

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## PERSONAL/ CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Name:** Cynthia Nneka Olumba (nee Onunka)

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## RESEARCH INTEREST

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Cynthia is a transdisciplinary Agri environmental social scientist working across a wide range of research areas in Environment, Food security and Sustainable Development. Her research advances the understanding of nature-society relationships focusing on climate change adaptation and mitigation, gender equality, food security and sustainable land resources management; and the practical and policy mechanisms that can advance climate resilience, land degradation neutrality and sustainable development. Her work uses theories and methods from both the nature, social and psychological sciences. Several philosophical paradigms (such as post-positivism, constructivists, and critical realism) offer Cynthia's research a firm footing. She is well-versed in using mixed methods approaches and forward-thinking transdisciplinary research techniques that recognise the complexity of the world's changing climate, and the challenges, trade-offs and opportunities created by the change.

## EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS WITH DATES

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**NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY, UNITED KINGDOM**

**2019-2024**

PhD in Agriculture, Food Systems and Rural Development

**Key features of research:**

- Quantitative household survey of 480 farmers to investigate socio-psychological factors affecting adoption of sustainable land management (SLM) practices among farmers in land degradation hotspots areas in Southeast Nigeria.
- Conducted a field experiment to elicit the risk attitude and time preferences of farmers, which improved the scientific and accuracy of the empirical results.
- Qualitative interviews with farmers, policy makers, academics, and relevant stakeholders in agricultural land sector to assess the enabling environment for the adoption of SLM practices for achieving land degradation neutrality.
- Conducted 6 focus group sessions - 3 mixed-gender and 3 women-only groups across 6 communities in Southeast Nigeria.

**NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY, UNITED KINGDOM**

**2021-2022**

**Research Training PGCert**

**Knowledge gained:**

- Qualitative Methodologies in social science research: interviewing, focus group, and ethnography research.

- Quantitative Research Methods in Social Science Research.
- Philosophical perspectives in social science research: epistemology and ontology.
- Information Skills: identifying, collecting, and managing different sources of information.

**UNIVERSITY OF EXETER, UNITED KINGDOM** **2016-2017**

**Degree Obtained:** MSc. Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture

**Degree Class:** Distinction

**MSc Research Project:** Analysis of Food Security Status and Coping Strategies among Rural Households in Enugu State, Nigeria

**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE ABEOKUTA** **2009 - 2014**

**Degree Obtained:** Bachelor of Agriculture

(Agricultural Economics and Farm Management)

**Degree Class:** First Class Honours

**YEMI INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF SCHOOLS** **2002-2008**

West African Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE)

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

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**NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY** **2020- 2023**

**Job Title:** Teaching Assistant in the following undergraduate modules- Food Business Economics, Researching Social Life and Research Methods in Psychology.

**Duties/ Responsibilities:**

- Design and deliver seminars (online and in-person) adopting a student-centric teaching model.
- Facilitated and guided meaningful class discussions with students to achieve course objectives.
- Marked and assessed student formative and summative assignments and provided constructive feedback to students.
- Prepared for seminars by familiarising myself with any protocols or other information required beforehand.
- Carried out relevant administrative task including preparing Module reading list and seminar materials.
- Feedback to the Module leader any problems encountered in seminars and any outstanding learning needs.
- Maintained academic standards and work in accordance with university policies.

**UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA** **2016 - 2019**

Department of Agricultural Economics

**Job Title:** Lecturer II

### Duties/ Responsibilities:

- Module leader for AEC 561- Methods of Social Science Research and AEC 422- Farm Management and Accounting Practice.
- Developed module materials and delivered lectures and seminars to undergraduate students and postgraduate diploma students.
- Invigilated undergraduate examinations, marked examination scripts, and collated student's results.
- Supervised undergraduate degree projects.
- Carried other duties as assigned by the Head of Department.

### SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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- Olumba, C. C., **Olumba, C. N.**, & Okpara, U. (2023). Household Headship, resource ownership and food security: new evidence from Southeast Nigerian cities. *Scientific African*, e01974. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sciaf.2023.e01974>
- **Olumba, C. N.**, Ihemezie, E. J., and Olumba, C. C. (2023). Climate change perception, adaptation strategies, and constraints amongst urban farmers in Anambra Metropolis, Nigeria. *Climate and Development*, 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2023.2221685>
- Olumba, C. C., **Olumba, C. N.**, and Alimba, J. O. (2021). Constraints to urban agriculture in southeast Nigeria. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 8(1), 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-021-01007-1>
- Olumba, C. C., **Olumba, C. N.**, and Ume, C. (2022). Gender and COVID-19 Response Strategy in Africa: The Nigerian Case. In *COVID-19 in the African Continent* (pp. 121-135). Emerald Publishing Limited.
- Ihemezie, E. J., **Onunka, C. N.**, & Umaru, I. I. (2020). The implication of agricultural land-use changes on food security in Benue state, Nigeria. *Journal of Tropical Agriculture*, 57(2).
- Olumba, C. C. and **Onunka, C. N.** (2020). Banana and Plantain in West Africa: Production and Marketing. *African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development*. 20(2), 15474-15489.
- Ihemezie, E. J., **Onunka, C. N.**, & Nnaji, A. P. (2018). Drivers and socioeconomic factors influencing individual and household adaptation to climate change: A case study of residents of Leeds, UK. *Journal of Development and Agricultural Economics*, 10(9), 279-291.
- **Onunka, C. N.**, Ihemezie, E. J., and Olumba, C. C. (2018). Household Level Analysis of Food Insecurity and Coping Strategies: Evidence from Enugu State, Nigeria. *Advances in social sciences Research Journal*, 5(6), 330-398.
- Ume, C., and **Onunka, C.N.** (2018). The Effect of Food Miles on the Environment. In Okoye C. and Abah D. (Eds.), *Dynamics of Natural Resource and Environmental Management in Nigeria. Theory, practice, bureaucracy, advocacy* (pp. 47-56), Enugu State, Nigeria: Innovation Academy Limited.
- Ihemezie, E. J., **Onunka, C. N.**, and Nnaji, A. P. (2018). Emerging Issues in Biofuel Policies and Governance Processes: The Case of United States Renewable Fuel Standard [Us Rfs], And The European Union Renewable Energy Directive [Eu-Red]. *Ethiopian Journal of Environmental Studies & Management*, 11(6), 762-774.

- **Onunka, C. N.** and Olumba, C. C. (2017). An Analysis of the Effect of Livelihood Diversification on the Food Security Status of the Rural Farming Households in Udi L.G.A of Enugu state. *International Journal of Agricultural Science and Research*, 7(6): 389-398.
- Ume, C., **Onunka, C.N.**, and Achike, A. I. (2017). A pilot production of dry season cucumber using inorganic fertilizer in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. *International Journal of Agriculture, Environment and BioResearch*, 2(3), 24-42.
- Ume, O. C., **Onunka, C.N.**, and Oranu, C. (2016). A comparative pilot production of dry season green pepper using organic, inorganic and a combination of inorganic and organic fertilizers in the University of Nigeria farm, Nsukka, Enugu State, Nigeria. *Net Journal of Agricultural Science*, 4(4), 63-66.

#### **CONFERENCES ATTENDED/ PAPERS PRESENTED**

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- **Olumba, C.N.**, Garrod, G., and Francisco, A. (2023). Socio-psychological factors affecting the adoption of sustainable land management practices in erosion-prone areas of South-eastern Nigeria. In *2023 Annual Meeting, July 23-25, Washington DC* (No. 335625). Agricultural and Applied Economics Association.
- **Olumba, C.N.**, Garrod, G., and Francisco, A. (2022). Farmers risk attitude and the adoption of sustainable land management practices in Southeast Nigeria. *Agri-Tech Economics for Sustainable Futures*, 19, 198.
- Olumba, C. C. and **Olumba, C.N.** (2021). Household Headship Structure and the Adoption of Climate Smart Agricultural Practices: Evidence from Nigeria. A paper presented at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, United States, April 7- 11, 2021.
- **Olumba, C.N.**, Obetta, A. E., Olumba C. C., and Ihemezie E. J. (2020). Analysis of factors influencing urban farmers' adaptation to Climate Change in Anambra State, Nigeria. A paper presented at the International Conference on Agricultural Transformation in the ECOWAS Sub-region, held at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria, 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020.
- Alimba, J. O., Olumba, C. C., and **Onunka, C.N.** (2018). Assessing How Food Production in Urban Areas Contribute to Household Food Security in Southeast Nigeria. A paper presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Food Security and Hidden Hunger, held at Alex-Ewueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State, Nigeria, October 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- **Onunka, C. N.**, Olumba, C.C., Ihemezie J.E., and Uche, N. (2018). Gender and agricultural land access: a discriminant function analysis approach. A paper presented at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Agricultural Society of Nigeria, October 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- **Onunka, C. N.**, Olumba, C.C., and Ume C. O., (2018). Government Expenditure and Economic Growth in Africa. A paper presented at the 2018 International Conference on Economics of Sustainable Growth in Africa. Organised by African Heritage Institution, Enugu, Nigeria, 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> August 2018.