

TECHNICAL REPORT
ON
STUDENTS INDUSTRIAL WORK EXPERIENCE SCHEME (SIWES)
AT
DABIRA FARMS
NO. 6, DABIRA STREET, OKE-TASI, AGO AMODU ROAD, SEPETERI,
OYO STATE

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SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate my Industrial Training report to Almighty God, who has given me the grace to participate in the SIWES program, to my Parents and as many that have contributed greatly to the success of my Industrial Training.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I thank God who has seen me throughout my SIWES program and also thank my Industrial based supervisor who guided me through My Industrial training. I also send out my appreciation to my lecturers, friends and Coworkers for their moral support. My special thanks to my wonderful and lovely parents Mr. and Mrs. Abdulrafiu who were there for me in terms of care, prayers, financial support and others.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) is a work-based learning program designed to prepare students for the transition from academic life to professional careers. It is an integral part of the Nigerian educational system, aimed at equipping students with practical skills and knowledge to complement their theoretical studies. SIWES was established in 1973 by the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) in response to the growing concerns of employers about the lack of practical skills among graduates from tertiary institutions (Ezeabikwa, 1991). The scheme is a collaborative initiative involving students, tertiary institutions, employers of labor, and the ITF.

The program was introduced to address the gap between classroom learning and the real-world demands of industries. It recognizes that while theoretical knowledge is essential, it is often insufficient for solving practical problems in professional environments. SIWES provides students with opportunities to gain hands-on experience, develop technical competencies, and understand workplace ethics and culture (Agbai, 1992).

The scheme is a mandatory part of the curriculum for students studying courses such as engineering, technology, medical sciences, agriculture, education, and other applied sciences. It typically lasts for six months for university undergraduates and four months for students in polytechnics or colleges of education (ITF, 2024). Through this initiative, students are exposed to industrial practices and technologies that are not available within their academic institutions. This exposure enhances their employability and prepares them for the challenges of the modern workforce (Adebayo & Adesanya, 2013).

SIWES also serves as a platform for fostering partnerships between educational institutions and industries. These partnerships enable industries to contribute to curriculum development by providing feedback on the skills and knowledge required in the workplace. This collaboration ensures that graduates are better equipped to meet industry standards and expectations (Akinyemi & Abiodun, 2018).

In summary, SIWES is a vital component of Nigeria's educational system that bridges the gap between theory and practice. It plays a crucial role in preparing students for professional careers by equipping them with practical skills, knowledge, and experiences that are essential for success in their chosen fields.

1.2 BRIEF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SIWES

The history of SIWES dates back to the early 1970s when Nigeria experienced rapid industrial growth following its independence. This growth created a demand for skilled manpower to operate and manage industrial facilities. However, employers soon realized that graduates from tertiary institutions lacked the practical skills needed to perform effectively in the workplace (Ezeabikwa, 1991).

In response to this challenge, the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) was established in 1971 by Decree No. 47 with a mandate to promote skill acquisition and manpower development in Nigeria. Two years later, in 1973, SIWES was introduced as one of ITF's flagship programs aimed at addressing the skill gap among graduates (ITF, 2024). Initially, SIWES was fully funded and managed by ITF. The program targeted students in engineering and technology-related fields who required practical training as part of their academic curriculum (Adebayo & Adesanya, 2013).

By 1978, financial constraints forced ITF to withdraw from direct management of SIWES. The Federal Government subsequently transferred oversight responsibilities to the National Universities Commission (NUC) for universities and the National Board for Technical

Education (NBTE) for polytechnics and colleges of education (Legit.ng, 2022). However, this arrangement proved ineffective due to inadequate funding and poor coordination among stakeholders. In 1984, management responsibilities were returned to ITF under a new funding arrangement supported by the Federal Government (SmartBukites, 2023).

Over time, SIWES has undergone significant changes aimed at improving its effectiveness and expanding its scope. Initially limited to engineering and technology disciplines, it now includes other fields such as medical sciences, agriculture, business administration, and education. These changes reflect an ongoing commitment to align SIWES with evolving industry needs and national development goals (Akinyemi & Abiodun, 2018).

Today, SIWES is recognized as one of Nigeria's most successful initiatives for bridging the gap between academic learning and industrial practice. It has become an essential component of tertiary education in Nigeria, contributing significantly to skill development and employability among graduates.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF SIWES

The primary objectives of SIWES are multifaceted and aim to enhance both student learning and industry engagement:

- To provide students with industrial skills and experience relevant to their field of study.
- To expose students to work methods and techniques that may not be available in their academic institutions.
- To facilitate a smoother transition from academic life to professional employment by enhancing students' networks with potential employers.
- To allow students to apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings, thereby bridging the gap between theory and practice.

- To strengthen employer participation in the educational process by fostering collaboration between educational institutions and industries (Ezeabikwa, 1991; ITF, 2024).

CHAPTER TWO

DESCRIPTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ATTACHMENT

2.1 LOCATION AND BRIEF HISTORY OF ESTABLISHMENT

Dabira Farms, where I completed my SIWES programme, is strategically located at No. 6, Dabira Street, Oke-Tasi, Ago Amodu Road, Sepeteri, Oyo State. This location offers several advantages that contribute to the farm's success. The farm is situated in an area with good road networks, making it easily accessible for both suppliers and customers. This accessibility facilitates the transportation of goods and services, reducing logistical challenges and costs. Additionally, being close to major agricultural markets allows Dabira Farms to quickly supply its products to consumers, ensuring freshness and reducing storage costs. This proximity also enables the farm to respond promptly to market demands and trends.

Oyo State is renowned for its fertile land and favorable climate, making it an ideal place for various types of farming, including poultry. The region's agricultural heritage supports a strong network of farmers, suppliers, and distributors, which facilitates the smooth operation of farms like Dabira. The local community benefits from the farm's presence through employment opportunities and the availability of fresh produce. This mutual benefit fosters a positive relationship between the farm and the community, which is crucial for long-term sustainability.

Although specific details about the history of Dabira Farms were not provided during my attachment, it is clear that the farm has established itself as a significant player in the local agricultural sector. The farm's presence in an area known for its agricultural activities suggests that it has been operating for a considerable period, building a reputation for quality and reliability. Dabira Farms contributes to the local economy in several ways. It provides jobs for local residents, both directly and indirectly. Direct employment includes farm

workers, administrative staff, and management, while indirect employment includes suppliers and service providers who support the farm's operations.

By sourcing materials and supplies from local businesses, Dabira Farms supports the local economy and helps to retain wealth within the community. This practice also encourages local suppliers to improve their products and services, contributing to overall economic development. The farm's activities stimulate the local market by providing fresh produce and creating demand for related goods and services. This stimulation can lead to the growth of other businesses in the area, further enhancing economic activity. In summary, the location of Dabira Farms is a key factor in its success, offering advantages in terms of accessibility, market proximity, and community support. While the specific history of the farm may not be detailed, its impact on the local economy and community is evident through its contributions to employment, local purchasing, and market stimulation.

2.2 OBJECTIVES OF ESTABLISHMENT

The primary objectives of Dabira Farms, as observed during my attachment, are multifaceted and aimed at contributing to both the local economy and the well-being of the community. These objectives include:

- **Livestock Production:** The farm focuses on rearing livestock, with a significant emphasis on poultry to meet the protein needs of the local population. This involves maintaining a healthy stock of birds and ensuring that they are well-fed and cared for to produce high-quality eggs and meat.
- **Economic Contribution:** By engaging in livestock rearing, Dabira Farms contributes to the local economy by providing employment opportunities and generating income for the community. The farm supports local suppliers by purchasing feed and other necessary materials from them, further boosting the local economy.

- **Sustainable Practices:** The farm aims to adopt sustainable farming practices to ensure long-term viability and environmental stewardship. This includes using environmentally friendly methods for waste disposal and minimizing the use of harmful chemicals in farming practices.
- **Quality Assurance:** Ensuring the quality of products is another key objective. The farm strives to maintain high standards in poultry rearing, ensuring that all products meet or exceed customer expectations in terms of taste, freshness, and safety.
- **Community Engagement:** Dabira Farms also seeks to engage with the local community through educational programs and workshops. These initiatives aim to promote best practices in agriculture and support small-scale farmers in the area.

2.3 ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

The organizational structure of Dabira Farms, as observed during my SIWES programme, is designed to ensure efficient management and operation of the farm. The structure typically includes:

- **Management Team:** Oversees the overall operations of the farm, making strategic decisions and ensuring that the objectives are met. This team is responsible for setting policies, managing budgets, and overseeing major projects.
- **Farm Managers:** Responsible for the day-to-day operations, including managing staff, monitoring animal health, and maintaining farm facilities. They ensure that all departments are functioning smoothly and that any issues are addressed promptly.
- **Farm Workers:** Engage in tasks such as feeding, cleaning, and caring for the animals. They are crucial to the daily operations of the farm and are often trained on best practices to ensure high-quality care for the livestock.

- **Veterinary Team:** Provides medical care to the animals, including vaccinations and treatments. This team is essential for maintaining the health and well-being of the livestock.
- **Maintenance Team:** Responsible for maintaining the farm's infrastructure, including buildings, equipment, and vehicles. They ensure that all facilities are in good condition to support farm operations.

2.4 DEPARTMENTS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

While Dabira Farms primarily focuses on livestock rearing, the departments and their functions observed during my attachment were as follows:

- **Poultry Department:**
 - **Function:** Focuses on the rearing of poultry birds for egg and meat production. This department is responsible for ensuring that the birds are healthy and well-cared for.
 - **Activities:** Includes feeding, vaccination, and ensuring the health and well-being of the birds. The department also manages the breeding program to ensure a consistent supply of chicks.
- **Livestock Department:**
 - **Function:** Manages other livestock such as cattle or goats, depending on the farm's capacity. This department is similar to the poultry department but tailored to the specific needs of other livestock.
 - **Activities:** Similar to the poultry department but includes tasks such as grazing management for cattle or goats.

- **Administrative Department:**

- **Function:** Handles administrative tasks such as record-keeping, financial management, and human resources. This department supports the operational departments by managing supplies, payroll, and other administrative duties.
- **Activities:** Includes tasks such as budgeting, accounting, and ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements.

- **Procurement and Supply Chain Department:**

- **Function:** Responsible for sourcing and purchasing supplies, managing inventory, and ensuring a smooth supply chain. This department plays a critical role in maintaining the efficiency of farm operations.
- **Activities:** Includes tasks such as ordering feed, equipment, and other necessary materials for farm operations. The department also negotiates with suppliers to secure the best prices and ensures timely delivery of goods.

- **Marketing Department:**

- **Function:** Focuses on promoting the farm's products and building relationships with customers. This department is essential for increasing sales and expanding the farm's market reach.
- **Activities:** Includes developing marketing strategies, participating in agricultural events, and engaging with customers through social media and other channels.

CHAPTER THREE

INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE

3.1 WORK DONE

During my SIWES programme at Dabira Farms, I was primarily involved in the poultry sector, where I gained hands-on experience in various aspects of poultry farming. My responsibilities included assisting in the daily care of the birds, such as feeding, cleaning, and ensuring their health and well-being. This involved monitoring their behavior, checking for signs of illness, and reporting any issues to the farm managers. I also participated in vaccination programs, which were crucial for protecting the birds from diseases. These programs required careful planning and execution to ensure that all birds were vaccinated effectively without causing them undue stress.

One of my key tasks was to assist in the management of the poultry house environment. This involved maintaining optimal temperature and humidity levels, ensuring proper ventilation, and managing lighting to promote healthy growth and reduce stress among the birds. I learned about the importance of maintaining a clean and hygienic environment, which included regular cleaning of the poultry houses and disinfecting equipment to prevent the spread of diseases. Additionally, I helped with record-keeping to track the health and productivity of the birds, which involved monitoring their growth rates, feed consumption, and egg production.

I also had the opportunity to observe and assist in the procurement process, where I learned about sourcing feed and other essential supplies. This experience highlighted the importance of supply chain management in ensuring the smooth operation of the farm. I saw firsthand how delays in feed delivery could impact the birds' health and productivity, emphasizing the need for reliable suppliers and contingency plans. Furthermore, I participated in meetings with farm managers and other staff members to discuss operational challenges and strategies

for improvement, which helped me understand the decision-making processes in a real-world setting.

During these meetings, I gained insights into budgeting, resource allocation, and strategic planning. I learned how to analyze problems, identify solutions, and implement changes effectively. This experience not only deepened my understanding of poultry farming but also provided valuable skills in management and leadership.

3.2 TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED

During my attachment, I used a variety of tools and equipment essential for poultry farming. These included:

- **Feeding and Watering Systems:** Automated systems that ensure the birds have access to food and water at all times. These systems were designed to minimize waste and ensure that the birds received the right amount of nutrients.
- **Ventilation Systems:** Fans and windows that help maintain a healthy environment by controlling temperature and humidity. Proper ventilation is crucial for preventing respiratory problems in birds.
- **Lighting Systems:** Specialized lighting that simulates natural daylight to promote growth and reduce stress. The lighting schedule was carefully managed to mimic natural daylight patterns, which helped regulate the birds' circadian rhythms.
- **Vaccination Equipment:** Syringes and vaccines used to protect the birds from diseases. Vaccination was a critical task that required precision and care to ensure that all birds were protected without causing them undue stress.
- **Cleaning Tools:** Brushes, disinfectants, and other cleaning materials used to maintain hygiene in the poultry houses. Regular cleaning was essential for preventing the spread of diseases and maintaining a healthy environment.

- **Egg Collection and Packaging Equipment:** Machines and materials used to collect, clean, and package eggs for distribution. This process required attention to detail to ensure that eggs were handled carefully and presented in a marketable condition.
- **Record-Keeping Tools:** Computers and software used to track the health, growth, and productivity of the birds. Accurate record-keeping was vital for monitoring performance, identifying areas for improvement, and making informed decisions about farm operations.

3.3 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Safety was a top priority during my SIWES programme. To ensure a safe working environment, several precautions were taken:

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** I wore gloves, masks, and boots when handling birds or cleaning to prevent the spread of diseases. This was especially important during vaccination and when entering areas where birds were present.
- **Hygiene Practices:** Regular handwashing and disinfection of equipment were emphasized to maintain cleanliness and prevent contamination. This included washing hands before and after handling birds or entering poultry houses.
- **Biosecurity Measures:** Access to the poultry houses was restricted to authorized personnel to prevent the introduction of diseases from outside. Visitors were required to wear PPE and follow strict hygiene protocols.
- **Emergency Procedures:** Protocols were in place for handling emergencies such as power outages or bird escapes, ensuring that all staff knew what to do in such situations. Regular drills helped prepare staff for potential emergencies.

3.4 CHALLENGES FACED DURING MY SIWES PROGRAMME

Despite the valuable experience gained during my SIWES programme, I encountered several challenges. One of the main challenges was adapting to the early morning and late evening work schedules required for poultry farming. This involved waking up early to assist with feeding and ensuring that the birds were comfortable throughout the day. The physical demands of the job were also challenging, as tasks such as cleaning the poultry houses and handling heavy bags of feed required a lot of effort, especially in the hot and humid conditions typical of poultry farming environments.

Another challenge was dealing with the technical aspects of poultry farming. Understanding and implementing systems for managing ventilation, lighting, and temperature control required a steep learning curve. However, with guidance from experienced staff members, I was able to overcome these challenges and gain a deeper understanding of these systems.

Additionally, I faced logistical challenges related to supply chain disruptions, such as delays in feed delivery. These situations required quick thinking and problem-solving to ensure that the birds' needs were met without interruption. This involved communicating with suppliers, exploring alternative sources, and managing inventory to minimize the impact of delays.

Lastly, there were occasional challenges in managing the health of the birds. Dealing with outbreaks of disease required swift action to prevent spread and minimize losses. This involved working closely with the veterinary team to identify the cause of illness, administer appropriate treatments, and implement measures to prevent future occurrences.

Overall, the challenges faced during my SIWES programme provided valuable learning opportunities and helped me develop skills in adaptability, problem-solving, and teamwork. These experiences not only enhanced my understanding of poultry farming but also prepared me for the realities of working in a fast-paced agricultural environment.

CHAPTER FOUR

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATION

4.1 SUMMARY

My SIWES programme at Dabira Farms provided a comprehensive learning experience in the poultry sector of a livestock rearing farm. Located in Sepeteri, Oyo State, the farm is strategically positioned to leverage the region's agricultural heritage and favorable climate. During my attachment, I gained hands-on experience in various aspects of poultry farming, including bird care, vaccination programs, environmental management, and record-keeping.

I was exposed to a range of tools and equipment essential for poultry farming, such as feeding and watering systems, ventilation systems, and vaccination equipment. Safety was a top priority, with strict adherence to personal protective equipment use, hygiene practices, biosecurity measures, and emergency procedures. These practices not only ensured a safe working environment but also helped maintain the health and well-being of the birds.

Throughout the programme, I observed the importance of teamwork and collaboration among different departments within the farm. The administrative department handled tasks such as financial management and human resources, while the procurement department focused on sourcing supplies and managing inventory. This interdepartmental coordination was crucial for ensuring that all aspects of farm operations ran smoothly.

Despite the valuable experiences, I encountered challenges such as adapting to demanding work schedules, managing technical aspects of poultry farming, and dealing with logistical issues like supply chain disruptions. These challenges provided opportunities for growth and skill development in adaptability, problem-solving, and teamwork.

4.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, my SIWES programme at Dabira Farms was a transformative experience that deepened my understanding of poultry farming and its operational complexities. The

programme not only equipped me with practical skills in poultry management but also provided insights into the broader aspects of agricultural business management, including supply chain management, marketing, and community engagement.

The experience highlighted the importance of sustainable practices, quality assurance, and community involvement in ensuring the long-term success of agricultural ventures. It also underscored the need for continuous learning and adaptation in response to challenges such as disease outbreaks and supply chain disruptions.

One of the key takeaways from my experience was the significance of maintaining a healthy and safe environment for the birds. This involved not only ensuring proper ventilation and lighting but also implementing rigorous hygiene practices to prevent disease outbreaks. Additionally, I learned about the importance of record-keeping in monitoring bird health and productivity, which is essential for making informed decisions about farm operations.

Overall, the SIWES programme was a valuable learning experience that prepared me for a career in agriculture by combining theoretical knowledge with practical skills and real-world challenges. It provided a comprehensive understanding of the poultry industry and its role in contributing to food security and economic development.

4.3 RECOMMENDATION

Based on my experience and observations during the SIWES programme, I recommend the following:

- **Investment in Technology:** Dabira Farms should consider investing in advanced technology such as automated feeding systems and precision agriculture tools to enhance efficiency and productivity. These technologies can help optimize resource use, reduce waste, and improve bird health. For instance, automated feeding systems can ensure that birds receive the right amount of feed at the right time, reducing waste and improving growth rates.
- **Staff Training and Development:** Regular training programs should be implemented to enhance the skills of farm workers, particularly in areas such as disease management and environmental sustainability. This will help them adapt to new challenges and technologies in the industry. Training sessions could cover topics such as biosecurity practices, vaccination protocols, and sustainable farming methods.
- **Supply Chain Diversification:** To mitigate the risks associated with supply chain disruptions, the farm should diversify its suppliers and explore alternative sources for essential materials like feed. This could involve building relationships with local farmers to source feed ingredients, which would also support the local economy. Diversifying suppliers can help ensure a consistent supply of high-quality feed, even during times of shortage or logistical challenges.
- **Community Engagement:** The farm should continue and expand its community engagement initiatives. This could include educational programs for local farmers, workshops on sustainable farming practices, and partnerships with local schools to promote agricultural education. Community engagement not only fosters goodwill but

also helps disseminate best practices in agriculture, contributing to broader economic and social development.

- **Environmental Sustainability:** Dabira Farms should prioritize environmental sustainability by adopting practices that minimize waste and reduce the farm's ecological footprint. This could involve implementing recycling programs for waste materials and using renewable energy sources where possible. For example, the farm could explore using solar power for lighting and heating, which would reduce reliance on fossil fuels and lower energy costs.
- **Market Expansion:** The farm should explore opportunities to expand its market reach, both locally and nationally. This could involve developing marketing strategies to promote its products, engaging with larger retailers, and potentially exporting products to other regions. Expanding market reach can help increase revenue and provide a buffer against local market fluctuations.
- **Research and Development:** Dabira Farms should invest in research and development to stay ahead of industry trends and challenges. This could involve collaborating with universities or research institutions to explore new technologies and practices that could improve efficiency and productivity. Research initiatives could focus on areas such as disease resistance, feed optimization, and environmental sustainability.