

- **What was your job in your country and what made you decide to study in Japan?**

In Nigeria, I was a Veterinary Officer for the Federal Capital Territory Administration, ensuring food safety for almost five million people in the capital around meat safety. My daily reality was the high-stakes inspection of cows, goats, and almost a thousand chickens. My turning point was a 2024 JICA course in Hokkaido; I was the youngest of the group, the only African, and one of only six participants. Seeing Japan's flawless food safety standards firsthand inspired me to pursue a PhD to bring that level of excellence back home.

- **Please briefly describe your study at your university and academic matters you are now working on.**

I am at Hiroshima University specializing in Bovine Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART). My work involves the "science of beginnings" artificial insemination, embryo culture, and transfer. I am researching how to optimize these biotechnologies to improve livestock genetics and productivity, moving beyond traditional farming toward a data-driven, scientific approach.

- **Is there any difference between when you just came to Japan and right now?**

When I arrived, I was an observer; now, I am a participant. The biggest shift is not just the language, but my mindset. The Japanese culture of "discipline" has permeated my life. I have moved from being overwhelmed by the cultural nuances to deeply respecting the quiet order of society. My perspective has evolved from seeing Japan as a high-tech hub to seeing it as a masterclass in intentional living.

- **Please describe the best moment in Japan.**

My best moment was being named Group Leader for the Africa-Japan Youth Camp. Leading discussions on the "Food Value Chain" allowing me to merge my Nigerian field experience with Japanese innovation. It was the moment I realized I was not just a student, but a bridge between two continents.

- **How often do you interact with local Japanese people during the stay in Japan? If not, would you like to do something, such as participating in an event, attending for local school visit, to interact with local people? If you join the event, attend school visit, you can talk about that as well.**

Frequently. Beyond my lab colleagues, I actively engage with the community through JICA Chugoku's intercultural programs. These interactions are vital; they break the "foreigner bubble" and allow for a genuine exchange of ideas. I have shared my culture with locals and, in return, gained a deeper understanding of the "Omotenashi" (hospitality) spirit.

- **Suppose that the place and some money is given to you, what kind of “international events” would like to organize and how/when/whose target, etc.?**

As a Veterinary Doctor from the FCTA in Nigeria, I have spent my career ensuring food safety for over a million people. My PhD research here at Hiroshima University in Bovine ART is the next step in that mission bringing Japanese excellence back home to revolutionize our livestock sector. However, true

leadership is not about laboratory results; it is about inspiring the next generation to see science as a bridge between our two nations.

I would like to propose an elementary school outreach event titled 'The Super-Vet Adventure: From Hiroshima to Nigeria.' Having been the youngest and only African in my first JICA cohort in Hokkaido, I know how transformative early exposure to global diversity can be. This event will take the complex world of bovine biotechnology and translate it into a fun, interactive journey for local Japanese children, turning high-level science into a story of shared global health.

The program would feature 'Discovery Stations' where students use models to learn about embryo culture, alongside a 'Cultural Fusion' corner where they can experience Nigerian flavors. By showing these children how Hiroshima's technology helps a vet in Nigeria feed a million people, we move beyond the classroom. We show them that the discipline they learn in school today is the tool they will use to solve global challenges like food security tomorrow.

With JICA's support, this event would serve as my way of giving back to the Higashi-Hiroshima community that has hosted me so warmly. It is a chance to merge my expertise in public health with my passion for youth leadership, creating a 'living bridge' between Japan and Nigeria. I want these children to leave not just with a sticker, but with the realization that their neighbor from Nigeria is working with their university to build a better, safer world for everyone.

- **Anything you want to share about you, such as hobby, food, Japanese culture, your country, and/or your life experience unique to your living area.**

Life in Higashi-Hiroshima is a mix of rigour and fun. I play basketball whenever I can, travel and cook to stay mentally sharp. While I love the Japanese food, my Nigerian roots stay strong I never leave home without my own spices, as I am always looking for that extra "heat" that the local palate lacks! Living here has taught me that you can embrace a new culture without losing the "spice" of your own.

- **After you graduate, how would like to apply what you learned in Japan to your job? Are you planning to keep in touch with Japanese community/people?**

I will return to the FCTA in Nigeria to suggest and pursue the establishment of a National Livestock Breeding Centre. I do not just want to be a doctor; I want to be a catalyst for the livestock revolution. I intend to maintain a permanent link with Hiroshima University and JICA, creating a pipeline for future Nigerian vets to train in Japan.

- **Message to future JICA participants.**

This opportunity is a life-changing gift. I remember standing in Hokkaido as the only African in my group, feeling the weight of that privilege. Do not take a single day for granted. Japan will demand excellence from you, but it will give you a new soul of discipline in return. Be humble, stay curious, and carry your country's flag with pride. You are not just here to study; you are here to be transformed. My heart is full of gratitude for this journey, yours will be, too.