

# Aliu Oluwafemi Royal

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## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

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- Land use and agriculture, rural livelihoods, food security; vulnerability
- Climate variability and climate change adaptation in crops
- Food security and sustainability
- Agritech and climate smart agriculture
- Business development and commercial sales

Personal Attributes	Transferable Skills	Research Skills
Disciplined/Focused	Global mindset	Project research
Responsible/Loyal	Detail oriented/Logical	Analytical thinking
Formal/Diplomatic	Planning/Organisation	Data collection
Empathetic/Compassionate	Cooperative	Research ethics

## EDUCATION

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### **MSc. Agriculture & Development** – University of Reading, United Kingdom **Sept 2021 to present**

Areas of specialisation: Development studies, environmental problems, food security, and remote sensing

### **BSc. (Hons) Soil Science and Land Management (2:1)** – Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta - Ogun State, Nigeria, Sep 2010 – Jun 2014

- Top 10% of 200 students in the department
- 5<sup>th</sup> most influential student among 15,000+ students

### **Certificate of Agribusiness Management Programme** – Lagos Business School - Lagos State, Nigeria, Jan 2022 – Dec 2022

- Mini-MBA for executives on Agribusiness programme.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **Strategic Business Hub Leader/Head of Department**

Thrive Agric Limited

Abuja, Feb 2022 – Present

- Achieved one of the fastest promotions since the inception of the company, 5 years ago.
- Facilitated and pioneered first export finance and annual commodity trading of grains worth over \$45m for the company.
- Coordinated the digitalization of the commercial trade portfolio with a digital app called Tradr which has facilitated over 100 transactions and doubled company's revenue while reducing operating costs by 30%.
- Prepared relevant documentation during new product development, such as production guidelines and recipes

### **Commercial Manager**

Thrive Agric Limited

Abuja, June 2021 – Jan 2022

- Built the company's client base from 50 to over 500 aggregators who have supplied between 5 - 200 trucks of grains weekly in the past 1 year.
- Acquired and managed commercial Strategic Business Unit (SBU) asset base across 25 states including 400 warehouses, 300 staffs and multiple storage resources.
- Co-established the toll milling of grains such as paddy and soya mill of about 5000 Metric Tonnes in the first 6 months of our Valued Added Services operations, thereby diversifying the portfolio.
- Co-pioneered the structuring and management of the commercial trading Strategic Business Unit (SBU) starting with a portfolio size of circa \$1 million

## Advisor

MyFarmbase Africa

Ogun State, June 2019 – Present

- Provided strategic and partnership support to the organization in an advisory capacity
- Regular liaison with the executive board to provide strategic support for project activities
- Supported with fundraising to the tune of \$5000 for developing digital platform to scale agri-education

## Operations & Communications Associate

Binkabi Company

Lagos State, June 2018 – June 2019

- Provided strategic and partnership support to the organization in an advisory capacity
- Won a fully sponsored trip to France because of my weekly PwC standard strategic advisory and economics report on market/price trends on agricultural commodities across 5 Geopolitical zones in Nigeria.
- Built the company's telegram community from scratch to a vibrant community of more than 2,000 members with daily engagement that pushed the brand massively.
- Organized 10+ over-subscribed events to drive interest in the blockchain for Agriculture ecosystem, hosting more than 1000 people.
- Facilitated public relations for the company with major media brands including broadcast media such as African Independent Television and newspapers like Vanguard, Guardian and Business Day Newspaper.

## Co-Founder

MyFarmbase Africa

Ogun State, May 2016 – May 2018

- Provided strategic and partnership support to the organization in an advisory capacity
- Launched "AgriTech Lab", which has since graduated over 10,000 youths directly in its training programmes and aggregated 50+ experts across the global Agric value-chain for the programme.
- Leveraged a lean team to coordinate a digital strategy that captured use of blogs, newsletters, webinars, and online classes to empower an online audience of more than 10,000 people.
- Led the first Agritech Conference in Nigeria with cross-sector partnerships across banking industry, private sector agritech companies, federal government ministry and attracted over 1,000 participants across Nigeria

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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**Postgraduate Taught Officer** University of Reading Student Union, United Kingdom, Oct 2022 – Present

- I represented the entire University master's student at Council meetings with the University management, advocating for their wellbeing.
- Coordinating with Postgraduate senior reps and course reps to provide a smooth learning experience.

**Student Activities Member** University of Reading United Kingdom, Oct 2022 – Present

- Engaged in UoR Chess Club activities
- Engaged in UoR Polo Club activities
- Part-time McDonalds Crew member activities

## INTERESTS AND PROJECTS

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- The Future Awards, Nominee of Prize for Agriculture: > Top 3 in Africa.
- Delegate, African Development Bank's Youth in Agriculture Forum, Cape town
- Walker Institute of University of Reading Observer at the COP27, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt
- Delegate, Fidelity Bank International Trade Conference, London, United Kingdom
- State Awardee, Nominee of Prize for Agriculture, The Ogun Youth Award.
- 2x TEDx Speaker on Smart Agriculture and Technology.
- Paper Presenter, Young African Journal for Development, African Union Headquarters, Ethiopia, Addis Ababa 2018.
- Facilitator, Agriculture Expert Panel, African Youth Empowerment Forum, University of Legon, Ghana, 2018.
- 3x Entrepreneurship Trainer for Fate Foundation/Next Economy Programme funded by Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Nigerian Representative, Climate Change and Green Growth Policy Strategy Dialogue, African Green Growth Forum, Rwanda, Kigali, 2018.
- Delegate, SDG e-conference Foodathon, Wageningen Campus, The Netherlands 2018. Coordinator, Youth Wing of the United Nations Association of Nigeria.

References available on request