IITA signs agreement with DRC

In a low-key but high-importance ceremony, IITA and the Democratic Republic of Congo signed a memorandum of understanding, which will give IITA International Organization status within that country. This will make it much easier for our scientists to work, import supplies and equipment, and travel through the country. The agreement is similar to the one giving IITA diplomatic status in Nigeria.

The signing took place in the main IITA boardroom just an hour and a half after the ministerial delegation arrived from Kinshasa. DG Hartmann signed for IITA.

Signing on behalf of the DRC, the Minister of Science and Technology, Gerard Kamanda wa Kamanda, said for his country's

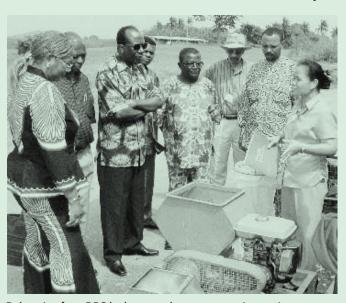


DG Hartmann and Minister Kamanda exchange signed copies of the Memorundum of Understanding. Photo: Yomi Oke

part, he hoped IITA would be able to help rebuild infrastructure, expertise, and capacity that has been lost during years of unrest. The minister was accompanied by the Director General of INERA, Dr Mwiny Ali. INERA is the national agricultural research program in the DRC. Already, IITA has helped to rehabilitate important tissue culture facilities at INERA.

The delegation from DRC also toured facilities and met researchers from the IITA Ibadan headquarters before traveling to Abuja to meet with counterparts in the Federal Government of Nigeria.

David Mowbray, CIS



Delegation from DRC looks at postharvest processing equipment designed by IITA. Photo: Yomi Oke



Sholola is new CFO

Congratulations to Salewa Sholola who assumes duty as Chief Financial Officer from 1 April 2004.

Sholola has ably and faithfully served IITA for the last 17 years. He began as an internal auditor at IITA and rose through the ranks. For the last eight years he has been second in command in IITA's fi-

nancial unit. Sholola holds a Master's in Business Administration and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Ayotunde Oyetunde, CIS

STCP-Nigeria moves

This is to inform you that the Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP) office has finally moved to Akure, Ondo State.

Our office address is:

The Pilot Project Office

Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP)

c/o Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA)

Oba Kekere Quarters

PO Box 1803, Akure, Ondo State.

Tel: 08033801225/08033815904

E. Jegede, STCP-Nigeria

Scientists stress need for public awareness on intellectual property rights

The need for awareness for scientists and other stakeholders on the current status of IPR laws related to agriculture and life sciences was one of the conclusions of a three-day workshop held at the Conference Center on IPR awareness and capacity building in Nigeria between 2 and 4 March.

The workshop, organized under the auspices of the Nigerian Agriculture and Biotechnology Project (a collaborative agreement between the USAID, the Federal Government of Nigeria represented by the Nigeria Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA), and IITA) was aimed at exposing Nigerian scientists to the basic principles involved in intellectual property rights. Thirty scientists from the national systems and universities attended the workshop, which had five resource persons from the US and a lawyer from Nigeria.

At the end of the workshop, the following points were identified as the way forward:

 As a follow-up to the course just completed and future courses/workshops, participants will be encouraged to

- network through an internet-based e-mail network hosted by IITA and moderated by a participant.
- The group identified a need for setting up a centralized Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO) at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMA&RD) that would serve 18 national agricultural research institutions across Nigeria. The IPTTO will play a facilitating role in technology transfer, development of IP policy, and provision of IPR education and training.
- At the institutional level, each institution will be encouraged to set up a nodal office that would be responsible for IP matters and serve as a liaison with the Central IPTTO.
- With the help and assistance of IPTTO and nodal officers, each institution should carry out a comprehensive IP audit of all technologies that are in the instutions (both their own and third party technologies).
- Conduct a special IPR course/workshop for staff members and nodal officers of IPTTO.
- Conduct an advanced IPR course/workshop to build on the present course.

Commenting on the importance of the workshop, the participants said that they have become better equipped to enlighten

their various communities on ways to generate more income for themselves, their universities, or research institutes, through their intellectual efforts. While thanking USAID for funding the workshop and IITA for hosting, they pledged to spread the news about the urgent need to refocus research agenda in Nigeria towards commercialization.

Participants were awarded certificates at the end of the workshop.

Bukky Busari, Public Affairs





Participants (top and bottom) at the IPR workshop. Photo: Yomi Oke.

Tender for used vehicles

Vehicle types

Jeep Cherokee - Duty payable

Ford Transit - Duty payable

Toyota Hilux - Duty payable

Toyota Starlet - Duty payable

Toyota Land Cruiser - Duty payable

Peugeot 504 Pick Up - Duty-free

Ford Escort Van – Duty payable

The above listed vehicles will be available for sale from 15 through 19 March 2004 at the Institute's campus in Ibadan.

The imported vehicles were purchased duty-free and, as such, will attract custom duty payment by nonprivileged buyers. The appropriate division of the Nigerian Customs Service has already determined the payable duty for these vehicles. Bidders can obtain details of the payable duty for these vehicles from the Materials Management Office between 09:00 and 15:00 hours during the sale.

Vehicles will be available for inspection at the IITA Disposal Yard between 09:00 and 15:00 hours each day. Interested buyers are expected to pay a nonrefundable fee of N2,000.00 and a refundable deposit of N2,000.00 per vehicle, per bid. The deposit shall be refunded to unsuccessful bidders. The deposit for a successful tender shall be refunded after the total purchase amount has been paid.

All successful bidders are required to pay the full amount within five working days from the date of publication of the list of successful bidders, or forfeit the deposit. Payments are to be made by Certified Bank Draft, cash will not be accepted. The vehicle documents will not be released until confirmation that the bank draft has been cleared and paid. Vehicles will be released to buyers only after payment of duty to Nigerian Customs Service and verified by IITA.

The list of successful bidders will be published and displayed at the main gate of IITA, Ibadan on 22 March 2004. All tenders are to be submitted on an official tender form and deposited at the designated bid-box at the security gatehouse. Tender forms must be completed in BLOCK CAPITAL letters; no staples, seals or envelopes should be used to seal the tender forms.

Any contravention of the above will attract an outright rejection of the bid.

Vehicles are sold "As is and where is"

IITA reserves the right to reject any bid and to remove any vehicle from the sale.

Asset Disposal Committee

IARSAF annual lecture

The International Association of Research Scholars and Fellows (IARSAF) will hold its annual symposium at the H.R. Albrecht Conference Center on Thursday, 25 March 2004 at 9.00am.

Five prominent African scholars in the field of agriculture will speak on different topics of national interest. The lead speaker will be Professor Bede Okigbo, fomer Deputy Director General of IITA who will examine the issue of "Globalization of research results and the quest for transfer and commercialization of agricultural technologies in sub-Saharan Africa."

Professor Ogbadu, Director of the National Biotechnology Center, Abuja will speak on "The panacea for food production and agricultural development in sub-Saharan Africa", while the topic of Professor Okuneye, Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (UNAAB), will be "Commercialization of agricultural results and technologies for poverty reduction and rural development in sub-Saharan Africa".

Others speakers include Professor M.O. Akoroda, Editorin-Chief of the Journal of African Roots and Tuber Crops and Officer-in-Charge IITA-Onne, who will be looking at "African scientists and the challenges of natural resources diversification in agriculture", while Dr Robert Asiedu IITA Crop Breeder, will speak on "African scientists and the challenges of food production and graduate unemployment".

The Executive Governor of Oyo State, Senator Rashid Ladoja is expected to declare the lecture open while the keynote address will be delivered by Dr Mark Tomlinson, country director of the World Bank. The chief host will be DG Hartmann, while the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Abuja will address the participants on the new national policies in agriculture.

Taye Babaleye, Public Affairs

Events/Visitors this week

8-12 March

Standards Organisation of Nigeria

Venue: Conference Center

9-10 March

IFDC-DAIMINA Training Course

Venue: Research Seminar Room

Visitors:

Students of Community High School, Ore

Contact person: Bukola Busari

UN official talks safety at IITA

Mr Marcus Culley, the United Nations Field Security Officer for Nigeria, was at IITA on Friday, 27 February to give a presentation on "What to do if you find yourself in a carjack situation." The presentation focused on both how to avoid such situations and what to do if you are actually carjacked. Mr Culley suggested that whenever possible, people should go out in groups and avoid driving in isolated areas after dark. You should always have a means of contacting someone in the case of an emergency, and ensure that someone knows where you are going and when you are expected to return. He also emphasized the dangers of being on the Lagos-Ibadan expressway after dark.

In the case of an actual carjack situation, Culley said to be sure to remain calm and follow the instructions of the carjackers as "your life is far more important than your car or your cell phone." Major Winston Ekpo also spoke on some of the specific areas of concern in Ibadan, highlighting recent incidents in Moniya and near the Ibadan Polytechnic as examples.

Lesley Abraham, CIS

Change of office

Dr H. Kikuno has moved from office No. 139 to office No. 154 (formerly H. Shiwachi) in Building 400. His telephone extension is 2343.

K.T. Lawal, R4D

Just another dent in the fence

Tuesday was not a good day for Mr Abdul Raufu, the driver of this mini bus (known locally as a "danfo") or for the IITA perimeter fence near the main gate. Mr Raufu lost control of his vehicle on Oyo road in an area that has seen countless accidents over the past several years. The good news is that this time no one was seriously hurt. The fence is expected to make a full recovery.

David Mowbray, CIS



The "danfo" bus at the perimeter fence. Photo: Waheed Quader

Doctors' duty roster

08-14 March 2004

Monday	Dr Adebayo		
Tuesday	Dr Adebayo		
Wednesday	Dr Adebayo		
Thursday	Dr Adebayo		
Friday	Dr Adebayo		
Saturday	Dr Adebayo		
Sunday	Dr Adebavo		

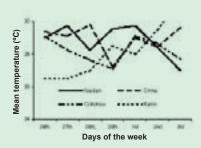
The clinic emergency telephone line is **2777** and should be used whenever an urgent response is required during clinic opening hours (7.30am–8.00pm daily). After hours, Dr Adebayo can be reached on ext. **2267**.

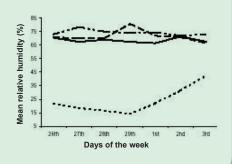
Weather

Rainfall data (mm) summary for week 9 at Ibadan, Onne, Cotonou, and Kano

Station	Total rainfall for week 9		Cumulative rainfall to week 9	
	Normal	Current year	Normal	Current year
Ibadan	6.00	9.60	27.22	54.55
Onne	34.20	22.50	99.40	87.50
Cotonou	12.70	0.00	36.56	83.10
Kano	0.00	0.00	0.30	9.60

Normal values are means over a period of 30 years while current year data are observed data for the week.





Issued every Monday by the Editorial Unit. All material for publication should be sent to the Unit's main office, room 207, building 500, or via e-mail to WBulletin@iita.exch.cgiar.org by noon of the Wednesday before the week of publication.

