIES**
- CONCLUSION**

# OBJECTIVES

**Identify opportunities available for business in all stages of the agricultural value chain**

**Determine support systems that women and youths can access to enable them to succeed in agri-business**

## INTRODUCTION

- We know for a fact that we stand on the shoulders of others like: FAO, CGIAR Centers, International Funders like the Ford Foundation, BMGF, USAID Feed the Future, Regional, National and Local Groups because as a general rule Agriculture has always been an important sector of the Global economy.
- It plays a critical role in providing food for nutrition and security and other essential needs for human livelihoods survival.
- Women and youths are help-mates in the family therefore play an essential role in Global Agricultural Leadership. Studies have showed that women and their children in the household play a significant role alongside the father as producers, processors, marketers, and consumers of agricultural products.
- Despite their potential, women and youths are often marginalized in the agricultural sector.

# ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

- Globally, women make up about 43% of the agricultural labor force, and in some countries, women contribute up to 80% of the total agricultural labor force (FAO, 2011). Women play a vital role in food production, processing, and marketing. However, women farmers face enormous challenges that limit their potential in agriculture.
- One of the biggest challenges facing women in agriculture is recognition of their true roles, access to land in a cultural and traditional setting as it is the case in Nigeria and some African countries for example.

# ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

- Women own less than 20% of the world's land, and in many countries, laws, and customs discriminate against women's land ownership (FAO, 2011). As an economic issue Land ownership is crucial for women farmers as it provides them with a resource base for farming and ensures food security for their households.
- Women also face limited access to women specific agricultural inputs and services. For example, they have limited access to credit, extension services, and appropriate technologies, which hampers their ability to improve crop productivity.

# Role of Women in Agriculture....

- Women also play a major role in agribusiness, such as processing, marketing, and distribution of agricultural products. However, women face challenges such as limited access modern technologies like smart phones to check on market information, poor prices for their products, and a lack of business skills.
- Due to the limitations of access to education, technical skills and empowerment projects, translating into constraints such as language skills and other types of limitations, they are losing out on activities to improve their capabilities financially, socially and technically.

# Role of Youths in Agriculture

- We in Africa know what it will mean when the world's population as projected reach 9.8 billion by 2050, with most of the growth occurring in developing countries (FAO, 2017). To meet the increasing demand for food and nutrition, there is an urgent need to engage youths in agriculture in response to the UN Sustainable Development Goals slated for achievement in 2030.
- Presently, Youth unemployment is a major challenge in many developing countries, and agriculture presents an opportunity to provide jobs and livelihoods for young people whose dream is to emigrate to greener pastures far away from home, provided conditions are improved.



# Role of Youths in Agriculture

- These Youths can bring new ideas, technologies, and skills into agriculture, which can lead to increased productivity and better income for farmers. They can also help to transform traditional farming practices and make them more sustainable and profitable.
- An example is the 4H Clubs in the USA where the youths who are enrolled in 4H Clubs receive the needed mentoring and inspiration for Better and Innovative Agricultural Practices. In addition, young people can help to bridge the digital divide in agriculture by developing and using digital technologies to improve farming practices.

# Role of Youths in Agriculture.....

- However, as reported daily in the News Medias, youths face several challenges in engaging in agriculture as members of the Global Agricultural Leadership venture.
- In many developing countries, the land is owned and controlled by older generations, making it difficult for young people to access land for farming.
- Lack of access to credit because they have no collateral properties to support their application - this is a challenging issue fostering the desire to emigrate
- Another challenge is lack of appropriate agricultural technologies, and markets as well the limited investment for young people in agriculture.

# Challenges Facing Women and Youths in Agriculture...

Women and youths face several challenges that limit their potential in agriculture. Some of the challenges include:

1. Limited access to networks such as Cooperatives and other forms of associations
2. Limited access to financial services and appropriate technologies from local organizations except those funded by international organizations
3. Gender and age-based discrimination

# Challenges Facing Women and Youths in Agriculture

4. Limited access to markets and poor prices for their products
5. Inadequate training and extension services
6. Climate change and environmental degradation
7. Political and social marginalization

# TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

- Microfinance Institutions prefer women groups (such as members of processors, traders Associations). Why? Studies have shown that women repay loans faster and better than the male members of the Community.
- So women are supported actively in recent times.
- Promote job creation through service provision (seed sorting, grain cleaning, mechanization support).

# TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES



- Encourage their participation in value-added activities like - milling, parboiling, and fish smoking, product bulking, packaging, small-scale processing, and marketing.
- Continuous and consistent advocacy to policymakers on constraints that inhibit female farmers' entry into productive value chains.
- Agricultural campaigns that ensure women are accessing and using improved seeds, machinery, and other inputs

# TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES...

- Because women face additional constraints such as smaller plot sizes and less access to improved seeds, machinery, and other inputs, a strategy must be built into activities as what US State Department is currently engaged in like:
- USAID Feed the Future projects in Africa and Asia into the agricultural campaigns that ensure women are accessing and using improved seeds, machinery, and other inputs and encourage their participation in value-added activities like milling, parboiling, and food transformation.

# TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES...

- BMGF projects in Africa like the African Women in Agriculture and Development – Mentoring and Soft skills program.
- Cherie Blair Mentoring Program
- Helping policymakers to better understand the constraints that female farmers face is a critical first step to the development of an enabling policy environment that ensures equal access for female farmers to land, finance, and inputs.



# TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES...

- NEPAD
- FARA
- AGRA
- African Union programs have all been supporting the Continental Agricultural Leadership programs and have ensured that the Gender Inclusive Perspectives play a major role in moving the process forward
- African Development Bank other multinational institutions have joined forces with the Regional and National Economic Groups to support the efforts to ensure that Women and Youths in Agriculture policies are onboard



# SUMMARY OF AGRO-RELATED YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ACTIVITIES

**Mundus maris asbl and NiWARD-Activities in the last 10 years!**

**Let me share an inspiring word from Our Late Mother Teresa, India that goes thus:**

**To Every Beautiful Woman and Girl-child**

**“If your Eyes are Positive, You will Love the World**

**But if Your Tongue is Positive, the World will Love you.”**

**A woman’s love is in Action. She looks with her heart and feels with her eyes. A woman is the Bank where where her family deposits all the anger, worries and hurt. A woman is the cement that keeps her family together and her love last a life**

**In Nigeria we say**

**“Educate a Man and you educate an Individual”**

**“Educate a Woman and you Educate a Family and you Educate a Nation!”**





- **Nigerian Women in Agricultural Research for Development (NIWARD)** is a fellowship and a *development* program that equips top *women agricultural* scientists across Nigeria to accelerate *agricultural* gains
- The fellowship seeks to build a vibrant, highly connected, and intergenerational network of women scientist within the country
- And promotes collaboration for sustainable Agricultural Development



# NiWARD story

- NiWARD has over 200 African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) fellows, mentors and mentees from the six regions of Nigeria.
- The association has also attracted membership of more than 100 other agricultural scientists in Nigeria.
- Our members carry out research and implement projects to transform Nigeria's agricultural sector most especially in the small scale agricultural sector.



# NiWARD story

- NiWARD is filling the gaps between research and development in the Nigerian agricultural sector.
- The association does this by carrying out outreach programs to disseminate new and improved innovations through researches in the agricultural sector to farmers' networks, fostering peer to peer knowledge transfer and ensuring the implementation of targeted empowerment policies.



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- **US\$15 million, 5-year project**
  - Established in **2008**
  - Followed a successful **3-year pilot program** in East Africa with support from the Rockefeller Foundation from 2005-2008
  - Initiate programmes in other African Nations

# Goal:

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To fight hunger and poverty in  
sub-Saharan Africa through  
women professionals involved  
in agricultural research



# NiWARD

Nigerian Women in Agricultural  
Research for Development



**Launched on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**With 60 AWARD fellows, mentors and mentees**





# NIWARD Goals

- To reduce hunger and poverty in rural farming communities in Nigeria (national) and on the continent of Africa.
- To empower and promote gender inclusive research and activities in all sectors of agriculture and science.
- Skills gained by fellows, mentors and mentees of African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) are used to propagate scientific research nationally and across the continent.



# NIWARD Goals

- Transfer of skills to female scientists by a mentoring approach.
- Facilitation to achieve the goals of AWARD and also assisting the less privileged and vulnerable/disabled in the society.
- Interaction with other organizations in collaboration and/or partnerships on issues of mutual interests.
- Encourage and explore cooperation with organizations with similar aims and objectives within and outside the territory of Nigeria.



**NiWARD seeks to bridge the gap**





# NiWARD Cardinal Points

## **Fellowship**

The fellowship invests in building the science, leadership and mentoring the skills of talented agricultural scientist

## **Gender Responsiveness**

Supports Nigerian research institutions to enhance gender responsiveness within their research priorities

## **NIWARD Training**

The design of learning experiences to strengthen the mentoring, leadership and scientific research skills of agricultural scientist

# NiWARD insights

Fellows of the month activity on our website to showcase members



# NiWARD insights

Fellows of the month activity on our website to showcase members



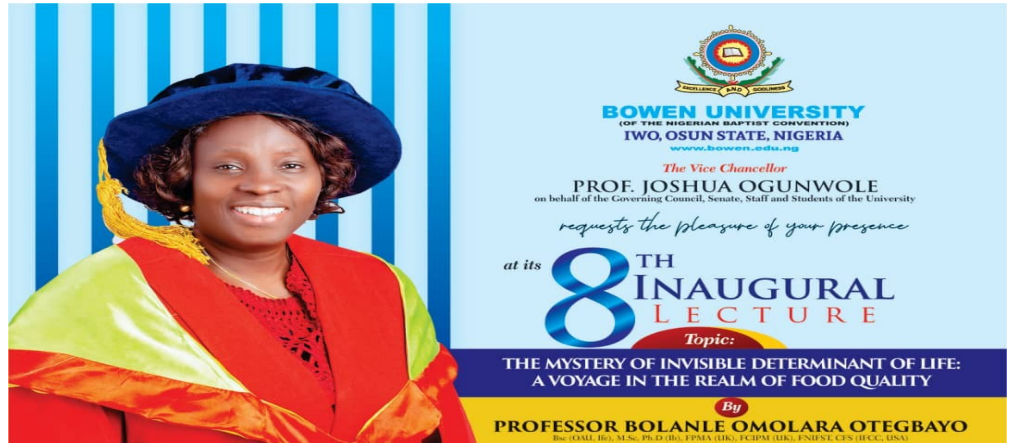
# NIWARD collaborations

- Role modeling and research outcomes and sciences career to secondary school students.
- Collaborating with other AWARD chapters e.g. to celebrate the International Women Day programme in March NIWARD with ZaWARD
- Regional Collaboration with ZaWARD on tomato processing
- National Collaboration in South-west in Ogun State
- Global Collaboration on virtual workshop on Kasuwago, a mobile app developed by an AWARD Fellow to reduce postharvest losses and improve marketing of cereals and legumes between producers and consumers.



# NIWARD celebrations

- Inaugural lectures
- Promotions
- Graduations



# NIWARD Activities so far:



**NIWARD**  
NIGERIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT

**9<sup>TH</sup>**

**NIWARD ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE & GENERAL MEETING**

**HOSTED BY: NIWARD YOBE & YOBE STATE MINISTRY OF  
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES**

**THEME:**

**FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION AND  
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**

**24th - 26th  
November,  
2021.**

**10:00am  
Each day**

Zoom link will be sent to  
registered participants

 <b>HON. BABA MALAM WALI</b> SSG Yobe State Chairman Opening Ceremony	 <b>DR. MRS. MAIRO AHMED AMSHI</b> Hon. Commissioner for Agriculture, Yobe State	 <b>MRS. HAJARAT AHMAD AMSHI</b> Chairman LOC	 <b>PROF. LATEEF OLADIMEJI SANJI</b> Chairman, AWARD Steering Committee.	 <b>PROF. MAIMUNAT WAZIRI</b> Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Gashua Yobe State
 <b>Dr HALIMAH IDRIS GAMBO</b> Dept. of Veterinary Microbiology, University of Maiduguri	 <b>PROF. OLUYEMISI FAWOLE</b> President NIWARD	 <b>PROF. STELLA WILLIAMS</b> FOUNDER, NIWARD	 <b>HON. MAL. MALA BUNI</b> Executive Governor, Yobe State, Special Guest of Honour	 <b>HON. IDI BARDE GUBANA</b> Deputy Governor, Yobe State, Guest of Honour

NIWARD NOC and LOC for 2021 Conference #NIWARD2021



# NIWARD Activities so far:

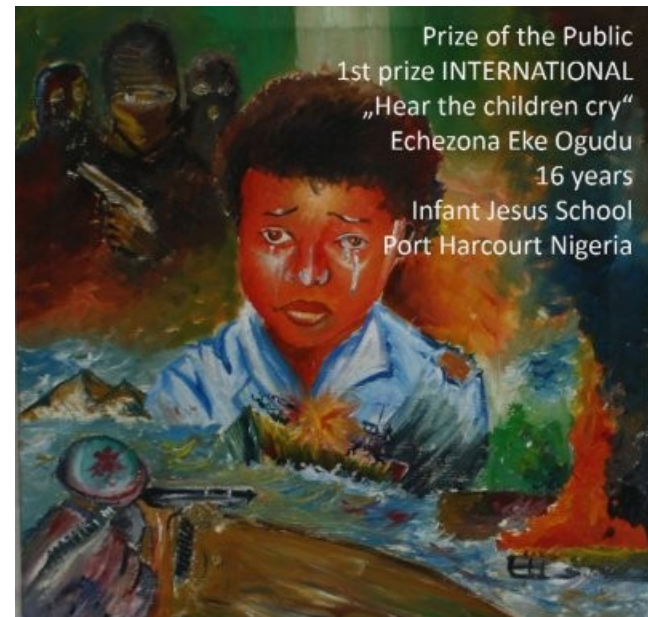
## Virtual Gender Course from AWARD



# Mundus maris asbl celebrating World Ocean Day June 8

## 2010 in Port Harcourt

**“Arts for Guns”**, a painting contest held on the 30th of October 2010 at Stella Maris Secondary School, Port Harcourt, Rivers State with some remarkable results – the best travelling to youth exhibitions abroad, e.g. Hilden, Germany in 2011 “See(a)Arts” exhibition



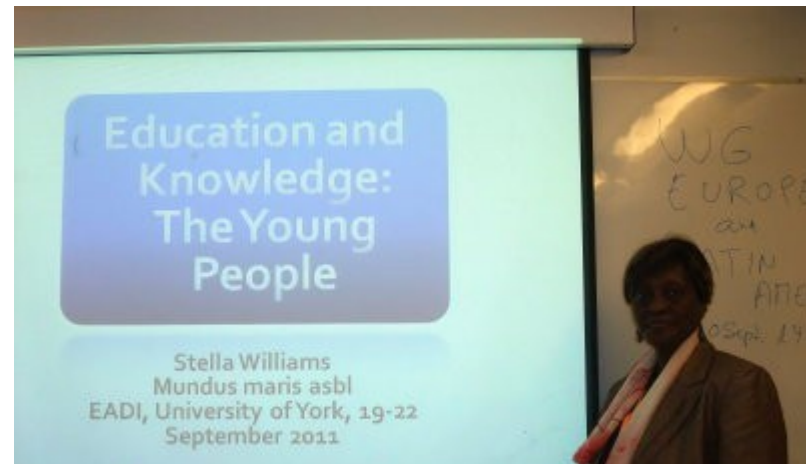
# Mundus maris asbl activities continued

- **2011 in Brussels, Belgium, and York, UK**

Open course and other activities at Brussels University



At the large EADI  
Conference in York  
at *Mundus maris* panel



# Mundus maris asbl activities continued

## 2012 in Senegal and Gambia

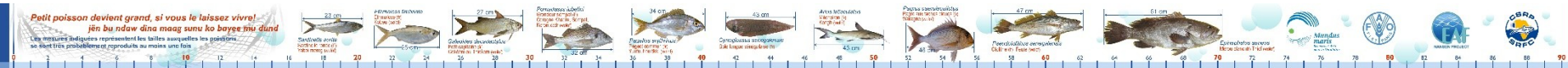
Working on teaching aids about the ecosystem approach for fisheries for the Fridtjof Nansen Project of the FAO



EVALUATION	😊	😐	😞
CONTENT OF THE WORKSHOP (AGENDA)	8 dots	0 dots	0 dots
CONTENT OF THE KIT	10 dots	0 dots	0 dots
PRESENTATION OF THE KIT	4 dots	4 dots	2 dots
TIMING	2 dots	6 dots	2 dots
METHODOLOGIES USED	8 dots	2 dots	0 dots
FACILITATION	8 dots	0 dots	0 dots

Producing a teacher's guide, student workbook, fish ruler and other materials, all freely downloadable at

<https://www.mundusmaris.org/index.php/en/projects/proj2011/706-fao?showall=&start=13>



# Mundus maris asbl activities continued

## 2013 Uppsala, Sweden

Stella Williams and Cornelia E Nauen of Mundus maris gave one of the keynote addresses at the Conference

“The Intersection between Society and Nature”.

3 concepts illustrated with examples:

- Interdisciplinarity
- Long impact times of science
- Public knowledge goods /critically engaged science



# Mundus maris asbl activities continued

## 2013 International Education Workshop

Education for Sustainability in an interdependent world -  
International workshop in Brussels  
at the Free University

Kari Kivinen, Secretary General  
of the European Schools noted  
that education focused on facts  
the 1980s, was mostly normative-  
based in the 1990s and has  
become more pluralistic in the  
new century.



Education for sustainable development (ESD) allows every  
human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and  
values necessary to shape sustainable futures.



# Mundus maris asbl activities continued

## 2014 Remote Teaching at Uppsala University

Stella and Cornelia taught in a course on Change and Sustainability.

They focused on:

- Sustainability research is more than multi-disciplinary enquiry
- Change is happening all around us
- Connecting concepts to practice towards global sustainabilities.



# Mundus maris asbl activities continued

## 2015 World Oceans Day around the world

Example Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria

In collaboration with *Mundus maris*, the Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA) joined the global community to celebrate the 2015 World Oceans Day.

Honorary diplomas were handed over to all Akure based participants of the 2015 *Mundus maris* youth contest.



# CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

- The role of women and youths in agriculture cannot be overstated. Women play a significant role in food production, processing, and marketing, while involving youths in the processes will bring new ideas, technologies, and skills into Agriculture for Development. This is a transforming process and implementing the activities face several challenges thereby limiting the potential in achievement of development of Agriculture.
- However, to overcome these challenges, engaging in International, Regional, National and Local collaborations and partnerships will bring positive responses and envisioned by all the players such as what Dr. Madan Dey of the Department of Agriculture here at Texas State University is fostering with many Global Organizations and Institutions.

# CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

- This is a positive strategy for achieving Better Outcomes now compared to the past results. Thus, I thank Dean, Dr Jaime Chahin giving me this platform to share my passion of paying it forward with you all. I thank you All for supporting the event.
- Promoting the participation of women and youths in decision-making processes in agriculture will definitely result in a Better Global Agricultural Leadership.
- And with the right policies and programs in place with the required funding, women and youths can contribute significantly to the development of agriculture and the achievement of food security and poverty reduction.

# Contacts

- **NIWARD:** <http://www.niward.org.ng/>
- **AWARD:** <http://www.awardfellowships.org>
- **Mundus maris:** <http://www.Mundusmaris.org>

# The spirit of our work

**Invest in people, connect to the Ocean, build bridges between the global agenda & local work and experience**



**I'm still a baby,  
let me live and grow**



Thanks for your  
attention

Join us!

More info on

[www.mundusmaris.org](http://www.mundusmaris.org)

[williams@mundusmaris.org](mailto:williams@mundusmaris.org)



# Thank You!

