

IITA supports World Food Prize 2018

Between 17 and 19 October, the [World Food Prize](#) was awarded in Des Moines, Iowa, USA. The World Food Prize Award Ceremony is preceded by the Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium, named after the late Nobel Peace Prize Winner and World Food Prize founder Dr Norman Borlaug. The Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium and World Food Prize Award Ceremony bring together international leaders, policymakers, farmers, executives from agribusiness and nongovernmental organizations,

and scientific, academic and development experts to address the most critical issues facing global food security. This year's theme "Rise to the Challenge" refers to the global movement to feed an estimated 9 billion people by the year 2050. [Continued on page 2](#)



DG Nteranya Sanganya serving as a panel member at a session in the World Food Prize 2018 in Des Moines, Iowa.

World Food Day 2018 celebrated with a Walk for Zero Hunger

On 16 October every year, [World Food Day](#) (WFD) is celebrated in over 150 countries to raise awareness about hunger and poverty and the need for global food security. WFD was inaugurated in November 1979 in honor of the date of the establishment of



IITA staff members celebrating 2018 World Food Day with a walk for Zero Hunger.

the [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#) and has been observed globally every year since then. The theme for this year's celebration was "*Our actions are our future*".

[IITA](#) joined the World Food Day celebrations in a novel way with staff embarking on a 2-km Walk for

Zero Hunger to commemorate the day. This was the WFD edition of the IITA wellness initiative called Walk for a Purpose, which is organized to mark international celebrations that are relevant to the Institute's vision.

The event began with an exhibition showcasing IITA's work on mandate crops at the Institute's conference center in Ibadan, Nigeria, before the participants set out on the walk around the campus.

Speaking at the end of the walk, IITA Deputy Director General, Partnerships for Delivery, [Kenton Dashiell](#) appreciated everybody who took time to be there and lauded them as ambassadors of IITA and of the upcoming P4D Week. He reminded those present that World Food Day is directly connected to our research to fight hunger and reduce poverty, work for which we were recently awarded the [Africa Food Prize 2018](#).

"IITA's mission is to transform African agriculture so we are all about Africans growing more food, getting quality food and good nutrition, raising income of farmers, promoting Zero Hunger, and transforming African agriculture; so we are all about World Food Day, 365 days a year; we are working on world food day," Dashiell said.

Also speaking afterwards, IITA Director of Country Alignment and Systems Integration, [Kwesi Atta-Krah](#), highlighted the importance of World Food Day as a day to celebrate good quality food and the value of good nutrition. He also noted the significance of the Africa Food Prize received by IITA stating: "It is a very important award because it is highly contested throughout the continent and it is awarded to individuals and organizations that have been able to show innovation in agriculture not only in terms of the research but in the research and delivery of research products."



An exhibition showcased food products made from IITA mandate crops that can be promoted in food processing centers.

IITA supports World Food Prize 2018 [Continued from page 1](#)

IITA and CGIAR were well represented during the World Food Prize event, with reference to CGIAR as the world's leading agricultural research-for-development consortium, and IITA as driving agricultural transformation in Africa.

IITA DG Nteranya Sanginga featured in several panel discussions. During the main event at the State Capitol of Iowa, DG Sanginga and IITA were recognized for their achievements and for winning the Africa Food Prize 2018 that was awarded during the Africa Green Revolution Forum 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda.

According to Sanginga, "Winning the Africa Food Prize is significant for IITA since it shows that our stakeholders recognize the importance of the work we are doing in Africa to put agriculture in the driver's seat of development. This has really made IITA as a partner of choice on research and development to enhance farmers' lives and ensure that agriculture is used to make Africa as the next food basket of the world."

CGIAR organized a side event on "Science of Scaling" that featured IITA Senior Scientist Dr Marc Schut as one of the panelists. The side event was attended by business leaders, R4D donors, CGIAR DGs, and

colleagues and development organizations. "I think we really put 'scaling of innovation' at the center of the World Food Prize event. More attention for scaling is needed to ensure that our hard work translates into better development impacts and reaches more beneficiaries faster and in a more cost-efficient manner," says Schut.

The 2018 World Food Prize was awarded to Drs Lawrence Haddad and David Nabarro for their individual and complementary global leadership in elevating maternal and child undernutrition to a central issue within the food security and development dialogue at national and international levels.

TAAT Cassava Compact forum to develop cassava value chain in DRC

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and [IITA](#) jointly organized a forum to address the development of the cassava value chain in DRC, 18-22 September. The forum was held in Kinshasa and organized under the Cassava Compact of the [Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation](#) (TAAT) program.

Despite its economic importance, the cassava value chain in DRC faces several systemic constraints inhibiting growth in the sector. The TAAT cassava compact seeks to address these

challenges and aims to establish cassava as an agro-industrial crop in African countries.

In his introductory remarks, the Director of IITA's Central Africa Hub, [Bernard Vanlauwe](#), noted that the Cassava Compact and the TAAT program in general are the result of a shared vision with the [African Development Bank](#) (AfDB) and the approach is a push for the rapid integration of technologies into national programs to boost development in Africa. Cassava is one of the 18 agricultural value chains that TAAT aims to promote.

The Minister of Agriculture, His Excellency Georges Kazadi Kabongo, in his opening speech, praised the contribution of IITA to the development of the cassava value chain in partnership with the DRC government.

He noted that although cassava remains a raw material for agribusiness, the export of its derivatives will enormously contribute to the national trade balance. He acknowledged that a transformed and modernized agricultural production system, with solid tools and other sectors of the economy can respond to both the problem of unemployment and social integration. Achieving this would require the crucial role of government as a support and catalyst to public and private innovation.

About 160 participants attended the forum from both public and private sector organizations including the Ministry of Agriculture, IITA, commercial banks, the Federation of Enterprises of Congo (FEC), owners of small and medium-sized cassava enterprises, the Confederation of Small and Medium-sized Congolese Enterprises (COPEMECO), along with agro-entrepreneurs, manufacturers of processing products and cassava processors, input suppliers, and delegates from the provinces of Central Kong, Kivu, Kwango, Kwilu, Mai-Ndombe, Mongala, North and Sud-Bangu, and Tanganyika.

A roadmap will be developed in collaboration with all stakeholders detailing the objectives and actions to be achieved for the development of the cassava value chain as well as proposing a holistic and demand-driven approach to addressing the constraints along the cassava value chain.

The IITA Country Representative in DRC, [Zoumana Bamba](#), closed the forum by thanking all the delegates for attending the forum and participating in the discussions on actions and mechanisms to be put in place to make the cassava sector in the DRC more competitive. He said he hoped that the government would set up a monitoring committee to implement the outlined action points of the program.



Group photograph of participants at the TAAT cassava compact forum in DRC.

Got a story to share?

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

YIIFSWA-II hosts workshop on revising and harmonizing seed yam quality management protocols (Yam QMP)

At the recent Oyo State agriculture investment summit exhibition at [IITA](#), Ibadan, a farmer expressed his lack of interest in yam production. When asked the reason for this, he stated that during the last cropping season, he established 500 mounds of yam but got nothing out of it. Further inquiry established that he bought poor quality seed yam from the market and “most of it was rotten and cutting off the rotted parts did not help.” He said the performance of the seed tubers deterred him from cultivating yam.

The linkage between quality seeds and yield needs to be emphasized. Quality seed is a prerequisite to achieving higher yield and good returns for farmers. Moreover, the food security of over 300 million people, mostly in West Africa, who produce and consume yam is dependent on the availability of quality seed tubers.

On 10-13 October, the [Yam Improvement for Income and Food Security in West Africa project, phase two](#) (YIIFSWA-II) in collaboration with the [National Agricultural Seed Council](#) (NASC) and Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD) from Nigeria and Ghana, respectively, reviewed yam quality standards and certification procedures that were established during the first phase of the project. This review was necessitated by the implementation experiences and lessons learned during the past five years.

The participants of this four-day workshop and training consisted of seed certification officers and experts from NASC, PPRSD, and YIIFSWA-II project.

Speaking on the purpose of workshop, [Lava Kumar](#), IITA Head of Germplasm Health, stated that “The first seed yam quality protocol (Yam QMP-v1) and the seed yam certification procedures were established in September 2013 as part of the YIIFSWA-I project. The Yam QMP aligns with the regulatory procedures of Nigeria and Ghana for breeder seed, foundation seed, and certified seed production. In addition, “symptom severity” was considered for establishing minimum thresholds for pests and diseases for the production of these seed categories. This was the first instance of using severity-based thresholds for seed quality certification, necessitated by the acute limitation

of quality and fit-for-purpose seed. However, the industry is changing, and revision of standards has become necessary considering the new seed yam propagation methods such as Temporary Immersion Bioreactor System (TIBS), aeroponics system (AS), hydroponics, Vivi pack, and semi-autotrophic hydroponics (SAH) that have become available to producers.”

During the workshop, participants deliberated and agreed on standards for seed yam production in TIBS and aeroponics-based seed production technologies, and drafted guidelines and definitions for accreditation of the production facilities as well as field certification.

After drafting the Yam QMP v-2, a roadmap for effective implementation of seed certification standards in Ghana and Nigeria was developed and the seed certification officers were trained on procedures and methods for seed yam quality certification based on the newly formulated Yam QMP. The training focused on quality control and certification of yam planting materials generated by TIBS, SAH, AS, single-node vine seedlings, micro tubers, minitubers, and minisetts using standard certification procedures. They were also introduced to digital tools such as the ‘Seed Tracker’ and health indexing using PCR and LAMP methods.



Photograph of the key stakeholders of YIIFSWA II project during a workshop at IITA.