

## New CRP (GLDC) focuses on strengthening whole value chains



Participants at the GLDC launch come together for a group photograph.

Over 130 participants from 25 countries met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to confirm partners and priorities at the launching of the [CGIAR Research Program on Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals \(GLDC\)](#). [Dr. Peter Carberry](#), Director of GLDC,

set the framework, underlining that the Program's approach is premised on how it can add value to what is already being undertaken. Linking initiatives and building on each other's strengths will be a key focus of the approach.

Ethiopia's Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, H.E. Dr Eyasu Abraha Alle, who inaugurated GLDC, supported the value chain approach noting that "Grain legumes and the sorghum and millets are what have been

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## IITA makes seed deposits at Svalbard Global Seed Vault 10-year anniversary

A celebration to mark the 10th anniversary of the [Svalbard Global Seed Vault](#), including a "Seed Vault Summit" and the Seed Vault Foundation Stone Ceremony, takes place 25-27 February at the facilities in Longyearbyen, Norway. [IITA](#) Head of the [Genetic Resources Center \(GRC\)](#), [Michael Abberton](#), is participating in the symbolic seed deposition along with other depositors and partners from around the world.

At the Foundation Stone Ceremony, gene banks have been invited to add

seeds to the Seed Vault Foundation Stone. This is a glass cylinder filled with seeds to commemorate the 2006 decision to build the Seed Vault, now housed at the Svalbard Museum. [IITA](#), which has an extensive amount of its GRC collection duplicated at Svalbard, has been depositing seeds at the Seed Vault over the past 10 years and will be making a large deposit to the gene bank as well as adding a symbolic deposit to the Foundation Stone tube.

According to Abberton: "IITA has around 85% of our seed collection

already duplicated at Svalbard, which includes cowpea, maize, soybean, bambara groundnut, Africa yam bean, and other legumes."

He added, "The importance of the place is that it acts as a global back-up for the diversity of the seeds of the world's most important crops."

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault is a secure seed bank on the Norwegian island of Spitsbergen near Longyearbyen in the remote Arctic Svalbard archipelago, which is close



Left: The Svalbard Seed Vault in Norway. Photo courtesy of The Crop Trust. Right: GRC Head Michael Abberton pointing to the location of Svalbard archipelago on the world map. Photo by O.Adebayo, IITA.

to the North Pole. The seed vault is an attempt to ensure against the loss

of seeds in other gene banks during large-scale regional or global crises.

Visit the [Crop Trust website](#) for more information.

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termed as 'Smart Food' because they are 'good for you, good for the planet, and good for the farmer'. However, they have received less attention and their value chains have not been as well developed. We need to do something different! Through partnerships like GLDC, we will build this whole industry from the consumer end and also develop the food processing industry and connect this right back to the farmers."

He also challenged the team saying, "We have to work furiously for the drylands. Tackling the drylands means being climate smart. Grain legumes and dryland cereals are well adapted to the drylands and are naturally nutritious. These are smart foods and we need to diversify our diets with them. I challenge

the CRP to come up with a strategy for the drylands of Ethiopia."

Jointly launching the Program was [Dr Nigel Kerby](#), Board Chair of the [International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics \(ICRISAT\)](#), who congratulated the whole team behind GLDC: "As Chair of the ICRISAT Board and on behalf of ICRISAT which has pulled together the partners and prospectus for this Program, I take great pleasure in joining the 44 partner institutions and the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the launch of GLDC. I am very impressed by the commitment shown by the over 130 delegates at the launch, from many different disciplines and their belief in GLDC. I wish great success to the team over the next five years and beyond."

GLDC's vision is to deliver improved rural livelihoods and nutrition by prioritizing demand-driven innovations to increase production and market opportunities along value chains. The program supports research for development on six legumes (chickpea, cowpea, pigeon pea, groundnut, lentil, and soybean) and three cereals (sorghum, pearl millet, and finger millet). It will focus on the semi-arid and subhumid dryland agroecologies of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The Program is a partnership of CGIAR centers that includes IITA, public and private organizations, governments, and farmers worldwide.

Story and photo from a media release on the [GLDC website](#).

## Got a story to share?

Please email it with photos and captions every Wednesday to [iita-news@cgiar.org](mailto:iita-news@cgiar.org) or Katherine Lopez ([k.lopez@cgiar.org](mailto:k.lopez@cgiar.org)) and Uzoma Agha ([u.gha@cgiar.org](mailto:u.gha@cgiar.org)) for headquarters and Western Africa, Jeffrey T. Oliver ([j.oliver@cgiar.org](mailto:j.oliver@cgiar.org)) for Southern Africa, Catherine Njuguna ([c.njuguna@cgiar.org](mailto:c.njuguna@cgiar.org)) for Eastern Africa, and David Ngome ([d.ngome@cgiar.org](mailto:d.ngome@cgiar.org)) for Central Africa.

# Africa RISING–NAFAKA Project trains extension staff, farmers on fall armyworm management

The [Africa RISING](#)-NAFAKA project has trained over 250 government extension staff and over 40 lead farmers from Tanzania's southern highlands on fall armyworm (FAW) management. The training sessions were conducted in the districts of Kilolo, Iringa Rural, Mufindi, Wanging'ombe, Mbozi, Momba, Mbarali, and Kilombero where FAW has been reported.

The extension officers and lead farmers were trained on how to scout for and identify the worm, appropriate control methods such as safe and correct use of pesticides, and cultural practices for managing the pest. This training is part of concerted efforts by the government and stakeholders in Tanzania's agricultural sector to reduce losses being suffered by maize farmers across the country due to this highly invasive pest.

The fall armyworm invasion was first reported in Nigeria in January 2016, and in both Tanzania and Kenya in March of that year. Since then it has spread rapidly across the continent attacking maize farms with no regard for country borders.

According to a report published by the [Food and Agriculture Organization](#) (FAO) in August 2017, the pest had been reported in 14 regions in Tanzania: Songwe, Katavi, Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe, Ruvuma, Lindi, Mtwara, Morogoro, Rukwa, Arusha, Manyara, Shinyanga, and Kilimanjaro) and already caused a 3% reduction in maize yields in 2017 below the previous five-year annual average of 5.6 million tons.

"We expect that each of the trainees will train at least 200 farmers in each village on how to control the fall armyworm and design spraying programs as well as support the spray service providers made up of youth, producer organizations, and village-based agricultural agents who were trained by the project. We agreed that they will report every week to district authorities on the progress," explains [IITA](#) Technology Scaling Specialist, [Haroon Sseguya](#).

The extension workers welcomed the training, which they termed as long



*Top: The fall armyworm has been attacking maize farms across country borders. Bottom: A maize farmer inspecting crops affected by the FAW pest. Source: Africa RISING.*



overdue and crucial in their efforts to support farmers in saving their maize.

"The fall armyworms invaded our village from 2016 and in 2017 and they have caused a lot of damage. But we did not know it was a new pest. We thought it was the maize stalk borer and we applied the same control measures, both traditional and modern, using

chemical pesticides, but we were not succeeding in controlling the pest," said Lydia Shonyera, District Crops Officer from Mbozi District, Songwe Region and one of the trainees.

"We have benefited a lot from the training; we now have the correct advice for the farmers. We only wish that this training had taken place

much earlier. We could have saved our harvest. However, we will now be able to protect our harvest this year from the pest," she said.

This was reiterated by Marcodenis Emmanuel Misungwi, a village extension officer from Nansama village, also in Mbozi District, who said that while the pest was not yet a big problem in his village, the training would enable them to contain it and reduce damage before it was too late.

"The pest is currently not a big problem in our village but it has been spotted

in some maize fields. However, we were not sure of the pest. Actually, we thought that it was the Africa armyworm. With this training, we have discovered that it is a different and deadly pest. The training is therefore very timely as we will give farmers the correct recommendations on how to control it effectively and correctly," he said.

These training sessions are supported by the [USAID](#) Tanzania Mission which funds the Africa RISING-NAFAKA Partnership and Scaling Project. Through this collaborative and

synergistic partnership, IITA and the NAFAKA project (led by [ACDI/VOCA](#)) are promoting and supporting adoption of promising interventions that enhance agricultural productivity in Tanzania. Key interventions include promotion of climate-smart agricultural innovations, dissemination of best-bet crop management packages, rehabilitation and protection of natural resources, and reduction of food waste and spoilage in three crop enterprises—maize, rice, and legumes. Nutrition and postharvest handling are also integrated as cross-cutting themes.

## ENABLE Youth Sudan partners with leading bank to provide financial services to Agripreneurs

The Sudan Chapter of the ENABLE Youth Program has entered into a partnership with the [Savings and Social Development Bank](#) to facilitate access to financial services by the youth. The youth will be able to access seed capital for their agribusiness after undergoing a business incubation phase to equip them with the technical skills to establish viable businesses.

The partnership was signed by the General Manager of the Bank, Mr Abdul Mahmoud Suliman Mohamed Ali and Dr Salih Kheiralla, the ENABLE youth national coordinator. The function was graced by HE Hasabo Mohammed Abdul Rahman, the Vice President of Sudan; Hon Mashair Al-Dawalab, Minister of Welfare and Social Security; Hon Abdullatif Ahmed Mohamed Ijaimi, Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry; Hon. Moataz Musa, Minister of Water Resources, Irrigation and Electricity; and Major General Dr Issa Adam Abakr, the Governor of Southern Kordofan. Also present was [Mary Thiong'o](#), IITA's technical advisor to the program.

The Minister for Agriculture and Forests, Dr Abdeltif Ijaimy, hailed the partnership as one that would transform agribusinesses as access to finance for the agriculture sector has been a huge challenge in Sudan.

He said that with the partnership, the Agripreneurs are guaranteed access to affordable financial services which



*Signing of the partnership agreement between ENABLE Youth Sudan and the Savings and Social Development Bank.*

would contribute to guaranteeing food and nutrition security and job creation.

He noted that the ENABLE Youth program was well aligned with Sudan's development agenda articulated in its five-year development strategy, which is anchored on the commitments to alleviate poverty and integrate young graduates in production cycles to enhance their standard of living and contribute more to the national economy.

"The initiative will contribute to the country's agenda to achieve the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ease the huge unemployment problem in Sudan," he said.

The bank committed to provide financial literacy sessions to the youth as well as develop favorable financial lending products for Agripreneurs. The financing model adopted between the two institutions will further be replicated in other states to create widespread community economic transformation.

*Source: Mary Thiong'o, IITA, Sudan*

## FUNAI explores and discovers areas of collaboration with IITA

Representatives from the [Federal University, Ndufu-Alike Ikwo](#) (FUNAI), Ebonyi State, visited [IITA](#) on 19 February, to exchange ideas, explore potential areas for collaboration, and identify possible ideas that can emanate from the research and knowledge of IITA's work.

The team comprising the Vice Chancellor (VC) of FUNAI, [Chinedum Nwajiuba](#), accompanied by the Director of Agricultural Planning (DAP), Johny Ogunji; Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, [Christiana Igberi](#); Director, Center for Development Assistance Manager, Partnership and Training, [Chris Uwadoka](#); and Lecturer, Department of Economics, Makua Ojide, was welcomed by IITA staff.

Receiving the delegation, IITA Deputy Director General, Partnerships for Delivery, [Kenton Dashiell](#), apprised them about the strategic role IITA has played in the past 50 years, while emphasizing the importance of partnership to research and development, in finding solutions to the problem of food and nutrition security. "IITA has a vision of transforming African agriculture, which means we have to transform agriculture in places like Ebonyi State. Hence, the only way we can impact the people of Ebonyi State is through partnership...I encourage FUNAI to take full advantage of having two IITA alumni in their midst by making their visit a productive one," he stated.

Reacting to Dashiell's statement, Nwajiuba said, "Having worked in IITA with my colleague Ojide, we know that IITA is an excellent and a reputable research institute to partner and collaborate with. Although FUNAI is a fairly new university having been established about 8 years ago, we want to establish the right culture and set the pace by partnering with IITA in the area of research, capacity development, and also help deliver their research products to end users to help ensure food security in Africa," he added.

While conducting the visitors around IITA facilities, which included the production plant for [aflasafe™](#) (a



Above: IITA staff led by DDG, Partnerships for Delivery, Ken Dashiell, welcome the FUNAI representatives to the Institute. Below: Group photograph of FUNAI team and IITA staff. Photos by O. Adebayo, IITA.



biocontrol product for controlling aflatoxins) and [NoduMax](#), a soybean inoculum fertilizer, [yam aeroponics](#) (a new rapid multiplication system for yam seeds), [plantain multiplication](#) for multiplying plantain using suckers, the IITA Youth Agripreneurs ([IYA](#)), Genetic Resources Center, the FUNAI VC said, "...without doubt, this tour is really revealing! I am impressed with IITA's transformation agenda. I am thrilled to

see young people being job creators and not job seekers, and to see the IYA model as a vehicle for addressing youth unemployment in Africa." Corroborating the VC's statements, Ogunji said that it is encouraging to see that the young generation is better trained and mentored on thinking beyond the periphery of the harsh Nigerian economy, and making a living from agriculture.

## NYCN Oyo chapter visits IITA

Representatives from the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) Oyo State Chapter visited IITA headquarters on 21 February to discuss possible collaboration and deliberate on plans to network the youth in Oyo State in agriculture.

A delegation involving the council chairperson Adebobola Agbeja and other executive and non-executive members were received by [Kenton Dashiell](#), IITA's Deputy Director General, Partnerships for Delivery (DDG-P4D). Dashiell welcomed the youth, saying: "I agree with you a hundred percent that it is your generation that will make Nigeria great, so I count on you all to make this happen. Please do not let me down."



*Representatives of NYCN during their meeting with IITA DDG (P4D). Photo by O.Adebayo, IITA.*

Tarebulu Fadumiye, a member of the Capacity Development Unit of [IITA Youth Agripreneur \(IYA\)](#), gave an overview of IYA activities, emphasizing that with commitment, dedication, and hard work, Nigerian youth can excel in the agricultural sector, thus becoming job creators and not job seekers.

The DDG-P4D spoke to the youth about the skills they require to become good agripreneurs which include technical skills, business skills, good orientation, and the ability to get finances... "when you want to do agricultural production correctly, you have to do it exactly right," he said. He also told them

success stories of young people who started from almost nothing, but are now thriving in agribusiness because of how hard they have worked. He suggested that the chairperson liaise with the IYA Capacity Development Unit to train 20 youth from the NYCN, Oyo State chapter on agribusiness. He added that IITA does not give out funds as the Institute is itself dependent on funds from its partners to carry out its vision and mission.

In an interview, Agbeja expressed excitement at IITA's offer to train NYCN members on agribusiness. "We look forward to the training for it is going to

serve as a platform to expose many of the youth in Oyo State to lucrative agribusinesses. Coming to IITA was the right thing to do; we appreciate the warm reception we have been given," she said. She thanked the DDG-P4D for stimulating their interest on agribusiness.

NYCN is the apex and umbrella body of all the voluntary youth organizations representing young people in Nigeria. The organization provides a platform for the advancement, mobilization, and coordination of youth development, and the promotion of peace, unity, and tolerance.

## Events

- CIALCA project launch, February, Kigali, Rwanda
- 6th Annual NextGen Cassava meeting, 19–24 February, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Regional workshop in Africa on invasive species, 21–22 February, 2018 icipe, Nairobi, Kenya
- YIIFSWA-II Annual Progress Review and Work Planning Meeting , 5–8 March, IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria
- Nairobi Innovation Week, 5–9 March, The Great Court, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya
- International Women's Day, 8 March
- BASICS annual review and planning meeting, 14–16 March, IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria
- 2018 Annual Review and Work Planning Meeting, Cassava Weed Management Project, 19–20 March, Conference Center, IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria
- IITA Board Meeting, 24–26 April, [Center for Development Research of Bonn University](#) (ZEF), Bonn, Germany
- Special event on "African agricultural transformation: The IITA Agripreneur Approach to Job Creation", 26 April, ZEF, Bonn, Germany
- 7th International Food Legume Research Conference, 6–8 May, Palais des Congrès, Marrakech, Morocco