Purdue Extension and Purdue Improved Cowpea Storage (PICS): International Extension Train-the-Trainer Workshops in Northern Nigeria

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Abstract

Four Purdue Extension Educators and Purdue’s International Extension Program Coordinator carried out twenty-three Train-the-Trainer workshops throughout northern and central Nigeria over a two week period, participating in the Purdue Improved Cowpea Storage (PICS) project. The workshops included hands-on demonstrations and role-playing, involving more than 650 Nigerian Extension Agents that will go out into 10,000 villages to conduct demonstrations by the end of 2009. The purpose of this paper is to detail the complete international extension experience of the Purdue Extension team, beginning with logistical preparation at Purdue University and the field site in Kano, Nigeria to the on-the-ground facilitation and completion of the Train-the-Trainer workshops in Nigeria. Additionally, the paper will address, among other outcomes, how the trip complimented PICS’ efforts in Nigeria, impacts on the Purdue Extension Educators’ work in the counties, and what it means for Purdue Extension to have international extension programming for county Educators. PICS is a Purdue International Programs in Agriculture facilitated project that uses a hermetic, triple-bagging
technology for storing cowpeas without the use of pesticides, operating in ten countries across west and central Africa.

**Keywords:** International Extension, Train-the-Trainer, Africa, Agricultural Development