

A TECHNICAL REPORT

ON

STUDENTS INDUSTRIAL WORK EXPERIENCE SCHEME
(SIWES)

UNDERTAKEN

AT

OUTSPAN NIGERIA LIMITED
KM3 AFON ROAD, OGBONDOROKO, ILORIN, KWARA STATE.

BY

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this report write up to Almighty Allah who gives me strength and inspiration in the course of this work. Special dedication also goes to my ever supportive parents Mr. and Mrs. ISHAQ, and other family members for their relentless, financial and moral support towards the success of my four (4) months SIWES programme.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have taken effort in this Siwes. However, it would not have been possible without the kind support and help of some individuals and this organization. I would like to extend my earnest thanks to all of them.

I would and in Respect like explicitly express my gratitude to the Managing Director of **OUTSPAN NIGERIA LIMITED**, and the staff for their kind co-operation and their professional guidance and instruction during my Siwes which assisted me in completion of this Siwes.

I would like to express my special gratitude and thanks to industry persons for giving me such attention and time.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 HISTORY OF SIWES

SIWES (Student Industrial Working Experience Scheme) was established by ITF in 1973 to solve the problem of lack of adequate practical skills preparatory for employment in industries by Nigerian graduates of tertiary institutions.

The Scheme exposes students to industry based skills necessary for a smooth transition from the classroom to the world of work. It affords students of tertiary institutions the opportunity of being familiarized and exposed to the needed experience in handling machinery and equipment which are usually not available in the educational institutions. Participation in Industrial Training is a well-known educational strategy. Classroom studies are integrated with learning through hands-on work experiences in a field related to the student's academic major and career goals. It also expose the student to the practical aspect of some course being offer in the school.

Successful internships foster an experiential learning process that not only promotes career preparation but provides opportunities for learners to develop skills necessary to become leaders in their chosen professions.

One of the primary goals of the SIWES is to help students integrate leadership development into the experiential learning process. Students are expected to learn and develop basic non-profit leadership skills through a mentoring relationship with innovative non-profit leaders.

By integrating leadership development activities into the Industrial Training experience, we hope to encourage students to actively engage in non-profit management as a professional career objective. However, the effectiveness of

the SIWES experience will have varying outcomes based upon the individual student, the work assignment, and the supervisor/mentor requirements.

It is vital that each internship position description includes specific written, learning objectives to ensure leadership skill development is incorporation.

Participation in SIWES has become a necessary pre-condition for the award of Diploma, Degree and NCE certificates in specific disciplines in most institutions of higher learning in the country, in accordance with the education policy of government.

1.2 OPERATORS OF SIWES

Operators - The ITF, the coordinating agencies (NUC, NCCE, NBTE), employers of labor and the institutions.

Funding - The Federal Government of Nigeria

Beneficiaries - Undergraduate students of the following: Agriculture, Engineering, Technology, Environmental, Science, Education, Medical Science and Pure and Applied Sciences.

Duration - Four months for Colleges of Education and Polytechnics, and Six months for the Universities.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF SIWES

1. SIWES will provide students the opportunity to test their interest in a particular career before permanent commitments are made.
2. SIWES students will develop skills in the application of theory to practical work situations.
3. SIWES will provide students the opportunity to test their aptitude for a particular career before permanent commitments are made.

4. SIWES students will develop skills and techniques directly applicable to their careers.
5. SIWES will aid students in adjusting from college to full-time employment.
6. SIWES will provide students the opportunity to develop attitudes conducive to effective interpersonal relationships.
7. SIWES will increase a student's sense of responsibility.
8. SIWES students will be prepared to enter into full-time employment in their area of specialization upon graduation.
9. SIWES students will acquire good work habits.
10. SIWES students will develop employment records/references that will enhance employment opportunities.
11. SIWES will provide students the opportunity to understand informal organizational interrelationships.
12. SIWES will reduce student dropouts.

The four (4) months Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) which is a requirement for the completion of my course of study, was undertaken at AROWOLO VENTURE

The Industrial Training was based on working with Personal Computers, laptops, installation and maintenance, spreadsheet and word processing.

CHAPTER TWO

DESCRIPTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ATTACHMENT

2.1 Location and brief history of OUTSPAN NIGERIA LIMITED

Outspan Nigeria Limited has been a dominant player in the cashew nut processing industry for many years, known for its expertise in transforming raw cashew nuts into high-quality finished products. Located in Km3 Afon Road, Ogbondoroko, Ilorin, Kwara State, the company processes large volumes of cashew nuts, catering to both local and international markets.

2.2 Objectives of Establishment

The company's core value offers include:-

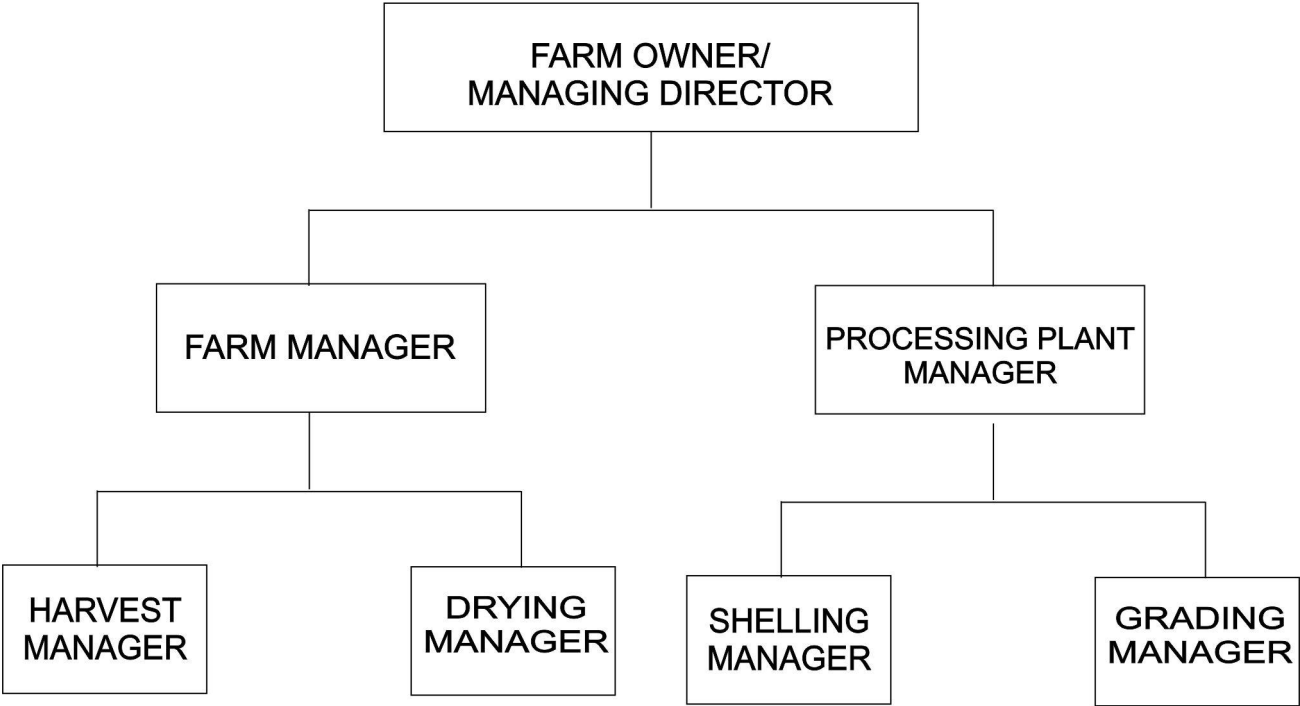
1. As part of its corporate social responsibility, the company offers the most affordable prices on its service rendered
2. It also provides unmatched after sales service to its numerous customers.
3. The brand named **OUTSPAN NIGERIA LIMITED** is known for providing quality services, prompt service and excellent customer relations.
4. Building strong reputation in the community through trust, honesty and transparency
5. To satisfy both retail and wholesale customers' need
6. Continuously improving processes and services to meet evolving customer needs.

2.3 ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

The company's operations span the entire value chain of cashew nut processing, which includes harvesting, drying, shelling, peeling, grading, and packaging. Each stage of the process demands precision, and I was fortunate to be fully immersed in each one of these stages.

- **Farm Owner/Managing Director:** The head of the farm, responsible for overall decision-making, business operations, and profitability.
- **Farm Manager:** Oversees day-to-day farm operations, including the growing and harvesting of cashew nuts.
- **Processing Plant Manager:** Manages the entire processing operation, ensuring that the cashews are processed, sorted, packaged, and prepared for distribution.
- **Harvest Manager:** Coordinates the harvesting of cashew nuts, ensuring the quality and timely collection of raw materials.
- **Drying Manager:** In charge of the drying process, ensuring proper drying conditions to preserve the quality of the nuts.
- **Shelling Manager:** Oversees the shelling process, ensuring that cashews are shelled correctly and efficiently without damage to the kernels.
- **Grading Manager:** Ensures that cashew nuts are graded according to size, quality, and appearance, determining their market value.
- **Peeling & Sorting Manager:** Responsible for peeling the cashew kernels and sorting them based on quality.
- **Packaging Manager:** Oversees the packaging stage, ensuring that cashew products are correctly packed, labeled, and prepared for distribution.

2.3.1 COMPANY ORGANOGRAM



2.4 Organization Structures/Departments

OUTSPAN NIGERIA LIMITED is divided into the following departments:-

- 1. Store Center
- 2. Customer service department

CHAPTER THREE

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES AND INVOLVEMENT

My role during the siwes was hands-on and involved direct engagement in every aspect of the processing operation. I was not just an observer but an active participant in the daily tasks, contributing to the workflow and taking on responsibilities to enhance productivity and efficiency.

HARVESTING: I wasn't directly involved in the physical harvesting of cashew nuts, I contributed by assisting with the logistics of raw nut collection, ensuring that only high-quality nuts were selected for processing. I also helped oversee the sorting of harvested nuts to ensure minimal damage during transportation to the processing plant.

DRYING PROCESS: I played an essential role in monitoring the drying of cashew nuts. This involved actively managing the drying chambers, ensuring the temperature and humidity were ideal for reducing moisture content. I assisted in maintaining the drying logs and data to track the efficiency and consistency of the drying process, ensuring that each batch of nuts reached the required moisture level before moving to the next stage.

SHELLING: One of my main responsibilities was assisting with the shelling of cashew nuts. I was trained to operate shelling machines and supervise the shelling process to ensure efficiency. I identified bottlenecks in the shelling process, such as jams in the machinery, and worked with the technical team to resolve minor issues promptly, thus ensuring minimal downtime.

PEELING AND GRADING: As part of the peeling and grading team, I was actively involved in separating the cashew kernels from the remaining shell fragments. I became proficient in using both automated and manual methods to

peel the nuts without causing damage. Additionally, I took responsibility for grading cashews based on size, color, and quality, ensuring that each batch met the company's high standards before packaging. I also identified defects during the grading process and worked to develop solutions for improving sorting accuracy.

PACKAGING: I was heavily involved in the packaging process, which required careful attention to detail. I ensured that the cashew nuts were sealed correctly, weighed accurately, and properly labeled for distribution. I also collaborated with the quality control team to monitor and improve packaging techniques, preventing issues such as overfilling or underfilling the packages, which could affect product quality.

Throughout these stages, I worked alongside experienced operators and supervisors, receiving valuable mentorship while also contributing fresh ideas to optimize processes.

3.1 METHODOLOGY/PROCESSING STAGES

The processing of cashew nuts involves several critical stages, each demanding precision and attention to detail:

HARVESTING OPERATION: I worked with the harvesting team to ensure the selection of ripe cashews. This stage is critical to ensure that the nuts harvested are of high quality, without bruises or damage. My role was to assist in sorting and cashews to the

DRYING

I monitored the ensuring that the spread evenly



transporting the processing plant.

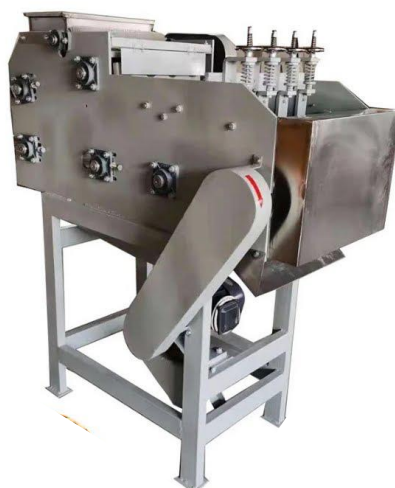
OPERATION:

drying process, nuts were and maintained

the right moisture content. This step is essential because improperly dried cashews may become moldy or spoil, affecting the final product quality.

CASHEW DRYING MACHINE

SHELLING OPERATION: The shelling process involves cracking open the hard outer shell of the nut, which requires careful handling to prevent damage to the cashew kernel inside. I was trained to use both manual and machine shellers. I assisted in troubleshooting the machinery when problems occurred and suggested modifications to improve efficiency.



SHELLING MACHINE

PEELING AND GRADING OPERATION: After the nuts were shelled, I took part in the peeling and grading operations. I peeled the cashew nuts and then sorted them by quality and size. The graded nuts were separated into different categories based on their market value, and I worked on ensuring the accuracy and consistency of the grading process.

PACKAGING OPERATION: I participated in the final stage of processing, where the cashew nuts were carefully packaged for shipment. This involved weighing, sealing, and labeling packages. I also worked on optimizing the packaging line to reduce wastage and ensure that all packaging was done according to standard operating procedures.



3.3

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

While my experience was mostly rewarding, I encountered several challenges that helped me grow as a professional:

- **Operational Delays:** One of the primary challenges I faced was operational delays, particularly during the shelling and peeling stages. Occasionally, machinery would break down or experience delays. I contributed by ensuring that maintenance schedules were strictly followed and worked with the technical team to quickly troubleshoot minor issues, which minimized downtime.
- **Quality Control Issues:** Ensuring that the cashew nuts met the required standards was a continuous challenge, especially during the grading phase. I worked closely with the quality control team, applying new methods of monitoring product consistency, including more precise visual checks and quality logs, which helped reduce errors.
- **Improved Workflow:** At times, the processing lines would get backed up due to inefficiencies in task delegation. I contributed ideas for optimizing workflow, such as suggesting better task coordination among team members and reorganizing the workstations to reduce unnecessary movement.

CHAPTER FOUR

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

4.1 SUMMARY OF ATTACHMENT ACTIVITIES

This report contained and gives the details explanation of all activities carried out at **OUTSPAN NIGERIA LIMITED, Km3 Afon Road, Ogbondoroko, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.**

The report explains briefly the details of all the activities with each Siwes been involved in outlined under each chapter. Chapter 1 started with the general introduction knowledge and objectives of the SIWES programme, Chapter 2 gives detailed of the skills and knowledge acquired during the programme, contained the activities at Laundry department and gives detailed of the skills and knowledge acquired during the programme, Chapter 3 explained the problems encountered during SIWES programme and Recommendations, Chapter 4 contained the summary of the whole report and the conclusion.

4.2 PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED DURING THE PROGRAM

There are numerous problems I encountered during my SIWES program at **OUTSPAN NIGERIA LIMITED.**

Some of the major problems are as follow:-

- 1. Problem of searching a place of attachment:-** I had so many problems when searching for a place of attachment for my SIWES because most organization rejected my request giving one reason or the other that they do not want SIWES student.
- 2. Cost of transport:-** Also encountered challenges in the aspect of transport fair during the course of my training due to the distance of my place of attachment.

- 3. Finance:** - The organization do not make any provision to pay SIWES student nor do they draft any allowance package for s so as to less the expenses during the course of the program.

4.3 SUGGESTIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SCHEME

- i. The establishment should provide the adequate facilities to make the programme enjoyable for the students.
- ii. Government should motivate partners from the private sector through granting tax relief for companies that accept Students on SIWES.
- iii. The company should be willing to accept and encourage students that are seeking for SIWES placement in their company without requesting for any money.
- iv. Institutions should be encouraged to create financial autonomy for Institution based SIWES Units/Directorates.
- v. The establishment should provide the adequate facilities to make the programme enjoyable for the SIWES Students.
- vi. SIWES should be properly presented to potential sponsors, such as Banks, multinational companies and other corporate institutions for Support in creating placement opportunities, training, equipment, Facilities, as well as direct funding of SIWES.