

## P4D Week reiterates IITA's commitment to go beyond research

More than 200 scientists, development experts, and researchers from all [IITA hubs](#), along with members of the IITA Board of Trustees, convened at IITA Headquarters in Ibadan for the 2018 Partnerships for Delivery (P4D) Week, on 26–30 November.

The 5-day event, themed, “Beyond Research,” provided an opportunity for the participants to interact, exchange ideas, and reflect on the progress made by the Institute especially on the implementation of the 2020 strategy, which led to the creation of the P4D

**Continued on page 2**



*IITA Director General, Nteranya Sanginga, addressing the participants during the opening session of P4D Week.*

## IITA targets scaling and sustainability in research development and delivery

The [IITA](#) Development and Delivery Office gave an outline of new generation scaling activities and projects that it is implementing to ensure the actualization of the IITA transformation agenda across sub-Saharan Africa. These were highlighted on the opening day of the 2018 P4D Week which took place between 26 and 30 November.



*Alfred Dixon, Director of Development and Delivery giving his presentation.*

In his presentation on “Institutionalizing scaling out of technologies and knowledge at IITA to ensure sustainability,” Director of Development and Delivery, [Alfred Dixon](#), noted some of the problems facing scalability of technologies. He stressed the importance of development of technologies and their delivery to the end-users as “project execution is incomplete until we have ensured that farmers will adopt them.”

There is also the need to improve and adapt the technologies over different iterations and make provision for expansion and scaled-out adoption, as technology will go nowhere without the markets, Dixon elaborated.

He noted that IITA had in the past delivered over 70% of [CGIAR's](#) impact in sub-Saharan Africa but also called for continued commitment from all because without research and delivery there will never be transformation of African agriculture.

Dixon cited multiple examples of projects and interventions that IITA had been involved in over the years that although successful, did not provide the framework for continuous scalability and sustainability after the projects ended. Situations like these mean that Africa continues to have a high food import bill, currently at US\$35 billion. And if the right steps are not taken, this could increase to US\$110 billion by 2025. He stated that in Africa, this means “we would be exporting jobs to other countries instead of creating jobs in sub-Saharan Africa and that is not going to help African economic growth.”

In a joint presentation, IITA Principal Investigator, Sustainable Weed Management Technologies for Cassava Systems in Nigeria, [Friday Ekeleme](#) and Communication & Knowledge Exchange Expert [Godwin Atser](#) spoke on the journey from technology and knowledge generation to scaling out using the cassava weed management project as a

case study. They concluded that sustainability is about profit and that the actors in the private sector will only join hands in partnership with R4D organizations like IITA when they see that the technology is profitable, echoing the earlier point made about the necessity of markets to the development, delivery, and sustainable scaling of technologies.

In their presentation, Head of IITA Abuja Station, [Gbassey Tarawali](#) and Head of IITA Onne Station, [Richardson Okechukwu](#), emphasized the need to align with government initiatives to achieve success in the outscaling of improved technologies and knowledge. They highlighted how multiple CGIAR centers and P4D scientists worked with the Nigerian government and institutions to revolutionize Nigerian agriculture. They concluded that ensuring the buy-in of government and policy makers to technologies will facilitate not only the scaling of these technologies but also the sustainability of the initiatives.

## P4D week reiterates IITA's commitment to go beyond research Continued from page 1

Directorate, [Youth in Agribusiness program](#), and the [Business Incubation Platform](#) (BIP).

Speaking at the opening ceremony, [Kenton Dashiell](#), IITA Deputy Director General, P4D, applauded the participants for their contributions to ensure that the Institute advances in its research and delivery activities to attain impact at scale. “Even though P4D presents an opportunity for new sources of funding, R4D is the heart and soul of IITA. Therefore, the success of IITA in the future depends on results obtained from R4D and how the Institute will be able to deliver to end-users and achieve impacts.

“There is need to strengthen IITA's capacity on the science of scaling and delivery within the Institute. To achieve that, we need to work closely with the scaling scientists, and also start

mainstreaming institute-wide strategies, tools, and protocols to guide projects and increase impacts at large,” he added.

In his presentation, IITA Director General [Nteranya Sanginga](#) commended the enormous progress made by the Institute in the face of limited resources, and assured participants and staff of a better and stable 2019. According to him, IITA will continue to respond to the needs of Africa by developing innovations that will provide answers to Africa's food insecurity. To this end, IITA has been demonstrating, and will continue to demonstrate its scientific leadership not only in terms of qualitative research in the lab, but also impact in farmers' fields.

Twenty-six presentations were made during the plenary session with focus on partnerships, delivery activities, and outscaling R4D technologies for greater

impact. In addition, two panel discussions were held -- the first was titled “Criteria for scaling” and the second, “Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo, powerhouses of agriculture, or hubs of poverty?”

Furthermore, there were individual and side meetings, and campus tours to the BIP, Semi-Autotrophic Hydroponics lab or the tissue culture lab, Aflasafe factory, and youth-led enterprises. The P4D Week culminated in the opening of the Tissue Culture Building that will house the commercial operations to produce clean and healthy seeds, a town hall meeting where the Board Chair, Amos Namanga Ngongi, addressed the IITA community, awards were presented to best posters in different categories, the first-ever Twitter competition organized by the Communication Unit, and the presentation of the BoT annual awards of excellence.



Panel discussion titled “Criteria for scaling” during P4D Week.



# IYA maps out strategies to encourage youth engagement in agriculture

During the 2018 P4D Week which took place 26 to 30 November, the IITA Youth in Agribusiness office laid out some of the strategies and methods it is employing to encourage youth engagement in agriculture and enhance the growth of youth-led agricultural initiatives.



Youth in Agribusiness Office lead Evelyn Ohanwusi (left) and Mary Thiong'o (right), Agribusiness Specialist and Technical Advisor, ENABLE Youth Sudan.

At an earlier presentation, the ENABLE-TAAT Youth Coordinator and Head of the Youth in Agribusiness office, [Evelyn Ohanwusi](#) outlined some of the work carried out by the [IITA Youth Agripreneurs](#) (IYA) over the years. The original outlook of the IYA targeted various opportunities including creating employment and agribusiness start-up enterprises, which today, account for the highest outcomes.

The goal of IYA is to orient rural youth towards productive engagement in agriculture, particularly through expanded

opportunities in Agribusiness. Molayo Owoeye, Head of Capacity Development Unit, IYA, gave a presentation on the "Overview of IYA: Approach to training and incubation" in which she talked about strategies in achieving this goal which include development of agricultural business skills; use of improved technology and value chain options; and formation and development of strategic partnerships.

Molayo also mentioned the approaches used by IYA such as mind-set change, renovation of abandoned facilities,

exchange study visits, organizing training of a wider cross-section of disadvantaged youth through projects, reliance upon mentorship and coaching, and shortened incubation cycle. "A total of 3,123 youth have received training to date with 43% being female. And 30,000 youth will receive training through the IYA collaboration project over the next five years," said Molayo.

Due to its successes, the IYA concept became the basis from which other programs such as the ENABLE Youth Program and ENABLE TAAT have been developed.

Using ENABLE Youth Sudan as a case study, Mary Thiong'o, Agribusiness Specialist and Technical Advisor to ENABLE Youth in the country spoke about its implementation as a five-year program started in 2017 and funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in collaboration with the Government of Sudan. Thiong'o said: "To date we are implementing in five of the 18 states of Sudan. The approach we are using is training and empowering the youth through an incubation model."

During his presentation on "Responsive M&E System for Youth in Agribusiness Projects," Ismaila Mustapha, M&E Officer for ENABLE TAAT, talked about a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System that has been set up and the results framework developed for the youth in agribusiness and the theory of change, which is the underlying assumption that change will occur while engaging youth in agribusiness productively. This is believed to result in a drastic reduction of youth unemployment and an increase in the incomes of youth.

Ismaila stated that a key performance indicator had been set up to properly track this level of result at different stages. It is also a performance monitoring plan, which is a powerful tool established to monitor key performance indicators and report to the donors and IITA management as well as flag whatever challenges are being faced in the field in time. This will make it easier to get Management support in addressing these challenges as early as possible and for proper documentation of the achievements and lessons learnt over time.



IITA staff led by DDGs Ken Dashiell (right, front row) and Hilde Koper (middle) listening to the presentations.

# IITA score card: Over 7.2 million people lifted out of poverty and 800+ ha of degraded lands restored

By 2018 [IITA](#) Socioeconomics and Natural Resource Management teams estimate that the Institute would have already lifted 7.2 million people out of poverty and rehabilitated 875,500 ha of degraded land. These are efforts towards realization of the Institute's vision of lifting 7.5 million people out of poverty and rehabilitating 10.5 million of degraded land and transforming Africa's agriculture.



DG Nteranya Sanginga (left) and DDG, P4D Ken Dashiell (right).

The IITA score card was presented by the IITA Director General [Nteranya Sanginga](#) during the opening session of this year's P4D Week held in Ibadan, Nigeria with the theme 'Beyond Research' and focused on ongoing initiatives on the scaling up and out of IITA technologies.

Sanginga started by updating the staff and the Board on progress made in the implementation of IITA's 2012–2020 strategy. He noted that the Institute was now in the third phase of the strategy from 2018 to 2020 which included reflecting on the failures and successes over the past 6 years and looking at and preparing for the next 10 years.

Sanginga also shared on the [CGIAR](#) strategy 2016–2030 and business plan 2019–2021 which, among others, aim at stabilizing funding, achieving gender balance in the workplace and better cooperation between centers, and engaging external partners for delivery. He noted the new CGIAR focus on merging the "science of discovery" with the "science of delivery."

"Through initiatives such as the [Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation](#) (TAAT) and [Business Incubation Platform](#) (BIP), IITA is well on the path to integrate its Research for Development (R4D) and P4D agenda. IITA is well aligned to the CGIAR business plan's strategic objective of

engaging external delivery partners," Sanginga said.

He also noted IITA was well on track to becoming a project-based institution. While core funding had been decreasing gradually, project funding has been on an increase. He said the Institute would continue with aggressive fundraising to counter the dwindling funds to its core budget and urged scientists to not only engage in the fundraising efforts but also in implementation to ensure IITA is able to make use of the overhead budget for its core activities.

## Strengthening collaboration between P4D and R4D to deliver impact

While welcoming the participants to the event, IITA Deputy Director General (DDG-P4D) [Ken Dashiell](#) also reiterated the importance of integrating IITA's P4D and R4D.

Dashiell noted that R4D was the heart and soul of IITA and its achievements have made IITA a viable and successful organization. He said that R4D has developed many technologies for the chains of cowpea, soybean, maize, cassava, yam, banana and plantain, and demonstrated the success of these technologies.

However, Dashiell said the delivery of these technologies through partnership is critical to enable IITA to deliver on its promises, which include increasing yields of cassava, yam, maize, banana and plantain, soybean, and cowpea by 60%, increasing average farm income by 50%, reducing the number of malnourished children by 30%, and reducing poverty and restoring degrading farm lands.

The previous P4D Week was held in 2016 and this week's event built on the lessons learned during and since 2016.

## 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.agha@cgiar.org](mailto:u.agha@cgiar.org)) for headquarters and Western 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.



# IITA Tissue Culture Building launched in grand style

On 30 November, the 2018 P4D Week closed with the commissioning of the Tissue Culture Building. The event, which was anchored by [Katherine Lopez](#), Head of Communication, was attended by a thousand staff members led by IITA Director General [Nteranya Sanginga](#), all the Deputy Director Generals, IITA Board Chair [Amos Namanga Ngongi](#), and Board members, including partners.



Above: Board Chair Amos Namanga Ngongi cuts the ribbon to open the new Tissue Culture Building; Bottom: Mercy Diebiru-Ojo of IITA GoSeed Ltd. leads the launch program.

During the first part of the program launching the new Tissue Culture Building, [Mercy Diebiru-Ojo](#), IITA Seed System Specialist who is also in charge

of the [IITA GoSeed Limited](#), gave a brief background on the newly completed structure: "The building is funded by the Nigerian government with a loan

from the [African Development Bank \(AfDB\)](#) through the [Nigeria Agricultural Transformation Agenda Support Program \(ATASP\)](#). Last year, during the 50<sup>th</sup> year celebration, we had the groundbreaking performed by His Excellency, [Dr Akinwunmi Adesina](#), [AfDB President](#)."

Diebiru-Ojo further explained the need for the Tissue Culture Building: "[IITA](#) has put a lot of effort into the production of good varieties of crops, but there is the need to scale these varieties out. This is basically what GoSeed is doing, and will continue this, in this building, on a commercial scale."

In his remarks, IITA DDG-P4D Kenton Dashiell spoke of the importance of the Tissue Culture Lab as a testament of IITA's commitment to its vision. He said: "The buildings that we have in IITA, all over Africa, are very important because they show the countries where we are working that we are serious. We are here to stay; we have buildings that we own and we are part of developing their countries."

Dashiell applauded DG Sanginga for his visionary and dynamic leadership in getting the Institute to this point. He also welcomed and appreciated the partners on the project noting that the goal of transforming African agriculture can only be achieved through the right partnerships, both in the the public and private sectors.

The dedication of the building was finalized with a symbolic ribbon cutting anchored by the Board Chair Namanga Ngongi. Diebiru-Ojo then conducted a tour of the facility which will house tissue culture activities on a commercial scale.

The team will be offering clientele services for rapid multiplication of crops in conjunction with private partners, [Contec Global](#) and [Nigeria Flour Mills](#). The building will house different offices such as the Development and Delivery office led by Director [Alfred Dixon](#), the Business Incubation Platform office led by Chief Executive Officer [Frederick Schreurs](#), the TAAT office headed by the Program Management Unit Coordinator [Chrysantus Akem](#), and the mechanization offices.