

THE FIRST INTERACTIVE SESSION FOR THE SOF-BOA PROJECT DESK OFFICERS

The first interactive session for the SOF-BOA Desk Officers was successfully hosted and held in SidiOsho Foundation (SOF) headquarters Lagos on Wednesday, the **19th of July 2017**. A total of 14 Desk officers were in attendance (8 Agric Desk Officers and 6 Account Desk Officers). Twelve states were represented with ten males and four females.

Mr Suberu Oladipo (Account Desk Officer from FCT) was the first to arrive and he was registered immediately. The programme started with an opening prayer by Mr Lawal Ridwan (Agric Desk Officer from Oyo State), who gave a short Quranic citation.

Overview

The Interactive session had the presence of the CEO SOF, the Board of Trustee's Member, Members of the Implementation Committee and staffs of SOF and also Desk officers representing various states. The President SOF Prof SidiOsho presided over the ceremony and she later gave a well-articulated keynote address. The interactive session also extolled the roles of Desk officers, manifestation of SOF, which aims to provide a world of equal opportunities for families, men, women, communities, and youth through

empowerment for the realization and achievement of their dreams.

Presentations and Discussions

The President SOF, Prof Sidi Osho, gave the welcome address, giving a detailed overview of the project. The mission, vision and all what SOF aims to achieve with the project in collaboration with the Bank of Agriculture (BOA). She however extolled the BOA for granting the foundation an opportunity to partner with their establishment to ensure sustainable food security and create wealth in Nigeria through this agriculture empowerment project. It was an enlightening session as the desk officers followed and listened with rapt attention.

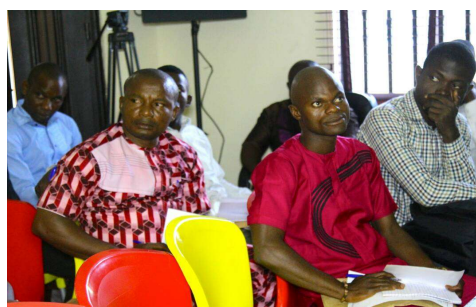
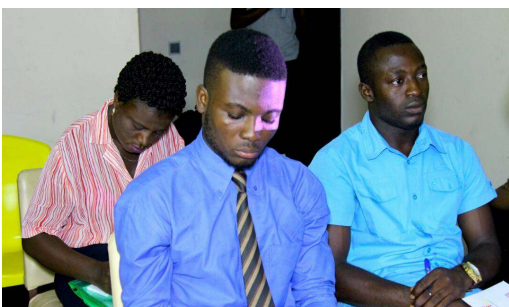
The second presentation of the day was by **Mrs Yinka Olaniyan**, the Human Resource personnel of SOF and member of the implementation committee. She commended the President of SOF for unrelenting effort, her doggedness and hardwork, and also thanked the present Desk officers for believing in the vision. Mrs Olaniyan started her presentation by playing a short video on the three types of people: The Leaf, the Branch and the Root people. She admonished the desk officers to be the latter. Her presentation on the **characteristics of good employee and importance of team work for overall success and goal achieving** was short, precise but loaded.

The key point in her presentation are the top quality of valuable

employee which are; Accountability, interpersonal skill, positive attitude, respect, flexibility, self-improvement. She also reiterated that *productive people don't give excuses*.

The second session started with the presentation of **Dr Yemi Popoola**, the facilitator of the state coordinators. He spent ample time on **my relationship with my coordinator at state level to meet our goals** as a desk officer. Dr Popoola's argument was based on good relationship, respect and being business oriented. He repeatedly emphasized that the relationship between Desk officer Agric, account and State coordinator should be mutual as this will have impact on their overall performance. He put a little bit of humour while talking about respect for people as a desk officer. However, respect is key to canvass for farmers and between the state SOF team.

Mr Deji Gbewesa who is also a Member of the implementation committee and a Chartered accountant emphasized **the importance of transparent accounting procedures for the project**. He admonished the account officers to always keep a clean and balanced record as this will keep the integrity in check. They should also be time conscious, do their daily reporting diligently, zero tolerance for fraud and disseminate information as soon as possible. A lag is not accepted between the Agric and account Desk officer. He suggested



Cross section of participants at the event

Our Facilitators presentation in pictures

ownership for Desk officer for effective and sustainable management of the project.

The last presentation was by **Mr Opeyemi Ajayi and Ms Ronke Oluokun**, the National Agric Coordinator and Account coordinator respectively of SOF. They shed light on the roles of and responsibilities as an Agric Desk Officer and an Account desk officer. It was an explicit one. The officers were charged to re-strategise and be devoted to this task as an AgDO and AcDO as well as to represent SOF well outside and leave a good impression because they are indeed the image of SOF.





promised to support the project in Oyo state and make it a success.

Cross section of people in attendance



The President with the PS Ministry of Agric. Oyo State



SOF Director of Media with the President



The President giving her presentation



The President with Coordinators and Desk officers of Oyo State present at the meeting

MEETING WITH THE OYO STATE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

SOF had a presentation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) on the Project “Promoting and Empowering Oyo state’s Men, Women and Youth in Agriculture” on **July 27, 2017**. In attendance were different officers from the Ministry’s department as well as the Permanent Secretary Oyo State Ministry of Agric.

The PS extolled the President SOF, Prof Sidi Osho haven’t read her CV and listening promptly to her presentation on the project. He