



## DG visits IITA Ltd London



L-R: Dr Nteranya Sanginga (third), John Last (first) and Charlotte Sanginga (second) with their hosts Betty Walsh, Laura Cartwright and Aussop Hailbeth in the London office.

Dr Sanginga, DG of IITA, for the first time paid a familiarization visit to the IITA Ltd offices in Croydon, London on 9 January 2015. He was accompanied by

Mrs Sanginga and Mr John Last, Head Supply Chain. They met Ms Betty Walsh, Office Manager, Laura Cartwright and Aussop Hailbeth, Buyer/Expeditors.

Dr Sanginga expressed his appreciation of the work the office has done in support of IITA's operations across Africa and for other CGIAR centers.

He also reiterated the vision for IITA Ltd taking on a greater level of operational responsibilities as centralized procurement and logistic operations move away from IITA Ibadan and are devolved to the regional Hubs. In future, these will be dealing directly with the IITA London office for their overseas procurement and logistic requirements instead of channeling them through the supply chain Ibadan as they do at present.

## High Quality Cassava Flour project empowers the youth to engage in cassava production

Young people in Afon village, Ilorin city, Nigeria, have become the first beneficiaries of a new initiative by the High Quality Cassava Flour (HQCF) project to combat youth unemployment through agriculture. The project recently allocated two hectare plots to each of 25 local young people for cassava farming and officially engaged them as out-growers to supply fresh roots to HQCF processing plants.

This approach, which is also part of IITA's bigger efforts to win back the interest of the youth in agricultural production, aims to bring together fragmented producers to combine their resources. According to the project team, the new initiative will solve two problems—youth unemployment and the scarcity of fresh roots faced by most HQCF processing plants in Nigeria.

Bamidele Alenke, Project Coordinator, confirms that the plot allocation exercise is being replicated in Ekiti and Ogun States in 2015. "Some of the stem cuttings from the current multiplication plots will be

distributed to other young people and out-grower farmers," he said. The IITA Youth Agripreneurs played an important role in the selection and mentoring of their colleagues by sharing their experiences and exposing them to the requirements of good agricultural practices.

In other efforts to empower the youth in the cassava value chain, the project was recently involved in capacity building by training an Agripreneur Ms Funmi Lamidi in "Agricultural Market Information Systems and ICT Platforms for Business

Management across the value chain" in Arusha, Tanzania. Ms Lamidi will transfer her new skills to young people in all project locations and empower them to communicate their activities via web-based tools and social media.

Project Manager, Dr Adebayo Abass also said that the project will empower the youth to profitably engage in agriculture as a business. The project is working with farmers, processors, bakers, flour millers, and other actors in the value chain to achieve these objectives.



Funmi Lamidi receiving her certificate of participation after the training.



Abdsalam Khadijat, one of the young beneficiaries.

Got a story to share? Please email it with photos and captions every Wednesday to Andrea Gros ([a.gros@cgiar.org](mailto:a.gros@cgiar.org)), Katherine Lopez ([k.lopez@cgiar.org](mailto:k.lopez@cgiar.org)), Jeffrey T. Oliver ([j.oliver@cgiar.org](mailto:j.oliver@cgiar.org)), Catherine Njuguna ([c.njuguna@cgiar.org](mailto:c.njuguna@cgiar.org)), or Adaobi Umeokoro ([a.umeokoro@cgiar.org](mailto:a.umeokoro@cgiar.org)).

# 18 districts in Tanzania supported to plan for climate change



Participants at the Climate change workshop from Tanga region.

IITA in collaboration with the Environment Management Unit (EMU) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives (MAFC) in Tanzania recently organized two regional workshops in the Tanga and Morogoro regions to assist district officials to integrate climate change adaptation in their plans. This is an activity of the project *Policy Action for Climate Change Adaptation (PACCA)*.

The Tanga region workshop was attended by officials from seven district

councils, Handeni, Korogwe, Lushoto, Muheza, Mkinga, Pangani, and Tanga, and three town councils, Hadeni, Kilindi, and Korogwe. In Morogoro region, the workshop was attended by officials from eight district and town council: Gairo, Muomero, Kilombero, Kilosa, Ulanga, Morogoro, Morogoro Rural, and Morogoro Municipal.

The process was guided by the Division of Environment (DoE) at the Vice President's Office (VPO), MAFC-EMU, and the Office of the Prime

Minister in Dodoma using the climate change mainstreaming guidelines developed by the DoE that saw districts come up with plans to integrate climate change.

Mr Emile Philipo from Community Development Mission of Tanzania (CDMT), a local NGO in Tanga region, noted, "This workshop has stimulated and awakened our awareness of climate change issues that we have been ignoring for a long time because they develop slowly and are not as visible as, let's say, a lack of drugs in hospitals. Now is the time to act if we are to save our children and grandchildren from this calamity."

Altogether, 18 district plans were made, highlighting their key investment areas on issues related to climate change. Dr Lucy Ssendi, the principal agri-business officer from the Prime Minister's Office, Regional Administration, and Local Government, said she would give a report of this workshop to her Permanent Secretary and the Office to follow up on the plans with the different District Executive Directors.

# IITA's Pioneer Maize Breeder publishes memoir on the 'silent maize revolution' in Nigeria

Eminent maize researcher Dr Joseph Fajemisin who also spearheaded IITA's maize breeding research, has published his memoir documenting Nigeria's ten-fold increase in maize production in the last 30 years which he termed revolutionary.

In *The Revolutionary Trend of Maize in Nigeria*, Dr Fajemisin said Nigeria's maize production had undergone a revolution, climbing from one million tonnes annually in 1984 to 10 million tonnes in 2013. He attributed the increase partly to the improved germplasm developed by IITA and national partners.

Speaking during the book launching recently held in Abuja, Dr Nteranya Sanginga, Director General of IITA, commended Dr Fajemisin for his contribution to agricultural research and for taking pains to document the revolution of maize in Nigeria. Sanginga was represented by Dr

Alfred Dixon, Project Leader, Cassava Weed Management Project and Head of Partnerships Coordination Office at IITA.

He said the Institute was proud of the contribution from Dr Fajemisin.

"Fajemisin's memoirs bring us a ray of hope and clearly demonstrate that we can actually achieve food security," he said.

Dr Fajemisin was a pioneer researcher in IITA's work on varieties resistant to downy mildew and worked in IITA as a Pathologist/Maize Breeder. He also headed the famous West and Central Africa Maize Network for which he coined the acronym WECAMAN. The network facilitated the diffusion of improved

varieties in the region while at the same time developing the capabilities of researchers.

He was also among the research team that developed the varieties resistant to maize streak disease and earned IITA the 1986 CGIAR King Baudouin Award for International Research.

