



**REPORT OF STUDENT INDUSTRIAL WORK
EXPERIENCE SCHEME (SIWES)
KWARA STATE POLYTECHNIC, ILORIN**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY
A TECHNICAL REPORT OF THE STUDENT INDUSTRIAL WORK
EXPERIENCE SCHEME (SIWES)**

Presented By

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ND/23/AGT/PT/0106

**UNDERTAKEN AT
ASCENDG FEED MILL**

**KM5, OPPOSITE ROEMICHS SCHOOL, AJASE-IPO ROAD
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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certified that OLAREWAJU AKEEM with matriculation number ND/23/AGT/PT/0106 in the department of agricultural technology, institute of applied sciences, Kwara state polytechnic, completed the stipulated period for the attachment at ASCENDG FEED MILL and wrote this SIWES report.

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SIWES COORDINATOR

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DATE

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SIWES SUPERVISOR

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DATE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am thankful to Almighty God for His gift of life, inspiration, guidance and strength throughout the SIWES period.

I appreciate my parents for their love, support and encouragement throughout the attachment period. From the bottom of my heart I say thank you for the support.

To the institution based supervisor, I thank you for painstakingly taking your time to visit me and assess my activities at the farm.

I also express my profound gratitude to the manager and all members of **ASCENDG FEED MILL** for their support, practical exposure, field studies and guidance provided during the attachment.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of SIWES

The student's work experience scheme is a training programme Nigeria institutions. It serve to bridge the existing gap between the theoretical work and actual practices of the various educational programmes in tertiary institutions. It exposes students to industrial based skills necessary for a smooth transition from classroom to the programmes approved as minimum academic standard in the various world of work. It allows students of tertiary institutions the opportunities of being familiarized and exposed to the needed experience in handling machines and equipment which are not usually available in some educational institutions, it also helps them to understand professional work areas and workers in the industry and other organizations.

SIWES is one of the industrial training funds (ITF) programs. It is design for the students in their 2 years national diploma program or students in their 4 or 5 years B.Sc. courses. The students are to undergo 4 to 6 months training respectively, in any industry or establishment relevant to their area of study to acquire practical experience and complement theory which has been learnt in the school.

SIWES was establist to solve the problem of lack of inadequate practical skills needed for employment in industries by Nigeria graduates form tertiary institutions.

1.2. History of SIWES

SIWES was founded in 1973 by ITF (Industrial Training Fund) to address the problem of tertiary institution graduates' lack of appropriate skills for employment in Nigeria industries. SIWES was founded to be a skill training programmes to help and exposed prepared students of universities, polytechnics and colleges of education for industrial work after graduation. This system facilitate the transfer from classroom to the workplace and aid the use of knowledge. The programme helps students to become acquainted with and exposed to the experience needed in handling and operating equipment and machinery that are typically not available in their school.

The industrial training found ITF organization decided to aid all interested Nigerian students and create SIWES program. The federal government officially approved and presented it in 1974. During it early years, the scheme was entirely supported by ITF, but as the financial commitment became too much for the fund, it withdraw in 1978. The national university commission NUC and National board for technical education NBTE were given control of the scheme by the federal government in 1979. The federal government handed over the supervision and implementation of the scheme to ITF in November 1984, it was taken over by the industrial training fund in 1985, with the federal government bearing the entire responsibility for funding.

1.3. Objectives of SIWES

The following are the objectives of the scheme according to the ITF's policy December No, 1 of 1973 which established SIWES outlined the objectives of the scheme as;

- As a means that provide an avenue for students in institution of higher learning to acquire industrial skills and experience in their respective course of study.
- Prepare students for industrial work situation they likely to experience after graduation.

- To enlist and strengthen employer involvement in the entire education process of preparing graduates for employment in industries.
- Enlist students to be conversant with their field.
- Ease the transition from school to world of work and enhance student contact for later job placement.
- It provides an opportunity for student to apply their theoretical knowledge in real work situation thereby bringing the gap between academic field of study and the actual work experience or practice.
- The scheme afford students the opportunity of familiarizing and esposing themselves to the needed experience in handling equipment and machinery that may not be available in their institution.

1.4. Mission and Vision of SIWES

Is majorly to equip students with necessary practical knowledge and technical skills for self-employment and effective involvement in Nigeria's industrial growth.

CHAPTER TWO

2.1. ASCENDG FEED MILL

2.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE ORGANIZATION

ASCENDG FEED MILL is a distinguished poultry farming and Crop Production enterprise that has grown into a symbol of excellence in poultry and Crop production. Established as an extension of the institution's agricultural initiatives, the poultry division was founded with the vision of providing high-quality poultry products, promoting food security, and advancing modern poultry farming techniques.

As demand for poultry products grew, the farm expanded its operations, incorporating improved breeds, better feeding techniques, and advanced poultry management systems.

Over the years, ASCENDG FEED MILL has diversified its production, specializing in layers for egg production, broilers for meat, and hatchery services for chick production. By integrating modern innovations such as automated feeding systems, biosecurity measures, and disease control strategies, the farm has maintained high standards in poultry health and productivity. Beyond production, ASCENDG FEED MILL has also contributed to capacity building in the agricultural sector by training aspiring poultry farmers, offering mentorship programs, and supporting local agribusiness initiatives. Its commitment to quality, sustainability, and innovation has positioned it as a leading poultry farm in the region.

Today, ASCENDG FEED MILL continues to thrive, supplying fresh poultry products to households, businesses, and markets while remaining dedicated to its mission of enhancing food security and agricultural development.

The Director.

He is the trustee, he is charged with the duty of overseeing the farm activities and effective management of farm finance and other funds wired to him. He collect daily report from the farm supervisor, hence, makes and takes decisions based on the gathered reports.

The Farm Manager / Supervisor

The farm manager oversees the daily activities and management of the farm operations. His responsibilities includes ensuring timely attendance of staff to their duties, investigating any abnormal behaviour in birds and other aspects, conducting post-mortem to ascertain the causes for mortality, and proactive requisitioning medications such as antibiotics, vaccines and anti-stress to prevent any discomfort that may impede their production. He prioritize the wellbeing of the birds, particularly in term of feeding, access to quality water, at the he compile comprehensive report and submit to the Director.

Other Staff

The other members of staff include: the secretary, the attendants (who feed and pick eggs, monitor the birds' activities), the cleaners (who clean both in and out of the pen) and the security guard (who ensure the security of the pen house). All staff ensure they uphold and do their duties diligently.

2.2. Objectives of the farm

- To boost Nigeria agricultural sector as a form diversification of the economy.
- To livestock production in Nigeria
- To provide raw material for processing companies.
- To provide employment
- Contribute to protein availability to Nigeria populace
- To provide basic practical knowledge for people in the field of agriculture.

2.3. Organizational structure (Organogram)

Division/Units → Crop Production, Poultry Unit

Division/Unit

|

| |

Crop Production Poultry Unit

ORGANOGRAM

Director (Owner)

|

MANAGER

|

|-----|

| |

Supervisor Crop Section Supervisor Poultry Section

| |

Workers

Workers

2.4. Various Units/Activities in the Farm

THE POULTRY UNIT

This unit is where the layers are reared and managed so as to produce eggs, this unit is the most important unit and activities which is so paramount in the farm, because this is the main revenue making point of the farm. Constant monitoring is geared to this unit to provide necessary management and needs for the birds. The second aspect of this unit is where broiler are reared, proper management and monitoring is also given as that of layers.

THE BROODING UNIT

- This is where day old chicks are brood and taken care of
- This unit produce healthy pullets which will later become layers and lay eggs
- The second unit under this brood day old broiler chicks for meat purpose
- In this unit, temperature, light, ventilation and humidity are monitored for optimum performance of the chicks.
- Feed, water, medication and vaccination are administered appropriately with caution.

CHAPTER THREE

3.1. Nature of Work, Activities, Skills and Experience Gained

Farm operations is divided into:

1. Poultry unit operation
2. Crop unit operation
3. Fishery Unit Operation

3.2. BROODER UNIT OPERATION

- The brooding section of the farm specialized on management procedure for rearing chicks to grower.
- Brooder unit cater for chicks from day old to about 8 weeks of age as chicks with proper management.
- This unit is the most sensitive of the farm that command great deal of management because of the fragility and susceptibility of the birds to disease-infection and environmental condition.
- Birds are also taken care of beyond 8 weeks to point of lay as grower (8-16 weeks) of age.
- This section is located a little distance away from the laying pen where the battery cages are arranged.

The outline of the routine management operation includes;

1. Daily observation of birds for comfort, activities, activeness, feeding and other operations.
2. Attentiveness to the noise from the chicks and reactions from the chicks which may a reaction to environmental, disease and/or change in physiological conditions.
3. Cleaning of the feeders and the drinkers in the morning before supply of fresh feed and water.
4. Adequate supply of feed and cool clean water routinely.

5. Removal and replacement of litters
6. Daily supply and regulation of supplemental heat.
7. Adding of antibiotics, multivitamins and anti-stress in the water.
8. Ensuring sanitary procedures; cleaning, washing and disinfecting.
9. Prevention of overcrowding, disturbance and pollution.
10. Restriction of movement into the brooder house to the staff in charge alone.
11. Ensuring all bio security measures before entering the brooder pen.

Occasionally, the following management practices are carried out;

1. Removal of heaters
2. Replacement of feeders and drinkers
3. Debeaking
4. Deworming
5. Delousing
6. Medication and vaccination
7. Transferring of grower birds to grower pen
8. Transferring of point of lay to battery cages

Debeaking

This involves partial removal of the beak to prevent vice habits such as pecking, feather-pulling, cannibalism and egg eating depending on the age these occur. While debeaking of birds can take place at 3-5 weeks, the birds should be debeaked latest between 15-17 weeks of age. Debeaking is done to control or solve these problems because they are indices of management defects like inadequate feeding and drinking, inadequate floor spaces, imbalanced diet, stress. Debeaking should be performed in the morning in hot weather to minimize bleeding. A higher level of vitamin K may be fed before debeaking to accelerate clotting. Debeaking can be done using a pair of scissors or an electric debeaker. If the former is used to cut the beaks, the raw surface should be rubbed with caustic potash to minimize bleeding which normally is excessive. The

electric debeaker on the other hand cuts the beak and simultaneously cauterizes the raw surface and thereby stops or minimizes bleeding.

Debeaking machine: - is used for the purpose of removing part of the beak, it is undertaken to reduce problem of pecking in the flock.

The brooding programme and activities in brooder pen can be summarized as bellow;

DAY	DESCRIPTION
1-2.	Upon chick arrival, they sprayed with Intra Ocular Vaccine (IOV) Administration of Vitamin supplement as anti-stress Administration of antibiotics of choice and multivitamin Supply heat and monitoring of activities
3.	Administration of H120 vaccine Administration of antibiotics of choice and multivitamin
4	Administration of Coccidiostat Vaccine Administration of antibiotics of choice and multivitamin
7	Administration of First LaSota Vaccine Administration of antibiotics of choice and multivitamin
10	Administration of First Gumboro Vaccine Administration of antibiotics of choice and multivitamin
14	Administration of second Gumboro Vaccine Administration of antibiotics of choice and multivitamin
21	Administration of second LaSota Vaccine
Week 4	heat is completely removed
Week 5	Administration H120 Vaccine Administration of antibiotics of choice and multivitamin
Week 6	Administration Fowl pox Vaccine Administration of antibiotics of choice and multivitamin
Week 8	Administration of LaSota Vaccine

	Administration of antibiotics of choice and multivitamin
Week 9	Deworming
	Administration of antibiotics of choice and multivitamin
Week 10	Debeaking
	Administration of antibiotics of choice and multivitamin
Week 12	Administration of Egg Drop Syndrome (EDS) and Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD) vaccine

After the sixteenth week, the birds are transferred to the layers section, though I have left the farm after the completion of my 16 week attachment programme for SIWES.

Observation

We recorded less mortality this was due to the proper management structure put in place and strict adherence to the management practices.

The followings could cause high mortality, as taught during the attachment

1. Poor quality chicks
2. Inadequate feeding and watering, feeding poor quality and contaminated feed and water
3. Inadequate housing facilities and poor hygiene of the facilities and equipment
4. Overcrowding and stampeding.
5. Poor ventilation, high humidity, unregulated temperature and pollution
6. Poor management of climatic/weather/seasonal factors such as humidity, light, temperature and wind effect
7. Brooder troubles such as; smoke, fire outbreak, water spillage, insufficient feeder, drinkers and heat
8. Poor sanitation and hygiene
9. Disease and infection



Deep Litter system for broiler

3.4 LAYERS DEPARTMENT/UNIT

This is the largest unit of the farm, it consists of 2 large pens housing two thousand birds (2000) layer stocks. The raising methods used are battery cages and deep litter system for point of lay up to 16 weeks. Each compartment of the cage accommodates 4 birds. Attached to the cage “cell” is a drinker and feeder, these are through feeder for feed and nipple drinker line for water.

Layer Facilities and Operations:

Battery cages

Chicken coops

Bucket, bowl, knife, scoops

Broom and sponges

Disinfectant

Wheel barrow, shovel and rakes

Egg trays and crates

Vaccination kits, first aid box and other appliances

Layers rearing management is a more tedious operation of the farm being one of daily productive units. Therefore, management of layers is considered important and demand careful handling and supervision.



ISSA Brown Layer

3.3 LAYERS OCCASSINAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Daily layers routine management are:

- **Watering:** fresh water is supplied to the birds regularly to availability daily. This is done by adding to the volume (toping) whenever dry or low in volume. For deep litter system of management where automatic drinkers are used, the drinkers were cleaned regularly to ensure birds has access to clean and fresh water always. The drinkers are said to be automatic because water flows into the drinking alley unattended but due to the raising of poultry dust and defecation into the drinking alley, the water becomes not too good for consumption of the birds. The birds would not either take the water which will eventually tells on their productivity, and hence predisposed the birds to diseases and become sick, the management will incur additional expenses on treating the birds and keeping them healthy. The drinking system implore in battery cage system is the nipple line system, occasionally checked if the nipples are in normal working condition.

- Feeding: the birds were fed “*adlibitum*”, made available in adequate quantity and sufficiently. Ration were given to the birds two times daily, in the morning around 7-8am and in the evening around 4-5pm.
- Sanitary practices: as important for every poultry management practices, layers attendant first assignment in the day is look out for mortality and remove them. Removal of sick birds to prevent transmission of infection. While other sanitary measures includes sweeping, disinfecting, cleaning of feeders and drinkers, and environmental sanitation.
- Egg Collection: eggs are collected continuously and as soon as laid to avoid pecking and egg eating a trait developed by layers on deep litter system. Egg pecking habit may be developed due to the following:

Access to egg which is characteristics of deep litter system

Lack of some ingredient like salt in feed

Hence eggs are collected five times daily at 8:30am, 10:00am, 12noon, 2:00pm and 4:00pm, all collected eggs are arranged in crates for sales. Transferring of eggs were done by each attendants allocated to to respective pen, they are expected to carry the total production from their pen to the office.

- Daily record keeping: daily records such as:
 - Bags of feed fed
 - Mortality rate
 - Numbers of egg collected per day
 - Numbers of birds
 - Sales record
 - Staff attendance



IBD Vaccine

3.4. FEED STORE UNIT

There were different types of feed available in the farm, they include; **Starter mash**: fed to broiler chick, **Finisher mash**: fed to adult broiler preparing for meat. **Chick mash**: fed to pullet chicks from day old to 8 weeks, **Grower mash**: fed to pullets from 9 weeks of age to point of lay while **Layer mash**: is fed to laying birds.

Incoming feed are usually kept in the feed store, arranged on pallets to prevent contact with the floor and avoid moist and mould growth.

Bags of feed needed to feed bird at a time are brought out with proper recording. Unused feed are returned to the store with return record.

Tips to Achieving a High Feed Efficiency

1. Adequate feeding space should be provided at all times, ensuring that about 75% of the birds can feed at the same time.
2. Feeders should be well designed with lips to prevent feed wastage.
3. Feeders should be filled to not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ full capacity.
4. Feeders should be properly hung, ensuring that the level of feeders correspond to the back of the chicken and activate the feed in the feeders regularly with the hands.

5. To avoid feed contamination and wastage, rat population should be constantly kept low.
6. Attendants should minimize feed spillage during the process of serving feed to reduce wastage.
7. Do not store feeds for too long or in damp places, otherwise they can become mouldy.

3.5. CROP UNIT

At crop production unit were exposed to various technical aspect of focuses on boosting crop yield and improving farming techniques for staple and cash crops, as follows:

Crop, and Crop type

Soil and Land Management

Planting Techniques and Spacing

Irrigation and Water Management

Crop Rotation and Intercropping

Weed and Pest Control

Growth Stage of Crop

Harvesting and Post-Harvest Management

Storage and Preservation Techniques

- **Crop:** is a plant grown and harvested for food, livestock feed, fiber, or other uses.
- **Agronomy:** is the science and practice of growing crops and managing soil for better productivity and sustainability. It involves understanding plant physiology, soil science, and environmental factors affecting crop growth.

At my SIWES farm, we were introduced and exposed to various crop types, including cereals, legumes, tubers, and vegetables. We learned how to cultivate these crops, from land preparation to harvesting and storage.

Soil Types and Land Preparation:

We studied different soil types and how to prepare land for planting through plowing, harrowing, and ridging to create suitable conditions for crop growth.

Plant Nutrient Management:

We explored how to balance soil nutrients using organic and inorganic fertilizers to promote healthy plant development and maximize yields.

Planting Techniques and Spacing:

We practiced various planting methods, such as direct seeding and transplanting, and learned the importance of proper spacing for optimal plant growth and resource utilization.

Growth Stages of Crops:

Understanding the stages of crop development helped us manage crops more effectively:

Germination → Seedling → Vegetative stage → Flowering → Maturity → Harvest

Common Crop Feeds (Fertilizer Components):

Just like fish feed has ingredients, crops need specific nutrients:

Nitrogen (N) — for leaf and stem growth

Phosphorus (P) — for root development and flowering

Potassium (K) — for disease resistance and overall plant health

Organic matter — for soil structure and long-term fertility

When and How to Plant Crops

We were introduced to planting techniques and practiced proper scheduling based on crop type, season, and environmental factors.

Morning planting (7:30 – 8:30 am): Ideal for crops that prefer cool temperatures to prevent transplant shock.

Evening planting (4:30 – 5:30 pm): Useful for seedlings that need time to acclimate before exposure to full sunlight.

Planting was done using broadcasting, drilling, or transplanting, depending on the crop requirements.

Soil and Water Management for Crops

Soil health and water availability are essential for successful crop production. The supervisor emphasized the importance of soil moisture, drainage, and nutrient levels.

Reliable Water Sources for Crop Production:

Rainwater: Ideal for most crops, providing natural irrigation and nutrient cycling.

Irrigation from wells (85–75% efficiency): Suitable for consistent watering, especially in dry seasons.

Borehole water (50–45% efficiency): Useful for drought-prone areas but may require treatment for mineral balance.

> **Note:** Stagnant water is not advisable, as it may promote fungal diseases and root rot.

Soil Types and Land Preparation

We learned that different crops thrive in specific soil types, and proper land preparation enhances growth potential.

Soil Types:

Loamy soil: Ideal for most crops due to its balanced texture and nutrient-holding capacity.

Clay soil: Suitable for water-loving crops but requires amendments for drainage.

Sandy soil: Good for root crops but needs organic matter to improve moisture retention.

Land Preparation Techniques:

Plowing: To break up compact soil and improve aeration.

Harrowing: To refine soil texture and remove weeds.

Ridging: For crops like yam, to promote root development and drainage.

i. Crop Classification and Identification

Farmers learn to select crops based on soil, climate, and market demand:

Cereals: Maize, rice, millet

Legumes: Cowpea, soybean

Tubers: Yam, cassava

Vegetables: Tomatoes, leafy greens

Cash Crops: Cocoa, oil palm

ii. Soil and Land Management

Healthy soil is vital for crop growth. Farmers are trained in:

Soil Testing: Checking pH and nutrients

Fertilization: Using organic/inorganic fertilizers

Land Preparation: Plowing, harrowing, and ridging

Soil Conservation: Techniques like terracing and cover cropping

iii. Planting Techniques and Spacing

Proper planting boosts yields and prevents overcrowding:

Seed Selection: Choosing disease-resistant seeds

Planting Depth & Spacing: Optimizing root development

Plant Population Management: Thinning and pruning for airflow

iv. Irrigation and Water Management

Efficient water use prevents stress and increases growth:

Irrigation Systems: Drip, sprinkler, and furrow irrigation

Water Conservation: Mulching and rainwater harvesting

Drainage Solutions: Preventing waterlogging and root diseases

v. Crop Rotation and Intercropping

Diverse cropping strategies improve soil health and reduce pests:

Crop Rotation: Alternating crops to balance nutrients

Intercropping: Planting complementary crops (e.g., maize + beans)

Companion Planting: Using plants like marigolds to repel pests

vi. Harvesting and Post-Harvest Management

Timely harvesting and careful handling prevent losses:

Timely Harvesting: Picking crops at peak maturity

Harvesting Techniques: Using tools to avoid damage

Post-Harvest Handling: Sorting, drying, and proper transport

vii. Storage and Preservation Techniques

Proper storage protects crop quality and reduces spoilage:

Storage Structures: Silos, cribs, and airtight containers

Preservation Methods: Drying, smoking, and chemical treatments

Pest Control: Managing rodents and molds with safe methods



CHAPTER FOUR

4.1 FISHERY UNIT

At fishery unit were exposed to various technical aspect of fish rearing and management as follows:

Fish and fishes types

Feed, types feeding of fishes

Water and water management of fish

Pond, pond types and ponds management

Fish breeding

Spawning

Identification of male and female fishes

Fish life – stages

Aquarium and preparation of aquarium of hatchery

Stimulating reproduction hormones ovulars /ovaporum

- **Fish:** is an aquatic animals that fed phytoplant zooplanton and artificial for cultured aquatic animals (fish).
- **Fishery:** is the art and sciences of fish rearing and their management of modern day aquatic animals culturing (fish).
- **Aquaculture:** the sciences of rearing fishes under a difference water bodies i.e. concrete pond, plastic panel vert. earthen pond etc.

At my SIWES farm we were introduced and exposed to majorly African cat fish or mudfish also called clarias garipons. Though we were informed that there were other fishes that can be cultured in Kwara Stat i.e. Tilapia.

Feed Types And Feeding Of Fish

We were introduced to different feeds and feed types based on the fish sizes, this led us to we the farm supervisor called fish life – stages.

Feed

Pelleted fish

Powder fish feed

Pelleted or pellet fish feed was made out of the following feed ingredients.

Maize

Soya bean

G.N.C Ground nut cake

Starch

Lysin

e.t.c.

Powder fish feed was also made out of the above ingredient but they are majorly imported i.e. (Artemia).

Fish life – stages of their Feeds

Fish => fry	Fingerlins	Juvenine	Table size
Feed => Artemia	Pellet	Pellet	Pellet

Feeding of fishes

We were introduced to feeding of fish techniques and we practiced the feeding based on roster and time to feed.

When and how to feed fish

We feed fishes in the morning and examine the supervisor said we are to follow the trend since they are under artificial management.

Morning within the hours of 7:30 – 8:30am

Evening within the hour of 4:30 – 5:30pm

Application was by broadcasting at a targeted point.

Water water source and water management

Water is liquid oxygen and the supervisor informed us the fish is water and water is fish once there is no water nobody can plan or thinks of rearing fishes. With this to set-up fish farm there must be reliable and constraint water source and supply.

Reliable Water source of fish rearing

Stream / river water following => 100% oxygen level

Well water => 85 – 75% oxygen level

Borehole water = 50 – 45% oxygen level

Stagnate water is not advisable.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

SUMMARY

CONCLUSION

The industrial training was really a channel and a stepping stone that exposed me to how poultry production is been done and it has broadened my knowledge and expanded my practical scope especially in the rearing and management of laying birds.

The training was quite educative, interesting, but not without a little challenges of having to wake up early in the morning, cope and adapt to the smell around the pen and cost of transportation.

RECOMMENDATION

To ASCENDG FEED MILL

- There should be clear specialization of duties amongst staff
- Putting more biosecurity measures in place to prevent disease transmission

To Industrial Training Fund

- To make a little stipend available within or at the end of attachment for all students
- Proper and timely visitation of students on attachment

To Kwara Polytechnic and students

- Students should put in more efforts and be sincere as this a means of practical skill
- School should give more orientation on the need for the programme.