

Report on SRF Travel Grant to attend 7th AACAA, Accra Ghana

Recipient: Edmund Mbegbu

Position: PhD candidate, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Conference: 7th All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture (AACAA), 29th July to 2nd August 2019 at Accra International Conference Centre, Accra, Ghana.

I wish to express my profound gratitude to the Society of Reproduction and Fertility for their generous support that enabled me attend 7th All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture (AACAA) held at Accra International Conference Centre, Accra Ghana. All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture (AACAA) comes up every four years. The theme of the 7th AACAA was *“Innovations to harness the potential of African animal agriculture in a globalizing world”*.

Many experts in animal agriculture from Africa, America and Europe were in attendance. Of particular interest was the key note speech on animal breeding by Johan Van Arendonk from Hendrix Genetics, Netherlands. In another beautiful talk titled *“Context of changing environment in breeding”*, Sammy Aggrey from University of Georgia highlighted on the import of ecosystem/ agricultural zones on gene expression *vis-à-vis* genetic improvement of African indigenous breeds of animals. Other presentations of interest focused on selection and breeding strategies.

During the conference, an aspect of my PhD visiting research at Royal Veterinary College, University of London, entitled *“Immunohistochemical detection of VASA antigen and apoptosis-related DNA fragments in ovaries of sheep fetuses prenatally exposed to vitamin D deficiency”* was presented in the book of abstracts. The conference afforded me the opportunity to network with researchers, especially within my continent in the field of nutritional influence on reproduction.

Finally, 7th AACAA ended with the general meeting of the All Africa Society for Animal Production (AASAP), during which Prof. Ed Rege handed over to Dr. Tadelle Dessie as the Chair for the 8th AACAA scheduled to hold in Botswana in 2022. Once again, a million thanks to SRF for making this possible.

Edmund Mbegbu, PhD

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