

Dr Mojisola Edema Memorial Lecture:



Mentoring and Gender Factor in Research for
Development

@

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Dr Mojisola Edema Memorial Lecture

Dear All,

We are here today to remember and honour a great researcher-**Late Prof. Mojisola Olayinka Edema** and recall the enormous contribution she made towards the emergence, visibility and development of many Nigerian scientists as leaders (especially women).

Moji Edema was a selfless, kind, modest, intellectual prolific, bold, disciplined, courageous and highly disciplined food microbiologist.

She was also a God-loving and fearing woman.

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Moji was an outstanding researcher and a visionary leader with high level of integrity

A great mentor, a member of several professional organisations (SFAM, SGM, ASM,NSM, IFS to mention a few) who encouraged a multitude of upcoming scientists to join.

She was a recipient of several grants and awards, fellow & mentor of the prestigious African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD).

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Also to her credit is the closure of the gender gap in agriculture, research and development and gender responsiveness.

She had a well balanced family-career lifestyle as a good child to her parent, wife to the husband, mother to her children and colleague to her contemporaries.

She was dynamic and truly worthy of the title
“Mother of Green Revolution in Nigeria”

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ORGANISERS OF THE YMC
2017 CONFERENCE

Proposal Writing Tips for Winning Grants

**Mentoring & Gender-
Responsive Proposal
Writing Skills- A concept
note approach**

What is Mentoring:

- Refers to the developmental relationship between a more experienced person & a less experienced partner



Types of Mentoring

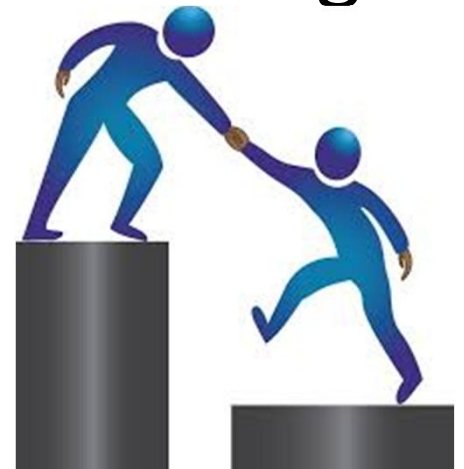
- Mentoring is often divided into two types (Buell, 2004):
- **Informal** mentoring relationships develop on their own, such as when a person approaches a possible mentor and that person agrees to form a mentoring relationship
- **Formal** mentoring relationships refer to assigned relationships, in which the organization oversees and guides the mentoring program in order to promote mentee development

Mentoring Relationship: supervisors/mentors



Goals of Mentoring

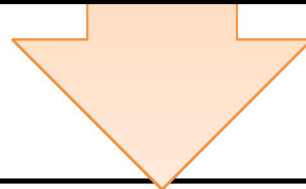
- Do you want to move your career forward?
- Would you like to develop your leadership skills as well as help others learn, grow, and improve their skills?
- Or would you like to find someone who can help you do these things? You can. Through a mentoring partnership.



What is a proposal?

PROPOSAL

***A proposal* is a request for support of research, organizational development, conferences/workshops, or extension projects or Equipment-related Travel Grants and Equipment-related Training Grants**



Good *proposals* quickly and easily answer the following questions:

1. What do you want to do?

2. How much time will it take?

3. How much will it cost?

4. How does the proposed project relate to the sponsor's interests?

Reasons for participating in conferences/training

- **Visibility**
- **Competency**
- **Networking**
- **Confidence**

Steps in Proposal development/ Writing.

Applicants either writes

- ✓ Expression of Interest (EOI)
- ✓ Letter of Inquiry(LOI)
- ✓ Concept Note

Or Applicant responds to a call for concept notes

- Applicants contacts potential collaborators to get their commitments.
- Applicant submits concept note on behalf of team

Applicant develops full proposal

What is Gender?

Is Gender = Sex?



Gender is the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women

Sex is the biological and physiological characteristic that define men and women

Why are donors interested in gender-responsiveness?

- **Increased chances for impact: you stand a better chance**
- **Gender equality is essential for economic reasons and for agricultural development efficiency (Word Bank, 2007)**
- **The demand for development, environment and social sectors**

Steps in Proposal development journey

Applicants either writes

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Or Applicant responds to a call for concept notes

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Tips for successful proposal writing

- Reviewers are not always technical experts
- Not all reviewers will read the whole proposal
- Ensure first page is a stand-alone summary of proposal
- Be smart!-concentrate on evaluation criteria of the donor
- Read extensively about the donor's priorities
- Note that writing a good concept note is not easy
- Ask several people to help you improve your concept note
- Be psychologically prepared to revise it several times before final acceptance

Component of Concept notes

- **Title**
- **Executive summary**
- **Introduction/background**
- **Problem/opportunity and justification**
- **Project description**
- **Objectives**
- **Methodology**
- **Expected results and sharing of results**
- **Sustainability**
- **Monitoring and evaluation plan**
- **Risks and assumptions**
- **Budget**
- **Timeline**
- **Brief organizational information**

Structuring Title for concept note

- Title gives the first impression to the reader about the project
- It is developed later after the researcher has written the other elements of concept notes
- It appears on the first page together with the researcher's name, name of institute, name of partnering institution and contact details (Hoffman 2010)

A good title should be;

- Brief, self-explanatory
- Specific and accurate
- Use simple and un-ambiguous language
- Unique to capture the reader's attention
 - Consider interest in “trendy” or current issues e.g climate change
 - What is new? Relevance to your field or region?
- Be innovative
- Focus on solution rather than problem

Title

- Good
 - Concise title that gives reviewer a general sense of what you are investigating
 - For example:
 - Understanding the role anti-cell death protein BNIP3 plays in brain cancers of.....
- A new and novel method for the fast quantitative detection of mycotoxin residues in broilers for poultry production
- Research and Development – Boosting female farmers income for poultry production in Nigeria- Bio-Control of Aflatoxin
- Bad
 - Evaluation of, case study of, effect of, proximate composition, microbial transformation

Key questions about title

- Does your title focus on solution?
- Does it indicate who has the problem/ opportunity in relation to the different gender groups?
- Where is this happening?

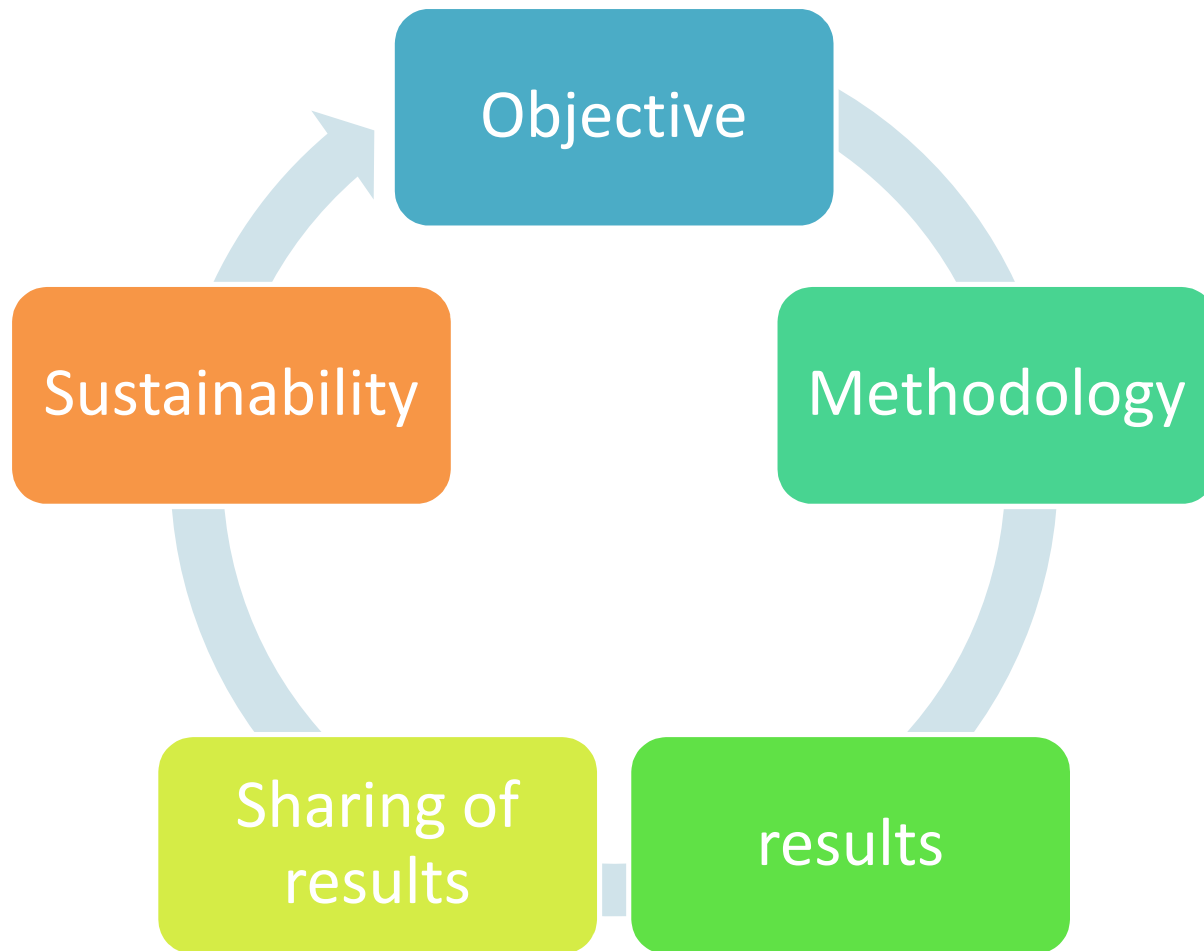
Introduction/problem or opportunity identification and justification

- A concept note begins with identifying and analyzing a problem or an opportunity the research intend to address
- The introduction section identifies how and where the applicant's mission and the funder's mission intersect or align
- It addresses the reason why the funder should support projects in the given general area (“STATEMENT OF NEED”)

Key questions:

- What is the specific problem/opportunity?
- Why is it important and urgent?
- How does the problem/opportunity affect different gender groups?
- What research has already been done?
- what significance do the planned outputs and outcomes have for the different gender groups?
- What is the project's contribution to the body of knowledge in the field?

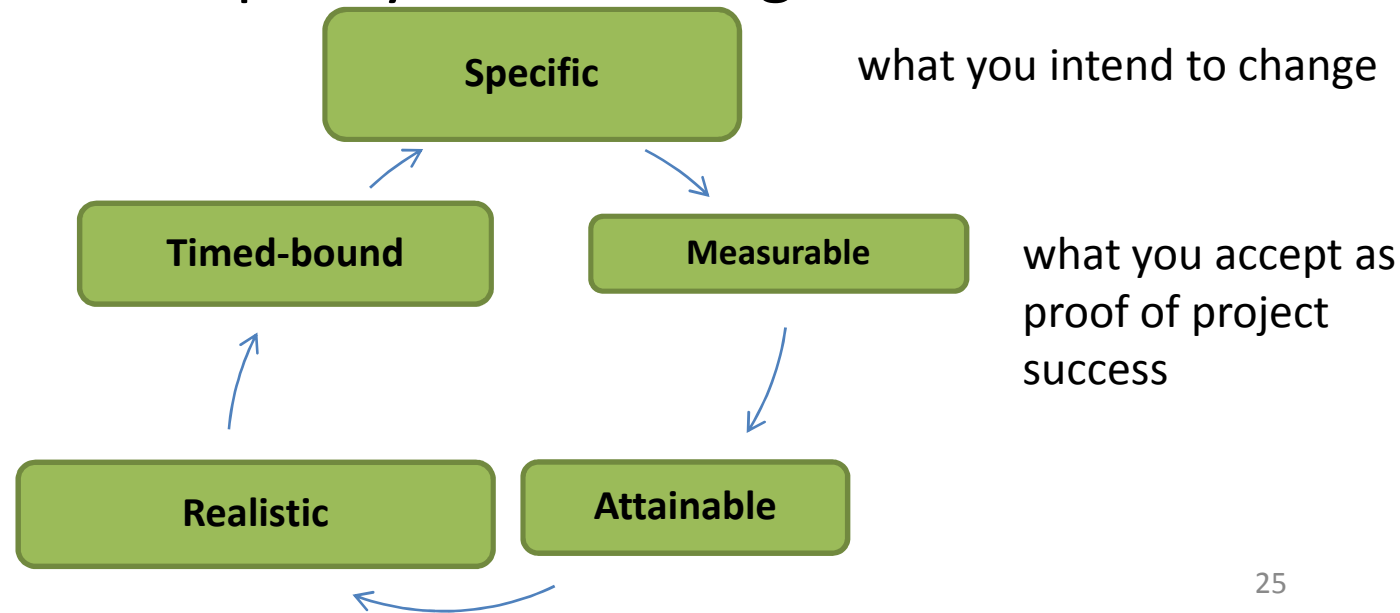
Project description of concept note



Goals and Objectives

- Goal is the broad aim of the research project
- Objectives are the statements of measurable outcomes that collectively, will help the applicant measure progress towards accomplishing the project goals i.e, a goal is the main idea of what to be achieved why objective is the step way of achieving it

- **SMART**



SMART targets

- In planning an Action, we use SMART targets. These are targets or goals – the things we want to do – which are:

SMART targets

- **S pecific**- focused on one thing – a clear objective
- **M easurable**-you can see how much progress you have made towards this goal
- **A chieveable**-you need a challenge but you also have to be able to succeed
- **R elevant**-it's appropriate for you
- **T imebound**-you can do it in the time available – you set the deadline

Checklist

- **Research aims/objectives:** How does your research aim to benefit smallholder farmers, the poor and especially women/girls?
- **Primary and secondary beneficial groups:** whose lives will be significantly changed as a result of your research? Can you describe them: their situation, numbers and where they are located?
- **Gender and poverty issues addressed by your research:** What livelihood changes does the research intend to achieved e.g. increased opportunities for women in income-generating activities
- **Intended impact:** what specific long-term sustainable improvements does your research intend to achieve
- **Progress towards desired change:** how much gender groups benefited

Research Methodology

- How will each of the objectives be achieved?
- How will gender-responsiveness be ensured in the research design, data collection and analysis?
- What research design will therefore be used?
- What sampling procedures will be used?
- What methods/tools will be used in data collection, analysis?

Sustainability

- Is the project financially sustainable
- Institutional sustainability: Does the institution have the capacity to continue with activities after the end of the project?
- Does the project allow for empowering/strengthening of different gender groups to ensure project sustainability?

Risk, Mitigation and Assumption and killer assumptions:

- Risks are real factors likely to affect the achievement of results
- Mitigation strategies address the risk
- Assumptions address external conditions or factors over which the project does not have control
- Killer assumptions are those that will hinder successful implementation of a project e.g. fund will be available when needed
- Favorable weather conditions will prevail
- All women and men in the project area are literate

Budget: Why prepare Budget?

- To plan for input needed
- To plan for timely availability of funding
- To ensure financial feasibility of the proposal
- To monitor financial activities

Budget categories

- Direct cost: personnel-salaries in full time equivalents according to required staff time for project- Principal investigator, co-principal investigator(s), other scientist/collaborators and support staff
- Fringe benefit: Non-salary remuneration e.g. housing, transport allowance, retirement benefits, medical insurance
- Consultant fees: Honorarium, Transportation (air, ground), per diem, communication and reporting
- Equipment: field equipment, lab equipment and computer equipment

Budget categories

- Materials and supplies and services: inputs for experiments such as seeds, fertilizer etc, laboratory supplies, stationary, casual labour, nannies if needed
- Travel (domestic or international): transportation (air, ground), per diem
- Other: sub-grants(e.g. to partners), workshop, communication(telephone, internet), shipping, courier, publication cost, printing and duplicating, equipment maintenance, tax(such as VAT for equipment) etc
- Facilities and administrative cost

Budget narratives

- How costs were determined and which sources used
- Contribution of each person to the project
- Why equipment is needed, how/for which purpose it will be used
- Procurement procedures
- Whether cost estimates are in line with scope of work

Reasons for rejection of proposals

- **8% forgot to number the pages**
- **17% forgot to identify the project director by name**
- **20% fail to list the objectives of the project**
- **25% had no resume for the principal investigation**
- **66% did not include a plan for project evaluation**
- **73% forgot to include a table of content**
- **81% had no abstract**
- **92% failed to provide resumes of proposed consultants**



Conclusion

- Collaboration through Grant
- For the development of Africa most especially Nigeria
- Helping poor communities
- contributions in the fight against hunger and poverty in Sub-Saharan African
- Overall goal improve food security status of the nation

Call for Proposals

- <https://erc.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/apply-funding/call-proposals>
- [Tweet](#) **ERC grant applications** The ERC has yearly calls for proposals covering all scientific fields.
- <http://www.oclc.org/research/grants/call.html>

OCLC/ALISE Library & Information Science
Research Grant Program (LISRGP)

<http://www.snf.ch/en/funding/calls-for-proposals/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.theigc.org/research-themes/funding/igc-call-for-proposals/>

- <http://www.theigc.org/research-themes/funding/igc-call-for-proposals/>
- <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/en/funding-opportunities/current-calls/generic-call-for-proposals-2016-2016/nc/>
- <http://www.mktplace.org/site/>
- <http://www.mktplace.org/site/>
- www.udionfoundation.org
- www.grantsfunds.net/Grants
- www.terravivagrants.org
- <http://www.nrf.ac.za/>
- www.wageningenur.nl/cdi
-

<http://europa.eu.int/mariecurie-actions>

<http://www.cordis.lu/fp7/people.htm>

<http://mc-opportunities.cordis.lu>

<http://www.kowi.de/en/youngscientists/marie-curie>

<http://cordis.europa.eu.int/fp7/ideas.htm>

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- NRF
- SGM-Microbiology Society
- FEMS
- MU
- MYCORED

Thank you

