

Paving Her Way Ahead - A Cooperative Placement Success Story

Zumra Ahmed was a plant science student at Woreta ATVET College and completed a Student Cooperative Placement (SCP) in 2019 after her third year of studying . All thanks to the The placement was funded and supported by the Agricultural Transformation Through Stronger Vocational Education (ATTSVE) project, and allowed her to gain practical experience and work based skills at Fogera National Rice Research and Training Centre.

ATTSVE's role

ATTSVE supports and encourages students from the ATVET colleges to complete these cooperative placements along with a provision of a stipend and logistical aid to guide their industry experience. The students receive regular performance reviews and support from ATVET instructors. ATTSVE through the the cooperative placement has supported 1752 (728 female) students across four ATVETs to complete an industry-based cooperative placement, with great success.



Students Placed at Fogera National Rice Research center learning practical skills in rice production.

Learning experience

She also gained knowledge, both theoretical and practical about soil treatment including varietal identification and characterization and physical characteristics of the soil. She also acquired skills in grafting fruits scions, vermiculture and compost production. She has also given back to the industry in her own way through the provision of suggestions and constructive feedback and through organizational promotions.

How has the Cooperative Placement helped in her professional life?

“I feel as if I am professionally mature at this time. I am capable of offering hands on training for farmers and development of simple training manuals.”

With her newly acquired skills through the SCP programme, she felt deeply involved with the production of vermicompost and in vermiculture as she demonstrated and provided hands-on training to around 300 farmers on vermiculture and soil treatment and management. She is now, in her new workplace, as a Development Agent, also able to offer training for farmers on grafting mango and other fruits and on varietal selection and improvement of fruits.

Due to the placements, students are equipped with the skills and the business mindset needed to assist and support commercial agriculture.

She has also learnt a great deal of problem-solving skills because of which she is a group leader at her workplace, leading a team of Development Agents.

She believes she recied this quick promotion because, due to her placement, has learnt how to conduct discussions and consultations and has observed a great amount of growth in confidence. "I am still learning and will keep on learning,"said Zuhra. The SCP gives the students an edge above other students as they are now more practically trained in their field and consequently helps them stand out in the job market as well.

Message for fellow students

She encourages other students to complete the SCP programme as she has observed her growth in learning agriculture and has acquired significant knowledge in both theoretical and practical practices.

"It is good for them to practice what they learned in the ATVET and allows them to access new materials or technology and other things not available in the ATVET." She mentions how some of her classmates now regret not applying the program as they are now facing challenges in the work place due to less practical skills development.

This placement paved her way ahead to achieve her goals and ambitions while also better serving her community of farmers by providing them with the training she received. ATTSVE is glad that the project could support her dreams while making a huge impact on the community as well.

"I always say that Woreta ATVET is a 'Centre of Excellence' for SCP under ATTSVE project."