

# NEWSLETTER

Publication of Innovation Lab For Policy Leadership  
In Agriculture & Food Security, University of Ibadan, Nigeria



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**Prof. A. F. Adenikinju**

*Principal Investigator, PiLAF  
President, Nigerian Economic Society*

*Former HOD, Department of Economics*

*Former Director, DMPEEL,  
University of Ibadan, Nigeria.*



**Prof. A. E. Adekoya**

*Principal Investigator, PiLAF  
Board Member, ANAPRI  
Former HOD, DAERD,  
University of Ibadan,  
Nigeria.*

# From the desk of the Principal Investigators

**O**n behalf of the management, staff members, and leadership of the Innovation Lab for Policy Leadership in Agriculture and Food Security (PiLAF), we have the pleasure of sharing the second edition of our newsletter with you.

In a bid to influence the agricultural policy landscape in Nigeria, PiLAF was established in 2020 as one of three Centres for Policy Leadership (CPLs) in Africa. This initiative emerged from a partnership between the Centre for Petroleum, Energy Economics and Law (CPEEL), now called the Department of Mineral, Petroleum, Energy Economics and Law (DMPEEL), and the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development (DAERD) at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The collaboration was made possible with funding from the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security, Policy, Research, Capacity and Influence (PRCI) project under the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with Michigan State University (MSU) as the Lab Lead.

From inception, PiLAF has been strongly committed to the promotion of inclusive and participatory policy process, encouraging the bottom-up approach to policy formulation and implementation. PiLAF has also played active roles in various agricultural sub-sectors, such as the development of policy

trajectories in agricultural equipment fabrication, feed milling, fertilizer, poultry, day-old chicks, and maize value chains in Oyo state and Nigeria. Recently, PiLAF undertook the Nigeria Agricultural Landscape Analysis project on behalf of the African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP). PiLAF currently represents Nigeria at Africa Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ANAPRI) and has carried out several research and projects on behalf of the network and the African Union (AU).

In partnership with the Association of Deans of Agriculture in Nigeria (ADAN), PiLAF established the Policy Influence Committees (PIC) to engage universities, especially agricultural faculties, in shaping agricultural policy with evidence-based research. This initiative aims to ensure that researches inform and guide policy decisions.

We warmly welcome you to the PiLAF world. We encourage you to follow us on social media, explore our website, and stay connected with our activities as we work together to promote inclusive and participatory policies aimed at achieving food security and building a resilient agri-food system in Nigeria and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support!



## Strategic Partnerships: A Pillar of PiLAF's Success

At PiLAF, our core objective is to influence the agricultural policy process through research, capacity development and effective collaboration among all stakeholders along the agri-food system. We believe that partnerships play a pivotal role in achieving this objective.

**Our scope encompasses a broad range of areas, including but not limited to the following;**

- Agriculture and Food Trade
- Food Safety and Food Security
- Efficient Fertiliser Use and Soil Health
- Energy and Agricultural Productivity
- Contemporary Issues in Agriculture
- Gender and Health Issues in Agriculture
- Youth in Agriculture

At the heart of PiLAF's success lies a strong network of strategic and mutually enabling partnerships with stakeholders across agri-food systems, smallholder farmers and associations, value chain actors, non-governmental organisations, private sector actors, consulting firms, donor agencies, development partners, government agencies as well as academic and research institutions. The synergy created through these partnerships enriches our work, adds value to our research outcomes, strengthens inclusive policy-making processes and fosters an environment where shared insights translate into actionable strategies. Partnerships amplify our impact by granting us access to valuable technical expertise,

diverse perspectives, and a broader audience. Through formal agreements, we engage with academic and research organisations, leveraging their knowledge to ensure our research outcomes are innovative and relevant.



*PiLAF'S Administrative Manager, Mr. Iredele Ogunbayo addressing newsmen after a workshop organized by PiLAF*

### Opportunities to Collaborate

We welcome diverse collaboration opportunities in the following areas:

- **Policy development:** Work with us to craft actionable policies, frameworks and strategies tailored to specific sub-sector needs.
- **Research partnerships and mentorship:** Engage with PiLAF in independent or

collaborative research. Additionally, our mentorship program connects emerging scholars with experienced mentors, enhancing their research capacity to prepare them for leadership roles in agricultural research and policy.

- **Co-organizing agricultural programmes, training and events:** Partner with us to convene key stakeholder's meetings for impactful discussions and solutions.
- **Capacity development and networking:** In addition to internship and research opportunities, PiLAF engages with Faculties of Agriculture

in Nigerian universities through Policy Influence Committees (PICs).

### Connect with Us

If you share our commitment to excellence and envision a future where sustainable agri-food systems thrive, reach out to us via our emails: [info@pilafui.org](mailto:info@pilafui.org) or [pilafunibadan@gmail.com](mailto:pilafunibadan@gmail.com), our website: [www.pilafui.org](http://www.pilafui.org) or visit our social media handles:

- **Facebook:** [@pilafui](https://www.facebook.com/pilafui)
- **Twitter:** [@Pilaf\\_ui](https://twitter.com/Pilaf_ui)
- **LinkedIn:** [@PiLAFUnibadan](https://www.linkedin.com/company/PiLAFUnibadan)
- **Instagram:** [@pilafui](https://www.instagram.com/pilafui)

You can also watch engaging videos on our youtube channel:

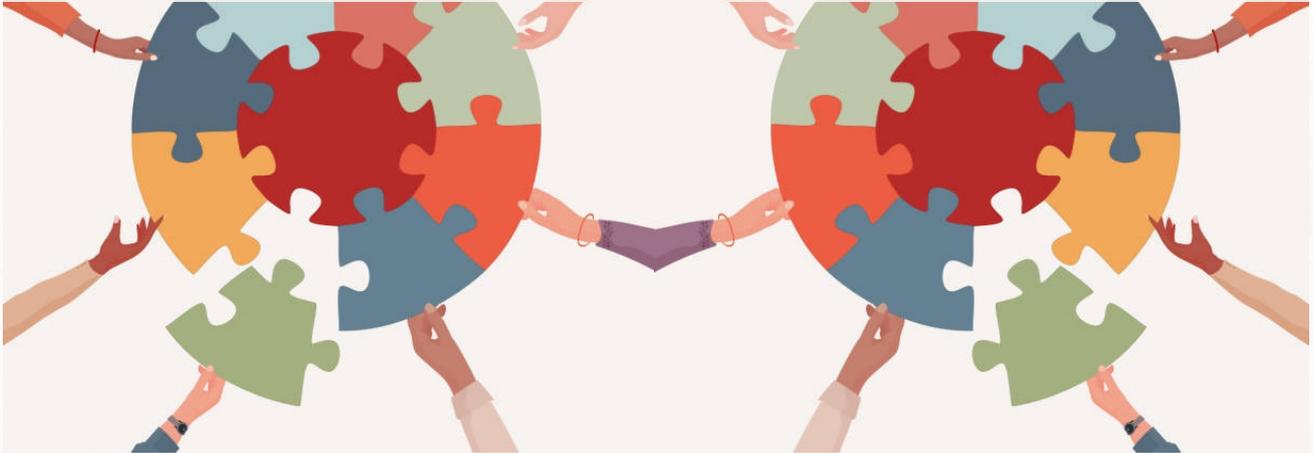
<https://www.youtube.com/@pilafui>



Group picture taken at the Interstate Agricultural Policy Dialogue hosted in conjunction with Policy Support for Economic Group (PSEG)

# Collaboration:

## A Missing Link to Ensuring Food Security



**A**chieving food security is a paramount commitment for governments, worldwide. It is a challenge that is particularly urgent in developing countries, where the geometric growth of the population threatens the food supply. As a fundamental human need, food is very critical, hence the reason sustainable Development Goal 2 is centred on Zero hunger.

Despite efforts toward addressing food security through funding and initiatives by various organisations and NGOs, significant limitations persist. Unpredictable shocks keep emerging, making comprehensive progress in eliminating hunger by 2030 a herculean task. Food insecurity intertwines with critical issues such as poverty, inequality and a poor healthcare system, creating a dynamic mechanism where the deterioration of one aspect exacerbates the entire system. For instance, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted global food supply chains, leading to spikes in input and food prices, affecting approximately 828 million individuals. Just as world leaders sought to repair fragmented food systems, the Russo-Ukrainian conflict complicated matters, with border closures disrupting trade and increasing the number of people at risk of severe food insecurity by an additional 276 million.

Rapid population growth, fuel subsidy removal, and floating of the Naira, particularly in countries like Nigeria, aggravates the issue, with food prices skyrocketing daily, akin to a herd of antelopes fleeing danger in the Savanna. Tackling the colossal challenge of food insecurity does not require just one approach; it demands a strategic effort that incorporates all stakeholders across different platforms, addressing the multifaceted issues at its root.

Experts emphasise that collaborative efforts are essential to untangling food security complexities. Collaboration is a synergistic process where entities share information, resources and responsibilities. It fosters a collective approach where efforts are combined by

various stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, community leaders, farmers and researchers, not just to increase food production but also to ensure the sustainability, safety, nutrition and accessibility of food, especially for vulnerable and marginalized populations. Governments create policies and an enabling environment, while other actors such as NGOs, the private sector, development agencies, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and others ensure accessibility and affordability while promoting sustainability.

Despite the recognised benefits of synergistic efforts, challenges such as information scarcity, corruption and communication barriers impede cooperation. Addressing these challenges necessitates collaboration rooted in inclusivity, active participation and shared success metrics.

Conclusively, geographical and sectoral boundaries must not obstruct the collective effort to confront food insecurity. By embracing a collaborative approach, we can navigate this landscape, striving for a future where everyone can access sufficient, safe, nutritious food. This is a clarion call for urgent collaboration on practical and inclusive pathways, recognizing that every voice is essential in achieving sustainable food security.



# PiLAF Policy Briefs:

## Bridging Research and Decision-Making in Policy Development in Nigeria.

**P**olicy briefs are essential tools that translate research findings into actionable principles, regulations, or laws, which guides the activities of stakeholders across sectors and subsectors. These documents are typically the result of in-depth, evidence-based research and stakeholder engagement that support informed decision-making processes. At the Innovation Lab for Policy Leadership in Agricultural and Food Security (PiLAF), research and policy engagement have been central to our efforts, with a specific focus on contributing to improving agriculture and food security in Nigeria.

PiLAF's research spans various agricultural value chains, including poultry, crops, agricultural equipment fabrication, feed milling and day-old chicks (DOC). The development of policy briefs is a major medium of communicating our research findings to stakeholders, ensuring that they can be effectively applied to improve outcomes within the sector.

Most of PiLAF's research projects have been published in reputable academic journals

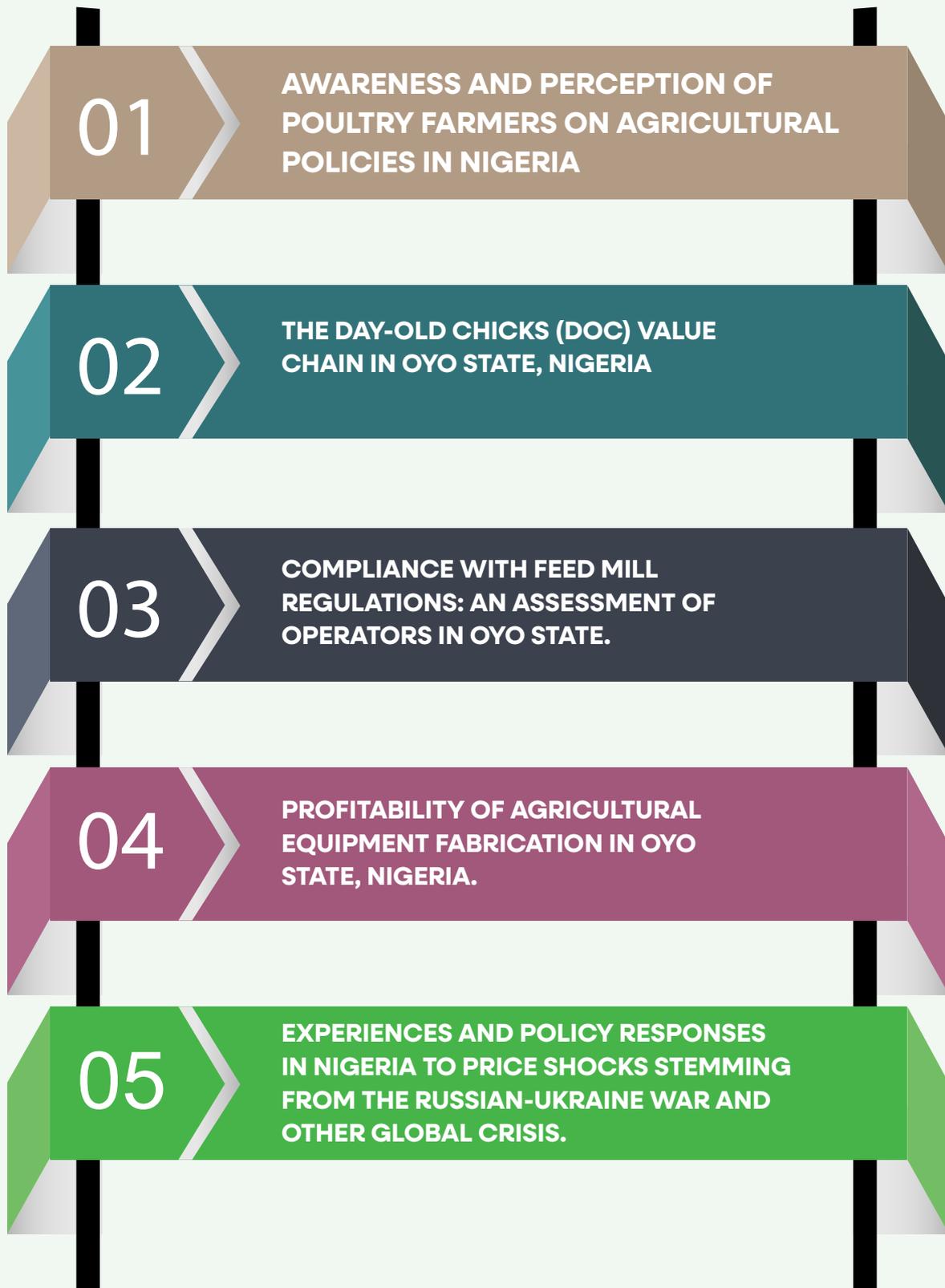
and several have resulted in the development of policy briefs.

One of such projects focused on situational analysis of the poultry sector and the DOC value chain in Oyo State. During the dissemination of the findings to the Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, gaps were identified in two key areas: the challenges faced by agricultural equipment fabricators and compliance with feed milling regulations.

In response to these findings, PiLAF conducted further research on the profitability of agricultural equipment fabrication enterprises and assessed feed mill operators' compliance with regulatory standards. These efforts were supplemented by workshops aimed at addressing the identified challenges.



To date, PiLAF has developed policy briefs on the following subjects:

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- 01** AWARENESS AND PERCEPTION OF POULTRY FARMERS ON AGRICULTURAL POLICIES IN NIGERIA
  - 02** THE DAY-OLD CHICKS (DOC) VALUE CHAIN IN OYO STATE, NIGERIA
  - 03** COMPLIANCE WITH FEED MILL REGULATIONS: AN ASSESSMENT OF OPERATORS IN OYO STATE.
  - 04** PROFITABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT FABRICATION IN OYO STATE, NIGERIA.
  - 05** EXPERIENCES AND POLICY RESPONSES IN NIGERIA TO PRICE SHOCKS STEMMING FROM THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINE WAR AND OTHER GLOBAL CRISIS.

For access to our full range of policy briefs, visit [pilafui.org](http://pilafui.org).

## THE TRAJECTORY OF PILAF'S POLICY INFLUENCE ACTIVITIES IN THE OYO STATE AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT FABRICATORS' SPACE.

The Innovation Lab for Policy Leadership in Agriculture and Food Security (PiLAF) has made significant strides in shaping the agricultural equipment fabrication sector in Oyo State. Supported by the Policy Research Capacity and Influence (PRCI), PiLAF began by conducting a study of the agricultural policy landscape in Nigeria. It quickly became evident that Oyo State's agricultural fabrication sector lacked a structured policy framework. To address this gap, PiLAF initiated a series of strategic activities aimed at formulating a robust policy to guide the sector.

The first major step was organising a workshop in collaboration with the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) on May 17, 2022. The workshop, held at the International Conference Centre, IITA in Ibadan, brought together agricultural equipment fabricators from different zones in Oyo State, as well as key stakeholders from academia, development organizations and the government. Notable personalities including Prof. Dave Tschirley from Michigan State University and Dr. Debo Akande, Executive Adviser to the Oyo State Governor on Agribusiness were also present. The event

highlighted the pressing need for a structured policy to support local fabricators in meeting the demands of modern agriculture. Dr. Akande emphasised the state's commitment to collaborating with local fabricators in revamping the agricultural implements manufacturing sector.



*Crosssection of participants at the workshop.*

Following the success of the initial workshop, PiLAF facilitated the formation of associations for fabricators across the state. This effort was complemented by a follow-up workshop on November 29, 2022, at the University of Ibadan's International Conference Centre. The event aimed to review progress and further strengthen collaborations between stakeholders. Here, Dr. Akande reiterated the government's

support for creating an enabling environment for local fabricators to thrive. To ensure sustainable impact, PiLAF constituted a high-level steering committee tasked with developing a policy framework for agricultural equipment fabricators. The steering committee comprises fabricators, academics, professionals and government officials. Additionally, excursions to Niji Farms and the Fasola Agribusiness Industrial Hub were organised to observe best practices and understand the operational dynamics of the local fabrication sector. The policy document, crafted through these engagements, continuous stakeholder consultations and multi-stage reviews, was eventually submitted to the Commissioner of Agriculture through Dr. Debo Akande for review and endorsement.

Mechanization (NCAM) in Ilorin on Tuesday, 8th October 2024. This is in a bid to receive comments on the policy document submitted to them earlier.

Through its comprehensive approach, PiLAF is influencing policy and laying the foundation for a thriving agricultural equipment fabrication industry in Oyo State.



*Oyo State Agricultural Equipment Fabricators Policy Document Steering Committee.*

It's important to also note that the steering committee for the Oyo State Agricultural Equipment Fabricators policy document held a strategic meeting with the leadership of the National Centre for Agricultural





PiLAF's team and Dr Akande



**REPORT ON  
POLICY  
INFLUENCE  
COMMITTEE  
UNDER FACULTIES  
OF AGRICULTURE  
IN NIGERIAN  
UNIVERSITIES.**

**T**he role of academia in research and development within the agricultural and food systems policy space is undeniably crucial. However, there seems to be a gap between academics, who generate evidence through research, and policymakers, who are responsible for shaping and implementing policies for the public good. More often than not, policies formulated and implemented in our society do not take cognizance of research outputs and recommendations emerging from our higher institutions of learning. This widening gap has deepened the

persistent negative impacts of several factors on the nodes of agricultural and food systems in Nigeria. The idea of bridging this gap and connecting academia with development, often referred to as 'linking the town with the gown' is appealing in theory. Still, little progress has been made in practice, leaving this concept to have defied satisfactory answers over the years. Academics engage with people and communities outside their campuses and serve as advisors; sometimes, they link people with information and organisations that often promote community development or address pressing local issues, albeit at micro levels. While these efforts are valuable, more engagement is required in a coordinated, reliable and sustained manner. Meeting these expectations demands a more active involvement of the academic community in shaping agriculture and food systems policies.

PiLAF remains vocal in encouraging the bottom-up approach to policy formulation and implementation, advocating for inclusiveness and stakeholder participation throughout the entire policy process. This involves agenda-setting, policy design, adoption, implementation, evaluation and reforms. Participation in the policy process should go beyond acting as pressure groups to being responsible guides and educators, using data to provide evidence of potential outcomes and offer sustainable alternatives. There is no gainsaying that academics, given their background in research for development, can be important stakeholders whose contributions are vital in steering policy in the right direction.

PiLAF's approach to achieving this necessary and highly desired policy influence by the academia involves the establishment of Policy Influence Committees (PICs) within faculties of

agriculture in selected universities in each of Nigeria's six geopolitical zones. These committees are designed to be a readily available team that meets periodically, or as needed, to assess the potential impacts of proposed agricultural policies, collaborate with stakeholders to determine the best course of action, and proactively engage with federal and state governments. The PICs are composed of experts from various fields to guide policy development, influence and implementation. This includes economic experts, social scientists, subject area experts, environment experts and special considerations. Key action points of the implementation strategy include formation and focus, knowledge exchange, situational analysis, evidence-based research, regular meetings, technical meetings, flexible work plans, networking and collaborations, monitoring and support. So far, PiLAF has facilitated the setup of the PICs in the Federal University of Technology, Minna (Northcentral zone) and Ekiti State University (Southwest zone) where inception meetings have begun. Each PIC has been tasked with developing a proposal that targets specific agricultural sectors, considering their state and zone's unique needs and peculiarities. The setup of PICs in the remaining universities is in progress, with committees expected to launch and commence activities by early 2025.



# PiLAF's Ongoing Initiatives, Projects and Partnership.

Since its inception, the Innovation Lab for Policy Leadership in Agriculture and Food Security (PiLAF) has engaged in a diversity of projects and partnerships aimed at transforming Nigeria's sustainable food security.

Through strategic collaborations with government agencies, private institutions, agricultural stakeholders and international organizations, PiLAF has worked on policies, frameworks and initiatives that strengthen Nigeria's food security and agricultural sustainability. Below is an overview of some ongoing partnerships and projects:



agricultural landscape for  
Through strategic collaborations

**1. AGRA and IFDC Collaboration:** PiLAF, through ANAPRI, is representing the African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP) to collaborate with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC) in the development of Nigeria's Fertilizer and Soil Health Roadmap. This roadmap aims to reposition the fertilizer sector for increased productivity, better delivery, improved farmer input use, sustainable yields and soil health maintenance.

**2. Partnership with Michigan State University (MSU):** PiLAF is working closely with MSU at the grassroots level under the project NAPA to develop an agricultural policy and implementation framework for the Afikpo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, Nigeria, to foster economic growth.

**3. Partnership with Agriarche:** PiLAF is collaborating with Agriarche, a leading AgriTech company, to conduct an in-depth study of Nigeria's agricultural landscape, focusing on key grain-producing regions. The research aims to enhance agricultural value chains through data-driven insights on grain production, soil quality, factory capacities and market potential.

4. **Partnership with Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy, Research, Capacity and Influence (PRCI):** PiLAF is conducting research with PRCI to explore the relationship between Climate Change, Conflict and Food Price Shocks and their combined impact on household nutrition. The findings of this research are expected to inform key policy decisions for improving household food and nutrition in Nigeria.

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5. **Collaboration with National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF):** PiLAF is proposing to partner with NADF on the following activities:

- Conducting a Baseline Agrifood Outlook for Nigeria (2024-2033) to forecast the agricultural sector's performance, including production, consumption, trade and prices, to guide policy and investment decisions that promote sustainable growth, economic prosperity and food security.
  - Collaborating with Faculties of Agriculture to create Policy Influence Committees across all universities in Nigeria so that through this platform, agricultural researchers can work more closely with policymakers as PiLAF backstops.
  - Scaling the Agricultural Equipment Fabricator Policy to a national level and supporting the agricultural equipment fabricators with funding and capacity building to boost local production of agricultural equipment.
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8. **PiLAF's collaboration with Agromerit:** PiLAF is partnering with Agromerit to organise initiatives aimed at enhancing access to high-quality feed ingredients and materials for Nigeria's feed milling sector.

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In addition to these partnerships, PiLAF continues to collaborate with the following organisations:

- Association of Deans of Agriculture in Nigeria (ADAN)
- Africa Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ANAPRI)
- Agricultural Extension Society of Nigeria (AESON)
- Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet)
- AgroXchange Technology Services Limited
- Farm and Infrastructure Foundation (FIF)
- Farm Input Support Services
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Ibadan Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture
- International Budget Partnerships
- International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

- Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Oyo State
- Nigeria Flying Labs
- Nigeria Institute of Animal Science (NIAS)
- Poultry Association of Nigeria (PAN)
- Rural Nurture Initiative (RNI)
- Small Scale Women Farmers Organisation of Nigeria (SWOFON)
- University of Ibadan, Faculty of Agriculture



Peace Akuwa and Iredele Ogunbayo at the Fertilizer Technical Working Group (FTWG) organized by AfricaFertilizer in Lagos, Nigeria



*Dr. Benjamin Oyelami and Mr Oyewale Oyegoke at the National Launch and Workshop of the Soil Values Program*

# Review of Recent Publications of PiLAF

**P**iLAF is proud to present a series of six of her impactful studies addressing critical areas within Nigeria's agricultural sector. These studies provide evidence-based insights and strategic recommendations for driving agricultural innovation, enhancing food security and promoting sustainable policy reforms.

## 1. **A Situational Analysis of the Day-Old Chicks (DOC) Value Chain in Oyo State, Nigeria.**

This analysis underscores the critical role of day-old chicks in Nigeria's poultry industry, essential for food security and agricultural GDP. The study advocates for a streamlined regulatory framework to address duplications between the National Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) and the Veterinary Council of Nigeria (VCN). Policy reforms to eliminate operational inefficiencies are recommended for sustainable industry growth.

## 2. **Determinants of Profitability Among Agricultural Equipment Fabricators in Oyo State, Nigeria**

Our research reveals that over 54% of fabricators in Oyo State produce processing equipment, with profitability linked to business registration and fabrication as a secondary occupation. The study identifies a return on investment (ROI) of N3.68 for every Naira spent, advocating for improved regulations and formalization to enhance sector growth.

## 3. **Household Food Insecurity and Cooking Energy Access in Nigeria: A Panel Data Approach**

This analysis highlights the link between clean cooking energy access and household food security. Findings indicate that households using clean energy sources like LPG, experience better dietary diversity and lower food

insecurity compared to those relying on biomass fuels. Scaling clean energy access is essential for achieving Nigeria's SDGs on hunger and sustainable energy.

#### **4. Oyo and Kaduna States Maize Farmers' Perception of Selected Agricultural Policies in Nigeria**

The study shows high awareness of key agricultural policies, such as the ban on maize imports and the Anchor Borrowers' Program, with farmers in Kaduna State expressing more favourable perceptions than those in Oyo. It recommends co-creating policies with farmers to improve adoption and access to credit, ultimately enhancing productivity.

#### **5. Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices for a Sustainable Food System in Nigeria**

Focusing on climate change's impact on food security, this study reviews adaptation strategies across Nigeria's agroecological zones. While farmers have adopted various climate adaptation practices, many do not meet climate-smart agriculture standards. An institutional framework tailored to each agroecological zone's specific needs is crucial for long-term sustainability.

#### **6. Effects of Government Policies on the Poultry Subsector in Oyo State, Nigeria**

The study explores both positive and negative impacts of government policies, such as the ban on maize and poultry imports. It emphasises stakeholder engagement in policy formulation and suggests phased policy implementation to maximise benefits.

# PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH WORKS

S/N	NAMES OF PUBLICATIONS/MANUSCRIPTS	PUBLICATION TYPE	STATUS
1	Farmer's Risks and Economic Use of Fertilizer in Sub-Saharan Africa	Country Report	Complete
2	National Assessment of Fertilizer and Soil Health Policies and Regulations	Country Report	Complete
3	Country-Level Assessment of Prices and Availability of Food, Fertilizer and Fuel	Country Report	Complete
4	Documentation and Assessment of Policy Responses to Shocks Stemming from the War in Ukraine	Country Report	Complete
5	Using Evidence-Based Learning to Drive Policy Measures and Government Strategies for Effectively Managing Input Price Spikes: Research Component	Country Report	Complete
6	Using Evidence-Based Learning to Drive Policy Measures and Government Strategies for Effectively Managing Input Price Spikes: Research Component: Stakeholder Engagement Component	Country Report	Complete
7	Landscape Analysis of the Agricultural Sector in Nigeria	Country Report	Complete
8	Understanding Smallholders' Credit Behaviour: A Panacea for Enhancing Access to Farm Inputs	Manuscript	Complete (Under Review)
9	Fertilizer Use and Profitability in Nigeria: A Systematic Review of Literature	Manuscript	Complete (Under Review)
10	Do Remittances and Safety Nets Enhance Household Food and Nutrition Security Outcomes? Evidence from Nigeria	Manuscript	Complete (Under Review)

11	Chicken-Keeping Household Resilience to Shocks and Food Security in Nigeria	Manuscript	Complete (Under Review)
12	The Impact of Fuel Subsidy Removal and Exchange Rates: A Case of Food and Transportation Sectors in Ibadan	Manuscript	Under Review
13	Climate Change Vulnerability and Food Security: Evidence from Chicken Rearing Households in Nigeria	Manuscript	Under Final Review
14	Does Noiler Breed Enhance Food Security Among Chicken-Keeping Households? Evidence from Nigeria	Manuscript	Ongoing (To be split into two papers)
15	Effects of Policy Support on Key Commodities in Nigeria – ATA vs APP	Manuscript	In Progress
16	Enhancing Feed Milling Operations in Nigeria	Policy Brief	Ongoing (Under Review)
17	Analyzing Food, Energy and Global Threats: The Case of Nigeria	Policy Brief	Complete
18	The Nigeria Fertilizer and Soil Health Roadmap	Policy Document	Ongoing
19	The Fabricator Policy for Oyo State	Policy Document	Ongoing
20	Awareness and Economic Potentials of Noiler Production for Enhanced Livelihoods Among Households in Nigeria	Research Project	Complete
21	Modelling the Scope for Substitution in Consumption by Consumers to Buffer the Impacts of Price Surges on Consumption and Poverty	Research Project	Ongoing
22	Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices for Sustainable Food System in Nigeria: An Agroecology-Specific Analysis	Research Report	Published
23	Climate Change, Conflict and Food Price Shocks: Implications for Household Diet Quality in Nigeria	Research Project	Ongoing

24	Linking Food, Fuel and Fertilizer Price Volatility with Household Poverty: Evidence from Nigeria	Research Project	Ongoing
25	Socio-economic Status and Diet Quality Intertwined: Evidence from Nigeria	Research Project	Ongoing
26	On Access to Credit and Agricultural Development: A Systematic Literature Review	Research Project	Ongoing
27	Can Livelihood Diversification Influence Child and Household Nutrition in Nigeria: A Dynamics Study	Research Project	Ongoing
28	Farming Systems Typology for Sustainable Agricultural Intensification: Evidence from Rural Nigeria	Research Project	Ongoing
29	Determinants of Profitability Among Agricultural Equipment Fabricators in Oyo State, Nigeria	Journal Article	Complete (Published)
30	Understanding Socio-economic, Physical and Institutional Determinants of Maize Yield Variability in Nigeria	Journal Article	Ongoing
31	Food Losses and Wastage are Intertwined with Food Insecurity and Malnutrition: Evidence from Nigeria	Journal Article	Ongoing
32	The Nexus Between Income Diversification and Resilient Household Food Systems: Evidence from Nigeria	Journal Article	Ongoing
33	A Situational Analysis of the Day-Old Chicks Value Chain in Oyo State, Nigeria: Agenda Setting for Policy Reform	Journal Article	Published
34	Effects of Government Policies on the Poultry Subsector in Oyo State, Nigeria	Journal Article	Published
35	Review of Past Agricultural Policies in Nigeria	Report	Completed and Circulated
36	Causes and Consequences of the Recent Fertilizer Price Spikes in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons Learned and Implications for Future Actions	Report	Complete



# MY EXPERIENCE IN PiLAF RESEARCH ON URBAN AGRICULTURE

by Trent Dilka

In 2019, as a second-year student at Johns Hopkins University, I was pursuing my first degree in Environmental Science. Having been raised on a farm, I was interested in the intersection of food production and food security. I became a Policy Research Intern at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, and I worked on a project that will develop a framework to understand the landscape of municipal urban agriculture policies in the United States.

After graduating, I sought international research opportunities and learned about the Fulbright Program. Around the same time, I discovered the The Innovation Lab for Policy Leadership in Agriculture and Food Security (PiLAF) on LinkedIn. I reached out to Mr. Iredele Ogunbayo, expressing my



*Trent Welcome in Prof Olubusoye's office*

interest in PiLAF's work and my desire to research urban agriculture in Nigeria. The PiLAF team graciously agreed to host me as a Fulbright Researcher and we began to develop a project proposal.

After months of preparation with PiLAF, I was awarded the Fulbright scholarship in April, 2023. After an additional 12 months of visa applications and logistics planning, I landed in Lagos in April 2024.



### *Trent welcome in the department*

My project is to conduct a situational analysis of urban and peri-urban agriculture in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. After presenting our plan to the department, the PiLAF team and I conducted a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with a group of urban farmers in Oyo, Oyo State. We gathered insights on their motivations, challenges and experiences with government policies. These findings shaped the development of a survey instrument for the primary data collection phase of the project.

Once the survey instrument was complete, PiLAF team assisted me in assembling a strong team of enumerators. We had a two-day training and conducted a pre-test in the

Ajibode community. After a brief review of the preliminary data, the team was ready to begin field work. Over the course of three weeks, the enumerators collected data from nearly 800 households in Ibadan. The team sourced respondents from two Local Government Areas, six different wards and 15 communities.



### *Trent welcome to Nigeria by Prof. Adenikiju*

Respondents who were not practicing urban agriculture often cited limited land availability and/or funding as the reason. Among the urban agriculture practitioners, some raised crops, some raised livestock, while some practiced mixed farming. There were people who conducted these activities within their compounds and others who travelled to their plots of urban land. Some practiced urban agriculture primarily for consumption while others practiced it for

the purpose of marketing and selling. Practitioners often reported that a portion of their produced goods were gifted to others

As we wrap up data analysis, we plan to develop policy recommendations and present the findings in a journal publication. My time with PiLAF has been incredibly informative and my perspectives of the world have been widened. I am grateful for the generosity and support I have received; I will continue to support the impactful work of the PiLAF team when I return to the United



— a detail highlighted by the enumerators. The data analysis is still in progress, but it is clear that urban agriculture is a major activity for many households in Ibadan.



# Spotlight on some of PiLAF Activities



## 1. PiLAF'S BROWN BAG SERIES: 12TH EDITION

PiLAF's Brown Bag series continues to explore cutting-edge topics in agriculture and policy. On September 18, 2024, PiLAF

organised the 12th edition of its Brown Bag Series. This session that focused on the topic “Machine Learning for Sustainable Agriculture: Opportunities and Challenges” was presented by Prof. Olusanya Olubusoye from the University of Ibadan. The event provided deep insights into how machine-learning technologies can revolutionise farming practices and boost sustainability in agriculture. Challenges like data availability, the adoption of technology and ethical concerns were also addressed during the lecture. Over a hundred participants were in attendance. These included academics, policymakers and industry stakeholders, who engaged in meaningful discussions on the future of agriculture.

**PiLAF**  
INNOVATION LAB FOR POLICY LEADERSHIP  
IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY,  
UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

BROWN BAG SERIES  
12th Edition

Wednesday  
18th  
September, 2024  
2:00pm  
3:30pm  
WAT

Register via  
[https://bit.ly/pilaf\\_bbs12](https://bit.ly/pilaf_bbs12)

Topic  
**Machine Learning for Sustainable Agriculture:  
Opportunities and Challenges**

Speaker  
**Prof. Olusanya Olubusoye**  
Lecturer, Department of Statistics, University of Ibadan; Coordinator, University of Ibadan Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis (UI-LISA)

Consortium Partners  
USAID, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, FEED THE FUTURE, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, IITA, CPEEL, and others.

For enquiries: +234 802 757 3322, info@pilafui.org

meet.google.com/mhv-roou-hwc?authuser=0

Olusanya Olubusoye (Presenting)

**Ethical and Social Concerns**

**Widening the Digital Divide:**  
Rural and underdeveloped regions often need more access to advanced technologies and high-speed internet, which is critical for ML applications in agriculture.

- This could widen the gap between farmers in technologically advanced areas and those in less developed regions, creating inequities in agricultural productivity.

**Privacy Concerns:**  
Farm data is increasingly collected through sensors, drones, and other digital tools.

- ✓ There are concerns about how this data is stored, shared, and used. Who owns the data, and how is it protected from misuse?

Participants: Dan Oyoboh, Adegbenga Ad..., temitayo odun..., Abubakar Sule..., Olusanya Olub..., francis chiadi, El Herman, 99 others, PiLAF UI

2:44 PM | PiLAF Brown Bag Series (12th Edition)

## 2. POLICY PROCESSES, AND POLICY RESEARCH TRAINING.

From September 12-13, 2024, PiLAF hosted a two-day policy research training session led by Dr Olusade Taiwo, Executive Director, Centre for Enterprise Development and



Action Research (CEDAR) and Policy Research and Partnerships Consultant at the DAWN Commission. The training focused on the

importance of evidence-based policymaking, stakeholder engagement and the policy development process. The training provided PiLAF's team with practical tools and strategies for developing policies that are both effective and responsive to the needs of Nigeria's agricultural sector.

## 3. PiLAF AT THE 65TH ANNUAL NIGERIAN ECONOMIC SOCIETY (NES) CONFERENCE

From September 3-5, 2024, PiLAF was significantly represented at the 65th Annual



Nigerian Economic Society (NES) Conference, held at the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja. The conference theme, "Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria: Imperatives, Implications and Impacts,"

provided the perfect setting for PiLAF to showcase its ongoing work in agricultural policy and food security. PiLAF's booth, set up in the exhibition hall, attracted a diverse audience of economists, policymakers and agricultural stakeholders. During interactive sessions, PiLAF engaged with key stakeholders, discussing the importance of evidence-based policies for addressing Nigeria's agricultural and economic challenges. The conference also fostered partnerships that would strengthen PiLAF's advocacy for sustainable agricultural practices.



#### 4. AGRIBUSINESS IN NIGERIA: NABG, PILAF AND DAWN COMMISSION COLLABORATE FOR REGIONAL SENSITIZATION.

In collaboration with the Nigeria Agribusiness Group (NABG) and the Development Agenda for Western Nigeria (DAWN) Commission, PiLAF co-hosted a two-day agribusiness sensitization program in Ibadan between August 13 and 14, 2024. The event focused on equipping small-scale



farmers with knowledge about agribusiness policies and practices, emphasising the role of rural infrastructure in agricultural development. The keynote speaker, Dr. Debo Akande, Executive Adviser to the Oyo State Governor on Agribusiness, emphasised the critical role of smallholder farmers and rural infrastructure development in transforming



Nigeria's agricultural landscape. Through this collaboration, PiLAF



demonstrated its commitment to advancing agribusiness in Nigeria by fostering dialogue between policymakers and farmers.

### 5. PILAF AT THE PRCI GLOBAL GATHERING IN WASHINGTON DC.

participated in a panel discussion on internal organizational growth, where he shared insights into how PiLAF has strengthened its internal capacities to enhance policy influence in Nigeria and across Africa.



In July 2024, PiLAF took part in the PRCI Global Gathering in Washington DC. PiLAF showcased its research through videos and posters, highlighting its achievements in policy leadership. Prof. Adegbeniga Adekoya, PiLAF's Co-principal Investigator,

# Empowering Stakeholders for Policy Impact

Policies achieve their greatest impact when they are deeply aligned with the real needs and experiences of the communities they are meant to serve. However, successful implementation hinges not only on policy design but also on the active engagement of stakeholders. Stakeholders include diverse individuals, groups, organisations and the government, each playing unique roles and holding varying degrees of influence that are central to turning policy objectives into tangible outcomes. For policies to translate into meaningful change, it is essential to empower these stakeholders by equipping them with the knowledge, resources and capacities needed for effective participation and advocacy.

***Some of the ways to empower stakeholders, particularly the direct beneficiaries of the policy include:***

- Capacity building: Organising trainings and workshops on policy process, policy analysis, advocacy and leadership, skill

development programs, etc. will help bolster the skills and knowledge needed to effectively engage in policy discussions. Stakeholders are helped to understand the policymaking process and articulate their needs in a manner that influences decisions, particularly for marginalized groups such as smallholder farmers and women, whose voices are often underrepresented in policy dialogues.

- Another potent way to empower stakeholders is to create participatory communication platforms for them where they can discuss and reason together. Utilising participatory methods like community forums, focus groups and digital platforms (e.g., social media, mobile applications) ensures that stakeholders have a voice in decision-making processes. These platforms allow for real-time feedback, concerns and suggestions, promoting transparency and ownership.

- Similarly, supporting stakeholders with financial resources is also very helpful to empower stakeholders for policy impact. Providing stakeholders with access to funding opportunities, grants or micro-loans supports them in implementing their initiatives. Financial empowerment enables them to realise their ideas, invest in necessary tools and scale their efforts.
- Mentorship programmes, along with networking opportunities, empower stakeholders by connecting them with experts, experienced professionals and like-minded individuals. This is particularly effective in sectors like agriculture and education, where

knowledge-sharing is critical for growth and innovation.

Empowering stakeholders is a fundamental component of achieving meaningful policy impact. When stakeholders are well-informed, actively engaged and adequately equipped, they can drive policy goals forward, advocate for necessary adjustments and ensure that initiatives resonate with the community's actual needs. Through continued efforts to build capacity, encourage participation, support with financial resources, foster mentorship and networking partnership, we can unlock the full potential of policies to create lasting and positive change.



*Mr. Iredele receiving an award of excellence following his keynote speech at the University of Ibadan's Personality Lecture and Prof. Janice Olawoye Debate, organised by the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development Students' Association.*

# Profile of Staff Members



**Professor Adeola Adenikinju**, is a Professor of Energy Economics and the former Director of the Centre for Petroleum, Energy Economics and Law (CPEEL), University of Ibadan. He is also a Research Professor at the Centre for Econometrics and Allied Research (CEAR) and Professor of Economics, both at the University of Ibadan. He has served in editorial boards of several energy journals, including the US based, 'The Energy Journal'. He is a former President and Distinguished Fellow of the Nigerian Association for Energy Economics.

He has also served as Special Assistant to the Presidential Adviser on Energy as well as the Senior Special Assistant to the Nigerian President on Economic Matters in the Office of the Chief Economic Adviser to the President in 2010 and 2011. He is the current president of the Nigerian Economic Society (NES). He is currently the principal investigator at PiLAF.

*Email: [adeolaadenikinju@yahoo.com](mailto:adeolaadenikinju@yahoo.com)*



**Professor Adegbenga Adekoya**, is a lecturer in the department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, University of Ibadan. He is a community development expert and a strong advocate for stakeholders' involvement. He upholds that engagement with the stakeholders across value chains in community development and policy is a way to popularise policy and ensure participation as well as development. He has served as an external assessor to universities across and beyond Nigeria.

He is currently PiLAF's co-principal investigator. He has passion for technology and infrastructural development and also enjoys playing games.

*Email: [vichenfelz@gmail.com](mailto:vichenfelz@gmail.com)*



**Professor Olusanya Elisa Olubusoye (PiLAF Advisor)** is a Professor of Statistics. He is the immediate past director of the Centre for Petroleum, Energy Economics and Law (CPEEL), University of Ibadan. He is a member of many Professional and Academic associations including Royal Statistical Society (RSS), London; African Econometric Society (AES); International Biometric Society (IBS) Group, Nigeria and The Nigerian Statistical Association (NSA). He holds the highest professional qualification of Chartered Statistician (CStat) of the RSS. He is a

Senior Research Fellow with the Centre for Econometric and Allied Research (CEAR), University of Ibadan.

Email: [olubusoyeoe@gmail.com](mailto:olubusoyeoe@gmail.com)



**Mr Iredele Emmanuel Ogunbayo**, is a fellow of Structural Transformation of African and Asian Agriculture and Rural Spaces (STAAARS+). He holds a BSc. and Msc. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Ibadan and MBA from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife. He is currently a doctoral student at the Department of Mineral, Petroleum, Energy Economics and Law (DMPEEL), University of Ibadan. He has interest in the Agric-Energy nexus and energy utilisation within the agricultural value chain in Nigeria.

His other areas of interest include agricultural policy, value chain analysis and computable general equilibrium (CGE). He serves as a senior researcher and project administrative manager in PiLAF. He enjoys watching soccer, reading, teaching, and is passionate about chess development in Nigeria. He is the current chairman of Oyo State Chess Association and also a member of the competition committee of the Nigeria Chess Federation.

Email: [doex310@yahoo.com](mailto:doex310@yahoo.com)



**Dr Benjamin Olusegun Oyelami (Policy Communication Manager)** is a STAAARS+ fellow. He holds a BSc. in Agricultural Economics and Extension, MSc. in Agricultural Extension and Rural Development from Ladokpe Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho, Oyo state and a PhD in Agricultural Value Chain and Rural Development from the University of Ibadan. His research interest is in Agricultural policy, Resilience, Entrepreneurship, Climate-smart and Digital agriculture along

the agricultural value chain as well as rural development; he has worked extensively within Nigeria's rural sector. He serves as a senior researcher and the Policy Communication officer and in PiLAF.

*Email: [oyelamibo@gmail.com](mailto:oyelamibo@gmail.com)*



**Dr Oreoluwa Akano** serves as a post-doctoral fellow at PiLAF. He holds a BSc. in Plant Physiology and Crop Production from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, an MSc. in Agronomy from University of Ibadan and a PhD from NorthWest University, South Africa. His experiences cut across crop farm management, marketing and business development. His research interests include climate change, smallholder farming system, food security and caloric suitability, value chain analysis and computable general equilibrium (CGE). He enjoys listening

to music and watching soccer.

*Email: [olalekanore@ymail.com](mailto:olalekanore@ymail.com), [akanoore@gmail.com](mailto:akanoore@gmail.com)*



**Oyewale Oyegoke** is a data analyst and researcher at PiLAF with over ten years' experience in using different statistical and econometric softwares such as Stata, Eviews, Tora, Frontier version 4.1 and SPSS. He is a graduate of agricultural economics. He obtained his master's degree from the premier university; University of Ibadan (UI) while his first degree is from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB). His research interest hinges on Welfare and Developmental Economics particularly food security, poverty, resilience, value chains,

gender related issues among both small scale and emergent farmers.

His hobbies are analysing political and economic issues, reading, writing, watching soccer and travelling. *Email: [oyewaleoyegoke777@gmail.com](mailto:oyewaleoyegoke777@gmail.com)*



**Olubusayo Olorunkoya** holds a Bsc in Agricultural Extension & Rural Sociology from Obafemi Awolowo University and a Msc in Agricultural Extension & Rural Development from the University of Ibadan. Currently, she is a PhD student in Sociology at the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey and an Erasmus exchange beneficiary of the same school. Her interests are Rural development, Rural women and health studies, Development studies, Social policy and Food security as well as

Rural livelihood. She serves as a graduate research assistant at PiLAF. Olubusayo enjoys travelling, field research and outreaches and singing.

Email: [omolorunkoyaz@gmail.com](mailto:omolorunkoyaz@gmail.com)



**Peace Ikharelu Aburime** is a Researcher and Administrative Assistant at PiLAF. She holds a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Agricultural Extension and Management from the Federal College of Forestry, Jericho, Ibadan, and has earned both her BSc (First Class Honours) and MSc degrees in Agricultural Extension and Rural Development from the University of Ibadan, where she is also pursuing her PhD. Her research interests include food systems, climate change, food security, rural development, and policy. She is proficient in R, STATA, SPSS, PowerBI, and Canva. She

enjoys singing, cooking, and basketball.

Email: [aburimepeace@gmail.com](mailto:aburimepeace@gmail.com)



**Mercy Adediran** holds a BTech in Agricultural Extension and Communication Technology from Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA) and a MSc in Agricultural Extension and Rural Development from University of Ibadan (UI). Currently, she is a graduate researcher at PiLAF, contributing to research projects and stakeholder engagement. Mercy is experienced in data collection, proposal writing and crafting policy briefs, with proficiency in SPSS, STATA, and PowerBi. She has worked on projects around agri-food systems, climate

change and rural development; she is committed to advancing research in sustainable agri-food systems in Nigeria and beyond. In her free time, Mercy enjoys travelling and sewing.

Email: [mercyadediran21@gmail.com](mailto:mercyadediran21@gmail.com)



### **Ifeoluwa Elizabeth Adeagbo**

Ifeoluwa Elizabeth Adeagbo holds a Bsc. in Agricultural Economics from Osun State University and a Msc. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Ibadan. Her research interests centre on climate change, food security and resource economics, with a focus on developing sustainable solutions for agricultural communities. With experience in analysing both primary and secondary data, she is proficient in statistical software, including

Stata, SPSS, Excel, Canva; she is a Power BI enthusiast. Outside of her academic pursuits, she enjoys storytelling, teaching teenagers (especially the marginalized ones) and acting.

*Email: [adeagboifeoluwa77@gmail.com](mailto:adeagboifeoluwa77@gmail.com)*

## VISION

To be a world class centre of excellence in agricultural and food security policy that promotes best practices in participatory policy process.

## MISSION

To promote inclusive agricultural and food security policy through research, capacity development and influence that enhances effective and sustainable agri-food systems in Nigeria and the rest of Africa.

## OBJECTIVE

Our core objective is to influence the agricultural policy process through research, capacity development and effective collaboration among all stakeholders along the agri-food system.

## ADDRESS

Room 204, Department of Agricultural Extension & Rural development, University of Ibadan  
**| Annex**  
Centre for Petroleum, Energy Economics & Law (No 7, Parry Road, University of Ibadan)



+234 802 7573 322



info@pilafui.org,  
pilafunibadan@gmail.com



@pilafui



@Pilaf\_ui



@PiLAF Unibadan



@pilafui

