

Repositioning IITA for the task ahead

The challenges to overcoming poverty and food insecurity, malnutrition and achieving sustainable management of natural resources in SSA arise on several fronts. Africa's population growth remains high compared to other regions in the world (2.4% in SSA against 1.3% in non-African countries). In addition, the urban population is rapidly growing, putting pressure on the rural areas to produce surplus food at affordable prices.

Food insecurity is a huge and increasing challenge largely because production per unit area has not increased in sub-Saharan Africa as it has elsewhere in the world. Too often, modest gains in food production have come at the expense of the natural resource base. For example, low levels of fertilizer use have led to an estimated annual loss of 8 million tons of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium from soils, nutrients valued at \$1.5 billion per year. Left unchecked, the effects of soil depletion are catastrophic. In addition, destructive agricultural practices along forest margins in Africa worsen deforestation rates – currently 200% of the global average. Again, climate change is projected to reduce agricultural productivity



Woman farmer receives improved varieties from IITA.

by an estimated 10–25% by 2080, through temperature increases, less rain, and increasing dry periods in some areas, and fewer, more intense storms causing erosion and floods in others. This will likely increase the incidence of pests, weeds and diseases, risk of crop failure, and in the extreme, unpredictable shifts in the agroecological zoning of the continent.

Alternatively, sustainable intensification of production systems

offers the potential to address simultaneously several pressing development objectives, particularly unlocking the agricultural potential, adapting production systems to climate change, sustainably managing land and water resources, and reducing rural poverty in regions that have been most intractable to lifting the poor above the poverty line of large parts of sub-Saharan Africa.

The global, regional and scientific context in which these changes are occurring must also be considered. The 2007–2008 global food crises was a wake-up call for a world that has become complacent in investing in agriculture. The good news is that agricultural research issues are now on the agenda of policymakers and development investors, and African leaders have a new commitment toward advancing agriculture. Recent developments such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) framework agreement, the beginnings of more national investment in agriculture, and increased global attention and resource mobilization for African agriculture are encouraging. As an African-based and highly respected institution, IITA is well-placed to make a distinctive contribution to this most pressing of challenges.

For example, IITA has delivered over 70% of the impact from the CGIAR in SSA. The impacts of this type of research, measured many years later, show productivity gains estimated at US \$1.36 billion for improved maize over a 20-year period. The benefits of biological control innovations (e.g., for controlling cassava mealybug and green mite) is about 100 times higher than investment costs and there are other examples arising from IITA and other research organizations working in Africa.

In a test of IITA's R4D approach, cassava – the staple crop of a major African economy, Nigeria – was increased by 10 million tons in four years. It benefited 8 million farmers and 90 million consumers and IITA's "put to other use" approach avoided a price drop of the commodity.



Looking ahead--our vision of success

Africa needs a proactive CGIAR-supported Center that is closely linked to the needs of the continent. IITA's revised mission is in line with that of the new CGIAR, and will focus on the four System Level Outcomes (SLOs) described in the Strategic Result Framework (SRF) namely, (i) increase in food security, (ii) reduction of rural poverty, (iii) reduction of under nutrition, and (iv) more sustainable management of natural resources.

For the last 45 years, IITA has delivered over 70% of the impact from the CGIAR, a global research partnership that unites organizations engaged in research for sustainable development, in sub-Saharan Africa.

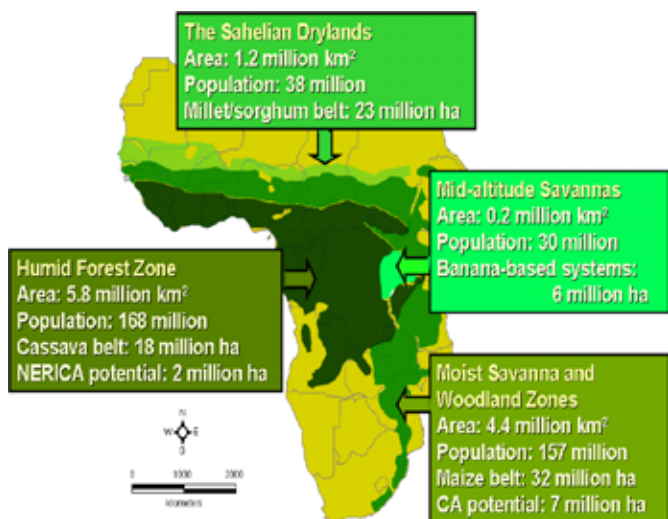
Over the next 10 years, IITA will advance system-level outcomes within four impact zones (see figure) by increasing staple food yields by 60%, increasing average farm income by 50%, lifting 25% of poor households above the poverty line

(over 20 million Africans), reducing the number of malnourished children by 30%, and restoring

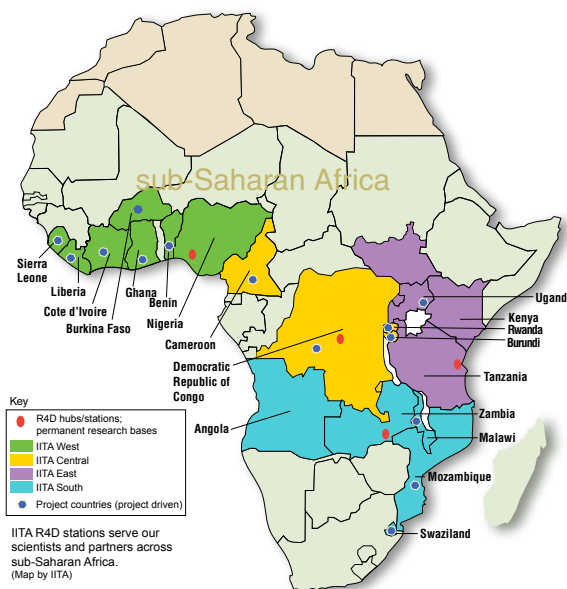
40% of these farms to sustainable resource management (over 25 million hectares of farmlands).



Women harvesting improved cowpea,



Impact zones and major cropping systems in four agroecological zones across sub-Saharan Africa.



The four IITA hubs in sub-Saharan Africa.

New focus: Operating through regional hubs

IITA consolidated its facilities and administration into regional hubs (see figure). IITA headquarters serves West Africa, Dar es Salaam coordinates Eastern Africa, Lusaka serves Southern Africa, and activities in Central Africa are administered from Kinshasa.

Two additional science platforms will be launched; the Soil and Plant Health Platform based at *icip*, Nairobi, and the Biotechnology Platform for West Africa in Ibadan.

These regional offices represent important strategic assets that will help IITA to remain engaged in local and regional contexts, establishing partnerships and mobilizing resources, implementing research, and managing risks.

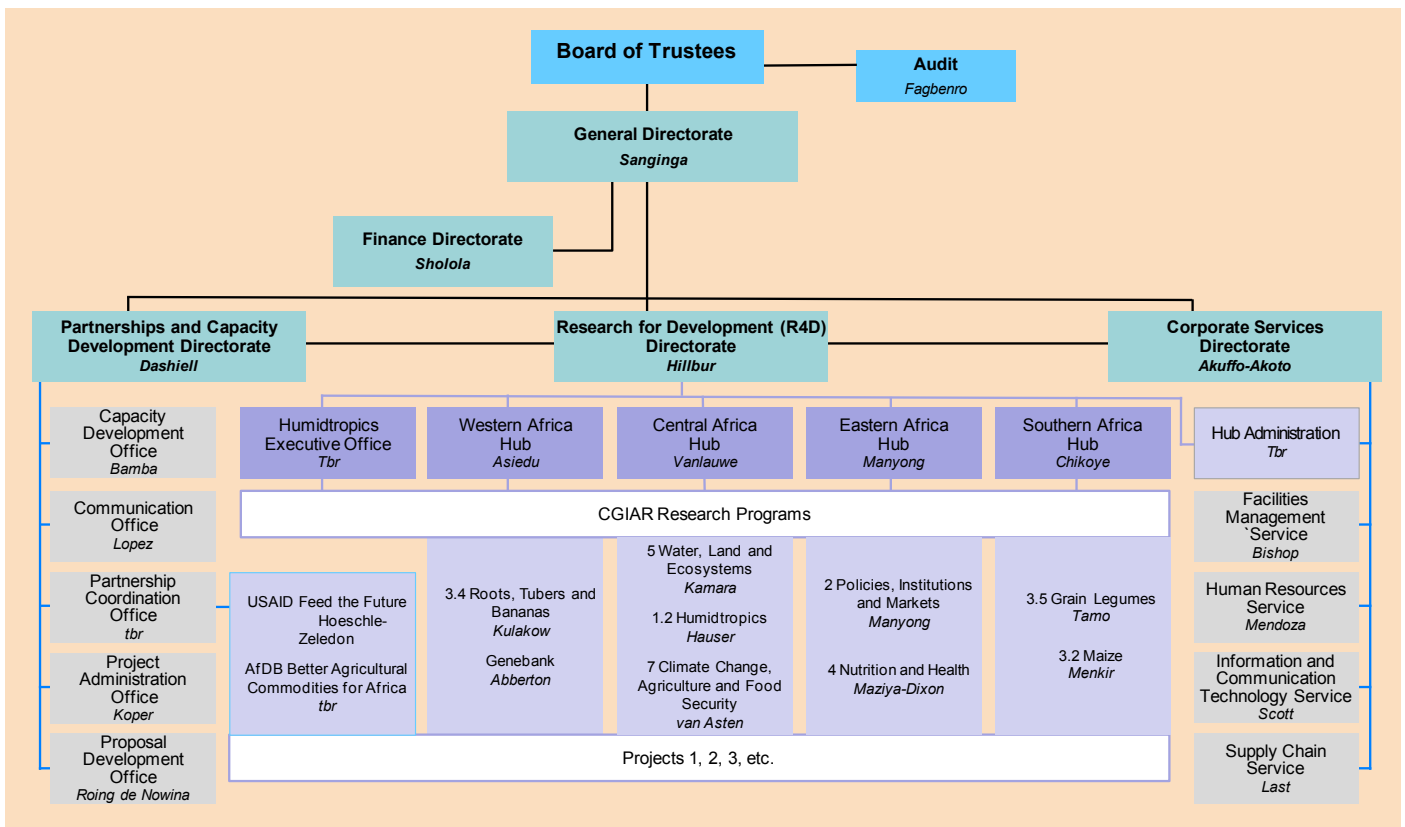
Alignment with CGIAR Research Programs

Refocusing CGIAR Center research through the CGIAR Research Programs or CRP is the main mechanism of system reform. IITA participates in eight of these CRPs and leads one. To effectively respond to this timely opportunity, CGIAR and IITA are adopting a research for development (R4D) perspective.

Relying on the identification of clearly defined development challenges identified jointly with other stakeholders plays a significant role as the "entry point" of its science and technology programs. Furthermore, the CGIAR demands genuine collaboration and accountability as key guiding principles. IITA will set a positive example in consolidating its operations with other CGIAR centers

working in sub-Saharan Africa based upon complementarities of strategic advantage. Achieving this vision requires exploiting core competencies across the CGIAR system and better aligning research programs and downstream institutional arrangements around explicit strategies designed to impact on the four System Level Outcomes.

Our programs are now aligned with and part of the CGIAR CRPs and grouped into four core competencies: Genetic Improvement and Biotechnology, Plant Production and Health Management, Natural Resources and Crop Management, and Social Science and Agribusiness (see organizational chart).



Efficient organizational structure

Upon assumption of office on 1 November 2011, Dr Nteranya Sanginga and his team set three priorities as part of efforts to address the challenges ahead. The priorities, more than ever before, refocused attention on research, partnership, and capacity building.

Consequently, a directorate for partnerships and capacity development was created, and natural resource management as a research focus was added to the research themes which were built around the new CGIAR Research Programs.

IITA now has three Deputy Director Generals—Dr Kenton Dashiell,

DDG Partnerships and Capacity Development; Dr Ylva Hillbur, DDG Research; and Mr Kwame Akuffo-Akoto, DDG Corporate Services. Dr Bernard Vanlauwe is the new

R4D Director for the Central Africa Hub and leads the natural resource management theme.

Details of the new structure are shown above.



Dashiell

Hillbur

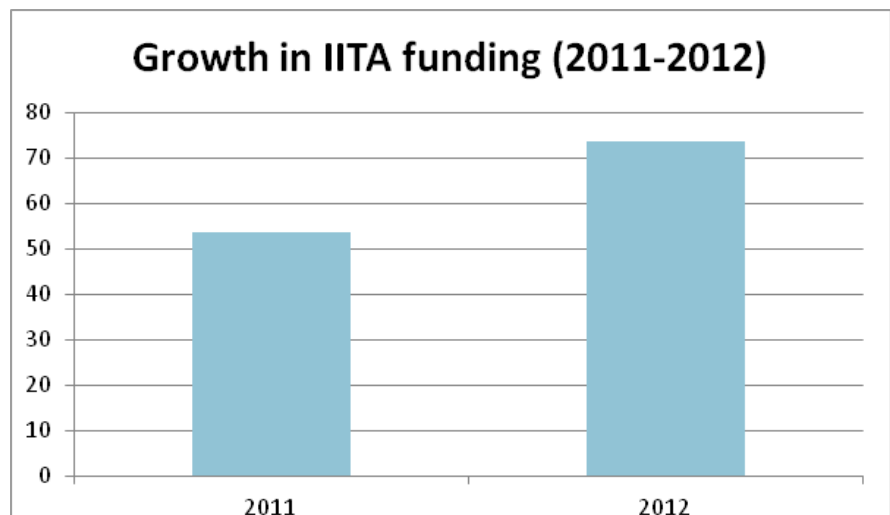
Akuffo-Akoto

Vanlauwe

Mobilizing resources

The budget of IITA has grown substantially over the past 12 months by 37.8% from US\$53.47 million to \$73.69 million. The institute projects to increase this budget to over \$120 over the next five years (2013-2017).

Also within the period, the number of internationally recruited staff (IRS) increased from 117 to 127. This is broken down into 71 from Africa, 29 from Europe, 14 from Asia, and 13 from the Americas. Of this, 27% are women. This does not include another 10 newly hired staff members coming in before the end of the year. For nationally recruited staff, the number has remained constant at 580. This human resource is critical for the task ahead.



Building a strong IITA team



Sports is one factor that rekindled staff morale and broke barriers among staff. The sports festival helped in building stronger internal cohesion among staff.



IITA female staff playing football during the 2012 sports festival.



We also had some good times.



Together, we will take IITA to greater heights.



Periodic or constant engagement remains one of the pillars of IITA. Dr Sanginga addresses staff in Ibadan. His message: "Think first about IITA"

Raising staff morale

The Institute is also focusing on improving staff morale and building a strong Team IITA.

Rod Bishop, Head, FMS: There has been a lot of changes; the leadership style of inclusivity, knowledge sharing... We are now seeing the benefits of teams producing excellent results... the same people, the same tools. Treating people with respect has been the fundamental change that I have seen... also the physical changes. When you give a workman a neat place to work, you can demand neat work. We are also working in Abuja, Tanzania, Bukavu, etc. The tremendous change has uplifted all of us. What has been responsible for this is the leadership. Human beings respond to the leader. When a father behaves in a certain way the children follow.



Bukky Adeyemo, President of Senior Staff Association: The first day Dr Sanginga stepped into IITA, there have been a lot of changes. For instance, right from the gatehouse, you see the beauty of IITA. Also the interaction among staff is better and you can see joy in the eyes of people. The style of administration is transparent and open which builds trust and hope. People are now happy to work. He has the mind for improving the lives of humanity.



Lava Kumar, Head, Germplasm Health Unit: The passion for IITA has dramatically increased. This passion translates into productivity... this is the biggest change I have seen. On the research side, we have been given a new direction to focus upstream.



Ranjana Bhattacharjee, Molecular Geneticist: The major change that is visible is the morale of the staff. People are now ready to go the extra mile for the benefit of IITA. Another change is the recognition of staff contributions and also making capacity building and partnership as a prime focus. Another is the visibility of IITA. IITA is more visible now than before.

Femi Akeredolu, President, Management Staff Association: There has been a tremendous change and the DG himself is a change agent prepared by God for a time like this and for the transformation of the entire system. The staff morale has increased and not that he doubled people's salary... the infrastructural development is amazing and everybody is now proud being part of the system.



Stefan Hauser, Systems Agronomist and CRP Leader for Humidtropics: A lot has changed in a very short time; historically we were using our facilities for research and relaxation (entertainment). That was not the case when Dr Sanginga took over because large parts were "no go" areas. We had to open the "no go" areas for research. Also the strategic approach to natural resources management is another change.

Sami Mazumdar, Head, HOTCAT: People are more confident to contribute and they feel more secure. The place looks much cleaner, better, and we are not lagging behind.



Board commendation: The results of these efforts have been profound. During the visit of the IITA Board chair, Dr Bruce Coulman, told the staff: "Dr Sanginga, we are happy with what you are doing."

Research-for-development highlights

COMPRO gets US\$7 million for second phase

IITA received about US\$7 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the implementation of the second phase of the Commercial Products (COMPRO-II) project. COMPRO-II project aims to institutionalize quality assurance mechanisms and facilitate the rapid dissemination of top quality commercial products to increase yields and improve the food security of smallholder farmers. “COMPRO-II will leverage on the gains earlier made in phase one, which covered Kenya, Ethiopia, and Nigeria,” according to Dr Bernard Vanlauwe, IITA’s Director for the Central Africa Hub and Natural Resource Management.

AfDB-funded US\$63 million R4D initiative kicks off

Researchers have begun the implementation of the US\$63.24 million African Development Bank (AfDB)-funded project dubbed “Support to Agricultural Research for Development of Strategic Crops in Africa” (SARD-SC).

The SARD-SC is a research, science, and technology development initiative aimed at enhancing the productivity and income derived from cassava, maize, rice, and wheat – four of the six commodities that African heads of States, through the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program, have defined as strategic crops for Africa.

The 5-year project is being co-implemented by three Africa-based CGIAR centers, namely: IITA, Africa Rice Center, and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). IITA is the executing agency of the project.

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), will support the three centers.

N2Africa project brings benefits to Africa

The N2Africa project has recorded impressive milestones, improving yields, training and supporting capacity building efforts in Africa. Close to 2 million people from West, Southern, East, and Central Africa have benefited from this project.

N2Africa uses a partnership approach to deploy legume and inoculant technologies to triple the inputs of free atmospheric nitrogen by biological nitrogen fixation, thereby improving crop and livestock productivity, human nutrition and farm income for smallholder farmers of Africa, while enhancing soil health. The project is being implemented by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Wageningen University, and IITA.



COMPRO-II project launch, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

New cassava varieties for Cameroon



IITA Cameroon released five new improved cassava varieties. These varieties will help the Central African country to boost the production of the root crop.

Hurray! Humidtropics approved and launched



Dr Ylva Hillbur, DDG-R4D, planting symbolic tree marking launch of the Humidtropics Program at IITA-Ibadan.

New project to invest US\$12 million to boost yam productivity in Ghana and Nigeria

IITA and partners recently launched the Yam Improvement for Income and Food Security in West Africa (YIIFSWA) project, supported by a US\$12 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The project aims to boost yam productivity and double the incomes of three million yam small-holder farmers in West Africa. It will focus on increasing yields through better seed yam supply and improving markets for this underground, edible tuber.

IITA leads the 5-year project in collaboration with the national organizations of Ghana and Nigeria, the UK's Natural Resources Institute (NRI), the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and Catholic Relief Services (CRS).



Dr Robert Asiedu, addresses participants during the launch of YIIFSWA.

Saving Africa's grains from mycotoxins

Africa has made a bold initiative to save its grains from aflatoxin contamination.

The initiative, called the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) was launched on 31 October, by Her Excellency Mrs Rhoda Peace-Tumusiime, Commissioner, AUC-Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, supported by her colleague for Trade and Industry, Mme Fatima Haram Acyl in Addis Ababa.

The Institute was represented by Dr Victor Manyong, Director, East African hub. Meanwhile, Dr Ranajit Bandyopadhyay, IITA Pathologist, presented the keynote address during the launch.

IITA, with partners, is leading the research on aflatoxin mitigation in Africa with special emphasis on the development of a biocontrol product that has proven to reduce aflatoxin contamination in food and grain called aflasafe™.



Like the African Union Commission, aflasafe™ has caught the attention of several stakeholders. Here Dr Ranajit Bandyopadhyay (left) explains to Mr Bill Gates how the biocontrol product works.

Improved quality protein maize and drought-tolerant varieties hit farmers' fields

The Institute of Agricultural Research, Samaru joined efforts with IITA to develop maize varieties rich in protein and tolerant of drought. The new improved varieties were released by the Nigerian government in December 2011.

Two of the varieties are extra early and the third is intermediate-maturing quality protein maize (QPM).

The first two varieties were released as SAMMAZ 32 and SAMMAZ 33, whereas the third variety was released as SAMMAZ 37. These varieties were developed by incorporating the high lysine gene into adapted populations and varieties. SAMMAZ 32 and SAMMAZ 33 have good levels of resistance to *Striga hermonthica* and maize streak virus, high tryptophan



IITA Maize Breeder, Dr Sam Ajala, on a maize farm.

content, mature in 80 to 85 days and have yield potentials of 3.5 to 4.5 t/ha. SAMMAZ 37 is a yellow endosperm variety that matures in 115 days and has good levels of resistance to the maize streak virus, high tryptophan

content and a potential yield of 5.9 t/ha. At the same time, two additional early maturing drought tolerant maize varieties were released as SAMMAZ 34 and SAMMAZ 35.

Release of provitamin A maize to improve nutrition

IITA working with local and international partners have developed provitamin A hybrid maize varieties. Excited by this development, the Nigeria government has released the new varieties to help provide more vitamin A in the diets of millions in the country. These new varieties will help the country to tackle the menace of vitamin A deficiency in the years ahead, especially among children, pregnant women, and mothers.

The two hybrids, which are the first generation vitamin A-rich maize, were released on 4 July 2012 by the National Variety Release Committee of Nigeria as Ife maizehyb 3 and Ife maizehyb 4. They are recognized as IITA hybrids A0905-28 and A0905-32, respectively.

Release of provitamin A cassava to tackle malnutrition in Africa

A research team led by IITA has developed three new varieties of vitamin A cassava that could improve the livelihoods of millions of farmers in Africa and help put an end to malnutrition due to vitamin A deficiency in the continent.

The vitamin A cassava varieties named by the National Variety release Committee of Nigeria as UMUCASS 36, UMUCASS 37, and UMUCASS 38 are recognized as IITA genotypes TMS 01/1368, TMS 01/1412, and TMS 01/1371. They have high betacarotene (pro-vitamin A) and are suitable for food uses as *gari*, *fufu*, and high quality cassava flour.

Known for its high carbohydrate content, cassava is the fourth largest staple after wheat, maize, and rice consumed in the developing countries, with over 200 million people in sub-Saharan Africa relying on the crop for over half of their daily food energy.

Backstopping agricultural transformation in the Republic of Sudan

IITA plans to deploy its agricultural innovations to help in the agricultural transformation of the Republic of South Sudan (RSS).

To this end, a team led by IITA Deputy Director General (Partnerships & Capacity Development), Dr Kenton Dashiell has visited several institutions and projects in RSS on 10 and 11 September.

Among the institutions visited were the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development (MAFCRD), Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Food, Agribusiness and Rural Markets (FARM) Project, Catholic University of South Sudan



Provitamin A maize developed by IITA and its partners to help tackle vitamin A deficiency

The hybrids outperformed local checks with yields ranging from 6 to 9/ha compared with 2 t/ha recorded on most farmers' fields.

Partners in this work include the Institute of Agricultural Research & Training (IAR&T), Institute

for Agricultural Research (IAR), Zaria; University of Maiduguri; International Maize and Wheat Center (CIMMYT), University of Illinois, and University of Wisconsin.

The work was funded by HarvestPlus.

The project, funded by HarvestPlus, was carried out by IITA with the Nigeria-based National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), Umudike.

Other partners in this work include the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa).



L-R: Dr. Elizabeth Parkes, Richardson Okechukwu, Paul Ilona (HarvestPlus), Akin Adesina (Nigeria's Agriculture Minister) and Gbassey Tarawali during a Ministerial award on International Agriculture research partners for developing provitamin A cassava.

Cassava processing centers for Sierra Leone



IITA Sierra Leone commissioned and handed over cassava processing centers to farmers, thanks to funds from the USAID. Mr Robert W. Hanchett, the USAID Country Program Manager, cuts the ribbon.

(CUSS), University of Juba (UJ), and Dr John Garang's Memorial University of Science and Technology (MUOST). During these meetings, Dr Dashiell

formally introduced Dr Victor Manyong as the director for IITA East Africa Regional hub, with the mandate of implementing research

and development activities in the RSS. The institutions visited expressed readiness to collaborate with IITA on different areas of mutual interest.

Mozambique president appreciates IITA's soybean varieties

The president of Mozambique has commended IITA for releasing 5 soybean and 3 cowpea varieties in the country and challenged the institute to make these varieties available to many more farmers.

The president H.E. Armando Emilio Guebuza had visited the IITA exhibition at the launch of the 2012/2013 agricultural season in Nampula province, Mozambique.

The soybean (TGx1740-2F, TGx 1908-8F, TGx 1937-1F, TGx 1904-6F and TGx 1485-1D) and cowpea varieties IT-16, IT-18 and IT-1263) are currently available to farmers.

The president challenged all participating institutions to work along the whole agricultural commodity value chain.

IITA also displayed 12 soybean-based concoctions, which are also being promoted by IITA-Mozambique among households and home processors.



Left: H.E. Armando Emilio Guebuza, the President of Mozambique (middle), visited the IITA exhibition stand to taste soybean recipes at the launch of the 2012/2013 agricultural season in Nampula province, Mozambique, on 25 October 2012 in Monapo district, by the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture, Nampula.

40% cassava bread

A pilot project initiated by IITA has shown the possibility of baking bread from composite flour of 40 percent cassava and 60 percent wheat flour.

This technology holds promise for bakers as the vagaries of climate change pose threats to wheat and other grain production in the future. There are also high hopes that the

adoption of 40 percent cassava flour in bread will boost the demand of cassava, and create new market opportunities and more incomes for resource-poor farmers.



Former Nigerian president, Olusegun Obasanjo (left) eats cassava bread and urges Africans to rethink local contents in diets. He describes the research to include 40% cassava flour in bread as excellent.



Nigeria's president, Goodluck Jonathan, is excited about the 40 percent cassava bread. He has called on Nigerians to patronize the bread. He eats cassava bread everyday.



Nigeria's Minister, Dr Akin Adesina (in suit) buys 40 percent cassava bread at IITA snack bar. He estimates savings of about \$1.5 B annually should bakers switch over to 40% inclusion in bread.



Oyo State Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr Bimbola Kolade (second from left), tastes the 40 percent cassava bread at IITA snack bar.

Rejuvenation of IITA

“The tools used 45 years ago are likely to be obsolete, unless we rejuvenate,” says former President Olusegun Obasanjo during an IITA rejuvenation forum in Ibadan.

The rejuvenation of IITA was given attention as well to help drive the priorities, including the

provision of excellent infrastructure. As a result, aggressive efforts have been undertaken to fix the

infrastructure on IITA stations to meet present and future challenges. These efforts are paying off.

Inauguration of Central African hub in DR Congo

IITA has inaugurated its Central African hub with the commissioning of an official building in Kinshasa that will cover the west provinces of DR Congo and an office in Bukavu, in South-Kivu that will serve the entire Great Lakes subregion.

The Central African hub is the fourth hub established by the Institute. The East African hub has its operations

in Tanzania; Southern African hub in Lusaka, Zambia; while the West African hub is based in Nigeria. The West African hub also hosts the headquarters of the Institute in Ibadan.

The hub concept aims to accelerate the Institute’s response to the different opportunities and threats to food security in sub-Saharan Africa.

The choice of DR Congo is important because of the country’s agricultural potential, which serves as a focal point for research for countries of the Central African region.

The inauguration of the building in Kinshasa is part of the Institute’s strategy for efficient delivery of research outputs and to ensure more effectiveness.



The Principal Advisor to DRC’s Head of State in charge of agriculture, Mr Emmanuel Libendele cuts the tape during the commissioning of the IITA building in DRC.



Recently commissioned IITA building in DRC.

Other infrastructural upgrades

In spite of the limited resources, IITA headquarters in Ibadan and other stations across the region also underwent upgrade.



The newly painted Building 500 (FF Hill) in IITA Ibadan.



Work in progress on the IITA Science building in Dar



During his visit to the Oyo State Governor, Dr Sanginga made a request for the speedy construction of the by-pass road at Ajibode. The Governor responded and swiftly ordered the construction of the road.



The Institute renovated the seed processing unit. This facility is critical for seed processing for the region.



Renovated Ikeja Guest House (IGH).



Children hold the future of tomorrow. The renovated creche offers them a conducive environment for growth and development, thanks to the IITA Women's Group who supported the renovation efforts at the creche.



This photo shows how IITA-Abuja station looked last year.



Today, IITA-Abuja station wears a new look. L-R: Dr Gbassey Tarawali, Mr. Sunday, Dr Robert Asiedu, Mr Godwin Atser, and Mr Francis Adunoye.



This photo depicts the state of the Chemical store last year.



Today, the site has changed. This building is now being renovated to house the aflasafe manufacturing pilot plant.

Other infrastructural upgrades



Last year, this was typical of IITA fence as one drove to Ibadan town.



Driving to Ibadan town as at today.



This was the Security Office as at last year



The Security Office now looks spanking new.



Farm roads on campus as at last year.



This year, the same roads have been cleaned and cleared

... But more work is needed in the years ahead



IITA Onne station typifies the need for more efforts. The station still lies in ruins. Some dilapidated vehicles at IITA Onne (Nigeria).



Another view of IITA Onne.

Building relationships and forging partnerships

For us to really, really make impact, we need to create partnerships. -- Dr Kenton Dashiell

During the past one year, IITA played host to several very important visitors (VIPs). These visits ushered

in tremendous goodwill to the Institute. The Institute hopes to work with these and new nontraditional

partners in the years ahead to reach more beneficiaries and create impact in the region.

CGIAR centers



L-R: IITA BoT Chair, Dr Bruce Coulman; CGIAR Board Chair, Carlos Pérez del Castillo, IITA DG, Dr Sanginga Nteranya; ILRI DG, Jimmy Smith, CGIAR CEO, Dr Frank Rijsberman and DDG (Partnership and Capacity Development), Dr Kenton Dashiell in Ibadan.



L-R: Maize breeders, Drs Baffour Badu-Apraku, Abebe Menkir, IITA DG Sanginga, CIMMYT DG Thomas Lumpkin, Wilfred, Abdoulaye Tahirou, and Sam Ajala. Dr Lumpkin wants more collaboration with IITA and commended joint efforts so far in maize breeding.



L-R: IITA DG Sanginga, Godwin Atser (IITA), and IFPRI DG, Dr Shenggen Fan.



L-R: Nigeria Country Manager, HarvestPlus, Paul Ilona; IITA DG Sanginga; Director General, HarvestPlus, Dr Howarth Bouis; and IITA-DDG (P&CD), Dr Kenton Dashiell.



CGIAR Board Chair, Carlos Pérez del Castillo (second from right) looks at a cowpea experimental plot in IITA Ibadan. With him were CGIAR CEO Rank Rijsberman (second from left), IITA Board Chair (4th from left), and staff.



IITA helps partners grow. Here IITA led the CGIAR team to the University of Ibadan for a familiarization tour. UI is the oldest university in Nigeria and one of the closest allies of IITA in the fight against hunger and poverty.



Pics 1-3: IITA DG Sanginga (left) with ILRI DG Smith (right) in a tête-à-tête in IITA, Ibadan; with Africa Rice Center's DG, Dr Papa Abdoulaye Seck during the latter's visit to IITA; with the CGIAR CEO, Dr Frank Rijsberman, and IITA BoT Chair, Dr Bruce Coulman heading for a meeting during the CGIAR Consortium visit to IITA.

Other research and development organizations, universities, and NGOs



L-R: Vice-President, African Development Bank, Ms. Cecilia Akintomide in IITA genebank during her visit to IITA. Ms Akintomide was glad that Africa host a reservoir of 'seeds of hope'.



L-R: IFAD President, Dr Kanayo Nwanze was in Cameroon. He commended IITA for its work on food security. With him is Dr Rachid Hanna.



Mrs Jane Karuku, AGRA President, (middle) was in IITA-Tanzania. She visited the IITA East Africa Hub. She sees IITA as a dependable 'friend' in the fight against hunger and poverty.



L-R: Shantanu Mathur (IFAD); IITA DG, Nteranya Sanginga; and IFAD President, Dr Kanayo Nwanze during IFAD's president's visit to IITA in Ibadan.



DG Nteranya Sanginga (right) shake hands with Prof. Christian Borgemeister, icipe Director General (left), after signing a memo of understanding.



Dr Nteranya Sanginga (left) and Vice Chancellor Lisa Sennerby Forsse, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), signed a five-year cooperation agreement.



DG Nteranya Sanginga (right) with Prof Dr Ir Bart De Moor Vice-Rector, International Policy, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven).

IITA DG, Dr Nteranya Sanginga in a discussion with the Director General of Ghana's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Dr Abdulai B. Salifu a former student at IITA. 2115



Polymakers and government officials



(L-R) Dr Bernard Vanlauwe (third from right), Emmanuel Njukwe (far right) and Burundi Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development (MINAGRIE) Hon Ms Odette Kayitesi (second from right). The Minister paid a courtesy call on IITA; she said her government is pleased with the research being done by IITA to increase banana production and halt the spread of pests and diseases in Burundi under the CIALCA initiative.



L-R: Dr Gbassey Tarawali, former President Olusegun Obasanjo, Godwin Atser, and IITA DG Sanginga. Former President Obasanjo tells the IITA team: "I am proud of what you are doing."



Burkina Faso's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Dr Abdoulaye Combari, has commended the IITA-led AVEC-BF project for helping cowpea farmers and seed producers cope with the knock-on effects of a long-drawn drought that hit the country in 2011. Dr Haruki Ishikawa briefing the minister during the latter's visit to Laongo village, one of the project sites of AVEC-BF.



Rwandan High Commissioner to Nigeria, His Excellency Joseph Habineza (center in coat and tied) paid a courtesy visit to IITA. Dr Gbassey Tarawali, IITA Coordinator of the Cassava Enterprise Development Project, received him at headquarters. 2123



Left: Ms Janet Stormes, Professional Staff, US Senate Appropriations Committee, and Ms Dorothy Rayburn, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, US Department of State, staff of the United States Senate visited the Africa-RISING West Africa project site in Ghana on 16 August 2012.



Japanese Ambassador to Nigeria, His Excellency Mr Ryuichi Shoji (right), visited IITA badan and sought stronger ties between IITA and the Embassy. He also wants IITA to help his government in the Grant for Grassroots Projects.



IITA DG Sanginga (left) and Cameroon Minister for External Relations, Mr. Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo (right). The Minister promised to help IITA to carry out its mandate in Cameroon.



Niger State Governor, Dr Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu (left) and IITA R4D Director for West Africa, Dr Robert Asiedu (right) exchanging pleasantries during IITA's visit to Niger State.

So, what changes...

Dr Nteranya Sanginga is the seventh Director-General of IITA. Upon assumption of office, Dr Sanginga presented four posers—what changes... what remains... when will it happen... how can I be part of it...etc. This first interview gives a glimpse into what lies ahead. Excerpts:

What are your plans for IITA?

Simply put, we want to make IITA a strategic center for research-for-revelopment (R4D) in Africa.

What areas are important in achieving food security in Africa?

One of the key things we need to do is to build capacities in Africa. The second priority is to fill in the yield gap. The yield gap is very wide. For example, while Asians are having between 6 and 7 tons of maize per hectare, many African countries are still having between 1 and 1.5 t/ha. Again, we have to deal with the issue of delivery. How do we reach farmers? How do we tackle extension issues and have friendly markets with good policies favoring farmers? These are the questions begging for answers.

How can IITA help small African farmers to tackle these challenges?

We have technologies and improved crop varieties that can increase yield across Africa. We have been disseminating these varieties to farmers and we will continue to do that. We will also help in protecting these improved crops especially against attacks from pests and diseases. IITA also has a very strong component in terms of natural resources management that will tackle soil and forest degradation. But again to do all these, IITA needs financial resources to build its capacity, and to organize good laboratories to be able to deliver.

What challenges are you likely to face as the new Director-General?

The likely challenge includes that of increasing the capacity of IITA staff to be able to respond to the emerging problems confronting Africa's agriculture. IITA is 45 years old this year and we need to rejuvenate IITA, vis-à-vis improve the labs and the tools we use.

Are there African countries investing in agricultural research & development?

There are some few countries which have shown the way. You remember the declaration in Maputo by the African Heads of



Sanginga

States that each African country should increase its budget by 10%. Countries like Malawi, Rwanda, Mali, and Kenya, have gone beyond that. As a result, Malawi has gone from a food-deficit country to an exporter. Rwanda will soon achieve the same feat. So we have almost 10-13 countries at the moment going beyond that target, but that is not enough. Again, the challenge is to convince and show African governments that research in agriculture pays off.

Do you think the Green Revolution can be achieved in Africa?

The Green Revolution is needed in Africa and it can be achieved, and I support what the Nigerian government is doing at the moment. I support the agricultural transformation of Nigeria led by Dr Akin Adesina. It is a must that we have a Green Revolution. It is happening in Malawi. Malawi turned from a famine country to an exporter in just four years. Here in Nigeria it will happen... it is happening in Kenya. All that we need is to have improved technologies in place, improved seeds, inputs and the right policies.

What do you see as the impact of the CGIAR reform?

I think this reform was needed and IITA supported it, but we all know that reforms take a long time to have the desired impact. So judging it at this stage is very much premature.



Dr Sanginga (left) and former President Olusegun Obasanjo (right) during the latter's visit to IITA. Former President Obasanjo called for efforts to rejuvenate IITA.