

Developing a solid research profile: personal reflections on improving international recognition

The 2016 "Agricultural Resilience and Security in Nigeria" Conference, the Nigerian Environmental Study Action Team (NEST) and the Federal University Ndufu Alike Ikwo, Ebonyi State, Nigeria

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Broad Academic Stages

- > Bachelor/Master Student
- > Doctoral candidate and early post-doc/junior lecturer
- > Advanced postdoc / senior lecturer /senior research scientist
- > Associate / Full Professor
- > **Supportive context matters (e.g. career support & counselling; inclusive gender-sensitive approaches etc.)**
- > **No blue print => A lot of good luck critical!**

As a Student, doctoral candidate...

- > Excellence (interest, perseverance)
- > Collaborate with peers – peer mentoring
- > Mentoring by seniors
- > Identify niches & opportunities
- > Continuing education – writing & presentation; methods
- > Teaching competence (tutorials)

As a doctoral candidate

- > Identify your niche (Intensify work on niche & related areas)
- > Publish in *peer reviewed journals* & books (with your supervisors or senior academics)
- > Publish in *peer reviewed journals* & books (alone)
- > Review papers if you get the opportunity (e.g. conference abstracts, journal papers)
- > Conferences / workshops
- > Summer schools
- > Volunteer – Conferences / community work
- > Summer schools
- > Counselling

Postdocs & lecturers I

- > Identify your niche
- > Publish in *peer reviewed journals* & books (alone – more often)
- > Publish in *peer reviewed journals* & books with peers – more often
- > Publish in *peer reviewed journals* & books (with your supervisors or senior academics – less often)
- > Where to publish
- > Participate in global initiatives (Future Earth, IPCC, IPBES, UNCCD, UNEP publications, etc.)
- > Own research projects
- > Collaborative research projects
- > Conferences

Postdocs & lecturers II

- > Continuing education – concepts and methods; life-long learning; teaching methods
- > Participate in supportive programmes of the university
- > Contribute to university self-administration (committees; commissions)
- > Collaborative behaviour
- > Good Luck!