

IITA Youth Agripreneurs program wins international award for youth empowerment innovations

In recognition of its commitment to improving both agribusiness opportunities and creditworthiness of youth across Africa, the [IITA Youth Agripreneurs \(IYA\)](#) program has been awarded the 2019 International Innovation Award for Sustainable Food and Agriculture.

The award, the first of its kind, is funded by the Government of Switzerland and was presented, in conjunction with the [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#), during the 41st FAO Conference at their headquarters in Rome. High-level

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The award winners with FAO Director General José Graziano da Silva. Photo: Twitter (@Bucheve).

New South-Kivu Minister of Agriculture commends IITA progress in PICAGL implementation

On 18 June, implementation partners on the Integrated Project for Agricultural Growth in the Great Lakes [Projet Intégré de Croissance Agricole dans les Grands Lacs (PICAGL)] were received in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), at the office of the Honorable Minister of Agriculture for South-Kivu Province, his Excellency Marcelin Amani Bahaya.

The partners were in Bukavu at the invitation of the newly appointed minister to discuss the progress of the PICAGL project and the involvement of the different partners.



Minister Marcelin Amani Bahaya (in blue) flanked by Dr Leon Nabahungu (left), Dr Adebowale Akande (second from right), and Mr Jean-Damas Bulubulu.

Partners on the project include [IITA](#), the [United Nations Office for Project Services \(UNOPS\)](#), [Veterinaire Sans Frontiere \(VSF\)](#), the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#), and [Rikolto](#).

During the meeting, the PICAGL Provincial Coordinator Mr Jean-Damas Bulubulu, along with the other implementing partners, presented overall and individual project progress, their activities, the challenges

encountered so far, and mitigation plans. They also presented planned activities to be achieved by the end of the project.

The Minister said that the whole South-Kivu Province is expecting great agricultural changes in the Province through the PICAGL project and congratulated IITA particularly for being the most advanced partner in terms of implementation and

quality of services provided so far. He urged other implementing partners to follow the footsteps of IITA and increase the pace of implementation of their activities.

The new Head of the Kalambo station, [Adebowale Akande](#), represented IITA along with Leon Nabahungu and Francine Nsindabagoma.

[Tags: Country: DRC, (Project: PICAGL)]



Representatives of implementing partners with the new Minister and members of his staff.

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government representatives across the globe attended the official event which was held on 26 June.

Awards were handed out in two categories with the first category recognizing excellence in digitization and innovation for sustainable food systems. The second category, in which IYA emerged successful, recognizes the importance of innovations that empower youth to participate in securing the future through sustainable food and agricultural systems.

These innovations are particularly significant in the face of increased environmental challenges, in line with the recently launched [United Nations Decade of Family Farming](#) and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Receiving the award on behalf of IYA, Evelyn Ohanwusi, Head of the program, appreciated the organizers and sponsors of the award saying, "IYA is grateful to have been recognized as an innovation that empowers youth in agriculture and food systems and chosen among other qualified nominees. We sincerely appreciate the Government of Switzerland and the FAO for contributing to our success story."

Speaking further, she dedicated the award to young people involved in agricultural transformation, encouraging them to keep working hard towards resolving the problems of food insecurity and unemployment in Africa. "This award is dedicated to all youth in the agriculture and food systems across the world especially in Africa. We have started the revolution and yes, we can achieve more!" she added.

In 2012, [IITA](#) Director General [Nteranya Sanginga](#) established the IYA youth in agribusiness initiative to address the issue of widespread youth unemployment and to provide a platform that propels youth towards self-employment in agriculture. The program started in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria, and has expanded into 13 groups with over 385 members operating 36 learning-by-doing enterprises in 10 African countries: Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia.

[Tags: Countries: Cameroon, DRC, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia, (Project: IYA)]



Evelyn Ohanwusi receiving the award on behalf of IITA Youth Agripreneurs. Photo: Twitter (@Bucheve).

TAAT discusses ongoing activities in workshop

[Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation \(TAAT\)](#), a program initiated by the [African Development Bank \(AfDB\)](#) as part of its Feed Africa Initiative, held a workshop at [IITA](#), Ibadan. The meeting, which took place 27-28 June, brought together representatives from AfDB as well as executing and implementing agencies, the TAAT Program Unit, the Clearinghouse, and coordinators of the 15 TAAT Compacts.

The workshop was organized to ensure that every component of the program understands how TAAT progresses with the post-Mid-Term Review (MTR) implementation. The expected key outcomes of the meeting include key findings and implications of the MTR, expectations from TAAT Compacts, and understanding the new TAAT as well as improvements to the management structure.

The core objective of the TAAT program is to improve the business

of agriculture across Africa by raising agricultural productivity, mitigating risks, and promoting diversification and processing in 18 agricultural value chains within eight Priority Intervention Areas (PIAs).

The program is implemented by IITA in close partnership with other CGIAR Centers: [AfricaRice](#), [International Center for Tropical Agriculture \(CIAT\)](#), [International Potato Center \(CIP\)](#), [International Center for Agriculture Research in the Dry Areas \(ICARDA\)](#),



Director of Agriculture at the AfDB, Dr Martins Fregene, speaking at the workshop.



The TAAT workshop was held at IITA headquarters in Ibadan.

[International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics \(ICRISAT\)](#), [International Water Management Institute](#) (IWMI), and [WorldFish](#). TAAT is also involved with specialized technical centers like the [African Agricultural Technology Foundation](#) (AATF), the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), and the [International Fertilizer Development Center](#) (IFDC) as well

as national agricultural research and extension systems and private sector partners.

The TAAT program operates as a network of interacting “Compacts” with nine of these compacts devoted to specific commodity value chains and six others serving as “Enablers” that provide needed specialist services.

While TAAT is not a research program, it seeks to promote and disseminate proven, high-performance food production technologies to millions of farmers in a commercially sustainable way. This it does through a network of people and institutions forming a Regional Technology Delivery Infrastructure (RTDI) within an enabling environment.

[Tags: Country: Nigeria, Project: TAAT]



Participants of TAAT workshop.

Event announcement: 3rd National Annual Conference of the Society for Underutilized Legumes to be held in Ibadan, Nigeria

The **Society for Underutilized Legumes (SUL)** will hold its 3rd National Annual Conference, 9-11 July 2019 at the [Institute of Agricultural Research & Training](#) (IAR&T) in Ibadan, Nigeria. The conference will feature field trips, plenary sessions, the Annual General Meeting, the official launch of the SUL website (www.sulegumes.org) and the Society journal: Journal of Underutilized Legumes (JUL), and the award of an honorary fellowship to Head of IITA Genetic Resources Center (GRC), [Prof Michael Abberton](#), for his outstanding contributions and research support for the promotion of underutilized legumes.

The SUL was set up for academic research and promotion of improved

use of underutilized legumes in tropical Africa. The Society encourages the growth and development of opportunities to researchers, entrepreneurs, and organizations (universities, research institutes, and donor agencies) for the dissemination of research outputs aimed at improving the economics, utilization, and conservation of underutilized legumes on the African continent and worldwide.

A 2016 symposium on African yam bean, organized by the GRC in Ibadan, Nigeria, was the foundation for the formation of SUL. The inaugural conference was held in 2017 at Ebonyi State University in Abakaliki, Nigeria, while Covenant University, Ota, Ogun

State, Nigeria hosted the second edition in 2018.

[Tags: Country: Nigeria, Crop: African yam bean]



FPI collaborates with IITA to establish floating cages on Lake Kivu

The IITA-Kalambo station on 5 June hosted a four-member team from [Fond pour la Promotion Industrielle](#) (FPI). Their visit was to consolidate a grant agreement on the Pilot Project of Tilapia in Cages/South Kivu [Projet Pilote des Tilapias en Cages/Sud Kivu (PPTC/SK)] project aimed at improving tilapia production in Lake Kivu through the cage system in South Kivu Province. The PTC/SK project team comprised four staff members from Kinshasa and South-Kivu; Cesar Bisimwa, Akanda Joseph, Chantal Tawaba, and Janvier Magala.

The FPI team was received by the Officer in Charge, [Chris Okafor](#) and members of the Fish Value Chain team: [Paul Dontsop](#), Janvier Mushagalusa, Francine Nsindabagoma, Noel Mulinganya, Liliane Togogo, and Cecile Cirezi.

In his welcome note, Okafor spoke of IITA's expertise in the aquaculture value chain as a strong reason for FPI to collaborate with IITA.

The FPI team had a full-day session at IITA Kalambo station and the two institutions discussed the operational strategies for the implementation of the project. They created the initiatives to work with Government institutions, youth groups, key actors in the private sector as well as community-based and smallholder organizations/associations to enhance aquaculture in South-Kivu Province, upscale the fish cage method, reduce poverty, and improve household nutrition.

This project is the initiative of the DRC Government's "One Hundred Days" project, established by the newly elected President, his Excellency Mr Felix Antoine Tchisekedi Tchilombo.

Further to this, the two institutions agreed on collaborating with microfinance institutions to enable the project beneficiaries to have access to loans for sustaining their businesses. This will attract more unemployed people who have failed to establish an income-generating activity

due to lack of capital and will reduce importation of fish in South-Kivu. IITA, being the lead for this project, will promote and/or nurture interactions among the various stakeholders playing a role in the aquaculture value chain.

After the work session, the FPI team visited the hatchery unit at the station and expressed their satisfaction that IITA will contribute significantly to this Government project.

Following this meeting, IITA will sign a contract with FPI and elaborate sub-agreements with other stakeholders for the effective implementation of the project.

This partnership with FPI will provide employment opportunities for youth and women through fish feed fabrication and the commercialization of fish.

[Tags: Country: DRC, Project: Pilot Project of Tilapia in Cages/South Kivu (PPTC/SK), Value chain: Tilapia]



Top: The IITA Kalambo Aquaculture Specialist shows the FPI delegation the hatchery. Bottom: The FPI team members are impressed by the tilapia hatchery techniques.

Got a story to share?

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